

CONSTITUTIONAL REBOOT ACT

the goal, the changes, & the implementation plan

reform outline by NH Governor candidate Daniel James Schmidt

Overview & Table of Contents

New Hampshire's strength has always been its community-minded attitude: limited government, strong local control, personal responsibility, and constitutional discipline. Over time, however, even well-intentioned governance accumulates complexity. Statutes multiply. Precedents compound. Regulatory systems expand incrementally beyond their original scope, increasing complexity and reducing transparency.

The Constitutional Reboot is a structured, phased effort to realign state governance with constitutional first principles—without raising taxes, disrupting daily life for families, or destabilizing institutions to the point of chaos.

This initiative preserves what defines New Hampshire while installing durable guardrails to prevent drift and reactionary overcorrection and allowing municipalities to pursue locally approved growth strategies consistent with community character.

We are clarifying our cultural direction and installing structural guardrails to reach it safely and constitutionally.

It will:

- Maintain the current tax structure—no income tax, no sales tax
- Strengthen public safety and prioritize harm-prevention over arbitrary enforcement
- Shift justice toward restitution and proportional response over mandatory punishments
- Ensure licensing systems protect safety without unnecessary entrenchment
- Require sunset clauses and constitutional impact statements for major legislation
- Improve transparency and plain-language clarity across government
- Redirect enforcement energy toward holistic public benefit over isolated metric success

All reforms proceed through public hearings, fiscal review, and phased implementation. Early efforts focus on alignment and clarity. Later phases institutionalize renewal mechanisms and constitutional review standards so that government corrects itself by design.

The objective is not just fast change. It is precision, stability, and durable public consent.

When complete, New Hampshire will not look radically different. It will look more disciplined, more transparent, and more resilient—with clearer authority, smarter enforcement, and governance that grows with intention, not by inertia.

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More NH Than Ever

Before discussing reform, it is important to begin with reassurance.

The Constitutional Reboot is not a departure from New Hampshire's identity—it is a return to it. Our towns, our forests, our lakes, our local control, and our independent spirit are not on the negotiating table. They are the foundation this effort is built to protect.

This proposal does not seek to centralize power, expand bureaucracy, or rewrite the character of our state. It seeks to clarify authority, restore constitutional balance, and strengthen the local institutions that have always made New Hampshire distinct.

Residents should expect more transparency, clearer laws, and a justice system oriented toward responsibility and repair—not disruption of daily life, not erosion of town governance, and not loss of the natural and civic traditions that define us.

This is not about becoming something new.
It is about becoming more New Hampshire than ever.

What Stays the Same

The Constitutional Reboot does not disrupt the core structure of life in New Hampshire. It reinforces it.

1. The Current Tax Structure for Citizens

New Hampshire's existing tax framework will remain intact. No income tax, no sales tax. This proposal does not introduce new broad-based taxes, nor does it increase the tax burden on typical residents. Families and small businesses should expect fiscal stability and predictability, even as entrepreneurship and tourism expand.

2. Family Towns Remain Family Towns

Local character, zoning autonomy, and town-level decision-making remain protected. The people closest to a community will continue to shape that community. No state-level overhaul will override the independent culture that defines New Hampshire towns.

3. Historic Downtowns & Cultural Sites

Our historic districts, town commons, and heritage landmarks are not relics—they are

living anchors of identity. This plan prioritizes meaningful preservation through smart stewardship, ensuring that revitalization never becomes erasure.

4. Environment & Recreation Areas

New Hampshire's forests, lakes, mountains, and public lands will remain protected. Environmental stewardship will be managed with disciplined precision—balancing conservation, recreation, and economic opportunity. Tourism can grow responsibly, without degrading the natural systems that make it possible.

5. Independent Farmers & Local Agriculture

Local farmers are essential to food resilience, land stewardship, and rural vitality. This proposal strengthens support for independent agriculture, reduces unnecessary regulatory burden, and ensures that family farms remain viable contributors to New Hampshire's long-term health.

