

Vote Like Your Lakes Depend On It – 2026

*Giving New Hampshire's lakes a voice
before—and after—the election*



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President & Policy Advocate
August 12, 2026



New Hampshire is a State of Lakes





Lakes Matter to All of New Hampshire





Lakes Are Economic Powerhouses of the State

Lakes generate:

- Jobs (tourism, hospitality, real estate, recreation)
- Tax revenue for towns & state
- Small business growth and year-round commerce





Lakes Are Economic Powerhouses of the State

Lake Sunapee (2022)

\$4.3 Billion

Lake Winnepesaukee (2021)

\$17 Billion



New Hampshire is home to some of the cleanest and healthiest lakes in the country, but...



Our Lakes are Stressed by Invasive Species



Spiny waterflea



Our Lakes are Stressed by Polluted Runoff Water





Our Lakes are Stressed by Septic Systems





Our Changing Climate is Adding Stress



Flooding



Drought



Shorter period
of ice cover



Warmer water



Some Lakes Have Passed their Tipping Point





Our Mission: Restoring and Preserving the Health of New Hampshire's Lakes

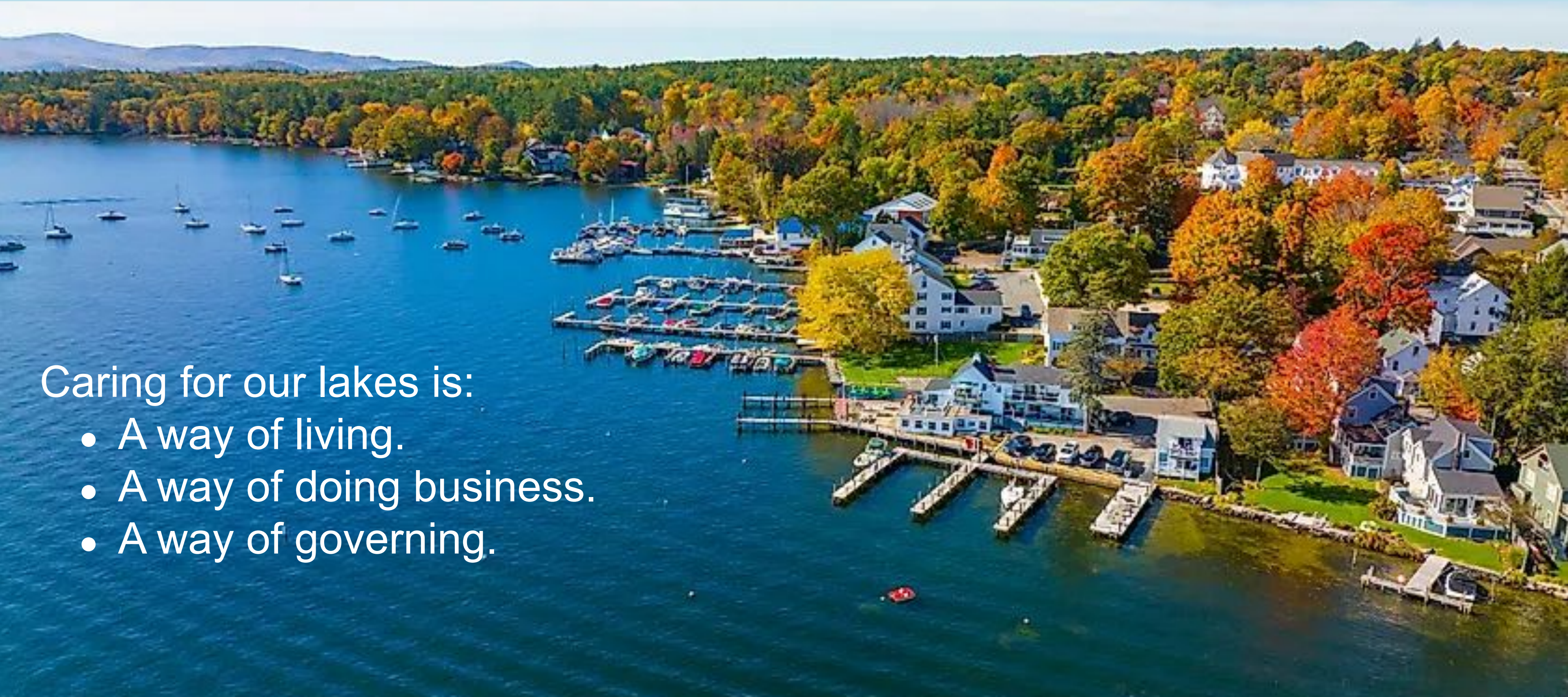




Our Vision: A New Hampshire where...

Caring for our lakes is:

- A way of living.
- A way of doing business.
- A way of governing.





Lake Protection is Non-Partisan, Pro-New Hampshire



Lake protection benefits all residents, regardless of politics or geography.
It's about:

Local pride

Economic sustainability

Public health

Legacy – for the next generation of Granite Staters



Elections Matter at Every Level



Local:

- Development and Zoning
- Polluted Runoff Water & Roads
- Septic Health
- Local Lake Investments



State

- Environmental Laws
- Agency Funding
- Boating Policy
- Invasive Species Policy
- Cyanobacteria Response



Federal

- Clean Water Programs
- Agency Funding
- Infrastructure funding
- Research and Resilience



None of These Problems Solve Themselves



The solution to these problems, and preventing them in the future, depends on decisions made by elected officials.



Fall 2026 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!



As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization we engage in Issue Advocacy



- We have registered lobbyists and we report our time to the State and IRS.
