

**NBC CONNECTICUT** FOLLOW US [f](#) [t](#) 65°  
 TIPS | LOGIN | REGISTER 82 | 62

NEWS ENTERTAINMENT THE SCENE ON AIR TRAFFIC WEATHER OFFERS Search

LOCAL POLITICS SPORTS HEALTH TECH WEIRD WEATHER BLOGS DOGHOUSE U.S. & WORLD

HOME > NEWS > POLITICS

# Crime Was the Focus of New Haven Debate

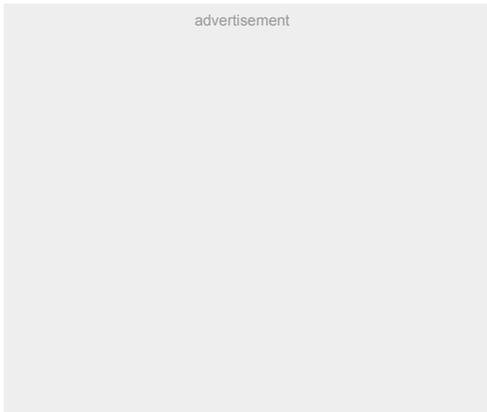
By Bob Connors | Friday, Aug 12, 2011 | Updated 7:17 AM EDT

View Comments (0) | Leave A Comment | Email | Print | Tweet 0 | Recommend 1 | Send



NBC Connecticut

Five candidates for mayor in New Haven squared off in a debate Thursday.



Five Democrats who want to be mayor of New Haven squared off in a debate on Thursday night.

Nine-term incumbent John DeStefano joined challengers Tony Dawson, Jeffery Kerekes, Clifton Graves and Robert Lee at the Metropolitan Business Academy in a debate hosted by the *New Haven Independent*.

The first question to the candidates asked them to tackle a crisis situation involving anthrax found in a public library. While a few candidates said they would let the proper authorities

## TOP STORIES

TODAY MOST WATCHED MOST EMAILED



Simsbury Priest Charged with Sex Assault



Teen Shot After Dispute Over Girl: Report



In Memoriam: Warrant Lead Singer Jani Lane

FOLLOW NBCCONNECTICUT [f](#) [t](#)

handle the situation, DeStefano turned the discussion to the violence plaguing the city he has run for 18 years.

Some watching the debate on a live stream agreed with the mayor's position.

"Terrorism is not our issue. It is important in the grand scheme of things. But we have a pressing issue of violence and I think the mayor was right to shift that focus to real-life stuff," "Babz" wrote on a live blog following the debate.

While the mayor had some support from viewers and from some in the audience, he took hits from his Democratic challengers on several issues.

On the question of violence in the city, Dawson blamed DeStefano for allowing New Haven to become a dangerous city. Others agreed.

"I can get a gun more quickly than I can get a library book," Graves said.

One of the sharpest confrontations came between DeStefano and Kerekes as the challenger said the mayor has mismanaged the police department, including the hiring of Chief Frank Limon.

DeStefano quickly shot back, claiming Kerekes' statement disrespected the hardworking men and women of the New Haven Police Department.

On the subject of schools, Lee said he commended the construction projects being done on the city's schools, but would focus his efforts on improving the learning, and not the buildings. "I would rather see students getting 4.0 grades in a raggedy school," Lee said.

All four challengers were in favor of term limits for the mayor. Not so for DeStefano, who is going for his 10th term in office.

"I think the voters in New Haven are pretty smart. I think we should trust them," he said.

The debate wound down with questions on special interests, more on community policing and one asking each candidate to name the most successful mayor in New Haven's history.

None of the candidates gave a specific name in their answers, except Dawson, who said that person had not been elected yet, then named himself, an answer that got a laugh from the crowd.

Posted Thursday, Aug 11, 2011 - 9:10 PM EDT

Tweet
 Recommend
 1
 Send
 Places on this page

**This story makes me feel:**

SAD
THRILLED
HAPPY
BORED
FURIOUS
INTRIGUED

**Leave Comments**



Post to Facebook
 Posting as Jeffrey Kerekes ([Change](#))

Facebook social plugin

### MORE NEWS



LOCAL  
**Simsbury Priest Charged with Sex Assault**



US-WORLD  
**Romney Survives Iowa Debate as Frontrunner**



LOCAL  
**The Brooks File: The Missing Delete Button**

[More News](#)

### MORE POLITICS



LOCAL  
**Public Meeting on Busway**



POLITICS  
**Malloy's Office Denies Any Special Deal With Police**



LOCAL  
**Task Force to Come Up With Crime Lab Plan**

[More Politics](#)

### MORE MULTIMEDIA



AS-SEEN-ON  
**Monroe Man Accused of Sextortion**



AS-SEEN-ON  
**Simsbury Priest Charged**



AS-SEEN-ON  
**Peeping Tom in Danielson**

[More Multimedia](#)

### COMMUNITY



#### Health & Wellness Festival 2011

A look at NBC Connecticut's Health & Wellness Festival

[Read more](#)

### FOLLOW US

Sign up to receive news and updates that matter to you.



[Send Us Your Story Tips](#)

### CHECK OUT



**LINCOLN** TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Thinking of a new Career

**CLICK HERE**

To Get Started!

lincolnedu.com



© 2011 NBCUniversal, Inc. All rights reserved. Portions by Broadcast Interactive Media. A Division of NBCUniversal

[Terms Of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

#### NEWS

- Local
- Politics
- Sports
- Health
- Tech
- Weird
- Weather
- Dog House
- U.S. & World

#### ENTERTAINMENT

- Celebrity
- Movies
- Television
- Music
- PopcornBiz

#### ON AIR

- As Seen On

#### WEATHER

- Forecast
- Maps & Radar
- Severe Weather Alerts
- School Closing Alerts
- Weather Stories

#### TRAFFIC

[FCC Independent Programming Report](#)  
[FCC News and Information Programming Report](#)

**THE SCENE**

[Food & Drink](#)  
[Fashion](#)  
[Shopping](#)  
[Events](#)  
[Real Estate](#)  
[Cars](#)  
[This Weekend](#)  
[Open House](#)  
[The Feast](#)

[Shows](#)  
[Contests](#)  
[Community](#)  
[About Us](#)  
[TV Schedule](#)  
[CNBC](#)  
[Television Without Pity](#)  
[LX.TV](#)  
[Access Hollywood](#)  
[Bravo](#)  
[iVillage](#)



[Archive](#) | [Feedback](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertise](#)