

Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

A LEGISLATIVE AGENDA REPUBLICANS CAN BE PROUD OF

By: Rep. Jack Flanagan, House Majority Leader

Every two years, the people of New Hampshire turn their attention to the new legislature and its majority party. What policy initiatives and campaign promises will likely be carried forward as part of the legislative agenda of that majority party?

Many of us campaigned on the simple, overarching goal of making New Hampshire an even better place to live, work, raise a family, and do business. But achieving this goal requires careful work in a multitude of complex policy areas.

In December, the House Republican Caucus gathered for the purpose of discussing problems facing NH and to set goals on how to best address these problems through good legislation.. This collaborative discussion allowed the caucus members to voice their thoughts, suggestions, and proposals based on the concerns they've heard from their constituents.

Through this discussion, the Republican Caucus developed an agenda that covers several distinct policy areas, carefully prioritized in order to develop common sense legislation that will address each of these areas.

The Republican Majority intends to produce and support a fiscally responsible, balanced state budget without new taxes or fees. It will be a budget based on realistic revenue estimates, without any bonding or accounting gimmicks, and will not downshift costs to property taxpayers or raid dedicated funds.

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WELCOME TO THE REPUBLICAN REVIEW

Welcome to our first edition of the Republican Review for the new session. The Republican Review is a newsletter published regularly by the House Majority Office, depending on the volume of content each week.

Examples of information that will be included are: information on upcoming legislation, upcoming events, recaps of the past week's House session, tips and talking points, press quotes from the week, and much more!

We hope members and activists from around the state find this newsletter informative and helpful.

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IMPORTANT DATES

January 10 – NHGOP Annual Meeting, 9am
Pinkerton Academy, Derry

January 14 - House Committee Clerk Training,
9am LOB 302

January 16 – 2015 Financial Disclosure Forms
are due to Rich Lambert in State House Room
112.(Note: These **must** be completed by all
legislators.)

HOUSE VOTES TO ALLOW CONCEALED CARRY

On Wednesday, the House voted on a series of amendments to House rules. One amendment voted on was to bring back the rule from the 2011-2012 session that would allow for the concealed carry of a firearm on the floor of the House. In the last session, the rule was changed to not allow concealed carry on the floor. However, on Wednesday, the House voted in favor of the amendment to rule 63, 228-149.

97% of Republicans voted in favor of allowing concealed weapons on the House floor. 94% of Democrats voted against the amendment.

HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER REACTS TO GOVERNOR'S INAUGURATION ADDRESS

CONCORD – House Republican Majority Leader Jack Flanagan (R-Brookline) offered the following comments in reaction to Governor Hassan's inaugural address:

House Republican Majority Leader Jack Flanagan (R-Brookline)

"Governor Hassan offered a lot of broad goals, with little specifics on how to reach them. Republicans share concern about our economy, job creation, and energy prices, but we'll have very different solutions. Republicans have a common-sense legislative agenda that we believe will keep our pledge to protect taxpayers and make New Hampshire more business friendly."

"I'm happy that the Governor shares our desire for a balanced state budget. However, we should remember that two years ago Governor Hassan proposed a budget that was immediately rejected by Republicans as a result of higher taxes, higher spending, and unrealistic revenue estimates."

"In order for the Governor to fulfill her commitment to bipartisan solutions, we will need her to work with us to ensure our government lives within its means without relying on new or increased taxes and fees."

HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER COMMENTS ON REDUCTION IN UNEMPLOYMENT TAX

CONCORD – New Hampshire House Majority Leader Jack Flanagan (R-Brookline) offered the following comments relative to the announcement that the unemployment tax rate for employers will be lowered by 1%, saving New Hampshire businesses millions.

House Republican Leader Jack Flanagan (R-Brookline)

"This is great news for New Hampshire's job creators. As we know, New Hampshire has some of the highest corporate tax rates in the nation. Any reduction to the cost of doing business and creating jobs will help our business community."

"As part of our legislative agenda, House Republicans will continue to search for reasonable ways to reduce our business taxes and burdensome regulations to help retain existing businesses and help them grow, attract new businesses, and help our private sector create new and better paying jobs."

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We are committed to improving our state's business climate by reducing and reforming our business taxes, which remain among the highest in the nation, and reducing burdensome regulations. We will promote policies to retain existing businesses and help them grow, as well as attract new businesses, thus helping our private sector create new and better paying jobs.

We will work to find efficiencies throughout state government that will save taxpayer dollars, while working to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse. We will fight to increase accountability and transparency of all state agencies, programs, and departments to ensure they are good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

We are committed to reducing our public employee pension system's \$4.6 billion unfunded liability and reform the system in a way that protects current retirees, taxpayers, and ensures we have a solvent retirement system for future generations.

New Hampshire's Rainy Day fund has a balance of just \$9.3 million, which is not enough to run our state government for more than 2 days. House Republicans will continue to identify ways to increase the fund balance, which, in turn, will bolster our State's financial security and credit rating.

We will work to increase local control of education curriculum and testing, and promote policies that increase parental involvement in their children's education. We will also continue to support policies that promote school choice and maintain funding for charter schools.

We are committed to controlling the cost of higher education by working with our university and community college system to ensure that taxpayer dollars are applied in a manner that directly affects the quality and affordability of education for in-state students. A well educated workforce will help attract new industry and help New Hampshire retain its college graduates and young professionals.

New Hampshire's high energy costs hurt family budgets, increase the costs of goods and services, and impede economic growth. We intend to support legislation that eliminates unnecessary mandates that increase the cost of energy production, and work with local communities and utilities to find the best way to increase the supply and delivery of low cost energy options.

House Republicans are also proud to fight for preserving and increasing personal rights and liberties, and reducing government overreach. We will ensure that the 2nd amendment rights of our citizens are not infringed upon, we will strive to preserve and protect the integrity of our elections and increase privacy protections for all citizens.

We are committed to supporting health care policies rooted in free market principles that will increase freedom in health care decisions and lower insurance premiums for individuals and businesses. We will take steps to end our involvement in Obamacare Medicaid Expansion and continue to find ways to enable the best health care access possible without unnecessary or unfunded state and federal mandates.

We believe this agenda accurately reflects many of the positions that Republicans campaigned on throughout 2014. We have listened to our constituents and they have expressed what they believe should be our priorities over the next two years. We look forward continued input from the people who sent us to the State House as we work to apply common sense, fiscally responsible solutions to our State's evolving needs.