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LOCAL, 3A

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## High court upholds birthright citizenship

### Justices: Executive order can't alter definition

Maureen Groppe  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court on June 30 rejected President Donald Trump's attempt to redefine who is an

American, striking down the limits on birthright citizenship that were a centerpiece of his hard-line approach to immigration.

The ruling landed as the nation geared up to celebrate its 250th anniversary, adding to the significance of a case that was already a blockbuster.

Trump's push to change birthright citizenship upended how the constitu-

tional guarantee – long considered a bedrock American principle – had historically been understood. But in Trump v. Barbara, the justices said Trump cannot change the definition of birthright citizenship with the stroke of a pen.

"Citizenship, then and now, was the right to have rights – to freely participate in our political community," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the ma-

iority opinion. "The Framers of the Fourteenth Amendment extended that promise to 'every free-born person in this land.' We keep that promise today."

Three of the court's other conservatives – Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch – dissented. Thomas said the decision "devalues"

See BIRTHRIGHT, Page 5A

Counterclockwise, from left, Keanna Bouthsarath, Janice Garcia, Arelis Savinon and Yaniris Jimenez jog as they take part in the early Monday morning, June 29, high-intensity interval training class at Fuller Family Park as part of the Worcester's Fitness in the Parks program. PHOTOS BY ALLAN JUNG/TELEGRAM & GAZETTE



## What are Worcester's most crowded schools?

Jesse Collings  
Worcester Telegram & Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER – The main goal of Worcester Public Schools realignment process is to reduce crowding in schools that are over 85% of capacity and increase utilization to at least 85% of capacity in under-enrolled buildings.

With that in mind, the schools that are the most crowded in the district will almost surely see the geographic size of their districts reduced, as students who would formerly have attended those schools are moved to less-crowded buildings.

Here are the 15 most crowded schools in the city, based on 2025-26 enrollment:

- Chandler Elementary, 412 students, 113% of 365 capacity
- Rice Square Elementary, 425 students, 108% of 392 capacity
- May Street Elementary, 325 students, 102% of 320 capacity
- Belmont Street Community School, 605 students, 96% of 631 capacity
- Burncoat Middle School, 678 students, 96% of 707 capacity
- Grafton Street Elementary, 438 students, 96% of 457 capacity
- Burncoat High School, 964 students, 95% of 1,019 capacity
- University Park Campus School,

See SCHOOLS, Page 6A

## Fitness in the park

Worcester Telegram & Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER – The city's Fitness in the Parks program is underway, with residents taking part in a range of exercise programs aimed at making it a healthier (and happier) summer.

The program runs through August, with classes at seven locations throughout the city. Some residents enjoy yoga, others embrace Pilates and dance. For some, basketball is the answer.

Details at [www.worcesterma.gov/summer-fitness](http://www.worcesterma.gov/summer-fitness).



Arelis Savinon takes part in the high-intensity interval training class on June 29 at Fuller Family Park as part of the Worcester's Fitness in the Parks program.

### More inside

Worcester to open cooling centers, Local 3A.

## Rent control fight likely to resume despite high court ruling

Toni Caushi  
Worcester Telegram & Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER – Local opponents of a rent-control proposal that was gaining steam to appear on the election ballot are

speaking in support of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's decision to kill the measure June 23.

The question would have limited landlords in Massachusetts to raising annual rents by no more than the increase in the Consumer Price Index, or

5%, whichever is lower, something which landlords and developers opposed.

The state's high court blocked the question from appearing on the November ballot because it would have exempted units operated for religious purposes

and therefore unconstitutionally "relates to religion, religious practices or religious institutions." Supporters of rent control have vowed to try again without the language on religious purposes.

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