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Express yourself in our Letters to the Editor



To submit a letter: **Letters to the Advisor should include the writer's name, address and phone number. The writer's signature should appear at the end of the letter. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters will be accepted through Wednesday at 5pm. We will extend the deadline if circumstances allow and providing we have space available. Letters must be no longer than 400 words due to space limitations. The Advisor does not edit letters which are published as they are received. If a letter is questionable, the writer will be contacted for verification. The Advisor reserves the right to not publish letters that may be personally offensive.**

Droneport Regulations Needed To Protect North Haven

To The Editor: October 12, 2026

North Haven needs to adopt a Zoning Regulation covering the use of commercial aerial devices because, unlike Airports and Heliports, there is no express provision governing a droneport, as we learned from the ongoing controversy concerning Amazon's plan for drone package delivery from their North Haven warehouse. North Haveners also deserve an explanation from town officials as to why Amazon's droneport site plan was approved last May by the Planning & Zoning Commission, including whether advice was provided only by land use staff, or whether advice was requested and received from Town Counsel, because this mode of package delivery is very different from delivery by wheeled vehicles. Most of us might not have known about this until Amazon's drones began to fly over our houses, but for the coincidence that Connecticut DEEP published a notice for public comment in September about a FAA submission to them because a small part of the drone delivery covers a coastal area under DEEP protection.

A drone regulation should provide specific applicable requirements similar to those for Airports and Heliports, and include that a public hearing be conducted that would allow for public comment. FAA recently issued a blanket finding that commercial drones don't cause a significant environmental impact, and has proposed drone regulations that are in the last approval stage, which together would make FAA approval of commercial drone applications almost automatic. While FAA has exclusive jurisdiction over drone flights, their website recognizes that "(T)he siting of drone "hubs" (takeoff and landing areas) and infrastructure for drone package delivery operations must comply with applicable state and local land use and zoning requirements." For this reason, quick adoption of a droneport regulation might protect North Haven from future commercial drone operators.

Gerald A. Feinberg, North Haven

Restaurant Closing is Complete Surprise!

To The Editor: October 14, 2026

On 9/30/26 I made a dinner reservation for my husband and I to dine at Volo Restaurant and Lounge in North Haven. The reservation was made for 10/3/26 for 4:30 via the Open Table app. Not only did I receive confirmation of my reservation, but prior to 10/3, more than one reminder of the reservation that I had. Upon arrival to the restaurant on 10/3, it was only then that we discovered that the restaurant door was locked and there was a padlock on the door. There was NO sign on the door or anywhere else, indicating that it had closed permanently. In fact there still were patio tables with umbrellas outside the restaurant! It wasn't until I went online to search what was going on, that I then discovered that Volo had permanently closed!! There was no public announcement made of their closing. It wasn't until after our ordeal and telling a friend what had happened, that I was told that Volo announced their closing on Facebook. Well, not everyone has access to Facebook. Did the owners not think of that?

I have two questions for the former owners of Volo. If you had an account with Open Table, where I was able to book a reservation, and you knew you were closing, why didn't you cancel that account? This would have prevented me from making an invalid reservation with your restaurant. More importantly, what do you plan on doing to reimburse customers like myself and possibly others, who are now in possession of a gift card to Volo that they can no longer use, since you are permanently closed?? By the way, I have a $75.00 gift card that is no longer of use to me. Not to mention that the person who gave us the gift card is also out the $75.00. I hope you take into consideration what your actions have cost what could have been a patron of your restaurant. I hope you will think this over and rectify what could have easily been avoided, had you handled your closing in a better and more considerate way.

Lillian Garibaldi, North Haven

Political Endorsements - Letters Voter Information - Debates

North Haven • Hamden • Wallingford

Please Note: Letters and endorsements will be published but because of space limitation can only be **350 words** in length.

Brandi Will Fight for North Haven

To The Editor: October 14, 2026

I am the parent of children in North Haven Public Schools, and like many families, I watched this year's budget process with growing concern.

