



October 2026

The Hollis Voter

Your Source for Election News



This photograph is by Robert Heyer. We are grateful for his many years capturing the heart of Hollis, and we thank his family for sharing this photograph.

Property Tax Relief Is Finally on the Ballot

by Senator Kevin Avar

Ballot questions aren't usually exciting. But after years of fighting for property tax relief, getting to tell your neighbors "you get to vote on this" feels good.

The legislature passed, and the governor signed, a bill putting a question before New Hampshire voters this November: should there be a cap on how quickly your local school district's property tax levy can grow? No petitions, no begging the school board, no getting outvoted at a sparsely attended meeting. Just you, the ballot, and a chance to say enough is enough.

Here's how it works: if three-fifths of voters in a school district say yes, that district's property tax levy can't grow faster than inflation plus the value of new construction added to the tax rolls. New homes and businesses still expand the tax base, and that growth is factored in. What ends is the assumption that a school board or administration can simply decide taxpayers will absorb another major spending increase.

A second part of the proposal would cap spending by the SAU — the school administrative unit, the central office bureaucracy above individual schools — at 6% of the total school budget.

That matters because schools should focus on outcomes: Are kids learning to read? Mastering math and science? Graduating ready for college, a career, or a trade? Too often those questions take a back seat while SAUs expand

central offices and add administrative layers. We should invest in effective teachers and strong classrooms — not a bigger administrative structure while enrollment declines.

I believe deeply in education, and in supporting every educational option available to parents and kids. Every child is different, and parents should be able to choose the setting that gives their child the best chance to succeed.

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Senator Avar Advances Election Integrity

In 2025, Senator Avar sponsored a bill (SB221) to amend NH RSA 654:39 and change the 10-year requirement for each town to review its voter rolls for accuracy and make it an annual review. This bill passed both the house and senate and was signed into law by Governor Ayotte.

Public confidence in elections is strengthened by accurate voter rolls that remove inactive, deceased, and ineligible voters. Nearly one-quarter of a million voters across the state were purged from the voter rolls after the 2020 election, resulting in a 20% reduction of the state voter rolls and a 20% reduction for the Hollis voter rolls.

The passage of SB221 represented years of hard work by Senator Avar to ensure New Hampshire's elections remain secure and voters have confidence in the process. Hollis Representatives Liz Barbour and Jack Flanagan supported this bill (Rep McGhee voted against bill).

Hollis Voters Say No to \$19 Million Increase in Local Spending

This past spring, Hollis voters rejected a warrant article proposal by the Hollis School District to fund a major \$19 million dollar renovation to the Hollis Primary School. This proposal received mixed reviews by the Hollis Budget Committee, which recommended the warrant article by a 5-3 vote. The public had an opportunity to vote on this proposal during the annual Hollis School District meeting in March. Due to the current meeting rules, residents could only vote on this proposal in person. A high number of voters turned out to vote on this particular warrant article, with 285 voting YES and 590 voting NO. Many voters left the meeting after this warrant article was heard and did not vote on the FY27 school budget.

Northeastern States Rollback Unaffordable Green Energy Policies

by Gabriella Hoffman, NH Journal,
July 22, 2025

For decades, some states have aggressively prioritized green energy mandates over reliability and affordability. Today, many are grappling with energy crises that are entirely self-inflicted.

While legislators blame the Trump administration, data centers and energy producers for rising costs, the data show that blame falls squarely on state-level clean energy mandates.

Over the last five years, New England energy costs rose 29 percent. New England electricity rates (29.42 cents/kWh) are 59 percent higher compared to the national average (18.56 cents/kWh).

Under the Federal Power Act of 1935, Congress delegated to all states the authority to regulate electricity markets within their borders. Overwhelmingly higher costs today are directly attributable to green mandates, including but not limited to renewable portfolio standards, aggressive 100 percent clean energy targets, and participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

State lawmakers promoted clean energy mandates to phase out coal, oil and natural gas, with the state goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. Consumers may like the idea of decarbonization in general, but not when it hits them with historically high energy costs. As the economic consequences become harder to ignore, lawmakers across New England are beginning to reconsider some of the climate mandates they once championed.

According to a November 2025 Heatmap News report, analysts acknowledged that pursuing 100 percent clean energy goals with intermittent wind, solar, electric vehicles and battery storage is cost-prohibitive. Transitioning away from secure, abundant conventional power sources requires trillions in capital, replacing reliability with part-time energy sources that won't lower costs nor help meet rising electricity demand.

In addition to retreating from climate mandates, states are increasingly turning toward the secure, abundant power sources they previously opposed: natural gas and nuclear energy. Until recently, supporting these two clean, reliable sources was taboo.

New England governors are starting to embrace natural gas pipelines and advanced nuclear energy technology.

Warmington To Democrats: I'm Bringing Back My Net Zero Energy Plan

by Michael Graham, NH Journal,
July 6, 2026

Cinde Warmington is making affordability a centerpiece of her campaign for governor. But in off-the-record meetings with supporters, she's promoting a "net zero" energy policy that experts say will send energy costs soaring.

In an audio recording obtained by NHJournal, Warmington was asked about her energy policy. "We put out a whole green energy economy plan in my last election. We're tweaking that now, updated, and we'll be putting that out," Warmington said. That plan was her "CLEAN Energy Economy Future," which would "create standards that lead New Hampshire to net zero emissions by 2040," according to a press release from Warmington's 2024 campaign.

"Net zero" can mean a power grid that emits zero carbon, or it can mean a ban on all carbon emissions, including gasoline-powered cars. Energy experts agree that New Hampshire, which already pays among the highest electricity rates in the country, would see rates soar if it shut down reliable power sources like natural gas and shifted to intermittent power sources like solar and wind.

In fact, as State Rep. Michael Harrington (R-Strafford) pointed out to NH Journal, Warmington is getting the basics wrong. Harrington, a member of the House Energy Committee who once served on the Public Utility Commission, frequently points out that renewables receive massive taxpayer subsidies to make them look less expensive. Harrington says it's time to stop forcing

ratepayers to pay more in order to underwrite green energy policies. "After 20 years of ratepayer subsidies amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars, the mandated ratepayer subsidies need to end. New Hampshire needs to join other states like Arizona and end these subsidies for renewable generators."

NEW HAMPSHIRE VOTER SURVEY - ENERGY COSTS

89% of New Hampshire women are concerned about rising energy costs

78% of New Hampshire women say they are paying more for energy than they were five years ago

55% of New Hampshire women believe New Hampshire politicians have misled voters about the effectiveness and costs of the green-energy transition

Survey and timeline by **Independent Women**, a 501c3 non profit organization that utilizes analysis and data enable to drive informed conversations, and foster more civil, compassionate, and productive debates.

REGIONAL ENERGY TIMELINE

1998 - 2024

Most New England states mandated a 100% transition to renewable energy by 2050 and/or passed renewable portfolio standards, causing electric bills to soar to the **HIGHEST RATE** in the Lower-48.

2025 - 2026

Average monthly bill for the region is \$250.82. **67% HIGHER** than the national average.

2050

Annual electricity bills rise to \$4,600 for an average New England family. This is an **119% INCREASE** from 2024.

