



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

Plache and McLean Win GOP Primaries in Special Election Districts



Photo: Matthew Plache of Wolfeboro winner of Carroll 6 special primary, photo courtesy of Facebook.



Photo: Mark McLean of Manchester winner of the Hillsborough 44 special primary, photo courtesy of his website.

On Tuesday special elections were held in Wolfeboro and Manchester Wards 8 & 9 and Litchfield to fill seats vacated by former reps Harold Parker, who took a job with the Governor, and Andre Martel who passed away in December.

Plache is an attorney specializing in environmental and communications law and currently resides in Wolfeboro after having moved up to NH with his family from Northern Virginia 6 years ago.

McLean works in the manufacturing sector and was previously elected to the NH House in 2014. Raised in New Brunswick Canada, McLean moved to NH in the mid-1990s after study engineering at Northeastern University.

The special general election is set for Tuesday, May 23rd for both house seats.

House Tables HB1 & HB2 - What's Next?

Research going back to 1969, done by the Office of Legislative Services, suggests that there is no record of the House not sending a budget bill to the Senate. The one anomaly was in 1999, when it appears as if HB1 was not reported out of committee until June, which would have been past deadlines. Rules were suspended, and the House voted to approve the bill, and the same day, the Senate also suspended their rules and voted Ought to Pass.

A majority vote is required to remove HB1 and HB2 from the table, but since the House is now past the deadline to act on budget bills, any action on HB1 or HB2, will require a 2/3 vote to suspend the rule(s) pertaining to deadlines.

The Senate will attach their budget to a House bill already in their possession. **(See Senate Press Release on Page 2).** When the bill returns to the House, it will be for a Concur/Non-Concur/Committee-of-Conference Request only. The House would not be able to amend the bill at that point.

Since the House failed to establish positions in a budget bill, the House will lack the ability to negotiate the insertion or modification of things included in HB1/2 that do not appear in the Senate budget bills.

House Rule 49 (h): A committee of conference may neither change the title of any bill submitted to it nor add amendments that are not germane to the subject matter of the bill as originally submitted to it. For the purpose of this rule, a non-germane amendment is any subject matter not contained in either the House or Senate version of the bill.

Information from the Department of Administrative Services' Monthly Revenue Focus

Unrestricted revenue for the General and Education Funds received during March totaled \$645.4 million, which was below the plan by \$0.4 million (0.1%) and below the prior year by \$22.0 million (3.3%). YTD unrestricted revenue totaled \$1,756.4 million, which was above plan by \$29.2 million (1.7%) but below prior year by \$31.9 million (1.8%).

Business Taxes for March totaled \$87.1 million, which were \$12.0 million (12.1%) below plan and \$24.9 million (22.2%) below prior year. YTD business tax collections are above plan by \$23.0 million (6.0%) but \$19.1 million (4.5%) below the prior year. While comparing YTD collections to the prior year, it should be noted that fiscal 2016 included \$19.0 in tax amnesty receipts, which do not repeat in fiscal 2017.

Meals and Rentals Tax (M&R) receipts for March came in below plan by \$1.5 million (6.5%) and below prior year by \$0.8 million (3.6%). YTD collections were \$4.9 million (2.1%) above plan and \$10.5 million (4.6%) above prior year. According to DRA, March collections (February activity) from hotels were down 10% while full service restaurants were down 3% as compared to the same month last year.

Tobacco Tax receipts for the month were \$18.7 million, or \$1.3 million (7.5%) above plan and \$1.2 million (6.9%) above prior year. YTD collections were \$4.2 million (2.5%) below plan and \$5.1 million (3.1%) below the same YTD period last year. According to the DRA, stamp sales were up 4% in March as compared to the same month of the prior year.

Interest and Dividends Tax (I&D) collections for the month were reported at \$4.3 million, which were \$0.4 million (10.3%) above plan and \$0.8 million (22.9%) above prior year. YTD collections through March were \$42.2 million, or \$3.0 million (6.6%) below plan, but \$0.4 million (1.0%) above the prior year. DRA has reported that the slight increases in March interest and dividend collections compared to prior year were attributable to all categories of payments and largely the result of the timing of payments.

Senate: Budget will be attached to House Bills

On Monday, April 10, 2017, the Senate Finance Committee will begin the work on the state's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19, as originally planned.

Senate President Chuck Morse will offer amendments to HB 144 and HB 517, which will serve as the vehicles for HB 1 and HB 2, respectively. The amendments will include the language from HB 1 and HB 2, both as introduced by the Governor. These amendments, when adopted by the Finance Committee, will serve as the basis for all budget conversations moving forward in the Senate process.

"I applaud the hard work by the House Finance Committee and I have invited the House Finance Division Chairs to present to the Senate Finance Committee. We look forward to their very valuable input on the budget that will be useful in helping to develop the budget in the Senate," said Senate Finance Chair Gary Daniels (R-Milford).

"We believe the Governor's budget is a strong foundation from which to start and we look forward to working with both the House and Governor as the Senate's budget phase begins the regular process. We are confident that we will have a budget that lives within our means, protects taxpayers and is good for the state of New Hampshire," said Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem).

Historical Happenings

This week we decided to focus our "Historical Happenings" feature on the hometown of Majority Leader Rep. Richard "Dick" Hinch which this week is celebrating its 271st birthday. The town of Merrimack, or Souhegan East as it was originally known, was incorporated on April 2nd, 1746, as "Merrymac" deriving its name from the river that runs along its eastern border. The name Merrimack itself was derived from the Penacook Indians and means "sturgeon" which are a migratory fish that could be found in the river. If you look at the seal of the Town of Merrimack you'll see the profile of a Penacook Indian and the silhouette of a fish. Other than being home to the Republican Majority leader and 7 other Republican house members, Merrimack's most famous resident was none other than Declaration of Independence signer Matthew Thornton who later served as President of the NH House and as a Superior Court Justice. Merrimack has a tried and true history and we wish them a Happy 271st birthday!