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## New Haven's 30th ward endorses DeStefano for 10th term (videos)

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NEW HAVEN — In a close vote, the 30th Ward of the Democratic Town Committee has endorsed Mayor John DeStefano Jr. for another term.

The vote involved 10 members and took place over grilled hamburgers and hotdogs in Ward Co-Chairwoman Honda Smith's backyard.

It was one of the first ward endorsements of the election year and probably one of the only ones that will feature multiple mayoral candidates making speeches and mingling with fellow Democrats. Also on hand for the event were three Democrats challenging DeStefano for his job: former Alderman Anthony Dawson, budget watchdog and community activist Jeffrey Kerekes and local lawyer and civil rights activist Clifton Graves Jr. A fourth Democratic candidate, former Alderman Robert Lee, did not attend.

**See Dawson speak here:**

Officially, wards are tasked with endorsing a candidate for alderman, not mayor. The Democratic mayoral endorsement is usually made by the full town committee later in July. Outspoken first-term Alderman Darnell Goldson won the Ward 30 endorsement Wednesday, but the bigger news was the mayoral endorsement. No one is running against Goldson.

**See Goldson speak here:**

The final tally was four votes for DeStefano, three for Dawson, two for Kerekes and one for Graves. City Clerk Ron Smith also was endorsed for another term.

While DeStefano usually wins the Democratic Town Committee endorsement, he did not get endorsed by Ward 30 in the 2009 election. Asked about the change this year, Smith said she did not know. But she welcomed the decision by four mayoral candidates to show up to the barbecue and be willing to meet face to face with committee members. [Continued...](#)

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