

The Taxing Times

OCTOBER 2008 • SERVING ALL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE • STATEWIDE ELECTION EDITION • FREE

NH Supreme Court Drops Claremont Suit – Or Did It?

"It is readily apparent that despite its near decade long assurances that our public education system would contain the requisite controls to ensure the delivery of an adequate education, the state has not met its acknowledged obligation. This court, for the past 15 years, has repeatedly, respectfully and appropriately deferred to the political branches to resolve the critical issues the numerous school funding decisions have identified. Deference however has its limits. Constitutional rights must be enforced or they cease to be rights. The orders of this court going back more than a decade cannot be trumped by extended and repeated non-compliance."

-- Chief Justice John Broderick's Dissent

The Claremont Case which started out in 1991 as an EQUITY case and morphed into an ADEQUACY case in 1997 is not dead by a long shot. The whole attempt to litigate taxes for schools started in the late 1960s, hit pay dirt in 1989 in Texas, Kentucky, and Montana decisions.

Some 45 states have suffered education litigation lawsuits, draining resources from the taxpayers to both ends and accomplishing little except pouring more money into schools taxpayers stopped funding. Did you ever wonder why no education funding lawsuit uses another state as an example of how an education funding scheme has worked? All you see is more litigation based on the different plaintiffs. NH has dodged the bullet many other states have not. In California, property taxes paid for most schools until that age old method was scrapped for state funding. Now California has spent billions on its schools, is billions in the red because they depend on income taxes which are cyclical, and the schools have to compete with other state departments for borrowed funds.

Watch local California taxes go up to compensate for lost state revenue.

In This Issue

About CNHT.....	2
Job Training Scams	3
Towns in Brief	4
County Government Explained.....	4
Taxpayers Worst Enemy.....	5
Janeway's Income Tax	5
Rochester on the March	6
Getting Ready for Town Meeting.....	6
Police File.....	7
Water Meter Woes.....	7
Is NH Government for Sale?.....	7
Windsor Tax Fighters.....	8
Cigarette Tax Raised Again	8
Job Training Under WIA.....	9
New Hampshire Values.....	9
Gambling in NH.....	9
Property Rights.....	10
Educational Rights.....	10
Stop the Lynch Deficit	11
Homeschooling Alert	12
Voter ID Laws Needed	13



A Taxpayer Activist Writes...

Well it is almost time for budget committee season to start again; this will be my third year (and yes, I am contemplating running for reelection). Economic data is showing good trends – and others are also in the tank. So what to do, what to do?

Many families are angst-ridden over “what to do?” as re-examining their family incomes and expenses around the kitchen table (especially the expenses). What would they do if the Economic Grim Reaper materialized at their door ready to ding their doorbell? What about the families who stare in horror as the fiend has already knocked the door down and is astride the threshold (or invited him in as a result of prior decisions?)

In all cases, all expenses are being re-examined, including that one that is one of the biggest (and normally considered to be “non-discretionary”) of each family – property taxes.

Fortunately, where I live YOU CAN make a difference – your voice can be heard. Call the Selectmen, the School Board, the Budget Committee and your fellow residents. Attend the meetings, write the Letters to the Editors, talk the issues around the water cooler or coffeepot.

Just don't sit there and moan! Make your voice heard – do something!

The New Hampshire Legislature and Governor's Irresponsible Spending Has Caught Up With Them

Take a look at some quotes from two NH think tank studies describing by the use of past spending and revenue figures, where our next budget is headed. First from the NH Center for Public Policy Studies...

“The Center's analysis is unique in New Hampshire, because we examine not only the potential shortfall in state revenues, which could be as much as \$286 million in the next biennium, but also that the State's growth in demand for state services and potential increases in the state's

Marshall Your Resources by Richard Lessner Former NH UL Editorial Page Writer

In an era of big and growing government aided and abetted by both major political parties, citizens organizations such as the Coalition of New Hampshire Taxpayers are more important than ever. Such watchdog groups are the taxpayer's best friends. As Ronald Reagan was fond of saying, “Politicians see the light when they feel the heat.” CNHT supplies that heat, standing up for the average, hardworking taxpayer while the acolytes of Big Government strive to turn us all into serfs of the Leviathan State.

financial participation in local education costs. These trends will require the Governor and the Legislature to make changes in the state budget totaling between \$372 and \$495 million dollars over the next three years, beyond current state law.”

And how about the Josiah Bartlett Center...

“There is a growing hole in the New Hampshire State budget. The revenue shortfall alone would require tax increases that would cause undue economic damage. Couple with a planned but undefined increase in education spending, the amount will be too large to close with small changes to our current tax structure. By one calculation the hole will approach \$200 million. But when the planned off-budget spending increases are added in, the shortfall will be between \$800 million and \$1 BILLION.”

You will hear a lot from tax and spend legislators and the liberal media about how the slow ECONOMY has brought this massive deficit but that is not the case. An increase of spending over the last budget by 17.5% is the cause.

Did you know that New Hampshire, for the first time in history, is BORROWING to pay for general road maintenance?

We are also BORROWING to pay for the state portion of school construction bonds. This I much like using the VISA card to pay for the Master Card at the state level. And when the spending is greater than the natural increase in state revenue growth to pay these bills the predictable cry for an INCOME TAX will be heard throughout the Statehouse.

Call your elected officials and ask if they voted for the state budget with all the spending and borrowing.

Check CNHT's website to see who took the pledge at www.cnht.org/pledgers.php

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About CNHT

The Coalition of NH Taxpayers is the largest taxpayer group in the state. We focus on local government and involve ourselves in legislation that affects schools, cities, and towns. In NH this is where most of your taxes are paid and they are the taxes you have the most control over.

Imagine if, as our new legislature had done, voters in a school or town increased spending by 17.5% in one year and borrowed to pay operating costs! This rarely happens because voters have a direct say in the process.

We try to connect the handful of taxpayers who attend meetings and try to hold the line on spending and borrowing in one town with the like-minded taxpayers from other towns to form a coalition of more informed voters.

It is also our goal to be the place new groups can get information and support to form and to hold the torch in a municipality as one group fades and another begins. Many taxpayer groups end when the issues that sparked their creation are over. This often is the case in municipal re-assessments. But just because the issue quiets down doesn't mean taxpayers should forget that the assessment of your home is what generates your property tax bill – that and spending.

With taxpayers from different towns, cities, and schools sharing information we are all stronger and more effective.

**CNHT HAS A RADIO PROGRAM
ON AIR FOR ALMOST SIX YEARS**

New Hampshire Taxpayer Radio

WLMW 90.7 FM Manchester
Thursday Evenings
From 6-8:00 PM

Streaming Live or Podcast
www.cnht.org



The Editorial Board

The Editorial Board is comprised of The Board of Directors of the Coalition of New Hampshire Taxpayers. We will correct any errors or omissions in our next publication.

The Taxing Times has been printed by CNHT since 1999. We sell a limited number of ads. You can contact us by going through the website at www.cnht.org

If you know of a location where you can distribute paper copies of The Taxing Times such as a barbershop, store, office, restaurant, coffee shop, supermarket, gas station, or any other high traffic area, we can contact you when the next edition is ready for distribution. You may even want to post an editorial or have an idea for a story.

CNHT will deliver bulk shipments of The Taxing Times to taxpayer groups who can then place their own issue advocate flyers or other material inside. Please contact us if you have an organization that wishes to take advantage of this offer.

Other NH Organizations

Cornerstone Policy Research
www.nhcornerstone.org

NH Advantage
www.thenhadvantage.com

NH Liberty Alliance
www.nhliberty.org

NH Right to Work
<http://www.nrtwc.org/states/nh.htm>

Pro-Gun NH
<http://www.pgnh.org/>

Reagan Network
www.nhreagannetwork.com

Republican Liberty Caucus NH
www.rlcnh.org

Second Amendment Sisters
<http://www.2asisters.net/nh/index.html>

NH Liberty Calendar
<http://www.nhlibertycalendar.org>

*"The only thing necessary for
evil to triumph is for good men
to do nothing".*

-- Edmund Burke 1729-1797



JOIN CNHT NOW!

