

O ELECTION 2025 RANGE



Jim Zeoli
FIRST SELECTMAN

Inside:
Economic Development:
Hands-On for Jim Zeoli

- THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE AGREE
- LEADERSHIP MATTERS
- BUILDING FOR ORANGE'S FUTURE
- MEET OUR TEAM

Our Orange Community



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Your Vote Is Important

Vote in person Nov. 4 or by absentee ballot.

Early voting starts on October 20th.

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DESIGNED & PRINTED IN CONNECTICUT

Paid for by the Orange Republican Town Committee,
Despina Esposito, Treasurer

Paid for by the Friends of Zeoli
Kevin Houlihan - Treasurer, approved by Jim Zeoli



There are times when we agree.

In a series of letters to the editor,* Democratic candidates made observations about the Town of Orange and the policies of Jim Zeoli and his team.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Democratic candidate for First Selectman wrote: *"The Firelight Plaza (correct spelling "Firelite Plaza") is a great example. After the owners fixed it up, its value went up 235 percent. Now they're paying more in taxes, which helps take pressure off of homeowners..."*

AGREED: However the owners didn't just "fix it up." Jim Zeoli worked with our Economic Development Corporation Director, our Town Planning and Zoning board, and the property owners to bring to Orange the **right kind of mixed-use development** over years of planning.

In an effort that started 6 years ago, Jim and the Orange Economic Development Corporation Director helped to bring Noble Gas to Orange. Demolition of the old site has started, and construction of a community travel center and EV showroom will soon begin. Evermark, a premier manufacturer, will also be locating in Orange on Connair Road.

KEEPING ORANGE GREEN

A Democratic candidate for TPZ wrote: *"It is imperative that we protect our green spaces..." My goal is to ensure that future development respects the character of our town."*

AGREED: **Jim Zeoli has increased our green spaces by over 70%.** The recent purchase of Racebrook Country Club not only protects a large section of Orange from overdevelopment but also generates income for the town.

ADVOCATING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

A Democratic candidate for Orange Board of Education wrote: *"I can see that Orange has done an amazing job of building a great place for our children to learn."*

AGREED: The Orange Board of Education, under the leadership of former chairman (now Selectman) Bill Kraut and current Chairman Jeff Cap, supported by Jim Zeoli's team, has done an "amazing job" supporting our schools. **As a result, we have been able to hire excellent administrators and teachers who have made Orange schools among the best in Connecticut.**

*Milford/Orange Times, July 2025

Experience Matters: Jim Zeoli served on the Board of Selectmen for 6 years before he was elected as our First Selectman. He has been active in our community since age 13, volunteering at the Country Fair and serving as a volunteer firefighter.



Jim is a member of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG), serving as treasurer, secretary, and then as chairman in 2010 and 2023. SCRCOG addresses issues, such as housing, transportation, land use planning, municipal services, and economic development. He chaired the State Department of Agriculture farmland preservation panel for 8 years.

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Jim Zeoli and Republican leaders of the Orange Board of Finance have worked diligently for our community by cost-effectively budgeting for town services and excellent schools.

WE EFFECTIVELY CONTROL SPENDING TO EASE YOUR TAXES



Increased costs caused by inflation have made controlling spending a challenge that Jim Zeoli and his team have met.

The frequency of state-mandated property revaluation, now required every 3 years, has made our task even more difficult.

In the most recent property revaluation, residential property values in Orange went up an average of 38%, while commercial property values increased 16%.

The good news is your house is worth more. However, this change in values has caused a shift in the property tax burden from commercial property to homeowners.

Across the state, homeowners are seeing significant increases in their annual property tax bills.

We mitigated the impact of these changes by phasing in the increase over three years.

More importantly, despite price pressure caused by inflation, we have controlled spending without cutting important services or education.

The robust economic development that Jim Zeoli and his team have brought to Orange over many years still plays a major role in the mitigation of your tax burden.



