

Francestown Democratic Committee



“Providing a forum for like minded residents to come together about issues important to them at the local, state, and national levels.”

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- John Valera, D38 - Rep

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NH State Senator

- Ruth Ward, D8 - Rep

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Executive Councilor

- David Wheeler, D5 - Rep

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FDC QUARTERLY



Spring 2017

WE GOT IT COVERED

Welcome to the introductory issue of the Quarterly Newsletter of the Francestown Democratic Committee. The newsletter's purpose is to be informative about the Committee: to let you know who we are; what we stand for; what kind of work we do; when we meet; and how you can reach us.

The FDC meets on the second Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the library on Main St. We are always eager to hear from people who have questions, suggestions, and comments. You can visit us on Facebook. You can contact, by telephone or email, the officers of the Committee, and you can contact our NH Representatives in Concord.

Members of the FDC serve through sub-committees as follows:

- **Programs** (Steve and Jan Griffin, 547-8546.) Responsible for setting up and notifying the public about special events.
- **Ambassadors** (Ron Cheney, 547-2696 and Eric Rasmussen, 547-8363.) Responsible for contacting committees, other organizations, and politically active individuals of other towns.

- **Issues** (Judy Badot, 547-2696 and Ted Graham, 547-2548.) Responsible for researching and tracking bills and issues on the state and national levels.
- **Rapid Action/Alerts** (Roon Frost, 547-2208 and Sue Jonas, 547-3432.) Responsible for keeping us alerted to special actions in Concord, actions likely to be taken quickly, which might prompt a call to your representatives or a trip to the NH State House.
- **The FDC Quarterly** (Heidi Dawidoff, 547-6621 and Jim Bosman, 547-8945.) Responsible for putting out the newsletter.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE INDEPENDENT

The FDC, in the spirit of the Democratic Party, welcomes all people and their variety of ideas and outlooks. These words by Jan and Steve Griffin show that we provide a happy home to Independents as well as registered Democrats.

“We are not registered Democrats... just undeclared. We both come from moderate Republican families - Taft, Eisenhower - but the Party left us. Then came a period where one might vote a mixed ticket. But the political landscape continued to change. Throughout, we have stayed with women’s issues, equality, and other progressive issues.

Jan remembers her first job being paid significantly less than her male co-workers and having it explained they had to support families. Over time, women’s issues in the political landscape have become increasingly dominant. We have now reached an all or nothing, a you

vs. me political situation, where no grey is tolerated.

In addition, this year, there are even questions of private meetings with Russians, who have never been our best friend; travel bans from predominantly Muslim countries, except those where there are business interests; and the appointment of ‘deconstruction’ department heads.

Nevertheless, for us it has been important to remain undeclared. It helps us to feel separated from extreme politics. We are free to choose. We do, however, have progressive values. While remaining officially undeclared, the political situation has become too extreme to be ignored. Certainly, in today’s time, we happily caucus with Democrats.”

- Jan & Steve Griffin

EDUCATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

The FDC works for and supports a government that creates reasonable, realistic, economically sound policies that make fair chances for growth possible for people at all social and economic levels.

At this time, we are particularly concerned about the imminent threats to public education on both the state and national levels as Republicans strive to use our taxpayers’ money to support charter, private, and parochial schools.

People certainly have a right to send their children to those schools, but the cost to the Con-Val School District, for instance, will inevitably prove damaging, cutting faculty

appointments, curricular offerings, and extra-curricular programs.

As taxpayers, we agreed to give a free public education to all our children; we didn't agree to pay for selected children to attend selective schools. Such schools have traditionally been and should continue to be paid for privately.

NH SB193 establishes education freedom savings accounts for children allowing public funds to be used for private or home schooling. We suggest contacting our NH Representatives, NH School Board members, or calling Gov. Sununu (271-2121) to express your concerns.

- Heidi Dawidoff

INTEGRITY IN POLITICS

What are the most important virtues of our politicians? Accountability, faithfulness, honesty, authenticity, and humility might be on our lists. Vanity, intemperance, and narcissism probably are not. And yet, we seem to be recently and increasingly plagued with exactly those undesirable traits more and more.

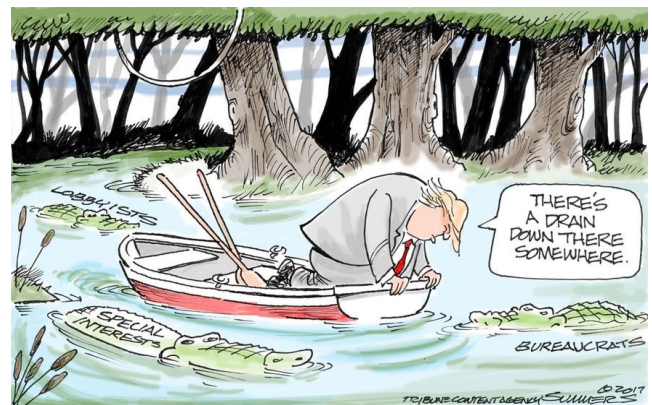
Ethics is not what we say but what we do. Morally, how we behave under pressure or in a crisis is the true test of our principles and integrity. Ethical practice is doing what we should do based upon reflection and personal values.

The ethics of our politicians should be grounded in public service. Doing what is best for our collective good and avoiding conflicts of interest or personal gain are essential for our elected officials. We cannot tolerate "low integrity" and dishonest or impulsive behaviors.

"When the White House twists the truth, we are all less safe."
- Susan Rice

We have a long history of enduring many challenges to our constitution and political structure. We can and will withstand a great deal of testing by unethical systems and dishonorable individuals. But even the best systems of government require vigilance, for democracy is only as strong as its educated citizens and ethical politicians. We need political virtue. We must keep looking for integrity in our leaders.

- Jim Bosman



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Join FDC! 2017 Membership Dues - Individual: \$15 Family: \$25

Send Name, Address, Phone, Email, and Check to:

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