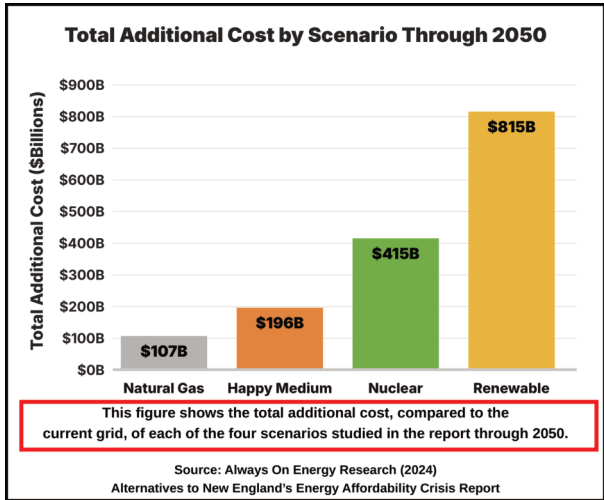
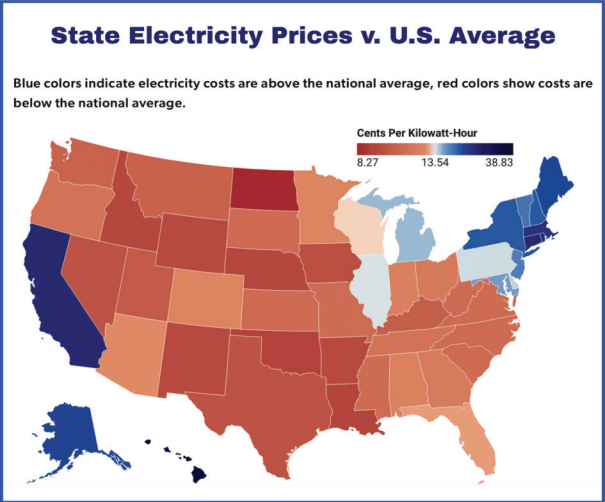
Source: Independent Women, DC Journal, July 23, 2026

Small Nuclear Power and New Hampshire’s Energy Future

by Hollis State Rep Candidate Dr. Jim Kelly

I read with interest Rep Kat McGhee’s July 2026 legislative update (Hollis Brookline News) and would like to offer a different perspective. HB1722, which Rep. McGhee introduced, creates a regulatory framework for large-energy-use electricity facilities, directing the Public Utilities Commission to set cost-based tariffs and regulate long-term contracts to protect ratepayers from cost impacts. Rep. McGhee says the bill protects consumers from higher bills, but it’s not financially viable for large commercial users to even connect to the grid.

By contrast, HB672, signed into law in August 2025, created a new legal class for “off-grid electricity providers,” freeing micro-nuclear and small modular reactor (SMR) developers from strict utility regulation—clearing the way for data centers to build private SMR setups. Rep. McGhee notes that much incoming power is renewable generation paired with batteries, including projects at retiring coal plants in Portsmouth and Bow, and suggests SMRs remain too costly. But New England’s weather is unreliable, and battery farms—the fix for wind and solar—carry their own costs: lithium mining’s environmental toll, combustion risks, siting battles, and maintenance expenses rarely factored into the equation. In contrast, small reactors like those being tested by Deep Fission (deepfission.com) are safe, compact, and quickly deployable. A single unit costs about \$30 million, produces 12-15 MWe, and has just a 30-inch footprint—suited to granite geology like ours. For Hollis, that’s about \$6,000 per household for 10-20 years of power, with minimal transmission costs and no stranded assets.

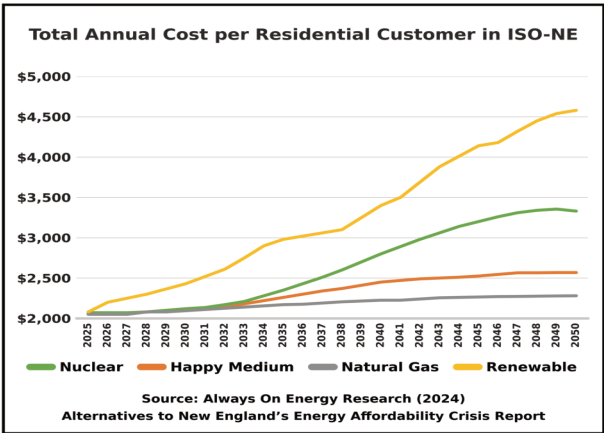


Our legislators already laid the groundwork with HB672. Combining renewables, efficient LNG, and SMRs offers a smarter path forward for New Hampshire’s energy future. I intend to advocate for these safe, low-impact, cost-effective power sources.

Hollis and Community Power; The Latest News

by Dave Parry, Hollis resident

The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH), a non-profit power supply organization incorporated in 2021, allows NH cities, towns, and counties to become default electricity providers for their residents. Under this model, CPCNH supplies electricity unless residents opt out in favor of Eversource or another supplier. Eversource continues delivering electricity and billing residents monthly, but the supply portion of the bill passes to CPCNH through Eversource’s billing system.



About 60 cities and towns currently belong to CPCNH, though some have recently withdrawn. Before 2025, CPCNH offered electricity supply savings to participating communities. That changed in 2025, when CPCNH rates rose and became slightly higher than other utilities.

In Hollis, a petition warrant passed at the 2023 Town Meeting directing the Board of Selectmen to pursue a Joint Powers Agreement with the CPCNH. In 2024, the Select Board authorized signing the agreement and voted to admit Hollis into CPCNH. A warrant article was planned for the 2025 Town Meeting to approve the Electric Aggregation Plan and launch CPCNH services, but it was withdrawn before a vote. Currently, no further action is being proposed. Hollis’s plan to launch CPCNH services remains on hold until utility rates stabilize and the potential for cost savings to residents improves.

REPORT: Alternatives to New England’s Energy Affordability Crisis

by Isaac Orr, Mitch Rolling, and Trevor Lewis, Always On Energy Research

(The following information is excerpted. The entire report can be found at jbartlett.org)

In 2024, Always On Energy Research (AOER) modeled the economic and reliability impacts of the energy policies passed in the six New England states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Each of these states, with the exception of New Hampshire, has established aggressive installation requirements for solar, offshore wind, onshore wind, and battery storage and requires deep reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector, primarily by reducing the use of natural gas for power generation in the Independent System Operator of New England (ISO-NE) region.

However, there are lower-cost ways to reliably meet electricity demand and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the region. Our analysis examines three new scenarios: a Nuclear scenario, where rising demand for carbon-free electricity and electrification are met with new nuclear power plants, a Natural Gas scenario, where the region meets rising demand with new natural gas power plants and pipeline capacity, and a Happy Medium scenario, where a blend of technologies achieves a cost-optimized, 50 percent carbon-free electricity grid by 2050.

Property Tax Relief Is Finally on the Ballot

Continued from page 1

But supporting education doesn't mean handing administrators a blank check. It means demanding that education dollars reach students, support good teachers, and produce results.

Under this proposal, SAUs could no longer quietly grow administrative overhead year after year while taxpayers struggle to keep up. The focus belongs on teachers and students — not more administrators supervising administrators. If a town adopts these caps, they sunset in 2032, and communities can override them earlier, though that generally takes a three-fifths vote. This isn't a straitjacket. It's a guardrail.

I'll be frank: State House Democrats in Concord fought hard to keep this question off your ballot. They didn't just oppose a tax cap — they opposed your right to decide for yourself whether your school district should have reasonable limits on how fast its property tax levy can grow.

Granite Staters deserve the same spending discipline from government that responsible families practice at their kitchen tables. Families can't raise their spending 10–15% a year and send someone else the bill. School districts and SAUs shouldn't be able to either. This November, you get a tool to protect your family, your home, and your community from unsustainable school tax increases. Vote yes on the property tax cap — and tell your neighbors to do the same.

Adopting SB2: A Modern, Accessible, and Accountable Path for New Hampshire Communities

by State Representative Diane Pauer (Brookline), Chairman, House Municipal & County Government Committee

New Hampshire's tradition of local control is one of our state's defining strengths. Town and school district meetings allow citizens to discuss, debate, and vote on issues affecting their communities. SB2, the official ballot referendum form of meeting, offers communities a way to preserve public deliberation while expanding participation in the final vote.

How SB2 Works: SB2 divides the annual meeting into two sessions. The first is the **Deliberative Session**, where voters discuss, debate, and amend warrant articles within the limits established by law. Amendments adopted at this session become part of the warrant articles presented to voters for final consideration by official ballot. The second is the **Ballot Voting Session**, when voters decide the final warrant articles by official ballot. This session is held on the second Tuesday in March, during town and school elections (April or May are also options). This structure allows residents who cannot devote many hours to a traditional meeting to participate in final decisions on warrant articles.

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Carryl Roy and the Hollis School Board Oversees a 52% Budget Increases Since 2019

School spending is an important local commitment, and it also represents the majority of Hollis property taxes. Most people agree the goal is to give our students the best possible education, while being mindful of taxpayers and the burden that property tax can be for fixed income families.

