



Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media

Al DiGuido, owner of Saugatuck Sweets, in front of his store in Fairfield Thursday with a banner supporting the Fairfield National Little League baseball team. At bottom, catcher Jimmy Taxiltaridis, left, and his twin, pitcher SJ Taxiltaridis.



Jordan Nathaniel Fenster/Hearst Conn. Media

House GOP staffer Pat O'Neil sets up the various proposals for congressional redistricting.

'Bipartisan as it can get'

The redistricting process is different in Connecticut than in Texas or California

By Jordan Nathaniel Fenster
STAFF WRITER

Democrats in Texas fled the state in an effort to stop a Republican-led plan, proposed by President Donald Trump, to create more congressional districts. On Monday, they ended their walkout, allowing the new map to move forward.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed an amendment to the state's constitution called the "Election Rigging Response Act," which would create new, temporary congressional districts.

Republicans in Missouri also said they would redistrict. Democrats in New York are trying to change the law so they can do the same. Wisconsin Democrats are filing lawsuits, and lawmakers in Maryland, Florida, Ohio and Indiana have all talked about the possibility, among other states.

Despite the national hubbub and pressure from both parties, many say anything similar is unlikely to happen in Connecticut.

"Connecticut can't do what Texas and California are doing," said state Republican chairman Ben Proto.

Count Proto among those who doesn't love the shape of all of Connecticut's five congressional districts. Take, for example, the 5th District "lobster claw." The district starts in the northwest corner and reaches south to Danbury. And though it reaches as far east as New Britain and Meriden, the district wraps around parts of the 1st District like Bristol and Southington — both of which are west of New Britain.

That said, there's fairness in the process, Proto said.

"The process itself is as bipartisan as it can get," he said. "The governor has no involvement in redistricting. The governor doesn't sign a bill, doesn't get involved. The process is done entirely through the legislature, with four Democrats and four Republicans, and when

Redistricting continues on A4

'Coolest thing'

Fairfield Little League team captures heart of CT



Scott Ericson/Hearst Connecticut Media

Ex-Fairfield National Baseball presidents Michael Broderick and Dante Gallucci and former player Zach Broderick.

By Scott Ericson
STAFF WRITER

From the moment Dante Gallucci put on a uniform in 1966 to his 23-year run as league president, Fairfield National baseball has been woven into nearly every year of his life.

Now, with his beloved program shining bright on the national stage, Gallucci beams with pride as Fairfield National prepares to play in the U.S Championship of the Little League Baseball World Series in Williams-

HOW TO WATCH

Fairfield National (Conn.) vs. Summerlin South (Nev.)
3:30 p.m. Saturday on ABC

port, Pa. on Saturday.

Gallucci stepped down as Fairfield National president in 2021, but hasn't stopped cheering for the program.

"I never got a team to Williamsport, and I am so thrilled and proud for all those kids," Gallucci said. "It is silly, but seeing the kids make it to the World Series was a little bit of a relief. I feel like I can now die in peace."

Gallucci has lifetime ties to the

Town continues on A7



Mike Anthony
Commentary

Meet the 'miracle twin' preemies

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — The Taxiltaridis brothers celebrated Fairfield National's latest victory at the Little League World Series with their preferred cuts of steaks Wednesday evening in a downtown Williamsport restaurant. As always, catcher Jimmy ordered a New York strip and pitcher SJ opted for a sirloin.



Christian Abraham/Hearst CT Media

Jared Freed/Associated Press

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Twins continues on A7

Roughly 70 teachers are joining Greenwich schools

By Jessica Simms
STAFF WRITER

GREENWICH — Around 70 new faces have joined Greenwich Public Schools' staff for the 2025-26 school year.

These new teachers came together Thursday for their orientation to get acclimated to Greenwich's school district. Last year, GPS had 48 teachers participate in the orientation and the year before that, 35 joined in.

Jonathan Budd, GPS's chief

human resources officer, said the annual trend of the new teachers "varies upward and down each year."

"This year, more teachers were hired earlier in the summer than normal," he added.

He said that 55 of the vacancies that were filled were created due to resignations. The remainder were left due to retirements.

Greenwich teachers will be beginning their school year on Monday. The first day of school for students is Aug. 29.



Jonathan Budd, chief human resource officer for Greenwich Public Schools, speaks to new teachers during orientation in Greenwich on Thursday.

Ned Gerard/Hearst Connecticut Media

Showdown over state housing rules goes on as special session looms

By Ken Dixon
STAFF WRITER

As legislators prepare for an anticipated late-September special session of the General Assembly to possibly reach a compromise on a controversial

housing bill that was vetoed by Gov. Ned Lamont, two top Democratic leaders this week warned that without action to expand dwelling opportunities, only the wealthy will be able to afford to live here.

The latest volley between

suburban Republican lawmakers and Democrats occurred during the Majority Leaders Round Table on Affordable Housing, the bipartisan group of legislators, housing experts, and regional and municipal planners led by Senate Majority

Leader Bob Duff and House Majority Leader Jason Rojas.

While the focus of the hour-long meeting in the State Capitol complex Wednesday was the possible goal of 10-percent affordable housing units throughout the state, the fact of the issue

is that many suburbs, particularly in Fairfield County, average home prices are soaring over a million dollars, said Duff, a real estate professional who read the recent sales statistics. The median sales price is more

Housing continues on A4

