

TOWN OF ORANGE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025 AT 7:00 P.M.

FRANKLIN SS:

To the Constables of the Town of Orange, in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to meet at Ruth B. Smith Auditorium, located at 6 Prospect Street, in said Orange on Monday, the Twenty-seventh day of October 2025, at seven in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

Motion to vote articles 1-11 to be passed by consent, passed, 115 in favor, 6 opposed.

ARTICLE 1: PRIOR YEAR BILL – STREET LIGHTS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$35.92 from 001-424-5211-1000-00000 Street Lights Expense to pay First Wind in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years; or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 9/10th vote

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$35.92 from 001-424-5211-1000-00000 Street Lights Expense to pay First Wind.

ARTICLE 2: PRIOR YEAR BILL – TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$275.00 from 001-192-5240-1000-00000 Tnh-Repairs & Maintenance to pay Fire Equipment Inc. in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years; or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 9/10th vote

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$275.00 from 001-192-5240-1000-00000 Tnh-Repairs & Maintenance to pay Fire Equipment Inc.

ARTICLE 3: PRIOR YEAR BILL – BUTTERFIELD EXPENSE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$642.00 from 001-192-5390-1000-00000 Butterfield School Building Expenses to pay Fire Equipment Inc. in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years; or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 9/10th vote

I move that the Town vote the sum \$642.00 from 001-192-5390-1000-00000 Butterfield School Building Expenses to pay Fire Equipment Inc.

ARTICLE 4: PRIOR YEAR BILL – LEGAL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$500.00 from 001-151-5300-1000-00000 Town Counsel to pay Quabbin Mediation in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years; or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 9/10th vote

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$500.00 from 001-151-5300-1000-00000 Town Counsel to pay Quabbin Mediation.

ARTICLE 5: PRIOR YEAR BILL – LEGAL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$350.00 from 001-151-5300-1000-00000 Town Counsel to pay Quabbin Mediation in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years; or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 9/10th vote

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$350.00 from 001-151-5300-1000-00000 Town Counsel to pay Quabbin Mediation.

ARTICLE 6: PRIOR YEAR BILL – LIBRARY

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$200.00 from 001-612-5800-1000-00000 Lib-Equipment to pay Fire Equipment Incorporated in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years, or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 9/10th vote

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$200.00 from 001-612-5800-1000-00000 Lib-Equipment to pay Fire Equipment Incorporated.

ARTICLE 7: PRIOR YEAR BILL – LIBRARY

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$146.69 from 001-612-5800-1000-00000 Lib-Equipment to pay Fire Equipment Incorporated in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years, or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 9/10th vote

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$146.69 from 001-612-5800-1000-00000 Lib-Equipment to pay Fire Equipment Incorporated.

ARTICLE 8: PRIOR YEAR BILL – LIBRARY

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$174.91 from 001-612-5510-1000-00000 Lib-Books & Periodicals to pay Baker & Taylor in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years, or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 9/10th vote

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$174.91 from 001-612-5510-1000-00000 Lib-Books & Periodicals to pay Baker & Taylor.

ARTICLE 9: PRIOR YEAR BILL – FIRE EXPENSES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,038.35 from Fire Department Expense to pay Bound Tree Medical, LLC, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years, or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 9/10th vote

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$2,038.35 from Fire Department Expense to pay Bound Tree Medical, LLC.

ARTICLE 10: PRIOR YEAR BILL – FIRE EXPENSES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$500.96 from Fire Department Expense to pay Fire Equipment Incorporated, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years, or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 9/10th vote

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$500.96 from Fire Department Expense to pay Fire Equipment Incorporated.

ARTICLE 11: PRIOR YEAR BILL – FIRE EXPENSES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$38.50 from Fire Department Expense to pay Pete's Tire Barns, Inc., in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years, or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 9/10th vote

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$38.50 from Fire Department Expense to pay Pete's Tire Barns, Inc.

ARTICLE 12: TRANSFER FUNDS – ASSESSORS EXPENSES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$12,500 from Accidental Insurance – Police and Fire (account 001-944-5170-1000-00000) to the Assessor Software Maintenance expense account (001-145-5240-1000-00000) for the contractual expense of Vision (Assessor Database); or take any action thereto.

Requires a majority vote

I move that the Town vote transfer and appropriate the sum of \$12,500 from Accidental Insurance – Police and Fire (account 001-944-5170-1000-00000) to the Assessor Software Maintenance expense account (001-145-5240-1000-00000) for the contractual expense of Vision.

Motion passed, 104 in favor, 11 opposed, 5 abstentions.

ARTICLE 13: TRANSFER FUNDS – GROUP HEALTH & LIFE & DENTAL INS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Seventeen Dollars and Thirteen Cents (\$336,317.13) from the General Stabilization Fund to 001-914-5170-1000-00000 EE-Group Health Town Share Account for the purpose of funding the Town's share of employee and retiree health insurance costs for the current fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$336,317.13 from the General Stabilization Fund to 001-914-5170-1000-00000 EE-Group Health Town Share Account for the purpose of funding the Town's share of employee and retiree health insurance costs for the current fiscal year.

Motion passed, 93 in favor, 28 opposed, 6 abstentions.

ARTICLE 14: TRANSFER FUNDS – GIS CULVERT MAPPING

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 from the Community Development Stabilization Fund to establish a GIS Culvert Mapping Account for the completion of the GIS culvert mapping, or take any other action relative thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 from the Community Development Stabilization Fund to establish a GIS Culvert Mapping Account for the completion of the GIS culvert mapping.

Motion passed, 119 in favor, 9 opposed, 2 abstentions.

