

David Gruber
Candidate for East Hampton Town Supervisor

David Gruber is the EH Fusion Party candidate for East Hampton Town Supervisor. His candidacy is endorsed by the East Hampton Reform Democrats, the East Hampton Town Republican Committee, the Independence Party, and the Libertarian Party.

Inspired by the example of that great leader of New York City, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, who created a coalition across the ideological spectrum, the EH Fusion Party is the joint effort of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. We share the belief that partisan politics and one-party government have gotten in the way of solutions to local problems in East Hampton. Many of these problems have been talked about and have been the subject of election campaign rhetoric for years, or even decades, with little or no progress.

The members of the EH Fusion coalition agree that national politics and differences over national issues have little or nothing to do with solving our local problems. In the words of Mayor LaGuardia, "There is no Democratic or Republican way to pick up garbage." We have therefore mutually decided simply to set aside differences over national issues and work together across party lines for the good of the entire East Hampton community.

The candidates of the EH Fusion Party are all on the Independence and Libertarian party ballot lines. Those who are registered Republicans -- candidates for Town Justice, Assessor, and four Trustee candidates -- are also on the Republican line.

Accepting the nomination, David said,

"Our elected officials have been making the same promises year after year about protecting water quality, ensuring we have essential emergency communications, building affordable housing, job opportunities for young people, meeting the needs of seniors, ending reliance upon fossil fuels, reducing airport noise, code enforcement, responding to coastal erosion, and other bread and butter and quality of life issues in East Hampton. We have little or even nothing to show for it. We have no concrete plans as to how to accomplish anything that has been promised, only aspirations to do so. That's not good enough. I am running for supervisor to redeem those promises and to achieve in East Hampton an economically, socially, and environmentally just and inclusive community."

David is a former chair of the East Hampton Town Democratic Committee. With Alec Baldwin, he co-founded the East Hampton Conservators. He served as Trustee and Treasurer of the Hampton Day School and is also a co-founder of Hayground School in Bridgehampton. David served as the chair of the Town's Airport Planning Committee, Noise Sub-committee. He is currently a member of the Airport Management Advisory Committee.

David holds degrees in physics, law, and advanced economics. He is in the final stages of earning his Ph.D. in economics. After practicing commercial law for several years, he became a principal in an investment firm acquiring and managing firms in diverse businesses. His management portfolio included one of the nation's largest chains of movie theaters, apparel, animal feed, bulk trucking, and a fleet of Pacific Northwest factory fishing trawlers. With his background in mathematics, in 1991

he founded his own successful trading firm employing statistical analysis for automated trading of securities.

An East Hampton resident for 33 years, David is the adoptive single father of two one-year-old Chinese girls, now young women 22 and 19 years of age. His older daughter is a first-year graduate student in art therapy. His younger daughter is a college sophomore interested in human rights and urban planning.

On the issues facing East Hampton, David pledges scrupulous observance of the law and these principles for successful solutions, the very same sound management principles that underlie the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA):

- The pertinent facts must be gathered and assembled as a public record.
- All reasonable and achievable alternatives must be identified and on the public record.
- The economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of each alternative must be carefully evaluated and on the public record.
- The stakeholders in the community must be directly involved in every stage of the process, both because of the expertise they bring to the table that town government does not have and so that preferred solutions reflect the values and objectives of the community.

As a concrete example: Our problem of declining water quality is in fact two distinct problems, chemical contamination and septic waste. To address chemical contamination, as occurred in Wainscott and as is now suspected along Springs-Fireplace Road, we must test drinking water town-wide in order to determine what problems exist, how they can be remediated, and what must necessarily be done to protect human health.

For septic waste, we must answer the question whether “Innovative/Alternative systems,” even if installed everywhere, would remove enough nitrogen to achieve our groundwater quality goals or whether we also need other forms of wastewater treatment.

To the extent that we are to rely on I/A systems, we must determine whether to prioritize critical areas so that financial resources are employed for the greatest return. We must also streamline the process of installation so that it is completely seamless for the homeowner, one phone call, one signature, no checks to write.