

Danbury's House Divided Danbury Republican Primary Provides Choice Between Division And Unity

The Danbury Republican Committee primary has gone from contentious to outright divisive as a group attempts to unseat the current leadership and remake the committee.

There are, however, a number of possible irregularities in how the Row B PAC was formed and funded. While Row C candidates have declined to comment about the Community Gazette investigation, saying they want to focus on making sure Danbury Republican voters have a clear, honest choice, our look at SEEC documents and discussions with SEEC representatives shows a pattern of questionable and potentially illegal activity by the Row B group.

donating unspent funds to fund another campaign. Yet the Emile Buzzaid mayoral campaign donated 79% of the Row B PAC's funding according to SEEC records, raising questions about how a struggling campaign that lost so badly had thousands of unspent campaign contributions a left over after the campaign.

Party, and whether this is a calculated attempt to undermine the Republicans. Row B spokesman Warren Levy, for example, attempted a similar shake up within the Danbury Democratic Party six years earlier, before losing his bid and then registering as a Republican. Several others appear to have similar backgrounds.

U.S. And Israel Attack Iran Iran Retaliation Includes Attacking Arab Countries

Early Saturday morning, the United States and Israeli militaries coordinated strikes targeting military and strategic sites within the Islamic Republic of Iran. Citing an "existential threat" posed by Tehran's nuclear and missile programs, Israeli leaders described the assault as a pre-emptive operation aimed at degrading Iran's offensive capabilities, while U.S. officials framed the action as part of "major combat operations" to protect national and regional security.

warning that "all American and Israeli assets and interests in the Middle East have become a legitimate target" following what it described as a violation of international law. The attacks and retaliation follow months of diplomatic deadlock over Iran's nuclear development program and missile capabilities. With negotiations to curb Tehran's programs apparently stalled, Saturday's military exchange has cast doubt on the prospects for compromise and raised fears among global leaders that the conflict could draw in additional regional and international actors.

Gulf Arab states, where Iran's retaliation struck airspace and territory, expressed alarm and condemned the attacks as breaches of sovereignty. Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Kuwait each issued statements decrying the strikes on their soil and underscoring the risk of further destabilization should the conflict widen. Saudi Arabia said "The Kingdom affirms its full solidarity with and unwavering support for the brotherly countries, and its readiness to place all its capabilities at their disposal in support of any measures they may undertake," the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement.

The international response beyond the Middle East has been mixed, with European leaders urging restraint and renewed diplomatic efforts to avert full-scale war. Officials from France, Germany, and the United Kingdom called on Iran to pursue a negotiated solution and condemned the violence on all sides, emphasizing civilian casualties and regional stability. Russia condemned the U.S.-Israeli strikes as an unprovoked act of aggression and signaled support for Iran's push for a United Nations Security Council session.

Local Parents Complain About Fundraiser Selling VIP Access To School Graduations Practice May Violate IRS, State And Federal Law And School Policy

Auction Catalog for Bethel High School Premier Graduation Seating. Includes details about 8 premier seats for \$315.00 and a photo of the school building.

One parent posted in support of the ticket auction, saying "Do you know what BEF does with the money? It goes right back in to our schools. To provide grants and opportunities for our students that they otherwise won't have."

situations, and simple remembrances expressive of affection or gratitude shall not be regarded as a violation. Policy Adopted: July 22, 1991 Policy Revised: 9/9/2004 1313-P&P0-2-R04

News In Brief Today In History

On this day in 1962, Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points in a basketball game for the Philadelphia Warriors. He remains the only NBA player to achieve this, and did so before the introduction of the 3 point rule.

Austin Shooting Investigated As Terror Attack

A suspected terrorist gunman opened fire outside Buford's Backyard Beer Garden on famed Sixth Street in Austin, Texas, early Sunday, killing two and wounding 14 before police fatally shot him. The 53 year old suspect was wearing a "Property of Allah" hoodie and was possibly out for vengeance over the U.S. attack on Iran, law-enforcement sources said. A Quran was also found in his vehicle.

Iran Attack Pushes Oil Prices Up Total Blood Moon Eclipse

Oil prices jumped 10% to about \$80 a barrel in early trading Sunday, and analysts warn crude could surge another \$10 to \$20 per barrel if tensions around the Strait of Hormuz escalate further.

A total lunar eclipse will turn the moon blood-red early morning on Tuesday, and should be visible across North America. It is the last total lunar eclipse expected until New Year's Eve of 2028.

When former Chairman of the Bethel Action Committee and Bethel native Matthew Paulsen posted online about the Bethel Education Foundation auction once again selling VIP seating and parking at Bethel's High School graduation and also at other Bethel School Moving Up ceremonies, a number of parents posted disapproval of the schools giving preferential treatment to families that can afford it at a public recognition of academic achievement.

