

## State Offices

### Governor

The Governor's term is for two years. The Governor must be at least 30 years old and a resident of NH for seven years. The Governor has veto power over bills, makes appointments, and drafts a budget to be submitted to the Legislature. The Governor also has veto power over the Legislature's budget.

### Executive Council

The Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire has authority and responsibility, together with the Governor, over the administration of the business of the State. The council acts as a check and balance on the role of the governor.

The Council approves both receipts and expenditures of state and federal funds, budgetary transfers within the departments, and all personal service contracts with a value over \$10,000 and all other contracts with a value over \$10,000.\* They also approve department and judicial appointments.

There are five Executive Councilors who are elected every two years. A candidate must be 30 years of age, a registered voter, and domiciled in New Hampshire for at least seven years.

Candidates must also live in the district they want to represent.

*\*These contract amounts have occasionally changed.*

### NH Senate

The New Hampshire State Senate is the upper body of the New Hampshire General Court (the state legislature). There are 24 senators, who are elected every two years.

As New Hampshire does not elect a lieutenant governor, the senate president serves as "acting governor" whenever the governor is out of the state or is otherwise unable to perform the duties of the office.

To be eligible to run for the Senate, a candidate must be 30 years of age, have lived in New Hampshire for at least seven

years immediately preceding the election, and must reside in the district from which they are seeking election.

### NH House of Representatives

The New Hampshire House of Representatives is the lower house of the New Hampshire General Court. The House of Representatives consists of 400 members coming from 204 districts, making it the largest lower house in the nation, and the third largest parliamentary body in the world. On average, each legislator represents about 3,300 residents.

In order to run for the House, a candidate must be 18 years of age, a registered voter, domiciled in New Hampshire for at least two years, and live in the town or ward they will represent.

## County Offices

Candidates for all county offices must be 18 years of age and registered voters in the county where they are domiciled.

Candidates must also be aware of other provisions of law regarding qualifications for that office.

### County Attorney

The County Attorney prosecutes felonies and misdemeanor appeals from the district courts. The office works in conjunction with the State Attorney General's Office, Sheriff's Department, New Hampshire State Police, and local police departments to prosecute crimes committed within each county. The County Attorney's Office also works directly with the medical referee in cases of untimely deaths.

### County Commissioner

County Commissioners are responsible for the governing, administration, and overall supervision of the county department of corrections, nursing home, public assistance, human resources, and departments not under the statutory control of other elected officials. The Commissioners also have budget

review over all county departments. The ten counties differ in how they elect their commissioners and in length of terms.

### **County Treasurer**

The County Treasurer collects the county property tax from municipalities, oversees financial accounts, and invests county funds. The Treasurer is the signatory on the county's financial accounts and works with the Business Office to maintain the integrity and security of all treasury funds.

New Hampshire residents all pay the county portion of their property taxes to their local government, which is passed on to the county in one lump sum each December. The tax rate is set by the county's legislative delegation during the annual budget process.

### **Register of Deeds**

The Registry of Deeds processes information as it relates to the selling and buying of real property. It is a public office serving the legal profession and general public for researching registry records.

Candidates for this office must be 18 years of age and a registered voter in their county. They must also meet other provisions of law regarding qualifications for Register of Deeds.

### **Register of Probate**

The Register of Probate duties were drastically reduced in 2011 as part of a court overhaul. The position, however, still exists, though usually without salary.

### **Sheriff**

The Sheriff has a wide range of responsibilities related to court services: prisoner transport, civil process service, court security, investigations and emergency communications. This office serves civil paperwork, arrest warrants and assists city and town police departments with law enforcement duties and with public awareness campaigns and community programs.

# **A Voter's Guide**

## **A Description of the Down-Ballot Positions on the NH Ballot**

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