

DAVID COHEN

Dear PCDO Friends,

I am writing to ask for your support at the upcoming local endorsement meeting on Sunday, March 15th. As I did two years ago, I am running on a platform of Smart Growth, which (in twenty-five words or less) focuses new development in areas that are already developed. The benefits are many, but I want to focus on three: sustainability, economic vitality, and protecting diversity.

When development is intelligently focused in already developed areas, with mixed use projects, it efficiently reuses existing infrastructure, minimizes creation of impervious surfaces, promotes walking, biking, and transit, and protects open space, which is crucial for sequestering carbon and maintaining resiliency. And new construction conforms to higher standards of energy efficiency. City dwellers in the U.S. have half the carbon footprint of their suburban and rural counterparts. Fostering the ability of Princetonians to reduce their footprints should be a primary goal of local government.

At the same time, Smart Growth is good for the health of our local economy, creating jobs associated with new development, but also importantly creating a healthy customer base for our local businesses, and creating diverse housing opportunities for the employees of those businesses, economically benefitting both the employer and the employed.

Lastly, Smart Growth creates affordable options for those who want to live in Princeton. Socio-economic, racial/ethnic, and generational diversity enrich all our lives. There is a Jewish proverb that says: “who is wise? He that learns from every person”. Our lives are enhanced by exposure to others with different cultures and different life experiences. With the rapidly increasing price of single-family homes, we are at risk of becoming a “golden ghetto”, unless we can create housing of all types for those who want to be part of our community. I treasure Princeton’s diversity, and want to grow intelligently precisely in order to preserve what is most precious about our town.

Sincerely,

David Cohen