When a student expresses a desire to present a gift to a staff member, the gift shall not be elaborate or unduly expensive. The Board shall consider as always welcome, and in most cases more appropriate than gifts, the writing of letters to staff members expressing gratitude or appreciation.

The Bethel Education Foundation has not responded to several requests for comment. Outgoing Schools Superintendent Dr. Carver indicated that she had sent our inquiry to the school district attorney. We have not received any additional comment after holding this story for several days.

New Chamber Comes To Town

The Fairfield County CT Chamber of Commerce has launched a new program with several participation levels, starting at free. The county wide chamber seeks to promote businesses and communities within Fairfield County and to promote the county to neighboring counties and states.

Advertisement for Fairfield County CT Chamber Early Signup Special Programs From FREE To \$12 A Month! Includes a QR code to learn more.

Inside This Issue

- Arts: Free Painting Demonstration, See page 2
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Patricia's Presents advertisement featuring various gift items like jewelry, clothing, and home decor.

Stony Hill Dental Care advertisement for Dr. Jeffrey Shuman, offering sedation dentistry and no lectures or guilt.

The Toy Chest advertisement for educational toys, games, puzzles, and dolls.

Hollandia Nurseries advertisement for birding supplies, featuring a photo of a cardinal.

The Insurance Center advertisement for life, health, and commercial insurance.

Marilyn Caravetta Real Estate advertisement and Senior Depot Medical Sales & Rentals advertisement.

Gardening

Get Ready for Spring: UConn Extension's Online Home Gardening Course is Available

UConn Extension is now accepting registrations for its Fundamentals of Home Gardening online course, designed for beginner and intermediate gardeners who want to build strong foundational skills for successful home and community gardening.

The self-paced, multi-module program covers essential topics including vegetable gardening, soil health, composting, pest management, pollinator support, and sustainable gardening practices. Participants gain practical knowledge that can be applied immediately in gardens of all sizes, from backyard plots to containers and raised beds.

"Our goal is to help Connecticut residents grow with confidence," said Jean Madden-Hennessey, a program coordinator with UConn Extension's Master Gardener program. "This course gives people the tools they need to make informed decisions, nurture healthy plants, and support thriving local ecosystems."

Course Features

User-friendly online format accessible at any time

Step-by-step guidance from UConn horticulture experts

Videos, readings, quizzes, and hands-on learning suggestions

Science-based, practical information suited for all learning styles

Who Should Enroll

The Fundamentals of Home Gardening course is ideal for new gardeners, homeowners, community gardeners, educators, and anyone looking to strengthen their horticultural knowledge.

Registration is open now, and the course is available through October. Visit: <https://s.uconn.edu/fundamental> for more information and to enroll.

Arts

Painting Demonstration



On Wednesday March 25, 2026 at 1:30pm, Frank Bruckman will be demonstrating a portrait in oil. This event will be at The Newtown Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street in Newtown, CT. All are welcome and admission is free.

Pets

Meet Marco



Meet Marco, a truly special soul who has so much love to give and is simply waiting for the right person who understands him. Marco is a four-year-old, 60-pound sweetheart with a heart-melting smile and an incredibly soft coat. Found as a stray in rural North Carolina in November 2021, Marco spent 17 long months living in a shelter kennel.

care in Connecticut in March 2023, Marco has truly blossomed and is now our longest resident, patiently waiting for his forever home.

Marco thrives on connection with his people. He is a world-class cuddler who loves to snuggle up close, sleep in bed, and carefully paw at his blankets until they are just right. Playtime brings out his joyful spirit—he loves zoomies, fetch, and tug-of-war, and his happiness is contagious. Marco is also very intelligent and enjoys enrichment activities like snuffle mats, food puzzles, and lick mats. He walks well on leash and enjoys getting out for adventures.

Despite that difficult beginning, he has shown remarkable resilience. Since coming into foster

pet household. Marco does well with other dogs and cats of all ages and sizes, making him a great fit for a multi-pet household.

To learn more or to adopt a rescue, contact Happily Furever After Rescue at info@happilyfureverafter.org or (631) 935-3578 or visit their website at www.happilyfureverafter.org

Doing Good

Feed A Veteran

Patrons of For Pete's Sake Delicatessen, located at 73 Stony Hill Road in Bethel, can donate breakfast or lunch to local veterans all year long. As a result, veterans of American armed forces can enjoy breakfast or lunch at no charge as part of the program. Veterans should bring proof of service as they may ask for it. The program runs all year long.

MeadowTails™

By Sam Twane



Where do cows go one a first date?

The mooooovies.

