

State

www.nh.gov

Governor

www.governor.nh.gov

Executive Council

www.nh.gov/council

General Court

www.gencourt.state.nh.us

Judiciary

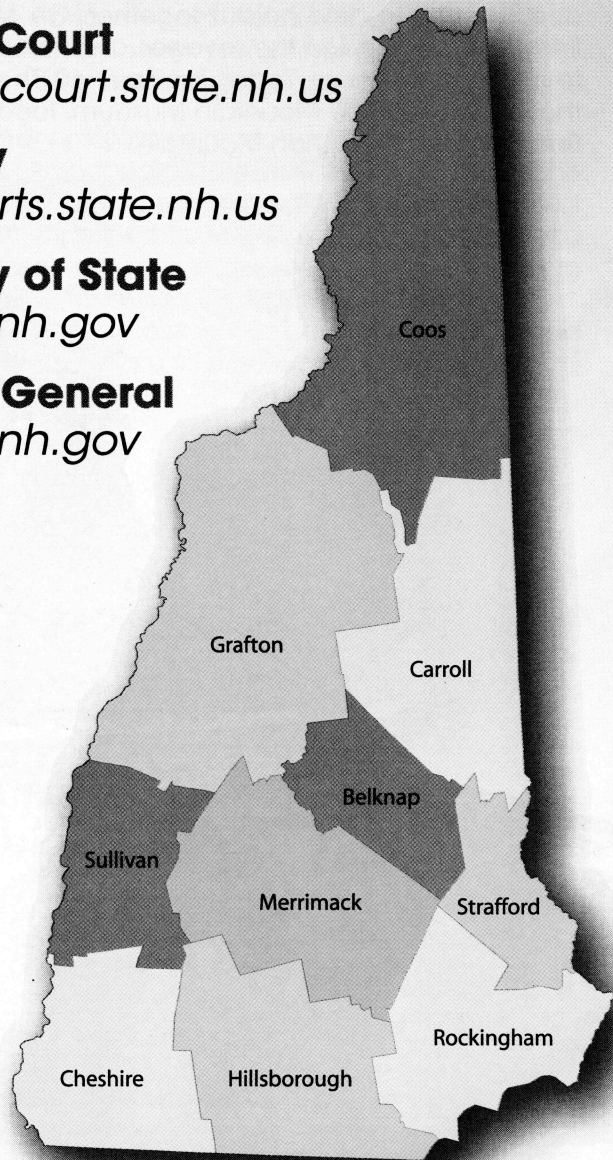
www.courts.state.nh.us

Secretary of State

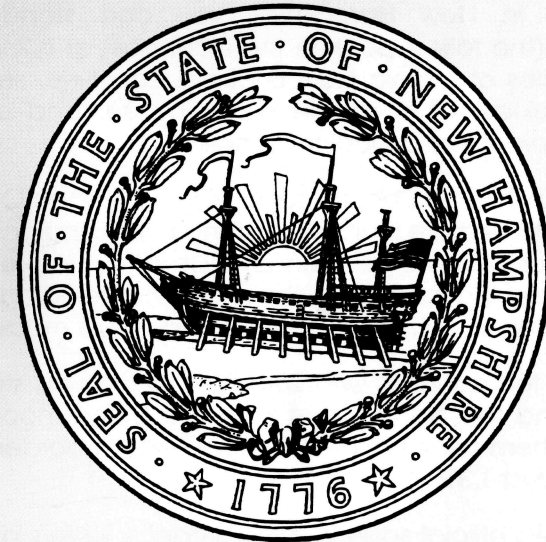

www.sos.nh.gov

Attorney General

www.doj.nh.gov

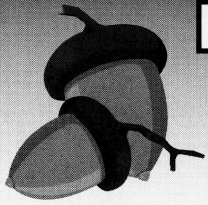


FACTS *about* New Hampshire

Senator Sam Cataldo
NH State Senate District 6

Compliments of the
New Hampshire State Senate



New Hampshire *in a Nutshell*

Nicknamed "The Granite State" for its large amount of granite bedrock, New Hampshire is well-known for its scenic beauty. Every year tourists come from all around the world to enjoy the state's amazing fall foliage.

