

Vote Like Your Lakes Depend On It – 2024!



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President & Policy Advocate
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Lakes and ponds are an integral part of New Hampshire's quality of life, economy, and natural heritage.



Clean and healthy lakes are good for us, the environment,
our local communities and the state of New Hampshire.



NH has been home to some of the cleanest and healthiest lakes in the country—until now.



Invasive species infestations have taken hold in nearly 120 waterbodies.



Polluted runoff water flowing off the landscape accounts for approx. 90% of lake health problems.



We're on pace to set a record number of cyanobacteria blooms this year.

ADVISORY

High levels of potentially toxic
CYANOBACTERIA
have been identified in this water

**WATER CURRENTLY NOT
SUITABLE FOR WADING
OR SWIMMING!**

Exposure to blue-green scums may cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or fever in humans and pets.

Anyone who comes in contact with blue-green scum should rinse off with fresh water

All current advisories posted at www.des.nh.gov.
Click "beach advisory" in left column

CONTACT INFORMATION:
NHDES Beach Program
29 Hazen Dr.; Concord, NH
(603) 271-0698
beaches@des.nh.gov





And, our changing climate is putting more stress on our lakes!



Flooding



Drought



Shorter period
of ice cover



Warmer water



The health of our lakes and
New Hampshire's future is at stake!





One of the most irrational things we can do is pretend our lakes will take care of themselves.




Our mission is to restore and preserve the health of New Hampshire's lakes.



Our vision is a New Hampshire where all our lakes are clean and healthy, and caring for them is a way of living, doing business, and governing.




Together, we are working for clean and healthy lakes.



Joe Maraldo
of Mountainview Lake,
Sunapee

Protecting the Lake
Through Lake-Friendly Living



Vincent Pierannunzi
Laurel Lake,
Fitzwilliam

Preventing the Spread
of Aquatic Invasive Species!





But, together, we need to do more.



Our lakes need bold statewide solutions...



and bold elected leaders at all levels, committed
to restoring and preserving their health!



Fall 2024 is Election Season!

NH voters will decide on:

- 400 State House Representatives
- 24 State Senators
- 5 Executive Councilors
- 1 Governor
- 2 U.S. Senators
- 2 U.S. Congress members
- and more!





**Like Your Lakes
Depend On It**

This campaign will help inform your voting choices at the polls.

And, even if you don't vote in NH, with **YOUR** help, we can ensure that restoring and preserving the health of our lakes is a priority for all our elected officials at all levels of government.

Our lakes urgently need lake-friendly elected officials.



As a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, we can't:

- endorse candidates
- contribute financially to candidates

But, we can:

- provide you with information on the voting process, how to find out who's running
- educate all candidates on lake issues related to the public interest
- prepare candidate questionnaires
- sponsor candidate debates



**Like Your Lakes
Depend On It**

We provide resources for **YOU** to have conversations with candidates running for office about why restoring and preserving the health of New Hampshire's lakes should be **THEIR** priority.



Resources for you at nhlakes.org/vote



Questions & Talking Points for YOUR Conversations with Candidates

Whether or not you're a New Hampshire voter, YOU can let candidates know restoring and preserving lakes should be a top priority for all elected officials. Leading up to the 2024 elections, use the questions and talking points below to gauge candidates' connections to New Hampshire's lakes and their interest, knowledge, and thoughts about the issues impacting the health of our lakes. *Share what you learn from candidates at nhlakes.org/vote.*

CANDIDATE QUESTION:

"How are clean and healthy lakes important to you? To your constituents? To New Hampshire?"

YOUR TALKING POINTS:

- New Hampshire is home to nearly 1,000 lakes.
- Our lakes provide a variety of recreational activities for our citizens and visitors year-round.
- During the summer of 2021, 4.4 million visitors brought \$2.1 billion into the state economy, primarily by enjoying our lakes.
- Clean and healthy lakes provide thousands of New Hampshire residents jobs and income.
- *Explain to the candidate why clean and healthy lakes are important to YOU and your community.*
- *Ask the candidate if they know what lakes are in their district, if they have a favorite lake, if they have a property near a lake, and/or if they have a business related to lakes."*





Learn About Who's Running for Office

Want to know who your candidates are?

- U.S. House and Senate
- Governor
- Executive Council
- State Senate
- House of Representatives

Visit Citizen's Count to review candidate profiles, issue positions, contact information, and much more.

