

Short-Term View Won't Cut It Anymore

Editor, *The Cheshire Herald*:

Increasingly, at all levels, our elected leaders are stuck in the cycle of short-term thinking. This is why, generally speaking, the electorate is so frustrated with politicians.

I ran for the Planning and Zoning Commission two years ago because I was alarmed at the lack of vision and long-term decision-making among our elected leaders. I am running for Town Council this year for the same reason, and with more urgency.

Our state's fiscal troubles run deep and it's most likely Cheshire will receive less aid. This is the reality, but we don't necessarily have to be at the mercy of the state budget forever. First step—let's stop sitting on our hands.

There's a natural tendency to think short-term in politics. After all, the next election is always

right around the corner. But short-term thinking yields short-term results and this strategy is proving to be a dead end for Cheshire. This can't be denied. We're living it. Our schools are outdated and getting more costly by the day. Our property values and our grand list have only been going sideways for the past eight years.

It's time to take a longer view. Get much more aggressive about economic development. Get serious about working with our neighbors to regionalize services. Continue to pursue renewing our outdated schools.

In short, if we think and act long-term, we can make good things happen here. We can move Cheshire forward and enjoy a wider prosperity.

Jim Jinks
Candidate
Council At-Large

