

GRANITE STATE TAXPAYERS

Granite State Taxpayers, is non-partisan, non-profit with a Mission to inform, educate and motivate New Hampshire taxpayers and to lobby the legislature on their behalf. We advocate for low taxes, balanced budgets, frugal, limited government that works within its constitutional authority, and local control.

Granite State Taxpayers has studied election law and advocated for improvements for over 5 years. Informed voters acting through the ballot box provide a check on government.

We support providing accessible information for voters in making informed decisions in elections. That effort, providing information and education, is central to the Granite State Taxpayers mission.

THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION IN MAKING AN INFORMED DECISION WHEN VOTING

In determining whom to vote for, one must consider the candidate’s experience, their positions and assessment of particular issues **and their party affiliation.**

Voting for a particular candidate is not only a vote for that candidate. It is also a vote in support of a majority for that candidates’ party, and therefore for the legislative agenda of that candidates’ party.

Political parties invest significant effort in publicizing their platforms and legislative initiatives, information which is readily available to voters. Additionally, prior voting history (for incumbents) is provided by the Legislature and is presented by various interest groups.

For example, Granite State Taxpayers has assessed, and provided ratings regarding voting history for incumbent legislators and surveys on candidate positions for participating primary candidates.

Review of party platforms, legislation introduced or supported and public statements identifies which party supports, or opposes, issues of interest to taxpayers, or other interest groups.

With such information regarding the agenda of a candidates’ party, voters can easily decide whether to support that agenda by voting for that candidate, and, if doing so, for their party as a majority.

At one time, NH ballots offered voters the ability to select “straight ticket voting”. This supports the assertion that voters could make their choices based upon the agenda of a particular party of interest.

Consequently, party identification on the ballot is valuable information for voters, allowing an informed vote even if the voter is not particularly familiar with each individual candidate.

HB 1403 would eliminate a valuable source of information for voters

Granite State Taxpayers Opposes HB 1403