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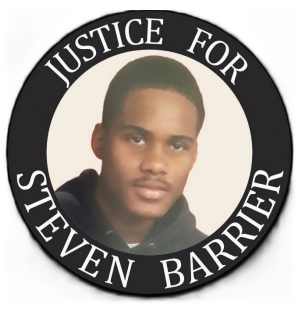
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Steven Barrier deserves just as much attention as Nolan Wells

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COLETTE'S COMMENTARY

Sweeps send two new contenders to the WNBA Finals

SPORTS EVENTS OF THE WEEK

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Oct. 12 | New Haven, Conn.
MEN'S GOLF
Oct. 12 | Dayton, Ohio
WBB
Oct. 12 | Uncasville, Conn.
MBB
Oct. 13 | Uncasville, Conn.
MEN'S GOLF
Oct. 13 | Dayton, Ohio
WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY
Oct. 16 | Terre Haute, Indiana
FIELD HOCKEY
Oct. 16 | Washington, DC
WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 16 | Princeton, NJ
MEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 16 | Milwaukee, Wis.
VOLLEYBALL
Oct. 16 | Indianapolis, IN
MEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 16 | Storrs, Conn.
WOMEN'S ROWIING
Oct. 17 | Boston, MA
WOMEN'S TENNIS
Oct. 17 | Providence, RI
WOMEN'S SWIM
Oct. 17 | Villanova, PA
WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 17 | Princeton, NJ
MEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 17 | Storrs, Conn.
VOLLEYBALL
Oct. 17 | Cincinnati, Ohio
WOMEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 17 | Storrs, Conn.
WOMEN'S TENNIS
Oct. 18 | Providence, RI
FIELD HOCKEY
Oct. 18 | Ithaca, NY

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MEME OF THE DAY



USG, Parking Services to host 2nd ticket pay-off event Oct. 29

by Mikayla Bunnell | NEWS EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | mikayla.bunnell@uconn.edu



The entrance to the Innovation Partnership Building in Storrs, Conn. Students can bring in donations of nonperishable items to go towards their unpaid parking ticket balance here on Oct. 29.
FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government and UConn Parking Services are teaming up again to allow students to pay off their parking tickets by donating nonperishable goods on Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Innovation Partnership Building.

Students can bring in donations of nonperishable items to go towards their unpaid parking ticket balance. Items will be matched in comparable price categories of $3, $5, $7 and $10, according to USG President Venice Montanaro. These items are then donated to Husky Harvest, UConn's free food pantry for students.

"So lower priced things are like cans, bags of rice, things like that," Montanaro said. "As you go up [in price], it is things that Husky Harvest has requested, such as boxes of cereal... so we equated that to $7."

The $10 category is an addition to the program focused on personal hygiene items like menstrual products and laundry detergent, Montanaro said. Students can also donate body washes, hair conditioner and shampoo.

There is no limit to how much students can pay off through donations, Montanaro said.

"If you have $800 worth of tickets, you can pay them all off," she said. "Any amount of tickets you have, any price range, you can pay it off even if it's on your fee bill, even if it has a late fee attached to it, you can still pay it off."

See PARKING, p. 2

UConn alum running for state senate

by Hope Melk
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A University of Connecticut alumnus will add a new name to the ballot this November as he looks to secure a seat in the state Senate.

Ethan Werstler, who graduated from UConn in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in political science and communication, is running as a Democratic candidate to represent Connecticut's 35th state Senate district.

The 35th District, which has been a Republican seat for 30 years, is currently held by incumbent Jeff Gordon and encompasses 13 towns in the northeastern corner of the state: Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Eastford, Ellington, Hampton, Stafford, Thompson, Tolland, Union, Vernon, Willington and Werstler's hometown of Woodstock.

The 26-year-old Woodstock native wants to represent his hometown, the community that raised him and the district he owes so much to, Werstler said in an interview Friday.

In college, Werstler served as the vice president of the UConn Undergraduate Student Body from April 2021 to April 2022, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Also in 2021, Werstler was elected as a full voting and speaking member of the UConn Board of Trustees where he represented 23,000 undergraduate students across all five campuses, according to information posted on his campaign website.

Werstler said these roles placed huge pressures on him that ultimately formed him into a sharper decision maker and a better representative of people.

"I would not be running for office if it wasn't for the experiences I was exposed to at UConn," Werstler said.

During his time at UConn, Werstler also spearheaded Husky Market, a "food insecurity initiative that has provided $460,000 worth of grocery store gift cards to thousands of food-insecure students," according to his campaign website.

Werstler also noted that his involvement in the UConn Women's Center handling gender-based violence work helped prepare him to run for office.

