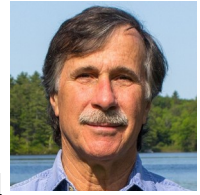


I'm Hal Rafter and I am running for State Representative for Northwood and Nottingham, Rockingham District 1, as one of three Democratic candidates.



We need change in Concord, and change is only possible if we elect people committed to representing us, rather than following an extreme agenda. That change will enable us to focus on the real issues that affect our daily lives, not the imagined issues the current majority are using to distract and divide us. As a community, we have responsibilities - protecting life and property is fundamental, but in a modern society we must also work to make living in NH affordable, ensure the health and welfare of our citizens, and educate the next generation.

The Republicans have been taking care of the wealthy and big business, while failing to reduce our property tax burden, failing to support public schools, failing to ensure health care is available and affordable, failing to protect voting rights, failing to address the climate crisis - just a partial list.

And now AI data centers are an issue in this district with a center being proposed for Nottingham. The costs of these fall on local residents while the benefits go to large out of state corporations. I will support a statewide moratorium, at a minimum, for AI data centers. Decisions need to be made locally, not by Big Tech, but the Republican majority and our reps have been quiet on the issue so far.

When I served in the NH House in 2024, I voted for increased education funding to our towns, for solutions to the housing crisis, against state interference in our medical decisions, and against extreme measures that threatened freedom of speech, voting rights and minority rights.

***Progress on these and other issues depends on Democratic majorities in Concord
Please vote for me and the other Democratic candidates on the ballot***

HERE'S MORE ON REPUBLICAN LEGISLATION THAT SHOULD CONCERN US ALL

Tax Relief for the Wealthy and Big Corporations

Republicans reduced business taxes to the benefit of large corporations with more than 2,000 employees. They also eliminated the interest and dividends tax which primarily benefits a small number (~ 2,000) of wealthy residents who paid around 90% of the tax.

These changes are **reducing state revenue by more than \$200 million per year**. To partially offset this loss of revenue, they have raised fees we pay across the board. However, with costs going up at 3-4% every year and declining revenue, we can expect further cuts to state services which is the ultimate goal of the liberty / free state faction.

The loss of revenue will make it almost impossible for the state to increase aid to towns, and could lead to an actual reduction in aid resulting in even higher property taxes.

Education Vouchers Without Income Limits

Since families of any income level are now eligible for vouchers the **cost is expected to increase to over \$50 million this year**. In 2025, 97% of the participants were families with students already in private or religious schools or who are home schooled - not the public school students and lower income families who were supposed to benefit. We at least need limits on eligibility and total spending for these Education Freedom Account vouchers. Should we continue them at all since they are not helping the students that need them, and are sending public money to religious institutions?

Voting Barriers

The Republican's efforts to restrict voting are ongoing. When I served on the Election Law committee, I heard false claims of voter fraud, which is extremely rare since there have only been 15 convictions for fraud since 2016. Claims of widespread fraud are used to justify bills that make it harder to register and harder to vote.

A 2024 law required proof of citizenship (like a birth certificate) to register to vote rather than signing a sworn affidavit, under penalty of perjury, as in the past. This prevented several hundred eligible citizens from voting in recent elections. Recently, a Federal court overturned that law as unconstitutional because of the burdens it placed on women and young voters .

A new 2026 law targets young voters again by prohibiting the use of student IDs when voting, even though students may not have a driver's license or other government ID. The real issue is lack of participation by young voters, not fraud.

I voted against the unconstitutional 2024 law, and when elected, will again defend our right to vote - as well as other rights that are being challenged.

My Background

My family and I have lived in Nottingham for 42 years. I served on the Nottingham School Board for 8 years and the Board of Selectmen for 3 years, and was on the Budget Committee several times as a representative of those boards. As a result, I am very familiar with the challenges facing both the school and the town when it comes to budgeting and other local issues. I worked at NH Housing as a software developer for many years, and gained a good sense of the problems facing renters and home buyers. Prior to this I studied economics at UNH.

***I would appreciate your support in the
primary on September 8 and the general election on November 3.***

So much is possible! Don't leave it in the hands of others. VOTE!

Please send me your questions or comments

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