

My name is Jim Bowen and I feel I am best suited to represent the voters of District 9 because I have the unique skills to effectively represent you and address the issues facing our district/town. I am the only Unaffiliated candidate; I answer to YOU, not a party. I am an Air Force Colonel with 28 years of proven leadership skills; I know how to build winning teams. I have 12 years of experience working multi-billion-dollar budgets, I know how to build efficient/effective budgets. I have eight years of education experience including teaching at the University of Notre Dame; I know how to resource the education our children deserve. Finally, I am retired; serving you will be my passion and full-time job.

Specifically, after visiting the homes of 2,400+ voters, I feel the issues of greatest concern to the FBRA membership are property tax growth, lack of government transparency, and coastal issues, especially flooding; if elected, I intend to address them in the following manner.

Tax Growth: Unsustainable property tax growth over the last four years; 12.2% on average across the District, is the most common concern I hear. The RTM is the sole body vested with the authority to appropriate town budget funding; a huge responsibility impacting every facet of Fairfield life.

I know how to review a budget, find waste/misallocated funding, and produce a risk-balanced budget that properly funds town government. I will use my budget and education expertise to work with my fellow RTM members to make our budget review process more rigorous and challenge every dollar in the budget proposal. A strong budget review/approval process is key to arresting the excessive growth in property taxes impacting families in D9 and ensuring proper funding for the Town and Schools.

Transparent Government: An independent voice is powerful. As an Unaffiliated member, I am uniquely positioned to provide the transparency and accountability you deserve. I don't answer to Party leadership; I work solely for District 9 citizens. I will ask questions in public forums you want answered; questions that otherwise wouldn't be asked. My independent voice will shine into the shadows to illuminate the truth and bring about the transparency effective governance requires. Transparency and truth enable accountability; failures will be corrected and those responsible held to account for their actions. Accountability reinforces a culture of excellence and improves government efficiency; things we deserve from our government!

Flooding: BOS/BOF/RTM's Penfield decision/vote will reduce Penfield's beach height up to four feet and will increase flooding frequency/severity. I will request a work-stop until AFTER flood studies are complete, so we understand the risks to FBRA residents. Then, I will request necessary risk-mitigation actions prior to resuming work.

You see me tirelessly campaigning daily--engaging with you, discussing your hopes and concerns. I will apply that work ethic to fighting for you! We need an independent voice unencumbered by party politics to speak for us; we need leadership, not politics. Together we can make a difference and build a stronger Fairfield!