We Meet Each Second Saturday
at our Concord Offices at 9AM
Guests Welcome!

CNHT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Yes I would like to help save the New Hampshire Advantage of Lower Taxes and Less Government! Mail Donation To: CNHT at 136 North Main Street Concord NH 03301

Individual \$20 [] Family \$30 [] Other Org \$30 [] Business \$50 []

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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A Perennial Orgy of Greed

by Johnna Grzywacz

The Reauthorized Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) is one of many legislative reforms since the inception of nationwide job training and job search assistance programs more than six decade ago. The goal: better respond to the workforce development needs of businesses, job seekers and provide the job skills necessary to obtain such employment opportunities.

America has long been served an alphabet soup of failed federal and state training programs masked by endless statistical shams and lack of oversight. With each new administration, a new veneer, wider loopholes allowing fraud and abuse, conflicting rules and administrative structures remain the hallmarks of this multi-billion dollar boondoggle. If you think NH is immune to this beehive of activity, think again.

On a local level job training programs are identified as “eligible training providers” marketed by “One Stop Career Centers” to seekers of training who are awarded \$4K grants and must choose from a “list” of providers licensed and approved by both NH Postsecondary Education Commission and Workforce Opportunity Council (WOC). And some endorsed by NH Department of Health and Human Services.

The underbelly of this system operates in a pinky-ring mob-connected mentality. In an arena where profits and bribes take center stage these proprietary programs don't operate in a vacuum. There's a “front person” delivering a well scripted sales pitch, a trumped up dog and pony show, some “skills” paid to endorse along with the license and approval of the above state and federal agencies. Often instructors willingly participate in luring students.

The Healthcare Industry is most harmed by tinsel training. For example, for 4K you get a short program containing a bloat of word and excel classes peppered with a few intro medical type courses leaving students ill prepared to land employment for what the program advertises: “Medical Billing and Coding Specialist” or “Office Administrator”. Hiring managers viewing resumes which contain alphabet bargain bin certification along with the terms “Coding Specialist” or “Administrator” laughingly reject applicants while mentally wiping these programs from their short lists.

According to Naomi Preble of Rochester, former student of BSTI Blended Solutions stated, “I no longer list the name of this school on my resume as it is more a liability than a benefit in the job search”.

Here in lies the problem: If a program on “the list” is not chosen by an unemployed individual their tax dollars in the form of an ITA voucher is forfeited and they are not allowed to spend the voucher on their choice of industry preferred training. Since Medical Coders do not require a license this leaves ample room for programs on “the list” to truncate and even omit vital courses from their offerings, still at the approval of Postsecondary Commission.

A Compliance Officer from a local Healthcare System testified at HB1211 in January 2008 that physicians will not allow hiring from these programs. Medical Coders shield physicians from OIG audits, prevent the loss of millions in revenue due to improper coding and affect worldwide morbidity and mortality statistics. The ramifications to you as a patient are enormous. HB1211 was sponsored to have coursework aligned with employer requirements. The non-passage of this bill has left consumers of training programs further scammed.

In addition, these speedy programs offer NO diploma, NO credits, NO advisory board, NO accreditation, NO continuing education units and NO direct paid vendor affiliation with AAPC or AHIMA; all factors impacting employers turning away applicants. And the calamity doesn't stop there. A deeper shade of fraud reveals a program owner fabricating written success stories as lures indicating students landed jobs in local hospitals as Medical Coders right after the training; a pathetic way to rip-off the unemployed who have no lobbyists. The school remains licensed by Postsecondary.

Ellen Wallpe, CPC, General Surgery Practice Manager in Dover stated during her testimony at HB1211 “I would not place a short term trained person in any part of the revenue cycle in my office, our physicians want those trained by PMCC instructors from the Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) or instructors approved by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)”.

SB173 prevents vouchers from being used to obtain training from these preferred organizations; therefore, you cannot get on the “A” list with your own tax dollars.

In other professions, standardization has occurred thru legislation, educational changes, public demand and media attention. For example, uniformity exists in the nursing field focusing on responsibilities that pose a risk to patients if performed by unqualified persons.

Although Health Information Management personnel do not provide direct care, coding of diagnoses, procedures and services can influence and affect subsequent treatment and or reimbursement decisions which affect patient care.

After complaining to the VP of WOC about the truncated coursework of one program, I was told “Well, that's just the way it is”. The Licensing and Approval Administrator for Postsecondary Commission testified at HB1211 “I just don't have time to look into these complaints”. I received her document stating: “Postsecondary voted against HB1211, but we care”. Both Postsecondary and WOC approved and licensed for more than 3 yrs. the annual renewal application that allowed a Manchester training provider to operate a job training program in a backyard shed in Rye. Absent of fire and building code, no windows, no elevator, no ramp leaving the disabled unwelcome to this federal and state sponsored location where state employment counselors steered the unemployed. One would wonder if this, too, is an expression of “caring”. This location continues to enroll despite a documented student complaint to WOC and Postsecondary regarding a webcam in the bathroom.

Massachusetts fairs better at squeezing out unscrupulous gigs and placing students in safe environments. For example, state overseers actually make site visits with little notice to question instructors then corral students interviewing them individually, I am told. In contrast, one or more NH licensing agencies offer up different solutions; the paper shuffle, a blind eye to marketing abuses, and unqualified instructors within these programs according to dozens of prior and current students who, scammed beyond belief, now turn to non-governmental advocacy groups to detail their complaints and list scam schools.

HB1331, a welfare reform bill passed in 2006 requires recipients to enroll in job training before returning back to their welfare status. At \$4K a pop you can see why training providers cruise the local “One Stop” center sizing up the school of fish. When entitlements pay more than a job will following training it's the taxpayer who foots the bill for able bodied citizens to belly up into their lazy-boys. And while the unemployed displaced workers may require training to land the next job it is usually the employer that trains new hires and receives either tax credits or payments thru the NH Job Training Fund, leaving many proprietary training gigs unnecessary and worthless.

Buyers beware strategies firmly in place cannot be understated especially in this down-trodden economy. Contact HCAudit@aol.com for assessment tools.

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Towns in Brief — What We Do

Atkinson — The Coalition of New Hampshire Taxpayers has been working with the Atkinson Taxpayers Association for about a year. They had a bad re-assessment which triggered a huge outcry from the taxpayers. Activists inside Atkinson took the problem into their own hands and combed through the new assessments, card by card. They found patterns of over assessment and helped get tax refunds for those affected. This is a ton of work and not many groups can pull it off.

Now though there remains a problem with the perennial thorn in the community's side, and police chief, who has, we find, been collecting donations from Atkinson citizens who get rides in the police departments elderly ride program. CNHT is concerned that the donations being accepted are going into a private non-profit formed by the chief, not to the town which pays for the vehicles. This could have statewide repercussions if the chief gets away with it.

Windsor — Two years ago CNHT helped Windsor taxpayers win video taping access to the Town Meeting after being denied by the town moderator. This year we spent countless hours helping some of the bravest activists we have ever met battle a board of selectmen and tax collector who did choose not to collect taxes from a select group of people, or keep financial records required by the State.

Milton — In this town we had a railroad company try to force property owners who lived in a peninsula that jutted out into a lake buy insurance to cross their railroad tracks. This railroad threads through several NH towns. CNHT attended meetings in Milton and did research into who owned the properties abutting and under the tracks, what statutes applied, and alternatives to this odd situation. The Milton Selectmen who were not at first willing to go to bat for the taxpayer on the peninsula have reversed their original decision and are now working with the taxpayers to resolve this issue.

