

## WELCOME TO NEW HAMPSHIRE POLITICAL NEWS



The purpose of this mailing is to keep you informed of local Wakefield, Effingham, and Brookfield news and events as well as bills and issues that are presented before your local State Representatives, Dino Scala and Joe Fleck. We welcome and encourage you to contact us with questions, comments, concerns, and suggestions.

It was a very stirring week for me in politics. We had a marvelous turnout for our Meet the Candidates Night. I counted over 60 people in attendance myself and was so proud of our residents taking the time to come out and speak, listen, and learn. I would like to take the time to thank the Greater Wakefield Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the event. I would also like to thank Chris Racine and Ed Morrison for moderating the event. While the meeting got heated at a few points, it confirmed for me that turnout on Tuesday is going to be strong. One thing that was evident is that people care and are passionate about policy and who fills the seats to serve them.

I attended the Read Across America program on Tuesday at the Paul School. I had the opportunity to read to 4 groups of 1<sup>st</sup> graders. It was a very rewarding and gratifying morning for me. It was also quite fun when I turned the tables on the kids and had them read to me.

We were back in session on Wednesday after taking our winter break. We started out meeting with a moment of silence for Pfc. Eric Carrier of Londonderry who died in Afghanistan.

We had some victories and a very disturbing defeat. First HB 1679. This bill establishes a soft drinks tax. Revenues from the tax would be deposited in a fund dedicated to obesity prevention and treatment programs. "Bottled soft drinks" means any and all nonalcoholic beverages, whether carbonated or not, such as soda water, ginger ale, Coca Cola, lime cola, Pepsi Cola, Doctor Pepper, root beer, carbonated water, orangeade, lemonade, fruit juice when any plain or carbonated water, flavoring or syrup is added, or any and all preparations commonly referred to as "soft drinks" of whatever kind, which are closed and sealed in glass, paper, or any other type of container, envelope, package, or bottle, whether manufactured with or without the use of any syrup. The

term “bottled soft drinks” shall not include fluid milk, to which no flavoring has been added, or natural undiluted fruit juice or vegetable juice. This bill was killed. We did not think it would be appropriate right now with the economy and people struggling to tax soda and chocolate milk to fund these programs. Another bill, HB 1541, prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes and liquid nicotine to minors. These fake cigarettes can be used as props but were being used by children to simulate smoking. This bill also covers the e-cigars and e-pipes. A bill that I fully supported and it DID NOT get killed is HB 1442 FN. You don’t have to be a parent to find this unsettling. This bill prohibits offenders against children from residing within 2,000 feet of a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school or a child care facility. With this bill not being killed, the rights of the sex offender are being put before the safety of our children. The good guys did not win this one.

On the positive side of things, Gov. Lynch has said he would support repealing the LLC tax. I don’t know when any repeal might take effect, though in my opinion the sooner the better. There are a few bills before the Legislature that would repeal the tax extension, though the Gov. didn't say specifically which he would endorse.

NH bankruptcy numbers tell the reality of difficulties faced by people in both their personal and business finances. There were 300 filings in January and 500 in February. These are the highest numbers on file in NH since they first started keeping records of bankruptcy claims.

Sadly, New Hampshire had to borrow \$50 million dollars to pay for the State’s jobless claims to be paid through mid May. NH is the 30<sup>th</sup> state to have to borrow money to pay for claims. The loan from the federal government is interest free and the State is hoping to have it paid off in May.

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I don’t want to sound like a broken record but don’t forget to vote on Tuesday at the Town Hall from 8 AM to 7 PM!!!

“Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.” John Quincy Adams