

Fracestown 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



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Editors: Heidi Dawidoff, Jim Bosman

MEET THE CANDIDATES

MOLLY KELLY - GOV CANDIDATE



In the wake of the 2016 elections, and in the midst of Donald Trump's presidency and Governor Chris Sununu's taking New Hampshire in the wrong direction, I cannot be a bystander. Instead, I'm determined to improve the lives of the people of our state. And that's why I'm running for governor.

I grew up as the second of eleven children and learned an important lesson in such a large family: for one of us to succeed, we all must succeed. This philosophy will guide my leadership of NH – for one of us to thrive, we all must thrive. No one gets left behind.

Long before I served in the state Senate, I raised three children while working on my education at Keene State College. I worked three jobs – I managed the family dorms, I waitressed once a week at Papa Gino's, and I delivered the newspaper on Saturday mornings in Peterborough. Like so many, I did anything to provide for my family while making the most of opportunities to build a better life.

Education changed my life. That's why I'm appalled by Governor Sununu's efforts to weaken our public schools by creating a voucher program. As governor, I would veto any legislation that takes money from public schools to create vouchers for private or religious schools. But we must also strengthen our public schools. Imagine what the \$100 million Chris Sununu gave in tax breaks to wealthy corporations could do to educate our students, prepare our workforce, pay our teachers, and make college more affordable.

Everyone should have access to the training and education needed to have a great job. Right now, though, too many companies can't find workers with the right skills, and too many young people are leaving our state.

We must make NH a more attractive place for young people and families to live, and we can start by finally passing paid family medical leave. Everyone should be able to be with family in a time of crisis, and I'm committed to making paid family medical leave a reality.

So many issues we face today also came up when I served in the state Senate. I'm proud of my progressive track record in the legislature, where I stood up for public schools and students; defended Planned Parenthood; helped to pass marriage equality; advocated for common sense gun safety measures; propelled our state to a clean energy future; sounded the alarm on the opioid epidemic; and fought for working families. Being progressive and fighting for these issues isn't new to me.

We have an opportunity – an obligation – to come together to win back the governorship. I

hope you'll join me to put NH back on the right course.

- Molly Kelly

STEVE MARCHAND - GOV CANDIDATE

Less than five months from today is Election Day. And after meeting thousands of people in the past year, we know this: We will not expand health care coverage; strengthen our local public schools; reduce the threat of gun violence; or expand commuter rail by persuading Chris Sununu. We will only achieve progress by replacing Chris Sununu.

The way to replace Gov. Sununu is clear: Leadership that is bold, young, and aspirational. A governor with the vision to know where to go, the competence to know how to get there, and the courage to say it out loud. You and I are going to make history.

On November 6th, there is no substitute for victory.

- Steve Marchand

JENN ALFORD-TEATER - NH SENATE




It's a pleasure to introduce myself to Francestown readers! My name is Jenn Alford-Teaster, and I live in Sutton with my husband, Jason, my daughter, Birdie, and our three dogs and cat. I grew up in New Hampshire. I am deeply committed to the Granite State - and feel a strong sense of commitment to helping people in our community reach their potential. That's why I'm running for State Senate in District 8.

My mother and grandmother worked minimum wage jobs to take care of me and my siblings when I was a kid. It was a real struggle to make ends meet, so after high school, with two suitcases and \$265, I moved to North Carolina to find work. I found it, but like my grandmother and mother, made minimum wage and had to choose between eating and paying rent. Fortunately, my boss recognized my potential and encouraged me to go to college. I had never thought that was an option. Twenty long, hard years later, I have an amazing career and a wonderful family.

This journey has not been easy -- and it is even more difficult now for the people of New Hampshire to see the results of their hard work pay off. I strongly believe that the people of New Hampshire deserve to thrive, not just survive. As your state senator, I will apply the same dedication to the success of all individuals in District 8 as I have to the creation of a stable home for me and my family. I'm eager to hear your thoughts and concerns so that I can help our community succeed. Please reach out to me at www.jennforsenate.com!

- Jenn Alford-Teater



Keep up with all the news and
events at our website:
francetowndems.org

KERMIT WILLIAMS - NH REP, D4

As I write this, the media are full of discussions about the Trump administration's horrendous border policies. While New Hampshire state representatives can do very little about federal

law, these stories remind me of two things; how important it is to put our state and country back on the right track again, and how one of our most important jobs is to protect those who can do the least to protect themselves.