When you're in New Hampshire, you can stand on top of Mt. Washington (the tallest peak in the Northeast at 6,288 feet), enjoy the state's 18 miles of classic New England coastline, see a NASCAR race, have breakfast at a maple sugar house, and even meet a presidential candidate at a local town hall.

But New Hampshire has been making its mark since Colonial times. It is the first state to declare its independence from England in 1775 and first to form a constitutional government with a legislature in 1776. New Hampshire also lays claim to being the ninth and deciding state to ratify the U.S. Constitution in 1787, making it the "State that made the Nation".

The state has ten counties with 234 cities and towns stretching from the Seacoast and the North Country to the Monadnock Region out west to the Southern tier along the Massachusetts border. In 2010, the population stood at 1,316,470.

While the state's official sport is skiing, Granite Staters are famous for taking politics as seriously as any game. New Hampshire is home to the first-in-the-nation Presidential Primary, an election held every four years that has a lot to do in helping to determine who wins the White House.



When you're in New Hampshire, you can stand on top of Mt. Washington - the tallest peak in the Northeast at 6,288 feet.

State House History

New Hampshire's State House is the oldest state house in the nation in which the Legislature still occupies its original chambers.

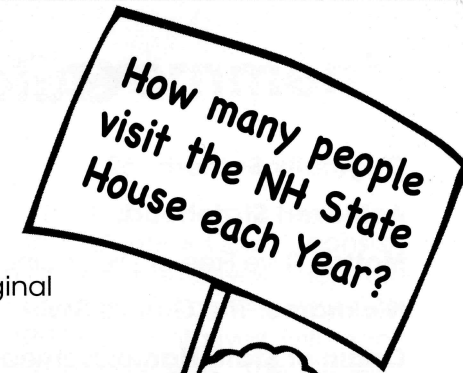
Construction began in 1816. Three years later, opening day ceremonies were held on June 2, 1819. It is located on land donated by the City of Concord and built with granite taken from giant boulders on nearby Rattlesnake Hill.

The State House was designed by Stuart J. Park who, at that time, was New England's foremost expert on granite construction. Local craftsmen, along with artisans from Boston, did the finishing work on the interior.

For decades, the State House was considered one of the grandest buildings of its time, but as time went on, it became too small for all of the business of government it conducted. So from 1864-1866, the capital went under extensive renovations. Among the major improvements: the imposing gold dome you see today which replaced its original modest cupola; a two-story portico entrance with large granite columns and several committee rooms.

Another major remodeling project was undertaken in 1909-1910 that gave the State House the look it retains today. Led by the prominent architectural firm of Peabody & Stearns out of Boston, builders added a three-story addition to the rear of the capital that today houses the offices of the Governor, Executive Council, Secretary of State, Senate President and Speaker of the House. Additionally, a large visitor's gallery was constructed for the House Chamber that replaced several offices. To do so, the gold dome had to be raised one half inch.

Each year, the New Hampshire State House hosts over 50,000 visitors. Its halls are filled with a rich tapestry of history including flags from famous battles to the portraits of men and women who have served this state so honorably. They are all yours to enjoy!



Quick Facts

Originally Settled: 1623

Achieved Statehood: 1788

Motto: "Live Free or Die", coined by General John Stark

Nickname: The Granite State

Origin of State Name: Named after the English County of Hampshire

State Capital: Concord

State Flag: Features the State Seal centered on a field of blue surrounded by a wreath of laurel leaves interspersed with nine stars.

State Seal: Depicts the frigate Raleigh resting on the stocks in Portsmouth, recalling New Hampshire's rich history of shipbuilding. In the foreground to the left is a granite boulder, and in the background, a rising sun.

