



## New Hampshire Cannabis Policy Voter Guide November 8, 2022 General Election

Even though 74% of New Hampshire voters support cannabis legalization, the “Live Free or Die” state remains an island of prohibition. New Hampshire is the only state in New England that hasn’t legalized and regulated cannabis for adults. While the New Hampshire House of Representatives has passed several legalization bills, all have died in the state Senate. Every state Senate seat is on the ballot in 2022, giving voters an opportunity to elect a more responsive body.

To help inform voters about their options, MPP sent a four-question survey to state Senate candidates. We then compiled candidates’ responses into a voter guide and added candidates’ public statements and incumbent lawmakers’ votes. (Much of that supplementary information was drawn from Citizens Count.)

This voter guide also includes links to voting records of incumbents in the N.H. House, along with the stances of the major party [candidates for governor](#).

If a candidate in your district has not taken a public position, we strongly encourage you to ask them these questions yourself and let us know if they respond.

Due to redistricting, your districts may have changed since 2020. You can find your New Hampshire state Senate and House district — along with everything else that will be on your ballot — [here](#). You can also find information on how and where to vote from the [N.H. Secretary of State website](#).

### **MPP Candidate Survey Questions:**

- 1) Nineteen states, including every other state in New England, have passed laws making cannabis possession legal for adults. Do you support making it legal for adults 21 and older to possess cannabis for personal use in New Hampshire?
- 2) Do you support legalizing and regulating retail sales of cannabis and cannabis-infused products (such as edibles and lotions) to adults 21 and older?
- 3) If New Hampshire legalizes marijuana sales, which model(s) would you support for legal sales? (Options: private licensed and regulated businesses; a state monopoly on retail sales with private cultivation and manufacture; a state monopoly on retail sales, cultivation, *and* manufacture; other; and undecided/unsure)
- 4) Most of the legalization jurisdictions, including all three neighboring states, allow adults 21 and older to discreetly and securely cultivate their own limited supply of cannabis for personal use, much the same way as every state allows the home brewing of beer. Do you support allowing adults to grow their own cannabis for personal use in New Hampshire?

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### Color Key for Candidates:

**Green** = supports legalizing cannabis for adults' use

**Orange** = uncertain or less supportive of legalization

**Black** = unknown

**Red** = opposed or much less supportive than other candidates in the district

**State Senate Candidates** (listed with most supportive candidates first; candidates who are equally supportive or opposed are listed alphabetically by last name)

### State Senate District 1 — open seat ([parts of Coos and Grafton counties](#))

- **Rep. Edith Tucker** (D) responded “yes” to all three of MPP’s “yes” or “no” survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis, legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products), and allowing adults to cultivate cannabis at home. In response to question 3, she said her preferred model for legal sales was a state monopoly on retail sales, with private cultivation and manufacture. She added comments, “I am open to learning from experience of other states” and “Again, I would listen to discussion, esp. to data & experience of other states.” As a state representative, she voted “yes” on legalization at least three times: legalization with private, retail sales in 2019 (HB 481); legalization of up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  ounce and cultivation of up to six plants (HB 1648, 2020); and legalization with a state monopoly on retail sales (HB 1598, 2022). ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Carrie Gendreau** (R) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. If you live in this district, ask where she stands and [let us know](#) if she responds: ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

### State Senate District 2 — open seat ([parts of Belknap, Carroll, and Grafton counties](#))

- **Former Rep. Kate Miller** (D) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. In response to the 2022 [Citizens Count Issues Survey](#), she said she supported the legalization of recreational use of marijuana with private, licensed retailers and legalization with state-run cannabis stores. She said she was undecided on legal home cultivation without sales. She voted for decriminalization in 2010. ([website](#)) ([Citizens Count profile](#))
- **Rep. Timothy Lang Sr.** (R) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#), Rep. Lang said he opposes legalization with home cultivation and no sales and with private sales. He said he was undecided about legalization with state-run stores. In 2022, Rep.