Bow — This was an interesting one and complicated too. It revolves around the timing for submitting a petitioned warrant article for Senate Bill 2 voting. The Bow School is opposed to SB2 and claimed the petition was not timely under their reading of the state statutes and their time for the Annual School District Meeting. Our taxpayer activist claimed otherwise and had submitted the petition in plenty of time for the meeting. CNHT helped BOW activists go to Superior Court pro se. The judge ruled, reluctantly, in the school board's favor but said this is the way political activism should be carried out. He even said he may not be correct in his ruling because of the poor construction of the statutes involved and also said it might pay to appeal his ruling, work to clean up the law, or file again this

year. If you are going to 'lose' a court case against a municipality, this is the way to do it. You have shown you have the skills to win in court the next time.

Amherst — Amherst had a Finance Committee which looked over the town budget. It worked until recently when the members resigned. A new group is forming in Amherst and if they can get an RSA 32 Municipal Budget Committee on the ballot and adopted by the voters, some fiscal sanity may come back to Amherst. This upscale municipality is not lost to the tax and spenders yet. With an organized effort by a dedicated taxpayer group unnecessary spending could be stopped and everyone who lives there could afford to stay.



Weare — It has been a long time for the property owner that CNHT has been helping. He can now take a breath and say he can actually move into the home he has been remodeling since 2005. The Weare Code Enforcement Officer has made such crazy rulings as, the place has been abandoned because it not has not been "lived in" for two consecutive years, and that it is not a pre-existing use under the zoning ordinance even though the house has been there since the late 1800s. If this type of ruling were allowed to stand in Weare, all NH homes on the market or summer camps not used on a regular basis would be subject to senseless litigation. This one certainly has been. CNHT has represented the owner before the Zoning Board twice. We have won a unanimous reversals by the board and now are in Superior Court along with the Town defending that last decision from the neighbor who brought the case and who now sits on the Weare ZBA! You can't make this stuff up!

Read more about what we do at:
www.cnht.org/news

Join CNHT and scores of other NH taxpayers at our ANNUAL FAMILY REUNION PICNIC to be held on July 11, 2009 at a location to be determined.

It's fun for the whole family and you will be supporting CNHT as well as networking with the successful activists that you have been reading about from all over New Hampshire.

The Secret Election

by Carol Holden
Hillsborough County Commissioner

New Hampshire County Government is a mystery in this state. Counties trace their roots to the English shire of a thousand years ago. County government duties vary across the country. The Provincial Act of 1769 created New Hampshire Counties and with the approval of the King of England began to operate on March 19, 1771.



Each of the ten NH counties is a corporate body administered by a board of three Commissioners. They propose the budget, recommend bonds, recommend the purchase and sale of real estate and negotiate union contracts.

On November 4, voters will elect County Commissioners and State Representatives. The State Representatives wear two hats: to serve as legislators in Concord and to serve as members of the county convention in their counties. The "county convention" later became known as the "county delegation"

The Hillsborough County Delegation consists of the 123 State Representatives. The delegation functions are to appropriate funds for the budget, authorize bonds, authorize the purchase and sale of real estate and approve funding of union contracts. The State Representatives thus, serve a dual role.

The Secret Election occurs when the county delegation convenes in the second week of December, following the state election. They meet for the purpose of organizing and selecting the leadership. The county delegation chooses an executive committee and elects its officers.

In Hillsborough County, the 21 member Executive Committee acts to approve new positions and to approve budget transfers between delegation meetings. The full delegation meets to vote on the county budget each year.

Often voters are not aware of how this important process works. It is important to elect executive committee members who will make sure that the necessary services are provided to the county residents at a reasonable cost to the taxpayers.

For further information on county government contact Carol Holden at 673-8167 or email at: ccommish@bassriver.us or visit her website: www.carolholden.org

See Town Taxpayer Websites At
<http://www.cnht.org/groups.php>

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The Taxpayer's Worst Enemy

Grafton resident gets dubious award

At the end of each two-year legislative term, many groups publish scorecards for each member of the NH House of Representatives.

Some even give an award for top Legislator of the Year.

The Coalition of NH Taxpayers is a taxpayer watchdog group that advocates for fiscal responsibility in government and lower taxes.

As bad as this session was because of the huge deficit it portends to bring down upon us, and over 25 new taxes or tax increases realized, things could even have been worse if certain people were to get their way.

CNHT would like to bestow its own award for the 2006-2008 Session. This dubious award, "The Taxpayer's Worst Enemy", goes to Catherine Mulholland, who represents District 10 in Grafton County.

She earned this award for the sheer volume of bills she sponsored during the 2006-2008 session, bills which introduced new taxes or proposed increases on current taxes, or took the power of the vote away from the people.

For example:

HB 0925-2008 which...

- I. Taxes property which is not primary residential real estate at twice the rate of primary residential real estate under the local property tax.
- II. Establishes a luxury sales and use tax on motor vehicles costing \$30,000 or more and any item costing \$10,000 or more.
- III. Establishes a tax on entertainment admission charges.
- IV. Establishes a tax on gambling winnings.
- V. Expands the definition of tobacco products subject to the tobacco tax.
- VI. Changes the method of calculating the beer tax to a method based on price rather than volume.
- VII. Establishes a tax on estates exceeding \$3,000,000, excluding certain farm property.
- VIII. Establishes a payroll tax on businesses with payrolls exceeding \$10,000 per week.
- IX. Changes the rate of the statewide enhanced education tax.
- X. Dedicates revenues from the taxes established in this bill to the education trust fund.

Then there was HB 0820-2007, a bill which would have established a tax on candy, HB 0891-2007, which would have established a fee to be paid by beverage manufacturers and distributors, including bottled water.

Additionally, Mulholland was the sole sponsor of CACR 0007-2007 which proposed a constitutional amendment to make the positions of County Treasurer, Register of Probate, County Attorney, Sheriff, and Register of Deeds and appointed rather than elected position.

This was just a part of the overall tax outrageousness that went on this past session. There was a bill which asked for the establishment of a committee to study implementing a "bedroom" tax on residential dwellings. That's right, HB 0398-2007 proposed to study the feasibility of a tax on the bedrooms in your home. But surprisingly, Mulholland was not mentioned as a co-sponsor of that bill.

As a result of the past two years of legislative outrageousness, NH now faces between a \$158-\$495M deficit, has passed the Shoreline Protection Act — a huge private-to-state land transfer, and most recently, effectively in secret, managed to push through another huge transfer of the wealth with a \$10M State Heating Aid Bill.

Clearly Mulholland has shown herself to be part of the problem.

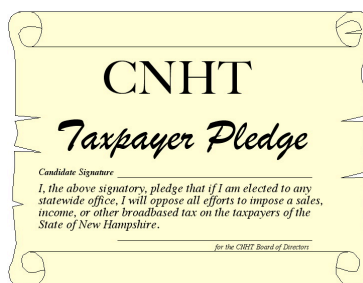
What's Going On at the DRA?

DRA officials who have resigned or retired recently:

- Director of Property Appraisal
- Assistant Director of Property Appraisal
- Property Tax Advisor for Property Appraisal

And now, the COMMISSIONER of the DEPARTMENT of REVENUE, Philip Blatsos.

Here is a Copy of "The Pledge"



**Please support your representatives
who support The Pledge.**

Stop the Janeway Income Tax!

Liberal tax-and-spend NH State Senator Harold Janeway is trying to have it both ways.

He wants to show you that you don't have to take the anti-tax pledge to get elected. Ah, but here is a quote from a recent Concord Monitor article:

"We have a revenue-raising problem that, by its nature, doesn't keep up with expenses," Janeway said. "I think that, at a minimum, it would be time to convene a high-level meeting to at least visit the issue of new revenue sources."

"Doesn't keep up with expenses"?

How many times have we heard this from a legislator over the last 30 years or so? And it always seems to be the well-to-do legislators that want to put a hand in your pocket or snip off a bit of your paycheck through a sales or income tax.

Let's take a look at Janeway's other statement from that article:

"I'm going to try to show that not taking The Pledge is not political suicide", he said.