State Symbols

- Amphibian:** Red-Spotted Newt (1985)
- Animal:** Whitetail Deer (1983)
- Beverage:** Apple Cider (2010)
- Bird:** Purple Finch (1957)
- Butterfly:** Karner Blue (1992)
- Dog:** Chinook (2009)
- Emblem:** Old Man of the Mountain (1945)
- Flower:** Purple Lilac (1919)
- Freshwater Fish:** Brook Trout (1994)
- Fruit:** Pumpkin (2006)
- Gem:** Smoky Quartz (1985)
- State Seal:** Great Seal (1931)
- Insect:** Ladybug (1977)
- Mineral:** Beryl (1985)
- Rock:** Granite (1985)
- Saltwater Game Fish:** Striped Bass (1994)
- Sport:** Skiing (1998)
- Tree:** White Birch (1947)
- Wild Flower:** Pink Lady Slipper (1991)



New Hampshire Government

Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch, also known as the "General Court", consists of two bodies: the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 24 Senators, each representing approximately 55,000 constituents. The House of Representatives is comprised of 400 Representatives, with each member representing approximately 3,300 constituents. The General Court is the second-largest legislature in the country following the U.S. Congress. Internationally, only the British and Indian Parliaments have more members.

Senators and Representatives write and pass the laws of the state. They are elected every two years, meeting in annual sessions that typically run from January to June. You must be 30 years old to serve in the Senate, but only 18 to qualify for the House. Legislators are paid \$100 per year, plus mileage. This is in keeping with the fundamental New Hampshire philosophy that legislators serve out of a sense of civic duty and commitment. Because of their added duties, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House receive \$125 a year.