Since 2019, the Hollis School District's operating budget has increased from \$12,145,430 to \$18,417,466 (Source: SAU41.org) This increase has been overseen by state senate candidate

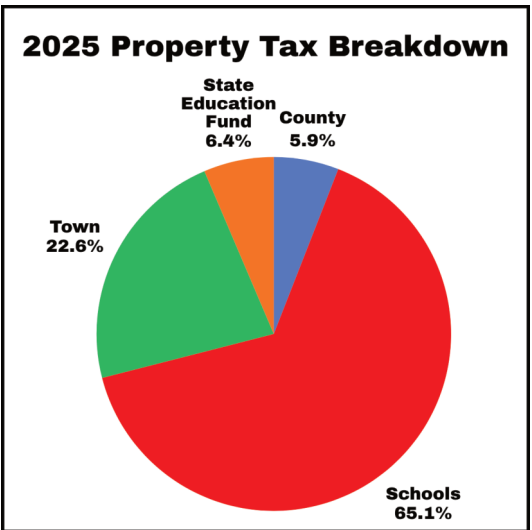
Carryl Roy, who has served as a Hollis School Board member from 2019-2025, and as board chairwoman since March 2026. Before Roy joined the board, the average Hollis resident paid about \$7,053 in local education property taxes, but now pays more than \$9,960.

Local Spending - How Many Voters Decided?

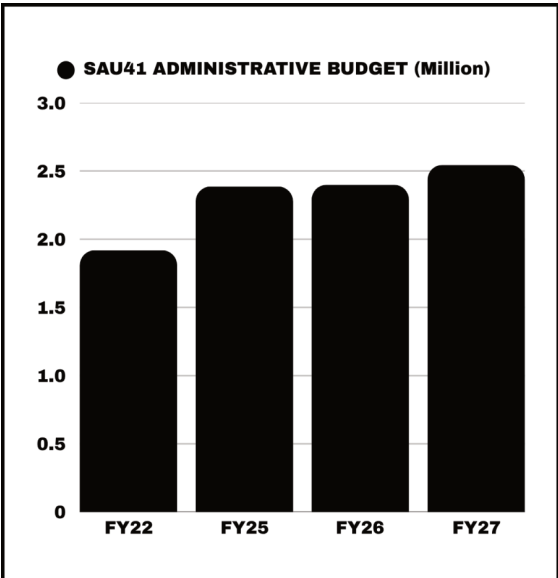
2026 BUDGET MEETINGS	OVERALL BUDGET BEING VOTED ON (Million)	# RESIDENTS WHO VOTED (Approx.)
Hollis Town	\$14+	281
Hollis School District	\$18+	415
COOP School District	\$31+	426

2025 BUDGET MEETINGS	OVERALL BUDGET BEING VOTED ON (Million)	# RESIDENTS WHO VOTED (Approx.)
Hollis Town	\$14+	370
Hollis School District	\$16+ (nearly \$17)	264
COOP School District	\$31+	320

How the Money was Spent



School District Budget



Two Years Later, I Returned to a Very Different Southern Border

by NH Rep Jeanine Notter
NH Journal, September 28, 2025

Two years ago, I visited the southern border twice—first in Arizona, then in Texas. I saw with my own eyes how wide open it was. The group I traveled with met overworked and understaffed Border Patrol agents who told us they were hindered by the Biden administration’s policies. Thousands of people poured over the border.

Since my last trip, one monumental change has occurred: a presidential election. Border Patrol agents now say they can finally do their jobs. On this year’s trip, I noticed the fences and temporary housing were gone. Border crossings have plummeted. Cartels still use drones to monitor the border, but agents are using new technology to counter them.

President Trump kept his promise to secure the border. In the New Hampshire General Court, I have repeatedly sponsored anti-sanctuary legislation, only to see it defeated by Democrats and libertarian-leaning Republicans. This year [2025], Rep. Joe Sweeney introduced the bill, and I testified in support. The 169th legislature finally passed anti-sanctuary legislation, and Gov. Kelly Ayotte signed it into law. The Trump administration’s border policies prove that when the federal government disincentivizes illegal immigration, fewer people attempt it. States and localities must follow the same principle.

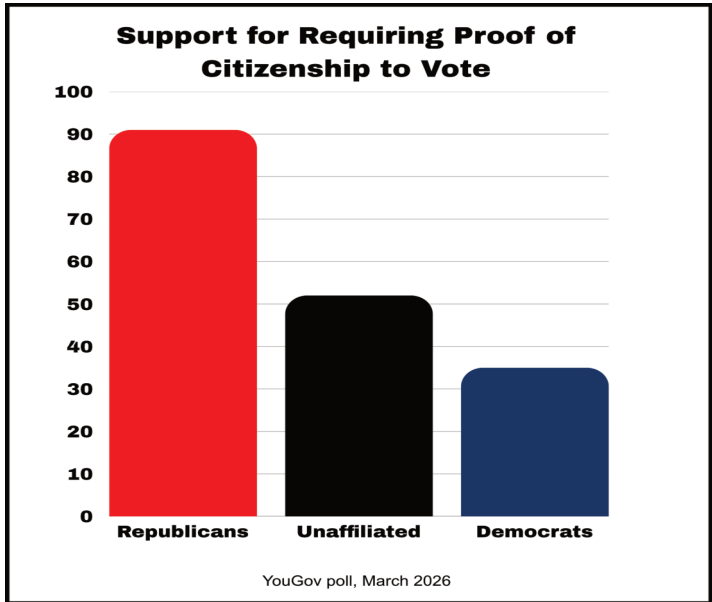
Where do we go from here? Voter apathy is not an option. The stakes in [this] year’s midterms cannot be overstated. Do not wait until 2028 to vote. Stay informed, mark your calendars, and turn out in November 2026!

NH Dems Cheer as Federal Judge Blocks Voter ID Registration Mandate

by Michael Graham, NH Journal, June 1, 2026

A federal judge’s ruling striking down the proof-of-citizenship requirement for voter registration puts Granite State Democrats on the wrong side of yet another 70-30 issue. And with midterms approaching, they’re celebrating their unpopular stance.

U.S. District Court Judge Samantha Elliott ruled the state cannot eliminate sworn affidavits as a fallback method for proving citizenship during voter registration, essentially gutting what Republicans consider a vital part of ballot security.



As a result, first-time voters do not have to provide a passport, birth certificate, naturalization papers, or any other proof of citizenship to register to vote—including on Election Day. They can simply sign an affidavit attesting they are a U.S. citizen.

Or as Rep. Ross Berry (R-Weare), chair of the House Election Law Committee, put it in a statement: “Now anyone can walk into a polling place on Election Day, sign an affidavit with zero proof, and vote. If they lied and we catch them? We prosecute after the vote counts.”

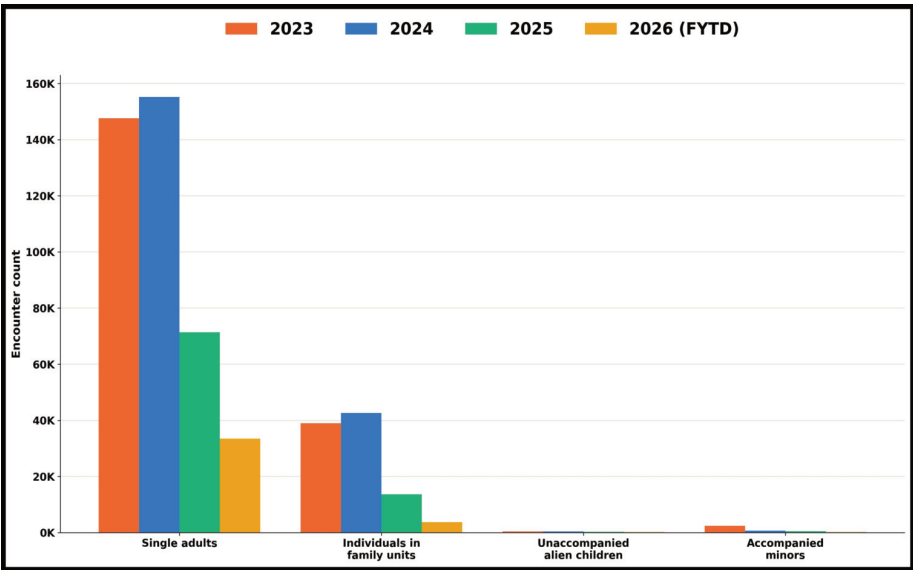
Republicans aren’t happy. And based on the polls, neither are voters. Nationally, Gallup found 83 percent of Americans support requiring first-time voters to provide proof of citizenship when registering. The New Hampshire Department of Justice has said it plans to appeal Elliott’s ruling.