Big deal, some of our best small government legislators don't take The Pledge. It's the brave ones that say what they intend to do.

How about showing your hand Senator now that you and your Democrat friends raised spending 17.5% and borrowed, for the first time in NH history, to cover school and highway construction?

Why not have the guts to forgo this not taking The Pledge nonsense and tell us you are FOR a broadbased tax? That is what this "high level meeting" talk is really about. It is about taking some rich, well-to-do experts who can hide their income, as cover to say once again, it's finally time for a broadbased sales or income tax.

There isn't really any other way for a tax-and-spender to address the issue — and be honest about it.

Show some integrity and just come out, just come out and say it:

"I, Senator Harold Janeway, am finally, after adding \$450 million to NH's budget and borrowing millions more, am in favor of an income tax."

If you get a shiny Senator Janeway flyer in your mailbox, notice that it won't say he is for a broadbased tax. Good old Ichabod Janeway, playing Trick or Treat with NH voters.

Shame, shame, shame.

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Rochester on the March

by Fred Leonard, Vice President
Rochester Concerned Taxpayers
www.rochestertaxpayers.org

With all that is going on in our world today, it's hard to imagine having the time or motivation to begin a taxpayer advocacy group. But all it took was that one more issue that left me no choice but to do just that.

While it was one issue that served as the catalyst to start a taxpayer group, it had really been years of watching our local government spend more than the taxpayer could afford that moved the start of making change happen.

It was April 16, 2008, just one day after the Rochester City Council voted to rescind a March 2008 vote to not take over Skyhaven Airport.

This decision had the potential to cost the Rochester taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. Every report generated said that the airport would cost money and any investment to make money would not be supported by potential revenues.

In addition to this decision, the city manager felt it would be a good time to present his FY 2009 budget that include a \$3.99 per thousand increase.

The next morning I phone a fellow watchdog, Tom Kaczynski, to tell him that I had had enough and asked if he wanted to work with me to take action. Tom gladly jumped in with both feet. The next thing we did was call the people we knew who have grown more discontent with Rochester's overspending habits. We decided the only way to get the council to change its decision, again, was to organize a protest to show opposition against taking over Skyhaven Airport.

The takeover came up one more time for a vote in May 2008 and our protest ended up making the difference with the city council that evening.

From protesting the council's decision to take over the airport, we turned toward initiating a tax and spending cap to put needed spending limits in place.

"It was a great victory for the taxpayer and we then set our sights on the next challenge."

This time they voted, again, to not takeover the airport. It was a great victory for the taxpayer and we then set our sights on the next challenge.

We collected over 1700 signatures, over twice the required amount, and on September 2, 2008, and the Rochester City Council voted to place the cap question on the November 4, 2008 ballot.

While our job is not complete, we now have a network of valuable people and resources ready to work toward making our community a shining example of the New Hampshire advantage.



Town Meeting Election Timeline for Upcoming Year 2009

Time to Get Ready is NOW

January 7 — Legislature resumes meeting.

January 21-30 — Filing period for town offices using non-partisan ballot system. RSA 669:19; 652:20 Nominating petitions or declarations of candidacy or filing fee required RSA 669:19-21

February 3 — Last day for 2% of voters of a town to petition selectmen to place referendum on ballot to increase or decrease membership of board of selectmen. RSA 41:8-b, 8-d. Last day for 25 or more voters, or 2% of the voters, whichever is less, in the town, to petition selectmen to include warrant article. RSA 39:3

February 23 — Last day for selectmen to post **warrant** at all polling places and at the town clerk's office and at town hall; warrant shall prescribe place, time of election, the time the polls are to open and the time before which polls may not close; warrant shall specify which items will be voted on by ballot. RSA 39:5; 669:2

February 28 — Session of supervisors for corrections to checklist as a minimum requirement between 11:00 AM and 11:30 AM and at the discretion of the supervisors for extended hours. RSA 654:27, 28; 669:5

Last day for town clerk/supervisors to accept voter registration applications. **No additions or corrections shall be made to the checklist after this session**, until election day, except as provided in RSA 659:12, RSA 654:8, II

March 6 — Last day for supervisors to post final corrected checklist, on or before midnight. RSA 654:28

March 9, 5:00 PM — Town clerk must be available to accept any completed absentee ballots filed in person at least between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM. RSA 652:20; 669:29; 657:22

March 10 — TOWN ELECTION DAY
Voters may register at the polls on election day. RSA 39:1; 669:1; 654:7-a, 7-b

5:00 PM — Deadline for town clerk to accept any completed absentee ballots. RSA 669:29; 657:22

March 13 — Last day for any person for whom a vote was cast to apply to town clerk for a recount. Clerk must be available at least between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM. RSA 669:30; 652:20

March 17 — Last day for 10 voters of a town to petition clerk to recount ballots on any question printed on official ballot. Clerk must be available at least between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM. RSA 40:4-c



Radio Shows in New Hampshire

Al Kulas — WKBK 1290 AM/104.1 FM
Saturday Mornings from 5-9:00 AM

Charlie Sherman — WGIR 610 AM
Weekday Mornings from 5-9:00 AM

Meet the New Press — WEMJ 1490 AM
Saturday Mornings 9-11:00 AM

Niel Young — WEZS 1350 AM
Saturday Mornings from 8-12:00 AM

Dan Belforti — WSCA 106.1 FM
Fridays from 12-1:00 PM

NH Taxpayer Radio — WLMW 90.7 FM
Thursday Evenings from 6-8:00 PM
(Most have streaming as we do.)

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Fat of Head and Flat of Foot

by Ed Naile



Let's do some quick math – municipal style.

The Atkinson Town Budget has a line item

appropriation of \$19,000 for Elderly Affairs.

This money pays for the jazzed up cruiser Police Chief Consentino uses to shuttle little old ladies to doctors appointments. This project helps this incompetent, thick-headed, bully in uniform buy grateful votes for Atkinson Town Meetings. Call it a taxpayer funded get-out-the-vote scam.

Up until this year Consentino was getting donations from some of the little old ladies and putting them in the Elderly Affairs account where he had control of the money. Then, along comes the NH AG's Office and points out to Atkinson the fact that under state law the Trustees of the Trust Fund control these types of donations.

What does Consentino do? He creates his own non-profit 501c-3 to collect gifts. Now nobody is going to tell the bully what to do! He has his own personal slush fund.

But does he?

Last year, Chief Consentino claimed to have made 1,644 trips with his Town Elderly Affairs money. This is the \$19,000 voters raise each year as part of the police budget.

Now is when we ask, how is that financially possible?

It isn't.

The Chief is obviously using much more Atkinson Police Department money to accomplish his goal of dominating Atkinson politics with his legion of Elderly Affairs beneficiaries. This means fewer patrols by police on duty because the appropriation for that town function is being tapped for sleazy politics.

What about maintenance of vehicles? How can anyone make 1,644 trips anywhere with a cruiser for \$19,000? Remember, earlier this year I caught Consentino and a little old lady leaving Manchester in the Elderly Affairs cruiser on Rt. 93 going over 80 miles per hour. Someone has to buy, maintain, insure, fuel, and fix this rig when something goes wrong.

Before Chief Consentino created his PERSONAL 501c3 non-profit Elderly Affairs donations went to the Town of Atkinson to offset expenses, now they go to the bully's private account.

Consentino has even had the gall to ask people who made past donations to the Town account to request those funds back and re-donate them to his stash - \$6,500 has been re-donated so far.

I know two of the Atkinson Selectmen want to comply with the AG's office and get the Town portion of this scam straightened out but there is the nagging problem of the town resources being used for private gain.

It is not good for any community to have a bully or a weasel in the position of Police Chief. In the end it costs much more than the short term pain of dealing with him.

CNHT is going to ask, through RSA 91-A, for all the records of the Atkinson Elderly Affairs appropriation and publish them on line if the Atkinson Selectmen do not take action themselves soon. Being an Atkinson Selectman and having answers about this shady account would probably make the phone calls from reporters much easier to deal with.

