

With the nation fixated on the continuing vote count in the presidential contest, the election results in Connecticut in. Democrats defended the state's five congressional seats and expanded their majorities in the state legislature. Vice President Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump by 17 percentage points.

The following candidates were elected in their districts:

- 1<sup>st</sup> District (Greater Hartford): Rep. John Larson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District (Eastern CT): Re. Joe Courtney
- 3<sup>rd</sup> District (New Haven area): Rosa DeLauro
- 4<sup>th</sup> District (Fairfield County): Rep. Jim Himes
- 5<sup>th</sup> District (Western CT): Rep. Jahana Hayes.

Election results exhibited that high voter turnout for the presidential election helped boost Democrats flip some seats in the CT House and Senate. Democrats won 98 seats, a gain of seven, in the 151-member House, but failed to increase their numbers to 100, a supermajority.

The following seats were flipped in the election: Challenger Mary Welander (D) took the seat being vacated by retiring House Minority Leader Themis Klarides (R). The seat being vacated by Rep. Gail Lavielle covering Wilton and a portion of Norwalk is filled by Stephanie Thomas (D). In Ridgefield, the retirement of Rep. John Frey (R) left a seat filled by Aimee Berger-Girvalo (D). Incumbent, Rep. Brian Farnan (R), of Fairfield was defeated by challenger Jennifer Leeper (D).

Michael DiGiovancarlo (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Stephanie Cummings (R) in Waterbury and Eleni Kavros DeGraw (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Leslee Hill, (R) in Canton. Jim Jinks (D) unseated Craig Fishbein (R) in Wallingford as well.

Retiring House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz (D), Berlin seat was filled by Donna Veach (R). Kate Rotella (D) was unseated by Greg Howard (R) of and Patricia Wilson-Pheanious (D) was unseated by Tammy Nuccio (R) of Tolland.

Democrats increased their majority by two in the Senate. Democrat Rick Lopes defeated Republican Gennaro Bizzaro in New Britain, and Jorge Cabrera defeated Sen George Logan in the Naugatuck Valley.

With COVID 19 making a resurgence, it appears that the 2021 session will be conducted virtually, for the most part, making it even harder to build relationships with the more than 20 new legislators.