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**John
Carangelo**

- Board of Selectmen, 2011 to present
- B.A. Syracuse University
- J.D. Quinnipiac College School of Law
- Judge of Probate for the District of Orange 1998-2010
- Attorney with over 28 years of legal experience.

John Carangelo is a member of the American, Connecticut, Milford, and New Haven Bar Associations and the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association.

He is a lifelong resident of Orange and resides here with his wife, Kathrine, and sons, Michael and Joseph.

"As a member of the Board of Selectmen, I will continue my efforts to keep taxes under control and continue to improve our town's infrastructure and schools."



**Judy
Smith**

- Currently Serving on Board of Selectmen
- M.B.A. in Restaurant & Hotel Management, UNH
- B.S. in Marketing, University of Connecticut
- General Manager Orange Hills Country Club
- Instructor, University of New Haven, 1986-1988

Judy Smith served Orange on the Town Planning and Zoning Commission since 1995. She was elected vice chairman from 2006 to 2025. In 2025 Judy was appointed to the Board of Selectmen and brings a great deal of expertise to the Board.



**Bill
Kraut**

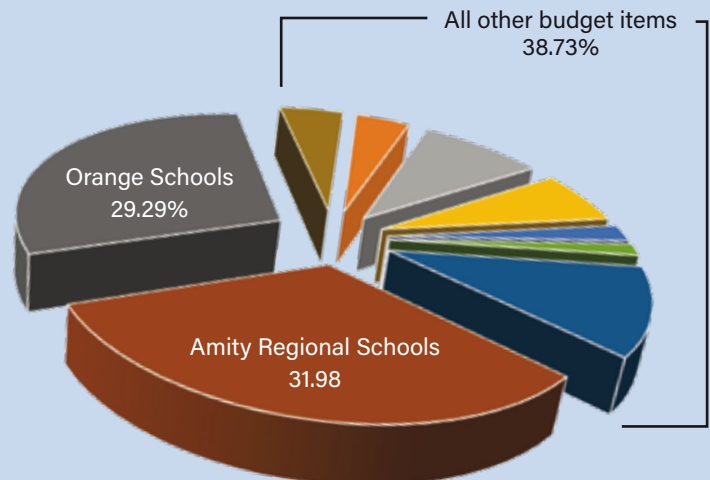
- Currently Serving on Board of Selectmen
- B.S. University of Rhode Island
- Chairman, Orange Board of Education, 11/2011 to 9/2024
- Bond Construction Oversight Committee Chairman
- Owner, Newport Tennis, Inc.

As Chairman of the OBOE, Bill Kraut worked with our school superintendent, teachers, and the board to safely provide both remote and in-person learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Orange school system was one of less than 3% of school systems statewide to have in-school learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As a Selectman, I will continue to work collaboratively in a bipartisan manner. Orange has been and is a wonderful town. I will do my best to preserve what has made it so special and work to make sure the town's future is just as great."

EFFECTIVE TOWN MANAGEMENT ENSURES THAT **FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS.**



EDUCATION TOTALS 61.27% OF OUR TOWN BUDGET

NOV 4 - VOTE ROW B HIGH PLAINS COMMUNITY CENTER



John Carangelo

Bill Kraut

Judy Smith

Experience & Dedication

Our members of the Board of Selectmen have been an integral part of effective town government for many years.

John Carangelo served as Orange Probate Judge from 1998 to 2010, when that position was consolidated with Milford. In 2011 John was elected to the Board of Selectmen. John has played an important role on the board including chairing the Fred Wolfe Park planning committee.

Bill Kraut served as Chairman of the Orange Board of Education from 2011 until 2023, when he was appointed to the Board of Selectmen. He brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership ability to the board.

Judy Smith served Orange on the Town Planning and Zoning Commission since 1995. She was elected vice chair from 2006 to 2025. In 2025 Judy was appointed to the Board of Selectmen and brings a great deal of expertise.

- Efficient town management.
- Keeping spending under control using effective budgeting practices.
- Continued strong support for our excellent schools.
- Modernization of our facilities and improvement of our infrastructure.
- Ongoing economic development to increase our commercial tax base.