Whether the number was 24 positions or 28 positions, the reality is the same: that's a lot of educators, support staff, and professionals for a district to lose.

Every one of those positions represents services for students. Every one represents a person who chose a career helping children. Every one represents another difficult decision forced upon our community.

What frustrated me most was watching neighbors argue with neighbors over how to solve a problem that should never have reached this point.

Parents care about schools. Taxpayers care about affordability. Both concerns are valid.

The question is why communities like North Haven continue to be put in this position year after year.

That is why I support Brandi Mandato for State Senate.

Brandi understands that our local budget challenges are connected to decisions being made in Hartford. She has been clear that communities deserve their fair share of state resources and that education should be a priority, not an afterthought.

I don't expect miracles. But I do expect someone to fight for North Haven. I believe Brandi Mandato will.

Sincerely, Julie Burns, North Haven

Reasons to Support Brandi Mandato and Dr. Kathleen Kimball

To The Editor: October 14, 2026

Election Day is less than a month away, and early voting begins October 19.

For nine years, I've pushed for more state education funding for North Haven. Until recently, those concerns were dismissed entirely; our legislators told me North Haven was simply too wealthy compared to our peers. This year, that fight came to a head during a brutal budget cycle. Teachers lost jobs and taxpayers were asked to shoulder additional costs. I fear next year will be just as painful unless something changes.

The numbers are clear: North Haven receives approximately $6 million less annually in state education aid than it would if funded at the per-student average of our state-designated DRG D peers. That gap hits our classrooms and our property tax bills every year.

When I raise these concerns, the response from some supporters of our current legislators can be hostile. But hostility doesn't change the numbers or make the problems go away. We should be able to ask hard questions without being shouted down.

And the most common defense of our current legislators? "Democrats run the state."

That's true, but it isn't an answer. Republicans run North Haven. Republicans run Washington. Yet in Hartford, we're asked to accept that our Republican legislators can't move the needle because they're in the minority. Effective legislators build coalitions, influence the majority, and deliver for their district no matter who holds the gavel. If ours can't, we have to ask what we're sending them there to do.

Nobody is saying our legislators aren't trying. But good constituent service should be the rule, not the exception, and we are allowed to expect results. We still don't have that $6 million.

That's why I'm supporting Brandi Mandato for State Senate and Dr. Kathleen Kimball for State Representative. I want representatives willing to have difficult conversations, build relationships, and fight for sustainable solutions.

Our kids deserve an honest conversation. So do our taxpayers.

Amanda Gabriele, North Haven

A Public Servant at Heart

To The Editor: October 15, 2026

What qualities do we look for in a state senator? I know I want a leader who listens, thinks critically, understands how policy affects people's lives, and takes action. These are qualities I admire in Brandi Mandato, candidate for Connecticut's 34th Senate District.

Also, Brandi just gets things done. With more than 20 years of success in economic and workforce development, Brandi has devoted her career to expanding opportunity and helping people build better lives. She believes that begins with making education and good jobs more accessible, a priority she will carry with her to Hartford.

As a resident of North Haven, she knows well the challenges facing families in our district: the rising costs of housing, utilities, and healthcare; the burden of property taxes; and the need for strong public schools and affordable higher education. Brandi understands that economic development means little if working people, young families, and seniors cannot afford to live in the communities they call home. As our state senator, she would work to reform Connecticut's inequitable tax structure, take corporate profits out of utility bills, and implement a child tax credit—all ways to help bring down costs for district residents.

A public servant at heart, Brandi serves her town as a North Haven Economic Development Commissioner and constable. As a founding member of North Haven Pride, she has also helped build a welcoming, inclusive community grounded in respect and care. She is a natural leader who, when she sees a need, steps in to address it.

I believe public service should be about listening, working to solve problems, treating people fairly, and delivering results. With her stellar track record of taking action on behalf of others, along with her values and character, Brandi Mandato is the best candidate to represent District 34 in the Connecticut Senate. I am proud to endorse her.

