



Orange County Register Endorses Ray Grangoff for Orange City Council

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Orange, at more than 135,000 residents, is one of the largest cities in the county. It might be difficult to fathom for anyone who has traversed its historic downtown and experienced its small-town charm, but Orange is a city of thriving growth.

To represent that diverse population, with largely diverging interests, the city needs principled leaders who can resist the pull of special interest groups and continue on the path to budget stability, pension reform and encouraging improvements to the business climate.

Fred Whitaker and Ray Grangoff best represent those needs and receive the Register's endorsement.

Mr. Whitaker, an incumbent, has proven himself a fiscal steward and advocate for the taxpayer. When Mr. Whitaker joined the council, it had passed three deficit budgets in row, suffered from declining revenue and depleting reserves.

During his time on council, Mr. Whitaker has worked tirelessly to reverse the city's fortunes, growing revenue without raising taxes, by eliminating council compensation, stripping the budget of pork and contracting out nonessential services.

Along with being a stalwart on the necessity of further pension reform, and with work left undone, the Register Editorial Board sees no reason for Mr. Whitaker not to continue on the City Council.

Joining him should be Mr. Grangoff, a government relations manager for the Orange County Sheriff's Department and former planning commissioner, who offered a fiscally prudent and business-friendly approach to government that would be a welcome addition to the council.

One of his first acts as a councilman, he told us, would be to propose the elimination of business license fees, because he believes no one should be punished for bringing business into the city.

Further, he told us that the expense of local government is increasing at an “unnatural” rate and that the rising cost of compensation threatened to crowd out necessary services like public safety and infrastructure unless the council did more to get them under control.

For those who want the city of Orange to live within its means and continue toward the most solid of financial footings, voters could find no better choices for City Council than Mr. Whitaker and Mr. Grangoff.