



REBUILDING A STRONGER NH A Republican Action Agenda for '21

We need to take the lessons we learned in 2020 and use them to rebuild our state.

We have an opportunity to bring New Hampshire back from the pandemic in better shape than ever; with a stronger economy and more opportunities for all Granite Staters and all New Hampshire families.

Keeping our families healthy and safe during the Covid 19 pandemic

Until the virus has finally been defeated, the health and safety of all Granite Staters is at the top of everyone's mind. NH's response to the pandemic has been one of the best in the country and we need to build on Governor Sununu's successful leadership to keep our residents healthy.

- Partner with Governor Sununu on distribution of future federal relief money for working families and Main Street businesses.
- Work with hospitals and HHS to ensure enough Covid 19 bed capacity; enough protective equipment for healthcare workers; and enough testing capacity and access in all NH communities.
- The pandemic has resulted in the need for more resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment and recovery.

Helping our working families

While New Hampshire has fared better than most states in the country, our families are still struggling under the financial stress that the pandemic has caused. We need to respond and adapt to the new challenges and opportunities facing our state.

- More funding for affordable housing.
- Improve broadband across the state by helping to create public-private partnerships to expand broadband internet access in rural areas.
- Establish a **voluntary** family and medical leave program.
- Protect the health and safety of our citizens while protecting our economy and getting people back to work.
- Lower electric rates.

Supporting our Main Street businesses

Small businesses are struggling mightily due the pandemic. These are often family-owned businesses that have existed for generations being stretched to the breaking point due to no fault of their own. We need to do all that we can to help them survive and rebound as we move forward.

- Lower the tax burden for small businesses struggling to survive.
- Reduce the regulatory burden on these Main Street businesses – instead of creating red tape – let these businesses create jobs.
- Lower health insurance costs through associated health plans.

Protecting our taxpayers and property taxpayers

New Hampshire's low tax advantage has helped keep our state's economy in a much stronger position than our high tax neighbors. Now is no time to raise the tax burden on our property taxpayers or small businesses. We need to build on our successes and ensure that we don't fall into the trap of high taxes.

- Never, ever increase the tax burden on hard working families – that means no income tax, no sales tax and no capital gains tax – not now, not ever.
- Hard working families have to carefully balance their household budgets and we need to do the same – that means creating a state budget that will help grow the economy while dedicating the resources to those programs that need it most.
- Help property taxpayers by providing local aid to municipalities for property tax relief and stop the downshifting of state obligations to local municipalities.
- Oppose efforts to return to a donor town system.
- Restoring the strong economy New Hampshire enjoyed prior to the pandemic must be a top priority. That strong economy produced record revenue that funded new resources for mental health and substance abuse. The strong economy also helped to add \$100 million to the Rainy Day Fund and \$140 million in additional resources for education funding which stabilized property taxes. A strong economy is the best way to protect state and local taxpayers.

Improving our student's education

The pandemic has taught us a lot about education and the way children learn. Remote and hybrid learning has shown that education does not need to exist in a one-size-fits-all schoolhouse. We need to give greater opportunities to all NH children and parents to choose the education that best fits the student.

- Ensure educational adequacy funding.
- Fund public charter schools.
- Establish Education Savings Accounts.
- Provide adequacy funding for home-schooled students.
- Provide targeted aid for special education students in small school districts.
- Provide grants for kindergarten.

Keeping our streets and homes safe

New Hampshire is one of the safest states in the country and it is up to us to ensure that we remain that way. We need to enact realistic reform measures, as well as work to improve our communities to make sure that New Hampshire remains a safe place to live and raise a family.

- Ensure police departments have the resources they need to protect communities.
- Ensure our bail system prevents violent criminals from further harming the public and ensures people who have received bail actually show up for their judicial proceeding.
- Provide funding for clean water projects and wastewater projects.
- Address the growing homelessness crisis that is taking over our NH cities.

Ensuring honest elections

While New Hampshire has largely escaped the controversy of other states election problems, we need to build upon previous reforms such as voter ID to ensure that everyone with a right to vote in New Hampshire can in fact do so in a transparent and honest manner.

- Ensure that New Hampshire residents vote in New Hampshire elections.
- Ensure that absentee voting has a process for signature verification.
- Do not allow mail in voting without a resident requesting an absentee ballot.
- Continue to ensure inspectors of elections and poll watchers have full access to the election process.
- Ensure there is a standard process used to verify/audit the final vote count to confirm that the system used to tabulate the votes was accurate.
- Ensuring our voting machines are secure.