For a look at some of the many lawsuits Consentino has caused over the years in Atkinson see:
<http://www.cnht.org/news/category/police-departments/>

Cold Response

by Albert "Max" Abramson
www.badbegin.ning.com

In light of the 17% increase in state spending during the most recent session, coupled with an expensive bailout of the state pension fund and a (possible) \$500 million dollar deficit, there is another rising cost of state government that is generally neglected by the papers. Local governments are being forced to deal more with federal and state mandates, leaving less time and money to deal with local concerns.

After spending hundreds of thousands on water meters for each home in town, Seabrook Selectman Brendan Kelly replies that the State "wouldn't allow us to borrow water...because we didn't have meters in all our houses".

Residents have been distraught at the cost of dealing with meters that break when water in them freezes, leading to property damage and wasted water. "Instead of removing dozens of meters when vacationers leave for the winter", says Kelly, "city workers could be doing something else".

Indianapolis Mayor Steve Goldsmith stated that fund from over 500 federal programs aimed at cities and disadvantaged residents are tied down by so many federal strings, that "it is practically useless". Many renters will not accept Section 8 tenants simply because the conditions attached to the funds can apply to a building permanently, making it unprofitable to reach out to these folks.

Cities often face hefty fines when federal water quality mandates change, and smaller school districts often spend more money complying with litigation and testing requirements than they get back in federal funds.

Is Our NH Government For Sale?

by Honorable Bob Mead, Hillsborough 4

The headlines over the past few days show that there is a massive plan by activists, using ACORN and illegal campaign contributions, to influence the upcoming elections in the so-called battleground states.

While New Hampshire is considered one of those battleground states, why are we not hearing anything about concentrated efforts to register illegal or non-existent voters? The reason for this is simply because we now allow individuals from other states, who like to come to New Hampshire and vote in our elections, to do so, by filing an affidavit stating an intent to live here, then registering and voting all at the same time. Oh, and by the way, they can do this without showing any identification.

The Democratic base is galvanized as never before, so we can expect to see waves of activists from other states coming to New Hampshire seeking same-day registration and voting. This has all been made possible by the Democratic majority's passing into law House Bill 132, making the claim of domicile for voting purposes not conclusive of the person's residence, and thereby giving legal status to vote by simply declaring one's intent to live in New Hampshire.

Because there is no way to verify the stated intent of these voters, they can just disappear after voting. Same-day registration without identification, can allow fraudulent voting across multiple locations by the same individuals. This is all cemented neatly in place by the legislative majority blocking House Bill 353, which would have allowed public access to questionable ballots for 60 days prior to their destruction. The Democrats have been careful to make sure that there's no way for the individual fraudulent ballots to be identified, and efforts by challengers at the polls who want to view the "confidential affidavits" by which the voter fraud is being committed have been met with resistance by some moderators who apparently refuse to make them available. As the coup-de-grace, same-day registration affidavits used to break the law, quickly disappear after the election.

This outside interference is an outrage and the see-no-evil attitude of the State's Attorney General and Secretary of State's office should not be tolerated. Every illegal vote cancels your legal vote. I urge every concerned citizen to contact the Governor and their Representatives to let them know stealing will not be tolerated.

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The Windsor Way

by Eb Chamberlain

This is about small town politics and how things are done without regard for the honest taxpayer.

When I viewed the Tax Collector's Report in our 2006 Town Report there was a handwritten message on a page "Not Available At Print Time".

This is not legal. When I asked the Selectmen about this, I was told to come to the following week's meeting and request the report.

At the next meeting, I was told that the Selectmen were not responsible for the report; this is the Tax Collector's business. She, the Tax Collector, was not available at that meeting. I returned the following week and was told by the Tax Collector that she did not have them available for me to view.

I returned for 9 more consecutive weeks and received answers like: "you're not looking at my books" and "I'm not sure where they are located". "One of the selectmen has them at home" was another comment, and "why do you want to know who owes back taxes, do you want to force some old lady or someone who's sick out of their home?"

And yet another comment "what do you want to do, buy up their property?"



The comment that finally put me over the edge was when the Tax Collector stuck her finger in my face and bluntly told me "you stay out of this, you're going to cause a lot of trouble for a lot of people".

I let her know that was not my intention. I later decided to file a Right to Know (RSA 91-A) request with the Supreme Court. During our Court hearing, the judge ruled in our favor, and also ordered them to reimburse me for the expenses incurred to present this case.

When all this started, the little Town of Windsor, NH with an approximate population of 250 and a yearly budget

approximating \$600,000 showed uncollected property taxes of about \$400,000.

After reviewing the books, I received at Court we found that the Tax Collector had NOT been collecting taxes or interest for a select group of people, i.e. herself, her son (the Moderator) at least one of the selectmen and close friends.

To further exemplify the folly, there were no liens placed on these properties of unpaid taxes.

We did not track the records any further back than 2000. Our hope was that the State's Revenue Dept. would do this.

To date, no State agency has assumed their duties and given the taxpayers of Windsor the help that was asked of them. After a year and a half from the Town Meeting of 2007, the DRA Commissioner did finally order the Town to have a professional audit. This audit was for the year 2007 as requested by the DRA, town attorney and selectmen.

To bring this to a temporary conclusion, we are awaiting the completion of this professional audit in order to see where the Town of Windsor stands financially.

- October 31, 2007 the Tax Collector resigned.
- June 17, 2008 a Selectman resigned effective July 2.
- July 15, 2008 the Selectmen fired the Secretary of 9 years.
- July 29, 2008 the Chair Selectman resigned along with his wife, the Treasurer.

New Hampshire Raises Cigarette Tax After Smokers Fail to Bring in Enough Revenue

Washington, D.C. – The New Hampshire cigarette tax increased on Wednesday, triggered by an automatic 25-cent hike after the state failed to bring in enough tax revenue. The tax jumped from \$1.08 to \$1.33 per pack of cigarettes, making it the 22nd highest in the country.

Legislation passed earlier this year set the stage to raise the tax, unless cigarette tax collection reached \$50 million between July and September. Following an audit by the state Revenue Administration, New Hampshire brought in roughly \$48 million during the three-month timeframe, **just shy** of the amount needed to stave off the tax hike.

"This tax increase on Granite State consumers was sold as a way to reduce smoking, but all it did was tell smokers to purchase more cigarettes to prevent a tax

hike," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. *"The revenue-raising scheme brought in just enough money for the state to keep bringing in more. This sham exposes exactly how money-hungry lawmakers mask tax hikes in paternalistic justifications. A tax hike is a tax hike - a means to fill state coffers."*

The cigarette tax hike comes as New Hampshire faces an estimated \$380 million in overspending for the current biennium budget. New Hampshire brought in \$139 million in cigarette taxes in 2007 and the tax increase is predicted to generate an additional \$18 million in revenue each year. However, cigarette tax hikes often lead to decreased tax revenue. After New Jersey raised the cigarette tax just 17.5 cents in 2007, the state lost \$24 million in tobacco tax revenue from consumers who sought cheaper products across state lines or from other vendors. *"The cigarette tax hike allowed lawmakers to overspend taxpayer money by relying on revenue from this future tax increase,"* added Norquist. *"Unfortunately, tobacco tax increases frequently result in a declining source of revenue and hook taxpayers into future tax hikes once legislators become reliant on the budgeted revenue."*

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jkartch@atr.org

The 2006-2008 Legislature Raised Taxes About 25 Times

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Job Training Vouchers and Politics

by Michele Becker

My testimony favoring HB1211 is on file with the NH Department of Education. The purpose of the Bill was designed to have State approved proprietary training program courses meet employer requirements. After working for several years as a Histotechnologist and Laboratory Manager I found myself unemployed. Desiring to stay in the medical field I was referred to Medical Coding and Billing programs by employment counselors at the Manchester Career One Stop Center. They referred me to 4 local training programs, all licensed by State of NH Postsecondary Education. When I asked which programs were best, I was told I would be able to tell by the order in which they handed me the advertising brochure of the training companies. Federal law prohibits them from pointing consumers to particular programs. I was clearly steered anyway.

