

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** kala venkateswaran <kala.venkateswaran@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 7, 2025 10:50 AM  
**To:** Rep. Howard, Greg  
**Cc:** Naomi Rodriguez; Rep. Lanoue, Brian; Rep. Ryan, Kevin; Marino, Chris; Roxanne Maher; William Barnes; April Brunelle; Jessica Buhle; Carmen Garcia Irizarry; Kevin J. Dombrowski; Timothy Ryan; Tony Saccone; Gary St. Vil  
**Subject:** Re: Ledyard Property Tax increased way more than the inflation rate - Why this burden on the community

Thanks a lot Tony Saccone and Rep Greg Howard for getting back to me. I will reach out to Tony Saccone to discuss this further.

On Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 7:01 AM Rep. Howard, Greg <[Greg.Howard@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Greg.Howard@cga.ct.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Kala,

Thanks for the email, I was on vacation last week and just going through my emails now.

From my perspective as a State Rep, I would say that the town budget, as noted by Adrianna, is determined by town officials, ultimately the Town Council. She is correct that state funding plays a role on the revenue side and unfunded state mandates play a role on the appropriation side. I can speak for myself and Fred Allyn in that I make every attempt to block unfunded mandates, and Fred has been in Hartford advocating for the same on behalf of his residents. I certainly try to get as much funding as I can to the three municipalities that I represents, and will note that the other two (Stonington and North Stonington) approved budgets with around a 4% increase.

I would say that you should hold every elected person accountable for any vote that increased taxes for you that was taken at the state level or at the local level and determine if those expenditures were necessary.

This year in Hartford, we fully funded Education Cost Share funding for Ledyard and passed a sweeping bill that will lower the cost of Special Education which should help on both sides of the budget.

Thanks,  
Greg

*Rep. Greg Howard*

Representative Greg Howard  
Ranking Member, Public Safety & Security Committee  
Member, Judiciary Committee, Education Committee  
43<sup>rd</sup> House District, CT  
300 Capitol Avenue, Room 4200  
Hartford, CT 06106

**From:** kala venkateswaran <[kala.venkateswaran@gmail.com](mailto:kala.venkateswaran@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025 2:55 PM

**To:** [naomir@ledyardct.org](mailto:naomir@ledyardct.org) <[naomir@ledyardct.org](mailto:naomir@ledyardct.org)>; Rep. Howard, Greg <[Greg.Howard@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Greg.Howard@cga.ct.gov)>; Rep. Lanoue, Brian <[Brian.Lanoue@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Brian.Lanoue@cga.ct.gov)>; Rep. Ryan, Kevin <[Kevin.Ryan@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Kevin.Ryan@cga.ct.gov)>; Marino, Chris <[Chris.Marino@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Chris.Marino@cga.ct.gov)>

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**Subject:** Ledyard Property Tax increased way more than the inflation rate - Why this burden on the community

Hello Naomi/ Greg/ Brian/ Kevin/ Chris,

I am Kala venkateswaran, the owner of 14 Capt Amos Stanton Drive, Ledyard CT. I am sending this note to you because I noticed that the property tax for this year has been increased by 5.48% in my case. The inflation rate last year was 2.9% . I would like to understand why there is a 5.48% increase in property taxes and how the State and Ledyard representatives are able to justify such a huge raise. With such high cost for groceries and daily essentials and wages being stagnant/ reduced for the past 5 years and high unemployment, how does your department not take that into consideration ? I really need to understand this as I am unemployed and every dollar counts for me.

When I sent a note to the Ledyard tax assessor, Adrianna Hedwall; she directed me to you all. In her note she has stated that "the determination of the mill rate is at the discretion of the finance department, with oversight from the Mayor and final approval by the Town Council. I can assure you that the current budget was thoughtfully prepared, considering the decrease in state funding, increased state mandated exemptions, and inflation. "

I would sincerely appreciate it if you can acknowledge the receipt of this e-mail and give me guidance on how to get it reduced. This increase is NOT justifiable because it is definitely WAY MORE than the inflation rate. It shows a total lack of empathy for the community at large. I have NOT had any increase in my salary in the last 5 years.

Yours sincerely,  
Kala.

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"Ayurveda is to free the mind which is trapped in the body. Yoga is to free the soul which is trapped in the mind." ~Baba Hari Dass