

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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FDC QUARTERLY



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Editors: Heidi Dawidoff, Jim Bosman

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

Last November, the FDC did an outstanding job of reaching out to every Democratic and Undeclared voter in Francestown and asking them to help elect our capable candidates. Now, we must stand behind our newly elected Democrats in Concord, and actively give them our whole-hearted support, as they tackle the important issues they talked about during their campaigns. With a majority of Democrats now sitting on the New Hampshire Executive Council, and in the House and Senate, there is the strong possibility that progressive economic and social legislation can be passed in NH, in addition to environmental and wildlife protections being strengthened.

The NH Democrats took a brave first step during the first week of the 2019 Legislative Session, when they voted to ban guns from the House and the Gallery. They are committed to fighting the uphill battle to pass sensible gun legislation that will help keep weapons out of the hands of those who potentially pose a threat to others. These elected representatives will need our support in regard to this issue. The Parkland students who founded The March for Our Lives also continue to ask us to support their state and national legislative initiatives to end gun violence in our nation's schools and public places. Last year, over four million U.S. students experienced lock downs on their school

properties due to gun and bomb threats, or to an actual shooting. As a country, surely, we can do better for our children. This year, each of us must step up to help end the madness.

Besides keeping an eye on developments in Concord, there are national issues and rights that we may be called upon to advocate for or protect in the near future, such as:

- Reproductive Rights
- The establishment of Independent Commissions to re-draw electoral boundaries and correct gerrymandered districts.
- The right to vote, without discrimination, and the widespread establishment of Automatic Voter Registration.
- Affordable Health Care and Prescription Drugs
- Social Security and Medicare
- The Constitution. The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is actively working in six key states to petition for a Second Constitutional Convention. A conservative-led Convention could result in the dismantling of the foundation upon which our American democracy and our rights rest.
- Sustainable forms of energy and a reduction of carbon emissions.
- Clean Air and Water

Speaker Pelosi has referred to Climate Change as “the existential threat of our time.” Carbon emissions rose 3.4% in 2018, the highest increase recorded in eight years. Unfortunately, we face a President and Republicans opposed to the concept of a low-carbon energy future and “sustainability.” They are convinced that anything that helps the environment will

inevitably hurt the US economy. For the sake of our children and our grandchildren, please embrace the Green New Deal platform, presently being developed by the Democratic Party.

Change is possible. The FDC will use its website, Facebook, and email channels to keep you well informed on issues and legislation in New Hampshire and Washington, requiring letters, phone calls, and our presence at hearings. Let's commit to giving the Democrats we have sent to Concord and Washington to work on our behalf our fullest support.

- Sue Jonas

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all our outstanding winners on November 6, and more congratulations to our outstanding voters, who gave support to a host of clear-headed candidates, the kind for whom truth is truth and facts are facts. Imagine that! Well, it's no surprise really: New Hampshire is a down-to-earth, common sense, old-fashioned-values state.

In 1601, Stratford-on-Avon's home-town boy made good and brought Hamlet to the Globe; in 1756, Salzburg's home-town boy made good and brought the Marriage of Figaro to Vienna's opera house; in 1851, Pittsfield's home-town boy made good and celebrated the publication of Moby Dick; in 1918, Zurich's home-town boy made good and brought us the theory of relativity; and exactly one hundred years later, Franconia's home-town boy made good and was elected to the State Legislature!

We send our winners to Concord and Washington with our blessings and great expectations for all they will accomplish to do our state and country good.

- Heidi Dawidoff

FROM THE REPS

CHRIS BALCH - NH REP, D38

Hi, folks-

A couple of weeks ago, on the December 5th swearing-in day, Facebook sent me a memory. It was a picture from Standing Rock that I'd taken on the same date two years earlier. I was struck by the fact that on that Dec 5th, I was in North Dakota marching through a snowstorm with Native Americans and Veterans in protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline. I was also struck by the fact that on this year's Dec 5th, I was sitting in the State House, having been elected by the people of Hillsborough 38, waiting to be sworn in.

In my Facebook post on this, I stated that I hoped that the same ideals that took me to North Dakota are the same as the ones that brought me to the State House.

And they are: the need to bring attention to and represent those who are under-represented; to seek to address things that could be better and things that are just plain wrong. I find myself both excited by and itching to get started on the work ahead.

