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The Kind of Leadership North Haven Should Want

To The Editor: October 21, 2026

Two pragmatic problem-solvers North Haven can't afford to pass up.

In 2026 North Haven's voters have an opportunity to send to Hartford two working, community-rooted problem-solvers with day-to-day experience in the systems residents rely on- Brandi Mandato for State Senate (District 34) and Dr. Kathleen Kimball for State Representative (87th House District).

Brandi Mandato built a career around making the economy work for ordinary people, not just those already doing well. Mandato is a working mom with more than two decades of experience spanning government, education, workforce systems, and the private sector—all aimed at expanding access to quality jobs and opportunity. Her résumé is evidence of someone who understands how policy becomes practice, and how programs either deliver for families or quietly fail them.

Mandato argues that families and seniors are getting hit hardest by utilities, housing costs, and property taxes—and that Connecticut's tax structure still tilts benefits upward. Her agenda pairs tax fairness with structural reforms like moving toward public, accountable utilities designed to prioritize reliability and stable rates over profit.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kathleen Kimball brings a different but equally vital kind of readiness to public office: calm decision-making under pressure and a service ethic formed in hands-on work. Kimball is an emergency and urgent care veterinarian, an educator, and a community advocate running to represent Connecticut's 87th House District in North Haven. In emergency medicine the work is the same at its core: listen fast, prioritize correctly, and act with compassion because the stakes are real.

Her campaign makes an explicit argument for responsive, accountable government, including a commitment to making government decisions "tangibly understandable to the average voter." That sounds simple—until you remember how often budgets, school funding, and healthcare policy are treated like insider language. Transparency is how communities keep power from drifting away from the people.

Mandato and Kimball represent the kind of leadership North Haven should want more of: practical, community-based, and oriented toward measurable outcomes—lower monthly costs, better schools, and healthcare people can actually use.

Sincerely, Codruta Loebick, North Haven

What it Means to Be an Effective State Representative

To The Editor: October 21, 2026

Having served as North Haven's State Representative for 14 years, I understand well the skills and mindset that a person needs to succeed in the position. Simply put, Kathleen Kimball has what it takes to excel as our next State Representative and deliver more and better results.

First, an effective State Representative needs to have a sharp and agile mind. In the General Assembly, you juggle serving on several committees, keeping track of dozens of bills, and addressing hundreds of constituent matters. While staff can help, there is no substitute for being able to think quickly on your feet and manage these responsibilities yourself. As an emergency veterinarian, Kathleen has the diligent, analytical, and capable mind to evaluate and develop solutions to complex issues that defy easy or simplistic solutions.

Second, an effective State Representative knows how to stand up for her constituents, make a cogent argument, stick with an issue, and work with people of all perspectives and backgrounds to get things done. By playing a leading role in her veterinary practice, she not only knows a lot about a range of subjects and is prepared to handle almost anything at a moment's notice, Kathleen also can bring the benefit of her expertise to debates in committee and on the House floor.

Finally, an effective State Representative fights for what she believes in and gets results for her constituents. As a member of the majority party, Kathleen will be a player from day one: she'll be North Haven's voice in the room when big decisions get made, such as how much state aid we get or which capital projects important to us get funded by the state.

For these reasons, Kathleen Kimball is the better choice for State Representative in this year's election. I encourage all North Haven voters to support her.

Sincerely,
Steve Fontana, North Haven

A Strong Candidate For the Citizens of North Haven

To The Editor: October 21, 2026

I am writing to offer my support for the re-election of State Representative David Yaccarino to represent the citizens of North Haven. David values include strong public safety, library, public works, and supporting a great school system. I have personally known Dave for over 40 years both on a personal and professional level. I believe he is the best candidate for North haven.

Respectfully,
James X. DiCarlo, North Haven

An Excellent Candidate, Dedicated to North Haven

To The Editor: October 21, 2026

We send legislators to Hartford to stand up for our town, negotiate for the best possible resources, and make our town better by voting on new legislation. Dr. Kathleen Kimball's dedication to North Haven makes her an excellent candidate to carry out these duties! Dr. Kimball's experience as an emergency room veterinarian makes her well equipped to be in the fast paced legislative environment and shows a determination to serve every community member. Dr. Kimball is not a career politician, she is someone who wants to make North Haven affordable and safe for all.

As an educator, I see the strain on our school system. Resources are poorly funded, staff members are being cut, and students' needs are increasing. Students need funding from the state, and change is required to secure that funding. As someone who has interned at the Connecticut General Assembly, Dr. Kimball's can-do-attitude is what we need right now. All too often I hear Republican legislators claim they cannot cause significant change because they do not have the majority. I suggest we send a Democrat that can affect legislation from the inside. We need to adapt as the times change. Dr. Kathleen Kimball is the right choice for North Haven's state representative!

PJ August, North Haven

Season for Change

To The Editor: October 22, 2026

Like my neighbors, I want elected leaders who listen to our community and bring real-world experience to the job. That's why I'm supporting Dr. Kathleen Kimball for State Representative and Brandi Mandato for State Senate.

Under the current leadership of Rep. Yaccarino and Senator Cicarella, North Haven has been left behind when it comes to vital state resources. Under Yaccarino and Cicarella, our public schools have been abandoned for necessary state funding, leaving local taxpayers to bridge the gap while critical community needs, like key funding for our fire department, were completely excluded. We need advocates who will aggressively fight for North Haven's fair share in Hartford, rather than maintaining the status quo.

I've had the chance to get to know Dr. Kathleen Kimball, and what stands out most is her calm, level-headed leadership. As an emergency veterinarian, Kathleen spends her days making critical decisions under intense pressure. She isn't a career politician, she's a compassionate doctor, educator, and North Haven neighbor who knows how to step up when help is needed. Kathleen is running because she cares deeply about holding the state accountable for fully funding our public schools, protecting local health services, and making life more affordable for working families.

