



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

GRANITE STATE POLL: REPUBLICAN LEGISLATURE DOING A GOOD JOB, DRUG CRISIS STILL TOP CONCERN AMONG VOTERS

According to the UNH Granite State Poll released this week:

Currently 51% of New Hampshire adults approve of how the Republican controlled State Legislature is doing its job, 30% disapprove, and 20% are neutral or don't know enough to say. Approval is somewhat tied to partisanship; two-thirds (66%) of Republicans approve of the job the legislature is doing but only 45% of Democrats and 43% of Independents feel that way.

57% of Granite Staters say they approve of the job he is doing as Governor, 17% disapprove. Three-quarters (75%) of Republicans, 56% of Independents, and 43% of Democrats approve of Sununu's performance.

Most New Hampshire residents continue to think the state as a whole is headed in the right direction. Currently, 69% of New Hampshire adults feel the state is heading in the right direction, only 23% think the state is seriously off on the wrong track, and 8% don't know or are unsure. Majorities of Republicans (77%), Democrats (66%), and Independents (61%) say the state is headed in the right direction.

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May 18th Session to Address DHHS "Cash Flow Crisis"

Although the House had not planned to be back in session until June 1st, the Senate amended HB629 to contain an emergency supplemental appropriation to fund the Department of Health and Human Services until the end of this fiscal year. Failure to act by May 20th would put the department in a cash flow crisis. Since we will be meeting on the 18th, we will also take the opportunity to consider action on some other House bills amended by the Senate, but we will not be taking up committee reports.

The DHHS shortfall is not new. Since last year, the Department has been working to find ways to cover the roughly \$65million hole caused mostly by higher than expected Medicaid caseloads and provider rates. The Department will apply their lapse to fill \$32 million of the anticipated \$65 million hole. The Senate amendment to HB629 appropriates roughly \$33 million to cover the rest of the deficit. The money will come from the current fiscal year (FY17), from funds not otherwise appropriated, or what would be part of the budget surplus. This is not an ongoing appropriation, but a one time fix.

In the House budget (HB2), the Finance committee had a similar provision to cover the deficit. At the time HB2 was finalized, \$36.5 million of the surplus had been set aside to cover the hole. The Governor's budget proposal in February had \$50 million.

Without the proposed appropriation, DHHS would potentially default in their payments to the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), who the state is contracted with to provide services to the Medicaid population, which as explained above, is higher than was budgeted for.

SESSION NOTICE:

The next House session will be on **Thursday, May 18th at 10:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall

CAUCUS NOTICE:

There will be Republican caucus on **Thursday, May 18th at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall

ICYMI: Inside the State House Dome

NHPR goes on a tour of the State House dome with House Speaker Shawn Jasper and House Chief of Staff Terry Pfaff to learn more about the history of the building and get a behind the scenes glimpse of a part of an area that few people get to see. To read this article and see some great panoramic shots of the capitol dome [click here](#).

Sanborn: Sununu follows through on promise to attract businesses to NH

Rep. Laurie Sanborn had an op-ed published in the Union Leader on Friday. "While we won't agree on every initiative, there are many of us in the New Hampshire Legislature who look forward to working with him on establishing our state as the best place in the nation to do business," she wrote. To read the entire piece, [click here](#).

Session Law v. Statutes

For those of you who have made trips up to the Majority Office you'll notice a large bookshelf in the back corner. On the bookshelf there are volumes of books containing session laws and RSA's. So what is the real difference between statutes and session law?

Session Law is a collection of all the bills that were passed by the legislature during a particular session. The session law books reproduce each individual bill, as it passed during session and includes the bill number (HB123, SB456, etc.) and what chapter of statute it refers to.

Statutes are the permanent chapter law of our state and are compiled into the Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) books. RSA books contain the laws passed by the legislature similar to session law books however they are represented as permanent statutes. RSA's also include historical notes, cross references to related laws or provisions, library references, and annotations of state/ federal court constructions as well as opinions from the attorney general.

National Guard Facility Gets New Name

On Tuesday Governor Chris Sununu flanked by Deputy Speaker Gene Chandler, Adjutant General Reddel, and other members of the NH Guard signed HB 508 into law. HB 508 sponsored by Rep. Gene Chandler names the New Hampshire Army National Guard Regional Training Institute and Barracks facility in Pembroke after Civil War hero Colonel Edward Cross. We previously wrote about Col. Cross's gallantry during the Civil War in one of our March issues of the Review. Col. Cross was tragically killed during the Battle of Gettysburg when he was shot by a Confederate sniper. His portrait along with his presentation sword can be found on the first floor of the State House. The NH National Guard's Edward Cross Training Complex will now serve as a fitting memorial to one of our states Civil War heroes.



Photo: Gov Chris signs HB 508 naming the NH National Guard facility in Pembroke after Civil War soldier Col. Edward Cross as Rep. Chandler, Adj. General Reddel and members of the Guard look on. Photo courtesy of Gov. Sununu's office.

House Special Elections Fast Approaching

The special elections for the vacated Carroll 6 (Wolfeboro) and Hillsborough 44 (Manchester Wards 8&9, Litchfield) seats are less than 2 weeks away. If you're interested in helping Matthew Plache in the Carroll 6 race please reach out to him personally at (603) 630-9422 or mjplache@gmail.com. If you'd like to help Mark McLean in the Hillsborough 44 race please reach out to NHGOP Political Director Tara Sennick at tara@nhgop.org. The special elections for these House races will both be held on Tuesday, May 23rd.

Comments? Suggestions?

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Granite Staters remain very concerned with the drug crisis facing the state. More than half (53%) of New Hampshire adults cite drug misuse as the most important problem facing the state, the first time in the Granite State Poll a single issue has been cited as the most important problem by a majority of respondents. Eleven percent cite jobs or the economy as the most important problem facing the state, while 7% choose education and 6% choose healthcare. Younger adults (18to34) are most likely to cite drug misuse as the most important problem facing the state.

PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The following is an excerpt from the [legislative ethics guidelines document](#) approved by the House of Representatives February 15, 2017 and the Senate on February 16, 2017. At a time when words and actions by legislators have come into focus, we thought this would be a helpful reminder of the guiding principles the legislature voted to abide by.

PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC SERVICE.

I. Public Office as a Public Trust

Legislators shall treat their office as a public trust, only using the powers and resources of public office to advance public interests, and not to attain personal benefits or pursue any other private interest incompatible with the public good.

II. Principle of Independent Objective Judgment

Legislators shall employ independent objective judgment in performing their duties, deciding all matters on the merits free from conflicts of interest and both real and apparent improper influences.

III. Principle of Accountability

Legislators shall ensure that government is conducted openly, equitably and honorably in a manner that permits the citizenry to make informed judgments, have confidence in the integrity of the legislature, and hold government officials accountable.

IV. Principle of Conduct

Legislators shall treat each other, legislative employees, and the public with dignity and respect.

Speaker, Senate President, Governor Attend Hospitality & Tourism Business Roundtable

State House leaders spoke with dozens of regional hospitality leaders on Friday morning in Meredith for a roundtable discussion on matters affecting the industry. Among topics on the agenda were workforce development, affordable housing and state tourism promotion, and restructuring of government to better serve the needs of businesses.

