

**State Senator Saud Anwar (D—3rd District)  
Co-Chair, Housing Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly**

State Senator Saud Anwar was elected in February 2019 to represent the residents of the 3rd State Senate District towns of East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington and South Windsor.

Saud was first elected to public office in 2011 as a member of South Windsor's Town Council. He has served two terms as South Windsor mayor, once from 2013 to 2015 and once from 2017 to 2019.

Saud is a medical doctor with specializations in treating lung diseases and critical care medicine, occupational and environmental medicine. He currently serves as Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Manchester Memorial and Rockville General Hospitals. Saud was trained in pulmonary and critical care medicine at, and holds a Master's Degree in Public Health from, Yale University.

Saud also works with humanitarian and peace initiatives on a local, national and global scale. He has organized medical missions for disaster relief, receiving citations for doing so from former Governor Jodi Rell, United States Senator Richard Blumenthal and Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz.

In South Windsor, Saud is a founding member of the South Windsor Hunger Action Team, Zero Waste South Windsor and the South Windsor Alliance for Progress. He is also the founder of South Windsor Haiti School Inc., a board member of the South Windsor Community Foundation and is a former chair of the South Windsor Human Relations Commission.

In Connecticut, Saud is the former commissioner of Asian Pacific American Affairs and served on the Health Equity Leadership Council of Connecticut, CT Health Foundation, and State Emergency Response Commission.

Nationally, Saud has testified to the 109th Congress's Committee on Homeland Security, coordinated volunteer response to September 11, served as a consultant to the FBI's Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee and spoke at conferences for the Department of Homeland Security and the office of former Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano.

Internationally, Saud served on peace missions to Israel and the Middle East, as well as medical missions to Haiti and Pakistan after natural disasters in those countries. He has spoken at conferences for Friends of Europe – Brussels and the United States Mission to the European Union, served as a consultant for the British Department of Communities and Local Government, and was Chief Coordinator for the Conference on Understanding Radicalization and De-Radicalization Strategies, which was broadcast live throughout the world.

Saud has been recognized by the American Red Cross for his response to September 11 and received the FBI Director Robert Mueller Award for Community Leadership and Alliance Building, the Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award, the National Council of Community and Justice's Human Relations Award, the Manchester Community College Leadership Award, the Department of Justice Attorney's Office Community Service Award, the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut's Trailblazer Award, the Eastern Connecticut Health Network member physicians' Community Service Recognition Award and the Connecticut Bar Association's Citizen for the Law Award.

Saud and his family, including wife Dr. Yusra Anis-Anwar, sons Taha and Taseen and his mother Zia Anwar, all live in South Windsor.

**State Representative Brandon McGee (D—Windsor, Hartford)**  
**Co-Chair, Housing Committee**  
**Connecticut General Assembly**

Representative Brandon L. McGee Jr., a self-described community activist and architect of social solutions for the people of Connecticut, is serving his fourth term representing areas of Windsor and Hartford.

A Hartford native, Brandon devoted his life to public service early in his career after being inspired by Mrs. Rosa Parks, one of the most influential figures of the civil rights movement, whom he considered a friend and mentor. He is an advocate for equity in education, criminal justice reform, voter registration and empowerment for people of color and their communities.

Brandon is the House chairman of the legislature's Housing Committee and the chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus.

As a strong advocate of quality education for all and service to community, he also serves on the Education Committee and the Human Services Committee.

Brandon's passion for communication emanates from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s inspirational legacy of telling the truth and bearing witness to love and justice.

Brandon has numerous community affiliations and serves in various capacities, including:

- Ascend Mentoring, Board President - 2012 to Present
- BSL Education Foundation, President - 2015 to Present
- Hartford Behavioral Health, Board of Directors - 2015 to Present
- Jewish Family Services, Board of Directors - 2016 to Present

He is the chief creative officer of the McGee Firm in Hartford, where he provides strategic insight, planning, and messaging consulting to clients in private, public, and education sectors. He also serves as a marketing and communications coordinator for the Capitol Region Education Council in Hartford.

Brandon has received numerous awards for his civic work. In 2017, he was the recipient of the Excellence in Mentoring Award from the National Mentoring Partnership for his commitment to youth mentoring. He was also named 2017 Citizen of the Year by the Tau Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. In 2009, Brandon was the youngest recipient ever to receive the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Offices Community Award.

