

What Republicans Believe

(From the 2005-2006 Republican Party Platform)

We, New Hampshire Republicans, are united by our belief in God, individual liberty, personal responsibility, limited government, limited spending, limited taxes, economic opportunity, homeland security, compassion for the truly needy and our confidence in the strength of families, places of worship, communities and volunteerism.

The Republican Party is, and historically has been, the Party of ideas and bold leadership in New Hampshire. The foremost convictions that distinguish our Party in New Hampshire are:

- Protecting the fundamental rights of the people and enhancing their freedom.
- Promoting a limited government that is open, responsive and fully accountable to and in touch with its citizens without interfering in their personal, daily lives.
- Electing Republican candidates who uphold the highest standards of integrity, morality, ethics, responsibility and accountability in their personal lives, during campaigns and while performing their official duties.
- Recruiting Republican candidates who uphold the proud and historic traditions of our Party and its Platform, which is essential to the future of our Party.
- Promoting voter registration to all eligible citizens and increased participation in the electoral process.

The New Hampshire Advantage

We believe that New Hampshire's unique quality of life, as a place to live, raise a family, do business and visit, creates the New Hampshire Advantage as evidence by NH being the most livable state in the union. Careful stewardship and the hard work of generations of visionary Republicans have nurtured New Hampshire's remarkable qualities. We are committed to preserving and protecting the quality of life that has made New Hampshire great.

The chief components of the New Hampshire Advantage, which reinforce our commitment to succeed, include:

- The character of individual citizens and the strength of traditional family life.
- The productivity and work ethic of our workforce.

- The Granite State's well deserved reputation as among the best places to live in America.
- Freedom from broad based sales and income taxes.
- Standing behind our state motto, "Live Free or Die."

Low Taxes, Low Spending

Republicans realize that low taxes are the result of low spending. We believe that controlling spending and minimizing taxes are the best ways to protect the economic and civic well being of New Hampshire residents. We believe in promoting lower taxes to attract business development and expand economic opportunities by:

- Maintaining a locally controlled tax system consistent with our commitment to keep New Hampshire a desirable place for people to live, work, raise their families and locate their businesses.
- Supporting local control of spending and taxes designed to support local services.

Preserving Marriage and Family

We realize that the family's most important function is to raise the next generation of Americans. We place our highest priority on promoting and preserving the family as the most important institution of human development by:

- Recognizing marriage as the legal union between one man and one woman.
- Opposing recognition by the State of New Hampshire all other forms of civil unions, regardless of where such unions were formed (other states, U.S. territories, foreign countries).
- Believing the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed upon; supporting a human life amendment to the Constitution and endorsing legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children; requiring parental consent for minors seeking abortions; barring the use of public resources to fund or promote abortion; banning the procedure of partial-birth abortion; supporting the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life.

Ensuring Safety

The New Hampshire Advantage cannot survive without safety and security for individual citizens. In order to ensure peace and tranquility in our communities, Republicans:

- Emphasize self-control and personal responsibility as the primary means to counteract unlawfulness.
- Believe in the rights of law-abiding citizens to own firearms to defend themselves, their families and their property; support Part I, Article 2-a of the New Hampshire Constitution allowing law-abiding citizens the right to keep and bear arms; oppose passage of local, state or federal laws and/or regulations that violate this fundamental right or the imposition of any taxation, licensing restrictions, or registration of firearms upon law abiding citizens; oppose fingerprinting and photographing law-abiding citizens as a coercive contingency of obtaining a permit to carry a firearm.

Excellence in Education

Educating the citizens of New Hampshire is our hope for the future of this great state. We believe that New Hampshire must provide its children an education based upon excellence. We recognize parents as first and primary teachers. We oppose state interference with parental rights and believe that:

- Only parents can be entrusted to control the education of their children and choose schools that best suit their children's needs.
- Laws should be implemented to encourage school choice and competition and allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school program for their children.
- School vouchers or tuition tax credits should be made available to assist in school choice.

Natural Resources

Our parks, lands, waterways, wildlife, ground water, air quality, fuels and other natural resources are valuable assets that require diligent statewide management based upon sound science and reasonable societal costs. The beauty of New Hampshire as a place in which to live and work depends upon a healthy environment. It is vital that our society commits itself to the preservation of our natural resources and the wise use of our open spaces to maintain our special quality of life.

Care For All Citizens

New Hampshire citizens are the healthiest in the country. We believe that the health care of all state citizens is an important factor in the well being and economic success encompassed in the New Hampshire Advantage. In order to improve the health care of all citizens:

- We support efforts for higher quality health care and better access to health care and prescription drugs, while reducing costs of health insurance and medical malpractice insurance coverage.
- We are committed to providing for the special needs of our senior citizens, including opportunities for personalized home health care and less expensive alternatives to hospital stays and prescription medication.
- We support increased use of market forces to provide and improve health care.

The entire GOP Platform can be found at:

<http://www.nhgop.org/resources/platform.html>