I was approved for a \$4,000.00 pell grant voucher and could not see handing it over to any of these programs called Medical Billing and Coding Specialist. They were ultra-short speedy programs that just happened to cost the same as the grant amount that was approved for me. My experience of searching out training and interviewing each of these training vendors left me with a clear understanding that most are designed to have taxpayer money flow directly into their wallets and not designed to meet the needs of anyone wanting to become a certified Medical Coder. I learned that no employer hires from these types of training classes. HB1211 was not passed.

Apparently, legislators don't mind wasting taxpayer money on proprietary programs that will not meet the goals of the unemployed or the standards and requirements of employers in the healthcare industry.

**Support
Second Amendment Rights
Join CNHT**

New Hampshire Values Quietly Slipping Away?

by Bob Mead

Angered by Washington, conservative New Hampshire voters stayed home in protest last election, and the Democrats took the reins of control to our state. Ever since then, our "Live Free Or Die" uniqueness has been quietly slipping away. Recent polls show that 80% of New Hampshire residents are unaware that the Democratic-controlled legislature passed our first ever \$10.3 billion budget by increasing state spending 17.5%, then raised 30 taxes and fees to pay for the \$475 million increase in spending, a tax increase of \$275 for each man, woman, and child in NH. Despite increasing registration fees on trucks and trailers by \$90, autos \$6, motorcycles 25%, select highway tolls 100%, redefining small cigars as cigarettes and passing two tax increases, increasing turkey and moose hunting permits by 300%, real estate filing fees, adding new court fees, and shifting nursing care costs to the counties, which directly increases local property taxes, their spending and taxing spree still left the state with a \$200 million budget shortfall. Attempting to cover their spending spree, the Democrats called an overnight "Emergency Legislative Session," then suspended the legislative rules to avoid embarrassing public hearings, and pushed through an \$80 million bonding scheme, borrowing bond money to pay for previously borrowed bond money, leaving that debt to our next generation. Oblivious to federal regulations requiring 60 days' prior approval before spending bond money, they found themselves still short millions for a balanced budget. Unconcerned, they blunder ahead, knowing the budget deficit will not be seen until next year, after the November elections.

Democrats have been deliberately driving New Hampshire into a financial crisis of which an income or broad-based tax will be the only way out. If this unchecked spending continues, they will succeed, and our current record budget will pale in comparison to future budgets that can be balanced by ever-increasing income taxes.

Noteworthy social accomplishments claimed by the Democratic majority this term include increasing our healthcare costs by mandating cover- age for dependent children up to age 26, even those not living at home or even within our state; repealing the mandatory parental abortion notification law for minor girls; forcing young adults to stay in school until age 18; rescinding the approval for new charter schools; and legalizing same- sex civil unions.

Enough is enough. It's now time we return to the conservative values that have made New Hampshire such a special place to live.

Our Vital Tourism Industry: Should We Gamble On It?

Patrons do not leave casinos to visit nearby visitor amenities. Casinos maximize profit using subsidized rooms, meals and alcohol to hold patrons on site until they have lost as much money as possible. Casinos like this would sully New Hampshire's healthy, family-friendly and valuable "brand" image, crucial to our second largest industry, tourism.

"Gambling: a tax on the mathematically impaired."



Says Ledyard Connecticut's Mayor *"There has been no economic development spin-off from the [Foxwoods] casino ... Gamblers have one thing in mind: get to the casino, win or lose their money, get in their cars, and go home."*

This is why members of the New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurant Association overwhelmingly oppose casinos. Once thought to be a panacea for government revenue, casinos nationwide are seeing diminished revenue.

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Small Victory for Property Rights in Weare, NH

by Ed Naile

On July 3rd, I represented a homeowner in front of the Weare ZBA. He had a Cease and Desist Order placed on his property because the Code Enforcement Officer, Chip Meaney (not kidding) claimed the property was “abandoned” during the time it was purchased and being remodeled. The owner has been sick to his stomach about this since 2004 when Mr. Meaney did it the first time and then backed down before we had to appeal to the ZBA.

In Weare, the zoning ordinance exempts all USES existing on the date of adoption. We call this “grandfathering” for short. The property in question is on a small lot and is a residence—in a residential district.

Mr. Meaney claimed then in 2004 and again in 2007 that the residence was a pre-existing NON-CONFORMING use that had been ABANDONED. This is not true and the Cease and Desist orders were clearly, clearly, wrong. But since the neighbor is a town employee it looks like the case got special treatment.

I printed out for each Weare ZBA member the NH Practice and Procedure description of ABANDONMENT. I made a little book for each one and even highlighted the relevant portions such as:

In NH there is a two part test for abandonment, one being was the abandonment physical, such as, are the taxes paid, lawn mowed place boarded up, etc. The second test is; was the abandonment intentional or willful? For example, was no one using the property because of illness, was it on the market, or was there a probate issue.

Remember, Mr. Meaney shut down the homeowner from fixing the property back in 2004, just after he bought it, then reversed himself days later (after I visited him) and said go ahead without us going to the ZBA for a variance to work on this residence in a residential district. Now in the spring of 2007 we get a Cease and Desist sending us there A DAY AFTER HE ISSUED THE OWNER A SEPTIC APPROVAL FOR THE SAME PROPERTY. The owner is a state certified septic designer.

Back in May we went to the ZBA thinking this would be cleared up. Meaney did not attend. There were only four ZBA members on the panel and we lost in a tie vote and appealed. This set up last week’s June 3 hearing.

Meaney was again a no show. The neighbor again had an attorney.

The hearing was on live cable access and we had a full ZBA Board as well as an alternate.

I told them I would read aloud, and very slowly, from NH Practice, the way NH courts look at abandonment. Then I would read back to them the relevant part of the Weare Ordinance so we could all follow along and not drift into other issues.

After I did this the lawyer for the town employee/abutter made some arguments I still do not fathom other than it may have made his client feel better. We then had a vote from the Board. One member mad sure everyone knew what a yes or no vote meant.

We got a unanimous vote to overrule the Cease and Desist from the five voting members, two of whom voted against us last time. Even the alternate who recused himself said he would have voted with us as well. Mr. Meaney, after two hearings, never sent a letter or showed up to defend his Cease and Desist.

And I never even had to use my “ace in the hole” argument.

During this debacle I went to Cilley Hill Road in Weare and measured the distance from the road to the front porch of the former home of US Supreme Court Justice David Souter, which for all intents and purposes is about as abandoned as you can get. His place is about ten feet from the right of way putting him in the same position as the homeowner we were helping.

Had the Weare ZBA not caved in to reality it would have made a nice Superior Court argument.

Help Support Property Rights Join CNHT Today!

This Was A Tough Win

“Out of left field” is how Cindi Durham, mother of the 17 year old special needs student, described the decision by Hillsboro/Deering Cooperative School District’s “Life Skills Team” to leave her son, Joel Jr., in the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center, where he had been placed by his former school. This is a big win for the Durham family, Joel Jr., taxpayers in the Hillsboro/Deering School District, and of course our taxpayer group, CNHT. The Coalition of NH Taxpayers had been helping the Durham family since early this year to reverse the attempt by the H/D “Life Skills Team,” the persons in the school charged with creating a place within the district for any out-of-district placements of special needs students, to bring Joel from the facility he has been in for six years and place him in their new program no matter

what the real cost or liability. It is surprising how much of a tough sell to the “LST” and H/D School Board this issue has been.

Joel has severe epilepsy and was hospitalized three times since May with seizures because he is outgrowing, or in some way not effected as much, by his standard medication. A month ago an emergency trip to Dartmouth Hospital lasted four days and resulted in a letter from neurologist saying Joel should not be in any public school. Joel’s neurologist said he belongs in a facility with MDs on site. That site would naturally be Crotched Mountain where he has been since his family moved from Henniker to Hillsboro/Deering.