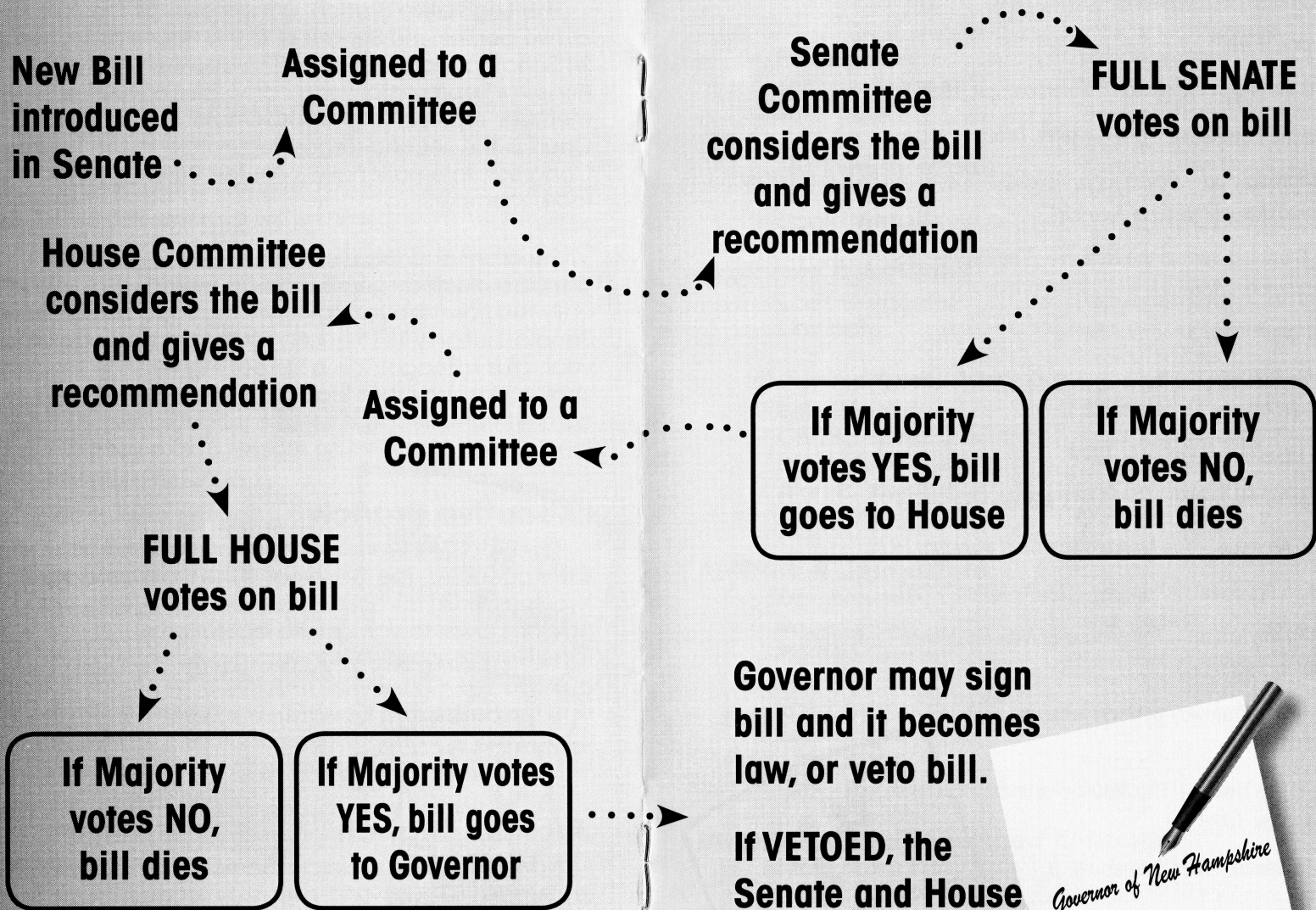
Executive Branch

The Executive Branch consists of the Governor, Executive Council and state agencies. The Governor is the state's chief executive and serves a two-year term. He or she must be thirty years old to run. The Governor has the power to sign or veto legislation approved by the General Court. If the Governor chooses to veto a piece of legislation, the legislature can override the veto, which requires a two-thirds vote by both the Senate and the House. The Governor works closely with the state's five Executive Councilors whose job it is to approve the state contracts and gubernatorial appointments, including the state's Attorney General.

Judicial Branch

New Hampshire's Judicial Branch consists of a Supreme Court, a dozen Superior Courts and over sixty local Circuit Courts. All members of the Judiciary are appointed, not elected. They serve until they choose to retire or reach the age of 70.

How a Bill becomes Law



This chart outlines the process for passing a bill into law through the Senate. A bill introduced in the House of Representatives would follow the same path except that the House and Senate actions would be reversed.

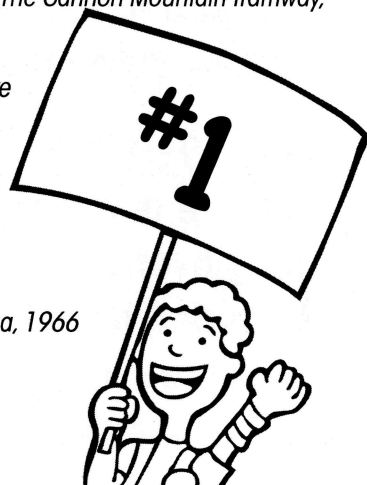
Governor may sign bill and it becomes law, or veto bill.