Brandi Mandato brings exactly the kind of grounded, hard-working background we need. Raised in a working-class family as the oldest of eight kids, Brandi learned early on the value of hard work and supporting others. With over two decades of experience in economic and workforce development she truly understands how policy impacts everyday lives. Her platform focuses on lowering utility bills and property taxes, investing in housing, supporting small businesses, and expanding debt-free trade pathways and public college options.

Both Kathleen and Brandi are engaged members of our community. They walk the same streets, send their kids to our schools, and share our everyday concerns. They aren't interested in partisan political games; they just want to make our town a better place to live, work, and raise a family in.

I hope my neighbors will join me in voting for change.

Sincerely,
Jenny Graves, North Haven

CT State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Endorses Dave Yaccarino for State Rep.

Dear Endorsed Candidate for State Representative, Oct. 23, 2026

On behalf of the Connecticut State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, I am pleased to extend our endorsement of your candidacy for State Representative in the November 3, 2026 general election. Please accept this letter as formal notification of our support.

Our organization advocates for the men and women who serve in law enforcement and for the safety of the communities they protect. Members of the Connecticut House of Representatives play an essential role in ensuring that officers have the training, resources, and support necessary to carry out their responsibilities effectively and professionally.

With this endorsement, we express our interest in working with you on issues affecting Connecticut's law enforcement officers and their families. These priorities include officer wellness, fair working conditions, and policies that strengthen public safety while maintaining the trust of the communities we serve.

We welcome the opportunity to maintain an open and constructive dialogue throughout your campaign and, if elected, during your service in the General Assembly. We encourage you to consider the Connecticut State Lodge a resource when addressing matters affecting law enforcement and public safety.

Congratulations on receiving our endorsement. We wish you success in the upcoming election and look forward to a productive working relationship in service to the people of Connecticut.

Fraternally, Nick DeNovellis
President, Connecticut State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police

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Vote for Fazio and Lancia

To The Editor: October 21, 2026

Republicans, Independents: please vote for Fazio and Lancia. We need to stop voting for the Democratic extreme Socialist's programs (defund the police, open boarders, sanctuary cities, eliminating fossil fuels and the Electoral College).

Vic Latvis

Honor Our Community... Don't Fight Change or Retreat Towards Familiarity

To The Editor: October 22, 2026

There was a time when North Haven was a simple and quiet pastoral community. That is no longer all that we are. Today we are many things, but idle is not one of them. Within four weeks of the South's declaration of secession, the first North Haven residents had enlisted in the Union's army following a powerful sermon by the Rev. B.J.S. Page at the Congregational Church. North Haven has consistently responded to the times at hand undaunted and ready to take on any challenge. This spirit stays with us. It would be a mistake to assume that the only way to honor our community is to fight change or retreat towards the familiar. Indeed, I would argue that to do so would be a betrayal of the original and enduring ethos of our town.

Brandi Mandato and Kathleen Kimball represent the best of North Haven, past and present. I am proud to support their candidacies for State Senate and Representative. There have been plenty of letters and statements—many by the candidates themselves—covering both of their impressive resumes and forward-thinking stances on so many of our most pressing policy issues including education funding, affordability, and employment. I think it is also necessary to make it clear that, while they run against incumbents, a vote for either of these women is not a vote against community, social bonds, or allegiances. It is a vote that recognizes that our current times demand we do what we always have done: respond without fear or timidity towards the future.

So many statements in support of the incumbents start and end with invocations of familiarity. "I know these men." Well, you also know what has and hasn't been done over the past few terms. You know that times are hard right now. And you know that there are some candidates that have more on their side than simple familiarity. I encourage each resident of our fair community not to misrepresent the history of our town. We have never cowered in the face of the future and we don't have to start now.

Brian Sargent, North Haven Resident

North Haven Needs New Leadership in Hartford

To The Editor: October 22, 2026

North Haven needs new leadership, and Brandi Mandato and Dr. Kathleen Kimball are highly qualified to serve. That is why I am proud to endorse Brandi Mandato for State Senate and Dr. Kathleen Kimball for State Representative.

Mandato has spent more than two decades helping people access education, training, and good jobs. She understands that affordability isn't just about today's bills; it's about whether families can build secure futures. As a North Haven Economic Development Commissioner and public school parent, she also understands the connection between state policy, strong schools, and a healthy local economy.

Dr. Kimball, an emergency veterinarian, works every day in high-stress situations where decisions matter and families face frightening uncertainty. That work demands compassion, clear thinking, listening, and the ability to act decisively under pressure. Those qualities belong in the legislature, too.

Both candidates recognize that families are being squeezed by rising costs and that our public schools need dependable support. That support has not come from Hartford. North Haven consistently ranks at the bottom in state education funding among the towns in our District Reference Group, the state's grouping of similar communities, below even wealthier towns. In almost every other town in our group, state aid covers a larger share of the school budget than it does here. Senator Paul Cicarella and Representative Dave Yaccarino have not changed that.

Our schools are paying the price. In last year's education budget, 28 educators and staff members were forced into early retirement, let go, or not hired. These were not abstract numbers; they represented teachers, support staff, and trusted members of our school community.

Mandato and Dr. Kimball will fight to make life more affordable, secure North Haven's fair share of state education funding, and ensure our community's concerns are heard. They bring experience, qualifications, and genuine care for the people affected by every decision.

North Haven needs new leadership. Vote for the Democratic team of Brandi Mandato and Dr. Kathleen Kimball on November 3rd.

Sincerely, Scott D. Friedman, North Haven

Letters continued on next page ➡

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