

# REBECCA PERKINS KWOKA STATE SENATE

Hi,

Summer has finally arrived in the Granite State! I hope you have all been able to get out and enjoy the newfound warm weather.

Things are starting to wrap up in Concord, as June 30th marks the end of the legislative period. As I reflect on this past session, I truly am proud of all of the progress that we've made this year. We fought hard to pass a budget that will benefit everyone in the Granite State. The following are some highlights that are included in the upcoming budget:

**BUDGET OUTCOMES**

**Wins:**

- \$134M increase in funding for Medicaid rates
- Record funding addressing the housing crisis!
- Passed my brand new Housing Champions program!
- \$80M increase in public education funding: \$170M total
- 12% raise for state employees
- \$147M for infrastructure, clean water, and roads & bridges
- \$16M for moms, babies, and investments in childcare

**Setbacks:**

- Million-dollar corporate handout to a private business
- Phaseout of the Interest and Dividends tax acceleration
- Education Freedom Accounts expanded to 350% of the Federal Poverty Level

KWOKA  
STATE SENATE

## Goods:

- \$134M toward raising Medicaid rates, addressing mental health, healthcare, and other workforce shortages that our residents depend on
- Housing
  - \$30M to Affordable Housing Trust Fund - with a new promise of \$5M more annually
  - \$10M to Invest NH
  - \$5.25M to brand new Housing Champions program (my bill)
  - \$10M for homelessness
- \$170M for public education - a \$80M increase in FY24 from FY22
- 12% raises for state employees - so long overdue
- \$147M back to towns and cities including \$27M for wastewater, \$14M for clean water, \$105M for roads & bridges
- \$16M for moms, babies, and investments in childcare
- \$245M back to towns & cities in Rooms & Meals distributions

## Bads:

- Interest & Dividends tax - phaseout accelerated, and voted down carveout for those paying less than \$50,000 in taxes
- Corporate handout to a private business of \$1.5M
- Education Freedom Accounts expanded to 350% of the Federal Poverty Level with no annual means test and no meaningful oversight
- Group II did not get its protections for recruitment and retention - which by our calculation even just changing the multiplier for calculation would have cost \$40M, which could be entirely paid by state funds

And... Housing Champions passed! This program came out of the 2019 Governor's Task Force on Housing, and has been 4 years in the works! I'm so proud to have shepherded this bill through and to see this brand new partnership between cities and towns set up.





Though things at the Capitol are coming to a close, that doesn't mean that New Hampshire politics is slowing down. On the contrary! There are a lot of positive events coming up that I'm excited to share with you all.

## 17 What's New: One Week Away!

### Summer Fundraiser!

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Loaded Question Brewing Co. 🍺

909 Islington Street

Portsmouth, NH 03801

I have some exciting news that I don't think you will want to miss! On Tuesday, June 27th, I'm hosting my Summer Fundraising event. It will be held at Loaded Question Brewing Company in Portsmouth, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Though we have made many strides toward ensuring a better future for the state of New Hampshire, there is still more work to be done. Come down to show your support for team RPK. Any contributions are appreciated and I would love to see you there!

To secure your spot, don't forget to RSVP to Liza Frazier, or here ➡

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/summerindistrict2023>



## Pride Kickoff

To kick off this pride season, I attended the Portsmouth pride flag raising in Market Square. As a proud member of the LGBT+ community, I was thrilled to attend an event so full of love and acceptance. It's important that we acknowledge the progress we've made in the fight for equality while continuing to work towards a more inclusive society. With the support of our community, I believe that we can make a world where everyone can live and love freely! Happy Pride 🏳️‍🌈





## Happy Juneteenth!

Watch the festive music and crowd gathered to honor this important holiday here:  
<https://www.seacoastonline.com/videos/news/local/2023/06/19/akwaaba-ensemble-juneteenth-portsmouth/12132524002/>

A great crowd gathered to honor the history, sacrifice and courage of our Black neighbors and friends on Monday in downtown Portsmouth.



**Akwaaba Ensemble on Juneteenth in Portsmouth**

A Juneteenth ceremony features Akwaaba Ensemble at the African Dugout Ground in Portsmouth on Monday, June 19, 2023. Jane Murphy, Special to Seacoastonline

## NH Needs Housing - Day of Action June 1st

Thanks 603 Forward for all your support during the budget cycle - helping to contribute to record funding for housing!



## Portsmouth Turns 400!

Happy 400th birthday to the city of Portsmouth! I had a blast attending the parade! It was definitely a day to remember, as it was truly special to witness the whole community come together to celebrate this milestone. It was a beautiful showcase of the rich history and vibrance of Portsmouth. From watching the Clipper Alumni Band perform, browsing the vendors at Piscataqua Riverfest, and seeing all the activity downtown, it was a great day!

A big congratulations to everyone who came together to make it happen- it was a perfect representation of the city's amazing spirit!





### Moms Demand Action at South Church

On Sunday, June 4th, we gathered at South Church to recognize the Weekend of Action that Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense held across the country. It was a deeply moving event, and we will continue to demand action on this issue - as well as try to create space for the complicated, intricate - and intimate - complications of why regulation can and will make a difference.



## Granite Youth Film Festival

I had a lovely time attending the Granite Youth Film Festival! I had the privilege of watching films made by youths for youths to prevent substance abuse. It was evident that the young filmmakers put a lot of effort into their projects, and their message was powerful and thought-provoking. The kids did great!



## NH Fishing Industry Meeting

Recently, I had the privilege of attending a New Hampshire fishing industry meeting. New Hampshire, with its mere 18 miles of coastline, has a rich history of fishing and seafood production. The Granite State is home to a thriving and dynamic fishing community, and it's important that we practice sustainable fishing practices to maintain this thriving business.

