

Party Platforms for the November Election

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The definition of a party platform (from YourDictionary.com) is “a set of beliefs that are accepted as characteristic of a particular political party and presented to the public to help the public know the principles and values for which that party stands.” We are all inundated with ads and mail, but a party’s platform can help you see a larger picture of where the party wants to lead the country.

The comparison below is between the New Hampshire Republican Party platform, the New Hampshire Democratic Party platform, and the National Libertarian Platform. Due to space constraints and the differing categories in each platform, the comparison shows the category heading used by the party and descriptive sentences that highlight major differences.

The actual platform of each party shows a great deal more detail. You can view them at NHDP.org/platform, NH.GOP/platform, and LP.org/platform.

The Democratic National Committee revises their platform every four years and their 2020 platform is found at: Democrats.org/Where-We-Stand/Party-Platform.

The Republican Party’s 2016 platform and the resolution carrying it forward for 2020 is at https://prod-cdn-static.gop.com/docs/Resolution_Platform_2020.pdf I did not find an official national 2022 platform.

Democratic Party

Condensed from NHDP.org/platform.

Introduction

New Hampshire Democrats put people first. We know that quality public services are foundational to the common good.

Democrats know life in New Hampshire has become more costly. We understand the financial strains individuals and families are experiencing and what it will take to ease those financial pressures.

Protecting Democracy and Voting Rights

The freedom to choose our leaders and speak up for what we believe in is foundational to American democracy.

We believe in policies that broaden voter participation and make it more

convenient to vote.

We support fair redistricting free of partisan gerrymandering to ensure every vote counts.

We reject all attempts to undermine legitimate election results.

We believe civics education should occur at home, in schools, and throughout the community to build awareness and understanding of our democratic institutions.

We reject all attempts at voter suppression.

Economic Building Blocks

We know that government serves a vital role in partnering with the private sector and public employers to create the building blocks New Hampshire’s economy needs to thrive today and tomorrow.

We believe that good government promotes business development statewide by ensuring the availability of a well-educated, well-trained, and well-compensated workforce with competitive wages and benefits and the skills needed to compete in a globalized economy.

We believe Government must promote policies that include ensuring the right of every worker to join a union, making the minimum wage a living wage, achieving pay equity for women and people of color, restoring overtime protections, and supporting prevailing wage standards.

Government plays an important role in ensuring a comprehensive transportation infrastructure, including bus and rail service.

Government is responsible for helping establish telecommunications and broadband infrastructure.

We recognize the importance of our immigrant population to our workforce and economic growth.

Fiscal Responsibility

We are committed to engaging the public to develop a fiscally sound, transparent, and accountable balanced budget to serve the needs of all Granite Staters.

We believe an effective and efficient government must provide essential services including supporting the health and safety of our residents, public education, the protection of our envi-

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bate business which is pending, or may be brought into any court of probate in the county of which he or she is judge or register.”

A “Yes” vote is to eliminate the office of Register of Probate. A “No” vote is to keep the office of Register of Probate in each county.

What happens next: If the proposed amendment is approved by two-thirds of those voting on the amendment, it takes effect, thus eliminating the office of Register of Probate from each county.

Question 2

Text of the question: “Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the constitution?”

A “Yes” vote is to hold a constitutional convention. A “No” vote is to do nothing at this time.

Background: In New Hampshire, a state constitutional convention question appears on the ballot every 10 years. A constitutional convention consists of elected delegates that propose changes to the state’s constitution. Any proposed changes, including a rewritten constitution, must then be approved by voters to take effect.

New Hampshire’s last such convention was in 1984. In 2012 New Hampshire voters rejected the question by a margin of 64% to 36%.

In New Hampshire, a majority vote of both houses of the legislature is needed to place the following question on the ballot: “Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the constitution?” If no such question has been submitted to the people by the legislature in 10 years, the

Secretary of State is required by Part II, Article 100 to place the question on the ballot. That is what is happening in 2022.

In other words, this question is appearing now because it has not been on the ballot for 10 years.

What happens next: If the proposed amendment is approved by a majority of those voting on the amendment, it takes effect.


If the majority of voters vote “Yes,” voters will choose delegates to the convention at the next election.

At the convention itself, a three-fifths vote of the delegates is required to send a proposed constitutional amendment to ratification. Nothing becomes law at the convention itself.

Any amendment approved by the convention would be sent to the people at the next biennial November election as a ballot question. A two-thirds vote of those voting on the proposed amendment would be required to ratify the amendment. If the amendment does not receive a two-thirds vote, it does not take effect.

If the majority of voters vote “No,” there will be no constitutional convention for at least the next four years, though the Legislature could vote to put the convention question on the ballot again.

New Hampshire voters do not have the power to make or repeal laws through referendum.

Note: If you choose not to vote on a question, that will not affect the outcome. Only the ballots with either “Yes” or “No” marks will be considered when determining the number of “Yes” votes needed to take effect. In other words, not voting on a question is not the same as voting “No” on the question. 

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