

Chester Democrats 2007

A Common Sense Platform

The best thing about politics in a lively town like Chester is that the political process is still receptive to Common Sense. Our Common Sense platform offers bright prospects for our town and truly values our talents and resources. Our 2007 slate of candidates offers a sum-greater-than-its-parts team of hard-working, experienced, informed and down-to-earth citizens dedicated to the collective project of living together in the 21st century.

Better not Bigger! Keep it Local! Our vision for economic development doesn't accept the assumption that local livability must be sacrificed to private interests. We believe in the spirit of self-reliance that still flows deeply from Chester's rich past. The best value town government can offer is that of securing the long-term health of Chester. The surest way for us to get paid is to follow the triple bottom line – People, Place and Profit – and we have an integrated, long-term plan to do it!

Nurture Uniqueness! Chester's uniqueness – natural, social, historical, architectural – is what makes you feel like you belong here. The sense of belonging cannot easily be created, and is easily destroyed. Conservation is the art/science of nurturing our uniqueness, and we have a systematic plan to protect Chester's natural abundances that values them as the irreplaceable resources that they are.

It Takes a Village to Raise a Village! We don't want to be on the left or the right, we want to be ahead of the game of politics. The democratic process is not a hindrance, it is the soul of our community, and we believe the best decisions arise from debate which is inclusive of all voices, open and transparent, and certified by a dynamic consensus regarding the future of the community. Planning and development in town needs to be rooted in our love of Place, not rigorous adherence to convention or a fear of the state.

Secure the Nest! Like us, you probably feel that Chester is one of the best places in the world to raise a child. This child-friendliness illustrates like nothing else the unique set of conditions found in Chester that make it uncommonly human in scale, safety and livability. We will work to keep our neighborhoods safe and will support the continuous improvement of our model school system, in a way that coheres with regional trends while maintaining local diversity and autonomy.

Old-fashioned Vision Leadership! Once upon a time, politicians were not "political" and true leaders were not feared for their power, but honored for their ability to empower those around them. Our style of leadership promotes a free market of ideas and talent, consensus-decision making, and a planning process which taps both the collective wisdom of our elders and the innovative ideas of the next generation. We're here to open doors.

Let's put our wealth to work! Given the immense wealth we have in town, the wealth of clean and safe neighborhoods, beautiful intact ecosystems, rich and vital cultural traditions and resources, and a populace of extremely talented, hard-working, enterprising, and passionate individuals, Chester's ability to prosper in the future, while remaining a beautiful, healthy, small and rural town depends only upon our imagination, our openness to new information and ideas, our trust in each other and willingness to cooperate, and our commitment to this most special of all Places.