Thank you for placing your trust in me. I'll do my darndest to live up to it.

Please contact me with ideas, thoughts, and feedback: chris1953balch@gmail.com.

Best,

- Chris Balch

JIM BOSMAN - NH REP, D38

Over the past two months, we have transitioned from campaigning to governing. As a newcomer to the NH House of Representatives, I have seen bureaucracy, partisanship, and the power of the vote up close and personal. I have even figured out the differences between LOB, LSR and OLS! Do not get me wrong: I am encouraged by the possibilities of making real change for the citizens of NH now that the Democrats have secured majorities in the House, Senate, and the Executive Council.

As its first official act, the NH House reinstated a long-held rule banning deadly weapons within the House Chamber. We anticipate over 800 far-ranging bills this session addressing adequate funding for education, limiting single use plastics, promoting renewable energy, property tax relief, raising the minimum wage, restoration of voting rights, establishing an independent commission for redistricting, continuing Medicaid for many of our most needy citizens, and much more. I have been assigned to the Fish and Game and Marine Resources Committee and look forward to learning the progression of making laws. I am also joining the Progressive caucus and the caucus for Economic Justice.

The process is messy with so many representatives, but it does provide for a great deal of citizen input and legislative response. I feel privileged to be a part of it, and I hope to keep everyone informed of important debates and votes as the session continues. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

- Jim Bosman



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

JEN BERNET - NH REP, D4

The first year of the 166th General Court began on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. There, we voted on rules. One rule that was changed in a party line vote was to ban deadly weapons from Representatives Hall, the Gallery and the Anterooms. The debate is available online on the House website: gencourt.state.nh.us

Actually, deadly weapons have only been allowed in these places for four years since 1971 when the rule was made under a Republican majority. Several Republican representatives have stated they will break the rule, and carry their firearms anyway, showing utter disrespect for the majority party and the House of Representatives as an institution.

Some people say this rule limits Second Amendment Rights. But First Amendment Rights are also limited in that placards and banners are also banned from the same area, and people can be removed for other vocalizations if they are deemed disruptive.

Another rule passed was mandatory sexual harassment training for representatives. This training has been made available for a while, but has been poorly attended. A few Republican representatives took umbrage at this, saying they didn't need the training because "their mothers raised them right." I attended the training and it was a good overview of what is and isn't acceptable in the workplace. Some of the opponents were concerned about "false accusations" of harassment, but actually that is a reason the training is important. Having everybody on the same page helps limit misunderstandings.

I am serving on the Committee on Legislative Administration, which deals with legislative process and procedure.

I have filed a bill to add a dental benefit for adults to the state Medicaid program. Now only extractions are covered. I believe oral health is vital to overall health care and people on Medicaid need this coverage. I believe it will lower costs in the long run because better overall health leads to less utilization of the system and a better quality of life.

2019 is the 200th anniversary of the State House itself. If you haven't been, it's worth the trip. Session day will be on Thursday this biennium. Please let me or one of the other representatives know in advance that you are coming and you will be announced by the clerk at the start of the session.

- Jen Bernet

WOMEN'S MARCH

Jan 19, 10:00 - 12:00 at the NH State House in Concord.



Join us at the New Hampshire State House in Concord as we celebrate our accomplishments and send a clear message: We've Only Just Begun!

This year, the march will celebrate the incredible progress that we have made over the last two years, both nationally and in the Granite State, to advance and protect our rights. A record-breaking number of women and LGBTQ+ people were elected in New Hampshire and nationwide in 2018, and that momentum will continue into 2020.

RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

For too many people, the perception of political parties is that they work primarily to elect candidates every two years, and then just go back to bickering with each other while shifting the laws and budgets around to favor whoever backed them financially. This pessimistic outlook further leads many people to believe that the only time that we, the citizens, get a say is when we vote every two years, and after that we should just go home and watch the news until the next election day.

For these people, I have words of wisdom from Marian Wright Edelman: *“Democracy is not a spectator sport.”*

There are many ways that we can influence our government between election cycles. Corporate lobbyists have been doing this for years, and it shows. So how can the average citizen be heard? One of the best ways is for all citizens to constantly read the news in order to stay informed about what is going on in their state and federal legislatures, monitor the progress of bills which support or oppose their priorities, write letters to the editor, call, email, and write their representatives, take out advertisements in media that the legislators follow, travel to the legislatures when they are in session and hold a sign or meet with them, and draft their own legislation and supply it to their good friends in the legislature. No, wait... that only works for people with lots of free time and money. All people who work at regular, full time jobs and the poor cannot afford to do this on their own.