Lang voted "yes" on the legalization/state monopoly bill that did not include home cultivation or the legal sales of edibles (HB 1598). He voted "no" on legalization with private, retail sales and home cultivation in 2019 (HB 481), and "no" on legalization of up to ¾ ounce and cultivation of up to six plants (HB 1648, 2020). Rep. Lang voted "yes" on decriminalization (HB 640, 2017) and "yes" on allowing medical cannabis for chronic pain (HB 157, 2017). He voted "no" on allowing home cultivation of medical cannabis (HB 472, 2018). ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

### **State Senate District 3** ([parts of Carroll, Strafford, Coos, and Grafton counties](#))

- **Rep. Bill Marsh**, MD (D) responded "yes" to all three of MPP's "yes" or "no" survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis, legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products), and allowing adults to cultivate cannabis at home. In response to question 3, he said he was undecided on the model he would support for legal sales. Dr. Marsh also offered this comment, "My concern is the public health effects of increased cannabis use. For this reason, I introduced and we adopted 2021 HB163 requiring the ATCs to create pamphlets and posters warning about cannabis use when pregnant or lactating, during adolescence, and about accidental poisonings. The intent was to have these ready and use these more widely if retail sales were allowed. This year, I attached the posters to HB 1598 by floor amendment 1230h before it went to the Senate." ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile](#))
- **Sen. Jeb Bradley** (R) did not respond to MPP's candidate survey. He told the [2022 Citizens Count Issues Survey](#) he is against legalization with private or state-run stores. He said he was "undecided" on legalizing home cultivation with no sales. He voted "no" on a bill that would have done just that in 2022 — HB 629 (2022). He has cast some favorable votes on more limited reforms. Sen. Bradley voted "yes" on decriminalization bills in 2015, 2016, and 2017. He also voted "yes" on medical cannabis legislation in 2012 and 2013. He opposed medical cannabis home cultivation bills as a member of the Senate Health Committee (HB 364, 2019 and SB 420, 2020). ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

### **State Senate District 4** ([part of Strafford County: Barrington, Dover, Rollinsford, and Rollinsford](#))

- **Sen. David Watters** (D) responded "yes" to all three of MPP's "yes" or "no" survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis, legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products), and allowing adults to cultivate cannabis at home. In response to question 3, he said his preferred model for legal sales was private licensed and regulated retailers, cultivators, and product manufacturers. He also added a comment, "If the only viable bill is one that include a state role, I may support that. I want the legislature to pass a bill." He voted for HB 629 (2022), which would

have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

- **Seamus Casey** (R) responded “yes” to all three of MPP’s “yes” or “no” survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis, legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products), and allowing adults to cultivate cannabis at home. In response to question 3 — asking about candidates’ preferred model for legal sales — he selected “private licensed and regulated retailers, cultivators, and product manufacturers.” ([Citizens Count profile with an email address](#))

#### **State Senate District 5** ([Grafton, Sullivan, and Merrimack counties](#))

- **Sen. Suzanne Prentiss** (D) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#), she said she supports legalization with private sales. She was undecided on legalization of home cultivation with no sales and on legalization with state-run stores. She commented, “This is a needed source of revenue. However, the state should stay out of this based on federal implications. Other New England states have managed to create systems for sale, regulation and management of revenue.” She voted for HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Dr. John McIntyre** (R) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. If you live in this district, ask where he stands and [let us know](#) if he responds: ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

#### **State Senate District 6** ([parts of Belknap and Strafford counties](#))

- **Ruth Larson** (D) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. In response to the 2022 [Citizens Count Issue Survey](#), she supports marijuana legalization with home growing and no sales and she supports marijuana legalization with private sales. She was undecided on legalization with state-run stores. She commented, “I favor cannabis legalization, and lean towards allowing private enterprise to manage sales. This is how cannabis sales are handled in most other states where it is legal.” ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Sen. James Gray** (R) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. He voted against HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. In 2016, as a member of the House he voted against HB 1694, which would have legalized and taxed cannabis for adults 21 and older. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