Economic Development: Hands-on for Jim Zeoli

ORANGE CONTINUES TO GROW



Firelite Commons has been completed and contains 72 housing units plus commercial space.



Racebrook Medical Center, housing Connecticut Orthopaedics and Hartford Healthcare is now open.



Lascana housing development includes 46 units including 36 units of affordable housing.



Storage Mart has recently completed construction on Salem Lane.



Charter Senior Living of Orange has been completed.



Noble Gas is coming to Orange. Demolition is being completed and construction will start soon.

In 1997, the Town of Orange and a group of Orange businesses created the **Orange Economic Development Corporation (OEDC)**.

Jim Zeoli works closely with Annemarie Sliby, OEDC Executive Director, taking a comprehensive approach to building our local economy. He maintains a close relationship with local realtors, State of Connecticut agencies, and various groups to aggressively seek out opportunities.

Jim is committed to responsible development.

When a developer of affordable housing came to Jim with a proposal to build on the Post Road trailer park site, concerned about the safety of children accessing school buses on the Post Road, he

proposed a better location on Smith Farm Road and connected the developer with the owner of the property.

The Lascana development has been completed and contains 46 housing units, including 36 units of affordable housing on Smith Farm Road. The trailer park site now contains Racebrook Medical Center, housing Connecticut Orthopaedics and Hartford Healthcare, a more suitable development for that location.

Over the years, Jim Zeoli and his team have worked with many new companies that have come to Orange.

A STRONG RECORD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ORANGE.



One of Jim Zeoli's early efforts was to revive the **Fieldstone Village** project in 2009, a project that was rejected by the previous Democratic administration. Fieldstone is now a major source of tax revenue for Orange.

Jim brought Marsh Hill Road property owners together with United Illuminating, resulting in the opening of the **UI Operations Center and Corporate Headquarters** in 2012.

With the completion of the Edison Road extension, a project supported by state grants, businesses including **V.A. Health Center, Aurora Products, and Eastern Tech Corporation** located here. In addition, we have benefited significantly from the rise in online shopping with the addition of **FedEx** and **Amazon** distribution centers in Orange.

Building Orange's Future

The Town of Orange is undertaking a comprehensive recreational use study for Fred Wolfe Park

The Orange Board of Selectmen has engaged BL Companies to gather and review existing information on the park's current conditions, along with anticipated uses and potential improvements, with a focus on safety, security, and environmental stewardship.

The Fred Wolfe Park Committee, led by Selectman John Carangelo, has provided a series of workshops to allow for comment by the public and aid in planning for these important improvements.



Progress has been made with the completion of a playground, new paving, and traffic control signage. A final draft plan was completed in September.

This project will help ensure that Fred Wolfe Park can serve as a valuable recreational resource for the community for years to come.



New paving at Fred Wolfe Park.



The Town of Orange applies for and receives many grants. These have impacted improvements to town buildings, paving our roads, replacing the Derby-Milford Road bridge, and the acquisition of open space.

In May of 2025 we received a \$600,000 STEAP grant that will be used for a variety of capital improvements. These include paving, guardrail replacement, and other needed projects. An additional grant now pending will support renovations to the kitchen at High Plains Community Center.

Grants:

- Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)
- Local Bridge Program (CTDOT)
- Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)
- Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program

ORANGE BOARD OF FINANCE



**Ajeet
Jain**

- Professor of Finance
Central Connecticut State University
- Former Director of the MBA program
Alabama A&M University
- Ph.D. in Finance, Florida International University
- MBA from Alabama A&M University
- B.S. University of Delhi
- Orange Board of Finance 8 years

"As an Associate Professor of Finance at Central Connecticut State University and the former Director of the MBA program at Alabama A&M University, I have gained extensive experience in the field of finance."

"I am committed to keeping taxes low while providing the highest support possible for community services, infrastructure improvements and excellent schools."



