

Concord, New Hampshire

Mayor, Homelessness, City Policies, Communications, and Concord Hospital

Byron O. Champlin — Mayor of Concord

Byron O. Champlin is the Mayor of Concord, New Hampshire. He was first elected mayor in November 2023 and began serving in January 2024. He was reelected in 2025, with his current mayoral term extending through the next municipal election in 2027.

Champlin previously served on the Concord City Council for approximately 10 years. His background includes work with Lincoln Financial Group, where he worked from approximately 1991 through 2018. He has an M.A. in Journalism from Boston University and previously attended the University of Rhode Island.

Champlin has publicly identified as a Democrat. Concord's municipal elections are officially nonpartisan, so party affiliation is separate from the formal designation of the mayoral office.

His stated areas of focus as mayor have included economic development, public safety, housing affordability, infrastructure, financial management, and homelessness. He has also been involved with the city's Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness.

Mayor's Term and Candidacy

Champlin was elected mayor for his first term in 2023 and reelected in 2025. Concord holds municipal elections every two years, with the next mayoral election scheduled for 2027.

The mayor's office operates within Concord's council-manager form of government. The mayor chairs the City Council, while the city manager is responsible for the city's day-to-day administration.

Homelessness in Concord

Homelessness has been an ongoing issue in Concord and has been addressed through city government, nonprofit organizations, housing organizations, law enforcement, health-care organizations, and community groups.

Champlin has participated in the city's homelessness planning process. The Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness includes representatives from the city, Concord Police Department, Concord Hospital, Concord Housing and Redevelopment, Merrimack County Human Services, the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, Riverbend, CATCH Neighborhood Housing, the business community, faith organizations, and other community representatives.

Champlin has described homelessness as a national crisis with a local impact and has stated that Concord has been working to reduce the number of unhoused people in the city.

There have also been discussions about housing availability, shelter, encampments, mental-health services, substance-use services, and the availability of permanent housing.

Unattended Carts and Personal Belongings

I contacted the mayor after noticing several unattended carts and personal belongings around town. I asked whether the city was aware of the situation and whether there was a designated process for addressing abandoned carts or belongings in public areas.

The mayor responded that he was aware of carts containing belongings being seen on city streets. He explained that, as a general rule, the city does not remove the carts because they are often only temporarily unattended and the owner may be nearby, including inside a shop, restaurant, or coffee shop.

He also explained that personal belongings can include documents needed by an individual while they are working toward permanent housing. According to the mayor, separating an individual from those documents could extend the amount of time before that person is able to obtain permanent shelter.

The mayor further stated that when the city removes carts, it is legally obligated to retain and store the personal possessions so that they can be reclaimed. He identified the staff time and expense involved in that process as another reason the city generally does not remove the carts.

The mayor stated that he regrets the circumstances that result in people being without permanent housing and said that Concord has been working to reduce the number of unhoused people in the city.

Communication With Mayor Byron O. Champlin

Original Communication

Hello Mayor,

I'm contacting you because I've noticed several unattended carts and personal belongings around town. I wanted to bring this to the town's attention and ask whether the town is aware of the situation and whether there is a designated process for addressing abandoned carts or belongings in public areas.

Thank you for your time and for looking into this.

Thank you for all.

Sincerely and Respectfully.

Mayor's Response

Hi Dannielle:

Thanks for reaching out to me.

I'm aware of the situation with carts with belongings in them being seen on city streets. As a rule, we do not remove the carts, because they are usually only temporarily unattended. Often, the owner is in a shop/restaurant/coffee shop within eyesight of the cart. Also, the personal belongings sometimes include documents needed by that individual on the path to being housed. Separating the owner from the documents just extends the time before that person can be in permanent shelter.

Finally, if we remove the carts, the city is legally obligated to hold onto and store the personal possessions where they can be reclaimed. This entails significant staff time and expense.

I regret that we have circumstances in our city, state and nation that find people without a permanent roof over their head for a variety of reasons. We have been working to reduce the number of unhoused people in Concord, but it is a long, complicated process.

Thank you again for your email.

Welcoming City

Concord has been described as a Welcoming City. The city's welcoming-city approach concerns creating a community where residents and newcomers can participate in community life and access city services.

The policy has included language concerning race, ethnicity, and place of origin and efforts to encourage relationships between longtime residents and foreign-born members of the community.

A Welcoming City designation should be distinguished from a sanctuary city designation. They are not necessarily the same thing.

Sanctuary City Distinction

Concord is not generally described as a sanctuary city in the sense of having a policy that prevents federal immigration enforcement.

The distinction is important because a city can have policies intended to welcome immigrants or foreign-born residents without having a policy that prohibits cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Concord's police procedures concerning undocumented individuals have also been discussed separately from the city's Welcoming City designation.

Concord Hospital

Concord Hospital has been involved in a number of lawsuits, regulatory matters, financial disputes, and employee-related incidents over the years.