A few weeks back Joel was sent to the Peterborough Hospital by ambulance from Crotched Mountain because he had a seizure they could not control. We were still under the impression until their September action, the “Life Skills Team” at H/D was not going to change their minds about moving Joel to their school. Our plan previous to the reversal of the decision remove Joel from CM was to jump over the “LST” and have the H/D School Board itself do the right thing and let Joel stay at the rehab center and finish his public education there.

CNHT Director Ed Naile appeared, along with the Durhams, several times before the board to try to persuade them that Joel was a medical problem not an educational problem and his well-being and safety were at stake. The Hillsboro/Deering School Board would have none of it and wanted no discussion of Joel’s situation in public.

Here was our argument to the school board: Joel has severe medical problems combined with a fluctuating ability of his meds to control them. He does not speak and has limited mobility. Joel is entitled to State Catastrophic Aid which means the school is liable for only \$38,600.00 of the total of much of the \$127,000.00 his education cost last year. Medicaid covers half of any therapy he receives. If the average student cost for H/D is \$11,000.00 or so the school is only spending roughly \$27,000.00 more on Joel than any other student, not \$150,000.00 like most taxpayers there think when they see the budget at the Annual School District Meeting. As per our Right to Know requests of the school we have found that they have to date spent \$20,000.00 on legal fees involving this case! The Durhams have no lawyer – they are working with CNHT. This could be much more expensive had counsel been retained by the Durhams.

This decision by the H/D “Life Skills team” is real and final for this school year and we have a big win for everyone involved. Thanks to Joel’s parents for sticking with us through some tough times.

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The Importance of Attending Town Meeting

by Ed Naile

Annual meetings are a good time to reflect on what local control is all about, and that is our quality of life here in New Hampshire. In the Granite State more than anywhere else individuals are more responsible for their portion of taxes than the government in the state capitol.

Except for bonds and a few other votes that require supermajorities, our annual meetings are pure democracies. If you participate you have a say - stay home and suffer the consequences, which are often the expensive result of well meaning individuals eager and more than willing to add to existing spending proposals or creating their own. It is a rough and tumble business but it is as they say, "The New Hampshire Advantage" low taxes, personal responsibility, and government close to the governed.

Our enviable quality of life in New Hampshire comes with a price, and that price is citizen participation. It can never be purchased with any broad based tax administered from Concord. The two are mutually exclusive - have one - lose the other. It is that simple.

If in New Hampshire we fall for the old falsehood that by allowing a broad based scheme property taxes will magically be lower we would end up with both and they would be increased every year until we become just another high tax state. Broad based taxes raise revenue in cycles - vicious cycles.

If a municipality's income or sales tax revenue falls then taxes are raised to meet spending or the state has to borrow. Should revenue come in more than expected it is often spent on programs that cost even more later. The list of wants for state government is endless. And who would want to miss out on matching Federal funds? Use it or lose it becomes the mantra. It is a lose-lose game.

With the New Hampshire Advantage of local control, voters decide what gets spent on an annual basis. The property tax, based on the value of the property in that community or of all the ones in a cooperative school, is the vehicle by which revenue is raised. There is a direct relationship between what a community has and what it decides to spend.

This process bootstraps a municipality into a real budget - no smoke - no mirrors. There is never a windfall to get rid of, and a deficit would be the result of overspending the budget. If the voters found it unreasonable, the culprits are right there at the next annual meeting.

How simple and effective, as opposed to a state legislature doling out revenue to towns in a classic patronage system.

But it takes taxpayer participation and education to retain our quality of life in NH. There is always a well funded, well meaning group of tax and spenders eager to show you how other states extract all they can from taxpayers.

Is that who we want in Concord calling the shots? Or do we want to stay with a tradition that has served us well through dozens of attempts to follow a tax and spend path.

"The citizens of New Hampshire need to know that the Democrats are leading us down this one-way path" concluded Hess.

NH Risks \$380 Million Shortfall Thanks To Concord Democrats

According to former house Ways and Means Committee Chairman Representative N (R-Plaistow) the state is heading for disaster thanks to the financial mismanagement by the Democrat in Concord since they took control of the House for the first time in 80 years.

At the beginning of the state's two year budget cycle, in 2007, the Ways and Means Committee was not allowed to look at revenue numbers until after the governor's budget presentation. Then work on revenue projections began and were discussed frankly, until Finance Committee Chair Representative Marge Smith (D-Durham) told the Ways and Means Committee tens of millions of additional revenues were needed to fund the budget requests and that the committee should look to the sky for those revenues. Estimates were inflated and passed by the committee on a partisan basis.

According to Major, the state still does not have a revenue problem, but its misplaced priorities in spending have caused the current ail. "Growth in revenues is in the 3-4% range, but since the Democrats passed a budget with a 17.5% increase, the revenue numbers were inflated to match the expenditures" state Major. "The enacted budget is within just a few million of the governor's proposed budget - this is pure politics, plain and simple"

NH State government has been following the country's borrow, spend and credit abuse mentality by overestimating revenues, bonding operating costs, and spending beyond our means. The current general fund spending has produced a \$360 million revenue shortfall problem in this biennium.

"Dealing with the revenue issues of FY 2008 (the raiding of the \$61M 2007 surplus, \$10MK in bonding and FY 2008 shortfall) coupled with the FY 2009 revenue shortfall of approximately \$200M and bonding payments for current expenses in the amount of \$40M, we are looking at over \$360M in revenue shortfall this budget cycle. If the economy stalls, then the next budget cycle could be faced with an approximate \$580M revenue shortfall", added Major.

"Representative Major has always been right on the button when it comes to revenue estimates," added Deputy Republican Leader, Representative David Hess (R-Hooksett). "His projections through the end of this fiscal year are frightening. When the additional \$100M needed to pay for the current education funding plan is added to this conservative revenue shortfall projection, we are facing a staggering shortfall of close to half a billion dollars. That tells me one thing: the Democrats in Concord are digging a hole that we can get out of only by passing a broadbased sales or income tax. That has always been part of their agenda. These numbers confirm it. The citizens of New Hampshire need to know that the Democrats are leading us down this one-way path", concluded Hess.

**Support the
"Right to Know" Law
State Statute RSA 91-A**

**STOP
the
Lynch
Deficit**

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Help Stop Increase in Homeschooling Regulation

by Michael P. Donnelly, Esq. Staff Attorney

It is critical that New Hampshire Homeschoolers send homeschool-friendly representatives to the legislature this year.



New Hampshire homeschoolers fought a fought battle last year against SB 337 that would have significantly increased government intrusion into the lives of homeschoolers. And, as much as I would like to report otherwise, this small victory last year IS NOT an indication that the battle is over.

I have received multiple reports that some members of the education committee are preparing to file legislation to substantially increase regulation over New Hampshire homeschools. These reports indicate a serious threat to freedom for new Hampshire homeschools, and I am asking you to take action now to help prevent this threat.

Members of the House Education Committee who supported the Rouse amendment to SB 337 (the Rous Amendment was the more restrictive amendment) were in these districts:

J. Timothy Dunn — Cheshire 3
dunnbt@verizon.net

Claire Clarke — Merrimack 6
(603) 796-2268

Kim Casey — Rockingham 11
caseycorps@aol.com

Kimberly Shaw — Hillsborough 26
keshawed@aol.com

Emma Rous (Chair) — Strafford 7
emma.rous@leg.state.nh.us

Members of the Senate Education Committee who supported the Estabrook version of SB 337 (the most troublesome version) were:

Iris Estabrook — District 21
(did not run again)

Joseph A. Foster — District 13
(did not run again)

Martha Fuller Clark — District 24
martha.fullerclark@leg.state.nh.us

Molly Kelly — District 10
molly.kelly@leg.state.nh.us

The representatives listed have demonstrated that they favor increased governmental regulation over New Hampshire homeschools. This is in spite of facts that show that homeschoolers continue to perform well. It is hard to understand why New Hampshire legislators and Education Department bureaucrats want to invest so much time in regulating an area of education succeeding so well, especially when New Hampshire public schools need far more attention.

