

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



MATT DesCHAMPS

Party: Democrat

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

A: My family and I have been proud members of the Greenwich community for over 20 years. We raised our two daughters here—along with a couple of beloved dogs—and have treasured our time as part of this town. This deep connection to Greenwich is what fuels my desire for public service. My experience on the RTM Budget and Energy Committees, BET, and as Chair of the new Hamill Rink Task Force combines with my professional background as an entrepreneur, CPA and finance professor to offer skills the job requires. I'm prepared to continue to serve Greenwich with both a local heart and a financial mind.

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

A: What I love most about Greenwich is its unique blend of community spirit and natural beauty. I'm inspired by our neighbors' incredible commitment to volunteerism and public service—our town is powered by a generous and collective spirit. I am also deeply passionate about our green, open spaces and coastal beauty. Having moved here from New York City, I cherish the tranquility they offer, particularly the peacefulness of a run at Tod's Point. These vital resources are why I am committed to providing the local leadership necessary to protect and preserve our town's character for everyone.

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

A: I'm proud of my work on the Board of Estimate and Taxation. With over 30 years of financial experience—from leading firms like Morgan Stanley to founding my own asset management business—I've applied a professional, fact-based approach to town finances. I believe politics and finance don't mix, and I'm proud of the results this mindset has produced. Despite opposition, we were able to fund critical, money-saving projects like school capital upgrades, ADA compliance initiatives, and solar panel installations, all of which improve our town and provide clear value for taxpayers. With new leadership and control of the tie breaking vote, Democrats can continue to keep taxes low and manage a budget that delivers for residents.

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

A: The two most pressing challenges are the failure of leadership on the BET and the resulting broken capital budget. These issues are intertwined. The BET must take a financial, not political, approach to prioritize and manage capital projects to avoid costly delays and ballooning budgets. Unfortunately, this has not been the case recently. I will continue to bring a fact-based, financial mindset to the BET and will lead a Dem/Rep/Ind task force to fix the capital budget process if we have the tie breaking vote. Collaboration and teamwork can solve the problems we face. A transparent and accurate budget process will ensure we fund necessary projects, protect residents from avoidable tax burdens, and restore trust in our financial planning.

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

A: As a public servant I serve everyone. I enjoy engaging and listening to people and debating issues. Too often we only follow and engage with people we agree with or members of our political party or chat group. That's a mistake. Greenwich is a diverse town with varying opinions on the issues that impact our community. Listening and respecting others is an important part of leadership and the key to successful decision making. Groupthink and ignoring expert advice lead to poor outcomes, and I have worked hard in my career and personal life to avoid the pitfalls of behavioral biases. It's not easy, and it takes effort. I will continue to lead with the same consensus approach to my work as a public servant. We are all in it together!

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 cut to the BoE budget was a shortsighted decision that I strongly oppose. It was a travesty for two primary reasons: First, the cut was made without any fact-based analysis. Real leadership isn't simply cutting funds—it's about doing the hard work of understanding the intricacies of the BoE's budget, which is highly constrained by state mandates and labor contracts. Second, the cut was too large to be absorbed without causing significant harm to our schools. It directly led to detrimental outcomes, such as the elimination of important positions and earlier school start times that negatively impact learning and health. There are more constructive ways to address fiscal challenges than mindlessly reducing funding to our public schools.