



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

House Majority Leader Reacts to Special Session Petition

CONCORD - House Majority Leader Dick Hinch (R-Merrimack) offered the following comments relative to a petition for a special legislative session initiated by Rep. Steve Shurtleff (D-Concord). The purpose of the special session would be to modify laws relative to the ability of Secretary of State Bill Gardner to release New Hampshire voter information to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity.

"I have a high level of respect for Secretary of State Bill Gardner and it's unfortunate that Representative Shurtleff and others in the Democratic Party have chosen to suggest he would divulge information that is not public. Secretary Gardner has indicated that he will only provide voter data that he is legally able to provide and that is already publicly available. He has served the people of New Hampshire honorably in his position for over 40 years. He knows the law."

"This is political grandstanding meant to make President Trump's Commission out to be something it most assuredly is not. I've read the request, and the Commission respectfully asks only for what is publicly available under the laws of the state. I know of no better steward of laws and information than Secretary Gardner, and I believe him when he says sensitive data will not be included in any data release."

"Voter lists with basic information have been available for public review for decades. They are the basis for how our political parties and candidates contact voters. If Democrats had a genuine concern about the availability of the data, they had decades to change the law. By petitioning for a special session they demonstrate their political motives and their disregard for the usual and customary legislative process."

"Election integrity is important to me and it is important to the voters of our state. I will not support meeting in special session for this circus-like endeavor."

Background: [RSA16](#) provides the ability for members to petition for a special session. If the requirements for the petition are met, the Secretary of State will mail ballots to every member of the House and Senate asking, "Are you of the opinion that the general court should meet in special session?"

One N.H. Legislator's Pitch to Bring Civility to Concord? A Bipartisan Softball Game

Casey McDermott, NHPR

You don't have to look far for examples of deteriorating civility between opposing sides of the political aisle, in New Hampshire and nationally. But one local lawmaker is pitching a new tradition meant to bring Republicans and Democrats together — by pitting them against each other on the softball field.

A first-term representative and self-described "sports guy," Loudon Rep. Mike Moffett says he'd been thinking for some time about organizing a local version of the Congressional baseball game that takes place between lawmakers each year in D.C.



Photo: President Woodrow Wilson attends a Congressional Baseball Game in 1917, courtesy of the Library of Congress.

[Click here to read the full article from NHPR.](#)

Special Session FAQ's

What are the requirements for a petition for a special session?

[RSA16:2](#) provides the ability for members to petition for a special session. The petition requires signatures from no less than 50 members of the house of representatives, no more than 10 of whom shall reside in the same county, and signed by no less than 8 members of the senate.

If the Democrats get the necessary signatures on the petition, what happens next?

Per RSA 16:3, if the requirements for the petition are met, the Secretary of State will mail ballots to every member of the House and Senate asking, "Are you of the opinion that the general court should meet in special session?"

Per RSA 16:4-5, if within 10 days after the mailing date a majority of House members and a majority of Senate members have responded in the affirmative, a special session shall be called. If one body does not have a majority respond in the affirmative, a special session will not be called.

Note: A majority of the entire body is required. Even if a majority of the ballots returned favor a special session, if the number fails to reach a majority of qualified members of the House, the vote fails. The House currently has 392 qualified members, requiring 197 affirmative votes for a majority. Experts are looking into if the provisions of Part II Article 15 of the State Constitution would require a 2/3 majority.

How much will a special session cost?

In the event the general court is called into a special session, each legislator shall receive attendance compensation of \$3.00 per day for a period not exceeding 15 days, plus the usual mileage.

A session day costs the state approximately \$18,000. If the House adopts rules for the special session that require committee work and multiple session days, the costs would rise accordingly.

If a special session is called, can any other bills be introduced?

Special sessions require their own set of rules, adopted by a majority of the body. The House could adopt rules that only allow for introduction of bills dealing with the specific subject matter, which is likely. It is possible for special session rules to be drafted or amended to allow for introduction of any bill, but this is unlikely. A majority vote would be required for either scenario.

Special Election Round-Up

Up Next:

Merrimack Dist 18 (Concord W 9)
Election Day: July 18, 2017
Republican Nominee: Michael Feeley

Grafton Dist 9 (Alexandria, Ashland, Bridgewater, Bristol, Grafton)
Primary: July 18, 2017
Election Day: September 5
Republicans Filing: Paul H. Simard, Vincent Paul Migliore, Timothy F. Sweetsir

Belknap Dist 9 (Laconia, Belmont)
Election Day: September 12, 2017.
Republican Nominee: Steven R. Whalley

Rockingham Dist 4 (Auburn, Chester, Sandown)
Primary: August 8, 2017
Election Day: September 26, 2017
Republicans Filing: James E. Devine, James F. Headd, Anthony S. Rossignol

Hillsborough Dist 15 (Manchester W-8)
Primary: September 19, 2017
Election Day: November 7, 2017
Filing Period: June 26-30, 2017
Republicans Filing: Andy Parent & Albert E. MacArthur Jr.

Writing Assistance

The House session may be over, but there is no shortage of things we can talk about with constituents. We have a long list of legislative accomplishments we can share, and issues that will continue to be on the front burner as we enter into the next bill filing period.

If you'd like assistance writing and placing letters to the editor in your local newspapers, or help putting together material for your website or local/county town committees, let us know. The House Majority Office staff is here to help you all summer and fall. Call, email or stop by the office if you are in Concord. Our job is to promote the great things House Republicans do in Concord, and in your districts. Let us know how we can help you spread the word.

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