All four members of the state’s federal delegation have voted against a national voter ID mandate.

"83% of favor photo voter ID to vote per Pew. This includes 70%+ of Democrats and Republicans, as well as 75%+ of Americans across races.... White, Black, and Latino. It's not controversial."

- Harry Enten, CNN, February 3, 2026

Northern Border Encounters from FY23 to FY26



“Democrats know their policies are deeply unpopular in the Granite State. That is why they must rely on un-elected far-left judges to force their ideology onto voters.” Berry said. “The vast majority of Granite Staters support common sense election integrity laws. HB1569 required voters to prove their citizenship prior to casting a ballot.”

HB 1569 was signed into law by then-Gov. Chris Sununu in 2024. It required people registering to vote for the first time to produce documentary proof of U.S. citizenship and eliminated the use of Qualified Voter Affidavits and Challenged Voter Affidavits.

Are We Really Underfunding Education, or Are We Asking Taxpayers to Spend More?

by State Representative Jack Flanagan

There's been a lot said about education funding in New Hampshire — that Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) are draining public schools, that Concord isn't providing enough money, and that rising property taxes are simply the price of good schools. But what do the numbers say?

I've served Hollis and Brookline on several school boards, including as Chairman of the Brookline School Board and SAU 41 Board, and Vice Chairman of the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board, and spent 10 years in the NH House. I've seen education funding from both the local and state level.

New Hampshire spends roughly \$4 billion annually on K–12 education. EFAs account for about \$50 million — roughly 1.3% of total spending. Families using EFAs also keep paying local property taxes that fund their public schools. People can disagree about school choice, but a program representing 1.3% of statewide spending can't reasonably be blamed as the main driver of rising school budgets and property taxes.

We also hear that the fix for rising property taxes is simply more state spending. But New Hampshire already provides roughly \$1.08 billion in statewide adequacy funding for FY2026 — about \$717 million in adequacy grants, plus \$364 million through the Statewide Education Property Tax — even as school enrollment continues to decline. The base adequacy amount is \$4,265.64 per student, before additional aid for low-income students, special education, and English-language learners.

The real question isn't just whether Concord should spend more — it's whether the dollars already being spent are producing the results our students deserve. More funding alone can't be the measure of our commitment to education.

SAU 41's FY2026 report lists the superintendent's salary at \$176,752, an Assistant Superintendent of Student Services at \$138,004, an Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum at \$135,058, and a Business Administrator at \$125,000;

together, more than \$574,000 before benefits. By comparison, the governor of New Hampshire's statutory salary is about \$165,000.

This isn't an argument against paying qualified professionals fairly — it's an argument for accountability. Taxpayers deserve to know how much of each education dollar reaches classrooms and students versus administration.

Republican-led HB 1300, signed into law this summer, puts a school property-tax cap before voters in November 2026. If approved by three-fifths of voters, growth in local school property tax revenue would generally be capped based on the Northeast Consumer Price Index plus growth from new construction. Bonded capital costs are excluded, and voters retain the ability to override the cap through existing state procedures.

The choice isn't excellent schools or tax relief. We can support students and teachers, preserve local control, demand accountability, and protect taxpayers — all at once. This November 3, the choice belongs to you.

Students Flee, Teachers Stay: NH Schools Failing Enrollment Math
by Drew Cline, NH Journal,
May 4, 2026

New Hampshire public school enrollment continues to decline at a faster rate than teacher employment, a Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy analysis of state data shows. Over the last 15 years, public schools in New Hampshire lost students at nearly three times the rate at which they lost teachers.

From the 2011-12 school year to the 2025-26 school year, K-12 public school enrollment fell by 30,483 students, for a decline of 16 percent.

The number of public school teachers fell by 849, for a decline of 5.7 percent. Thus, the rate of teacher loss was just 36 percent of the rate at which districts lost students. Only once in the last 15 years — from 2021-22 — did the number of public school students in New Hampshire rise rather than fall.

% Students Below Proficiency in Hollis			
Grade	Math	Reading	Science
3	24%	26%	--
4	29%	31%	--
5	50%	22%	45%
6	16%	18%	--
7	35%	26%	--
8	51%	39%	59%
11 (HBHS)	44%	13%	44%

By contrast, the number of teachers rose in five of the last 15 years — 2016-17, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2022-23, and 2024-25 — totaling one-third of the time period. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the gap between the student loss rate and the teacher loss rate has remained largely the same.

From 2020-26, the number of teachers employed in New Hampshire public schools fell by 3.5 percent while the number of students fell by 9 percent, putting the teacher loss rate at 38 percent of the student loss rate.

As a result of the more rapid decline in students vs. teachers, the number of students per teacher, already low by national standards, has continued to fall. In the 2011-12 school year, New Hampshire public schools employed one teacher for every 12.7 students. In 2020, the ratio was down to one teacher for every 12 students.

In the 2025-26 school year, the ratio is down to one teacher for every 11.3 students. Only New York, Vermont, and Washington, D.C., have lower student-teacher ratios, according to the National Education Association (NEA).

As the Josiah Bartlett Center has noted before, maintaining high staffing levels forces districts to stretch limited dollars over larger numbers of employees, reducing the amount of compensation available for each employee.

11th Grade Math Proficiency Comparison		
Town/School	Student Participation in Standardized Test	Students Above Proficiency
HBHS	88%	56%
Hanover	95%	82%
Bedford	100%	53%
Nashua Arts and Design School	90%	90%
Source: NH Dept. of Education		

Adopting SB2: A Modern, Accessible, and Accountable Path for New Hampshire Communities

Continued from pg. 4

Expanding Participation and Protecting Privacy: Traditional meetings can present challenges for elderly residents, working parents, commuters, and others who cannot attend at a particular time. SB2 does not eliminate public discussion; it separates deliberation from the final vote. Under SB2, all voters consider the final version of each warrant article and cast their votes by official ballot. The voting process includes requirements concerning absentee voting, polling places, and polling hours. This gives more residents an opportunity to participate while preserving public deliberation.

Fiscal Accountability: SB2 maintains direct voter control over local budgets. Voters consider the proposed operating budget and the statutory default budget. If the proposed operating budget is not adopted, the default budget is deemed approved under the statutory formula, subject to the provisions of RSA 40:13. A 2026 change in state law provides that, in an SB2 community with a municipal budget committee, the budget committee determines the default budget rather than the governing body.

Adopting SB2: Under current law, adopting SB2 requires a 3/5 vote. The question is placed on the annual meeting warrant and voted on by ballot at the meeting. When SB2 was enacted in 1995, the law required a community's adoption question to be decided by official ballot. That remained the law until 2019, when the legislature changed the process to require the adoption question to be voted on during the business session of the annual meeting.

For the 2027 legislative session, I have filed a bill to change that process by requiring the SB2 adoption question to again be decided through the official ballot process, including absentee voting, polling places, and polling hours. The goal is to return the SB2 adoption question to the official ballot and give eligible voters the same all day opportunity to participate in deciding whether their community should adopt SB2. SB2 does not eliminate New Hampshire's tradition of citizen government. It provides another structure for exercising it: public deliberation followed by a vote of the broader electorate on the final questions. By separating deliberation from final voting, SB2 preserves an opportunity for voters to discuss and amend warrant articles, while allowing eligible voters to participate in the final decisions on warrant articles via all day and absentee voting on the official ballot, ensuring maximum participation in our town and school district matters.