**State Senate District 7 — open seat** ([parts of Belknap, Grafton, Hillsborough, Sullivan, and Merrimack counties](#))

- **Former Sen. Dan Innis** (R) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. He responded to the [2022 the Citizens Count Issue Survey](#) and said he supports legalizing home cultivation with no sales but is undecided on legalization with private sales. He said he was against legalization with state-run stores. In a 2018 [interview](#), he was asked if he supports “legalizing marijuana for recreational use?” He replied, “yes, with certain restrictions to ensure the public health is protected. Perhaps some of the proceeds from taxes should go to education, and also to addiction treatment for all substance abuse.” Innis was a state senator from 2016–2018. He voted against a legalization bill in 2017 (SB 233), while voting for decriminalization (HB 640, 2017) and to allow medical cannabis for chronic pain (HB 157, 2017). ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Richard Lobban** (D) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Issues Survey](#) he said he was “for” legalization with home cultivation and private sales. However, he added a confusing comment saying, "Mostly decriminalize small use. Note DUI aspects." Lobban responded undecided when asked about legalization with state-run stores. In response to the 2020 Citizens Count Issue Survey, he said he was against New Hampshire legalizing the recreational use of marijuana. He added, "I don't use it - maybe medical use. I don't use recreational drugs - never leads to a good outcomes. Decriminalization for possession is another matter." ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

**State Senate District 8** ([parts of Cheshire, Hillsborough, Merrimack, and Sullivan counties](#))

- **Former Rep. Charlene Lovett** (currently D, was an R while serving in the House) responded “yes” to two of MPP’s “yes” or “no” survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis and legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products). On Question 2 (about legalizing and regulating retail sales), she commented, "Legalizing and regulating retail sales will protect the public. Fentanyl laced marijuana has been the cause of overdose deaths, something that could have been avoided if marijuana had been legalized and regulated in the state." In response to question 3 — asking about candidates’ preferred model for legal sales — she said “unsure/undecided” and commented, "I would have to take the time to research these options in order to know which would be the most beneficial to the people of NH." Regarding home cultivation, she said “unsure/undecided” and commented, "I would have to research how well this has worked in other states." ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

- **Sen. Ruth Ward** (R) did not respond to MPP's candidate survey. She told the 2020 and 2022 [Citizens Count Issue Survey](#) she is against New Hampshire legalizing adult-use cannabis. In 2022, she commented, "I have looked into this issue pretty thoroughly. Have not read or heard anything that convinces me of supporting recreational marijuana. Use of medicinal marijuana is established." Sen. Ward voted "no" on HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

#### State Senate District 9 ([parts of Cheshire and Hillsborough counties](#))

- **Matthew McLaughlin** (D) did not respond to MPP's candidate survey. He told the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#) he was for legalization with home cultivation, along with legalization with private stores. He said he opposed legalization with state-run stores. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Sen. Denise Ricciardi** (R) did not respond to MPP's candidate survey. She told the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#) she is against legalization with home cultivation, along with legalization with private stores and legalization with state-run stores. She also voted against HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

#### State Senate District 10 — open seat ([parts of Cheshire and Hillsborough counties](#))

- **Rep. Donovan Fenton** (D) responded "yes" to all three of MPP's "yes" or "no" survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis, legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products), and allowing adults to cultivate cannabis at home. In response to question 3 — asking about candidates' preferred model for legal sales — he said "unsure/undecided." As a state representative, he voted "yes" on legalization at least three times: legalization with private, retail sales in 2019 (HB 481); legalization of up to ¾ ounce and cultivation of up to six plants (HB 1648, 2020); and legalization with a state-run retail sales (HB 1598, 2022). ([website](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Sly Karasinski** (R) did not respond to MPP's candidate survey. He told the [2022 Citizens Count Issue Survey](#) he is against legalization with state-run stores, and that he is undecided on legalization with home cultivation or private sales. He commented, "Marijuana is illegal under Federal Law and discussions of State legalization are premature." ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