The actual answer is that citizens need to organize with like-minded people in order to share the load and be heard loudly and clearly by their representatives. Political parties do

this, of course. That is part of why I am proud to serve as the vice-chair of the Frankestown Democratic Committee and work with the District 38 Democratic Alliance.



Sometimes, however, even the party you support could use a nudge in the right direction now and then. This became all

too apparent during and after the 2016 elections, and again in 2018. It is to this end that I began volunteering for, and have now joined the board of, Rights & Democracy (RAD), a 501(c)4 non-profit social welfare organization that operates in NH and VT.

While officially non-partisan, Rights & Democracy shares many values with people who find themselves on the progressive end of the political spectrum. Indeed, at a very local level, Frankestown's own Jim Bosman, and Wilton's Chris Balch, who both won election to the NH House of Representatives in Hillsborough District 38, were endorsed by Rights & Democracy during the 2018 election cycle.

In 2018, Rights & Democracy turned out in Concord to encourage legislators to do the right thing on a number of issues, including renewing support for expanded Medicaid, paid family and medical leave, and anti-discrimination laws for LGBTQ people. In June, they hosted the first forum of the year for candidates in the gubernatorial primary, and on the same day hosted a forum for 13 Congressional primary candidates (Democrats & Republicans) in District 2. During the general election, Rights & Democracy even canvassed over 40,000 homes in support of candidates whose values align with those of its members.

Most recently, on January 2nd, 2019, opening day of the NH General Court, Rights & Democracy packed the lobby at the New



Hampshire Legislative Office Building and held a press conference in front of many of the incoming NH legislators to outline its “People’s Platform.” This platform highlights the most important issues according to the people of New Hampshire, as gathered through a non-partisan survey of almost 1000 people across the state during 2018. You can see images and video on their Facebook page, and read about the platform and survey on their website.

<http://www.radnh.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/RightsNH/>

RAD has been, and will be there in Concord, Keene, Plymouth, Manchester, Nashua, the seacoast, and elsewhere to shine a light on the issues that are important to all the people of New Hampshire. That’s why I am helping them, and I hope you will too.

- Eric Rasmussen

BECOME A FDC SUSTAINER

We are grateful to all donors to the Francestown 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.

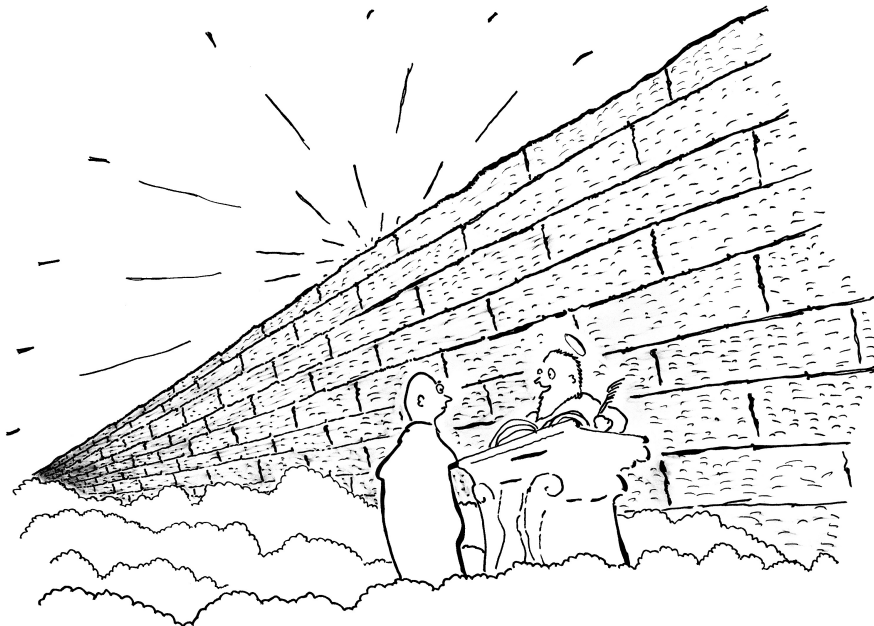
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Shaw

“The best part is that we got hell to pay for it.”