



## For Immediate Release:

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### **Brinton To Kick off *Independents For Norwalk* Party at Banc House**

**NORWALK, CT** – Following a strong 2019 campaign, receiving 45% of the vote, unaffiliated mayoral candidate, Lisa Brinton announced she will launch an *Independents for Norwalk* kick off campaign on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, at BJ Ryan's Banc House in the historic Wall Street district. The public, regardless of party affiliation is invited.

An advocate for more professional local government and increased state funding for Norwalk's over-crowded schools over the years, Brinton resolved to give residents their voices back by bringing a slate of candidates to the 2021 municipal ballot that will represent the people of Norwalk, not party or special interests. "It's not about me," Brinton said, "it's about *we*. It's about residents." In order to address the city's surge in population, long-term ability to fund schools and city services, while also protecting the city's natural assets, Brinton wants residents to have another choice on the ballot this November. "Local government must more strongly advocate for residents when it comes to sustainable planning and zoning and fairer school funding—one that benefits ordinary Norwalk residents, not the current practice favoring developers, law firms, consultants and town cronies."

A 25-year veteran of the corporate world and 15-year civic volunteer, Brinton is seeking and promised to bring an array of independent-minded candidates focused on Norwalk—not the current more hard-lined, two party system—for the expressed purpose of focusing on Norwalk residents, its neighborhoods and city services. "By now, those familiar with my efforts over the years, know I don't care about political parties. My loyalty is to Norwalk."

Brinton continued, "Concentrated power has created an environment where local government transparency and accountability has all but disappeared. Years of private caucus meetings have thwarted public discussion and debate over critical issues like population density, planning and zoning, city services and economic policy. The status quo has immensely benefitted from the pandemic—destroying any balance over city hall's current power structure."

By city charter, Norwalk's municipal government is designed as a weak mayor/strong council. The 15-member common council is supposed to represent the five specific city districts and their issues, with two voices each, along with 5 at-large members charged with considering the entire city. Brinton asked, "Is that what residents see or experience?"

Norwalk has multiple representation issues: The state has also gerrymandered the city such that it has only two exclusive, dedicated state reps for the 137<sup>th</sup> and 140<sup>th</sup> districts out of 5 congressional districts. Norwalk shares the others, including a state senator with "leafy" (upscale) municipalities that have very different needs. Other major cities in Connecticut enjoy 4 or 5 dedicated state representatives. "It explains a lot of what is happening to Norwalk," Brinton continued.

Approximately 43% of registered voters in Norwalk are either unaffiliated or independent, meaning they are not allowed to vote in primaries or have any voice regarding candidates placed on the ballot.

Brinton again vowed that her newly-formed *Independents for Norwalk* slate will be committed to using taxpayer funds more wisely for the people of Norwalk versus third-party special interests. She concluded, "Long-time residents and homeowners deserve to stay in Norwalk and enjoy the kind of quality of life that such a naturally beautiful and culturally diverse city like ours should offer—provided it is represented by a well-run, professionally managed city government."