#### State Senate District 11 ([parts of Hillsborough County: Amherst, Merrimack, Milford, and Wilton](#))

- **Former senator Shannon Chandley** (D) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. She voted against two versions of HB 656 (2018), which would have legalized cannabis for adults — one with home cultivation only and one with regulated, private sales. ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#))([website](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Sen. Gary Daniels** (R) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. He voted “no” on HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. He also voted “no” on the 2017 legalization bill (SB 233). Sen. Daniels even voted “no” on decriminalization bills in 2015 and 2016. As a state representative, he voted “no” on medical cannabis legislation in 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2013. In 2016, he spoke on the Senate floor against decriminalization. “We are in a war, and the last thing we need is to tell our citizens that it’s OK to use a little marijuana or any other illegal substance,” he said. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

**State Senate District 12** — ([parts of Cheshire and Hillsborough Counties](#))

- **Former Sen. Melanie Levesque** (D) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. In response to the [2020 Citizens Count issue survey](#), Levesque said she is for legalizing the recreational use of marijuana. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Sen. Kevin Avard** (R) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#), he said he is “against” legalization with home cultivation and no sales, legalization with private sales, and legalization with state-run stores. He voted “no” on HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

**State Senate District 13** — **open seat** ([Nashua wards 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9](#))

- **Sen. Cindy Rosenwald** (D) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#), she said she supported legalization with home cultivation, and with private sales, and she was undecided on legalization via state-run stores. She voted “yes” on HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Stephen Scaer** (R) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#), he said he is “against” legalization with

home cultivation and no sales, legalization with private sales, and legalization with state run stores. He commented, "Medical marijuana is available to those who believe they need it and we've already decriminalized possession. As we can see in Massachusetts, once marijuana becomes legal for recreation it permeates everything with ubiquitous billboards promising a shortcut to happiness. We also know that cannabis is psychologically addictive and leads to psychosis, at least among those susceptible to related mental illnesses." ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

#### State Senate District 14 — ([Hudson, Auburn, and Londonderry](#))

- **John Robinson** (D) replied to MPP's survey, saying he supports allowing adults to use cannabis and legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products). He added the comment, "We should sell it like alcohol." In response to question 3 — asking how it should be sold — he selected "private licensed and regulated retailers, cultivators, and product manufacturers" and commented, "While I like the 'state liquor store' model I'm concerned about privacy rights." In response to the home cultivation question, Robinson chose the option, "no, but I would support allowing cultivation by patients and caregivers who are registered with the therapeutic cannabis program." He commented, "Your 'yes' answer does not reference limits on quantity or prohibiting sale. I'm open to considering private cultivation in small amounts and not for sale or distributor." ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Sen. Sharon Carson** (R) did not respond to MPP's candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. Sen. Carson voted "no" on HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

#### State Senate District 15 — ([Bow, Concord, and Hopkinton](#))

- **Sen. Becky Whitley** (D) responded "yes" to all three of MPP's "yes" or "no" survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis, legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products), and allowing adults to cultivate cannabis at home, with added comments. In response to question 3, she said, "I'm open to considering all models after hearing from all stakeholders."

Sen. Whitley also provided the following comments, "I support legalizing cannabis with commonsense policies to advance public health. Cannabis prohibition has not stopped cannabis use or sales. Instead, it has fueled a black market, perpetuated the false theory that we can and should treat substance misuse by penalizing it, and contributed to mass incarceration. A black Granite Stater is four times more likely than a white Granite Stater to be arrested and jailed for marijuana possession. New Hampshire has

rightfully undertaken a phased-in approach on cannabis, starting with therapeutic cannabis and continuing by decriminalizing small amounts. These policies have worked, and I believe it is time to legalize cannabis.

“My first priority is the health and prosperity of Granite State families. Legalizing cannabis can and should be coupled with strong public health protections that reduce harms, help prevent substance misuse, protect youth from harmful effects, and ensure social equity. We can simultaneously end prohibition and advance commonsense policies that avert misuse. This includes setting the legal age for cannabis at 21 and regulating the sale of cannabis products.”

