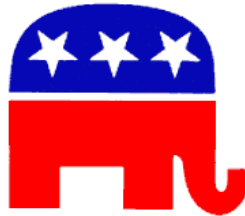


# Republican Report

*“Over the years, this place has become my second family.....because friendship goes beyond party lines.”*

—Mike Whalley



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March 14, 2008

## *A message From the Deputy Leader.....*

On behalf of the entire Republican leadership team, I would like to thank those of you who attended our caucus last Thursday and gave us a unanimous vote of confidence to continue along the path set for us by Mike Whalley. The last two weeks have been extremely tough on us all and, while we all recognized the need to move on in the absence of our Republican Leader, we also realized quickly that we could not replace him as the leader of our caucus.

The decision to keep his seat vacant in his honor and memory, both in the House chamber and as our leader, was clearly the right thing to do. With just a few weeks remaining in the session, I am pleased that we all realized that this was not the time for an election that could not only prove divisive to our party but could have forced us to lose focus on the issues that were so important to Mike Whalley.

The dream and goal of Mike Whalley was to return us to the majority in the House and we need to remain unified in our efforts to accomplish that goal. Please remember that the door to the Republican office, as in the past, is always open and you can feel free to call upon our leadership team with any issue that is important to you.

We will be holding a **Republican caucus** on **Tuesday** morning at **9:00 A.M.**, prior to the session, and again on Wednesday and Thursday, if necessary. We will let you know if there is a need to caucus on those days. Again, we thank you for your support. Let us now unite and work to return the House to Republican leadership.—That is what Mike would want us to do.

In Memory  
**MICHAEL D. WHALLEY**  
1953-2008



**Our leader,  
our colleague, and  
our friend.**

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Dave".

## ***The week ahead in the House...***

Get ready for an extremely busy week in the House, with three sessions scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We will have a **caucus** at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday in Rooms 305-07 of the LOB. Caucuses on the other two days will be on an “as needed” basis. We will let you know with an announcement at the end of Tuesday’s session as to whether or not we will meet the following morning.

### **Oppose Legislators’ Salary Increase**

We will be asking you to **support** the majority report of **ITL (7-3)** on **CACR28**, a measure calling for a \$100 per week allowance for all legislators. The fact is we all know what the salary was when deciding to run for the state legislature. We are here because we love

our state, love serving our constituents and doing the business of the people. The voters are not going to support a pay increase for their representatives, especially in this economy, nor should they.

### **Support Fargo-Thomas Amendment**

**HB 1460**, a bill out of Science, Technology & Energy, is legislation that would allow Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) to build generation facilities in the North Country—an effort that would result in lower rates and the creation of more jobs. This bill has everything to do with economic development in the State of New Hampshire by stimulating the economy in the north country. We had initially supported refer for

—continued on page 2

—**This Week** (continued from page one)

interim study. However information received last week with regard to transmission issues makes this motion no longer viable. We ask you to **support** the bipartisan *Thomas-Fargo* floor amendment.

### Removing Fees

We are **supporting** the minority positions of **Ought to Pass** on two important bills out of Ways & Means. **HB 1360** would repeal the civil court filing fee that was adopted last year. Adding a **fee** of \$25 for filing any civil case is just another step in preventing our citizens from seeking redress and is yet another example of the mismanagement of the budget writers in attempting to balance it on the backs of our citizens.

**HB 1547** is a bill to repeal the fee charged by the Register of Deeds with the funds going directly to LCHIP. The Register of Deeds Association has major objections with processing and administering this program because they do not think they can be ready for implementation in time. **LCHIP** is an entity that should not be funded by methods that are harmful to citizens experiencing an already fledging real estate market, which is why the Realtors Association also spoke in favor of repeal.

### Marijuana Bill

**HB 1623**, out of Criminal Justice, would reduce the penalty for possession of marijuana from felony to violation and reduce the fine to the point where the penalty for this possession would not even begin to serve as any form of deterrent. We you to **support** the majority of the committee in their report of **ITL** (13-5) so that we may continue to take a hard stance against drug dealers in this state.

### Protect the Small Businessman

**HB 1429**, from Environment & Agriculture, is legislation, as amended, that will place great restrictions on private landfills by requiring legally binding host community agreements and also require new permits before making any changes. It also forms a new commission to study issues that are already being studied by other commissions. Why duplicate state efforts and why support a measure that is harmful to our small business owners? Please **support** the **minority** report of **Refer for Interim Study**.

### Charter Schools

A bi-partisan measure to save our charter schools (16-8) came out of House Finance. **HB 1642**, previously supported by the Education Committee and the Department of Education, will fund charter schools for next

year. A floor amendment will be offered to fix the effective date, which we will support. We also ask you to **support** a final motion of **OTP/A**. Please reject any attempt to table this bill or refer it for interim study.

### Liability Immunity for Teachers

From Judiciary, **HB1146** comes with an **ITL** (9-7) motion, but we will ask you to **support** the **minority** report of **OTP**. This is a bill that will grant teachers immunity from using necessary force in protecting students. Currently, teachers may break up fights between students, but are not granted protection in restraining or subduing violent students. This bill gives teachers the tools they need to prevent serious injury among students in schools.

