



OPEN DEMOCRACY INDEX for NEW HAMPSHIRE - 2015

Report Highlights

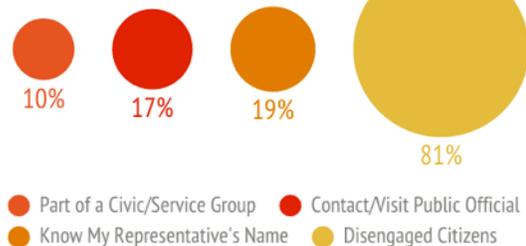
Although New Hampshire enjoys a proud political tradition and longstanding institutions of representation, new research across six dimensions of democratic practice suggests the state is falling short of basic standards of democracy...

I. Voting: Except in presidential elections, the majority of eligible New Hampshire voters stays home on Election Day for reasons that are partly within and partly beyond their control.

- 47% of NH's voting-age population turned out to vote in the 2014 midterm election and 15% cast ballots in the most recent municipal elections in 2013.
- Turnout in the most recent primary elections was 16% in the 2014 state primary and 30% in the 2012 presidential contest.
- Non-voters cite an array of practical barriers to voting, as well as general disapproval of candidate, as their major reasons for not voting.

II. Civic Participation: A small minority of Granite Staters regularly participates in politics beyond the ballot box or demonstrates basic knowledge of their elected representatives.

Rates of Participation, 2014



- Less than 20% of NH residents reported some form of political engagement in 2013 like contacting an elected official or joining a civic group.
- One in five NH residents was able to correctly name their state or federal elected representatives in 2014.

III. Election Funding: A small and unrepresentative sample of NH residents currently provides the tens of millions of dollars that fund campaigns, while the majority of spending comes from out of state.

- The cost of campaigns in NH reached an all-time high of \$106 million in 2014; more than half of the money was spending by outside Super PACs.
- 1.2% of residents made itemized contributions to NH candidates in 2014 and 0.06% (591 people) provided a majority of the money.

2015 Report Card

I. Voting

B	Voter Registration
B	Presidential Turnout
C	Midterm Turnout
D	Presidential Primary Turnout
F	State Primary Turnout
F	Local Voting

II. Civic Engagement

D	Overall Volunteerism
F	Contact Public Official
F	Part of Civic Organization
D	Discuss Politics
D	Civic Knowledge

III. Election Funding

F	Donor Share of Population
F	Donor Concentration
C	Out of State Contributions
F	Concentration of PAC Spending
D	Out of State PAC Spending

IV. Lobbying

D	Distribution of Lobby Resources
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V. Electoral Competition

C	Funding Competitiveness
D	Margins of Victory

VI. Diversity of Representation

C	Gender Representation
F	Minority Representation

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- 78% of campaign contributions were provided by private-sector individuals and businesses; labor, public interest groups, and single-issue organizations provided roughly 7% each.

IV. Lobbying: Fewer than 100 private-sector businesses and special interest groups account for the vast majority of NH lobbying expenditures.

- Businesses and organizations retained 572 paid lobbyists and spent \$10.2 million lobbying NH state government in 2014.
- The top ten lobbying organizations in 2014 spent \$1.8 million and were all headquartered outside NH or subsidiaries of out-of-state corporations.
- Private-sector businesses accounted for 81% of lobbying expenditures in 2014 while non-profit organizations made up for 14%, public-sector clients 2.6%, and labor unions 2.4%.

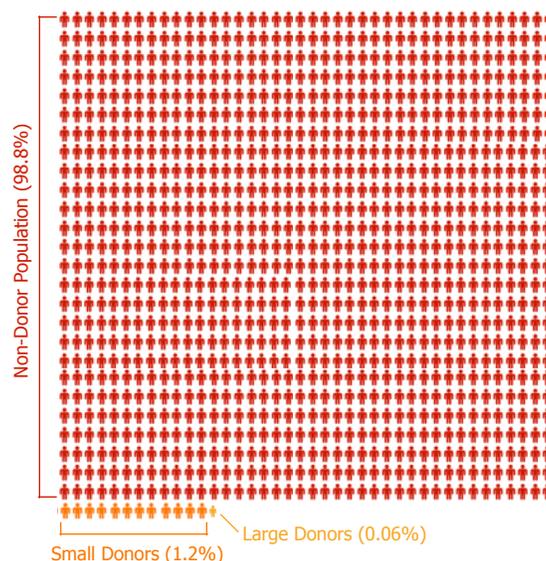
V. Electoral Competition: The overwhelming majority of incumbents who seek reelection in NH win by wide margins and enjoy significant financial advantages.

- Incumbent politicians had a nearly 2:1 fundraising and spending advantage across all state races in NH, and a nearly 3:1 advantage for state senate, in 2014.
- Of the 70% of state races in which incumbents sought reelection in 2014, 83% of state representatives, 95% of state senators, 100% of executive councilors, and the governor were re-elected.
- 75% of races for state senate, executive council, and governor were uncompetitive with margins of victory greater than 10%.

VI. Diversity of Representation: NH's elected leaders are significantly more likely to be male, white, and high-income relative to the general population.

- 100% of executive councilors, 67% of state senators, 72% of state representatives, 60% of mayors, and 75% of city councilors in NH's five largest cities are men; all except 1% of state representatives are white.
- Elected officials in NH enjoy significantly higher socioeconomic status than their constituents in terms of educational attainment and professional background.

Concentration of Campaign Funding, 2014



Campaign Contributions (\$), 2004-2014

