

FIRST SELECTMAN



Stephan Grozinger

Republican Party

Biographical Statement

- Weston Board of Selectman (2017-2021)
- Weston Planning and Zoning Commission for seven years – three as Chair
- WVFD Firefighter for twenty-five years. Firefighter of the Year (2000 & 2014)
- Weston Citizen of the Year (2017).
- Board of Directors and Vice President of Aspetuck Land Trust
- Ontario, Canada Psychiatric Review Board (1990-1992)
- Commercial real estate attorney representing owners of office, retail and multifamily properties throughout the U.S.
- Bar of Connecticut, New York & US District Court

In your opinion, what is the most significant issue facing Weston today?

Weston constructed WIS in 2005. It proved to be unnecessary, and the debt service forced Weston into fiscal austerity for the next eighteen years. Taxes skyrocketed, our roads and school facilities deteriorated, and new projects were limited to what could be paid for with grants and bequests. The bond will be paid off next year and the Democrats plan to close Hurlbutt, build a new school and renovate WMS ‘as new’. Weston cannot afford to make the same mistake twice. Kerem and I will institute a reasonable capital improvement schedule addressing Weston’s needs in a thoughtful way.

Why are running for this specific office and what do you bring to it?

I have practiced commercial real estate law for nearly thirty years. I manage complex business transactions routinely over \$20M and often over \$100M; I negotiate high-value contracts and development agreements; I manage adversarial relationships and interpret regulations every day. I also have over a decade of experience in Weston government and twenty-five years of public service. In that time, I have earned a solid reputation for fairness, transparency and thoughtful decision-making. We need to interrupt a decade-old culture of poor leadership and cultivate a new culture of magnanimous, transparent government. Together, Kerem and I will accomplish that.

What is the most important issue this board/commission faces and how would you potentially address it?

We must fundamentally change how First Selectmen perform. In the last twelve years, the office has repeatedly mishandled simple projects and set a tone of divisiveness. The library makerspace, the dog park, pickleball courts – each was lost or delayed because of poor initial planning and execution. In each case, the First Selectmen have treated concerned neighbors as opponents to be defeated rather than consulted. These were all easy lifts, but complex projects loom. Kerem and I will ensure projects are properly conceived from the start so that they can be achieved timely and on budget with due regard for neighbors.