



COLINE JENKINS

Party: RTM has no party affiliation

Mailing Address: 20 ½ Forest Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT, 06870

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

A: I am the fourth generation of my family to live in Greenwich and have served on the RTM 35+ years. I offer institutional knowledge and civic engagement to blend with my fellow citizens' contributions to improve the quality of life in Greenwich. I worked for new sidewalks, supported school renovations, lobbied for a new civic center, and co-drafted the Master Plan for Tod's Point. I believe in public service and have served, throughout years, as a member of the Old Greenwich Association, the Greenwich Point Committee, the Friends of Binney Park, the OG PTA, and as chair of the OG RTM.

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

A: Two challenges we face: 1) The equitable distribution of town resources among our citizens. Not equal, but equitable. 2) The weighing of "wants" against "needs." Budgets are not limitless. How do we build our best community at a reasonable cost? Through discourse, we gather facts and opinions. I always say, "Information is the grease of democracy." At times, we agree to disagree. In the end, we keep it civil. We will respond to "We the People" by adopting budgets, drafting ordinances, approving appointments to town boards, and acting as the final authority on municipal improvements. This experiment in democracy has worked in Greenwich since 1640. Onward!

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: I support strong schools, as education is an investment in the future of children and our nation. "An educated citizenry is essential for a functioning democracy." The current renovation and new construction at Old Greenwich and Central Middle Schools cost millions of dollars, but this payment shall not detract from the cost of teaching. Obviously, budgets must be balanced; priorities in town spending must be determined through open debate. All sides matter. I believe open public forums are the best way to shape our town. Of course, the RTM, the legislative body, casts the final vote on the town budget. Ideally 230 RTM representatives have heard from constituents and, as a body, will collaborate to move forward. I see it working.

Q: Number of Terms on RTM (Incumbents only)

A: Approximately 19 terms

Q: Current Committee Assignments (Incumbents only)

A: Legislative & Rules Committee.