

Francesttown 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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FDC QUARTERLY



Winter 2018

Editors: Heidi Dawidoff, Jim Bosman

FROM OUR SENATOR

Senator Jeanne Shaheen shared with us aspects of her recent legislative work.

Healthcare and the Opioid Crisis: Senator Shaheen continues to be focused on bipartisan efforts to bring down premiums, stabilize the healthcare marketplaces, and restore funding for enrollment ads and outreach. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), nearly 94,000 Granite Staters have gotten individual health coverage through the healthcare marketplace, and nearly 50,000 have gotten coverage thanks to the Medicaid expansion. The ACA has been a critical tool in our fight against the opioid epidemic, enabling 11,000 individuals with substance use disorders to get treatment for the first time.

During a special hearing of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, the Senator expressed her concerns with Congressional Republican attempts to undermine the ACA, including the recent tax bill passed by Senate Republicans that repeals the individual mandate and the potential impact on those who seek treatment for substance use disorders.

Senator Shaheen has been a leader in Congress on combating the opioid crisis and recently introduced bipartisan legislation that would prioritize federal funding for states that have been hardest hit by the opioid epidemic. She also helped unveil legislation – the largest opioid response bill to date – that would provide \$45 billion to respond to the epidemic.

Fairness to Small Business: Senator Shaheen, the lead Democrat on the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, led several of her colleagues in a letter to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai emphasizing the importance of Internet neutrality regulations to small business interests. The structure of these crucial regulations must maintain a level digital playing field for businesses of all sizes. The concept of a fair and open Internet prevents discriminatory practices that could favor larger companies – like higher costs for faster delivery speeds or prioritization of provider content. Small businesses are particularly dependent on high quality Internet services in order to increase their consumer base and expand their operations and are much less likely to have the resources to invest in a pay-to-play system.

Support of Rural Schools: A large, bipartisan Senatorial group wrote to the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders seeking a reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Program in any end-of-year government funding legislation. The program supports public schools, public roads, forest health projects, and emergency services for more than 775 counties across the country. The program continues to be a critical safety-net for forested counties as we work to diversify rural economies, improve forest

management and health, strengthen historic forest revenue sharing with local governments, and ensure that our forests provide a range of values such as clean water, jobs, and wood fiber for local communities.

The Tax Bill: Senator Shaheen believes we need bipartisan tax reform to simplify our tax code, bolster the middle class, support small businesses, and create jobs. This legislation asks middle-class families to foot the bill for massive tax breaks for the wealthy and large corporations, and will have serious ramifications for Granite Staters, who rely on important tax benefits that are eliminated under this bill. The Senator is tremendously disappointed by the secretive manner in which Senate Republicans crafted this legislation, and is concerned about how the middle class, seniors, homeowners, teachers and others will suffer. The Republican tax bill will add nearly \$1.5 trillion to the national debt and make most families who earn less than \$75,000 a year pay more in taxes by 2027. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, by 2019, Americans earning less than \$30,000 a year will be worse off. The bill would lead to \$25 billion in cuts from Medicare, harming seniors, and repeals part of the Affordable Care Act, which will raise healthcare costs and leave more Americans uninsured. As the tax over-haul process moves forward, Senator Shaheen will continue to push for bipartisanship and to protect essential New Hampshire priorities, including the state and local tax deductions and the student loan interest deduction.



FROM FIRST TO LAST

Perhaps the leading drumbeat of a president pounding out several drumbeats (and a multitude of tweets) is “America First” with “Make America Great Again” a close second. It comes as no surprise that the president, given to neither reflection nor prescience, did not notice that America has been for decades now first – not first apart unto itself but first in the world and thus great enough to rank as first.

The president’s severe and persistent reluctance to consider the consequences of his narrow view of being first and being great, a view open to the unsavory interpretations so well understood by his base, is doing us all, his misguided base included, a great deal of damage.

To be first on the home-front demands a president who teaches respect for the validity and vitality of the Constitution; who presents before the nation what is high-minded, inspiring, decent, and worth living up to; who can learn to govern and aim politically to address the nation’s problems. All the aforementioned have served as basics of presidential practice in the past.

