



ANDY ROSS

IT'S TIME FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT

SOCIALLY COMPASSIONATE • FISCALLY OBJECTIVE



ALDERMAN 2013 NEW HAVEN

PLATFORMS

STRONGER SCHOOLS

During current administration, the City of New Haven has spent 1.3 billion dollars on new schools leaving the city with **600 million dollars of debt**. While I believe our students need and deserve attractive and well maintained schools, our standard for excellence should not stop at the front doors but continue through the new halls and into the classrooms. The educational experience within the classrooms should match the quality of the new structures in which they are contained.

Specifically, the learning experience could be improved by taking away the over emphasis on teaching for standardized tests. This is beneath the talent of our hardworking and passionate teachers of the New Haven School district and unfair to their students who are being deprived of a well rounded education.

OUR DEBT

As of 2012, the city of New Haven has accumulated 600 million dollars in bondholder debt and another 600 million in unfunded pensions, totalling a combined **1, 2 billion dollars of debt**. As an attempt to plug the holes within the City's budget, we have sold off many prime revenue producing assets such as our transfer station, parking lots, streets and parking meters. **These past practices are not sustainable**. Each time we sell off a piece of our city, we maybe be solving a problem in the short term but the effects on New Haven in the

long term are detrimental. If we don't start practicing more responsible budget practices now, it's only a matter of time before we drown in interest of our own debts.

To put this into perspective; to liquidate this debt we would have to collect close to \$24 thousand dollars from every household in New Haven to get even. This kind of budget planning must stop. The current Board of Alderman has choked this city with obligations we cannot pay for.

New Haven is essentially bankrupt. The only way out of this is to cut spending and fight for more money from the State and Federal government or it will mean drastic property tax increases. As your Alderman I will aggressively fight to keep taxes down

DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMY

Development of New Haven property is the only way we are going to grow our Grand list. We must keep New Haven an attractive place for private investment. Developments like 360 State Street, the Downtown crossing and the proposed development of the former coliseum are all great projects. However we need to do more to spread out development into the rest of New Haven. This can only be done if the other areas of downtown are just as attractive to developers. This means as a city we need to make sure all areas of New Haven get their fair share of attention and money to prosper.

I am in favor of tapping into the 65 and older population which is projected to triple in the next 15 years. We need to offer incentives to developers to invest in continuum care facilities. Seniors will be looking for a place to live with conveniences, safety and access to shopping, doctors and hospitals. New Haven can be that destination. Finally any development in New Haven must come with a promise and an agreement from the developers that a certain percentage of the jobs that will be created both during and after construction will go to New Haven residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The safety of our residents and visitors cannot just be left to the police department. While New Haven's dedicated police and safety officials continue to work tirelessly in keeping our citizens safe, we need to initiate the community supplementing those efforts on a microlevel. Through the reach of our community, more crimes will be able to be prevented and dealt with.

Though it is early, Project Longevity has already shown promising reductions of gang related crimes and is a great step towards a safer New Haven tomorrow.

OVERVIEW

To sum it up we simply must stop the madness. This City has been controlled by one Mayor and an all Democratic Board of Alderman for far too long. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent using the City credit card and have become far too comfortable with this low interest rate environment as if it will last forever. Interest rates will go up sooner or later and when they do this city will be facing millions of dollars in increased debt service cost. What will we do then? Tax property owners even more? When will it stop? I fear it will stop

when it is too late. People will be exiting New Havens high taxes and will seek cover in neighboring towns. Properties will begin to lose value at 2007 rates and developers will be scared away.

As a voter you can help do something about this inevitable fate by voting for a non democrat as Alderman. This board needs to be shaken into reality. The time is now and the need for alternative voices on the Aldermanic board needed now. While I may be running for Alderman of a specific ward, I have a heavy burden to address all of New Haven's problems. I want to be part of a reform in how this city governs and it all starts with a budget that is sound, practical and does not just rely on increasing property taxes and selling of valuable assets to sustain itself.