**Joseph
Nuzzo**

- B.S. in accounting, University of Rhode Island
- B.S. Business Administration/Management, SCSU
- M.B.A. Degree in Finance, University of New Haven

Joe's community service includes Orange Soccer Association youth soccer coach, Orange Little League baseball coach, current Board Member of the Amity Club, a civic and philanthropic organization in New Haven, and Past President and Board Member of the Boys'/Girls' Club of New Haven

"I ask the townspeople of Orange for your vote to provide the opportunity to apply my extensive financial experience and expertise to continue the recent tradition of fiscal responsibility and straightforward leadership."

WHY IS OUR CREDIT RATING SO STRONG?



- ➔ Strong Town Management
- ➔ Efficient fiscal Policies.
- ➔ Strong Economic Development.
- ➔ Solid Fund Balance.
- ➔ Fully Funding our Pension Obligations.

**AAA RATING DECREASES OUR BOND INTEREST RATES
SO WE PAY LESS INTEREST FOR BORROWING.**

CONSTABLES



Jody Daymon



Michael Donadeo



Gary Palermo



Jeff Vargo

TOWN PLANNING AND ZONING



**Kevin
Cornell**

- Currently Serving on the Zoning Commission
- B.E. Mechanical Engineering, Stevens Institute of Technology
- J. D. University of Bridgeport School of Law (now Quinnipiac College School of Law)
- Professional Engineer, New York State

Kevin Cornell is a Real Estate Development professional with over 30 years of experience in all facets of commercial and residential real estate development and construction. He is employed by Midwood Investment and Development.

"As a resident of Orange for 32 years I feel an obligation to give back to the community that helped raise and educate my children and allow my family to enjoy the wonderful quality of life that Orange offers. My work experience aligns precisely with the demands of the Planning and Zoning Commission"



**Jay
McGuire**

- Currently Serving on the Zoning Commission
- B.S Math, Computer Science, Roger Williams University
- Chief Technology Officer, Ivy Biomedical Systems

Living in Orange for 35 years Jay McGuire has deep roots in our community. His longtime involvement in the Orange Country Fair, was sparked by his father-in-law, William Sperry. He was appointed to serve on the Town Planning and Zoning Commission in 2025.

Jay was a business owner in Orange operating Iron Boot, Inc., before becoming the Chief Technology Officer at Ivy Biomedical Systems, a company that specializes in cardiac and respiratory gating monitors for medical imaging.



**Oscar
Parente**

- Chairman, Orange Planning and Zoning Commission
- Member of TPZ for 15 years
- B.A. Villanova University
- J. D. University of Bridgeport School of Law (now Quinnipiac College School of Law)

Oscar "Ozzie" Parente's knowledge is extensive, having served on the Planning and Zoning Commission for 15 years. He is an attorney engaged in the private practice of law, focusing on the areas of real estate law, corporate finance, commercial law and contracting, and the representation of buyers and sellers of various types of business organizations.

Earlier in his career Ozzie was Vice-President and General Counsel of a large Connecticut manufacturer. He was a key member of the company's executive staff while overseeing all aspects of the company's legal affairs.



ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Jeffery
Cap**

- Chairman, Orange Board of Education
- Chief Information Officer
- Former Technology Teacher
- Boy Scout Leader & Trainer
- Knights of Columbus Member Third Degree

Jeff has served as a community volunteer for many organizations in Orange, including the Orange Country Fair, Holy Infant Church, and website administrator for nonprofit groups.

Excellent education is a top priority, but having safe and secure school buildings is also important. Access to modern technology will assist students, faculty, and staff in achieving success.

"I will continue the work of building on our tradition of excellence on behalf of every child we have the privilege to educate."



**Tatiana
Messina Mullen**

- Vice Chair, Orange Board of Education
- B.A. Villanova University
- J.D. New York Law School
- Senior Assistant State's Attorney

Tatiana grew up in Orange and is a product of the excellent Orange school system. After continuing her education and starting her own family, she moved back to Orange, where she lives with her husband and daughter.

"As both a candidate and the mother of a 9-year-old daughter who is enjoying her journey through the Orange Public Schools, it is important that we all work together to make sure that all students obtain the best possible educational experience that will benefit them throughout the years."