What has happened in one year is a tarnishing of the office of the presidency; a debasement of the level of public discourse if so much of what we hear these days can even be called discourse; an abject political failure; schoolyard name-calling vis-à-vis North Korea; letting massacre after massacre go by in a freakish revival of Wild West shoot-outs; an insistence on encouraging the vulgar venting of a base who could so easily be raised in outlook and spirit if they were given anything true and substantial to improve their

lives. The standard of life on the home-front is seriously diminished, as seems to be the fate of most people working in the administration. America has hardly been made great in the past year.

A crucial aspect of America’s greatness is her status in the world. That status actually originated on the home-front, where her embrace of foreigners eager to immigrate has made her a nation always distinctly American while always open to the refreshing influence of those newcomers who keep us citizens aware of America’s great and true values: freedom, democracy, and opportunity.

By the middle of the last century, due in large measure to superior economic and military strength, America became the leading nation in the world, roundly admired for these values made manifest in her home-front; for her courage in standing up to tyrannical régimes; and for her remarkable generosity to nations she had defeated in war. It is America’s steady leadership, despite the world’s awareness of her military failures and violent interferences in under-developed lands, that keeps alive other countries’ belief in our capacity and will to do good in the world.

When a president takes action to undermine our treaty and trade relations with other countries, without understanding that such relations foster ties beyond the economic and military spheres and assure our strong voice in the terms of the treaties, he lowers our status. To criticize NATO, to threaten NAFTA on which Canada and Mexico, our good friends and neighbors, depend and whose strengthened economies have benefited us; to pull us out of the TPP, which

would give us a strong voice in setting high standards and fair regulations for trade leaves us home alone while China, hardly known for high standards and fair regulations happily perceives a chance to jump in and fill the gap we have left; to pull us out of the Paris Climate Accord leaves us home alone in coal-dusted, air-and-water-polluted ignorance, unable to exert leadership, unable to assist an expectant world with solutions our scientific experts are ready to offer.

We must work hard to restore our country, so long famous for her large-minded generosity, sunk daily into small-minded stinginess. As ever and as it should be, it is up to us voters to take charge of the situation, for if the country is further impelled on this rapid downward course, America, left behind, at home, will slide from first to last place.

- Heidi Dawidoff

EMOTIONAL POLITICS

“Political opinions come from the heart, but the head claims the credit.”

— Guillermo Jimenez

I am an emotional wreck when it comes to today’s politics and politicians. Every day I anticipate another news story that challenges my loyalties or enhances my worst opinions of someone. My political emotional stability is on a rollercoaster.

One of my earliest emotional connections to a politician was my admiration of and high regard for John F. Kennedy, our 35th president. As a

high school student, I saw a charismatic young man, devoted father, and risk-taker I was proud to have as my president. Different emotions surfaced with the anxiety-laden “Daisy Girl” ad encouraging me to vote for LBJ. Fear of the Vietnam war, and then distrust of and anger toward Nixon steadily influenced my political opinions through the 60’s and 70’s.

The next three decades cemented my emotional systems linked to the Democratic party. Granted, there were positive and negative feelings toward Democratic and Republican leaders including Carter, Reagan, the Bushes, and Clinton. My opinions about the two parties were tested; and I often had to rely on reason over emotion to subdue excess pride or overloaded anger.

No president evoked more personal emotion and excitement for me than Obama. The “hope and change” rhetoric inspired me to my core, and heightened my partisanship to the extent that I resisted compromise and became less tolerant of opposing views. I was proud of our leader and relied upon my political habits as I looked for positive changes and new, refreshing approaches to government. My political hopes set me up for a HUGE disappointment.

Almost a year into the Trump presidency, I still cannot understand how an individual who evokes so much anger and fear ended up being elected in 2016. Looking back, I can see voters on both sides used emotions to advocate for their respective candidates. The campaigns of both Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders used emotional, rally-based politics to increase supporter passion and voter turnout. There were few undecided voters, and they both

created an intensity to keep those who leaned toward their sides active and engaged.

