

## **2016 Gubernatorial Questionnaire – Ted Gatsas, Republican**

### **1. Many businesses and economists warn that New Hampshire faces a significant shortage of skilled workers, particularly young workers. What can state government do to address this?**

Manufacturers in New Hampshire are having great difficulty recruiting a younger workforce. As Governor I will champion trade and technical education and partner with the private sector to directly train and recruit their future workforce out of high schools and the community college system. In Manchester, we created the first full time four-year technical high school in the state. Students graduate from the Manchester School of Technology ready for the workforce as plumbers, welders, beauticians, the culinary arts, and manufacturing among others. We must also reduce the cost of public higher education by promoting dual credit programs like Running Start, by managing the university system budget more efficiently, and by eliminating frivolous spending like the new \$6.5 Million outdoor swimming pool at UNH.

### **2. What are your plans for reviving the economy in New Hampshire's rural regions, particularly the North Country?**

We need to ensure that the North Country has the same quality infrastructure as the southern tier of New Hampshire and that the residents of the North Country have access to quality services.

### **3. Many businesses complain about New Hampshire's relatively high costs for health care and energy. What can the state do to alleviate this?**

Energy costs in New Hampshire are some of the highest in the country. This is a significant burden on New Hampshire taxpayers and businesses, and a real burden on our ability to recruit new businesses to our state. We must lower our energy costs to become more competitive. Nearly 100% of the proposed Northern Pass project comes through New Hampshire. I believe that 30% of that power should stay here in New Hampshire at the low hydroelectric rate to lower costs for New Hampshire families and businesses. We must not allow New Hampshire to become a donor state for the rest of the region.

On healthcare, New Hampshire must maintain a competitive marketplace for large and small insurance carriers. When we expand our options in care and where we can receive care, we will drive down costs. Additionally, we need to enable and encourage patients to choose the low cost provider for their healthcare, just as we do in every other sector of the economy.

### **4. What is your position on a sales or income tax?**

I will veto any sales or income tax that comes to my desk as governor. Furthermore, I believe we need a constitutional amendment to ban the income tax once and for all.

### **5. Do you support the recent cuts to the state's business taxes? Would you support keeping the rates as they now stand, cut further, or raise to previous levels?**

Yes I do support the recent cuts to the state's business taxes, which helped create the \$100 Million budget surplus we are seeing now. I would continue to cut business taxes further to allow businesses to grow, expand and create more jobs for Granite Staters. Additionally, we should end the practice of charging the Business Enterprise Tax to start-up companies that haven't yet had a chance to turn a profit.

### **6. What new revenue sources, if any, would you support as governor? Do you support legalized casino gambling in New Hampshire?**

The state of New Hampshire doesn't have a revenue problem. It has a spending problem. Concord must become better stewards to taxpayer money and find efficiencies within state government. I am not opposed to casino gambling, but with the expansions of casino gambling in our neighboring states, I

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believe that time has passed for New Hampshire. And unlike Governor Hassan, I would never attempt to rely on casino gambling revenues to balance the state budget.

### **7. What role should state government play in reducing inequities in the quality and cost of public schools across New Hampshire?**

As Governor, I will put forth a constitutional amendment to take the issue of adequacy funding away from the courts and put it into the legislature.

### **8. What is your position on charter schools?**

I fully support the expansion of charter schools in New Hampshire. Competition and choice in education will help improve the overall quality of education in our state. I oppose Common Core and Smarter Balance testing. We must restore local control and give parents a choice in how their children are educated.

### **9. What changes would you support for the state's public higher education system? Should the state increase its share of funding for the 4-year or 2-year systems?**

I am a proud graduate of UNH class of '73. The university system in New Hampshire is a point of pride for granite staters, but there are some very important changes we must make to make college more affordable. As Governor I will provide direct oversight in the university system board meetings, and I will push for the legislature to regain access to review line item expenditures in the university system budget. It has been twelve years since the university system went out to bid on their health insurance coverage and they spent \$17,000 on a cafeteria table and spent \$6.5 Million on an outdoor pool. We must ensure that students do not continue to bear the burden of continued irresponsible spending.

### **10. What is your assessment of the state's approach to combating the opioid crisis? Do more resources need to be devoted to any specific response (law enforcement, treatment, etc)?**

On my first day as governor, I will declare this opioid crisis a state of emergency. There has been \$5 Million allocated to increase access to treatment, recovery and prevention and an additional \$1.5 Million allocated to assist law enforcement fighting this epidemic. None of this money has gotten out to the community, and that is just wrong. Those funds must be delivered to help people dealing with this heartbreaking crisis. We must look to expand successful local solution like Manchester's Safe Station Program, which has helped over 400 people struggling with addiction find the help that they need. We also must make the penalties for dealing much tougher. If a dealer is arrested for dealing Fentanyl, they should be arrested for attempted murder.

### **11. What changes, if any, would you make to New Hampshire's laws regarding abortion?**

I would never use taxpayer dollars to fund abortion providers like Planned Parenthood. I support parental notification and I oppose partial birth abortion.

### **12. What changes, if any, would you make to New Hampshire's existing gun laws?**

As Governor, if Constitutional Carry comes to my desk I will sign it. Beyond this, New Hampshire does not need new gun laws.

### **13. New Hampshire's governorship is widely considered among the "weakest" in the country. How specifically do you think the office can be best used to bring about change?**

I am the only candidate in this race with business, legislative and executive experience. We have accomplished great things in the city of Manchester over my seven years as mayor, but nothing can be

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accomplished without the support of the majority of aldermen. I know what it takes to lead and I know how to work across the isle to bring forward solutions to address the problems facing our state. New Hampshire needs a governor who can step in on day one and get things done. I will be that governor.

### **14. What is the most important issue facing New Hampshire that's not being discussed in this campaign?**

The rising cost of energy.