Brandon earned a bachelor degree in political science from Alabama State University in 2006 and holds an M.S. degree in Management and Organizational Leadership from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven. His long affiliation and strong ties to his undergraduate alma mater led to the establishment of the Brandon McGee Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math scholarship in 2014.

Brandon is a deacon and member of the board of directors of the Citadel of Love Church in Hartford. He lives in Hartford with his wife Geralynn and daughter Sylver Kennedy.

**Kate Robinson**  
**Principal**  
**Gallo & Robinson, LLC**

Kate Robinson, Principal, is an active lobbyist who believes that her clients are the experts in their field. She works to forge ongoing communication and strong relationships between clients and policy makers so that they can make well informed decisions, and better serve our state and its residents.

After serving as the Clerk of the Planning and Development Committee and running two state-house campaigns, Kate went to work for Betty Gallo & Company in 2000. Since then, she has worked on dozens of pro-active proposals relating to public health, education, energy security and affordable housing including, but not limited to, CPR in schools, increasing access to Narcan, monitoring access to mental health treatment for people with private insurance, establishing funding for year-round energy assistance, increasing and preserving funds for affordable housing options and housing stability for people facing homelessness, restoration of voting rights for people who have served their sentences in the criminal justice system, and assuring that tenants in public housing can elect the Tenant Commissioner on the Housing Authority if they choose to.

She has also worked as part of the lobbying team that passed paid family medical leave, increased the sales age of tobacco and vaping products to 21, significant gun safety legislation, marriage for same-sex couples, and abolished the death penalty in Connecticut. She has been actively organizing and presenting at the Connecticut Lobbying Conference since 2007.

Kate holds a B.F.A. from University of Connecticut and earned a master's degree in Public Policy from Trinity College in Hartford. Kate is proud to have been honored for an Outstanding Contribution in Arts Advocacy in 2010 by the Connecticut Arts Administrators Association, received the Outstanding Partner Award from the Connecticut Public Housing Network in 2012 and Lifetime Membership in 2013. In 2017, she received a Legislative Champion Award from the Keep the Promise Coalition, and in 2019, she received the Scott Shuler Distinguished Art Advocate Award from the Connecticut Arts Education Association.

Kate became a named partner of Gallo & Robinson in 2014, and Principal of the firm in 2018. She lives in West Hartford with her husband and two sons.

**State Representative Jason Rojas (D—East Hartford, Manchester)**  
**Co-Chair, Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee**  
**Connecticut General Assembly**

Jason Rojas is proud to serve the 9th Assembly District, which is composed of parts of East Hartford and Manchester. The district covers much of southeastern East Hartford (Hills Street, Oak Street, Silver Lane, Forbes Street, as well as the Mayberry Village and Sunset Hills neighborhoods) and a portion of southern eastern Manchester (neighborhoods of Keeney and Verplanck elementary schools and Hillstown).

Representative Rojas serves as the House chair of the legislature's Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. He is also a member of the Planning and Development Committee.

A lifelong resident of East Hartford, Jason attended East Hartford Public Schools and was the first in his family to graduate from college, earning a history degree from the University of Connecticut and a master's degree in public policy from Trinity College.

Outside of the legislature, Jason is chief of staff to the president and director of community relations at Trinity College. He also serves on the board of directors of Billings Forge Community Works and Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance as well as the Board of Trustees of the Boys and Girls Club of Hartford.

Jason is a former member of the East Hartford Town Council and Board of Education as well as the New England Association of Schools & Colleges Commission on Public Secondary Schools.

Jason's policy interests include government finance and tax policy, inter-municipal cooperation and education. Jason puts a particular emphasis on constituent service and encourages constituents to contact him with concerns, questions and ideas about how to move our district, communities and state forward.

Jason is married to his high school sweetheart, Sarah, and they have three children and two cats named Noodles and Kix.

**State Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey (D—Fairfield)  
Co-Chair, Planning and Development Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly**

State Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey was elected in 2014 to serve Fairfield's 133rd Assembly District. She currently serves on the legislature's Education, Government Administration & Elections, and Transportation committees.

Prior to serving in the legislature, she was elected to Fairfield's Representative Town Meeting in 2005, where she served as Deputy Moderator and Minority Leader. In 2011 she was elected to the Fairfield Board of Selectmen.

