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New Haven mayoral candidate offers budget priority system (document)

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NEW HAVEN – Mayoral candidate Jeffrey Kerekes on Tuesday vowed no tax increase in his first term and he offered a new prioritizing budgeting system.

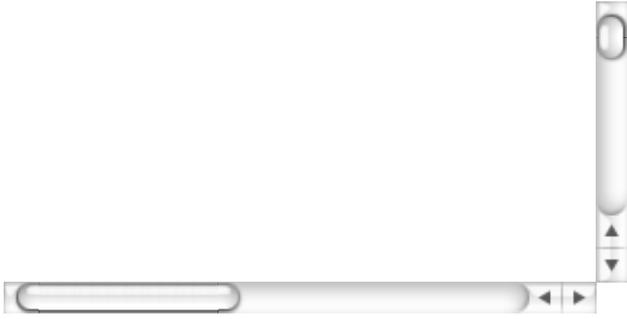
Kerekes, a Democrat, is challenging Mayor John DeStefano Jr. for the seat he's held for 18 years. Three other Democrats are running for mayor as well: local lawyer Clifton Graves, and former Aldermen Robert Lee and Anthony Dawson.

Kerekes said he would establish a three-tiered department budgeting system, whereby items would be ranked as tier one, or critical to city functioning, down to tier three, less essential services.

Kerekes said he would have conversations with department heads to determine how to tier programs and staff. But he offered one example where the city might be able to make cuts and save money. He pointed out that the Livable Cities Initiative has gone from a 70-person staff to about 30 employees, yet has not significantly reduced the number of administrators for the program.

Also, Kerekes proposed giving taxpayers a chance to vote every two years on whether the city would raise taxes or cut programs. The vote would only happen if there was a revenue shortfall in the city.

[Kerekes Budget Tax Policy 7.5.11](#)



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