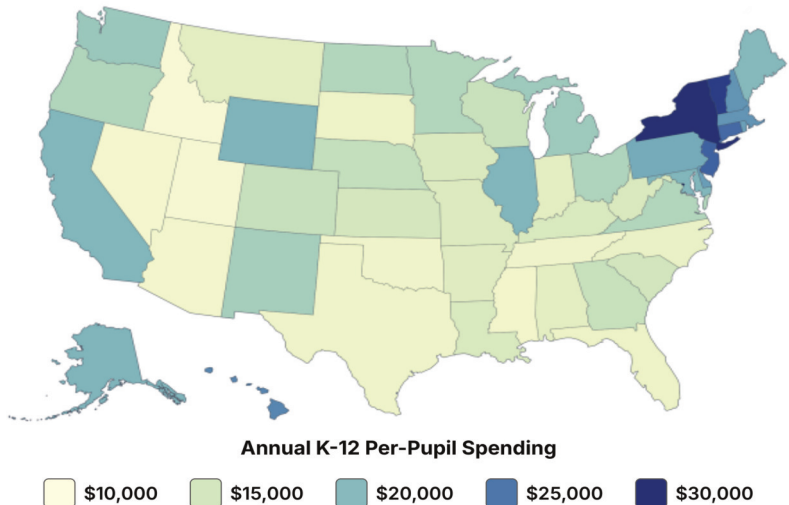
FAST FACTS PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING IN NH

- #6 for overall per pupil spending in U.S.
- #50 for state funding per student in U.S.
- NH's no income tax system prioritizes local decision making and spending versus top-down state-level spending.
- State funding for public schools is still **YOUR** money. It's not free because it comes from the state.

New Hampshire now has the most competitive federalist system in the country, and the Taxpayer Protection Act [Ballot Question 2] will strengthen that system. The New Hampshire Constitution guarantees that the power to tax and spend is concentrated in local governments rather than in the state government."

- Barry W. Poulson - Economist, August 10, 2026, discussing Ballot Question 2

Overall Per Pupil Spending Nationwide



Did You Know?

The Republican-led State House delivered more FY26 education aid to Hollis than ever before

- 149.8% increase in special education funding
- Building aid: Hollis/Brookline received its final payment towards \$3.2 million in 40% aid for the HB Co-Op Middle School renovations
- Increase in student adequacy aid funding
- State education aid per student has increased 25% faster than inflation

VOTES	Rep BARBOUR	Rep FLANAGAN	Rep McGHEE
Include a school district tax cap question on the 2026 ballot so voters can decide locally (HB1300)	YES	YES	NO
Ensure the right of parents and legal guardians to direct the education of their children (CACR24)	YES	YES	NO
Require schools to report all state/federal grants received (HB656)	YES	YES	NO
Require the presentation of a government-issued ID in order to vote (HB323)	YES	YES	NO
Prohibit the sale of a child's personal data (HB1460)	YES	YES	NO
Require school districts to post administrator salaries prior to a school budget voting meeting (HB1807)	YES	YES	NO
Require all commercial driver's license tests to be administered in English (HB1252)	YES	YES	NO
Eliminate mandatory vehicle inspection in New Hampshire (HB649)	YES	YES	NO
Amend the constitution to prohibit an income tax in New Hampshire (CACR10)	YES	YES	NO
Expand the information provided to sexual assault survivors and require notification of rights (HB1633)	YES	YES	YES
Increase the tobacco tax (HB1596)	NO	NO	YES
Establish an online state voter registration system (HB521)	NO	NO	YES
Levy a tax surcharge on all non-primary residences in New Hampshire (HB1580)	NO	NO	YES

Is Hollis For Sale?

Running for Hollis state representative typically requires a modest budget, but in this year’s race, candidate Ben Ming stands out for raising nearly \$16,000 as of late September. The majority of these donations are from outside of Hollis and NH. Over 40% are small dollar donations under \$20, with some denominations as small as \$1.00. The largest donation of \$5,000 came from a progressive political action committee.

For the past two years, ActBlue, the main Democrat fundraising tool, has been under investigation by multiple U.S. House Committees for fraudulent donation practices. The issues include small dollar contributions that do not require donor information, and contributions made through donors who had no knowledge of the transaction. This resulted in recent mass resignations within ActBlue’s Legal/Compliance Team.

Having a large number of out-of-state donations for a local race will result in a precedent-setting, campaign fundraising escalation that will ultimately drown out Hollis voters in the near future. We must ask ourselves: Is Hollis for sale and are we okay with this?

EFA Parents Are Unsung Heroes Supporting Both Their Communities and Their Kids

by Kate Baker Demer, NH Journal, December 9, 2025

After the Department of Education released its latest enrollment data, several news reports and online commenters portrayed EFA families as wealthy or undeserving. The reality is far different – and far more inspiring. These are families who continue supporting their public schools through full local property tax payments while also taking on additional out-of-pocket costs so their children can learn in environments where they genuinely flourish. They do all of this while generating millions in taxpayer savings. That is not selfishness. It is an act of remarkable generosity, and these families deserve acknowledgment for the commitment they show to both their communities and their kids.

Critics often argue that EFAs drain resources from public schools, but this reflects a misunderstanding of how New Hampshire funds education. The state appropriates a baseline state adequacy grant for every child. That allocation exists in the Education Trust Fund, whether a student remains in the district or participates in an EFA, meaning the program does not create new spending – it simply allows families to direct an already-budgeted amount to a different setting. The statewide fiscal picture underscores this point. Educating the current [2025] 10,510 EFA students in district schools would have required approximately \$263 million in public funding. By contrast, serving these students through EFAs costs \$51.6 million. The difference – more than \$200 million – reflects both families gaining access to the learning environments they need while taxpayers see meaningful savings.

NH ADVANTAGE ALERT
NH House Democrat already filed an income and sales tax bill

2027- HB 0240

Title: establishing an income tax and establishing a sales tax on certain luxury goods.

YES	<i>Ben Ming - 2022-2024 NH House Voting Flashback</i>	NO
Allow taxpayers to pay off the student loans of NH legislators Provide a Real ID to any non-resident alien Make NH a sanctuary state for taxpayer-funded gender surgery on minors		Require voter registrants to verify their NH residency and citizenship Require a 2/3 majority House vote for any new taxation in NH Require voter rolls to be cleaned every four years



LIZ BARBOUR

State Representative
Hollis, District 35



- Proven Legislator: Liz Barbour was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Environment and Agriculture Committee. She has sponsored and successfully advanced key legislation supporting Hollis farmers, Hollis residents, and Beaver Brook Association.

- Innovator: For over 25 years, Liz built and operated a successful small business serving customers across the country. In 2024, she published *The Positively Hollis Post*, to celebrate the people of Hollis and strengthen our community. Liz supports policies that reduce regulations to fuel business growth in the Granite State.

- Community-Focused: With more than 27 years of volunteer service in Hollis, Liz brings a balanced approach to everything she does.

JIM KELLY

State Representative
Hollis, District 35



- Physician & Award-Winning Innovator: Jim brings decades of experience in healthcare as a physician, innovator, and problem-solver whose work has earned national recognition. He continues to make pro bono house calls for Hollis patients who cannot leave their homes.

- Distinguished Military Service: Jim is a retired colonel with the New Hampshire National Guard, where he served for 15 years. He is nationally recognized for his distinguished service and contributions to military medicine.

- Better Healthcare for New Hampshire: Jim understands the problems in our healthcare system. He will bring experience to Concord to improve access to care for every NH resident.

JACK FLANAGAN

State Representative
Hollis, District 45



- Experienced leadership in Concord: Jack brings 10 years of legislative experience and strong understanding of how to turn good ideas into practical solutions for New Hampshire.

- A Record of Delivering Results: From helping secure additional education funding and infrastructure grants to standing up against projects that would negatively affect our communities, Jack has a proven record of getting results.

- Focused on New Hampshire's Future: Jack will continue working to control spending, protect taxpayers, reduce unnecessary regulation, strengthen our economy, and preserve the New Hampshire Advantage.

**Learn more about your Hollis State Rep Candidates at
CommonSenseforNH.com**

From a Constituent's Call to a Law Signed by the Governor: How a local concern became a statewide conversation

by Hollis Representative Liz Barbour

"The day people stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them." General Colin Powell

As a state representative, my job is to listen to constituents and ask the right people the right questions. After Hollis resident Nancy O'Rourke called me about a situation in her neighborhood, I did just that. I quickly saw her concerns couldn't be resolved with a simple phone call — the issue touched state law, municipal authority, state agencies, service providers, and protections for individuals with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders. It was, and remains, a delicate matter requiring relationship building, an open mind, and an open heart.

