

# Jackson for mayor in Hamden - EDITORIAL

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In **Hamden**, Ronald Gambardella, the Republican candidate for mayor, is committed to not raising town taxes and finding ways to further contain pension costs.

Scott Jackson, the Democrat, says he won't cut services and the challenge is to evaluate the value the town gets from each tax dollar. He notes the town's per capita tax burden is less than Cheshire, North Haven or Woodbridge.

Jackson has a sound sense of **Hamden**'s place in the region's economy and the town's transportation needs, including slowing traffic on some roads and transforming lower Dixwell Avenue into a boulevard to help aid economic development there.

Gambardella, who stresses a bipartisan approach, is a more polished candidate than when he first ran two years ago against Mayor Craig B. Henrici, who is not seeking re-election. He stresses the need for transparency in government and faults the confusion over new zoning regulations that increase commercial density and its road paving program as examples of where Town Hall has failed to be sufficiently open. Jackson concedes the need for greater transparency.

Gambardella and Jackson agree on the need for an **animal shelter**, a replacement for the Circular Avenue fire station and a new police station. Gambardella had originally opposed the plan to expand and renovate Memorial Town Hall for the station. But now that the bids have been open for the work, he does not want to delay the work.

Unlike Gambardella, a former member of the Legislative Council, Jackson has never held elective office.

A former Hartford staff worker for U. S. Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, Jackson was hired as **Hamden**'s community development director in 2004, managing federal housing money. In 2004, he became the town's chief administrative officer. He is running on the record of the Henrici administration, of which he is a key member.

Overall, it is a good record. The long delayed police headquarters building is moving forward. The town has received a modest upgrade in its credit rating from A to A+ from Standard and Poor's. It has cut future pension costs by enrolling new hires in the state pension plan. By combining the purchase of electricity for the schools and the town, it has saved \$300, 000 in three years.

Based on the Henrici administration's record and Jackson's broader vision of the town's possibilities and place in the region, he has our endorsement as the next mayor of **Hamden**.