And “Because New Hampshire has limited sources of revenue, taxing cannabis cultivation and sales could be an important new source of revenue for the state. Similar to the regulation of alcohol in New Hampshire, at least 10% of revenue from cannabis cultivation and sales should go towards prevention, treatment and recovery programs for substance misuse.”  
([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

- **Linda Rae Banfill** (R) does not appear to have a website, social media presence, or any way to electronically send her the candidate survey. Her [Citizens Count profile](#) does not include any contact information (other than a home address) or issue positions. If you get in touch with her and find out her stance, let us know at [kokeefe@mpp.org](mailto:kokeefe@mpp.org).

#### **State Senate District 16 — open seat** ([parts of Hillsborough, Merrimack, and Rockingham Counties](#))

- **Former Rep. Keith Murphy** (R) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#), he said he supports legalization with home growing and no sales, along with legalization with private sales. He previously commented, “I support treating marijuana the same as alcohol, and allowing its sale with a small annual licensing fee from private sellers, as long as the town votes to allow it. I will not, however, vote for a scheme that is clearly designed to raise money for the state, with exorbitant licensing fees. I believe prosecuting people for marijuana is an inefficient use of police and court resources.” Rep. Murphy opposes legalization with state-run stores. As a state representative, he voted to legalize cannabis — including sales (HB 656, 2017). He also voted in support of decriminalization (HB 640, 2017) and to allow medical cannabis patients to cultivate (HB 593, 2015). ([Facebook](#))([website](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

[**Note:** Rep. Michael Yakubovich (R) — who was a solid “yes” vote on legalization — won the Republican primary for District 16. Unfortunately, [he had to bow out of before the general election due to health issues](#).

Yakubovich’s campaign and the state party chose Murphy to appear in his spot on the ballot.]

- **June Trisciani** (D) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. If you live in this district, ask where she stands and let us know if she responds: ([Twitter](#))([Facebook](#)) ([website](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))  
[Note: The Democratic Party added Trisciani as a general election candidate after the primary election in September 2022.]

**State Senate District 17 — open seat** ([parts of Belknap, Merrimack, and Rockingham Counties](#))

- **Christine Tappan** (D) responded “yes” to all three of MPP’s “yes” or “no” survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis, legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products), and allowing adults to cultivate cannabis at home. In response to question 3 — asking about candidates’ preferred model for legal sales — she said “unsure/undecided.” In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Issue Survey](#), she said she supports legalization with home cultivation and legalization with private sales. She said she is against legalization with state-run stores. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Rep. Howard Pearl** (R) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Issue Survey's](#) questions about legalization with home cultivation only, with private sales, and with state-run stores, he said he is undecided, and explained "I am supported medical marijuana programs and decriminalization. I will give full consideration to any bill relating to full recreational use, homegrown, and state-run distribution facilities. The challenge with many of these bills is in the details of the language. In the past I have supported some and not others." As a state representative, he voted "yes" on adult-use legalization at least three times: legalization with private, retail sales in 2019 (HB 481); legalization of up to ¾ ounce and cultivation of up to six plants; (HB 1648, 2020); and legalization with a state monopoly on retail sales (HB 1598, 2022). In 2017, he voted for decriminalization and to expand the medical program to include chronic pain. He voted *against* home cultivation of medical cannabis in 2018 (HB 472), but since then voted for home cultivation for adults 21 and older. ([website](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

**State Senate District 18 —** ([Litchfield and Manchester Wards 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9](#))

- **Former Rep. George Lambert** (R) responded “yes” to all three of MPP’s “yes” or “no” survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis, legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products), and allowing adults to cultivate cannabis at home. In response to

question 3, he said his preferred model for legal sales was private licensed and regulated retailers, cultivators, and product manufacturers. As a state representative, he voted “yes” on legalization (HB 1705, 2012), medical cannabis (HB 573, 2013), and decriminalization (HB 1625, 2014) bills. ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