Municipal Calendars

Bethel

- Stony Hill Fire Department
Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:30 PM
- Board of Selectman
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- Board of Education
Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM
- Bethel Volunteer Fire Department
Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- Aging Commission
Monday, March 9, 2026 at 2:30 PM
- Youth Commission
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- Board of Finance
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- Planning & Zoning
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- Housatonic Area Regional Transit
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 4:00

Danbury

- City Council Meeting
March 3, 2026, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Board of Awards Weekly Meeting
March 4, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 AM
- Civil Service Commission Meeting
March 4, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 PM
- Planning Commission Meeting
March 4, 2026, 7:00 PM
- I-84 Flex Lane Public Information Meeting
March 5, 2026, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- Zoning Commission Meeting
March 10, 2026, 7:00 PM
- Board of Awards Weekly Meeting
March 11, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 AM
- I-84 Flex Lane Public Information Meeting
March 11, 2026, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Redding

- March 2 at 7:00 pm
Park and Recreation Commission
- March 3 at 5:00 pm
Georgetown Fire District
- March 3 at 7:00 pm
Georgetown Fire District Annual Budget Meeting
- March 3 at 7:00 pm
Conservation Commission - CANCELLED
- March 3 at 7:00 pm
Redding Board of Education - CANCELLED
- March 4 at 12:00 pm
Brown Bag Lunch with First Selectwoman
- March 5 at 4:00 pm
Redding Safety Committee

Brookfield

- Stop the Compressor - Room 129
March 2, 2026, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Board of Selectmen Meeting - Room 133
March 2, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Zoning Board of Appeals - Room 135
March 2, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Board of Finance Budget Workshop - Room 209
March 3, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Brookfield Education Foundation - Room 209
March 4, 2026, 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
- Commission on Aging - Room 135
March 4, 2026, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Newtown

- Board of Assessment Appeals
March 2, 2026 - 5:30pm
- Board of Selectmen
March 2, 2026 - 7:30pm
- Public Safety Committee
March 3, 2026 - 5:00pm
- BOE Policy Committee
March 3, 2026 - 5:30pm
- Police Commission
March 3, 2026 - 6:30pm
- Board of Education
March 3, 2026 - 7:00pm
- CHB Library Governance Committee
March 3, 2026 - 7:00pm
- Lake Zoar Authority
March 3, 2026 - 7:00pm

Ridgefield

- March 2, 2026 - Monday
9:30am - 11:30am - Commission on Aging Special Meeting
6:30pm - 8:30pm - Economic & Community Development Commission Meeting
7:00pm - 10:00pm - Board of Selectpersons Budget Meeting
7:00pm - 10:00pm - ZBA Meeting - Cancelled
- March 3, 2026 - Tuesday
5:00pm - 6:30pm - Compassionate Ridgefield Meeting
7:00pm - 10:00pm - Board of Selectpersons Budget Meeting
- March 4, 2026 - Wednesday
8:00am - 10:00am - Ridgefield Commemorates America at 250 Meeting Meeting

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The Cross

This signature piece was designed and made by John in 1992 for the confirmation of his oldest son. It has been sold throughout the world in Yankee magazine, to heads of state and to lay people alike. The design was blessed by Pope Frances on two separate occasions. Each cross is detailed by hand, karat stamped and signed.

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- Lower monthly insurance expenses?
- Save money for their children's education?
- Lower monthly debt payments?
- Stop living paycheck to paycheck?
- Save more money for the future?
- Make wiser, more informed financial decisions.
- Develop a program to build financial independence?

We would like to help your family explore the options and help make these dreams a reality.

Maryann Simmons - District Leader
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Office: 203.740.7563 | www.Primerica.com/Maryannsimmons

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(203) 546-7403
www.backdoor-chicken.com

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Fast and friendly service with a great selection of bagels, toppings and breakfast sandwiches with lunch salads and sandwiches, too. But be warned, the cinnamon rolls are beyond addictive.
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(203) 790-6656
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This is truly a delight as they have one of the absolute best selections of NY style, delicious bagels anywhere outside of "the city", with one of the most kind and friendly owners anywhere. Breakfast and lunch selections are all delicious and the prices are reasonable. Dine-in or take out.
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Catering
Our catering services are designed to bring the taste of our restaurant to your venue. Whether you're hosting a small family gathering or a large corporate event, our team is dedicated to delivering delicious food and exceptional service. With a focus on quality and customer satisfaction, Backdoor Chicken & Burgers is your go-to choice for BBQ catering.

Live Music
Our live music events are designed to bring the community together, providing a space where you can unwind and enjoy quality entertainment. In Brookfield, we're known for our welcoming atmosphere and delicious food, making us the perfect spot for a night out. Don't miss the chance to enjoy our BBQ and burger offerings while listening to live bands, creating a memorable experience for all.

21 Hole Mini Golf
Our mini golf course is designed to complement your dining experience, offering a unique way to unwind after a delicious meal. It's a great spot for family gatherings or a casual day out. At Backdoor Chicken & Burgers, we pride ourselves on providing a welcoming environment where fun and food come together seamlessly. Get FREE mini golf with a small donation to the wounded veterans.