"By working collaboratively, we can foster a safe and welcoming school environment so the children of our close-knit community feel comfortable."



**Ronnette
James**

- Orange Board of Education, 2021 to 2025
- 3rd Grade Teacher
- B.S. in Elementary Education, SCSU
- M.S. in Reading, SCSU
- Certified Teacher/Reading Specialist

Ronnette has been active in the Orange community for 20 years. As a mom, she served as PTO president at Peck Place School and worked on several town committees with passion and enthusiasm.

"I care deeply about our students and community. My experience, dedication, and vision will help us continue building strong schools and a bright future for our children."

"As a board member, I know we can take our excellent schools to the next level, ensuring our students have greater opportunities and our teachers have the support they need."



**Amanda
Vargo Zapatka**

- Member Orange Board of Education
- B.A. Fairfield University
- M.S. Elementary Education, SCSU
- Reading Aide Peck Place School
- Pre-K Teacher St. Mary School Milford
- Children's Coordinator, Kingdom Life Christian Church

"I am passionate about education and deeply invested in our community. As a lifelong resident, I attended the Orange and Amity school systems and was honored as a Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete. I credit my experience here for providing a strong academic foundation and preparation for college and beyond."

"As a member of the Orange Board of Education, I remain committed to preserving the high standards of traditional education, ensuring our schools stay among the top in the state and continue to prepare our children for bright futures."



**Meghan
Rabuse**

- B.B.A. Finance and Business Economics, University of Notre Dame
- 7 years, Wall Street Investment Management
- Co-President, Turkey Hill School PTO
- Mother of 3

"I was raised in a classroom. My mother is a retired public school teacher, and both my husband and I were public school graduates. We moved to Orange specifically for its strong public school systems.

Our great public schools are no accident. They are a direct result of excellent teachers and administrators who work together with engaged students and parents to keep sound academics at the forefront of our children's educational experience. I look forward to serving on the Amity Board of Education to preserve that tradition, while also maintaining fiscally responsible budgets for our community."



**Christian
Young**

- Former Orange Board of Education Member
- B.A. Calvin College
- J.D. Quinnipiac School of Law, 1998
- State and Federal Litigation Attorney

"I am a Turkey Hill parent of two boys, both of whom started school in our town at MLT. Over the years, I have been consistently impressed with the quality of our school administrators, teachers and support staff, and the resulting growth of our children in their care.

It is no mystery why our town enjoys such acclaim for its educational system – involved parents who encourage and are encouraged by exceptional education professionals working together for the education, safety, and future of our children.

I look forward to moving on to serve on the Amity Board of Education."



TOWN CLERK

**Mary
Shaw**

- B.S. Industrial Technology, CCSU
- M.S. Counseling in Higher Education, SCSU
- Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, Town of Orange 2012-2019
- Orange Board of Education - Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent 2019 – 2023

Mary has done an excellent job during her time as our Town Clerk. Her extensive experience working closely with all of Orange's municipal offices makes her uniquely qualified.



TAX COLLECTOR

**Tom
Hurley**

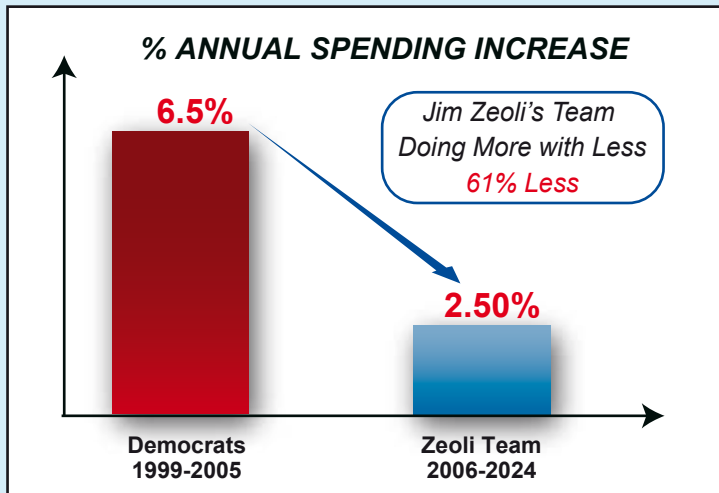
- B.S. Michigan State University
- M.S. Economics, Wayne State University
- PMI—Project Management
- APBM, Certified Business Manager
- USAF Veteran (Captain) and Sr Vice Commander American Legion

Tom Hurley has been dedicated to the people of Orange for many years. He is uniquely qualified to serve as Tax Collector. Tom has achieved a 99% plus collection rate.