Werstler said his time at UConn made it possible for him to meet like-minded political professionals, some of whom now work on his campaign, including the former associate director of the UConn Women's Center, Kathy Fischer, who is now Werstler's campaign manager.

> "I hope in some way, or another way, that I can be a voice for younger people in this state who want to call Connecticut home."
>
> ETHAN WERSTLER

According to his campaign website, Werstler's platform prioritizes bringing down the cost of living, supporting education, protecting mental health and child safety, implementing strong leadership in Hartford and serving the residents of the district.



Ethan Werstler poses for a photo. Werstler is a 2022 UConn grad looking to represent Connecticut in the Senate. PHOTO COURTESY OF @WERSTLERFORCT ON INSTAGRAM

Werstler said due to the different town's demographics, the 35th district often fails to receive the same resources and attention as other districts in the state.

"Generally, there is a sentiment across this district that we get left behind by Hartford," Werstler said.

When asked about his attitude running against the incumbent, Werstler said, "Jeff Gordon is a capable opponent, and I don't think [he's] a bad guy... I feel just fine about running against him."

Werstler said he and Gordon disagree on several issues including the state's role in protecting residents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the regulation of social media and big technology corporations, the state's role in responding to federal cuts and how to stand up to utility companies.

Werstler said the state legislature would benefit from having a more diverse spread of ages among elected officials and that it is important to him that "young people have a seat at the table."

"I hope in some way, or another way, that I can be a voice for younger people in this state who want to call Connecticut home," Werstler said.

Werstler also said he owns a small business in Woodstock through which he mentors thousands of high school students in a program called Model United Nations, which helps students build confidence in public speaking and debate.

Before running for office, Werstler worked for Congressman Joe Courtney, a Democrat, as a campaign field organizer where he said he was first exposed to the realities of politics.

According to his campaign website, Werstler also worked as an associate at a premier government relations firm in Hartford, where he "developed a deep understanding of the state legislature."

But ultimately, Werstler said he has the Woodstock Middle School Public Speaking Club to thank for sparking his initial interest in politics.

"Politics is the key to unlocking a better future for us," Werstler said. "The least we can do as young people in this country is stand up and fight for what's right."



Ethan Werstler's state senate campaign logo. While at UConn, Werstler served as the vice president of USG from April 2021 to April 2022.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @WERSTLERFORCT ON INSTAGRAM

UConn unveils BLUE budget model at Tuesday town halls

by Mikayla Bunnell
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University faculty, staff and the campus community were welcomed to the Konover Auditorium in the Dodd Center for Human Rights on the Storrs campus to hear about the new model, called "Budget Linked to University Excellence," or "BLUE."

The initiative, announced in 2025, is aimed at simplifying the university's budget and making the process more transparent. The initiative "guides the allocation of current funding; it does not increase or reduce overall university funding, tuition rates or fee rates," according to UConn Today.

The BLUE model moves the university into a "decentralized budget model," said UConn's Chief Financial Officer Anthony Rini at Tuesday's 3 p.m. town hall.

"We are a comprehensive land, sea and space institution" with many different programs and disciplines, Rini said. "Some things are taught in small sections, some things are taught in big sections, some things are lab-intensive, some things are not. So the cost of delivery is different."

The decentralized budget would, in part, allocate revenues to academic units like schools and colleges, rather than giving them a permanent budget.

The goal of the new budget model is to better understand the different needs of each course and program and provide more transparency for how money is used by and for them. It also provides incentives for program growth and efficiency.

"The new model will encourage innovation, such as the creation of new programs and entrepreneurial activity, and provide incentives around enrollment growth, spending efficiency, and other institutional priorities," the initiative's website says.

At the town hall, the project team, which includes Rini, Provost Pamir Alpay, outside consulting firm Kennedy and Company and others, emphasized that the initiative is not intended to be a cost-cutting measure or to change the university's budget at all.

"Our budget is our budget, but then BLUE is basically a filter on the same numbers to really look at our units — the ones that generate revenue and the ones that don't generate revenue — to understand revenue and expenses [and] central costs," Rini said.

UConn's budget in fiscal year 2027 for its main and regional campuses is $1.9 billion, according to the budget presentation at the town hall. Its revenues mainly come from tuition and fees (56%) and grants and contracts (18%). The main expenses are salaries and fringe benefits (54%) and financial aid (19%).

BLUE wouldn't change any of this — it will only provide "transparent formulas to incentive funding changes over time," according to the presentation.

BLUE is expected to be fully implemented by fiscal year 2028, which begins July 1, 2027, according to the BLUE website. More information about the budget can be found on the initiative's website. Viewers can also give feedback to the initiative through the website.