What Our Customers Say

★★★★★ Quick food service, Sandwiches are great. Very friendly and accommodating staff. — Ray V
★★★★★ Super friendly, and amazing food. Will be back a bunch. — Chris T
★★★★★ Some the best fried chicken I have ever had, the strawberry sauce is phenomenal. — Damon C

★★★★★ This is our second time eating at Backdoor Chicken & Burgers and can't say enough about the owner!!! Everything we tried is absolutely fresh and soooo delicious from the breakfast sandwiches, to chicken wings to the yummy cheeseburger and the most scrumptious french fries. Stop by you won't be disappointed! — Donna S

At Home



6 Katrina Circle, Bethel, CT
 3 Bedrooms, 4 Baths,
 2,295 SF, .79 Acre
 Price Reduced To \$739,000

Welcome to your dream home in the highly sought after Sleepy Hollow Estates in the Codfish Hill area of Bethel. This sprawling ranch that has been updated with over \$100K in recent enhancements some include a heated saltwater pool, expansive entertaining deck, and beautifully updated landscaping. From the moment you step inside, you'll experience an open, airy floor plan filled with natural light. Enjoy an eat-in custom kitchen with sliders that lead directly to your private resort-style backyard, with large decks and that amazing pool. This home features two elegant fireplaces, central AC, and a beautifully finished lower level offering a large rec room, cedar closet, and office or guest suite. Large rooms, most freshly painted with two full and two half baths. Perfectly positioned on a level .79-acre lot on a quiet street, this home also features a mudroom to the pool and an attached large two-car garage. Located in southern Bethel with easy access to I-84, Metro-North, charming downtown amenities, and Bethel School Park, this property delivers the ideal blend of luxury, location, and lifestyle.

Contact Jim DiLillo at (203) 470-2678 or james.dilillo@randrealty.com



Price Reduced!

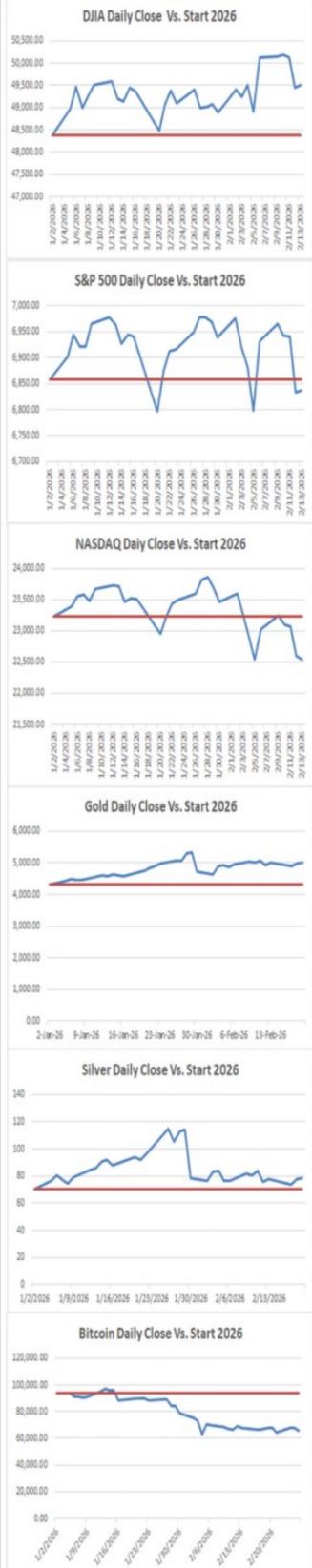
13020 Amberly Ct #306
 Bonita Springs, FL
 3 beds, 2 baths, 1,222 sqft
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Welcome to the Florida lifestyle you've been dreaming of! Perfectly nestled between Naples and Fort Myers in the highly desirable Worthington Country Club, this first-floor 3-bedroom, 2-bath condo offers the ultimate balance of active living and relaxed luxury. Enjoy morning sunrises and light-filled rooms from your east-facing lanai with panoramic golf course views—a peaceful backdrop for your coffee or evening glass of wine. The corner location enhances privacy and natural light, while modern updates like stainless steel appliances, newer washer/dryer, and turnkey furnishings mean you can start enjoying it right away. Step outside and you'll find an abundance of activities: championship golf, tennis, pickle-ball, bocce, a fitness center, restaurant and a resort-style pool and spa—all within a vibrant, social community. When it's time to unwind, you're just minutes from Bonita's award-winning beaches and multiple pools within the neighborhood. The location couldn't be more convenient—walk or bike ride to Publix, restaurants, and the incoming Midtowne at Bonita with shops, dining, and entertainment (sister of Mercato in Naples) You're also close to I-75, RSW Airport, and everything that makes Southwest Florida one of the most sought-after destinations in the country. With a 2023 Rheem A/C, low-maintenance living, and endless opportunities to stay active or simply soak up the sun, this is more than a condo—it's your gateway to the best of Southwest Florida living.