Unless you take action to send different kinds of members to the legislature, we will likely have a far more difficult time fending off increased regulation in the coming legislative session.

Action Requested

Support homeschool friendly candidates.

I urge you to get involved in your local races in support of the homeschool-friendly candidate. Find out where the candidates stand and get involved. In New Hampshire, it is possible for a handful of people to influence a House election because the races are in relatively small areas. The best way for homeschoolers to preserve freedom for homeschooling in New Hampshire is to elect representatives who will vote against increased regulation.



Attend the CheNH business meeting.

CheNH will be holding its annual business meeting on October 24. An exciting guest speaker who is active in local government in the Seacoast area is planned. He will talk about the upcoming legislative battles over homeschooling based on his personal experience. Please make plans to attend now. Even if you aren't a member of CheNH, you won't want to miss this event. For more information visit the CheNH website at www.chenh.org. HSLDA is pleased to partner with CheNH and other New Hampshire homeschool leaders to defend the freedom to homeschool in New Hampshire with minimal government interference.

Stay informed about the commission that was set up as a result of SB 337.

The commission has started meeting and consists of homeschoolers, legislators and government school authorities. The commission has been struggling to get organized, and most recently the chair of the commission, Ms. Judy Day, resigned and Representative Kim Casey (who supported the most restrictive legislation) has taken her place. HEAC member Chris Hamilton has been chronicling the meetings of the commission at a website here:

<http://www.hslda.org/elink.asp?id=5563>

If you are able and interested consider attending the commission to observe its proceedings. Together we can preserve homeschooling freedom in New Hampshire. We know that freedom isn't free. It requires sacrifice and hard work. I know HSLDA can count on freedom-loving homeschoolers in New Hampshire to zealously guard their rights.

HSLDA is privileged to serve you. Your membership allows us to advocate for homeschooling freedom in New Hampshire, with our federal government, and all over the world. We thank you for your attention to these important matters of freedom and for your ongoing support.

The Taxing Times

OCTOBER 2008 • SERVING ALL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE • STATEWIDE ELECTION EDITION • FREE

Talk About Being Effective

Two years ago CNHT got a call of distress from The Mondanock Taxpayers Association. Some group had “purchased” their name from the Secretary of State’s office and was about to scuttle their well respected VOTER GUIDE. By the end of that day CNHT had helped the group get their name back and even created a website.

Their VOTER GUIDE is the last word in school spending. If they support something, it passes, if not, it goes down. That has been the history of their VOTER GUIDE.

Kudos to the activists of the mighty Monadnock School Taxpayers Association who have been digging into and not letting go of the salary padding scheme they uncovered at that school.

In an effort to inflate retirement benefits of Monadnock Regional School District employees, the financial gurus at the school put health care payments into the payroll mix which pumped up the final year salary figures for 38 present and past employees. This would allow these few to get a larger retirement payment than their salary would legally allow under state laws.

Put simply, only payroll and any other payments to employees which are included in income taxable by the IRS can be used for retirement calculations.

You can’t blame any school employees that took the offer from higher-ups in the education industry but they were misled. The report from the NH Retirement System Hearings Examiner Carolyn F. Johnson couldn’t be more clear and in line with the wording in the statutes.

This all began for us at CNHT about a year and a half ago when Dick Bauries and Dan Connell of the Monadnock School Taxpayers Association asked if a CNHT Director would go with them to one of the scheduled meetings they set up with the NH Retirement Board in Concord. There was not much in the way of contact with MSTA after that because they kept monitoring meetings on their own.

Now it hits the fan statewide. Other schools and towns may be doing the same thing, which is putting great stress on the already beleaguered retirement system.

On another note, there was a Special Meeting allowed by the Superior Court recently in this district regarding a teachers contract that failed at the Annual Meeting in March. A teachers contract is not an “emergency” as the law requires for a special meeting. But as is often the case with

special meetings, it passed. There has been a long history of the tax and spenders using special meetings to ram through spending that would not pass with a full compliment of voters at an Annual Meeting. It is the only way some schools and municipalities can beat an effective taxpayer group. So you know you are effective when they stoop to it.

But the next Annual School District Meeting is coming up in a few months and we think the Monadnock School Taxpayers will be ready.

We Need Voter ID Laws NOW!

Starting on 2000 CNHT began collecting examples of suspected voter fraud. It’s a long and complicated process to comb through what little public information taxpayers are allowed to have about people who register to vote in NH and to then prove who was or was not a resident, or as they say “domiciled” in our state.

Below is an example of names from returned mail of voters in Deerfield who registered and voted here in the year 2000.

CNHT has been collecting this type of information in the hope we can elect a legislature and governor in NH interested in passing some voter identification laws, or even prosecution of individuals who abuse the process.

Voter fraud is highlighting many discussions regarding this election, as well as our pals at ACORN, the voter “registration” organization to which Obama has funneled money throughout his career. Obama worked for and supported ACORN and their affiliates as their attorney.

ACORN is an association of “community organizers” nationwide and gets taxpayer dollars to ply its trade. If this election is won by a slim margin Obama will have his cohorts at ACORN to thank – and reward.

Recently, journalist Michelle Malkin reported on October 15 an article about a home in Ohio where some non-resident political activists vote from illegally. First reported by Shelby Holliday and Tiffany Wilson at the Palestra.net website this home is subject of an investigation by the Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O’Brien.

At least this vote stealing scheme has a home at 2885 Brownlee Ave. in Columbus Ohio. A similar vote stealing scheme in New Hampshire had NO home, just an imaginary place called 159 Bear Brook Road, in Deerfield NH where **there is no 159 residence either.**

Oh but it had plenty of voters back in 2000 when CNHT started collecting evidence of fraud. Voting from 159 Bear Brook Rd. we had:

Nathaniel R. Lengacher of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Elizabeth A. Buck of South Bend, Indiana; Nicholas Peterson of Boston, Ma.; Farlin Black of Northampton Ma.; Nichole L. Siegrist of parts unknown (opu); Meredith J. Benson opu; Christine A. Kelly opu; Joseph M Gallagher opu; Sean Kullman opu.

Now we don’t know much about these folks who voted in Deerfield NH in 2000 except they appear to have worked in the area for “AmeriCorps”. This must be some sort of ACORN affiliate? It may be an affiliate of “Vote From Home” the organization helping non-residents vote in Ohio. So many organizations, so many vote stealing schemes.

This information from Deerfield NH and these names were handed over to the NH AG’s Office at the time, but as luck would have it for the residents of this non-resident, non-address, they were not prosecuted. That seems to be the standard response to voter fraud here. Ignore and excuse, excuse and ignore, that is how we keep our NH elections so squeaky clean. Why, if we do the same with arson fires in our state we could wipe out that crime in as well!

And did you know that almost every year we weaken NH election laws? We sure do! Add to that the constant vetoing of any form of voter identification by NH governors like Jeanne Shaheen, three times, and John Lynch, once so far, and there you have it. NH doesn’t need ACORN to gin up the non-resident vote. They already have plenty of help right under the State House dome.

CNHT will keep collecting evidence of what we believe is abuse of our election laws and posting the public documents on our web site.

Admittedly we did not expect ACORN to put such a spotlight on voter fraud this election cycle so we will publish a sample of what we have here and anyone interested in looking at other material can simply turn to our web site www.cnht.org and judge for yourself how big the problem is.

Until we have elected officials who are willing to protect your NH vote, please collect any public documents or evidence you come across that looks like it may show non-resident voting. CNHT would be glad to add it to our collection.

Registering, keeping records of, sending mail to, and purging the lists of non-resident voters costs NH taxpayer and candidates money. We stand in long lines to vote while they pay no taxes, serve no jury duty.