Since that first conversation, I've met with Hollis town officials, the Hollis Police and Fire Chiefs, former State Senator Peggy Gilmore, Select Board member Will Walker, the Department of Health and Human Services, and state agencies overseeing care for vulnerable individuals housed in community residences throughout New Hampshire's neighborhoods. As a result, I drafted an amendment to existing legislation creating a study committee to examine the siting, operation, maintenance, communication, and oversight of these residences. Governor Kelly Ayotte signed that legislation into law.

I now have the privilege of chairing the study committee, bringing residents, state agencies, municipalities, public safety officials, service providers, and advocates together to identify what's working and where reasonable changes are needed.

My goal is clear: practical guardrails that balance compassion for vulnerable residents who need these homes with the safety, character, and property values of neighboring families. This work reflects what representative government should look like: listening, asking questions, and turning constituent concerns into constructive action. It's my honor to serve Hollis, and I'll always make time to listen.

Hollis has 3 State Representatives

**2 - District 35
(Hollis)**

**1 - District 45
(Hollis, Brookline, Greenville,
and Mason)**

MAKE SURE TO VOTE FOR ALL 3!

When We Needed Someone to Listen, Rep Liz Barbour Did

Truell Road Families Endorse Liz Barbour for Re-Election

Dear Neighbors,

As families living on and around Truell Road, we write not as a political committee, but as neighbors whose sense of safety and peace of mind have been deeply affected by an issue we never expected to face. When we began asking questions, State Representative Liz Barbour showed up, listened, and took our concerns seriously. For decades, our families (the Allens, Andersons, Hernandezes, O'Rourkees, Steeles, and Ducharmes) have cherished the quiet, rural character of Hollis, where we raise our children and look out for one another. That sense of security changed when Community Options, an out-of-state nonprofit, established a community residence in our neighborhood for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities or acquired brain disorders.

What troubled us was not the mission of housing people with disabilities. We support compassionate, safe housing for those who need it. Our concern was the process: the lack of transparency, and what happened afterward. We had no meaningful advance notice, no public hearing to ask questions, and no understanding of what safeguards would be in place. We suddenly faced major changes in our neighborhood with no voice in the process. When we felt invisible to the system, Liz Barbour came to us, listened, and took our concerns to Concord.

Our first concern is the well-being of the vulnerable people these homes serve. Information we've reviewed has raised serious concerns about incident reporting, staffing turnover, and accountability. These residents deserve safe homes staffed by qualified professionals. But good policy must also recognize the communities where these homes operate. Truell Road was once a place where we rarely thought about safety. Repeated incidents have changed that, and we've watched Hollis police, fire, and EMS respond to calls tied to these residences, leaving us to ask whether municipalities have enough authority to address recurring problems.

Liz did not dismiss our concerns. She co-sponsored HB 1763, establishing a state study committee to examine how community residences are sited, maintained, and overseen, and now chairs that committee, bringing residents, municipalities, agencies, and providers into the discussion. We believe New Hampshire can offer compassionate housing while protecting residents, but demanding accountability. Liz Barbour understood that from the start. We ask our fellow Hollis neighbors to join us in supporting her re-election.

Respectfully, The Families of Truell Road

State House Conservatives Tout Business Tax Reductions

HB 155 (signed by the Governor this summer) raises the filing threshold for the state's Business Enterprise Tax (BET) from \$250,000 in gross business receipts to \$400,000. This change will exempt an estimated 4,500 additional small businesses from having to file a BET return.

The bill also sets up future automatic reductions in the BET rate if state revenues outperform expectations. For every \$100 million in combined surplus business tax revenue, the BET rate would drop by 0.05 percentage points, with reductions continuing until the rate reaches 0.25 percent, the level at which the tax was created in 1993.

"Reducing the state's employment tax burden is a major win for small employers in New Hampshire," said John Reynolds, New Hampshire state director for the National Federation of Independent Business.

Flashback: What Happened When We Had a Democrat-Led NH State House in 2019?

Taxes



New Hampshire Party Control: 1992-2026

4 years Democrat trifectas - 15 years of Republican trifectas ("S" = Split)

Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Governor	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Senate	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	S	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R
House	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R

"It does not make sense at all to site a data center in New Hampshire. We don't have the energy for it. It is not the appropriate location. I would support a moratorium on them because right now they do not make sense at all in terms of energy, environment or location."

– Gov. Kelly Ayotte

"As we celebrate New Hampshire being named the safest state in the nation once again, we also recognize our work is never done. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office will continue to work alongside law enforcement partners at the federal, state, and local level to keep dangerous criminals off our streets and protect victims of crimes. I look forward to working alongside Governor Ayotte to ensure we remain #1 for public safety for years to come."

- Hillsborough County Sheriff Brian Newcomb, commenting on U.S. News & World Report's 2026 "Best State" ranking

"Community colleges are an especially attractive option this year as many families deal with inflated prices. Students who initially planned on attending a private four-year college might want to consider spending two years at a community college and transferring those credits once they are in a better financial situation."

- Chip Lupo, WalletHub, which ranked NH's community colleges in the top 10

"I share your frustration and your anger that our delegation didn't do more. Our delegation should have done far more to preserve and protect the First-in-the-Nation primary."

- Frank Guinta, former U.S. Rep. for NH, commenting on the Democrat National Committee's vote to strip New Hampshire of it's first-in-the-nation primary status for the second year in a row.

"New Hampshire's position as a national leader for opportunity isn't an accident—it's the intentional strategy of a state built on economic freedom, fiscal discipline, and minimal red tape. By keeping our tax structure competitive and empowering local businesses to scale, we're ensuring that individuals and families from every corner of the state have a clear, unhindered path to prosper."

- Lucy Lange, Commissioner of the Department of Business and Economic Affairs, commenting on U.S. News & World Report that once again name New Hampshire as the best state for economic opportunity.

"Something must be done. Someone must act. Our voters are being taxed out of their homes."

- NH Rep Ross Berry on the Taxpayer Protection Act, Ballot Question 2, on the November ballot

"Reducing the state's employment tax burden is a major win for small employers in New Hampshire. The Business Enterprise Tax is a financial drag on small employers that makes it more expensive to hire workers, increase compensation and keep up with competitors in lower-tax states. Exempting thousands of additional small employers from the BET and using future surpluses to lower the tax rate is a fiscally responsible plan for helping Granite State businesses hire, grow and thrive."

- John Reynolds, New Hampshire state director for the National Federation

"Most educators reported that students appeared more focused, less distracted, and more socially engaged since the new cell phone policy was introduced. About a third of teachers and about a third of administrators reported improvements in discipline problems and academic outcomes."

- NH Department of Education Report on state's classroom bell-to-bell cell phone ban

"If I had known in 2001 what we all know now, I would never have done any work for Purdue Pharma."

--Cinde Warmington
Democrat Candidate for Governor

"We worked together to get the cellphones out of our schools and to make sure students could focus more on learning and also interacting with each other in our schools. And now we really need to look at how else are we using technology in the schools. Are we using it to help enhance children's learning experiences, or are we using it in ways that are counterproductive?"

- Governor Ayotte at the kickoff meeting of the newly formed School Screen Time Task Force meeting

Failed Bail Reform Experiment is Over in New Hampshire

Press Release, September 22, 2025

A new law ending New Hampshire's failed bail reform social experiment took effect on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Governor Kelly Ayotte signed House Bill 592 into law in March [2025] to shut and lock the revolving door for violent criminals in the Granite State.

"The failed bail reform social experiment created a revolving door for violent criminals. Today, that revolving door is finally shut and locked," said Governor Ayotte. "I was proud to sign this bipartisan law back in March so we can support our law enforcement, protect victims, and make sure dangerous criminals stay locked up. Thanks to the tireless work of law enforcement, victim advocates, and leaders from both sides of the aisle at every level of government, New Hampshire will remain the safest state in the nation."

State leaders joined Governor Ayotte in commending the bipartisan effort to pass the new bail law and prevent violent offenders from doing further harm. "The 2018 bail reform law had tragic consequences – from a stabbing in my home city of Manchester to the murder of an innocent woman in the North Country," added Executive Councilor John Stephen of Manchester. "I'm both relieved and proud that a new law is now in effect to get violent offenders off of our streets and protect vulnerable Granite Staters. I thank Governor Ayotte for leading on this issue, and I am confident that the Attorney General and our state leaders will work tirelessly to make sure this law is implemented successfully so we can keep New Hampshire the safest state in the nation."