Sincerely, Betsy Beacom



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Openness, Honesty and Care Shown For Our Community

To The Editor: October 14, 2026

During my senior year my class was told that Dave Yaccarino was coming to speak to us about his duties as our state representative. At first, everyone, including myself was a bit skepticle about it, wondering how the conversation would go. We were all given a sheet with questions to ask, and were told to also come up with our own. When walking into class that day, I had thought it was going to be the same as every civics lecture, that he was going to talk and we were going to listen, but it was the complete opposite. He was very open to answering all sorts of questions, about his job as our state representative, his own personal views about racism, LGBTQ+ rights, and even was open to talk about his self owned comic book store! He wasn't afraid to respond to questions, and ask students about their own views, instead of just talking at us. His talk with my class showed how open he was to listen to the youth of Connecticut, and how he wanted to connect and make change. Not just lecture us about his policies like most politicians would.

Dave's openness and honesty showed his care for our community, and changed mine and many of my classmates opinions on our states administration.

Makayla Rosado, Class of 2026

Committed to Breaking Down Barriers and Building Community

To The Editor: October 14, 2026

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Brandi Mandato's candidacy for State Senate in District 34.

An excellent public servant possesses a rare set of personal qualities: selflessness, integrity, likeability and a tireless commitment to the betterment of her community.

Brandi is dedicated to making life for others more enjoyable, livable and hopeful. She does this so effortlessly because she truly believes the future holds great promise for everyone.

Brandi is a measured, principled problem solver, laser focused on what is the best outcome for her community and not herself.

Brandi's presence brings joy and light to any room, and her enthusiasm for life is contagious.

Brandi is committed to breaking down barriers and building community. She is open-minded, conscientious and willing to challenge her own beliefs to find common ground.

Cynicism and partisanship do not drive Brandi's approach to politics. She believes that in a shared society contributions to our community, great or small, all matter, circumstances do not determine outcomes and that all of us are extraordinary in our own unique way. Whether advocating for more education funding, advancing healthcare options, employment opportunities for young people, or supporting small businesses, Brandi always puts our community first.

As we approach the election, I encourage my fellow residents of District 34 to support Brandi Mandato for State Senator. She will make us ALL proud.

David Cohen, North Haven

During an Emergency, The Only Wrong Thing to Do is Nothing

To The Editor: October 14, 2026

Like many voters, I met Dr. Kathleen Kimball this year, but the impression she made was instantaneous. As the Chair of the North Haven Democratic Town Committee, I can attest that it's difficult finding and recruiting folks who want to run for office, much less people who are qualified and passionate enough to push past the bologna and articulate a clear, concise vision to overworked constituents just desperate for basic relief.

In late February of this year, Dr. Kimball sent the DTC a letter of intent to serve as our candidate for State Representative. A product of a multiracial family and the daughter of a police officer, Kathleen wound up pursuing veterinary medicine, which took her across the country until she finally wound up here in North Haven to lay down roots with her husband. Beyond being a record of accomplishments, the letter also served as a thesis statement for her campaign, concluding with a piece of advice she gives her students: "During an emergency, the only wrong thing to do is nothing."

As impressive as this all was, I felt the need to level with her about how challenging, sometimes even grueling, campaigning can be in the current environment, where just being a woman or a Democrat can create a scarlet mark in the minds of those with closed minds and ample time to launch invectives from their living rooms. But Kathleen seemed to possess a remarkable ability to keep things in perspective and stay calmly focused on her goal of providing an attentive ear to her would-be constituents so that she could best serve them. Okay, I thought, but let's circle back and see how cool-headed she is when things heat up. My cynical heart be damned, Kathleen still has the same eager, poised, and kind spirit going door-to-door today as she did back in February. This is why she'll be ready to lead on day one and why she deserves North Haven's vote this year.

Tim Gabriele, North Haven

Letters continued on next page ➡