Hillary Clinton told a group of activists in 2015: “I don’t believe you change hearts; I believe you change laws.” Her description of political life seemed out of step with the times. She adhered to a form of politics where policy wonks took center stage and emotion lagged behind. Many believe Clinton lost the election because she ceded the political theater to a reality TV star who was able to stir up the passions of the people.

A 2017 analysis of political ads by Kathleen Searles from Louisiana State University and Travis Ridout from Washington State University found that anger was the dominant appeal in pro-Trump ads, appearing in 77% of them. Forty-six percent of pro-Trump ads appealed to hope, making reference to how he was going to change the system. Clinton advertising was evenly split between appeals to enthusiasm and anger.

Appeals to Specific Emotions in 2016 Campaign Ads

	Trump	Clinton
Hope	46%	28%
Enthusiasm	9%	53%
Anger	77%	53%
Fear	23%	22%

While it is easy for me to criticize Trump as a demagogue or his voters as unreasoning dupes, it has become clear to me that American democracy no longer operates solely on the basis of reasoned debate. Emotion is a vital connection between leaders and followers. That said, there are many historic examples where the over-reliance on emotional politics have led

in the past to extremism and dictators. Citizens should be educated about our government and world affairs, *and* be passionate about their candidates for elected offices. Voters may be swayed by the heart but their votes should be tempered with their heads.

- Jim Bosman



"Son, voting isn't a rational procedure by which one strategically selects an electable candidate who will best serve your interests. Voting is an emotional response to your gut level fears!"

CartoonStock.com

PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD

As you are aware, all the countries in the world, save one, have agreed to try to lower their greenhouse gas emissions, via an agreement called the Paris Climate Accord. In 2017, Nicaragua and Syria announced they will join the accord and the United States withdrew as the lone United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) non-signatory.

Since this withdrawal, non-federal networks across the country have been created in support of the Paris Accord. These networks as of October 1st of this year have included fifteen states, 455 cities, 1,747 businesses and 325 institutions of higher learning.

Of the many actions taken by various cities in support of this pledge, several policies/actions of many include (1) mandating no minimum parking requirements with new development, (2) requiring “green building” requirements, and (3) adopting zero waste goals.

Closer to home and even before the Paris Accord, nine other Northeastern states, including New Hampshire, had implemented a carbon dioxide cap-and-trade program called the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Since 2005, RGGI, emissions have been reduced more than 45 percent while the region’s per-capita GDP continued to grow.

Since the Accord, to get even more highly efficient vehicles on the road, ten states, including Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont our close neighbors, have adopted Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) targets, requiring an increasing percentage of an automaker’s sales in the state to be ZEVs.

And lastly, there are now five New Hampshire cities - Concord, Keene, Lebanon, Nashua, and Portsmouth - that have pledged to support the objectives of the Paris Accord. Shouldn’t we be added to that list?

Note: This article takes information from a report of the America’s Pledge project, which is co-chaired by California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Cities & Climate Change Michael R. Bloomberg.

- Steve Griffin

FROM THE CHAIR

2018 will be a crucial year for New Hampshire and for the Democratic Party, so our FDC efforts will focus on mobilizing Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents to vote in the November 6th mid-term elections. Every registered Democrat in Francetown must be contacted and asked to show up at the polls or vote with an Absentee Ballot. We’ll need your help to identify Democratic-leaning Independents in town and to encourage them to vote.

Democrats throughout the state will be working to motivate enough New Hampshire voters to put a Democrat back in the Governor’s Manse, flip the Executive Council (we are currently outnumbered 3 to 2) and pick up enough seats in the State Senate to take control. Winning another 26 seats in the Legislature will be a challenge in our gerrymandered districts, so Francetown needs to turn out and help the District 4 Democrats retain their two seats and help District 38 retain the one Democratic seat we now hold and pick up the other. Our very active and successful Annie Kuster runs for re-election in November and will depend on our support. Enthusiasm, energy, and high voter turn-out will lead us to success.