SPENDING AND YOUR TAXES

Democrats are once again proposing increased spending that is wasteful. In past years they called for spending down our rainy day fund. Now they propose spending on a new economic development director, a position that would be redundant; expensive, unneeded changes to the town's website; and rushing to borrow \$750,000 for a project that has been started without borrowing.

Even small spending increases that build up year after year can have a significant long-term impact on taxes over time.



During the last Democratic administration, spending increases averaged 6.5% per year.

Under Jim Zeoli, average spending increased 2.50% per year from 2006 - 2024.*

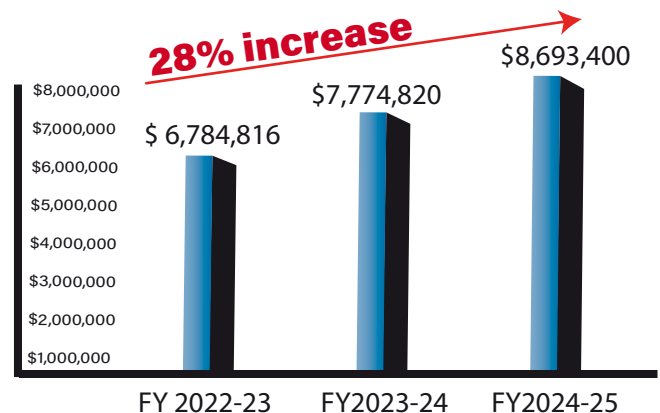
* Data from Town records; analysis completed by Republican OBOF members

