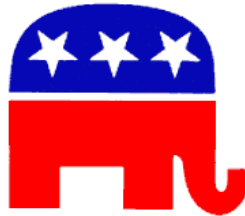


Republican Report

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

—Mike Whalley



Volume 2, Issue 11

March 21, 2008

In Memory
MICHAEL D. WHALLEY
1953-2008



Our leader,
our colleague, and
our friend.

A message From the Deputy Leader.....

The attack on the pocketbooks of New Hampshire citizens by Democrats in the House continued in earnest this week as no fewer than five bills dealing with increased fees and taxes were overwhelmingly supported by the majority party.

We attempted to repeal two fees, that were added last year in committee of conference for **HB2**, that were used to collect additional revenue for an already “bloated” budget. Neither piece of legislation received the necessary public scrutiny as, once again, Democrats dipped into pocketbooks of the taxpayer.

HB1360 attempted to repeal the court civil filing fee surcharge that increased the total fee to \$175. Excessive fees of this nature will merely lead us down a slippery slope to the time when justice will be *for sale* and “only the wealthy need apply.” That bill failed but was supported by 91% of the Democrats voting—a fact that we must make sure does not go unnoticed during the fall elections.

Democrats were also successful in killing **HB 1547**, a bill to repeal a fee charged by the registry of deeds and used to fund LCHIP. This was also added to **HB2** despite the fact that the House had voted against the method of supporting LCHIP. In this case, 95% of Democrats voting supported maintaining the fee.

At a time when the price of heating oil and gasoline for our automobiles is skyrocketing, the Democrats this week attempted to raise taxes on both. **HB 1426**, with more than 80% of Democrats voting in support of the bill, will tax motor fuels at a higher rate, with the funds collected dedicated to a fund that the DES has admitted, “does not need the money right now.” Under **HB 1427**, a bill we were able to defeat, the price of heating oil would have increased for those who can least afford it in our state—the elderly and low income families of New Hampshire.

In **HB 1594**, the majority party also passed a bill that would establish fees for hazardous materials facilities and employees that would be levied on the backs of our small business owners. General government programs should be paid for by the general fund and not with new fees.

The fact of the matter is that we as Republicans will have a litany of fees, taxes and increased spending that will allow the voter to clearly differentiate us from

—continued on page 2

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



—Message (continued from page one)

Democrats in the fall elections. When you add social issues that they have passed, such as the repeal of parental notification and marijuana, Democrats will have a lot to answer for come election time. Within the next few days, the Republican office will be sending out a list of important issues from this session that will help you in both writing letters to the editor and for use in your campaign in the fall. We urge you to take a moment to write a letter and get it to your local newspaper. We are ready to help you get that message out!

Due to the length of the session on Wednesday, we were not able to discuss **HR 28**, affirming revenue estimates for fiscal years 2008 and 2009. According to Norm Major, our Senior Policy Advisor on the House Ways & Means committee, we are in the center of the Perfect Storm that he has been predicting for more than a year. The *fiscal credibility* of the State of New Hampshire is clearly at stake. In April, 2007, Rep. Major warned that inflated revenue figures were at least \$100M too high and that economic indicators at the time did not support those revenue figures. His warnings fell on deaf ears, both in the House and in the corner office. Three months into the 24-month budget cycle, he forecasted a deficit of **\$150M**.

This week, the Ways & Means committee was finally willing to admit that a large deficit now exists, but they were only willing to set the number at **\$138M**. That is well below even the most conservative estimate of the governor's agency heads who testified before Ways & Means. Without a recession, they expect a deficit of **\$151M**. If the economy continues in its current downturn, and we hit a recession, that number will balloon to **\$207M**!

Once again, it is about *fiscal credibility*! The Perfect Storm predicted by Rep. Major has developed into a Perfect Hurricane and it will be interest-

**Hold the Date:
Wed., Apr. 30th**
at the
Upham-Walker House
for a
**Republican Office
Spring Social**



(4PM or following the session)

ing to see what steps the majority party and the governor take to deal with a financial crisis that they could have avoided with a more responsible budget and reasonable revenue estimates.

Finally, education funding will return to the forefront in the House now that the Senate has defied their own governor and passed an education funding plan totaling nearly **\$1 Billion**. The plan calls for new donor towns, reduces money to several working class towns, such as Derry and Keene, and binds the hands of future legislatures—a practice that the General Court tradition rarely allows.

This is the most egregious and poorly thought out education funding plan I have seen in all my years in the legislature. The plan spends \$100M more than the state has in its coffers, spends an additional \$20M for state mandated kindergarten, but still doesn't fully fund construction costs, and worst of all brings back donor towns, far in excess of the amount that ever existed.

The Democrats are doing everything possible to hand control of the House back to us and, if we continue to stand together, we will take advantage of that.

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Official	BIENNIUM CHANGE from official estimate				
Budget	w/o recession	with recession	HR 28	HR 28	
Total	Agency	Agency	Ways & Means	Major Amend.	
Biennium	Biennium	Biennium	Biennium	Biennium	
Total	\$4,906,000	\$(151,555,000)	\$(204,555,000)	\$(138,100,000)	\$(207,200,000)