

# New Haven Register

Serving New Haven, CT



Michael's **SELL US YOUR GOLD & SILVER - 2 DAYS ONLY! THIS FRIDAY & SATURDAY!** [CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS!](#)

[News](#) > [New Haven](#)

## Democrat Jeffrey Kerekes stays in New Haven mayoral race as independent candidate

Published: Thursday, September 22, 2011

Tweet 0

0 Digg ↑

Recommend

share



[ShareThis](#)



9

By Abbe Smith, Register Staff

[asmith@nhregister.com](mailto:asmith@nhregister.com) / Twitter: [@abbegsmith](https://twitter.com/abbegsmith)

NEW HAVEN — Budget watchdog Jeffrey Kerekes Wednesday launched his campaign as an independent Democrat for mayor, and announced two significant endorsements from the black community.

Kerekes came in second in the Sept. 13 Democratic primary, losing to nine-term Mayor John DeStefano Jr. Final results showed DeStefano with 5,716 votes, or about 44 percent of the vote, and Kerekes with 2,895 votes, or 22 percent. The other Democratic challengers, Clifton Graves Jr. and Anthony Dawson, came in third and fourth, with 17 percent and 16 percent of the vote respectively.

"Fifty-six percent of Democrats rejected John DeStefano," Kerekes said on the steps of Lincoln-Bassett School, where he launched part two of his campaign. He vowed to work to earn the support of those who voted for Graves and Dawson. Kerekes will appear on the ballot as an independent candidate.

The endorsements made at the event came from two pillars of the local black community, local civil rights lawyer Michael Jefferson and Hamden High School Principal and lifelong New Haven resident Gary Highsmith.

Jefferson criticized the mayor on a number of fronts, accusing him of pushing ineffective school reform and ignoring longstanding community problems, such as violence.

Jefferson praised Kerekes as a sincere candidate who is passionate about improving lives of people in this city.

"His call for transparency in city government is refreshing and much needed," Jefferson said.

An endorsement statement written by Highsmith, who could not attend the event, was read aloud by resident Christine Bartlett-Josie. In the statement, Highsmith called out DeStefano on "cohesive and bullying leadership tactics."

Highsmith called Kerekes trustworthy, smart and "humble enough to understand that you get more out of people by lighting a fire inside of them, than lighting a fire under them."

Reached later by phone, DeStefano campaign spokesman Danny Kedem said DeStefano is proud of his record as the Democratic nominee for mayor.

"He welcomes Mr. Kerekes to the discussion of ideas in the campaign and looks forward to having a robust debate," Kedem said.

Call Abbe Smith at 203-789-5615. To receive breaking news first, text the word nhnews to 22700. Standard msg+data rates may apply.

- [Return to Paging Mode](#)

Reader Comments »

[View reader comments \(9\)](#) » [Comment on this story](#) »

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

share



ShareThis

## TALK OF THE WEB

**ighting2010**

Yesterday  
Mayoral  
Candidate  
Michael  
T.  
McGarry  
has  
dropped  
out  
of  
the  
race  
for  
Hartford  
City  
Mayor  
and  
has



### [Mom Makes \\$6795/mo](#)

New Haven mom spills secret on how she turned small investment into monthly income



### [New Policy in Connecticut](#)

Connecticut Drivers With No DUIs Can Apply for Full Coverage Car Insurance at as Low as \$30/Mo.

## RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

- ▶ [Treasury Looks to Unload SunTrust Warrants](#)
- ▶ [Fed Does the 'Twist' to Boost Economy](#)
- ▶ [Police Blotter for Sept. 22](#)
- ▶ [Bus Vs. Train: Is It a Fare Transit Fight?](#)
- ▶ [SCORE Awards: School House](#)
- ▶ [Middletown arrests](#)

-- SPONSORED LINK --  
[Can a New CEO Solve HP's Problems?](#)  
(From DailyMe.com)



## FACTCHECK Missing or inaccurate information in this story? Tell us.

 

Follow 0 Shares 0 Tweets Email

[▲ Back to Top](#)