- **Sen. Donna Soucy** (D) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. She voted “no” on HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. In response to the 2020 Citizens Count Survey’s question about legalization, Soucy [responded](#), “I have supported legislation providing medical marijuana and decriminalization in the past, which has become law. Before taking further action, I believe there needs to be federal change in regulations relating to marijuana.” ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

#### **State Senate District 19 — uncontested** ([Derry, Hampstead, and Windham](#))

- **Sen. Regina Birdsell** (R) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. She voted “no” on HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

#### **State Senate District 20 —** ([Manchester Wards 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, and 12](#))

- **Sen. Lou D’Allesandro** (D) did not respond to MPP’s candidate survey. He told the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#) he is “against” legalization with home cultivation and no sales, with private sales, and with state-run stores. He voted “no” on HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. In 2019, he voted against HB 369 which would have allowed medical cannabis patients to cultivate cannabis at home. He did cast a few votes in support of more limited reforms. D’Allesandro voted in support of decriminalization (HB 640), to allow medical cannabis for chronic pain (HB 157) and for a medical cannabis bill with no home cultivation. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Richard Girard** (R) responded “no” to all three of MPP’s “yes” or “no” survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis, legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products), and allowing adults to cultivate cannabis at home. He said he was “undecided/unsure” about the mode of sales he would prefer if cannabis were legalized. He told the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#) he is “against” legalization with home cultivation and no sales, with private sales, and with state-run stores. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

### State Senate District 21 — uncontested ([parts of Rockingham and Strafford Counties](#))

- **Sen. Rebecca Perkins Kwoka** (D) did not respond to MPP's candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. However, she voted "yes" on HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. In response to the 2020 Citizens Count issue survey's question on legalization she wrote, "I understand the racist history of the war of drugs, as well as the tax revenue possibilities of the cannabis industry. I also know that many people link marijuana to other more dangerous drugs and the opioid epidemic, which is not corroborated by scientific evidence. Therefore, I support a pathway to marijuana legalization that includes decriminalization, expungement of marijuana-related charges, and an information campaign about marijuana and its relationship to other drugs." ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

### State Senate District 22 — open seat ([Pelham, Atkinson, Plaistow, and Salem](#))

- **Rep. Daryl Abbas** (R) did not respond to MPP's candidate survey. In 2018, he told the [Citizen Count Issue Survey](#), "I oppose marijuana legalization." As a state representative, he voted "no" on legalization at least twice: legalization with private, retail sales in 2019 (HB 481) and legalization of up to ¾ ounce and cultivation of up to six plants (HB 1648, 2020). In 2022, he sponsored legalization with a state monopoly on retail sales (HB 1598). Also in 2022, Rep. Abbas attempted to kill a bill to legalize up to ¾ ounce and cultivation of up to six plants by proposing a motion to lay it on the table of the House floor (HB 629). ([website](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Wayne Haubner** (D) did not respond to MPP's candidate survey or the 2022 Citizens Count Survey, which includes questions about legalization. If you live in this district, ask where he stands and [let us know](#) if he responds: ([website](#))([Facebook](#))([Twitter](#))([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

### State Senate District 23 — ([parts of Rockingham County](#))

- **Brenda Oldak** (D) did not respond to MPP's candidate survey. In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#), she said she supports legalizing marijuana with home cultivation and no sales; legalizing with private, licensed retailers; and legalizing with state-run cannabis stores. She commented, "People who want cannabis can easily obtain it. Many states, including surrounding states, have legalized cannabis with minimal problems. This can be a source of revenue for the state, and if legalized, can be regulated." ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))
- **Sen. Bill Gannon** (R) did not respond to MPP's candidate survey. In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#), he said he is "against" legalization with

home cultivation and no sales, legalization with private sales, and legalization with state run stores. He voted “no” on HB 629 (2022), which would have legalized simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis. In 2017, he voted against allowing medical cannabis for chronic pain (HB 157) and against decriminalization (HB 640). ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

