

candidate for:
**BOARD OF
 ESTIMATE
 & TAXATION**



LAURA ERICKSON

Party: Democrat

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

A: My husband Dave and I moved to Greenwich in 1993 and raised our family of three children here. I grew up in NH in a single parent household, am a graduate of Middlebury College and my professional background is in commercial banking in the technology sector. I have 21 years of Town government experience on the RTM, the BOE (former Chair) and two prior terms on the BET, serving on the Audit and Budget Committees. In 2023, I was the Democratic candidate for First Selectperson. I've also served on other local non profit Boards and as PTA Co-President at Riverside and GHS.

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

A: 1) We were drawn to Greenwich due to the proximity to NYC and ended up within walking distance from the elementary school our kids attended. The public schools in Greenwich are a source of pride and the 17 consecutive years as a parent attending graduations, academic programs, artistic performances and athletic events stand out. 2) The availability of enrichment and recreational opportunities is remarkable. The libraries, the Bruce Museum, the Historical Society and our parks, golf course and beaches are all outstanding.

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

A: I am very proud of the work that the Norwalk Community College Foundation is doing to support student success and workforce development. I joined the NCCF Board in 2018 after four years on the BOE. Many GHS graduates matriculate at what is now known as CT State-Norwalk and students of all ages take classes to accelerate their learning or make a career change. The Foundation is aligned with the College on providing programming and capital resources to address the current and emerging workforce needs in southwestern CT which drive our economy.

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

A: My experience on the BET for two terms and as a keen observer for the last two years informs my strong belief that the BET needs leadership change and a return to data driven processes that meet the needs of our community. It's not right that Town and BOE employees spend hours building and presenting budgets and that hundreds of residents make their voices heard, only to be disregarded through the repeated abuse of a tie breaking vote. Specifically, the capital planning process needs an overhaul to reflect actual projections and not the whims of BET members. The BET needs to take a longer view and plan for predictable rates of taxation.

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

A: Serving in local government means listening and respecting the views of community members, and collaborating to find solutions. There is a lot of common ground. We want to support our first responders and our schools and make sure our infrastructure, roads and sidewalks are accessible and in a state of good repair. We also want Town Hall to function efficiently to conduct business and support the needs of residents. I'd like to focus on the issues, leave the drama caused by dysfunction within the Republican BET caucus behind and get back to making the Town's Finance Board functional and forward thinking.

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: To be clear, the vote was strictly along party lines with all Democrats voting against. All of the Republican incumbents running in this election voted for the cut. The motion was made at the last minute with no prior discussion or debate among the full BET or the BoE administration to understand its ramifications. The BoE budget is largely comprised of fixed contractual obligations and the BoE was forced to make hard decisions in a compressed time frame. Republicans on the ballot this fall are spitting out word salads trying to spin this but there is no hiding the facts or the voting record. GHS students will have an earlier start time and all students will feel the impact of staff cuts as a result of this partisan action.