

BRIAN FARNEN:

As a beach area resident myself, I understand the issues facing our unique community. As a candidate for Selectman my job will be to work with the administration to approve projects that benefit our Town and support fiscally responsible budgets that maintain a high level of service to our residents.

Many of our beach neighbors quite literally watched the fill pile rise above heights they had ever seen, and watched the construction of Penfield Pavilion - *twice*. I believe First Selectwoman Kupchick has done a great job of leading on these issues, proposing resolutions and responsibly using budget surplus to help pay for them. As a member of the Board of Selectmen, updates on the construction of Penfield Pavilion will be presented monthly and I will follow along the progress closely. We need the right leadership to ensure this project is finally done right.

We must also simultaneously address the issue of coastal resiliency. Climate change is an issue extremely important to me personally and professionally as an officer and General Counsel of the CT Green Bank (organization dedicated to addressing climate change) and as a longtime resident near the beach who has experienced coastal flooding and pays flood insurance on my home. The administration did set aside funding in the Penfield budget and ARPA funds for engineers to explore potential solutions for the boards to consider funding. As an area resident this will be a priority I will advocate for.

Connecticut is one of the most taxed states in the nation and property taxes continue to be of great concern for residents. Despite property values soaring during the pandemic due to market demands, Brenda's four budgets resulted in the lowest tax increases in recent history. As we faced a global pandemic and record high inflation with supply chain issues, Brenda's first year was a 0% increase the first year and under 1% each year following. For the first time that anyone can recall, this year's budget was approved unanimously by all three town boards.

We must continue smart economic growth where it makes sense to help alleviate the burden on residential taxpayers. We have had record growth in our grand list and we will continue to build on that as we revitalize long vacant lots like the Exide property and Metro Center which sat vacant and unproductive for 20 years. We intend to finish what Brenda started because there is so much more to do.

As an FBRA Board member, I will always be accessible to beach area residents as issues arise and will continue to make myself available as a FBRA Board member and your neighbor.

Recognizing that there is still more to do, if you are happy with the direction of our town, our neighborhood schools, and what has been accomplished over the past four years, I ask for your vote, for both Brenda and me, this November 7th.