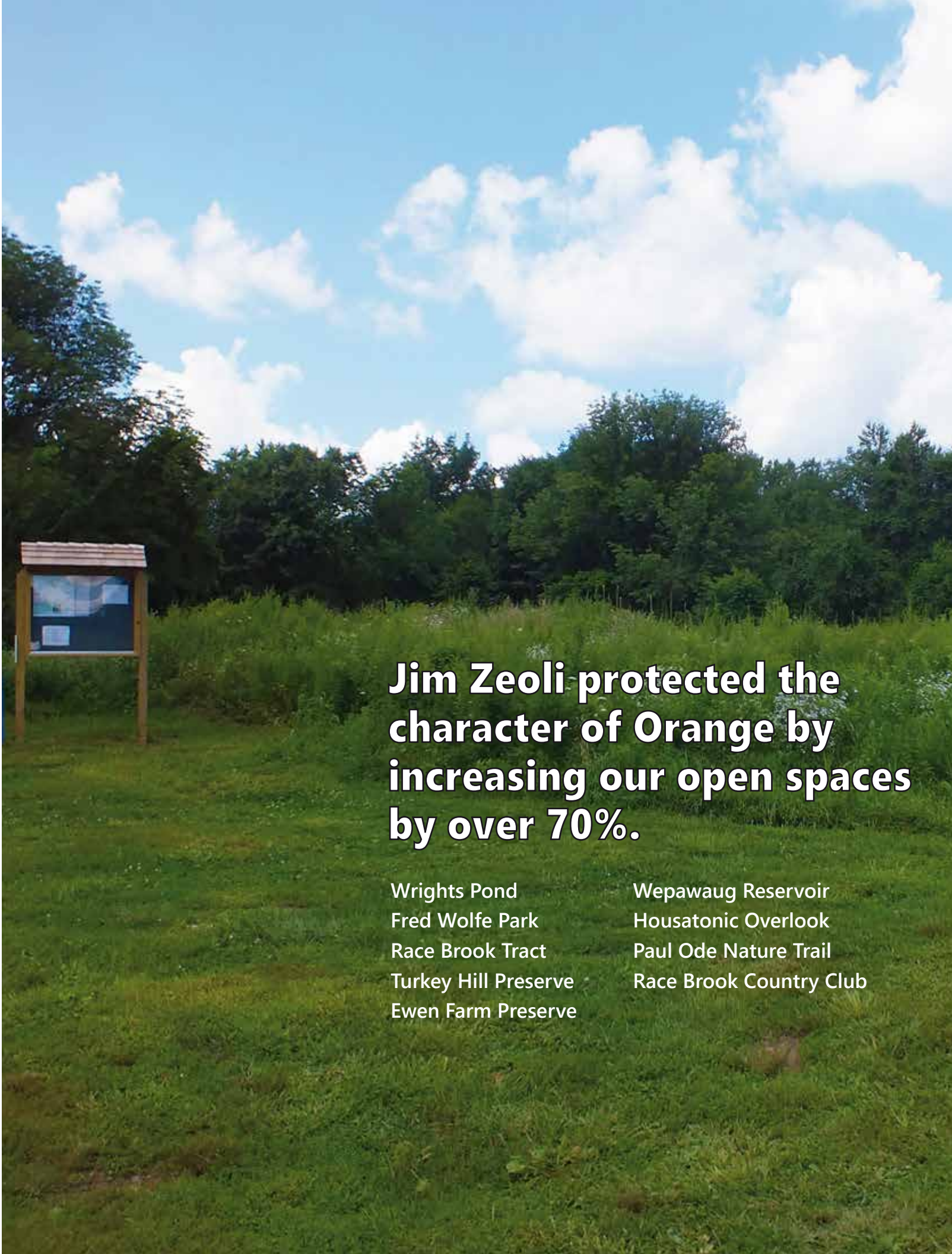
DESPITE HEADWINDS CAUSED BY INFLATION AND STATE-MANDATED REVALUATION, JIM ZEOLI'S TEAM HAS KEPT SPENDING AND TAXES UNDER CONTROL.

- Fiscal policies implemented by Jim Zeoli's administration have maintained our S&P rating of AAA.
- Using conservative budgeting practices and spending controls, \$1,258,286 was cut from our current budget on Town Operations Expenditures.
- 56% of increase in town side expense is driven by employee benefits.
- Over 61% of the Orange budget supports our excellent schools, both Orange Elementary and Amity Regional.

Economic Development plays a major role in the mitigation of your tax burden. In addition to property tax, businesses also pay tax on equipment and vehicles.

Business Personal Property Tax Revenue





**Jim Zeoli protected the
character of Orange by
increasing our open spaces
by over 70%.**

Wrights Pond
Fred Wolfe Park
Race Brook Tract
Turkey Hill Preserve
Ewen Farm Preserve

Wepawaug Reservoir
Housatonic Overlook
Paul Ode Nature Trail
Race Brook Country Club

RE-ELECT
FIRST SELECTMAN
Jim Zeoli

STAY THE COURSE



Economic Growth

Strong economic development efforts continue. Local businesses help to reduce the burden on residential taxpayers.

Strong Town Management

We are able to maintain reasonable taxes and low bonding costs thanks to strong town management. This enables us to support our excellent schools and improve our infrastructure. We also assist our senior citizens and veterans through helpful services and tax relief initiatives.

Keeping Orange Green

In Orange, we value our open spaces. During Jim Zeoli's time as First Selectman we have increased open space by over 70%.

Communication

All meetings of our Boards and Commissions are open to the public and include public participation. Many of our residents volunteer to serve on committees providing valuable input. Access to our First Selectman is readily available.

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Paid for by the Orange Republican Town Committee, Despina Esposito,, Treasurer
Paid for by the Friends of Zeoli, Kevin Houlihan - Treasurer, approved by Jim Zeoli

**VOTE ROW B
NOV 4**