



Briefing: Free State Project Candidates at the State Level 2016

What is the Free State Project?

A decade ago, the ultra-extreme Free State Project voted on a state to move 20,000 libertarians to, with the stated purpose to take over state government and dismantle it. New Hampshire was unfortunately the unlucky recipient of that vote. The Free State Project seeks to create a libertarian “utopia” void of public infrastructure and common laws, and to use their numbers to dramatically change New Hampshire. The Free State Project even threatens to secede from the rest of the country once it meets its initial goals:

"Once we've taken over the state government, we can slash state and local budgets, which make up a sizeable proportion of the tax and regulatory burden we face every day. Furthermore, we can eliminate substantial federal interference by refusing to take highway funds and the strings attached to them. Once we've accomplished these things, we can bargain with the national government over reducing the role of the national government in our state. We can use the threat of secession as leverage to do this."

- [Announcement: The Free State Project](#) by Founder Jason Sorens

To date, the Free State Project has recruited more than 20,000 people to sign the pledge to move to New Hampshire, hitting their goal to “Trigger the Move” – all those who signed up are supposed to start moving once the agreed upon goal was met. More than 2,015 people have already moved. The Free State Project regularly hosts tours of the state for prospective movers, offers temporary housing for those in transition, and has a network for job, social, and political opportunities once someone makes the move to New Hampshire.

The Free State Project has also successfully fielded candidates for local and state government, and each year those members introduce proposals to slash local and state budgets, undermine public education, and overturn common sense community priorities that ensure our people and our communities remain safe and secure. It is not surprising that so many Free Staters run for office. Free State Project members uproot their families and move to New Hampshire purely to enact a political agenda; running for office only further helps them reach that goal.

What is Granite State Progress doing?

Granite State Progress has been tracking the Free State Project and its influence since 2008, paying particular attention to Free Stater activity in elections and legislation. Free State Project members running for political office often hide or deny their FSP affiliation from voters and downplay their extreme beliefs when asked. To challenge this, Granite State Progress:

1. Researches and compiles a list of Free State Project candidates and electeds for distribution in local communities and to members of the media.
2. Educates the public about the Free State Project, its members, beliefs, and influence.
3. Acts as a resource for affected communities to gather support and network with one another about how to handle Free State Project members and activities.

For more information about the Free State Project Watch of Granite State Progress, contact (603) 225-2471 or freestateprojectwatch@granitestateprogress.org.

Free State Project Watch: Candidate Outcomes 2016

Position	District #	First Name	Last Name	City/Town	Party	FSP	Result	Incumbent
State House	BEL 02	Glen	Aldrich	Gilford	Republican	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	BEL 06	Mike	Sylvia	Belmont	Republican	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	CAR 05	Ed	Comeau	Brookfield	Republican	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	GRA 09	Robert	Hull	Grafton	Republican	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	GRA 10	Mike	Lorrey	Grantham	Republican	X	Loss	
State House	HIL 05	Nathan Glen	Dickey	New Boston	Republican	X	Win	
State House	HIL 07	Keith	Murphy	Bedford	Republican	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	HIL 08	Mark	Warden	Manchester	Republican	X	Loss	Former
State House	HIL 10	Merav	Yaakov	Manchester	Republican	X	Loss	
State House	HIL 11	Elizabeth	Edwards	Manchester	Democrat	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	HIL 11	Shuvom	Ghose	Manchester	Republican	X	Loss	
State House	HIL 12	Amanda	Bouldin	Manchester	Democrat	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	HIL 17	Daniel	Garthwaite	Manchester	Republican	X	Loss	
State House	HIL 17	Tammy	Simmons	Manchester	Republican	Honorary	Loss	Incumbent
State House	HIL 19	Clarence	Gardner	Manchester	Republican	X	Loss	
State House	HIL 21	Dan	Hynes	Merrimack	Republican	X	Win	
State House	HIL 37	Eric	Schleien	Hudson	Republican	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	HIL 37	Andrew	Prout	Hudson	Republican	X	Win	
State House	HIL 40	Keith	Ammon	New Boston	Republican	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	HIL 42	Phillip	Harris	Manchester	Republican	X	Loss	
State House	HIL 42	Anthony	Pugh	Manchester	Republican	X	Loss	
State House	HIL 43	Japhet	Stevens	Manchester	Republican	X	Loss	
State House	MER 10	Luke	Diamond	Concord	Republican	X	Loss	
State House	MER 20	Brian	Seaworth	Pembroke	Republican	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	MER 20	Darren	Tapp	Chichester	Republican	X	Loss	
State House	MER 23	JR	Hoell	Dunbarton	Republican	Honorary	Win	Incumbent
State House	MER 29	Carol	McGuire	Epsom	Republican	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	ROC 04	Jess	Edwards	Auburn	Republican	X	Win	
State House	ROC 04	Jason	Osborne	Auburn	Republican	X	Win	Incumbent
State House	STR 04	Seamus	Casey	Lee	Republican	Honorary	Loss	
State House	SUL 02	Ian	Underwood	Croydon	Republican	X	Loss	
State Senate	District 20	Carla	Gericke	Manchester	Republican	X	Loss	
State Senate	District 5	Marie	Lozito	Claremont	Republican	X	Loss	

** Honorary is an individual who has worked to support the growth of the Free State Project in New Hampshire. Homegrown is a FSP member who would have moved if another state had been selected.*

2016 Election	Total	Incumbent	Challenger
Winners:	17	13	4
Losers:	16	1	15