- We do not endorse parties or candidates or contribute to parties or candidates.
- We do not accept money from corporations.



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

This initiative helps voters make informed choices—and educates candidates on lake issues.

Whether you vote in New Hampshire or elsewhere, your support helps make healthy lakes a priority.

Our lakes need lake-friendly leaders—now.



Resources for you at nhlakes.org/vote



Questions & Talking Points for YOUR Conversations with Candidates Summer - Fall 2026

Every conversation has the power to elevate the importance of New Hampshire's lakes. The 2026 elections are an opportunity to learn where candidates stand on protecting and restoring the lakes that define our state and enrich our communities. Whether you're a New Hampshire voter or simply care about our lakes, you can make lake health part of the conversation.

Elected officials make many decisions that affect our lakes. Asking thoughtful questions helps candidates better understand why healthy lakes matter to the people and communities they hope to represent.

Use the questions below at candidate forums, community events, or one-on-one conversations. You don't need to ask every question—choose one or two that fit the moment. The goal is to start a meaningful discussion, not conduct an interview.

Conversation Tips

- ✓ Be respectful.
- ✓ Listen more than you speak.
- ✓ Ask follow-up questions.
- ✓ Share your own experiences with your lake.
- ✓ Thank candidates for their time.

Share what you learn at nhlakes.org/vote and use what you learn to inform your voting choices.

CANDIDATE QUESTION #1:

"What is your connection to New Hampshire's lakes?"

Talking Points

- For generations, New Hampshire has been home to some of the cleanest and healthiest lakes in the country. Today, however, more lakes are showing signs of declining health.
- Our nearly 1,000 lakes and ponds are vital to New Hampshire's economy, recreation, wildlife, and quality of life.
- Healthy lakes support local businesses, tourism, and communities across the state.

Follow-up questions

- What's your favorite New Hampshire lake, and how do you enjoy it?
- Are there lakes in your district that are especially important or facing challenges?