Contact Ann Lefcakis at (239) 297-2926 or ann@kwelevate.com

Business & Finance

Market Update As Of End Of Trading Feb 19, 2026



Business Spotlight

Patricia's Presents Has Gifts For Both You And That Special Someone



Patricia's Presents has gifts and accessories for your holiday gift giving. They are located at 164 Greenwood Avenue in Bethel.

Amy Kahn Russell Jewelry is at Philadelphia Flower Show



Amy has packed up sunshine, petals, and a whole lot of handmade sparkle for the Philly Flower Show! Inspired by the colors, textures, and joy of spring blooms, these one-of-a-kind pieces capture the beauty of flowers you can wear long after the show ends. Find Amy Kahn Russell at Booth 201 + 203 / Marketplace! Saturday, Feb. 28th to Tuesday, Mar. 7th 10:00am - 6:00pm and Sunday, Mar. 8th 10:00am - 6:00pm at the Philly Convention Center. Can't get to Philadelphia? Visit her shop, Giftz, Gemz & Jewelz, in Ridgefield at 452 Main Street.

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Expert Tips!
 When your house is on the market, here are my tips for getting your home showing-ready in 10 minutes or less: Take out the trash. Even if you don't think it smells bad, your buyer might.

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Things To Do

Read To Sydney!



Children 5+ are invited to take turns to read to Sydney, a trained therapy dog. Reading to Sydney provides a judgment free space for many children to increase their reading skills, self confidence, and encourages a love for reading! Sydney's handler, Hayley, also happens to be a pediatric occupational therapist and loves to volunteer her time with Sydney at the library. So bring a favorite book, take a peek at Sydney's book, or pick one out at the library before the event.

March 4th and 18th, 2026 at 4 p.m. at the Danbury Library.

Tax Help



The C.H. Booth Library is pleased to announce FREE income tax assistance, provided through a partnership between the AARP Foundation and the IRS. This service will be available on Thursdays until April 9, 2026. Don't miss this opportunity to receive expert help with your taxes.

Sun, 03-01-26, Poetry Workshop with Ira Joe Fisher, Group A, 1:30pm-3:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Library, Redding	Fingerless Gloves!, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Redding	Buildings and Grounds Committee In-Person, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	The Jacob Jolliff Band, 2:00pm-3:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Danbury Library	7:30 PM, Bethel Library
Sun, 03-01-26, The Allen and Helen Hermes Arts Series presents: Yale's Whim 'n Rhythm (In-Person), 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-03-26, Mother Goose on the Loose In-Person, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-04-26, Junior Live Virtual Cooking: Broccoli Fettuccini "Alfredo", 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Wed, 03-04-26, 250 Years of American Music: Part I—Charles Ives (Virtual), 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-04-26, Waterpower, Workers & Woven Wire—How Gilbert & Bennett Fits the Textile Industry Pattern (In-Person), 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Mon, 03-09-26, Spanish Conversation Group, 2:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Speedcubing Club, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Critics' Circle Book Group, 6:30pm-8:00pm, Ridgefield Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Baby & Me, 1:00 - 1:30 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Live Virtual Cooking: Corned Beef and Potato Empanadas, 7:30 PM, Danbury Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Online: Poems from CT's Four Corners, 7:00pm-8:15pm, Ridgefield Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Waterpower, Workers & Woven Wire—How Gilbert & Bennett Fits the Textile Industry Pattern (In-Person), 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Mon, 03-09-26, Club de lectura en español, 4:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Reading Together Book Club, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Derek Piotr Fieldwork: Diverse Representations of Folk Songs, 6:30pm-8:00pm, Ridgefield Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Historically Speaking Book Club - The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride, 1:00pm-2:00pm, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Storytime, 10:30 - 11:00 AM, Bethel Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Chair Yoga with Liz Wendel, 1:00pm-2:00pm, Ridgefield Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Intermediate English Classes (Afternoon), 12:00 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Snip, Snip! Cutting Practice Grab & Go Kit (Ages 2+), 10:00 AM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Hummingbird Feeder Program, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Spy School: Secrets of the American Revolution, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, C.H. Booth Library Trustees In-Person, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown
Mon, 03-02-26, Music Monday with Principal at the Newtown Community Center In-Person, 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Tue, 03-03-26, Creative Collective Discussion Group (Virtual), 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-04-26, Drop-in Art with Miss Nora In-Person, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Zero English Classes (Afternoon), 1:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Talk Time, 11:00 AM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Live Virtual Program: Enter the Fold: Designing Codes, Origami, and Molecules, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Tai Chi for Beginners, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-11-26, Appreciating Our Natural Environment Series—Taking Great Landscape Photographs (In-Person), 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
Mon, 03-02-26, Time for Twos, 11:00am-11:45am, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:00pm-5:15pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Mother Goose on the Loose In-Person, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Intro to Cricut Arts & Crafts: Personalized Drinkware (Session 3) In-Person, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Watercolor Workshop Series: Building Skills Through Technique, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Python Programming For Middle Schoolers, 4:00 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, New Game Testing & Taking the bus from RES! (7, 8, 9-year-olds ONLY), 3:15 pm - 4:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:30pm-5:45pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Intro to AI: Job Seeker Strategies for the Digital Age In-Person, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Shake, Rattle & Read Storytime (ages 6-24 mos) - Session One, 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Storytime, 10:30 - 11:00 AM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Mother Goose on the Loose In-Person, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-11-26, Zero English Classes (Evening), 4:30 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Teen Volunteering, 4:00 - 6:00 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Time for Twos, 11:00am-11:45am, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Introducing Studio 170, 5:00 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Library Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Cooking the Books: A Cookbook Club In-Person, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Adult Chess Club (In-Person), 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Historically Speaking Book Club Evening - The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Online: Next Chapter Book Club, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Great Decisions: Foreign Policy Discussion Group (In-Person), 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Multicultural Bilingual Storytime, 11:00 AM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Basic English Classes (Afternoon), 12:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Zero English Classes (Afternoon), 1:30 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Homework Help/Skill Builders, 3:30 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Speedcubing Club, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Jade Rabbit Lantern Workshop, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Tai Chi for Beginners, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Watercolor Workshop Series: Building Skills Through Technique, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Nonfiction Book Club: The Great Bridge by David McCullough In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Weekly Drop-In Knitting Circle (In-Person), 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Watercolor Workshop Series: Building Skills Through Technique, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Nonfiction Book Club: The Great Bridge by David McCullough In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Tue, 03-03-26, Weekly Drop-In Knitting Circle (In-Person), 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Fri, 03-06-26, Watercolor Bird Painting, 10:00am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
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Issues

