



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Voters in New Hampshire will elect a governor this year to replace Governor Chris Sununu (R), who is retiring after four consecutive two-year terms. All 400 seats in the house and all 24 seats in the senate are up for reelection as well. The gubernatorial race and the house are considered to be competitive.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Joyce Craig

Joyce Craig served as the Mayor of Manchester from 2017 – 2023. Prior to her three terms as mayor, Craig served on Manchester’s Board of Mayor and Aldermen as well as the Board of School Committee. Before entering public service, she worked in advertising.

Craig’s campaign is focused on reducing costs for families, addressing affordable housing, protecting reproductive rights by codifying protections, strengthening public education, lowering energy costs, reducing gun violence, legalizing cannabis, and addressing the opioid, mental health, and homelessness crises.

To reduce gun violence in New Hampshire, Craig plans to pass universal background check legislation, prohibit guns in K-12 schools, reinstate permits for concealed carry, implement three-day waiting periods for gun purchases, pass an extreme risk protection order law, and fund municipal gun reduction strategies as well as school safety programs.

Craig’s housing plan includes allowing municipalities to convert commercial zones to mixed-use zones; passing density bonuses for affordable housing development; normalizing construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs); and reforming parking requirements. She also intends to increase funding for the Housing Finance Authority municipal planning grant programs, and regional planning commissions; expand the Office of Planning and Development; expand tax credits and first-time home buyer programs; establish a state-backed credit system; and streamline housing-related approvals.

To address energy, Craig emphasizes efficiency, reliability, and resilience through rebates, an expansion of the New Hampshire Saves Program, an increase in energy storage options, a reduction of state energy costs, and grid modernization. Her plan also includes support of local power generation and diversification through support of the Community Power movement, fair compensation for local power generators, expansion of net-metering, expansion of the low-moderate income solar program, offshore wind, and smart energy siting and interconnection. Craig supports clean transportation, growth of the cleantech economy, and environmental protections, including addressing PFAS and establishing a moratorium on siting landfills.

Craig has been endorsed by former Delaware governor and current U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan (D).

Trivia: Craig was the first woman elected as Mayor of Manchester and the first Democrat elected since 2005.