[Citizenscount.org](https://citizenscount.org)

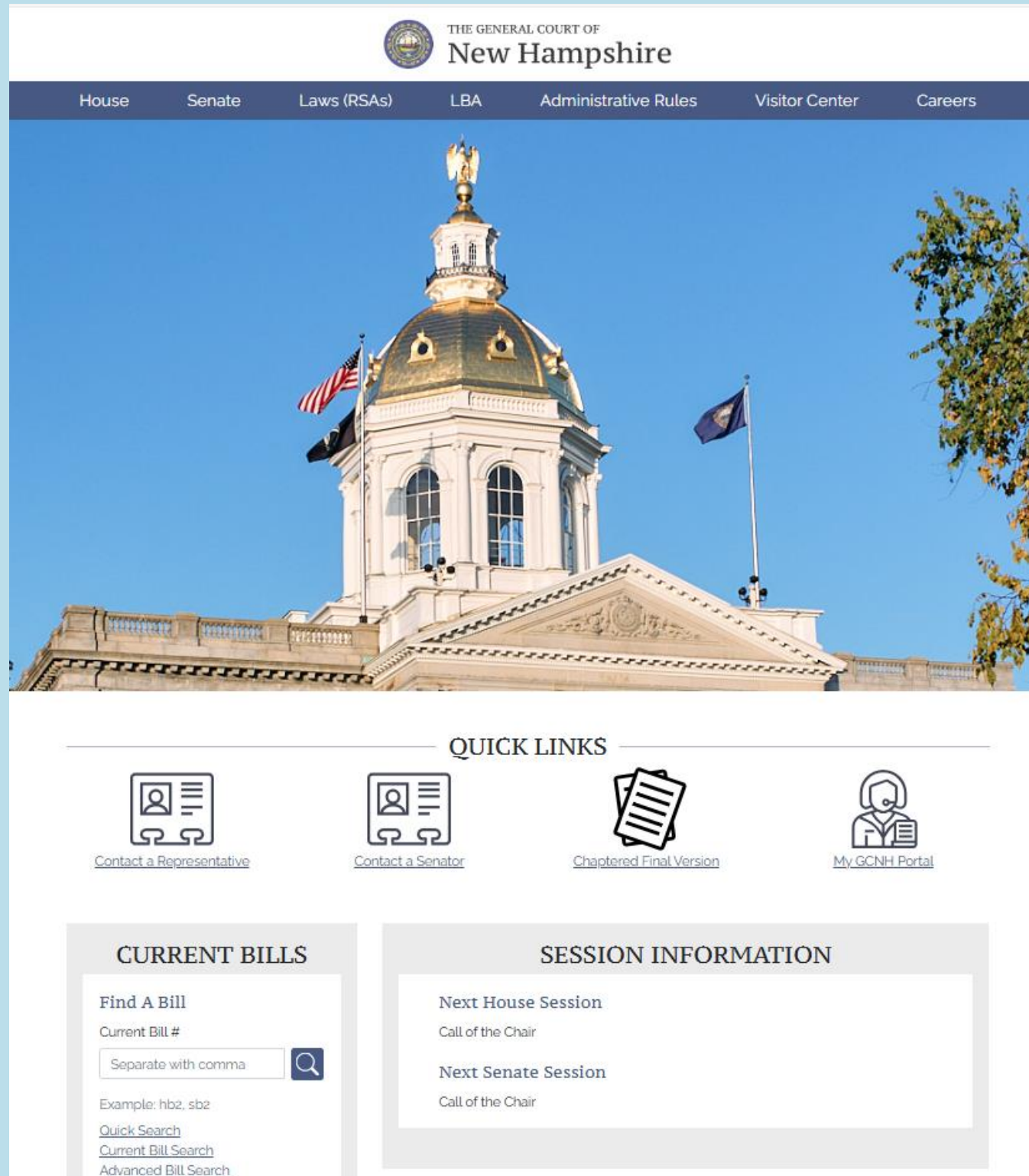


Want to know how a state legislator voted on a few key lake-related bills in 2024?

Most bills don't have roll call votes, but these do!

