

Quote of the Week

"You can't be for big government, big taxes, and big bureaucracy and still be for the little guy."

-
Ronald Reagan

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House Session Recap

This week the House voted on HB1 and HB2, the House Budget Bills:

- HB1** Budget Bill -Passed (194-172)
100% of Republicans voted against this bill.
- HB2** Budget Trailer Bill- Passed (193-166)
100% of Republicans voted against this bill.

Amendments:

- 1177-h** Stops Governor's ability to raid dedicated funds- Failed (181-186)
100% of Republicans voted for this amendment.
- 1178-h** Protects Certain Dedicated Funds from being raided- Failed (185-186)
100% of Republicans voted for this amendment.
- 1193-h** Stops County Downshift-Failed (171-195)
99% of Republicans voted for this amendment.
- 1163-h** Places School Building Aid to high priority surplus list-Failed (166-197)
98% of Republicans voted for this amendment.
- 1195-h** Stops additional 10 cent Tobacco Tax-Failed (168-197)
98% of Republicans voted for this amendment.
- 1194-h** Stops Suspension of Business Tax Reforms-Failed (165-202)
97% of Republicans voted for this amendment.
- 1203-h** Stops repeal of Education Tax Credit-Failed (158-205)
95% of Republicans voted for this amendment.

Democrat House Budget Recap

This past Wednesday, the House debated and passed HB1 and HB2, the budget bills. This budget turns back the clock on all the good work done last session to reign in spending and cut taxes for NH citizens. This grossly irresponsible budget aims to increase spending by over 10%, reinstating the tax and spend policies which left us with an \$800 million budget deficit at this time in 2011. In addition, Democrats have again inflated their revenues estimates by over \$30 million to cover up their excessive spending.

As a result of this irresponsible and irrational taxing and spending, this budget will grow government by 5% annually, 10% for the biennium. All the while, the economy is hobbling along at 2% or less growth, with slower growth likely due to various tax increases on necessities such as gasoline and heating fuel. Altogether there are tax increases of over \$263 million. This does not include the expansion of Medicaid, which saddles NH with millions in long term liabilities even if the Federal government decides not to renege on its obligations.

This bill also contains a dangerous provision which gives the Governor the unprecedented power to raid any and all dedicated funds. This unprecedented expansion of NH executive power could be used to rob any of the state's 300 dedicated funds, including the Unemployment Compensation Trust fund, LCHIP and the Economic Development fund.

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ICYMI (In Case Your Missed It)

House Republicans Stand United

Although the House Budget did pass, Republicans stood united in their opposition.

Republicans simply could not vote for a budget that increases spending by 10.2 percent downshifts \$7 million to the counties, increases the size of government by 5 percent per year when the economy is growing at roughly 2 percent, and increases taxes by \$263 million.

House Republicans also unanimously supported amendments that would have stopped the Governor from having the ability to raid over 250 dedicated funds.

Dems Increase the Tobacco Tax... Again!

Although House Democrats already pushed through a tobacco tax that would raise the tax by 20 cents, it seems their work was not done.

In the budget, House Democrats voted to raise the tax an additional 10 cents. These tax increases will disincentive consumers from crossing the borders to purchase their tobacco products which therefore will decrease our state revenue and kill small businesses. Currently, small businesses along our state borders use competitive tobacco prices to bring customers in the store, which helps them sell countless other products such as gasoline and food.

The Democrats also voted to kill an amendment that would have eliminated the extra 10 cents further showing they are willing to raise taxes on the backs of lower income families, who tend to purchase more tobacco products.

Important Dates

- **Republican Caucus-** Wednesday, April 24th at 9:00am in LOB 305-307 (*Open to House Republican Members Only*)
- **House Session-** Wednesday, April 24th at 10:00am

Rep. Chandler's Comments on Irresponsible House Budget

"When 40,000 people in our State are looking for work, this budget will squeeze an additional \$39million out of our small businesses that they would have otherwise been able to reinvest to grow and create jobs. When incomes are stagnant, this budget raises the gas tax, tobacco taxes and down shifts costs that will raise property taxes. When our roads and bridges need attention, this budget diverts an additional \$27million from the highway fund to other agencies. When our economy is struggling to grow at 2% per year, this budget grows government by more than 5% per year. It's not a logical plan to grow our economy."

"Republicans have fought for a more affordable, more efficient and more accountable state government, but being in the minority, we don't always win. The majority party, unfortunately, has created and passed a budget that overspends, expands government and adds taxes and fees on our already over taxed families and businesses. This is not the right direction for New Hampshire. House Republicans will continue to bring attention to what we believe are better ways to help our citizens and our economy."

"Today, Republicans offered several amendments to make reasonable changes to the budget, all of which were defeated. Unfortunately, the majority party does not seem interested in listening to New Hampshire citizens or observing what is happening in the real world outside of Concord."