ARTICLE 15: TRANSFER FUNDS – AIRPORT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum of money from 001-482-5110-1000-00000 Airport Managers Salary Account appropriation to 001-484-5390-1000-00000 Air-Other Purchased Services Account line item within the Airport budget, for the purpose of securing outside snow removal services and potential per diem consulting support from the former Airport Manager, or take any other action relative thereto.

Requires a majority vote

I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate \$13,200.00 from 001-482-5110-1000-00000 Airport Managers Salary Account appropriation to 001-484-5390-1000-00000 Air-Other Purchased Services Account line item within the Airport budget, for the purpose of securing outside snow removal services and potential per diem consulting support from the former Airport Manager.

Motion to pass over, passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 16: VETERANS TAX EXEMPTIONS

To see if the town will vote to accept General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025; or take any action or other vote or votes in relation thereto.

Requires a majority vote

I move that the Town vote to accept General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

Motion passed, 112 in favor, 7 opposed, 7 abstentions.

ARTICLE 17: LAND CONVEYANCE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts, identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 115, to the Orange Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) for the purpose of facilitating beneficial reuse and redevelopment of the site, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate; or take any action or other vote or votes in relation thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

I move that the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 115 to the Board of Selectmen for transfer to the EDIC and further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey the property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts, identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 115, to the Orange Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) for the purpose of facilitating beneficial reuse and redevelopment of the site, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate.

Motion to amend passed unanimously. Motion passed as amended 113 in favor, 8 opposed, 1 abstention.

ARTICLE 18: LAND CONVEYANCE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts, identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 120, to the Orange Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) for the purpose of facilitating beneficial reuse and redevelopment of the site, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate; or take any action or other vote or votes in relation thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

I move that the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 120 to the Board of Selectmen for transfer to the EDIC and further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey the property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts, identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 120, to the Orange Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) for the purpose of facilitating beneficial reuse and redevelopment of the site, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate.

Motion to amend passed unanimously. Motion passed as amended 112 in favor, 7 opposed, 1 abstention.

ARTICLE 19: LAND CONVEYANCE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts, identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 121, to the Orange Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) for the purpose of facilitating beneficial reuse and redevelopment of the site, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate; or take any action or other vote or votes in relation thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

I move that the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 121 to the Board of Selectmen for transfer to the EDIC and further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey the property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts, identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 121, to the Orange Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) for the purpose of facilitating beneficial reuse and redevelopment of the site, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate.

Motion to amend passed unanimously. Motion passed as amended 111 in favor, 10 opposed, 1 abstention.

ARTICLE 20: LAND ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general municipal purposes, the property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts, now or formerly of Clara Haas, or her assigns, heirs or devisees, said land more particularly identified as Assessor's Map 110-122, and further described in a deed recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds at Book 584, Page 126, dated June 15, 1912; or take any action or other vote or votes in relation thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

Motion to pass over, passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 21: LAND CONVEYANCE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts, identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 122, to the Orange Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) for the purpose of facilitating beneficial reuse and redevelopment of the site, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate; or take any action or other vote or votes in relation thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

I move that the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 122 to the Board of Selectmen for transfer to the EDIC and further vote to authorize the Board of

Selectmen to convey the property located on Cheney Street, Orange, Massachusetts, identified as Assessor's Map 110, Parcel 122, to the Orange Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) for the purpose of facilitating beneficial reuse and redevelopment of the site, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate.

Motion to amend passed unanimously. Motion passed as amended 108 in favor, 9 opposed, 4 abstentions.

ARTICLE 22: SPECIAL LEGISLATION- 5 MEMBER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file Special Legislation for an act to increase the Town of Orange Board of Selectmen to a 5- member Board of Selectmen as set forth below and further authorize the Chair of the Board of Selectmen to approve any changes to the Special Legislation requested by our legislators, senate or house counsel or any person authorized by them:

An Act authorizing the Town of Orange to increase the membership of the Board of Selectmen.

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1 of Chapter 41 or of any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be in the Town of Orange a 5-member Board of Selectmen, with each member to be elected for terms of three years so arranged so that the term of at least 1 member shall expire each year. The Board of Selectmen, as the Chief Executive Officer of the Town, shall have the powers and duties of a Board of Selectmen under the provisions of any general or special law.

SECTION 2. Action taken by the Board of Selectmen and the town meeting increasing the size of the Board of Selectmen shall hereby be ratified, validated, and confirmed to the same extent as if the act had been in place prior thereto.

SECTION 3. Members of the Board of Selectmen serving as of the effective date of this Act shall continue to serve out the remainder of their unexpired terms or sooner vacating of the office.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Or take any action or other vote or votes in relation thereto.

Requires a majority vote

I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file Special Legislation entitled "An Act authorizing the Town of Orange to increase the membership of the Board of Selectmen," as printed in the warrant under Article 22, and further to authorize the Chair of the Board of Selectmen to approve any changes to the Special Legislation requested by our legislators, Senate or House Counsel, or any person authorized by them.

Motion passed, 84 in favor, 47 opposed, 21 abstentions.

ARTICLE 23: ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DATE

To see if the Town will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact legislation precisely as set forth below, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to this bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to bill before enactment by the General Court, and that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objective of this petition:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12 of Annual Town Meeting May 7, 2007, and Chapter 56 of the Acts of 2008, the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Orange shall be held on the Second Monday in May.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Requires a majority vote

I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact legislation precisely as set forth below, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to this bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to bill before enactment by the General Court, and that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objective of this petition:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12 of Annual Town Meeting May 7, 2007, and Chapter 56 of the Acts of 2008, the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Orange shall be held on the Second Monday in May.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Motion to amend passed unanimously. Motion passed as amended 118 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstention.

ATTEST:

Rachael Fortier, Town Clerk