

Donna Danis

Candidate for State Rep for Nottingham and Northwood

Candidate Statement

Donna Danis, Rockingham Country District One, Nottingham and Northwood

Thirty-six years ago, my husband, Eric, and I built our home in Nottingham and we have been invested in our community ever since. Our daughter, Elisabeth, attended Nottingham School and Coe Brown in Northwood and she earned her undergraduate degree from UNH. She and her husband, Patrick, were married in Nottingham.

I have always felt a commitment to community service and have served on the following boards and committees in Nottingham:

- Budget Committee (2008-2014, 2024-2027)
- Select Board (2014-2023, Chair 2016-2019, 2022-2023)
- Capital Improvement Planning Committee (2024-2025)

Prior to these roles, I served as President and Lake Host Program Manager of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association.

I'm running for State Representative because I believe now is not the time to sit on the sideline. Year after year, our incumbent legislators have systematically chipped away at revenue programs intended to support local communities leaving Nottingham and Northwood property taxpayers to pick up the tab. New Hampshire ranks 48th out of 50 in state aid to municipalities. Phasing out of retirement system funding cost local taxpayers over \$400,000 in the 2026 budget alone. Repeal of the Interest & Dividends tax eliminated a \$135 million annual tax that mostly fell on the wealthiest households. And because State Legislators refuse to comply with a NH State Supreme Court ruling – mandating a minimum threshold of adequate education funding at \$7,356 per student – Nottingham and Northwood schools are losing ~\$2M per year.

At the same time our public schools are under tremendous pressure. The state legislature has expanded universal school vouchers — now open to families of any income — diverting funds that once supported local classrooms. 90% of that money is going to families whose children are already home schooled or enrolled in private schools. Special education funding has been cut, leaving towns like ours to make up the difference on the property tax bill. And mandatory open enrollment – which failed in the current legislative cycle but will certainly resurface – means our district could lose more students and the state aid that comes with them. The result: Northwood and Nottingham taxpayers pay more, our schools get less, and the students who need the most support are left behind.

Through my service in Nottingham, I've seen firsthand how decisions made in Concord land on our property tax bills — and how hard it is for towns like ours to keep up. As a State Representative, I will

not support any bill that takes more funding away from our community and I will push for fairer education funding.

To learn more about me, please visit my website donnafornh.com. Then, use the Contact form to let me know what's on your mind.

[Donna's Website](http://donnafornh.com)