



NH Special Committee on Voter Confidence

David Scanlan
NH Secretary of State

Special Committee on Voter Confidence

- **Mission:** The Special Committee on Voter Confidence will work to identify root causes of voter confidence decline and make recommendations to reverse the trend.

Co-Chairs:

Brad Cook, (R) Attorney, Chair of the NH Ballot Law Commission

Dick Swett, (D) Former Ambassador to Denmark, former member of Congress

Members:

Douglas Teschner, PHD, (R) Former Peace Corps Director, Ukraine, former NH State Representative

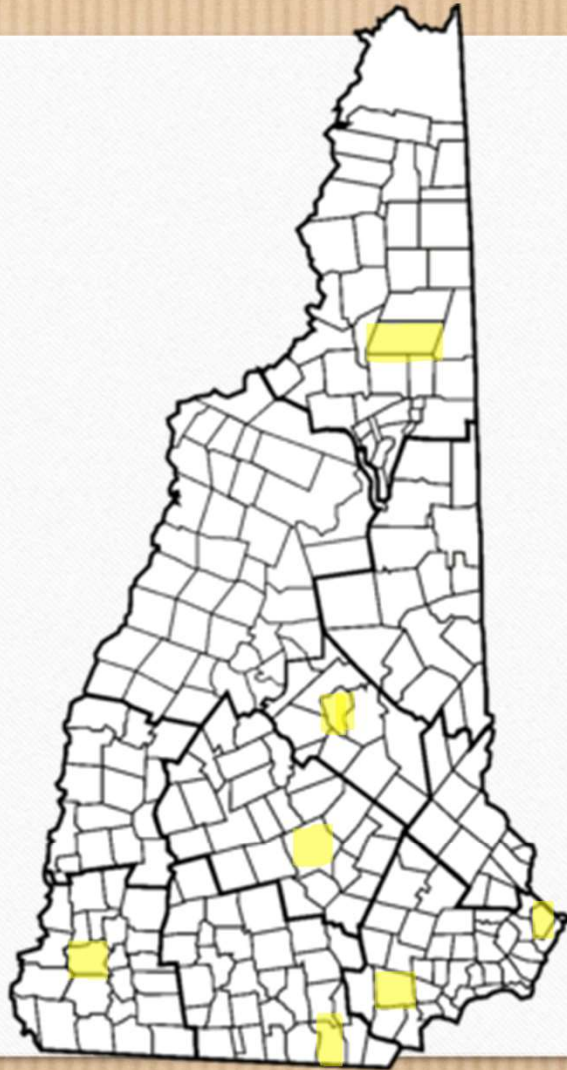
Amanda Merrill, PHD, (D) former NH State Senator, active on several NH boards and commissions

Andrew Georgevits, (R) Activist, Chair of the Concord City Republicans

Jim Splaine (D) Activist, former State Senator, former Deputy Mayor of Portsmouth

Ken Eyring (R) Co-founder Government Integrity Project

Olivia Zink (D) Franklin City Councilor, former mayor, Executive Director of Open Democracy





New Hampshire Department of State
David M. Scanlan

Secretary of State



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Special Committee on Voter Confidence Meetings 2022

Committee Meeting Dates, Agendas, and Minutes 2022

Please email VoterConfidence@sos.nh.gov (or using the request link in the testimony column below) to receive an emailed copy of any testimony that was submitted in written form to the Committee. Please specify whose testimony you seek or, if you seek all testimony submitted at a particular meeting, the date of that meeting .

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	AGENDA	MINUTES	VIDEO	TESTIMONY
May 2, 2022	1:00	Archives & Records Management, 9 Ratification Way (formerly 71 South Fruit Street), Concord, NH, 03301	View	View	Watch	
May 13, 2022	1:00	Archives & Records Management, 9 Ratification Way (formerly 71 South Fruit Street), Concord, NH, 03301	View	View	Watch	Request

Topics

- Input from the Secretary of State
- Election Laws and Election Procedure Manual
- Local Election Officials
- Ballot Counting Devices
- University of New Hampshire pollster Professor Andrew Smith
- State Political Party Chairs
- Attorney General's Office
- Academics Charles Stewart, III, MIT; Michael Herron and Brendan Nyhan, Dartmouth

Public Input

111 members of the public testified in person
346 members of the public submitted written testimony

- Confidence in elections
- Lack of confidence in elections
- Hand count all ballots
- Post election audits
- Absentee ballots
- Voter education
- Election laws
- Trustworthiness of our electoral process
- Election Official Training
- Voting machine concerns
- “Citizen” audits
- Voter rolls and registration
- Website improvements
- Voter confidence analysis
- Voter fraud claims
- Modernization of election process

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Findings of the Special Committee

- Voting is accessible and easy in New Hampshire
- Most voters have confidence in our elections
- New Hampshire elections are accurate
- Attorney General Oversight is necessary
- New Hampshire is well served by local election officials
- No evidence of widespread fraud
- Harassment of election officials and voters should be prevented
- Checks and balances are important

Findings continued

- Attacks on election results amplified on social media undermine confidence
- Paper ballots reinforce confidence
- Confidence is lower than in the past, but still high
- Ballot counting devices are reliable
- Updating checklists is important
- Election day registration facilitates voting
- Training of local election officials could increase confidence
- Post election audits increase confidence
- Partisan process for drawing elective districts has undermined confidence
- Ongoing efforts are needed to serve all voters

Special Committee
Recommendations

- Expand and Document Training of Local Election Officials
- Election Official Recruitment
- Protection of Election Officials and Voters
- Appreciation and Recognition of Local Election Officials
- Expand Voter Education Efforts
- Review of the Election Laws
- New Ballot Counting Machine Requirements
- Expand Post Election Audits

Recommendations
Continued

- Improve Absentee Ballot Procedures
- Expand Public Ability to Observe the Election Process
- Increase Public Information on Process to File Citizen Complaints
- Updating Voter Checklists
- Provide Funding for Needed Reforms
- Citizen Access to Voter Information

<https://www.sos.nh.gov/elections/information/special-committee-voter-confidence>

Challenges

- Dark money organizations immediately attacked the formation of the committee:
 - First by challenging the lack of ethnic diversity of the committee
 - Second by attempting to discredit the committee by claiming one of the members was an “election denier”
 - Third by lobbying the committee to pursue the agenda of the special interest groups

Observations

- The Committee makeup represented the full spectrum of political ideology
 - At the beginning certain members did not want to sit next to each other.
 - By the end, those same members were carpooling together to meetings, having productive subcommittee sessions, and attending social events as friends.
 - They worked very hard to draft a mutually acceptable final report.

Observations

- The public input sessions served as a needed forum that gave citizens an opportunity to vent / express themselves.
- The committee members were patient though public testimony and listened well.
- It became obvious there are “common ground” issues that crossed ideological lines.

Simple Takeaways



- Transparency
 - Voters will question what they can't see or understand.
 - We must remove curtains for maximum transparency.

Simple Takeaways



- Education
 - We must be proactive in helping voters understand what is happening in a polling place.