What Improves

The Constitutional Reboot does not merely preserve what works — it strengthens it. New Hampshire will not become something unfamiliar. It will become more distinctly itself.

1. More “Live Free or Die” Than Ever

Individual liberty will be reinforced through clearer laws, tighter constitutional alignment, and reduced administrative ambiguity. Freedom does not thrive in confusion. It thrives in clarity. When authority is defined and limited, citizens gain room to act confidently and independently.

2. Stronger Public Safety, Accountable Priorities

Police, firefighters, emergency medical services, and non-emergency community response systems will be better supported and better funded. Public safety professionals deserve stability and modern tools, and tenured first responders should have salaries that reflect their importance to community and economic stability. Funding structures will prioritize community well-being over outside contracting incentives or profit-driven arrangements. Public institutions must serve residents first. Beyond State efforts, stipends will be available to U.S. veterans who participate in organized community emergency support corps, strengthening disaster response and local resilience.

3. Justice Focused on Restitution and Deterrence

Justice will move away from systems that perpetuate cycles of punishment without repair.

Where appropriate, restitution—measurable repair to victims and communities—will take priority. Deterrence will remain firm and clear, but the goal will be restoration of social balance, not perpetual vengeance or bureaucratic throughput.

4. All-Age Public Education & System Clarity

Civic understanding will no longer be assumed—it will be cultivated. Public education, adult learning access, and transparent state communication will ensure residents understand how systems function and how to participate in them. A free state requires informed citizens. Clarity is a public good that the State must treat as a core responsibility of governance.

5. Innovation in Cities and Tourism

Municipalities and tourism sectors will be empowered to innovate responsibly. Smart growth, local entrepreneurship, cultural revitalization, and recreation development will be encouraged—without compromising environmental standards or community character. New Hampshire can grow economically and socially while remaining disciplined in stewardship.

What Funds It

The Constitutional Reboot is designed to strengthen New Hampshire without increasing the tax burden on residents. Funding mechanisms prioritize fairness, local benefit, and economic realism. Any revenue generated beyond operational needs will be directed toward debt reduction or long-term reserve stabilization.

1. Out-of-State Contribution to Public Lands & Tourism Infrastructure

New Hampshire's trails, parks, lakes, and recreation areas attract millions of visitors each year. Enhanced non-resident user fees for certain high-traffic amenities can ensure that preservation, maintenance, and emergency services are sustainably funded—without burdening residents who steward these spaces year-round.

2. Modernized “Sin Tax” Framework

Existing excise structures will be modernized to reflect actual public health costs and behavioral impacts. Where consumption imposes measurable public costs, funding streams should offset those costs transparently. This includes revisiting enforcement-heavy approaches that generate little public benefit.

3. Law Enforcement Cost Reallocation & Regulated Production Reform

Redirecting resources away from low-level drug enforcement and toward regulated local production frameworks—particularly for substances with emerging therapeutic research—can reduce enforcement costs while generating licensing revenue. Regulation, transparency, and safety standards replace black-market economics and incarceration expenses.

4. Scaled Licensing for Large Corporations

Large, out-of-state corporations operating in New Hampshire will meet clearer licensing requirements and contribute proportionately to the infrastructure and regulatory systems that support their operations. This is not anti-business—it is pro-fairness. Scale requires responsibility.

5. Relief for Small Businesses & Entrepreneurs

Local businesses and independent entrepreneurs will benefit from streamlined compliance, reduced regulatory friction, and lighter licensing burdens. The goal is to reward productive risk-taking—not entrench corporate advantage.

Constitutional Anchoring

Over time, governing systems accumulate complexity. Precedent expands. Regulatory structures evolve. While often well-intentioned, this gradual expansion can create distance between constitutional principles and daily governance.

The Constitutional Reboot establishes structured mechanisms to restore alignment with New Hampshire's Constitution and to prevent future drift as the state grows. These reforms do not weaken institutions. They clarify authority, reinforce accountability, and reassert constitutional primacy as the governing standard.