"Our amendments included provisions to avoid downshifting costs to county governments, which would avoid higher property taxes. It was rejected. We offered to restore school building aid, which was also rejected. Amendments that would have prevented the raiding of dedicated funds, such as LCHIP, State Parks and other funds were also defeated, giving the Governor carte blanche to turn these fee based funds into taxes by funding general government. Our amendments to keep school choice tax credits and continue funding for new charter schools were denied. Lastly, our efforts to lessen increases in the tobacco tax and keep in law business tax reforms set to take effect this year fell flat. These amendments failed not because they were unreasonable or egregious, but because the majority party doesn't seem interested in creating jobs, a friendlier business climate, and lowering the tax burden on our citizens."



Meet a New Member

Rep. Leon Rideout



After many years of talking about politics, Leon finally decided it was time to run. It can be a lot to juggle, since Leon owns and operates his own business, which incorporates a car repair shop, used car sales, and a U Haul dealership in Lancaster.

Leon also represents a geographically large district, including the towns of Whitefield, Dalton, Carroll, Jefferson, Lancaster, Randolph, Milan, Dummer, Northumberland, Stark, and the unincorporated place of Kilkenny, plus serves as a Selectman in Lancaster.

Leon ran on a platform focused on jobs and the economy, and has been an active member of the House Business Caucus, bringing much appreciated input and feedback from employers in Coos county.

Leon serves on State-Federal Relations & Government Affairs, which is appropriate since he is a 26 year veteran of the Marine Corps, and understands the issues.

In the limited spare time he has, Leon spends time with his wife and 3 daughters, and fishes, hunts, and rides ATV.

The Municipal and County Government committee seems to be a great fit for a new member from Bedford, Dave Danielson, who has served in local government positions for almost two decades – serving in numerous capacities including Town Council, Planning Board, Master Plan committees, Southern NH Planning Commission and more.

When he's not in the House, Dave is teaching classes at SNHU and enjoys time with his wife Mary, son Adam and daughter in law Danyell. Born in Manchester, Dave earned his BA in Political Science from St. Anselm's College, and then an MBA from Rivier.

Dave is enjoying his work at the State House, and is focused on being patient, listening and learning so he can increasingly contribute and help address our challenges, especially in the areas of higher education and infrastructure.

Please say hello to Dave. who sits in 522.

Rep. Dave Danielson



Republican Revenue Estimates Get It Right

On Tuesday, the Department of Administrative Services released its revenue figures for the month of March. The report indicates that General and Education fund revenues came in at \$616.1 million, a full \$26.6 million above plan, or a full 4.5%. In addition, the report indicates that the year-to-date receipts from traditional taxes, not including MET and recoveries, are 1.2% ahead of plan.

These revenue figures show once again that Republican generated revenue estimates for the last biennium were both reasonable and accurate, and that we are the party of fiscal responsibility. Our success here is due in large part to our team of experts, lead by Rep. Norman Major, put in long hours and did a fantastic job of accounting for the difficult to forecast conditions of an economy recovering from recession. Knowing that, barring the MET situation, we are over \$19 million ahead of plan shows that the Democratic party bosses who claim we left them a deficit are clamoring for any way to create partisan spin. Even factoring in the MET shortfall, we are within 1% of the revenue projections for FY2013. Given that we had a roughly \$14 million surplus in FY2012, Republicans' projections for the biennium are nearly spot on. This is a far cry from the Democrat majorities most recent try in 2009, which left Republicans to spend the 2011 and 2012 filling in a gigantic budgetary hole that amounted to hundreds of millions of dollars.

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Next Week Preview

The House will not be in session again until April 24th.

In the coming weeks though, House committees will begin to hear bills past by the State Senate.

Here is a list of a few of the most talked about Senate Bills:

SB 3- eliminating the Merrimack tolls.

SB 126- business practices between motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, and dealers.

SB 152- relative to video lottery and table gaming.

SB 187- posthumously emancipating enslaved Africans in New Hampshire.

House Democrat Budget Recap Continued...

This budget also diverts an additional \$27 million from the Highway Fund, which is well beyond the legally permissible 26% allocation.

For all of the Governor’s talk of innovation, her budget kills innovations in education reform by placing a moratorium on new charter schools and repealing the School Choice Tax Credit. Also by issuing a moratorium on school building aid, even the basics of maintaining New Hampshire’s educational infrastructure are prohibited by this budget.

It is apparent from the Governor and House Democrat budgets that the Democrat’s have learned nothing in the past four years. The way to grow the economy is not by growing government, nor is it by levying over \$263 million in new taxes, or raiding dedicated funds.

As we know, our State economy is strong when individuals are able to thrive and start businesses of their own without being crushed by regulation and taxation. Our economy grows best when our people aren’t priced off our roads and highways, or made to choose between a gallon of gas or a gallon of milk. This budget is irresponsible, irrational, and downright dishonest.

