



New Hampshire Senate NEWS RELEASE

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Republican Results – A 2022 Success Story

At end of session, Republicans review gains made, promises kept

Highlights include property tax relief; support for Main Street businesses, mental health, personal privacy, parental rights and education choice; consumer protection and public safety

CONCORD, NH – Following the end of the 2022 legislative session, Senate Republicans reviewed the gains they made over the past six months as well as the promises they kept to New Hampshire voters. With GOP Senators leading the way, session highlights include property tax relief, consumer protection and support for Main Street businesses, mental health, personal privacy, parental rights, education choice and public safety.

Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem) said, “Back in January, we promised to further protect our freedoms and to strengthen the economy by helping our Main Street businesses and working families. I’m proud to say that with Republican leadership, and sound fiscal management, we accomplished those things and more. Just as importantly as advancing those critical initiatives, we also defeated Democrat attempts to increase property taxes, weaken the state’s anti-discrimination law, shut down the popular Education Freedom Accounts, and make school funding more expensive.”

Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro) added, “Republicans can look back on this past session with pride. We began 2022 with a strong, conservative agenda that built on many of the important gains we made in 2021. Our successes over the last six months are the direct result of staying focused on our priorities and being able to take advantage of the surplus we created by responsible tax and budget policies.”

Highlights from the 2022 Session include:

Property Tax Relief & Taxpayer Protection

New Hampshire families are struggling with skyrocketing costs for gas, groceries, and other essentials. The Senate pushed through a \$135M+ package in a targeted state aid to cities and towns to help working families through lower property taxes:

- \$36M for municipal bridges (SB 401)
- \$30M in municipal highway block grants (SB 401)
- \$1M for body-worn and dashboard camera grants to local law enforcement (SB 401)
- \$28M to cities in towns through a one-time contribution to municipal retirement costs (HB1221)
- \$24M in Extraordinary Needs Grants to NH school districts (SB 420)
- \$12.65M for municipal water-water projects (HB 398)
- \$5M increase in nursing home reimbursement rates (SB 412)

Help for Main Street

- Lowered Business Profits Tax from 7.6% to 7.5% (HB 1221)
- Directed \$122M in ARPA funds to Broadband Matching Grants to help build out high-speed internet infrastructure and access (SB 445)

Pro-Parent

- Guaranteed a public comment period at local school board meetings (SB410)
- Supported a Parents Bill of Rights to guarantee that parents are primarily responsible for the education and upbringing of their children and that they are informed of what their children are being taught in public schools (HB 1431)
- Barred ineffective mask mandates in schools which have been shown to interfere with students learning (HB 1131)

Personal Privacy & Freedom to Worship

- Created the Personal Privacy Protection Act to protect the rights of Granite Staters to donate to non-profit, charitable, and religious organizations anonymously in order to avoid persecution, doxing, and bullying (SB 302)
- Supported freedom of worship and assembly from discrimination (HB1021)

Safe Roads and Bridges

- Provided for \$30M for local road construction and \$36M for municipal bridge projects (SB 401)

Senior Citizens

- Increased nursing home reimbursement rates by \$5M (SB 412)
- Protected families from unfair nursing home bill after the death of a loved one (SB 281)
- Protected vulnerable seniors from financial exploitation (SB 385)

Healthcare & Mental Health

- Established dental coverage for adults under state Medicaid (SB 422 and HB 103)
- Supported mental health training for first responders (SB 357)
- Supported putting Suicide Prevention phone number on student IDs (SB 234)
- Increased funds for Respite Care (SB 414)

Affordable Housing

- Passed vital housing reforms to improve training for local officials, clarify approval process for housing development, and restrict abuse of eminent domain (HB 1661)

Public Safety

- Fought for Senate passage of bail reform to ensure that violent offenders would have to go before a judge before being released on bail. (SB 294, HB 1476)
- Increased funding for police body-worn and dashboard cameras by \$1M (SB 401)
- Strengthened laws against vandalism of public property (HB 1011)
- Expanded death benefits for first responders who die from suicide (HB 91)
- Expanded death benefits for corrections officers killed in the line of duty (HB 1319)

Honest Elections

New Hampshire has always run fair and open elections and earned the trust of Granite State voters. While recent mistakes in Windham and Bedford have shown that our elected officials are fallible, the Senate responded with a series of measures to improve the integrity and transparency of our elections:

- Required an audit of ballots cast in the 2022 primary and general election (SB 366) and partial audit of additional offices during state representative recounts (HB 1467)
- Clarified New Hampshire's campaign finance limits (SB 348)
- Required access to municipal voting data on public voter rolls (HB 1010)
- Protected New Hampshire ballot counting devices from online hacking (HB 1157)
- Improved accuracy of counting "over voted" ballots (HB 1163), access for ballot challengers (HB 1174), chain of custody of ballot boxes (HB 1457), access to voter checklists in electronic form (HB 1496)
- Prevented candidates from counting ballots on which they are listed (SB 242)
- Increased penalties for election official misconduct (SB 405)
- Improved verification of voter affidavits (SB 418)

Environment

- Required remediation of certain wells in Merrimack contaminated by PFAS (SB341)
- Established remediation standards for PFAS contamination statewide (HB 1547)
- Appropriated \$25M to PFAS Remediation Loan Fund for local water cleanup projects (HB 1547)
- Improved testing for lead in drinking water in schools and childcare centers (HB 1421)
- Increased state funding for wastewater projects by \$12.65M (HB398)
- Clarified tax treatment water and sewage disposal utilities, enabling state and federal water funding to go further (HB 102)
- Required a state plan for addressing cyanobacterial blooms (HB 1066)

Republicans defeated:

- Attempts to raise property taxes (SB 453)
- Attempts to restrict or eliminate Education Freedom Accounts (SB 237, SB 432, SB 252)
- Attempts to weaken state's anti-discrimination law (SB 298, SB 304)
- Threats to the solvency of the New Hampshire Retirement System (SB 434)

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