

**Ward 1 Democratic Challenger Fish Stark
Endorsed by Majority of Ward Committee**

Fish Stark, candidate for Ward 1 Alder, announced on Tuesday, May 5th that 19 members of the Ward 1 Democratic Committee—a majority of the 37-member body—had publicly endorsed his campaign.

“I’m honored to have this support from the Ward Committee,” said Fish Stark, a former board member of the Yale College Democrats and Yale College sophomore, who has spent summers in New Haven working as a teacher. “It reflects the grassroots and institutional support we’ve built in this race.”

“It’s extremely rare—unheard of, really—for the majority of a Ward Committee to endorse a challenger over an incumbent,” noted Stark’s communications director, Sarah Bruley. “This endorsement demonstrates that residents of Ward 1 are ready for an Alder with both a dedicated commitment to serving of New Haven and an ability and willingness to engage with the residents of the ward in a meaningful and sustained way.”

While New Haven’s Ward Committees often hold endorsement votes before contested primary elections, this announcement comes days after Ward co-chair and Eidelson supporter Sarah Giovanniello denied Stark’s request for a Ward Committee endorsement vote.

“Alder Eidelson’s allies on the ward committee have been refusing to hold an endorsement vote, because they know Fish has the votes to win,” said Bruley. “This shows just how much Democrats in Ward 1 are ready for change.”

Fish Stark is a sophomore in Yale College, studying Political Science and Education Studies. He has served on the board of the Yale College Democrats, spent the summer of 2014 in New Haven working as a Teaching Fellow at Squash Haven, and will spent the summer of 2015 working as a Courture Fellow at the Calvin Hill Day Care Center. He serves on New Haven’s Peace Commission.

To Whom It May Concern:

As members of the Ward 1 Democratic Committee, we endorse Fish Stark for Ward 1 Alder.

Ward 1 Democratic Committee Members:

Azeezat Adeleke
Jackson Beck
Benjamin Della Rocca
Zoe Dobuler
Rebecca Ellison
Phil Esterman
Hedy Gutfreund

Josh Hochman
Emma Janger
Leon Jiang
Andre Manuel
Rachel Miller
Dasia Moore
Raymond Noonan
Olivia Paschal
Christian Rice
Fortney "Fish" Stark
Eric Stern
Thomas Veitch

What Ward Committee Members Are Saying About Fish:

"When I first met Fish, I was struck by how down-to-earth, caring, and open he was. He's the kind of guy who talks and connects with every single person he meets. I know that as our alder, he'll make sure that all voices in Ward 1 are heard."

Rachel Miller '15, Former President, Roosevelt Institute at Yale

"I support Fish because of his passion for progressive politics and the genuine joy I see in him when he's talking about our community. I believe that, as an Alder, Fish would use that passion and joy to make Ward 1 an even better place for all of us."

Azeezat Adeleke '17, Treasurer, Yale College Democrats

"I support Fish's candidacy for Ward 1 Alder because I can't think of a single person at Yale who is more passionate about New Haven. He is full of ideas and the enthusiasm to see them through, and as our alder, he will strengthen the bond between Yalies and the city we live in."

-Jackson Beck '17, Yale College Democrats Legislative Coordinator

"In the two years he's been in New Haven, Fish has been a positive force in the community, from his work with the Yale College Democrats to Squash Haven to the JE College Council and so much more. He is already a big Fish in a small pond, and I'm certain he will continue to do great things. Go Fish!"

--Eric Stern '15, Former Treasurer & Communications Director, Yale College Democrats,
Former Editor-In-Chief, Yale Politic

"Yalies should view New Haven as their home, and from day one, freshmen should know that they are an integral part of this community, whether they're serving it or enjoying its vibrant culture. I think the defining role of an alder is to make sure that happens, and Fish is committed to doing so."

--Josh Hochman '18, Freshman Class Council Chair, Yale College Democrats Membership Coordinator

"Ever since I arrived on campus for my first visit to Yale, Fish has been a visible presence encouraging me and other students to get involved in the New Haven community. He is committed to fostering connection and involvement with the New Haven outside Yale's campus, and I am confident that, as an alder, he will continue in this mission."

- Olivia Paschal '18, Yale College Democrats Events Coordinator

"I'm supporting Fish because he sees Yale as one part of a larger New Haven community — a community that supports all its residents."

Zoe Dobuler '17, Former Voter Registration Captain, Yale College Democrats

"I got to know Fish through working with him on elections with the Yale Dems. No matter how early we had to wake up, Fish's enthusiasm was always infectious; a testament to his passion for strengthening our local community and to fighting for progressive causes here in New Haven. His ability to inspire this passion in others is what makes him a great leader."

Emma Janger '15, Former President, College Democrats of Connecticut

"Engaging in New Haven should be a top priority for every Yale student, and Fish is committed to encouraging undergraduates to continue interacting with our city in creative and positive ways. It is important for Ward One to have an Alder who creates pathways linking Yale's community and our larger home in Elm City."

--Dasia Moore '18, Yale College Democrats Campus & Community Coordinator

"Fish is a friend. He is exceptionally caring and considerate of others. Fish is a problem solver. He is pragmatic and creative in his approach to policymaking. Most of all, Fish is a leader. He is compassionate, hardworking, and dedicated to Yale and the New Haven community. I am excited to see what Fish accomplishes as Ward One Alder." --Chris Rice '18, FCC Representative

"From the moment I first met Fish, I could see his passion for New Haven and for politics. He's one of the most friendly, genuine, and capable people I know. Combining those personal traits with his dedication to the city, I have full faith that Fish would be an incredible alder. New Haven would be so lucky, as they are so lucky to have him serve the city already."

--Hedy Gutfreund '18, Communications Director, Yale College Democrats

Full list of Ward Committee Members:

Jacob Wasserman: co-chair
Sarah Giovannello: co-chair
Azeezat Adeleke
Alexandra Barlowe
Jackson Beck
Tyler Blackmon
John Bradley
Devon Breton-Pakozdi
Simon Brewer
Austin Bryniarski
Benjamin Della Rocca
Zoe Dobuler
Sarah Eidelson
Rebecca Ellison
Phil Esterman
William Giraldo
Hedy Gutfreund
Kathreen Harrison
Josh Hochman
Emma Janger
Leon Jiang
Austin Long
Andre Manuel
Matthew Massie
Rachel Miller
Dasia Moore
Raymond Noonan
Evelyn Nuñez
Kevin Olivares
Abrar Omeish
Olivia Paschal
Christian Rice
Fortney Stark
Eric Stern
Ava Tomasula y Garcia
Thomas Veitch
Jamar Williams