Reprinted With Permission From The Hartford Portfolio, Yankee Institute's update on what's happening in Connecticut

Election-Year Labor Bill Rewrites Rules For Employers, Schools And Healthcare Providers

The General Assembly's Labor and Public Employees Committee has unveiled a 68-page omnibus proposal titled "An Act Concerning Workforce Development and Working Conditions in the State." Introduced in an election year, House Bill 5003 consolidates a wide range of labor-related changes affecting public employees, private businesses, municipalities, and schools.

Framed as a package to improve working conditions, the bill reaches into multiple areas of employment law, imposing new mandates, altering existing labor frameworks, and raising potential constitutional and fiscal concerns.

The Janus Issue

One notable concern involves language in Connecticut's public-sector labor statutes that still references agency fees — payments equivalent to union dues required from nonmembers as a condition of employment. In *Janus v. AFSCME* (2018), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that compelling such payments violates the First Amendment.

Rather than removing that language, the bill modifies surrounding payroll deduction provisions, allowing employers and unions to negotiate how dues are collected through collective bargaining agreements, while leaving the requirement that nonmembers pay union-equivalent fees. While unenforceable under federal law, retaining unconstitutional language in state law creates confusion and raises questions about legislative intent. Following *Janus*, many states updated their statutes to conform with the ruling. Connecticut's failure to do so continues to generate legal ambiguity.

Mandatory Weather Pay

The bill would also require employers to pay workers their full wages when shifts are canceled due to inclement weather and remote work is not feasible. Employers would be prohibited from requiring employees to use accrued leave to cover those hours.

This effectively mandates pay even when no work is performed and no revenue is generated. For small businesses operating on narrow margins, a weather closure could result in paying full wages without corresponding income. The policy may also create perverse

incentives — making it financially harder for businesses to close during unsafe conditions.

Expanded Worker Retention Mandates

A worker retention law that currently applies to certain airport food service employees would be expanded statewide. Under the proposal, when service contracts change hands at hospitals, nursing homes, warehouses, shopping centers, apartment complexes, schools, or office buildings, incoming contractors must retain the previous contractor's workers for 90 days and may terminate only for just cause during that period.

The contractor size threshold would drop from ten employees to two, bringing nearly all small service businesses in the state under the rule.

The bill also removes an existing provision allowing successor contractors to decline to rehire employees whose attendance or performance records "would lead a reasonably prudent employer to terminate them."

Under the proposed framework, even employees with documented performance or attendance problems would have to be retained during the transition period.

The result is a significant constraint on business flexibility, particularly for small contractors inheriting employees they did not hire.

Statewide "Violent Patient" Registry

The bill would require healthcare providers to report incidents of violence against staff into a statewide system operated through Connecticut's Health Information Exchange. Those entries could generate alerts to other providers if the patient seeks care elsewhere.