Competitive Professional Access & Constitutional Equity

Professional licensing exists to protect public safety and maintain standards of care. It must not function as an unnecessary barrier to entry or a de facto monopoly insulated from review.

This reform initiates a structured evaluation of major licensing systems—including legal and medical licensing—to ensure:

- Clear constitutional authority for licensing requirements
- Proportional standards tied directly to public safety outcomes
- Reciprocity and alternative pathways where appropriate
- Transparency in disciplinary and admission processes

The goal is not deregulation for its own sake. It is constitutional equity: access based on competence and safety, not institutional entrenchment. Professional standards of care will remain outcome-based while preserving rigorous safety standards and respecting informed consumer choice within lawful practice frameworks.

Periodic Constitutional Review & Precedent Re-Evaluation

Stare decisis must balance providing stability without undermining the Judiciary's separation of power when blindly adhered to. Precedent must remain subordinate to

constitutional text and demonstrable constitutional intent. Stability is valuable, but it cannot override constitutional meaning.

A formal review mechanism will be established to:

- Identify statutes and administrative rules potentially misaligned with constitutional text
- Re-evaluate long-standing precedents where drift is demonstrated
- Require explicit constitutional citation in major regulatory decisions

This review process respects institutional continuity while restoring constitutional primacy as the ultimate authority.

Personal Liberty & Proportional Enforcement Reform

Articles 2 and 3 of the New Hampshire Constitution recognize natural rights and the pursuit of happiness as foundational principles.

Criminal enforcement policies will be reviewed to ensure proportionality and constitutional alignment, particularly regarding private conduct that does not demonstrably harm others.

The state will:

- Reallocate enforcement resources toward harm-based offenses
- Transition toward health-focused and proportional responses to personal consumption
- Maintain strict regulation of production, distribution, and public consumption to protect families and communities

Liberty and order are not opposites. They require balance and clarity.

Legislation Sunset Clauses & Impact Statements

To prevent future constitutional drift, new legislation must meet a higher structural standard before becoming permanent law.

Major statutory and regulatory expansions will include:

- Automatic sunset clauses, requiring affirmative legislative renewal after a defined period
- Performance evaluation benchmarks clearly stated at the time of passage
- Constitutional impact statements identifying the specific constitutional authority under which the law is enacted
- Least-restrictive-means justification explaining why the proposed measure is necessary and proportionate

No law should endure by inertia alone. Renewal should require evidence of effectiveness, constitutional alignment, and continued public necessity.

This framework does not make legislation impossible. It makes it disciplined.

By requiring clarity at inception and review over time, New Hampshire ensures that growth in governance remains intentional, limited, and accountable.

Enforcement Prioritization Standards

State enforcement resources will be directed first toward:

- Harm to persons
- Harm to personal property & local infrastructure
- Deterring overt threats

Lower-level procedural infractions will be addressed proportionally and, where appropriate, through restorative mechanisms.

This reform does not weaken enforcement. It sharpens it.

Public trust increases when enforcement is clearly aligned with community safety.

Structural Reforms

The Constitutional Reboot is not a single statutory amendment. It is a coordinated legislative undertaking requiring systematic updates across multiple sections of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated (RSAs).

Given its scope, this initiative must proceed through the formal Legislative Service Request (LSR) process before all individual changes are articulated and debated.

For those unfamiliar, an LSR is the structured procedure through which proposed legislation is drafted, reviewed, and assigned bill numbers prior to introduction. It ensures that statutory language is professionally constructed, cross-referenced, and legally coherent before entering committee review.

The Constitutional Reboot will require:

- Targeted amendments to existing RSAs
- Creation of structured review and sunset mechanisms
- Adjustments to enforcement prioritization statutes
- Updates to professional licensing provisions
- Codification of constitutional impact statement requirements

Rather than presenting thousands of lines of statutory language upfront, this proposal establishes the guiding framework under which LSRs will be filed and refined in consultation with legislative counsel, committee members, and subject-matter experts.

