

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS ON TUESDAY!!!!

It was very pleasing to see so many residents come out and vote on Tuesday. With the weather giving us a preview of Spring, nearly 800 people came out to vote. I had the opportunity to catch up with many constituents that I have not had a chance to talk to in awhile. It was also great to get feedback about the newsletter. It has been very gratifying for me to know that people are reading it and being kept informed.

The State mourned the loss of two very important women in New Hampshire Politics this past week. First, was former U.S. Senate candidate and longtime political activist Doris "Granny D" Haddock, who passed away at the age of 100. Also, Gale Thomson, the widow of former New Hampshire governor Meldrim Thomson, passed away at her home in Orford at the age of 90. Although very different in their approach, these were 2 strong women in politics. Former Republican governor and state GOP Chairman John Sununu said of Mrs. Thomson, "She was the classic example of the phrase, 'Behind every great man is an even greater woman,'" Gov. Lynch issued the following statement about Granny D.

"Granny D was a true New Hampshire treasure, embodying the spirit that makes this such a great state. Granny D proved to us all that one person really can make a difference. Granny D's passion and commitment inspired tens of thousands of Americans to get involved and push for change to the campaign finance system." My wife Susan and I send our deepest sympathies to the Haddock family."

There were many controversial bills up for discussion and vote this past week. First, the House voted 214-137 to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana. The legislation would decriminalize possession of less than one-quarter ounce of marijuana. Currently, marijuana possession is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. I think this will free up our police officers and at the same time allow our court system to deal with greater issues.

The House also voted to repeal a 9 percent tax on campsites that took effect last July. The results were 202-125 to pass a bill that would eliminate the tax enacted to help pay for state spending. People who were in favor of the tax argued that basic tent sites are taxed very little, but opponents said the tax would drive away campers and put the campgrounds out of business.

The state Senate voted 14-10 to ask a death penalty commission to look at applying capital punishment to murders that take place during home invasions. The Senate voted to send to interim study a bill prompted by the October break-in at a Mont Vernon home, in which Kimberly Cates was murdered and her daughter severely injured. It saddens me that some members of the Senate believe that someone breaking into your home and killing you does not fall into the scope of a death penalty case. These are hardened criminals who commit heinous crimes and should be punished accordingly.

We are making progress in repealing the LLC tax. The Senate tabled a bill proposed by state Sen. Jeb Bradley, a Wolfeboro Republican that would have repealed the LLC tax. But it passed by voice vote a bipartisan bill that would repeal the LLC tax and make changes to the law defining reasonable compensation. This is a hot topic and I'm sure there will more to report in the coming weeks.

New Hampshire Sen. Judd Gregg will serve as one of three Republicans on the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

A special congratulations to two students in our district. Nicole Westfall, a student at the Paul School and Madison Winn from Effingham Elementary School for competing in the Regional Spelling Bee held in Rochester, NH.

This coming Tuesday, March 16, U.S. Senate candidate Jim Bender will be the guest speaker at the Wakefield-Effingham-Brookfield GOP monthly meeting. Stop by Lino's for dinner at 6:30 and the meeting to follow starting at 7:00. Coming in April will be candidate for Governor, Karen Testerman and in May U.S. Senate candidate Bill Binnie.

Also scheduled this week, the Wakefield School Board will be holding a school board meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at the Paul School in the library commencing at 6:30 PM.

A constitution founded on these principles introduces knowledge among the people, and inspires them with a conscious dignity becoming freemen; a general emulation takes place, which causes good humor, sociability, good manners, and good morals to be general. That elevation of sentiment inspired by such a government makes the common people brave and enterprising. That ambition which is inspired by it makes them sober, industrious, and frugal.

John Adams, *Thoughts on Government*, 1776

