

Hartford's Success – It IS a Federal issue (and state issue). By Mark Stewart Greenstein

Hartford citizens have largely been on the losing end of government policy. Federal and State contracts largely go to suburban firms. Tax policy makes Hartford citizens pay more for their cars and homes than residents of Greenwich. And state education policy keeps too many Hartford children stuck in bad schools.

Add Covid lockdowns, which came at the behest of elite white suburbanites. Hartford residents lost more work opportunities per capita than any other Connecticut locale. A fairly vibrant downtown from which they have not recovered.

Hartford residents are better off when we DON'T rely on state and federal government. We can rely on private



business, and on ourselves, to thrive,

The big political parties now work to keep poor people poor. The big political parties enrich their leaders first, while giving some crumbs to those on the outside. The most searing violation of Hartford citizens is state school policy. By not allowing parent choice, state politicians have kept Hartford's most ambitious children stuck in mediocre schools. They leave less ambitious children in schools whose administrators let them hear wrong facts, learn wrong theories, and lose any ambition they might have because they feel it's hopeless. No wonder many Hartford students choose the streets instead of staying in school seats.

A good Hartford Mayor and City Council will extricate Hartford from bad state and federal policies. We'll take funds that WORK, and re-route funds that don't work well. We will act like shareholders in a company, expecting a positive return on each investment.

Harford's success can't rely on stooges from the two major parties, who won't accept a real shakeup. Its success will come from citizens who break away from Party orthodoxy, and join Independents who want no part of party politics. Along with public servants who'll manhandle Hartford's staid government infrastructure, that is how we dramatically improve Hartford.

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