

Orleans Select Board – FY26 Goals (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

At a meeting on July 23, 2025, the Select Board discussed and approved the following policy goals and objectives for Town government for the Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).

Orleans Select Board annually selects goals and objectives which embody its core values to preserve the best of the past, facilitate effective, participatory local government in collaboration with the Town Manager and staff, boards and committees (“multi-member bodies”), as guided through town meeting actions.

Philosophy

We commit to improving the quality of life for our residents and the health of our natural environment. We encourage our departments and multi-member bodies to bring forward bold, innovative, and achievable initiatives grounded in thoughtful, well-analyzed strategies that consider both immediate and long-term impacts.

The Select Board recognizes the values and importance of:

- Governance: effective, responsive, and transparent
- Financial Management: budget and capital planning to maintain financial stability and sustainability
- Infrastructure: that is well-designed, maintained, reliable, and provides the highest level of service
- Schools: that deliver best-in-class educational outcomes
- Housing: attainable housing for our year-round community
- Economy: protect and promote the vitality of the Town and local Businesses
- Sustainability: manage our energy use in a climate-responsible manner, reduce carbon emissions, and conserve natural resources. Emphasize the health of our environment and the well-being of Orleans’ residents
- Quality of Life: responsive Town Services for Orleans citizens at all stages of life

Goals and Objectives

1. Organizational

- a. Support Effective Governance
 - i. Review current multi-member body charges and provide professional guidance to multi-member bodies to ensure compliance with legal requirements, Open Meeting Law and improved communication to enhance the volunteer experience.
 - ii. Promote and move ahead on voted plans through cross-committee collaboration on Select Board and Town Manager goals, where multiple boards have shared responsibilities. Examples include:
 1. Housing Plan review to include PB, ZBA, EDC, AHT, AHC, Open Space, Historic Commission
 2. Economic Development Plan where parts belong to EDC, PB, OCD, Chamber, ARC, Historic Commission
 3. Climate Leader Community: PB, Bd of Health, DPW, ECAC, Historic Commission, OKHC;
 4. Human Services Investment and Planning: Rec, HSAC, OCD, Library, COA, Bd of Health (BoH).
 5. Continue to leverage resources with active state, county and any/all regional organizations
- b. Enhance Performance process for direct reports to the Select Board
- c. Complete review/revision of all Select Board policies (including the Charter Land Acknowledgement)
- d. Strengthen enforcement, advocacy and compliance with:
 - i. Short-term rental registration
 - ii. Noise bylaw
 - iii. Drought restrictions
 - iv. Signs
 - v. Outdoor lighting
 - vi. Fertilizer and Pesticides bylaws
 - vii. Zoning reforms
 - viii. Comprehensive Plan

- e. Expand our 21st century communications platforms for increased customer service across residential, commercial and visitor needs, including standardized processes to list, register, discover, purchase, evaluate and report across silos of activities

2. Fiscal Management

- a. Prioritize hiring a Director of Municipal Finance
- b. Manage town assets through timely investments while continuing to maintain AAA bond rating
- c. Explore the options of a Residential Tax Exemption including the applicability and timing of implementation in Orleans
- d. Initiate a long-term capital planning framework, that presents investment opportunities beyond the 5-year CIP, with clearly defined responsibilities and accountability measures
- e. Invest in infrastructure of the Town that supports the Blue Economy, including public access and recreation at:
 - i. Rock Harbor
 - ii. 72 Tonset Road development (resident parking, kayak racks, water access/moorings)
- f. Continue comprehensive review of Enterprise Fund performance to balance service delivery, fee equity and taxpayer impact (i.e. subsidy)
 - i. Beaches (Enterprise Fund) – recognized as biggest supporter of economic development, analyze License Plate Recognition (LPR) & sticker data, improve mobile services and long-term retreat plan facilities/services
 - ii. Transfer Station (Enterprise Fund)
 - 1. Advance food composting and expand leaf composting, in coordination with the BoH, and increase Annual Grant Program.
 - 2. Document percentage of annual solid waste reduction and analyze user data to continue to improve the efforts of waste reduction and efficiency.
- g. Explore additional ways to offset the taxpayer burden including allocation of Cannabis Revenues.

3. **Infrastructure** projects that rely on financial and performance analysis to plan timing of implementation that considers debt drop-off, financial relief programs and smoothing of taxpayer impact, including:
 - a. Sewers: Support the work of the Wastewater Advisory Committee recommendations including implementation of the Comprehensive Wastewater Resource Management Plan (CWRMP) phases
 - i. Continue to work with Town of Eastham leaders to explore the creation of a watershed permit for Nauset Estuary and Rock Harbor consistent with new MassDEP regulations
 - b. Fire-Rescue: Advance the new station design to prepare a construction funding request to Fall 2025 or May 2026 Town Meeting
 - c. Advance Enhanced Broadband access for residents and businesses
 - d. Complete Wayfinding signage program
 - e. Eldredge Parkway roadway widening from Lot's Hollow Intersection to Rte 6A

4. **Schools** – collaborate on issues that impact the Town, including:
 - a. New Nauset Regional School District (NRSD) Agreement
 - b. Completion of the Brewster, Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet Elementary School Regionalization & Efficiency Study
 - c. As part of the townwide building assessment, prioritize facility needs of Orleans Elementary School
 - d. Consider article for future Town Meeting to provide separate Town Operating Budget and School Budgets

5. **Housing initiatives**
 - i. Monitor occupancy at Phare (former CC 5/Pennrose) and the 107 Main St developments
 - ii. Advance the Gov. Prence project(s)

- iii. Advance the 44 Main St project (6 affordable units, community space, public restrooms, basement); prioritize Modular, Net Zero approach.
- iv. Evaluate implementation of Lease to Locals program
- v. Explore town-owned properties for housing potential, including:
 - 1. Former Hubler Motel (at Nauset Beach upper pkg)
 - 2. Gavigan Cottages
 - 3. Bay Ridge Lane (former Parks & Highway)
 - 4. Track achievement of goal of 350 new housing units

6. Environmental Sustainability

- a. Achieve Climate Leader designation by the Commonwealth of Mass
- b. Advance the Town meeting voted solar projects
- c. Review position of Tree Warden to determine if it meets current expectations for native plantings, lawn maintenance, water usage, fertilizers/pesticides, pruning and plantings
- d. Continue plastics reduction measures through achievable actions such as reducing single-use plastic straws, utensils, etc. in coordination with BoH

7. Quality of Life

- a. Advance the Eldredge Park Playground area project
- b. Advance the multi-modal Depot Square redesign
- c. Continue ways to look for opportunities to ease the cost burden on taxpayers, including support early childhood education, after-school programming, recreation access, intern programs to enhance livability.
- d. Identify opportunities to invest in space for future municipal needs
- e. Upon completion of the Facilities Assessment, work with our community partners to plan investment in future community needs (i.e., Library, Community Center).

8. Goals Review

- a. Implement a quarterly status check on progress at a Select Board meeting in the following months: **October, January, March/April and June/July.**

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