

Justin Elicker Bio 2019

Justin (43 and a Democrat) and his wife Natalie want for their two girls, Molly and April, what every parents wants: that they will grow up in a world where they have every opportunity to have a high-quality education, live in safe neighborhoods, and enjoy professional and personal satisfaction and success. For Justin and Natalie, the dream also includes that their children grow up in New Haven, and that the city's rich character instills in them kindness, generosity, and resilience. Justin and Natalie met in New Haven, purchased a home here, had their children here (including the exciting, [unexpected home birth of Molly](#)), and are raising their two girls here because they love what New Haven is and what it can be.

Justin and Natalie live in a way that reflects their values - choosing to own a single car to reduce their environmental footprint (Natalie usually gets the car, or takes the bus, and Justin uses his bike to get around); living on the top floor of a 3-family building on Orange Street; working in public-service-oriented jobs here in New Haven; and surrounding themselves with a community that reflects the beauty, diversity, and challenges that the world faces.

Justin has been deeply engaged in many aspects of the New Haven community: volunteering, serving on the Board of Alders, running a non-profit organization, serving on the development committee of a local church, teaching area college students, developing new and enduring friendships. Each step of the way he has listened, learned, and worked to contribute to improving and strengthening New Haven – particularly for those who struggle to find opportunity.

In his professional career, Justin has consistently chosen a path that prioritizes public service over personal gain.

For the last five years, Justin has served as the executive director of the New Haven Land Trust. In 2013, the Land Trust endured [an embezzlement scandal](#) and severe mismanagement. As soon as he [stepped up and into the Land Trust's leadership in 2014](#), Justin recruited a highly-qualified team, and together they turned the organization around. Compared to 2013, today, the Land Trust has quadrupled in revenue and even more so in impact. Justin spearheaded creating new programs that address systemic injustices in New Haven including a [youth jobs training program](#) and a [sailing and coastal exploration summer camp](#). Justin feels strongly that he does not “run” the New Haven Land Trust - rather he and his team of staff, board members, committee members, and community members jointly contribute to decision making and the ultimate direction of the organization.

Justin has a wealth of experience in government. He served for four years on the New Haven Board of Alders where he was a champion for residents across the city who felt unheard, underserved, and unsupported by the City of New Haven. He advocated for renters who lived in sub-standard apartments under absentee landlords and [fought against predatory landlords](#). With his constituents' support and at their requests, he promoted [fostering more positive](#)

[community-police interaction](#) in an underserved neighborhood in order to help mitigate neighbors' feelings of mistrust and suspicion of police. He successfully implemented [neighborhood](#) and [economic development](#) improvements in the Cedar Hill neighborhood to promote more business activity and improve quality of life. And he promoted [protections for gender identity](#).

On the Board of Alders, Justin was one of the strongest voices for [long-term fiscal responsibility](#), [government transparency](#), and [smart governance](#). He had both one of the [best attendance records](#) on the Board and the best response rates for constituent service requests. In 2013 Justin ran for mayor in one of the most exciting and close elections in decades. Justin came in second with 45.3% of the vote.

Justin's government experience started long before his involvement at the Board of Alders. Justin worked for five years as a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. State Department. He was posted to Washington, D.C., Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Justin had a substantive focus on U.S. economic and environmental policy. While working for the U.S. government abroad was rewarding and challenging, Justin decided to leave the State Department to come to New Haven because he wanted to live near his family, put down roots, and get involved in a local community that he believed in.

Justin grew up in Connecticut. He attended public school, graduated with a BA from Middlebury College in Vermont, and earned both a Masters in Business Administration from the Yale School of Management and a Masters in Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry. Justin speaks Spanish and Chinese. He has been an elementary and high school teacher (for at-risk youth) and served for three years as an adjunct professor of education policy at Southern Connecticut State University.

In his free time, Justin most enjoys spending time with his family and playing with his girls Molly and April. He also enjoys making music (singing, [playing guitar](#), [harmonica](#), and banjo), gardening, jogging, and taking his [dog Captain](#) for a walk.