If VETOED, the Senate and House may override the veto and the bill becomes law



New Hampshire Firsts

- First Potato planted in the U.S. – 1719
- First State Constitution in the Nation – *Exeter, 1776*
- First Alarm Clock – 1787
- First Free Public Library in the Nation – *Peterborough, 1833*
- First Meeting of the Republican Party – *Exeter, 1853*
- First National Thanksgiving – *Called for by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, inspired by the letters of Sarah Josepha Hale of Newport*
- First Mountain-Climbing Train in the Nation – *"The Peppersass", Mount Washington, 1866*
- First "America's Cup" – 1873
- First Transatlantic Cable in the Nation – *Straw's Point, Rye Beach to Balinskelligs Bay, Ireland, 1874*
- First Old Home Days in the Nation – 1899
- First Credit Union in the Nation – *St. Mary's, Manchester, 1908*
- First Bird Club in America – *The Meriden Bird Club, Meriden, 1911*
- First-in-the-Nation Presidential Primary – *Dixville Notch, 1920*
- First Crafts Fair in the Nation – *The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, Crawford Notch, 1934*
- First Passenger Aerial Tramway in North America – *The Cannon Mountain Tramway, Franconia, 1938*
- First Skimobile in the Nation – *The Mount Cranmore Skimobile, Bartlett, 1938*
- First American in Space – *Alan B. Shepard, Jr. of Derry, 1961*
- First Legal State Lottery in the Nation – 1963
- First Interactive Video Game in the Nation – *Nashua, 1966*



Great Granite Staters

Patriots & Politicians

- Josiah Bartlett Signer of the Declaration of Independence, first Governor of New Hampshire
- Franklin Pierce 14th President of the United States
- Jeanne Shaheen First woman elected Governor
- John Stark Revolutionary War General, coined motto: "Live Free or Die"
- Matthew Thornton Signer of the Declaration of Independence
- Daniel Webster Orator, statesman, Secretary of State

Explorers & Athletes

- Chris Carpenter Pitcher, St. Louis Cardinals
- Chinook sled dog on Adm. Byrd's expedition to South Pole
- Carlton Fisk Catcher, Boston Red Sox
- Lynn Jennings Olympic runner
- Christa McAuliffe First teacher in NASA space program
- Bode Miller Olympic skier
- Alan B. Shepard, Jr. First American in space
- Jenny Thompson Olympic swimmer

Authors & Journalists

- Dan Brown Author
- Robert Frost Pulitzer-Prize winning poet
- Horace Greeley Founder and publisher of the New York Tribune
- Sarah Josepha Hale Author
- Grace Metalious Author
- J.D. Salinger Author
- Celia Loughton Thaxter Poet

Inventors & Distinguished Citizens

- Mary Baker Eddy Founder of Christian Science Church
- Daniel Chester French Sculptor of Lincoln Statue at the Lincoln Memorial
- Levi Hutchins Inventor of the alarm clock
- Dean Kamen Inventor of the Segway
- David Souter U.S. Supreme Court Justice
- Earl Tupper Inventor of Tupperware

New Hampshire Primary

Every four years, the political spotlight shines on New Hampshire. It's all because of the state's first-in-the-nation Presidential Primary and the prominent role it has played since 1952 in helping to determine who wins the White House.

Under state law, the primary must be held on the second Tuesday in March or on a date selected by the Secretary of State which is seven days or more immediately preceding the date on which another state shall hold a similar election. Because Iowa holds caucuses which are not considered a "similar election", New Hampshire is able to set its primary less than seven days after Iowa's vote.

The New Hampshire Primary maintains its status for several reasons, the first being retail politics. Any candidate serious about winning the primary must be prepared to shake hands with voters and answer all of their questions. That's true whether it's on a sidewalk, in a restaurant, at a house party or a town hall meeting. Granite Staters are famous for being well-informed on the issues and for asking intelligent questions. Second, lesser-known candidates can also make a name for themselves, and even win, if they are willing to work hard to meet voters.



Remembering New Hampshire's "OLD MAN"

"The Old Man of the Mountain," a rock profile carved by receding glaciers 10,000 years ago, was one of New Hampshire's most beloved symbols. It jutted out of the upper edge of Profile Mountain, 1,200 feet above Profile Lake in Franconia Notch. Over time the formation weakened. The Neilson family maintained it regularly using steel rods and epoxies to help hold it together. On May 3, 2003 The Old Man finally succumbed to the ravages of time, ice, and weather, tumbling to the ground below. Today the spirit of "The Old Man" is kept alive at the Old Man of the Mountain Museum, located in the Aerial Tramway Base Station at Cannon Mountain.

