

REBECCA PERKINS KWOKA STATE SENATE

Hi,

I hope you had a fun and safe July 4th!

I'm thankful that there was a break in the clouds for a few days so that we could finally enjoy some Summer weather!

As Summer starts to heat up, politics in the Granite State have been in full swing. I've spent the last couple of weeks advocating for a variety of critical issues- including reproductive rights, healthcare, and affordable housing. I can't wait to tell you all about it! In addition, as we look toward the upcoming season, there are many things to be excited about in the coming weeks as well.

📌 My bills!

This past session I have been fortunate enough to have collaborated on several bills that have made their way to the Governor's desk to be passed into law. Through hard work and bipartisanship, I was able to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to create legislation that will have a positive impact on our community for years to come. I am incredibly proud of the work that we have accomplished, and I would like to share a few of the highlights with you:

✅ Passed:

🏠 **SB 145** - In other words, my Housing Champions program! It was officially adopted into the New Hampshire state budget. This program will be a partnership between the State and municipalities, allocating grant money to towns and cities that take housing-friendly actions to address the ongoing housing crisis in the Granite State. After 4 years in the works, I was so thrilled that it passed! One step closer to making housing affordable in not just the Seacoast region, but in all of the state as well.

👶 **SB 264** - My bill regarding parentage was signed into law on June 20th, and will go into effect on August 19th! The bill updates the state's statutes on assisted reproduction and further supports couples needing medical assistance to build a family - like mine!




🕒 Waiting for the Governor to Sign...


These bills pass both chambers, and are just waiting for the Governor's signature!


👶 **SB 170** - This bill relates to small-group child daycare centers, and allows childcare for up to 12 children to be located outside of a residential setting. In other words, it allows for an increase in childcare capacity for Granite Staters!

☀️ **SB 161** - This bill allows for the expansion of low-moderate income community solar projects. In turn, this bill will allow for the reduction of carbon emissions and

will allow for the reduction of carbon emissions, and increase property value in our state.

 **SB 111** - This bill is relative to governments that are closest to the people of New Hampshire: the town council-town manager form of local government. SB 111 clarifies that towns that adopt town council-town manager charters have the same powers as city councils. It also requires that town clerks be elected regardless of the form of municipal government. Keeping the government close to the people!

 **SB 103** - Did you know that the first conflict of the American Revolution was fought right here in New Hampshire? This bill relates to commemorating that by proclaiming an observance of Fort Constitution Days!

 **SB 207** - Mental health is a critical aspect of healthcare that often goes overlooked. This bill establishes a committee to study the licensure of mental health professionals. SB 207 will help end the shortage of mental health professionals.

I'm proud of all that we've accomplished, and I'm excited to keep being a driving force to enact more positive legislation in our state.

 **What's New:**

Women Run! Training

Wednesday, July 12, 2023
5:00 - 7:30 PM

I'm excited to share that I will participate as a panelist for the upcoming Women Run! Training, TONIGHT - Wednesday, July 12th.

Are you interested in running for public office in New Hampshire? Or are you interested in learning more about the political process from a woman's perspective? If so, please consider attending this virtual training event! You'll learn about the current state of women's representation in government and the basics of campaigning for an elected position. In addition, you will be able to hear from New Hampshire women who have run successful campaigns in the past, and who are currently holding office as well. It'll be a fun time, and I'm thrilled to be able to share my own experience!

Although the event is tonight, it's not too late to register! You can secure your spot here:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/0rRE5YioTkGK5gSTagG0Eg2>


WOMEN RUN!



Mayor Jo Brown
Assistant Mayor Jo Kelley
At-Large City Councilor Karen Lee Hill
School Board Chair Heather Raymond
Senator Rebecca Perkins Kuroki
Senator Sue Prentiss
At-Large Alderman Jane Triscari

Women Run! Training
Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:00 - 7:30 PM

Learn how YOU can help change the political landscape in New Hampshire, by running for office yourself, or by helping other women run! Hear from women who currently or formerly served in elected city office about their experiences running in and serving their communities.

Online event; register at: NHWomenFoundation.org/WomenRun

NH Demands Reproductive Freedom!

On the one-year anniversary of the overturning of Roe. V. Wade I, along with many of my colleagues, delivered a letter to Governor Sununu demanding that the state of New Hampshire take action regarding abortion rights. With minimal laws protecting the right to choose, women across the state have been left without protection regarding their reproductive health. Access to safe and legal abortions cannot and should never be restricted based on location or financial resources. With this goal in mind, we gathered at the statehouse to demand Governor Sununu take action to protect and expand access to reproductive healthcare for all Granite Staters.

