

## Understanding The Questions On The November 6 Ballot

By Susan Chase  
For the Beacon

Voters going to the polls on Tuesday, November 6, will have three questions, including two amendments to the New Hampshire Constitution, to vote on in addition to choosing candidates. The first proposed amendment, Question 1 on the ballot, would prohibit a state income tax, and the second, Question 2, would allow legislators to write rules for the judiciary branch of state government. Both require a two-thirds majority to become part of the state Constitution.

### Question 1

A vote "No" on Question 1 is not a vote in favor of an income tax but permits a future New Hampshire legislature to consider this source of revenue; a "Yes" vote would prevent all future legislatures from considering an income tax.

Supporters say the amendment will make permanent the state's long opposition to the income tax. Opponents say tax policy does not belong in the Constitution and that the existing tools of regular elections and the legislative process are better ways to deal with such tax and budget issues.

### Question 2

A "Yes" vote on Question 2, the second proposed amendment, would empower the New Hampshire legislature to set administrative rules for the courts.

A "No" vote would leave the balance of power as it is. If passed, the legislature would hold concurrent power with the New Hampshire Supreme Court to write administrative rules governing the court. In the case of a conflict, the legislative statute would prevail.

Supporters in the New Hampshire Legislature say it is a way for the public to hold the courts accountable. Opponents, including the New Hampshire Bar Association, say it is a legislative intrusion by the political legislative branch into the independent and non-political judicial branch that would erode the traditional balance of power among the three branches of state government.

### League Of Women Voters

The non-partisan League of Women Voters of New Hampshire has studied both amendments and called them both short-sighted. They recommend a "No" vote on each.

### Question 3

Question 3 asks voters whether to convene a constitutional convention in order to amend the state constitution. The New Hampshire Constitution mandates that this question be asked of the voters every 10 years, and 2012 is the 10th year. Voters last approved a constitutional convention in 1982, which was held in 1984.

See Questions on page 7

## Party Platforms Can Offer Insights Into Candidates

By Mary Anne Broshek  
For the Beacon

One of the ways to get a feel for how a candidate will vote is to read the party platform of the candidate's party. Below is a taste of a relevant document from each party, plus a link to where you can read the entire document online. Platforms change over the years, so hopefully these will give you insight into the most current goals and a good background for asking questions.

The order below is based on the order of the parties on this year's Andover ballot.

I have also included material from the New Hampshire Republican Liberty Caucus (RLC). This is included because the RLC has endorsed two candidates on the Andover ballot – Jenn Coffey and Josh Youseff – plus 122 others statewide.

### Libertarian Party

*Preamble of the Libertarian Party Platform:*

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.

We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles.

These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we

take these stands.

*The full Libertarian Party platform is at: LP.org/platform.*

### Constitution Party

*From the Constitution Party Web site:*

Seven Principles of the Constitution Party

Life: For all human beings, from conception to natural death;

Liberty: Freedom of conscience and actions for the self-governed individual;

Family: One husband and one wife with their children as divinely instituted;

Property: Each individual's right to own and steward personal property without government burden;

Constitution and Bill Of Rights: interpreted according to the actual intent of the founding fathers;

State's Rights: Everything not specifically delegated by the Constitution to the federal government, nor prohibited by the Constitution to the states, is reserved to the states or to the people.

American Sovereignty: American government committed to the protection of the borders, trade, and common defense of Americans, and not entangled in foreign alliances.

*The full Constitution Party Platform is at: TinyURL.com/9y3fyxo.*

### New Hampshire Democratic Party

*From the Who We Are section of the New Hampshire Democratic Party (NHDP) Web site:*

For more than 200 years, Democrats have fought for the interests of working families and equal opportunities for all Americans. We believe in an America where we don't just look out for ourselves. We're proud of our individualism, but we also know that we rise and fall as one nation. Throughout history, Democrats have worked from the ground up to bring about the change that matters.

*From a summary of the NHDP platform provided by the NHDP:*

New Hampshire Democrats are  
See Platforms on page 7

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