Unfortunately, that list is long. Children, the poor, the elderly, disabled, and immigrants all fit that category. While we have had some limited success with Medicaid expansion, our social safety net has many holes. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to pass a family and medical leave insurance program that would have provided both financial assistance and job protection for employees who need to take time off from work to care for a relative or to deal with an illness of their own. I received an award from the Campaign for a Family-Friendly Economy for my efforts on behalf of this program. While I appreciated the recognition, it seemed hollow because, while the bill passed the House, it was killed in the Senate. There is always next year, but that means at least another year before such a critical program is available to New Hampshire residents, while Massachusetts just passed the plan and other states have had it for a while.

That is just the latest example where a patch to the safety net failed to hold. Our state's support for the developmentally disabled, for instance, ranges from weak to failing, depending on your perspective. Parents with disabled children would surely rate state services a failure. For a state whose history in this area includes the Laconia State School, you would think we might have learned our lesson.

I could continue to point out safety net failures for several pages, but that would both be too

long an article and too depressing. I have to remind myself that years of bad choices will take years to repair. And that is why I am running again to be one of your state reps.

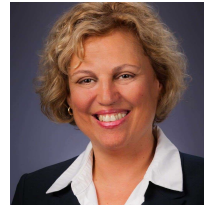
When you are in the minority, success can sometimes be measured by just showing up. I pride myself on never missing a voting session in my six years as a rep. I am very committed to this job, even at \$100 per year. I have written five to ten bills each year, and passed about half of them. I have served on many study committees, served for all six years on the Hillsborough County Executive committee, and am currently vice chair of our Economic Justice caucus. I take pride in my Republican committee chair's complaining I am too good at defending the Democratic position in our committee. I am in line to be vice chair of the Commerce committee if we can take the majority again.

I have taken a special focus on workforce development, because as one of the oldest states, and with a very low unemployment rate, our future economic success depends on growing our workforce. As people retire, we need new residents to replace them, or companies will move elsewhere. A strong economy is both important to our residents and the only way we can raise enough revenue to have a complete state budget.

There are many more priorities we need to work on. Perhaps we can discuss the ones most important to you when we meet on the campaign trail. I hope to spend a lot of time in Francetown. And of course, I will be deeply appreciative to receive your votes in November. Thanks!

- Kermit Williams

JENNIFER BERNET - NH REP, D4



My name is Jennifer Bernet, and I am running for state representative for Hillsborough District 4: Francetown, Greenville, Lyndeborough, and Wilton. I live in Wilton and have two sons and a daughter. I am a clinical social worker.

I served in the NH House from 2006-2008 and 2011-2012. The issues I'm most concerned with are education, the environment, and the economy. Strong public education from pre-school through university is vital to attracting and keeping families in the state. New Hampshire is blessed with beautiful mountains, lakes, and the sea coast. All of these, as well as our soil, air, and water, must be protected for future generations. Our economy depends upon the good health of our citizens, which is why I support Medicaid expansion and access to quality medical, dental, and mental health care.

Currently, I serve on the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School Budget Committee. In the past, I served on the Temple Pipeline Advisory Committee. I have been a member of the Temple-Wilton Community Farm, one of the first community supported agriculture (CSA) farms, for 20 years.

Please vote for me in the September 11 primary and the general election November 6.

I believe we all do better when we *all* do better, so let's get to work!

You can reach me at bernet4rep@gmail.com
Thank you!

-Jennifer Bernet

CHRIS BALCH - NH REP, D38



Hello, everyone! I'm happy to introduce myself and tell you a little about who I am and what I stand for as a Hillsborough 38 candidate for the NH House.

My name is Chris Balch. I'm married, father of two and stepfather of one. I am a retired teacher having spent 40 years in school classrooms around the northeast.

Currently, I am a fund-raiser for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, having personally raised just over \$42,000 for this cause. I'm also an author, a builder of small boats, and run boat-building programs with youth at summer camps.

Where do I stand on some current issues? I believe an educated society is a tolerant, creative, and more globally responsible society. We must work to improve public education rather than allowing it to be weakened.