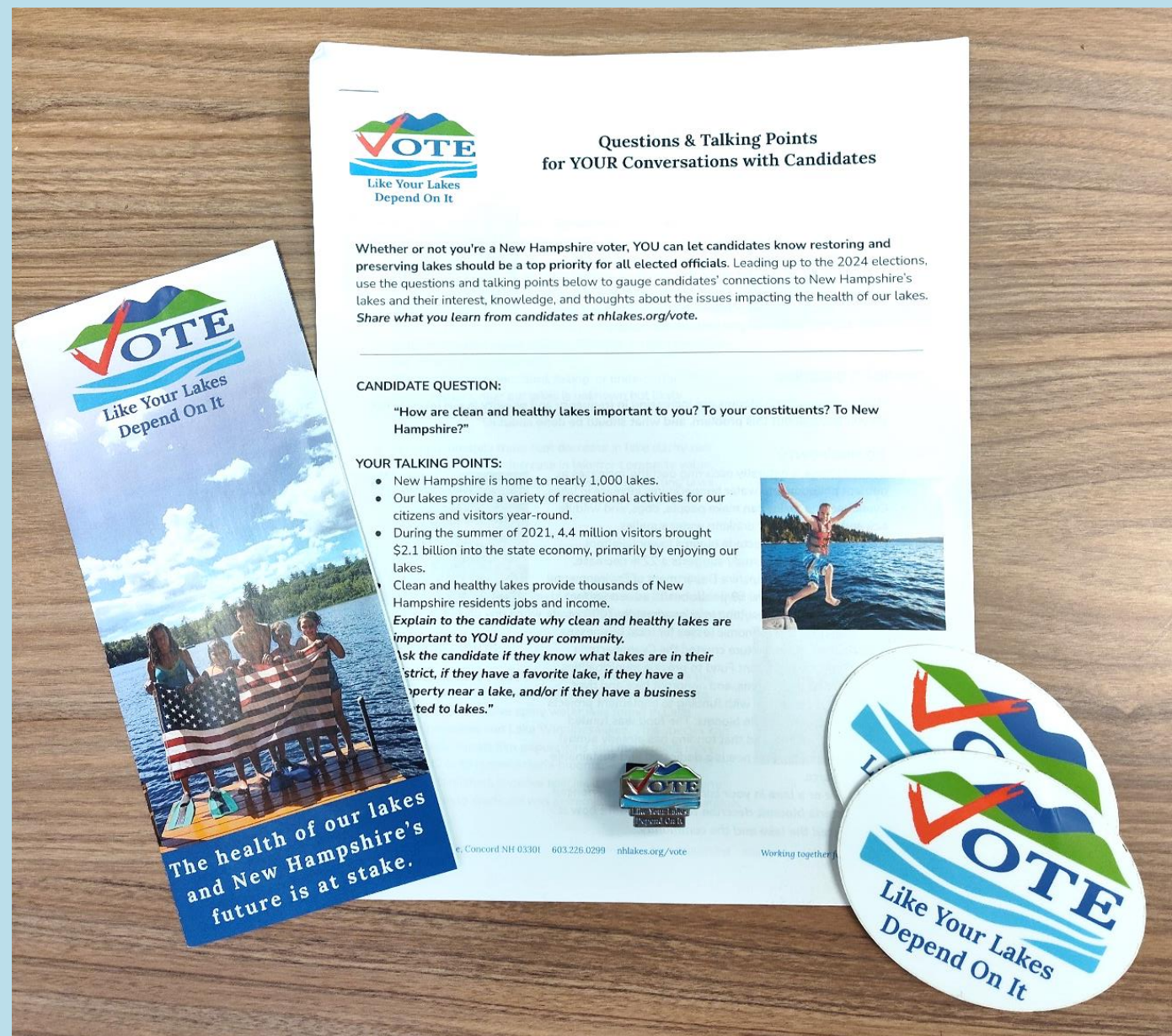
- [HB 1250: Village District](#)
- [SB 431: Wake surfing, amended to 300-foot setback](#)

generalcourt.state.nh.us





Order your FREE “Vote Like Your Lakes Depend On It” Outreach Kit



- “Vote Like Your Lakes Depend On It” decal
- Questions to Ask Candidates Resource Sheet
- “Vote Like Your Lakes Depend On It” lapel pin
- Supply of brochures with decals to share during conversations with candidates

nhlakes.org/store



Connecting with Candidates



Citizens Count

Inspiring NH Citizens to Make a Difference



Send Email



Visit Website



MEET THE
C★NDIDATES
NIGHT



What are other ways to connect with candidates?
(Feel free to share in the chat box.)



Questions & Talking Points for YOUR Conversations with Candidates

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Questions & Talking Points for YOUR Conversations with Candidates

The questions will help you gauge candidates' interest and knowledge about lake issues.