The scale of this undertaking is significant. It will require:

- Cross-committee coordination
- Public hearings
- Fiscal review
- Constitutional analysis
- Phased drafting and implementation

The objective is not speed alone. It is precision, stability, and durable public consent. Where executive authority is used, it will be exercised narrowly and temporarily to support legislative action and community autonomy—not to bypass it.

Each reform area identified in this document will correspond to specific RSA modifications, introduced transparently and debated openly within the established legislative process.

Structural reform must ground constitutional drift decisively while avoiding reactionary overcorrection in the opposite direction. Lasting efficiency comes from disciplined alignment—not pendulum swings.

Integration Plan

The Constitutional Reboot will proceed in defined phases to ensure stability, legislative clarity, and public confidence. Reform of this scale must be disciplined, transparent, and measurable.

This is not a single-session overhaul. It is a structured realignment.

Phase I: Audit, Alignment, and Immediate Corrections

(First 6–12 Months)

The first phase focuses on grounding the most evident areas of constitutional drift without disrupting daily governance.

This phase will include:

- Establishment of a Constitutional Review Working Group in coordination with legislative leadership
- Filing initial LSRs addressing enforcement prioritization standards
- Drafting and introducing sunset clause and constitutional impact statement requirements
- Initiating professional licensing audits focused on transparency and reciprocity
- Reallocation analysis of low-level drug enforcement costs

Early legislation will prioritize clarity reforms that reduce complexity and increase transparency without creating institutional shock.

Deliverable Outcome:

A measurable reduction in enforcement misalignment and a codified framework for ongoing review.

Phase II: Structural Realignment

(Year 1–2)

With guardrails established, Phase II expands into deeper statutory updates.

This phase will include:

- Implementation of sunset review schedules across major regulatory bodies
- Structured precedent review mechanisms introduced in coordination with judicial stakeholders
- Formal adjustments to licensing pathways and reciprocity frameworks
- Deployment of regulated production and harm-reduction frameworks with clear community boundaries
- Funding realignment toward public safety compensation and emergency preparedness corps

At this stage, reform shifts from correction to structural optimization.

Deliverable Outcome:

A governance structure that reviews itself by design rather than by crisis.

Phase III: Institutionalizing Constitutional Discipline

(Year 2–3 and Ongoing)

The final phase focuses on embedding disciplined efficacy into the culture of governance.

This phase will include:

- Annual constitutional alignment reporting
- Legislative renewal schedules for sunset statutes that mitigate shutdown risk
- Enforcement outcome reporting tied to harm metrics, not financial or incarceration data
- Debt stabilization benchmarks tied to revenue reforms
- Public transparency dashboards summarizing regulatory changes in plain language

Reform becomes routine rather than exceptional.

Deliverable Outcome:

A self-correcting system resistant to both drift and reactionary overcorrection.

Conclusion

The Constitutional Reboot Act is not a reaction to a single issue, nor is it an attempt to remake New Hampshire in anyone else's image. It is a deliberate effort to restore clarity where complexity has accumulated, to reinforce constitutional boundaries where drift has occurred, and to ensure that future growth remains intentional rather than accidental.

This plan preserves what makes New Hampshire strong: its tax structure, its local control, its natural beauty, and its independent character. It strengthens public safety, sharpens enforcement around real harm, and shifts justice toward restitution and proportionality. It installs structural guardrails so that government corrects itself before imbalance becomes crisis.

Most importantly, it proceeds through established legislative processes, public hearings, fiscal review, and phased implementation rather than strong-arm leadership. Reform of this scale must be steady, transparent, and accountable. Change that lasts requires extensive communication and consent to prevent pendulum swings.

When the reboot is complete, nearly all New Hampshire communities will feel as familiar as they always have while communities that choose growth through local consent will have clearer pathways to pursue it. Daily life will remain grounded in the same towns, the same forests, the same community institutions. What will change is the clarity of authority, the transparency of governance, and the resilience of our constitutional structure.

This reboot isn't to impose the will of any individual or institution.

It restores the people's authority over their institutions—so New Hampshire remains disciplined, independent, and more itself than ever.