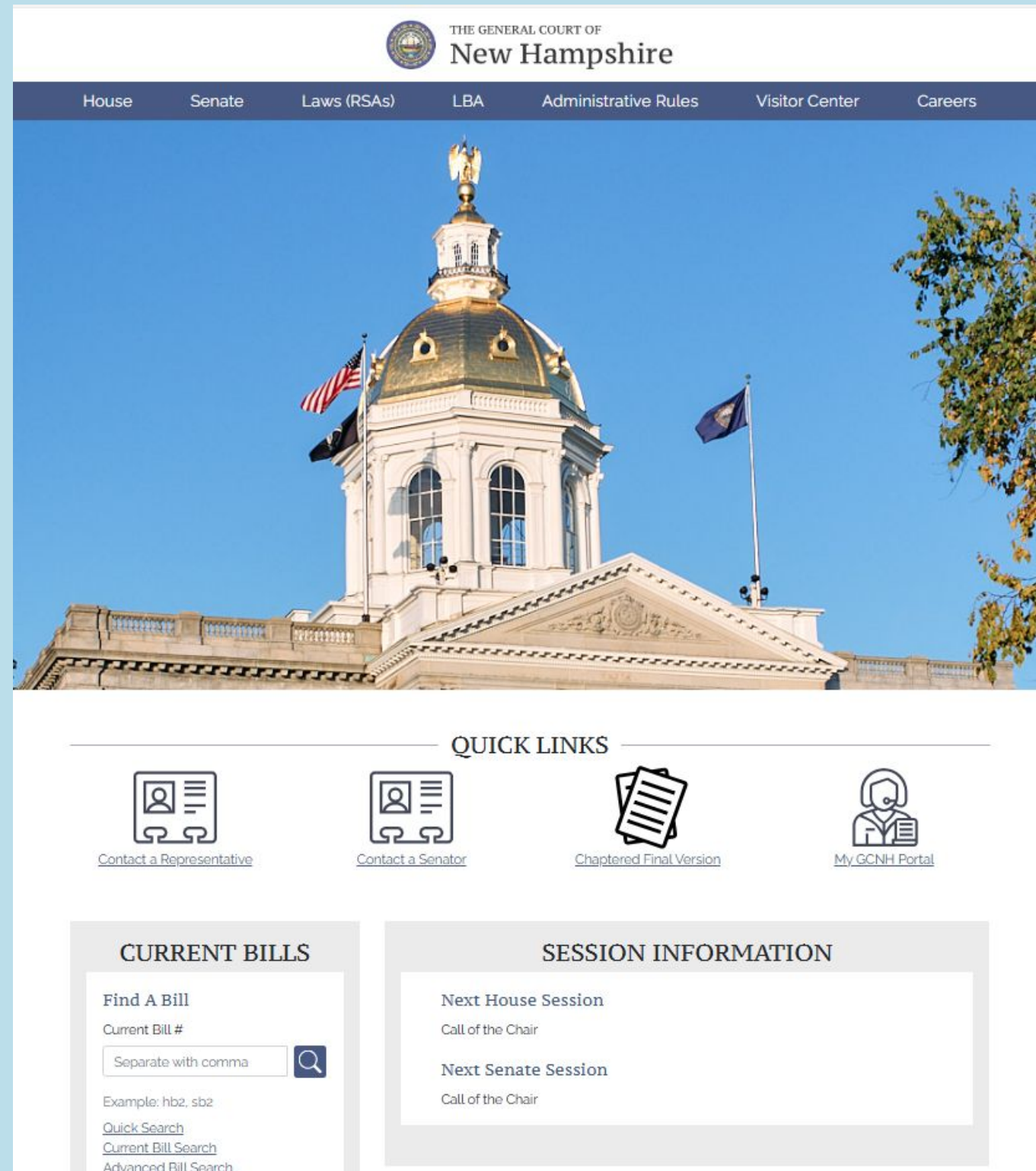
Learn About Who's Running for Office

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?

Most bills don't have roll call votes, but these 2026 bills do!

- [HB 1607](#): Would have required safer storage and management of road salt and other de-icing chemicals
- [HB 1810](#): Would have created a dedicated fund to help communities reduce road salt use

generalcourt.state.nh.us



Connecting with Candidates



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



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Follow-up questions

- What's your favorite New Hampshire lake, and how do you enjoy it?
- Are there lakes in your district that are especially important or facing challenges?

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

Your goal is NOT to stump candidates.

Your goal is to:

- Learn
- Educate
- Build a relationship



Candidate Question #1: A Non-confrontational Opening

“What is your connection to New Hampshire’s lakes?”