The talking points will help you share how important lakes are to you, your community, and our state, and what needs to be done to restore and preserve them today and for future generations.

nhlakes.org/store



Candidate Question #1

“How are clean and health lakes important to you? To your constituents? To New Hampshire?”

Fun Facts to Share:

- NH is home to 1,000 lakes.
- During summer 2021, 4.4 million visitors brought \$2.1 billion into the state economy, primarily from lake-based tourism.
- Lake Winnepesaukee was recently valued at \$17 billion.





Candidate Question #1

“How are clean and health lakes important to you? To your constituents? To New Hampshire?”

- Share why clean and healthy lakes are important to you and your community.
- Ask the candidate:
 - if they know what lakes are in their district
 - if they have a favorite lake
 - if they have a property near the lake
 - if their work/business is related to lakes





Candidate Question #2

“Are you concerned about the current and future health of New Hampshire’s lakes?”

- Share with the candidate some examples of how the lakes in your community/their district are degraded.
- Explain how this has impacted you and the community.





Candidate Question #3

“Toxic cyanobacteria blooms are increasing in frequency and severity in our lakes. What do you know about this? What should be done?”

Fun Facts to Share:

- In 2023, 69 public health advisories were issued for potentially toxic blooms on 47 waterbodies, resulting in approx. 700 lost recreation days.
- Frequent cyanobacteria blooms lower lakefront property values—one study suggests a 22% decrease.





Candidate Question #3

“Toxic cyanobacteria blooms are increasing in frequency and severity in our lakes. What do you know about this? What should be done?”

- If your lake, or a lake in your community, has experienced cyanobacteria blooms, describe how it has impacted the lake, you and your family, and the community.





Candidate Question #4

“Polluted runoff water and groundwater are degrading lake health. What do you know about this? What should be done?”

Fun Facts to Share:

- Approx. 90% of water quality problems in NH are caused by pollutants in runoff water.
- An approximate 3-foot decrease in lake clarity can lead to 1 - 6% decreases in lakefront property value.
- The number of failing septic systems near our lakes is unknown but likely substantial.





Candidate Question #4

“Polluted runoff water and groundwater are degrading lake health. What do you know about this? What should be done?”

- Share how runoff water is causing problems in your community and degrading lake health.





Candidate Question #5

“Invasive plants and animals continue to be spread into our lakes. What do you know about this? What should be done?”

Fun Facts to Share:

- Invasive species infestations are found in nearly 100 waterbodies in the state.
- Last fall, the invasive spiny waterflea was found in NH.
- Invasive species infestations can lower property values 10 – 20%.





Candidate Question #5

“Invasive plants and animals continue to be spread into our lakes. What do you know about this? What should be done?”

- If you live on a lake with invasive species or are involved in managing them, share their impact on you and your community.





Candidate Question #6

“Do you think restoring and preserving lake health should be a top priority in New Hampshire? If ‘yes’ what will you do about it?”

Fun Facts to Share:

- If not made a priority, their health will continue to degrade.
 - Pets and people will get seriously ill.
 - Property values will decrease.
 - Lakefront houses will be sold at a loss.
 - Vacations will be canceled.
 - Jobs will be lost.
 - Our quality of life will decline.





Candidate Question #6

“Do you think restoring and preserving lake health should be a top priority in New Hampshire? If ‘yes’ what will you do about it?”

- Share your ideas about what our elected officials can do to ensure that lake restoration and preservation becomes a priority.





Brochure & Decal for Candidates



When you meet with candidates, share our “Vote Like Your Lakes Depend On It” brochure and decal with them.

Order FREE copies: nhlakes.org/store



Vote Like Your Lakes Depend on It!

Did you have a conversation with a candidate about how important it is for elected officials to make restoring and preserving lake health a priority in New Hampshire?

Share what you learned with NH LAKES!

Your feedback will help identify us identify potentially lake-friendly elected officials.

Thank you!

Tell us what you learn about candidates!

After you talk with a candidate, fill out our survey.

Your feedback will help us identify potentially lake-friendly elected officials.

tinyurl.com/VoteLakes2024



Restoring and protecting lake health isn't a partisan issue.

Ensuring that New Hampshire has clean and healthy lakes today and in the future is something everyone can get behind.



It won't matter if you vote red or blue if the lake turns green.

With your help, we can make lake-friendly governing the norm in New Hampshire.