Because designation would be based on clinical reporting rather than a criminal finding, the threshold for inclusion may vary. Patients experiencing mental-health crises, dementia, substance withdrawal, or acute medical distress could be flagged.

For vulnerable populations — including the elderly, people with cognitive impairments, psychiatric conditions, or developmental

disabilities — the practical consequence may be reduced access to care. Providers receiving alerts may be more reluctant to schedule appointments, accept transfers, or treat patients in non-emergency settings, especially in understaffed facilities already concerned about safety risks.

Although an appeals process is included, the bill does not clearly define timelines or removal standards. A disputed designation could remain active during review, potentially affecting access to care.

While staff safety is an important goal, the proposal raises questions about patient due process and unintended consequences for vulnerable populations.

Teacher Terminations and Binding Arbitration

The bill would shift teacher termination decisions away from local boards of education and place final authority in the hands of an independent hearing officer whose ruling would be binding.

This change removes elected local officials from the final decision-making process and limits districts' ability to challenge outcomes. Because courts typically defer to arbitration-style rulings, appeals would become more difficult. School districts would also share the cost of the hearing officer, adding financial strain to personnel disputes.

The proposal represents a substantial change in governance structure and local accountability.

Election-Year Timing

A public hearing is scheduled for March 3. The breadth of the bill — and the number of long-standing union priorities it addresses — makes it one of the most consequential labor proposals of the session.

Regardless of political context, the implications are structural. Businesses, municipalities, healthcare providers, and taxpayers will live under the rules created here long after the legislative session ends.

Sweeping changes to employment law warrant careful review, robust public debate, and transparent consideration. A bill of this scale and consequence deserves nothing less.

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Primary Profiles

With The Danbury Republican Primary on Tuesday, The Community Gazette wanted to provide profiles of the candidates for both the Danbury Republican PAC and the Danbury Republican Alliance (Row C) groups. However, we were unable to find any candidate profiles for Row B. It is not our intention to endorse any of these two groups, but we also have an obligation to share what information is available.

Michelle Coelho



I am a longtime Danbury resident, a mother of three, a bilingual, first-generation Cuban American, and the first Hispanic elected member of the Danbury Board of Education, where I served for four years. During my time on the Board, I worked to restore the Curriculum Committee to the direct oversight of Board of Education members, strengthening transparency, accountability, and public trust in decisions that impact our students and families. I believe leadership works best when decisions are transparent, inclusive, and grounded in accountability.

During my service, the planning and opening of Danbury High School West was one of the most significant undertakings for the Board of Education, supporting the needs of the largest public high school in the state. This work required close collaboration

among the administration, city leadership, fellow Board members, educators, staff, community partners, and constituents, and I contributed through oversight of sites and facilities and community relations.

Beyond the Board, I have been an active member of the Danbury Republican Town Committee for over four years and currently serve my second term as the CT State Central representative for the 24th District, Danbury. I also serve as the Northeast CT Co-Chair for the Republican National Hispanic Assembly and remain engaged in faith-based and community service work.

I am sincerely thankful for your trust, your support, and your participation in this process. I look forward to continuing this work together and serving Danbury with care, respect, and accountability.

ABSENTEE VOTING IS OPEN THRU MARCH 2ND.

THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY IS MARCH 3RD. AT YOUR LOCAL POLL

I would be honored to earn your support and in moving forward together as a team. Please consider voting for our FULL slate — ROW C, candidates 1C-34C.

With gratitude,
Michelle Coelho

Chris Garitee



Chris Garitee is a candidate for the Danbury Republican Town Committee and a Senior Litigation Attorney with a multi-state legal practice. He is admitted to practice law in Connecticut, New York, and Texas, as well as in the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York. His legal work focuses on complex civil litigation and Special Immigration Juvenile Status cases, where he represents individuals and families navigating significant legal challenges.

Chris and his wife purchased their home in Danbury in 2025 and chose the city as the place where they intend to raise their family. Shortly after moving to Danbury, he became involved in local Republican activities after being encouraged to participate based on his prior public service and political experience.

Before moving to Danbury,

Chris ran for public office in New York, served on a Zoning Board of Appeals, and served as a Republican District Leader. He has also represented a Republican town committee in election litigation and has worked on political campaigns at the national level. His background combines practical government experience with a professional understanding of law and public policy.

Chris is running for the Republican Town Committee because he believes strong local organizations are essential to effective government. His primary policy focus is promoting responsible fiscal management and lower taxes so that Danbury remains an affordable place for families to live and build their future. Additionally, he is focused on candidate selection with an emphasis on supporting new and rising young leaders within the GOP.

Chris believes the Republican Party is strongest when it is professional, inclusive, and focused on practical results while building a new generation of conservative leaders. He hopes to bring experience, stability, and a long-term commitment to public service to the Danbury Republican Town Committee.