## Portsmouth Democrats Meeting

This past Wednesday, I attended a Portsmouth Democrats Meeting. Representing Portsmouth, I am always eager to engage with the community and discuss political priorities. At this meeting, we were given a presentation by the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. In particular, we talked about clean electricity choices for the city. It's exciting to see Portsmouth taking steps to prioritize clean energy options. I always leave feeling like I learned something new!

**Portsmouth Democrats**  
- Peter Somssich -  
June 14, 2023

**Electricity Choices**

- Select from a menu of energy choices.
- Visit [CommunityPowerNH.gov](http://CommunityPowerNH.gov) and use the portal, or call 1-866-603-POWER, to select your power option.
- Always free to choose to buy power from their utility, or from another market option, without charge.
- Opt out, up or into Portsmouth Community Power at anytime in the future.

Renewable Content	Power Option	Rate (\$/kWh)	Estimated Cost*
23.4%	Granite Basic (Default option - Granite)	16.3¢	\$ 825 / month
33%	Granite Plus	16.3¢	\$ 997 / month
92%	Clean 50	16.9¢	\$ 1181 / month
100%	Clean 100	18.3¢	\$ 1316 / month
23.4%	Eversource	20.2¢	\$ 1421 / month

## The States Project - Momnibus convo

THE STATES PROJECT

It was so fun to join The States Project to talk about the ways that state legislation can support the future we need - today on moms and babies! And how having moms in elected office means we can get priorities accomplished, like funding investments in postpartum cases, donor milk, doulas, and accommodations for nursing at work!



Take a look here:

[https://www.instagram.com/p/Cs\\_shRRJ60i/](https://www.instagram.com/p/Cs_shRRJ60i/)

📍 New Hampshire Legislation:

## Update on Programs Addressing the Housing Crisis From BEA

This past week, BEA (The Department of Business and Economic Affairs) released a statement regarding its plan to address the current housing crisis that is deeply affecting the state of New Hampshire. In short, the document states that the BEA has recently utilized funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and the State Fiscal Recovery Fund to bring forward more resources toward tackling the crisis. Thanks to their efforts, communities now have access to tools such as nine different Regional Housing Needs Assessments (providing data towards regional housing needs), and a New Hampshire Housing Toolbox, containing twenty different zoning guides for local government officials to take into consideration. I am very passionate about tackling the housing crisis head-on, as it deeply impacts our community as a whole. I am pleased with the effort from the BEA, and I look forward to the progress that is made in our district due to the new plans.

(Click [HERE](#) to read the entire press release)

🏠 News From The White House:

## Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Protect LGBTQI+ Communities

In response to recent negative legislation directly targeting LGBTQI+ individuals, The White House announced new actions to protect the rights and safety of members of the community. Included in the newly enacted plan is a new LGBTQI+ Community Safety Partnership, increased support for LGBTQI+ kids (such as resources for mental health and homelessness), and a promise by the Department of Education to take on book bans targeting LGBTQI+ rights. This plan released by the Biden-Harris administration is definitely a step in the right direction toward eradicating hatred. A wonderful way to ring in Pride Month! 🏳️‍🌈

(Click [HERE](#) to read the entire plan from The White House)

## New Website Launched From the White House

Recently, the Biden-Harris administration released a new website that shows all of the contributions President Biden's Investing in America agenda is bringing to each state. The website itself includes an interactive map that displays each investment, some of which are clean energy and biomanufacturing. You can also see both private and public investments as well. It's a great tool to keep track of all of the projects going on in the state! To try it out for yourself, go to [Invest.gov](https://www.invest.gov) or click [HERE](#).





Local News:

## Pride Makers Market

Lots of fun Pride events happening on the Seacoast! Attend the Pride Makers Market on Thursday, June 22nd at 4:00 PM at caffè Kilim in Portsmouth! There will be LGBTQ+ artists, local vendors, and small businesses to check out. The event is dedicated to benefiting LGBTQ+ groups in Turkey and the Middle East.



## Congratulations Clippers!

It's that time of year again! I would like to offer my congratulations to the Portsmouth High School graduating class of '23!! This is such an exciting time in your lives, and I believe you can all do great things. I'm excited to see what your futures hold (hopefully a future in politics for some of you!!). Good luck in all of your endeavors!



## Emery Farm

As the weather warms, I am always looking for new and fun experiences to try with my family. If you're looking for an enjoyable way to spend the day, consider checking out Emery Farm located in Durham. You can sit down for a meal, or you can check out their garden center where you can buy their fresh produce. Buying locally is always a good way to give back to the community and a very positive way to support a local business.



This Summer, they are offering an experience that is quintessentially New England! They are hosting oyster farm tours, where you can learn all about the process of harvesting oysters from the bay. Included in the experience is an oyster shucking demonstration, oyster tasting, and adult beverages! If you're looking to try something new, this seems like a fun and rewarding experience.

(Click [HERE](#) to learn more/sign up)

### The Kiddos

My family and I have been trying to take advantage of the beautiful weather that we've been having lately! It seems that the kiddos have really taken to gardening as a new hobby. Logan finished up her first year of Montessori, and Colby is about to start talking. (Words so far: bubbles, walk, and nap!)





Best,  
Rebecca  
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[voterebeccanh@gmail.com](mailto:voterebeccanh@gmail.com)

If you believe in the work I'm doing, please support my campaign with a donation.

\$25	\$50
\$100	\$250
\$500	Other

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PAID FOR BY REBECCA PERKINS KWOKA  
FOR STATE SENATE

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