The women of New Hampshire know how to get things done!





📺 Housing Champions Made the News!

I had the fantastic opportunity of filming a TV segment for WMUR on my Housing Champions program! I'm always happy to talk about ways to make housing more accessible in New Hampshire, and WMUR were gracious hosts.

The segment that I recorded for NH's Business really highlights the importance of tackling the ongoing housing crisis head-on. In New Hampshire, the lack of affordable housing directly affects the state's workforce and could become a major obstacle to the state's economic growth. Addressing this issue via Housing Champions is a top priority of mine to ensure a prosperous future for all Granite Staters.

Tune in to see for yourselves (and let me know how I did):

<https://www.wmur.com/article/nh-business-new-hampshire-s-housing-dilemma-july-02-2023/44408377>





☀️ My Summer Fundraiser

I would like to extend a large thank you to everyone who came out to my fundraiser to show their support! I am delighted that I got to meet many new and familiar faces alike. Your generous support and dedication have provided me the opportunity to serve my community and make positive changes that will benefit our district for years to come. You can count on me to advocate for our community and work towards a brighter future!

If you were unable to attend but still want to contribute, you can donate to team RPK via this link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/summerindistrict2023> Again, thank you all!!!

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



📺 Local News:

📣 Help Save the Stone Church

The Stone Church has been a staple in our community for decades. It's regarded as a place of celebration, known for bringing people together for music, family, and fun events. Recently, they have experienced a string of unexpected costs that have put them in a difficult financial position. These costs include necessary repairs to the historic building, as well as unexpected maintenance expenses. Coupled with providing fair and liveable salaries to their employees, they are struggling to cover their expenses.

If you love the Stone Church as much as I do, please

consider contributing to ensure that their business can stay afloat. Every little bit helps and will go towards preserving this beloved community space for future generations to enjoy. You can help keep this piece of history alive by donating to their GoFundMe linked here:

<https://gofund.me/3f620f13>



🏡 A Win For Affordable Housing

In late June, we celebrated the grand opening of the Woodbury Cooperative project that added five new affordable homes to the city of Portsmouth. The project not only further lowers the residents' lot rents, but adds homeownership opportunities in the city that can be purchased for less than \$160,000. This project is a step in the right direction towards combating the issues that come with the housing crisis - by providing affordable options to families, we create a stronger, more stable community.

"It's truly amazing that donors helped us, not even knowing who we were. I was born and raised in Portsmouth, and it means a lot to me to stay here, in my community, in my neighborhood," said Kathy Ireland, co-op secretary.



🏡 Housing Champions Made the News!... Again!

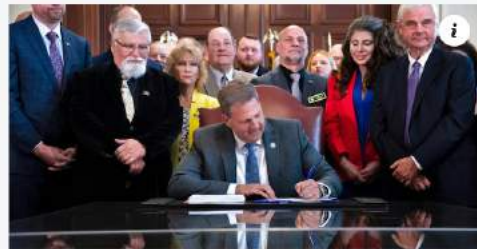
June was a great month for affordable housing! New Hampshire Business Review wrote an article detailing the highs and lows of the housing shortage, including my Housing Champions program being adopted into the budget.

"Sen. Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, D-Portsmouth, was the prime sponsor of a bill this year to create a "Housing Champion" program to help municipalities cover housing infrastructure costs, provided they adopt land use regulations necessary to promote the development of workforce housing. Workforce housing is permanent housing near places of employment.

The program, which got included in the budget bill, is intended to provide an incentive for municipalities to update their zoning ordinances in ways that make it easier for developers to build new houses and apartments," the article stated.

To stay up to date on all things affordable housing in New Hampshire, read the full article here:

<https://www.nhbr.com/new-hampshire-lawmakers-earmark-40-million-to-ease-states-housing-shortage/>



nhbr.com

NH lawmakers earmark \$40 million to ease housing shortage

🇺🇸 Naturalization Ceremony at the Banke

A big congratulations to all of the new Americans sworn in at the naturalization ceremony held at Strawberry Banke on July 4th. On our country's independence day, we welcomed 73 new Americans from 38 different countries! I was honored to have had the opportunity to speak and welcome our new fellow Americans to our community. Portsmouth, the city of

the 'open door', is happy to have you!





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

<input type="button" value="\$25"/>	<input type="button" value="\$50"/>
<input type="button" value="\$100"/>	<input type="button" value="\$250"/>
<input type="button" value="\$500"/>	<input type="button" value="Other"/>

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PAID FOR BY REBECCA PERKINS KWOKA
FOR STATE SENATE

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