



**FROM TOWN CLERK  
OF NEW FAIRFIELD  
Holly Z. Smith**



**New Fairfield's Adjourned Annual Town Meeting Referendum** will be held on **Sat., May 9, 2026, from 10:00am until 8:00pm.** All voting will be held at the **New Fairfield Senior Center at 33 CT-Route 37.**

**Absentee Ballots are available from the Town Clerk's office.**

Below is the information regarding absentee ballots for the **Referendum, Adjourned Town Meeting.**

**Q. Who can vote at a Referendum, Adjourned Town Meeting?**

A. All registered voters in the Town of New Fairfield are qualified to vote.

B. If you are not a registered voter, but are a citizen 18 years old or more, you can vote if you own property with value of at least \$1,000 recorded on the New Fairfield Grand List as of October 2025.

**Q. Where can I obtain an Absentee Ballot?**

A. Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall.

**Q. When can I obtain an Absentee Ballot?**

A. During regular Town Hall business hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30am-5:00pm

Friday - 8:30am-12:00noon

Extended hours:

Saturday, May 2nd: 8:30am-12noon

**Q. Who is eligible to vote by Absentee Ballot in the Referendum, Adjourned Town Meeting?**

A. The following criteria must be met when applying for an Absentee Ballot:

(1) active service in the Armed Forces of the United States

(2) absence from the town

(3) sickness

(4) physical disability

(5) religious tenets, which forbid secular activity on the day of the referendum

(6) duties as a referendum official at a polling place other than your own during all of the hours of voting.

The ED-3R - Absentee Ballot application for referendum is available on our website at [www.newfairfieldct.gov](http://www.newfairfieldct.gov).

**From the Office of the Tax Assessor  
Deadline: May 15**

The following programs for tax relief are available to both elderly homeowners and those homeowners who are totally disabled. Applications are accepted in the Assessor's Office from **Now through May 15, 2026.** Requirements for the State and Town Programs are as follows:

**State Program**

1. Must be a legal resident of New Fairfield and own the property on October 1, 2025

2. Must be 65 years old by Dec. 31, 2025, or be 100% Social Security Disabled.

3. Must qualify by total income. **2025 income includes total taxable and nontaxable income plus Social Security.** Total income must not exceed **\$46,300 for unmarried and \$56,500 for married.**

4. Applicant must meet all other requirements of the Connecticut State Statutes and New Fairfield Tax Relief Ordinance.

**Town Program**

**2025 qualifying income of \$62,877 single and \$76,344 married.**

All other requirements remain the same as above.

A copy of your 2025 Tax Return and Social Security 1099 are needed to file.

If you do not file a Tax Return, we need ALL 1099s and any other income received in 2025.

If you or your spouse served in the military, please ask us about our Veteran's Benefits.

**CSC's 35th Annual  
Mother's Day Plant Sale  
Sat., May 9, 9am-3pm**

Stop by the Community Service Club of New Fairfield's 35th Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale on May 9, 2026, at Veterans' Park from 9am-3pm, or until our inventory of flowers is sold out. Veteran's Park is on Route 37, just north of the intersection of Routes 37 and 39 in downtown New Fairfield.

You can browse the beautiful selection of hand-selected flowers from Dom's Garden Center, or CSC members can assist you with your selection.



So, mingle among the Hanging Ivy, Geraniums, Impatiens, Begonias, Petunias, Fuchsias, assorted colorful Mixed Planters, assorted flats of flowers and herbs, including Dahlias and Gerbera Daisies. When you purchase plants to show appreciation to your mother, don't forget to buy one for yourself to celebrate our warmer weather. You can pay by cash, check, Venmo, or PayPal, including credit cards.

For over 40 years, the CSC has fundraised to support community-based programs such as the Kids Dress for Success Program; donated clothing, toiletries, and funding for food and heat; supported the Healing Hands Quilters; granted funds to clubs and organizations; provided scholarships to college and technical schools; and supported other projects.

