

## Paul Huebner: Endorsement for Jarrett Smith



I am supporting Jarrett Smith for mayor of Takoma Park.

Jarrett has served on the Takoma Park City Council for five consecutive terms, giving him extensive experience with both local city issues and working with and leading the Maryland Municipal League.

During his five terms, Jarrett Smith has consistently demonstrated his commitment to serving the needs and desires of the residents of Takoma Park, often voting in the minority, against city staff recommendations and bureaucratic interests. A prime example of his foresight and of listening to the residents was his 2018 vote against sending the flawed NDC development plan to the county. In many other votes he has stood against increasing property taxes, expanding budget expenditures and the rampant growth of the city bureaucracy. He also voted against diverting ARPA pandemic relief funds to over-budget capital projects, such as the library and the police department renovations.

Jarrett Smith has been a champion for local smart development, like the Flower Avenue Green Street, a public works infrastructure project that finally brought sidewalks to Flower Avenue. He proposed and initiated the very successful 'Lunch & Learn' program, that supports disadvantaged students with meals and tutoring. As a renter and activist, he served two terms as Chair of the Takoma Park Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA). He listens to, speaks for, and supports renters living in Takoma Park and is a supporter of Takoma Park's singular Rent Stabilization Code.

Jarrett Smith is the only candidate to openly declare his priority commitment to fiscal responsibility. Last year, when this Council again passed a budget in the RED, with a deficit of nearly 7 million dollars, Jarrett Smith was the ONLY one to vote against it. As our mayor, he pledges that he will keep property taxes at, or below the Constant Yield Rate. As our mayor, he will commit resources to initiatives that are a priority for city residents.

I heartily support Jarrett Smith for his city-wide commitment to all our neighbors, all of us. He leads from the grassroots and has demonstrated by his actions, not just his words, that he honors and serves the residents of Takoma Park.

*Paul Huebner*