

candidate for:

BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION



DOUG FENTON

Party: Democrat

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Q: Please provide a brief biography of yourself for the voters.

A: I live in Riverside with my brilliant wife and our two kids - an EMS Gator and a Riverside Red Hawk. I have 20 years of finance experience, primarily as a hedge fund partner. I am actively involved with the Greenwich Alliance, Kids in Crisis, Rocky Point Club, the PTA, and the Tiger Foundation. On the RTM's Budget Overview Committee, I focus on making decisions grounded in data and analysis. My work has earned respect from across the political spectrum. With strong planning and leadership, we can do better - for our schools, our seniors, our neighborhoods, and the future of Greenwich.

Q: What are two of your favorite things about Greenwich?

A: I love Greenwich's sense of community: the broad commitment to volunteerism (be it in our schools, Town government, or local non-profits), the support for local businesses, and the conversations with neighbors while walking around Greenwich. Further, I appreciate the immense natural beauty of our Town, from sunsets on Tod's Point to hikes in Babcock Preserve, and from Great Captain Island ferry trips to tennis in Binney Park. It is essential that we protect our environmental charm.

Q: What professional, volunteer, or public service accomplishment in the last 12 months are you most proud of and why?

A: During this year's budget process, I believe my research and presentations on the Greenwich Public Schools gave parents, residents, and stakeholders a better understanding of our schools, including their underlying budget drivers, outcomes, and comparisons to peer school districts. More broadly, through my Greenwich-focused newsletter (dmfgreenwich.substack.com), I am attempting to bring data-driven analysis to residents to help them become better informed of the goings-on in Greenwich and to encourage people to engage with what matters most to them.

Q: What are one or two pressing challenges of the upcoming term and how would you approach them?

A: Greenwich should move to an outcome-driven budget model, so that the Town is appropriately evaluating the costs to deliver services. More rigorous budgeting will drive efficiencies. It will allow the Town to protect and enhance the services we cherish and invest in critical infrastructure, all while keeping our taxes low and sustainable. I will do the hard work necessary, with Town employees and across party lines, to make this possible. Further, the current BET has failed to listen to our community - concerned citizens, our nonpartisan elected legislative body, or professional expertise - while making short-sighted decisions impacting us all. Our next BET can be data-driven, rigorous, and transparent.

Q: How do you plan to serve your constituents who didn't support you in decisions that affect our town and their lives?

A: It is the responsibility of an elected official to serve all Town constituents for the betterment of Greenwich, over both the immediate and long term. There is no partisan monopoly on good ideas, and I will bring an independent mind to the job. I will listen to residents and experts, perform rigorous analysis, and be transparent in my decision-making.

Q: In April, the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) voted to reduce the Greenwich Public Schools budget by approximately \$4 million. This reduction allowed GPS to increase its budget year over year by 3% (vs 5%). [Minutes of the FY 2025-2026 Budget Decision Day Three (3) Meeting of the BET held April 4, 2025]. What is your position on this decision?

A: The 6 BET Republicans' reduction of the bipartisan BoE school budget was the catalyst for me running for the BET. It wasn't just the size of the BET's budget cut, but (1) their lack of diligence leading up to Decision Day, (2) the superficiality of their justifications, and (3) their ignoring the community (including a resounding vote by the RTM) when the BET's decision could still have been amended. More broadly, the school budget debacle reflects a larger, deeply troubling pattern - that our Republican-controlled BET's short-term thinking and lack of rigor has led to worse outcomes for Greenwich residents, both financially and in our overall quality of life.