"The disastrous impact of our failed bail law hit far too close to home with the murder of Marisol Fuentes in Berlin," said Executive Councilor Joe Kenney of Wakefield. "My constituents and all Granite Staters can breathe easier knowing that a new law is now in place that would keep criminals like the one who murdered Marisol behind bars. I'm proud to see this bail law take effect today and will continue working with the Governor and our state leaders to make sure we prevent future tragedies like what happened in my district."

Governor Ayotte Signs Law to Close DUI Refusal Loophole

Press Release, April 20, 2026

Governor Ayotte signed into law Senate Bill 620, which increases the administrative license suspension penalty for drivers who refused a breath alcohol test when stopped on suspicion of driving under the influence. The bill passed the New Hampshire Senate unanimously and by an overwhelming bipartisan margin in the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

"By increasing the administrative license suspension time when someone refuses a breath alcohol test, we're closing a loophole in our law that has discouraged cooperation with law enforcement and kept drivers from being held accountable for DUIs," said Governor Ayotte. "This bipartisan law is a critical step to keeping New Hampshire the safest state in the nation, and I thank the members of the House and Senate on both sides of the aisle who helped us get this done. Together, we're closing the loophole and saving lives on our roads."

SB 620 increases the administrative license suspension time from six to nine months for drivers who refuse DUI testing. Under current law, the administrative suspension time for a driver convicted of a DUI is the same as a driver who refuses testing, creating a loophole incentive not to cooperate with law enforcement. The new law will take effect January 1, 2027.

Since 2018, more than 260 Granite Staters have been killed in crashes caused by impaired drivers. With the signing of SB 620, New Hampshire is closing the refusal loophole and saving lives.

Ayotte Signs Three Bills to Strengthen Protections for Crime Victims

by Damien Fisher, NH Journal, August 17, 2026

Gov. Kelly Ayotte signed new protections for victims of abuse into law Monday, both fulfilling a policy priority and reminding voters of her pro-public-safety politics as the November election approaches. "Every survivor deserves to know that New Hampshire stands with them and that our laws are there to protect them when they need help most," Ayotte said at the signing, which took place at the offices of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. "These new laws build on the progress we made last year by closing gaps in protections for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, strengthening support for crime victims, and helping to prevent and stop human trafficking."

HB 1651 gives sexual assault survivors a new option to seek a protective order. HB 1576 strengthens enforcement of court-ordered restitution and requires victims to be notified when payments change or are interrupted. HB 1469 requires certain massage businesses to be licensed, giving state regulators and law enforcement another tool to identify illegal activity, including human trafficking.



The Executive Council - What They Do

The Executive Council has authority and responsibility (with the Governor) over the administration of the affairs of the state as defined in the New Hampshire Constitution, the New Hampshire statutes, and the advisory opinions of the New Hampshire Supreme Court and the Attorney General.

There are five Executive Councilors, and they participate in the active management of the business of the state. Together, the New Hampshire Governor and Executive Council perform many vital tasks, to include:

- Approving all state Department and Agency receipts and expenditures of state and federal funds, budgetary transfers within each department and agency, and all personal service contracts that are \$10,000 and higher.
- Approving the spending of a major portion of the approximately 5.2 billion dollars that is appropriated annually by the legislature.
- Serving as watchdogs of the state treasury to ensure state departments do not spend more than was authorized by the legislature, nor allocate funds for items or services which the legislature has not sanctioned.
- Approving the appointments of Judges, Commissioners, Notary Public, Justice of Peace, Commissioners of Deeds and hears Pardon Requests.
- Ensuring that those appointed to the executive branch of state government, whether Commissioners, Department heads or citizen members of regulatory boards, agencies and commissions, are responsible to the public and not to special interests.
- Ensuring the executive branch of state government is fiscally conservative and above reproach.

The Executive Council also plays a vital role in improving the state's infrastructure, especially roads and bridges, via management and oversight of the state's 10-year Highway Plan.

'Fiscal Watchdogs:' NH Executive Councilors Push Back on Big Spending, Contracts

by Michael Graham, NH Journal

Aug 18, 2025

New Hampshire's Executive Council is one of the state's oldest and most unusual political institutions — and one of its most powerful.

New Hampshire enjoys a reputation for fiscal responsibility — the state is consistently rated the best for taxpayer return on investment — but the councilors said constant vigilance is still required.

Councilor Wheeler raised the recent example of the Department of Corrections submitting a \$2.1 million contract to lease 195 tasers for ten years.

"That's \$10,000 a taser. And that's the type of thing you find when you're reading contracts. So I called up my Milford police chief, and I said, 'How much are you paying for tasers?' He said, 'Well, we paid two grand for tasers.' And so the Executive Council ... killed the taser contract. But all of a sudden, three months later, there it comes again. The Department of Corrections brings back these \$10,000 tasers. So we killed it again," Wheeler said.

"Come to find out, a citizen tipped us off that the tasers had already been shipped to the state of New Hampshire without governor and council approval. So you might wonder why there are two people not at the Department of Corrections anymore."

"You look at every single line item. You try to identify whether the actual funds are being used to bring value to the taxpayer," Councilor Stephen said. "Because if you don't do your homework, they're going to pull one over on you."

"No political grandstanding, no backroom deals, but a principled leader who treats everyone with respect and works tirelessly for the citizens and communities he represents."

- Former NH Governor Chris Sununu speaking about Dave Wheeler



Executive Councilor Dave Wheeler

Dave Wheeler lives in Milford and is running for his 9th term on the Executive Council.

He is the owner of Maranatha Carpet and Miracle Acres Farm where he grows Christmas trees and produces maple syrup.

He also serves on the Board of Governors, Christian Home Educators of NH, and the Milford Traffic Safety Committee.

Dave Wheeler served as a NH state representative and state senator.

He and his wife, Joy, have four children and two foster children.



"The voters can trust Dave to uphold the Constitution, uphold conservative values, and defend the Live Free or Die way of life we know and love. Some candidates use those words as talking points and talk the talk – Dave Wheeler walks the walk."

- Former NH Governor Craig Benson



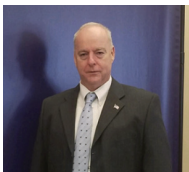
Kevin Avar,
State Senator, District 12

- Small-business owner who values protecting our rights, holding the line on taxes and spending, and creating new jobs
- Senate Committee Chairman, Energy and Natural Resources
- Senate Committee Chairman, Rules and Enrolled Bills
- Senate Committee Vice Chairman, Health and Human Services
- Priorities include: protecting privacy rights, providing new tools to fight the drug crisis, lowering spending and keeping NH income-tax free, and supporting local control
- Kevin and his wife Tracy have 5 children and live in Nashua, NH

"With the help of a strong community, I was able to become the husband, father, grandfather, small business owner and legislator that I am today. I ran for office to make sure that other children, like me that grew up without privilege, are given the same opportunities to succeed in life that I had."

- Senator Kevin Avar, Nashua resident

Learn more at: Senatoravard.com



John J. Coughlin,
County Attorney

- Served as a U.S. Marine JAG after law school
- Joined the NH Army National Guard and served as a Lieutenant Colonel; 3 tours in Iraq, awarded two Bronze Stars for his service
- 13 years on the NH Human Rights Commission
- 40 years of legal experience
- 15 years as a NH Circuit Court Judge
- Grew up in Nashua with his five brothers and sisters
- Lives in Amherst with his wife, Pam, and they have four children



Learn more at: Newcombforsheriff.com



Chris Maidment,
County Treasurer

Husband, father of four, and a believer in disciplined government

Chris Maidment's Priorities

- Sound, conservative cash management
- Transparency taxpayers can actually use
- Modernizing county government
- Protecting Hillsborough County taxpayers

Learn more at: MaidmentNH.com



Dennis Hogan,
Register of Deeds

"You deserve equitable leadership that is fiscally responsible to all taxpayers."