As a member of the Transportation Committee, Cristin understands the importance of creating a 21st century transportation system that reduces traffic, facilitates economic growth, and improves the environment. She is a passionate advocate for walkable and bikeable communities.

Cristin helped secure funding for a road safety audit for the Grasmere section of Fairfield, which has allowed Fairfield to apply for a grant from the CT Metropolitan Council of Governments for upgrades. In 2016 she introduced legislation increasing the fine for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, which was signed by the Governor and took effect in October of 2016. Cristin has also fought for improved Metro North services, recognizing rail as a critical mode of transportation for Fairfield residents.

As both a legislator and a parent, Cristin is committed to ensuring children have access to a high quality public education. In 2016 her bill to limit how third parties can use student data, protecting student privacy, passed the legislature unanimously. She continues to work to address the issue of student data privacy.

Cristin championed a bill to help students with dyslexia by requiring any person applying for a remedial reading or reading consultant endorsement to have completed a course that includes instruction on dyslexia. She also successfully introduced legislation to give institutions of higher education the flexibility they need to create programs that are responsive to changing workforce needs, directly benefiting institutions such as Sacred Heart University.

In 2015, Cristin was appointed to the permanent Commission on Economic Competitiveness, which analyzes the implications of state tax policy on business and industry in order to develop policy recommendations that promote economic growth and prosperity in the state.

Based on recommendations from the business community, Cristin advocated for legislation updating the laws governing limited liability companies (LLCs). The law makes Connecticut's LLC Act consistent with best practices in other states, streamlining administration and reducing costs.

Cristin previously worked with Casey Family Services to help older youth in foster care achieve permanence through adoption. She also served as co-chair of the Fairfield Cares Community Coalition, which works to prevent suicide and substance abuse among teens.

Educated at the University of Notre Dame (BA Economics and Government) and the University of Washington (MSW), Cristin has been married for over 20 years to her husband Brian, a US Navy veteran. She and Brian share the joy of raising three children, all of whom attend or have been through Fairfield Public Schools.

**State Senator Catherine Osten (D—19th District)  
Co-Chair, Appropriations Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly**

State Senator Cathy Osten was first elected in November 2012 and is now serving her third term representing the residents of the 19th state Senatorial District communities of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich and Sprague.

Cathy is Senate Co-Chairman of the legislature's Appropriations Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Labor & Public Employees committees, and a member of the Legislative Management, Regulation Review, Transportation and Veterans' Affairs committees.

In recent years Cathy has helped write and pass such important legislation as increasing Connecticut's minimum wage, a sex offender notification bill, the creation of senior safety zones task force, and creating a state version of "Erin's Law," which requires that children be educated in schools on sexual abuse in a child-friendly manner, for the purpose of informing and protecting them from sexual abuse.

A 1973 graduate of the Norwich Free Academy, Cathy heeded America's call for volunteers during the Vietnam era by enlisting in the United States Army. After several months in the U.S., she shipped out to Japan as a translator-interpreter in Chinese Mandarin. After four years of active duty, Sergeant Osten returned to the United States, taking up residence in Norwich and attending Mohegan Community College before beginning her career with the state Department of Correction.

Cathy served in the Correction Department for more than two decades, first as a corrections officer and then as a lieutenant. For 21 years, Cathy experienced first-hand the issues surrounding Connecticut's

prison system, public employees, pension disputes and women's rights in the workplace. In 2003, following a string of harassment cases against women which stemmed from inside the Connecticut prison system, Cathy joined with other female corrections officers to protest the treatment of women in the workplace. Bringing this fight to the State Capitol, Cathy was able to hold the Correction Department accountable for pervasive sexual harassment.

Understanding the need for more progress in the workplace, Cathy also began working toward the passage of new laws to allow corrections supervisors the right to organize. She was successful, and as president of the Correction Supervisors' Council of CSEA/SEIU Cathy worked tirelessly to directly represent more than 600 professionals in the Corrections Department.

The mother of one and grandmother of four, Cathy is also an experienced public official; her passionate commitment to her community led her to become Sprague's first-ever female selectman. In 2011, Cathy was appointed by Governor Malloy to the Two Storm Panel, giving small-town issues statewide attention by highlighting necessary changes by both the utility companies and the state in responding to recent emergencies.

Cathy's continuous outreach to seniors, her fight for the middle class and her desire for open government and environmental integrity continually demonstrate that her focus is on improving communities.