I humbly ask for your support on Tuesday, March 3rd and VOTE Row C (1C- 34C). You can vote at your local Paul location.

Former Mayor of Danbury, CT DEAN ESPOSITO



Is a lifelong Danbury resident whose love for his hometown has shaped a lifetime of service. Raised in a family grounded in public service, Dean has spent decades giving back to the community that raised him and working to make Danbury stronger for future generations.

Before being elected as Danbury's 31st Mayor in 2021, Dean proudly served the city in many roles, including City Council

Member, Town Clerk, and Chief of Staff. These experiences gave him a deep understanding of how the city works and allowed him to focus his time as Mayor on what matters most — strong schools, responsible infrastructure improvements, and protecting Danbury's fiscal health.

Known for his people-first approach, openness, and ability to bring people together, Dean remains a familiar and respected presence throughout the Hat City. Whether in City Hall or volunteering in the community, his focus has always been simple and sincere: making Danbury the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Voting is now open. You may vote absentee through March 2, vote in person on Tuesday, March 3 at your regular polling location, or use the 24-hour secure absentee ballot drop box at City Hall.

On Election Day, stand with local leadership, accountability, and Republican values. Vote Row C — 1C through 34C.

Brenda Santopolo Hefferon



My name is Brenda Santopolo Hefferon, and I am a proud longtime resident whose family has lived in Danbury for three generations as well as being a wife, mother, and small business owner. I believe our community and party deserve a voice that truly

represents its values and needs. I care deeply about the future of our town and the well-being of the families who call Danbury home. I am running for my seat back on the Republican Town Committee, a seat I have held for the past two election cycles. Although I became involved in politics only under two years ago, I've learned that my greatest strength is the ability to truly listen. I value hearing different perspectives and ideas, and I treat everyone I speak with respectfully. My priority is fostering healthy, productive communication when making decisions—decisions that are in the best interest of our party and, ultimately, our city.

Thank you for your support, Vote C1-34C

Benjamin Torres III



Born at Danbury Hospital and a proud fifth-generation resident, I've lived in Danbury my entire life. Public service runs in my family. My mother has worked elections in Ward 3 for more than 15 years, and through her example I became involved in the election process myself. For the past three years, I've worked elections, listening closely to voters and learning firsthand what our

community wants and needs from its leaders.

Through this experience, I've seen both the strengths of our city and the areas where we must do better. After witnessing challenges within our school special education system and growing concerns around public safety, I feel a responsibility to step up and bring a fresh, practical perspective to the Danbury Republican Town Committee.

Danbury is my home — not just where I live, but where my family's roots run deep. I'm ready to stand up, speak up, and work for the families who call this city home. Together, we can move Danbury forward with accountability, safety, and leadership that truly listens.

Bob Yamin



Is a lifelong Danbury resident whose love for his hometown has shaped a lifetime of service. Raised in a family grounded in public service, Dean has spent decades giving back to the community that raised him and working to make Danbury stronger for future generations.

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On Election Day, stand with local leadership, accountability, and Republican values. Vote Row C — 1C through 34C.

Cameron Coe



My name is Cameron Coe, and I am a lifelong Danbury resident and a graduate of Danbury High School, Class of 2017. I am also a proud homeowner in our city, living here with my amazing girlfriend. Danbury has always been home to me, and my commitment to this community is both personal and professional.

I currently serve as a Team Lead in Admissions at Post University, where I work with students and families as they take important steps toward their future. In addition, I am deeply involved in our community through youth development. I teach martial arts to children and teens five days a week at the Danbury Academy of Mixed Martial Arts through the Danbury Police Activities League, helping young people build discipline, confidence, and respect.

Beyond my professional work, I am active in the sports and entertainment industry. I serve as a ring announcer for professional wrestling, kickboxing, and mixed martial arts events, and I also work

behind the scenes on the business side of these productions. This includes local efforts such as sponsorship and community partnerships, including work with the Danbury Westerners and other organizations that support and promote Danbury-based athletics and events.

Over the past year, I have become actively involved in local Republican politics, regularly attending meetings, engaging with party members, and stepping up to run for the Danbury Board of Education last fall. This experience reinforced my belief that our party must continue to grow, adapt, and work together to remain competitive and successful in Danbury.

I am running for the Danbury Republican Town Committee to help bring our party into the future and to help us win again for Danbury. I strongly believe that success comes from unity and teamwork, which is why it is crucial that our entire slate, the Danbury Republican Alliance on Row C, is elected so we can work together toward this shared goal.

I am proud that our slate is endorsed by the Fairfield County Young Republicans, and I am honored to serve as a member and Secretary of our chapter.

I respectfully ask for your support. Please vote for me, Cameron Coe, and vote for the entire Danbury Republican Alliance slate, Row C, candidates 1C through 34C. Together, we can move our party and our city forward.



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