In 2008, the U.S. Department of Justice reached an agreement with Concord Hospital concerning allegations that the hospital failed to provide adequate communication services for deaf and hard-of-hearing patients. The hospital disputed the allegations and did not admit liability.

Other matters involving the hospital have included malpractice claims, employment disputes, and federal EMTALA litigation.

A significant financial dispute involved approximately \$8 million in Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital payments associated with payments made between 2011 and 2017. New Hampshire officials later determined that Concord Hospital had received payments that were not consistent with the state's methodology and sought to recover the money. The hospital challenged the state's position, and a federal court issued a preliminary injunction concerning the attempted recoupment.

The dispute should therefore be distinguished from a criminal fraud finding.

Concord Hospital Leadership

Michael Green was Concord Hospital's CEO through the end of 2013. Robert P. Steigmeyer became president and CEO in January 2014.

Steigmeyer had previously served as CEO of Community Medical Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania, before becoming Concord Hospital's president and CEO.

During his tenure at Concord, Concord Hospital acquired Lakes Region General Healthcare in 2021 after that organization had entered Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

Concord Hospital and Employment-Based Immigration

Concord Hospital has participated in employment-based immigration pathways.

Available Department of Labor records show 29 H-1B Labor Condition Applications covering 29 positions and 12 PERM labor-certification applications, all reported as certified, between 2019 and 2024.

The H-1B filings include specialized medical positions such as physicians in cardiology, endocrinology, neurology, anesthesiology, pulmonary and critical care, rheumatology, dermatology, and family medicine.

PERM labor certification is an employer-sponsored step that can support an employment-based permanent-residency application. Certification itself does not mean that an individual has received a green card.

These records document Concord Hospital's participation in established temporary-work-visa and employment-based permanent-residency pathways.

Ellis: <https://www.ellis.com/visa-sponsors/concord-hospital/h1b>

Concord Hospital Employee-Related Incidents

In 2024, former Concord Hospital nurse Lisa Richardson pleaded guilty in federal court after diverting fentanyl from an intensive-care patient's IV and replacing it with saline.

In 2025, a camera was discovered in a women's locker room located between the ICU and operating room.

Concord Hospital stated that the camera had been installed as part of an investigation involving a particular locker, that it did not record audio, and that its installation had not been authorized by senior leadership.

The hospital subsequently stated that its internal investigation identified the individuals responsible and that they were facing disciplinary action up to and including termination. The camera and recording were turned over to Concord Police.

The individuals involved in placing the camera have not been publicly named in the reporting reviewed. Management and senior leadership were not reported to have authorized the camera.

Concord Monitor: <https://www.concordmonitor.com/2025/08/28/concord-hospital-camera-privacy>

Community Medical Center and Robert Steigmeyer

Community Medical Center in Scranton has a separate history from Concord Hospital but is relevant because of Robert Steigmeyer's previous leadership there.

The hospital was originally established as Hahnemann Hospital in 1897 and later became Community Medical Center. It remained an independent nonprofit organization until its merger with Geisinger in 2012, becoming Geisinger Community Medical Center.

Steigmeyer served as its CEO before leaving for Concord Hospital in 2014. Geisinger subsequently became part of Risant Health in 2024.

Caliphate Capitol, Concord, N.H?

Also noted in Concord, New Hampshire, an Islamic mosque is being constructed. Islamic politicians are moving in. Seventy Islamic families now attend ceremonies in Concord, New Hampshire, and many are set to relocate. Sixty-three percent of the Islamic population is foreign.

"Open-Air and Illegal Air"

Concord, New Hampshire, had the "open-air" and "illegal-air" about it as soon as entering the city. It is the first time in Concord's history that it has had such a large population of undocumented migrants, and homelessness, carts, and encampments were sure to follow. I feel it is possible to follow one's intuition to the corruption.

Overall Understanding

The subjects discussed involve several different areas of Concord's government and community institutions.

The mayor's correspondence establishes his awareness of unattended carts and personal belongings in public areas and explains the city's stated approach to those circumstances.

Homelessness is an identified city issue involving housing, shelter, public services, health care, law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, and community organizations. Mayor Champlin has participated in the city's homelessness planning structure.

Concord's Welcoming City policy concerns the city's approach toward residents and newcomers, including foreign-born residents. That designation should be kept separate from the question of whether Concord is a sanctuary city.

Concord Hospital is a separate institution from city government, although hospital representatives have participated in community homelessness planning. The hospital also has its own history involving litigation, regulatory matters, financial disputes, immigration sponsorship, leadership changes, and employee-related incidents.

The various subjects should be kept factually distinct. The existence of one program, policy, organization, or incident does not by itself establish a connection between the others.

The purpose of bringing the information together is to provide a complete record of the topics discussed concerning Concord, the mayor, homelessness, Islamic politics, city policies, public observations, communications with city leadership, and Concord Hospital.