

Democrats Are Now The Ones Promoting Fiscally Conservative Ideas

Editor, *The Cheshire Herald*:

Many people ask me about the difference between Democrats and Republicans. To be clear, as much as ever, there are big differences between the parties on many fronts. But for the moment, let's consider fiscal and budget issues.

In Washington, President Trump is pushing a deficit-financed tax cut package that will benefit only the few. The GOP in Congress are looking at capping contributions to 401(k) accounts, significantly raising taxes on responsible middle- and upper

middle-class savers. Meanwhile, Republicans in Hartford passed a budget that included eliminating important economic development incentives, added over \$800 million in new taxes and fees and effectively kicked the paying of pensions down the road yet again. Thankfully, the Governor vetoed it.

"Conservatism" is dead in the Republican Party. The GOP can't legitimately claim to be the party of fiscal prudence anymore.

In Cheshire, Republicans have nearly always been in control and have us where we are now—in a very tough spot. We have no

momentum in economic development, we already underfund education and our schools are getting older and more expensive by the day. Even now, there's still foot-dragging on a long-term plan.

By contrast, the only era of Democratic Party majority in Cheshire—six years that ended nearly a decade ago—was notably a time of balanced budgets with lower mill rate increases than the GOP-majority years immediately before or since.

In Hartford, the Democrats have just forged a bipartisan budget that is leaps and bounds better than the Republican budget

that passed in September. The latest budget not only lets us pay our pension debts, it continues to shrink government, protects municipal funding and invests in growth.

These days, you tell me what is "conservative" and I'll show you Democrats making it happen. Democrats are the party of fiscal responsibility and real progress. On Nov. 7, vote for Cheshire Democrats and let's make good things happen.

Jim Jinks
Town Council
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