Traditional Democratic programs like support for Medicaid, public education, vital social services, affordable health care, a decent hiring wage, a woman’s right to choose, food security for low-income families, help for opioid-addicted citizens and the development of solar and clean energy sources are not part of the Republicans’ agenda. Their generous tax cut for corporations and super-rich people is. Republican leadership has repeatedly refused to

move forward and bring high-speed broadband access to every town and develop better public transportation along with rail service to both Boston and Maine.

The Voucher Bill, SB193 comes up for debate and a vote in early January. Check our website for updates regarding our call to voice opposition in Concord and speak by petitions, letters and emails, and phone calls. HB372 attempts to discourage our state's college students from voting with what is essentially a "poll tax." On Thursday, April 5th, we will host a Community Supper at the Community Church's vestry. Join us and ask your friends to come too. All donations made that evening will be given to the Monadnock Food Pantry and used to buy gift cards to supermarkets for local families in need. This is but one way in which Democrats care about people and take action to help. It is urgent that we change course by electing public servants who will bring policies to assure New Hampshire's future ability to thrive and prosper.

So be sure to renew your FDC membership this year, and do consider making an additional donation, (you can now use the Act Blue link on our website to pay dues and make donations.) Spread the word about the FDC and encourage your Democratic friends to visit our website <http://www.francestowndems.org/> regularly.

Join us at the Library on Saturday, January 13, at 10:00 a.m. when we have our first meeting of 2018.

A Happy New Year to all!

- Sue Jonas, FDC Chair

REMEMBERING LAWRIE



Arthur Lawrence Barr, born in 1936, named for his grandfather and uncle and known from childhood as "Lawrie," died at his home in Francestown, New Hampshire, on Sunday afternoon, October 29,

2017, after a courageous battle with stage 4 metastatic prostate cancer.

Living in Francestown for many years, Lawrie served on and chaired many committees. For ten years, he served as the President of the Francestown Improvement and Historical Society, as well as the Chairman of the annual Labor Day Celebration. In fact, he saved FIHS from merging with the Old Meeting House, Inc., because it was his belief that FIHS should maintain its own identity. He was also the President of the Francestown Village Water Co. and Chairman of the Francestown Democratic Committee and attended numerous events and fund raisers for candidates. He knew all of the local state representatives and attended functions with former Governors Shaheen and Hassan, representatives Annie Kuster, Nancy Pelosi, and many other prominent politicians.

Lawrie is survived by his wife of 38 years, Carol Prest Barr and his dear mother-in-law, Frances M. Prest.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Francestown Improvement & Historical Society, C/O President Charles M. Pyle III, P.O. Box 147, Francestown, N.H. 03043

NH LEGISLATIVE ALERT

SB193 – The “Voucher Bill”

This bill establishes education freedom savings accounts for children between five and twenty years of age. An amended version of SB193 includes provisions limiting who can participate, requiring accountability, and limiting the financial impact to any school district. This bill squeaked by in the House Education Committee by a vote of 10 to 9, so its fate in the full House is unpredictable.

HB372 – The “Residency Bill”

This bill would require “residency” rather than “domicile” to vote in NH. Big difference! This voter suppression effort is aimed at college students in particular. Governor Sununu has stated publicly that he opposes it.

SB466 - The “Political Activities Bill”

This bill provides that, during their term of appointment, a commissioner may not hold or campaign for elective office, serve as the officer of a political party or political committee, use his or her name in support of or in opposition to a candidate, participate in or contribute to political campaigns, or act as a lobbyist.

Join FDC!

2018 Membership Dues

Individual: \$20

Two Person: \$35

Student: \$10

Register at our website or Send
Name, Address, Phone, Email,
and Check to:

FDC, 243 Journeys End Rd,
Francestown, NH 03043

Visit our website:

francestowndems.org

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***Francestown Democratic
Committee***

Dates to Remember

- ▶ 13 Jan - FDC meeting
- ▶ 24 Jan - NHDP Women’s Caucus
- ▶ 25 Feb - Hillsborough County
Democratic Summit Conference
- ▶ 5 Apr - Community Dinner
- ▶ 11 Sept - Primary Election Day
- ▶ 6 Nov - General Election