New Hampshire's utilities must begin a committed transition to renewable energy.

As a responsible firearms owner, I am appalled at the subversion of sensible gun reform by the NRA and those politicians they fund. Second Amendment rights are best protected by keeping guns out of the hands of those who should not possess them.

I believe healthcare is a right all are entitled to. Having subscribed to healthcare through the ACA myself, I am well informed as to how all health insurance costs continue to spiral up while coverage is reduced.

I support my hometown, Wilton, in its status as a sanctuary town, and I believe any person willing to work for a productive life is welcome in America.

I will also work to separate money and politics. The will of the people is clearly ignored when private organizations and corporations fund politicians.

These are just some of the things I stand for. If you stand with me, please support my campaign.

- Chris Balch

JIM BOSMAN - NH REP, D38



I am running for State Representative and I am seeking your support. New Hampshire needs dedicated individuals who will advocate for quality education from early childhood through college, a reliable infrastructure to support current and future needs, consistent support for our most needy and vulnerable citizens, and the protection of our environment and natural resources. I believe I can be that person.

For the past twenty-five years, my wife Ellie and I have lived in Francestown. After retiring in 2008 from a 40-year career in education, I became more engaged in local and state Democratic activities and look forward to this chance to represent the citizens of the ten towns included in District 38.

As a CASA/GAL volunteer advocating for abused and neglected children in our family court system, I am acutely aware of the challenges faced by many exposed and hopeless

individuals. Prevention programs for drug abuse, homelessness, mental health and rehabilitation services, and meaningful employment opportunities are woefully inadequate in our state.

Unrelenting attacks on public funding of our education system puts adequate and continued support for our schools at risk. Continued attempts to intimidate and suppress voting rights for those living in NH attack our most basic and precious democratic right to vote. Dirty energy companies degrade public lands and threaten our progression toward renewable energy and a clean environment. Affordable health care, women's rights, equity in the workplace, and a fiscally responsible state budget all require continual and active monitoring.

I am willing to speak up for the principles that can affect the everyday lives of our ten-town district. I will advocate for an effective government that does not neglect the neediest in our towns. I will back every attempt to protect New Hampshire's natural resources and environment. I will support the progressive values long associated with the Democratic Party.

I look forward to getting to know you and hearing your ideas and suggestions. Feel free to call or email me.

Email: jimbosman@me.com

Phone: 547-8945

-Jim Bosman

IT'S UP TO US

All of us Democrats – those running for office and those working to get them elected – have our work cut out for us. That ought to be a joyful assignment. Democrats understand clearly the rock foundation of American values; know that those values must be fought for and defended over and over; are willing to engage in that fight over and over.

The assignment is all about delivering a hopeful, positive outlook, for we Democrats have a history of weathering bad times, know we can get through our current travails, and are ready to build our country up again.

Despite the corruptions and indecencies swirling around us unchecked for two seemingly endless years, we need to speak out in specific terms about the vast majority of honest, decent people who faithfully make our society run smoothly and lawfully. Praise police officers and fire fighters, about whom there are so many stories to be told of quiet, dutiful endeavors to help people, save people, and teach children. Praise school teachers at all levels in various settings, about whom there are so many stories to be told of high standards, patience, steady motivation, and warm encouragement. Praise plain citizens, who carry on, with simple courtesy and dignity, the ordinary transactions of daily life in shops, offices, and banks. Praise nurses, doctors, religious leaders, lawyers, and, yes, politicians, who know that their years of training obligate them to use their advantages to help those who seek their services. We in New Hampshire are particularly well served by the four politicians we sent to Washington. Praise Jeanne Shaheen, Maggie Hassan, Ann Kuster, and Carol Shea Porter.

In addition to being generous with praise, we Democrats must also prove generous of heart. Those people who voted for Donald Trump after years of suffering economic decline and who felt neglected by their government surely heard in the words “America First” a voice telling them they would finally be noticed and helped. They undoubtedly heard in the angry, vulgar bluster a voice telling them someone understood their anger. To reap no rewards for their votes and misplaced confidence must be a costly and heart-breaking disappointment deserving our sympathy and providing us opportunities to explain exactly how and why they continue to be neglected. Our long history of repairing Republicans’ damages assures us we can do it again.