### Labor Issues

From the Labor Committee, we have two bills for which Republicans on the committee request your support. **HB 1127** is an attempt to restore part of **SB 88**, which we defeated last year. While it is enabling, the minority amendment allows for the legislative body of a community (i.e., the voters) to decide on bargaining units of under 10, as opposed to the governing body. We ask you to **support** the **minority** amendment, but should it fail, we would ask you to **vote no** on **OTP/A**. The other piece is **HB 1436**, which is the remainder of **SB 88**, and establishes the evergreen clauses (evergreen meaning it automatically continues the provisions of a contract, even if the parties do not agree) in local communities. This is an attempt to take away local control and mandate state provisions in local contracts, which our caucus has constantly opposed in the past. Please **support** the **minority** report of **ITL**.

### Municipal and County Government

Municipal and County Government has been extremely busy this year and for the most part has avoided partisan battles. However, there are two close votes this coming week and we ask that you **support** the **minority** committee reports. **HB 1472** relates to workforce housing and establishes a definition that will cause confusion and

—continued on page 3

## Important Dates

<b>Thurs., Mar. 13</b>	<b>Republican Caucus</b> —9 a.m. (LOB-305-07) <b>House Session</b> —1:00 p.m.
<b>Tues., Mar. 18</b>	<b>Republican Caucus</b> —9 a.m. (LOB-305-07) <b>House Session</b> —10:00 a.m.
<b>Wed., Mar. 19</b>	<b>House Session</b> —10:00 a.m.*
<b>Thurs., Mar. 20</b>	<b>House Session</b> —10:00 a.m.* <b>CROSSOVER</b>

—**This Week** (continued from page two)

force municipalities to provide opportunities for workforce/affordable/low-income developments as opposed to other private developments. **HB 1259** also allows for the creation of local housing commissions, but severely restricts its powers by mandated definitions and places the buzzword “*workforce housing*” in our laws. Please **support** the **minority** report of **ITL**. The other piece is **HB 1581**, and we ask you to **support** the **minority** report of **Refer for Interim Study**. The problem with this bill is that DES did not bring forward any suggestions as to implementation or standards. Though enabling, it will expand state and county expenditures due to anticipated litigation from this measure. This bill is not quite “ready for prime time,” and deserves further study.

### Resources, Recreation and Development

From Resources, we ask that you **support** the **majority** report of **ITL** (14-4) on **HB 1439**, creating a moratorium on large ground water withdrawals. This was an attempt to hit those who withdraw ground water for soda or bottled water, but the fact is, the permitting process for withdrawal involves the community and makes this bill unnecessary.

### Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Science, Technology & Energy dealt with **HB 1434**, regarding the *Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative* (RGGI) and we ask you to support the **minority** report of **ITL** (12-2). This bill will increase the cost to ratepayers; ratepayers will be subsidizing programs for nonelectric users. It creates a new dedicated fund that will not be protected from future raiding (similar to the highway fund). This program will be administered through officials in New York City, where we will lose sovereignty regarding local issues. RGGI is a local “solution” to a global issue. In fact, New England is less responsible for environmental concerns than the Midwest, whose winds carry pollution through our state. This bill is well intentioned, but lacking substance, and we ask your **support** for **ITL**.

### Fight Increased Taxes

From Ways & Means, we have several party line votes that will likely be debated next week. **HB 1426** and **HB 1427** are two attempts to RAISE TAXES. Motor fuels imported into New Hampshire will be taxed higher and dedicated to a cleanup fund that DES testified, “does not need the money right now.” It also raises significant legal questions regarding money being diverted from road maintenance or police patrol. **HB 1427** will raise the tax on heating oil, for those who can least afford it. The governor apparently agrees with Republicans since he called for no increases in taxes and fees this year, so we would ask you

## Incumbent Training & 2008 Strategy Session



Tues., March 25  
Noon-6 pm  
Capitol Room  
Holiday Inn  
172 No. Main St., Concord  
(lunch will be served)

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Message elections strategy

Please RSVP as soon as possible to NHGOP,  
225-9341, or email [allison@nhgop.org](mailto:allison@nhgop.org)

to **support** the **minority** report of **ITL** for both **HB 1426** & **1427**.

Yet another tax bill, **HB 1594** establishes NEW FEES that will be levied on the backs of small business owners in New Hampshire. The minority believes that general government funds should be paid for by the general fund, and not with additional, new fees. We ask you to **support** the **minority** report of **ITL** (11-6) on **HB 1594**.

### Impeachment Resolution

Finally, in State-Federal Relations, **HR 24** will be coming to the floor for debate. This is the resolution calling for impeachment of President Bush and Vice President Cheney. Personal feelings aside, the language of this resolution is sophomoric, vitriolic and completely lacking in factual substance. When Republicans were in the majority, they never once filed a resolution in this vein, even during the impeachment proceedings of the last president. We testified against this resolution during the hearing and would ask you to **support** the bipartisan **majority** of the committee in voting **ITL** (10-5).

### Running Again?

The Republican office is starting to maintain a list of Republican members who have made a decision as to whether or not they intend to run for reelection. Please contact our office and let us know your intentions. It will help us to decide where we need to recruit candidates for the House. Thank you.