**State Senate District 24 — ([parts of Rockingham County](#))**

- **Rep. Debra Altschiller** (D) responded “yes” to all three of MPP’s “yes” or “no” survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis, legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products), and allowing adults to cultivate cannabis at home. In response to question 3, she said her preferred model for legal sales was private licensed and regulated retailers, cultivators, and product manufacturers. In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#), she said she supports legalization with home cultivation and private sales and opposes legalization with state-run stores. She commented, "As of May 2022, the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission announced adult-use marijuana establishments in Massachusetts surpassed \$3 billion in gross sales. Maine's adult-use retailers have sold nearly \$98.3 million in cannabis products, a 120% increase compared to the same eight-month period from last year. According to the Tax Foundation. Vermont is on track to take in \$27,313,974. New Hampshire's estimated loss of revenue for the last three years is \$44,163,575.00 We are an island in the New England states of cannabis prohibition and it is costing us dearly. The opportunity for private businesses to expand their market into New Hampshire is the best course of action. It's time to move forward."

As a state representative, she voted "yes" on legalization bills at least four times: legalization with private, retail sales in (HB 656 in 2017 and HB 481 in 2019); legalization of up to ¾ ounce and cultivation of up to six plants (HB 1648, 2020); and legalization with a state monopoly on retail sales (HB 1598, 2022). She also voted for decriminalization in 2017 (HB 640). ([website](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

- **Lou Gargiulo** (R) responded “yes” to all three of MPP’s “yes” or “no” survey questions — expressing support for allowing adults to use cannabis, legalizing and regulating cannabis sales (including infused products), and allowing adults to cultivate cannabis at home. In response to question 3, he said his preferred model for legal sales was private licensed and regulated retailers, cultivators, and product manufacturers. He added a comment, "The free market should control the distribution." In response to the [2022 Citizens Count Survey](#), he said he supports legalization with home cultivation and private sales, and is undecided on legalization with state-run stores. ([website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) ([Twitter](#)) ([Citizens Count profile with contact info](#))

## New Hampshire State House of Representatives

We do not have the capacity to conduct a candidate survey on the 400-member N.H. House of Representatives. Here are some resources that can help inform your votes:

- You can find candidates for your New Hampshire House of Representatives district (along with the rest of your sample ballot) [here](#).
- You can look up candidates on [Citizens Count](#), which has its own survey that includes cannabis policy questions. They also track recent cannabis votes.
- You can also look at how incumbents voted on key votes here:
  - [HB 481, 2019](#) — adult-use legalization with private, regulated sales
  - [HB 1648, 2020](#) — adult-use legalization of up to ¾ ounce and cultivation of up to six plants
  - [HB 1598, 2022](#) — adult-use legalization with a state monopoly on retail sales

## New Hampshire Gubernatorial Race

Here's a round-up of major party gubernatorial candidates' stances on legalization:

- **Dr. Tom Sherman** (D) — As a state senator, Dr. Sherman voted for the legalization of simple possession and home cultivation of cannabis (HB 629, 2022). In 2020, Dr. Sherman [told](#) the Citizens Count Issue Survey he supported legalization for adult use, adding the comment, "Without the capacity for marketing." As a state senator, he voted for medical cannabis in 2013. He did not respond to the 2022 Citizens Count Issue Survey, which included questions about legalization. ([website](#))([Facebook](#))([Twitter](#))([Citizens Count candidate page](#))
- **Gov. Chris Sununu** (R) — Has long [opposed](#) legalizing and regulating cannabis for adults' use, although his opposition weakened recently. In March 2022, Gov. Sununu [said](#) legalization in New Hampshire "could be inevitable" and that HB 1598 — which had a state-run monopoly on retail sales is "the right bill and the right structure." Gov. Sununu signed a bill decriminalizing possession of up to three-quarters of an ounce of cannabis in 2017, but he vetoed a 2019 bill to allow medical cannabis patients to cultivate a small number of plants. He did not respond to the 2022 Citizens Count Issue Survey, which included questions about legalization. ([website](#))([Facebook](#))([Twitter](#))([Citizens Count candidate page](#))