Follow-up questions:

- What is your favorite lake?
- How do you enjoy it?
- Which lakes are in your district?
- Are any facing particular challenges?

Share your own connection.





Candidate Question #2: Gauging Understanding

“What do you see as the biggest threats facing New Hampshire’s lakes?”

Listen for:

- Invasive species
- Polluted runoff water
- Aging septic systems
- Cyanobacteria

Share an example from your community.





Candidate Question #3: Gauging Priorities

“How will you balance growth and development with protecting lake health?”

- Avoid framing this as “development vs. environment.”
- Communities need housing and economic activity.
- They also need clean water and natural resources.
- Ask how they would make growth more lake-friendly.

Share concerns from your community.





Candidate Question #4: Moving from Concern to Action

“If elected, what actions would you take to protect and improve New Hampshire’s lakes?”

Listen for specific ideas for:

- Invasive species
- Polluted runoff water
- Aging septic systems
- Cyanobacteria
- Funding and staffing
- Community Support





Candidate Question #5: Openness to Partnerships

“How would you work with lake communities and organizations?”

Lake protection requires collaboration among:

- Residents
- Lake Associations
- Municipalities
- State Agencies
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Businesses
- Elected Officials



Share how your community could be a resource.



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!

Candidate Name

Your answer

<https://nhlakes.org/vote/>

Tell us what you learn about candidates!

You don't need to ask every question.

Even asking one thoughtful question can start an important conversation.

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

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



What Lake Associations Can Do

Create opportunities for engagement

- Invite candidates to lake events.
- Offer a lake tour.
- Host a nonpartisan candidate forum.
- Submit questions to existing forums.
- Encourage members to participate.
- Keep the focus on issues—not parties.





Hosting a Candidate Forum

Keep candidate forums fair and nonpartisan

- Invite all viable candidates.
- Make equal efforts to secure participation.
- Give candidates equal time.
- Use a neutral moderator.
- Ask balanced, issue-based questions.
- Do not ask candidates to pledge support.





After the Election: Stay Engaged

Election Day is the beginning—not the end.

After the election:

- Find out who was elected.
- Send a welcome message.
- Introduce your lake and lake association.
- Add officials to your mailing lists.
- List them on your association website.
- Invite them to lake association meetings.
- Invite them to the lake.
- Share concerns and successes.

Legislative Contacts

You may occasionally need to contact a state legislator. The information below is provided for your convenience.

State Representatives

David Fracht (D) Enfield
(603) 208-9800
David.Fracht@gc.nh.gov

State Senator

Sue Prentiss (D) District 5
(603) 271-3091
Suzanne.Prentiss@gc.nh.gov

Executive Council

Karen Liot Hill (D) District 2
(603) 271-3632
Karen.liothill@nh.gov

Donald McFarlane (R) District 18
(603) 523-7412
Donald.McFarlane@gc.nh.gov

www.crystal-lake-enfield.com/legislative-contacts



Help Elected Officials Make Lake-Friendly Decisions

When lake related bills and hearings arise:

- Respond to NH LAKES statewide action alerts.
- Respond to local lake association action alerts.
- Contact elected officials.
- Share your stories and local examples.
- Explain the community and statewide impact.
- Ask for a specific vote or action.
- Thank them for lake-friendly decisions.
- Hold them accountable for their votes.





Could YOU Be the Next Lake-Friendly Leader?

If you care deeply about New Hampshire's lakes, consider serving on a local board, commission, or running for public office.

Your voice could help shape the decisions that protect our lake for generations.



Throw your hat into the ring
(but, not the lake!).



Your Action Plan

Before the election:

1. Visit nhlakes.org/vote.
2. Find out who is running.
3. Download the lake questionnaire.
4. Ask at least one candidate one question.
5. Report back what you learn .

After the election:

1. Find out who won.
2. Introduce your lake community.
3. Stay connected throughout the year.





Your conversations with candidates matter.

- Most candidates aren't experts on lake issues.
- They rely on residents to understand local issues.
- Your conversations can influence what they learn—and what they do if elected.