Yes, greedy bankers played fast and loose with other people’s money (twice), but we enacted laws to control their excesses (twice). Yes, the deficit is in the stratosphere, but we converted that deficit into a surplus. Yes, the Administration is hemorrhaging our money by outrageous dining room sets, first-class tours to assorted ports and hubs, and countless golfing trips to Mara Lago, but Democrats’ misbehavior has been dealt with and stopped. Yes, some rather laughable department-wrecking appointments have been made as if to play a joke on the American public, but Democrats have taken such appointments seriously, selecting suitable people to strengthen departments. Yes, Republicans always push policies to favor the rich, giving them the tax breaks everyone else could use, but Democrats’ legislation has always aimed for equality of tax burdens. Yes, the Administration has managed to threaten our relations with our near neighbors and our trusted allies abroad, but we

created those alliances and trading partnerships in the first place. We can restore them.

It’s up to all of us to make sure to elect Democrats in November. Just look at the strong, experienced, committed candidates we have to choose from. Once we have healthy majorities in state houses and in the Congress of the United States, we can set about repairing and rebuilding with our customary energy, experience, and enthusiasm.

- Heidi Dawidoff

TAKE ACTION

- **Ask a friend or neighbor to register to vote**
- **Ask a non-voter to promise to vote**
- **Know the candidates and issues**
- **Volunteer to Get Out The Vote**

Contested races in Nov:

- **U.S. House**
- **NH Governor**
- **NH Executive Council**
- **NH Representative**
- **NH Senate**

THE NHDP CONVENTION

The NHDP Mid-Term Convention was held in Stratham on June 23rd. Delegates were welcomed by Annie Kuster via a video, taped that morning on the tarmac, as the Congresswoman was boarding a plane headed to the immigrant detention facilities at the Texan border. Her message underscored our party’s support for the humane treatment of immigrants and asylum seekers and our

opposition to the “Zero Tolerance” Policy that heartlessly separates parents from their children.

After hearing from the 11 Congressional candidates, running in the District 1 Democratic primary for Carol Shea –Porter’s seat, delegates were addressed by the two Democratic gubernatorial candidates, Steve Marchand and Molly Kelly. Several of the speeches were electrifying and drew enthusiastic applause from the audience. It was inspirational to see the wide range of energetic candidates, from Gen X to Baby Boomers, with a variety of skill sets and personal stories, that were stepping up to run for public office.

We were introduced to Jenn Alford-Teaster, our District 8 candidate for State Senate. Jenn’s personal journey is a compelling story of great determination and resilience. Her message as a young mother, working hard to make NH a better place for families and the next generation, is both heartfelt and up lifting.

The 2018 NH Democratic Party Platform was presented to delegates at the Convention as a seven page document. It clearly states what the Party stands for in this state, in progressive and visionary terms. It provides an outline for economic prosperity that can be shared and accessed by the greatest number of residents. It covers topics ranging from a comprehensive telecommunication infrastructure, to gun-free zones and limits on military style weapons. It addresses climate change, the need for a strong public education system, access to reproductive health care and abortion, and the legalization and taxation of marijuana. Please take the time to read the entire Platform on the NHDP.org

website, as the upcoming campaigns will derive their messaging from this document. Hopefully, voters will respond to its vision of fairness and justice, and economic opportunities for all.

- Sue Jonas

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**FDC, 243 Journeys End Rd,
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*Francestown Democratic
Committee*

BECOME A FDC SUSTAINER

We are grateful to all donors to the Democratic Committee. Your contributions go far to supporting candidates who, when elected, will work for all of us. We are especially grateful to those who have become sustainers, that is, people who make a regular contribution (the amount is their choice) every month. Do join them. To be a sustainer is a joyful, satisfying act, well worth your generous effort.

Dates to Remember

- ▶ 12-15 July - Hillsboro Balloon Fest
- ▶ 14 July - FDC monthly mtg 10:00 am
- ▶ 21 July - NHDP Veterans Summer Summit
- ▶ 11 Aug - Lyndeborough Community Day
- ▶ 19 Aug - Hillsborough Picnic
- ▶ 26 Aug - Greenfield Picnic
- ▶ 11 Sept - Primary Election Day
- ▶ 6 Nov - General Election