- Dennis Hogan,
Hillsborough County
Register of Deeds

- Practicing Attorney Since 2002
- 12 years working for a Fortune 100 Company where he received management training
- 8 years successfully leading county departments
- Improved functionality of Registry's website for customers
- Increased office output by implementing employee improvement plans
- Educated in Nashua Schools and Graduated UNH Durham in 1986 and UNH Law in 2002

Learn more at: Hogandeeds.com



Ross Terrio,
Register of Probate

Proven record; committed to listening and representing everyone

- Served as a Manchester State Rep and School Board Member
- Works as a pharmacist and volunteers as an attorney focused solely on representing low-income families
- Currently serving as an Alderman on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for Manchester
- Served in the US Marine Corps Reserves (Infantry – 0341) and has volunteered as a teacher's aide in the past
- Associate degree in Electronics, Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy, Juris Doctor in Law
- Married to his wife Clecia with 3 kids: Jordana, Alexsandra, and Anthony

You're a Free Stater! The Latest Political Slur

by Sue Homola, Hollis resident and former Hollis State Representative

Over recent election cycles, "Free Stater" has become a favorite Democrat slur against Republican candidates—so common that nearly every GOP candidate risks the label. I faced it myself, despite not even knowing what the term meant when I moved to Hollis after my family's 24 years of active duty military service.

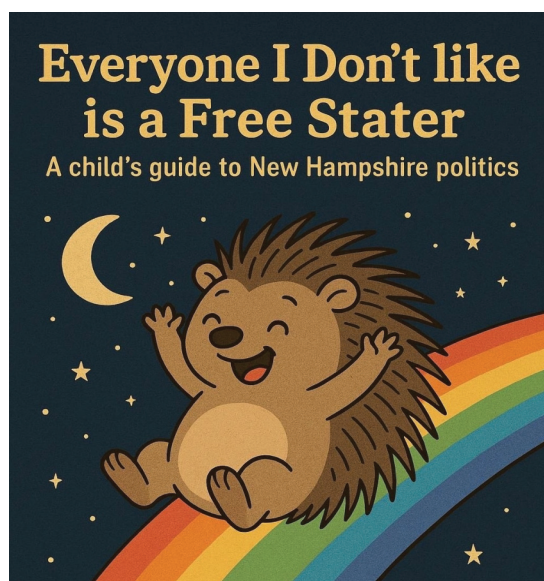
The label comes from the Free State Project. Founded in 2001 as an alternative to the national Libertarian Party, it encourages like-minded people to coalesce in New Hampshire and expand personal and economic freedom. This is a publicly documented movement, not a secret society.

Some NH State House members identify as Free Staters. Due to the two-party dominance of our elections, these individuals rarely run as Libertarians, since doing so would reduce their odds of success. Libertarians tend to share Republican views on limited government, personal autonomy, and free markets, while aligning with Democrats on drug legalization, abortion, and law enforcement restrictions.

Some Free Staters run under the Republican ticket for one simple reason: there is little to no dissent allowed in the Democrat caucus. In addition, Republicans don't threaten their members with violence when they vote against the party (Example: Google "Jonah Wheeler gets threats from NH Democrats").

Hollis has no Republican Free Stater candidates, yet Democrat candidates and activists keep hurling the label towards any Republican who runs for office—no matter how ridiculous the claim.

Eventually, "Free Stater" will lose its punch as a slur. We are not there yet, but we are at the point where those who use it on their opponents look foolish and reveal an inability to engage substantively on real issues. So what should we do when we hear the accusation? We should ignore the noise and research the candidates ourselves.



How EFAs Have Benefitted our Family

by Kimberly Spears, Hollis resident

Last summer, I was pleased to enroll my children into an Education Freedom Account (EFA). Prior to that, we had been homeschooling our children for four years without any financial assistance, all while paying our full property taxes and not using any of the public school services.

Our approach to education is similar to that outlined by Charlotte Mason, a British educator and reformer who believed in nurturing a child's natural curiosity through captivating, well-written works by individual authors with a passion for their subject. As a result, an assortment of books for history, science, geography, and literature are required. EFA accounts have allowed my family to purchase these various books so our children have a deep understanding of the subjects being covered.

The EFA has also provided my children with a more interactive approach to science. They now conduct weekly, hands-on

science experiments. As a result, they have developed better observation skills and appreciation for the natural world.

I have been following the discourse about the EFA program, and I'd like to clarify two common misconceptions.

First, it's been stated that public schools are "losing all the money." When a public school student leaves to participate in the EFA program, the state funding follows the student but the local funding remains unchanged. Hollis schools actually have more funds to spend on less students when a student switches to an EFA. Second, critics often say EFA spending isn't transparent and accountable. This simply isn't true. New Hampshire's EFA program recently underwent an audit by EdChoice and received top honors for being the most accountable, transparent, and efficient program in the nation for three consecutive years.

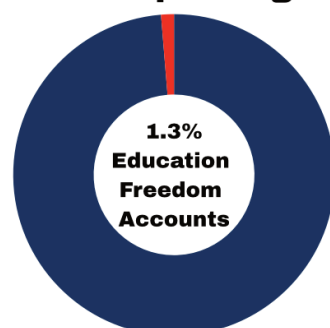
EFAs have allowed my children to have the best education possible. I thank Representatives Liz Barbour and Jack Flanagan, Senator Kevin Avar, Councilor David Wheeler, and the New Hampshire Republicans for expanding educational opportunities to all families.

"Congressman Chris Pappas, the Granite State Democrat running for Senate on a solemn vow to fight "corporate special interests," sits on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. His husband, Vann Bentley, works for Uber. Pappas and his husband own up to \$350,000 worth of Uber stock, according to the congressman's own financial disclosure filings.

On May 22, Pappas sat in a committee room in Washington and voted to advance a \$580 billion federal transportation bill. Tucked inside that bill is a provision that would functionally immunize Uber the next time one of its drivers assaults a passenger. Under the language Pappas voted to advance, victims of everything from kidnapping to rape could not hold Uber itself accountable in court unless they could prove the corporation was guilty of "gross negligence" or "criminal wrongdoing." Trial lawyers say clearing that bar is nearly impossible and Uber's lawyers agree."

- Patrick Hynes, "Pappas takes Granite Staters for a ride, Washington style," Union Leader, August 15, 2026

NH EFA Spending vs. K-12 Spending



Source: NH Dept. of Education



Vote for Common Sense in New Hampshire

Tuesday, November 3rd, 7am-7pm, HBHS

District 35 State Representatives

Liz Barbour
Dr. Jim Kelly



District 45 State Representative

Jack Flanagan

District 5 Executive Councilor

Dave Wheeler

District 12 State Senator

Kevin Avard

Governor

Kelly Ayotte

VOTE YES

**TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT
BALLOT QUESTION 2**



REAL RESULTS FOR HOLLIS

Working hard for working families.



MORE LOCAL AID FOR HOLLIS

Rooms & Meals revenue returned to Hollis

FROM \$400,771
FY20 TO \$863,074
FY26

UP 115%

\$462,303 more than FY20



STRONGER SUPPORT FOR HOLLIS SCHOOLS

State education funding for Hollis

FROM \$5,132,555
FY20 TO \$5,851,659
FY26

INCREASE OF \$719,104

Student enrollment went from 1,282 to 1,247 over the same period.



INVESTMENT IN ROADS & BRIDGES

Hollis received

\$240,559
IN FY25

transportation investment
Hollis Block Grant Aid

WHY RE-ELECT KEVIN AVARD

- ✓ Lower Taxes
- ✓ Local Control
- ✓ Safer Streets
- ✓ Strong Schools



Small business owner



Father of five

Kevin Avard delivers for Hollis — with lower taxes, local control, stronger schools, and better roads. **He's fighting for the kitchen-table issues that matter most to working families.**

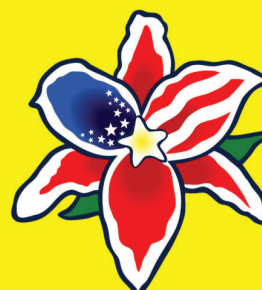


Let's keep
HOLLIS STRONG.

LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED:

KevinAvard.com

Paid for by Kevin Avard for Senate. Kevin Avard F/A.



LILY4CONGRESS

KEEP THE AMERICAN DREAM ALIVE

WWW.LILYTANGWILLIAMS.COM

Lily's Issue Priorities:

Combat inflation
Lower cost of living
Pass term limits
Expand economic opportunity
Protect personal freedom
Defend parental rights
Peace through strength

SUNUNU
SENATOR