*The CSC is a nonprofit organization, so all donations are tax-deductible, and all proceeds stay local. Check out our website at [www.cscofnewfairfield.org](http://www.cscofnewfairfield.org).*



**A Selectman's View**

By Khris Hall  
Selectman, Town of New Fairfield

THINGS HAVE BEEN REMARKABLY QUIET this budget season compared to recent budget seasons. Budget workshops for both the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen have come and gone without much public input. The Board of Finance held their reviews of both the Town and Education budgets as well as the areas of their oversight – debt and medical insurance for employees of the town and schools. Again, very little input. So much so, that after asking the Town and Board of Education to make small cuts to their budgets, the Board of Finance agreed on a budget to be put before voters and cancelled meetings that had been scheduled for the end of this month.

On April 28, voters at a Town Meeting agreed to schedule the machine vote on the budget for Saturday, May 9. A copy of the Board of Finance Recommended Budget was printed in last week's Town Tribune, with each line item detailed as required by State law.

The budget to be voted on has four components:

- Education expenses - about 60% of the overall budget.
- Medical expenses for both town and schools - about 12%
- Municipal expenses – about 19%
- Debt (primarily for the schools) – 9%

Overall, this year's proposed budget represents a 4.86% budget increase, larger than any of us would have liked, but much lower than the increases of the past few years. While there had been discussion on the Board of Finance about trying to lower that figure more, the Board unanimously agreed to present this budget and its increase to the voters. The BoF has six members – three Republicans, one Democrat, and two Unaffiliated members. This is truly a multi-partisan budget.

The proposed town budget reflects an increase of \$562,477 in the municipal budget, a 10% increase over last year. This proposed increase follows years of "going without" on the town side of the budget because of the increased debt service for the two new schools and the need for sustained funding to support students coming out of Covid. Funding for a police car, for contribution to fire department equipment, for purchase of a plow truck, and for repair of infrastructure was postponed. This increase is larger than normal to start to address the needs that went unaddressed for the last several years. This proposed budget was approved unanimously by the Board of Selectmen.

The proposed education budget reflects an increase of \$2,225,291, a 3.77%. A major concern in the education budget is the continued increase in special education costs and the lack of State support for addressing them.

The increase to the medical fund was less than might have been anticipated, given the worry a year ago about not having enough funding. Interim funding from surpluses along with lower than anticipated premium costs kept the increase in the medical fund to less than 3%. Additionally, debt service has started to come down, with a 2.83% reduction from last year.

When it is all added together, voters will be asked on Saturday, May 9 to approve separately expenditures of \$16,197,688 for the Town and \$61,382,958 for the Schools. Advisory questions are included asking whether the funding is too high or too low for both proposals. Absentee ballots will be available through the Town Clerk's office. You can view the detail of the proposed budget here: <https://www.newfairfield.org/home/showpublisheddocument/25089/639128959924930000>.

I support the budget – and I hope you will too. It provides funding for necessary services and is a step in the right direction of normalizing what had become highly partisan, highly contested process.

**LocalNews  
LocalViews**

Each Week in the  
Town Tribune  
Email: [editorial@thetowntribune.com](mailto:editorial@thetowntribune.com)

**TWO SATURDAYS LEFT!**  
**Sherman Historical Society's  
BARN SALE  
DONATION DAYS**  
**Saturdays ONLY\*: May 2, 9, 9am – 12pm**  
**at the SHS Barn (10 Route 37 Center)**  
*\* PLEASE, do not drop off on unscheduled days. To arrange a drop off time, or pickup of larger items (for a small tax-deductible fee), contact: 860-354-3083 or [office@shermanhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:office@shermanhistoricalsociety.org)*

**WANTED\*\*:** Antiques, art, collectibles, furniture, jewelry, china, linens, kitchen/household/décor, holiday, tools, outdoor/sports/gardening, children's toys/games, rugs (max: 6'x9')... **Items to be good quality & in working order. PLEASE, NO:** Clothing, computers, baby items (cribs, car seats, etc.), electronics, luggage, mattresses, upholstered furniture, stuffed toys, heavy exercise equip., entertainment units, VHS or cassettes, or rugs over 6'x9'.  
*(\*\*at the discretion of the Society)*

**BARN SALE: MAY 23 & 24!**  
All funds raised support the Society, a volunteer-based non-profit organization. Volunteer opportunities! Contact us.

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Expires 5-7-26

**Same Day Service Until 10am**