

## Trump loyalists prominent in New Hampshire GOP

NORTH CONWAY, New Hampshire — Nobody wants to run for the Senate as a Republican in this state.

Well, not exactly nobody. But nobody who isn't, for want of a better term, a relative nobody.

That astonishing phenomenon is rendered all the more staggering when you consider that the incumbent, Maggie Hassan, is regarded as the most vulnerable Democrat in a Senate where, more than usual, every seat counts. If the Republicans beat Sen. Hassan and a series of other

**DAVID M. SHRIBMAN**

dominoes fall in the direction the polls suggest they will, the GOP will take possession of the Senate, one-party rule in Washington will end, Joe Biden's nominees (including one who might be for the Supreme Court) will be endangered, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky will be Senate majority leader, the chairs of every committee will change and the rhythm of the Capitol will be altered substantially.

In short, a big deal. But no big figure wants to take the big step to run for the office.

Gov. Chris Sununu, the most popular New Hampshire governor in years and one of the most popular governors of either party nationwide, this month stepped back from a Senate race. Less than a day later, former Sen. Kelly Ayotte, who has a residue of goodwill from Republicans and Democrats alike, did the same. So did former Sen. Scott Brown of Massachusetts, now living in New Hampshire.

"We are seeing a bit of a vacuum on the Republican side," said Dante Scala, a University of New Hampshire political scientist. "Once you get past Chris Sununu it's difficult to find people who don't look at a statewide race as a big leap. That is the case even though Hassan's prospects are tied to Biden, and right now the president is a heavy anchor to her. Ultimately the vacuum will be filled, and there is a decent chance of getting a B-level candidate, and a B-level candidate can win this race."

This Republican predicament is all the more astounding in view of the historical profile of this state. While the Democrats have taken New Hampshire in the past five presidential elections, the tint of this state's politics is distinctly red, and the Republican bench has always been deep. In the case of New Hampshire, the past is not prologue.

For the 122 years between 1875 and 1997 — roughly the period between the invention of the telephone and the broad distribution of the cellphone, or the time between the bearded Ulysses Grant and the clean-shaven Bill Clinton — the Republican domination of New Hampshire was so impenetrable that voters in this state sent only three Democrats to the governor's office on the second floor of the state Capitol.

For the 156 years between 1855 and 2011 — roughly the time between the military's creation of a Camel Corps and its use of armed drones, or between the early planning for the first Black university to the administration of Barack Obama — 33 of New Hampshire's 37 senators were Republicans, a phenomenon even more dramatic when you consider that one of those GOP senators served for 27 years and another for 24.

In an astonishing two-decade period beginning in 1970, the office of state attorney general was passed down, kind of like a track and field passing of the baton, among a remarkable group of lawyers. First came Warren B. Rudman, who later became a two-term senator and attached his name to the signature deficit-reduction mechanism of the 1980s. Then came David H. Souter, who eventually sat on the Supreme Court. Next was Thomas D. Rath, who helped run New Hampshire primary campaigns for, among others, Howard Baker, Lamar Alexander, Bob Dole, George

“... Maggie Hassan ... (is) the most vulnerable Democrat in a Senate where, more than usual, every seat counts. If the Republicans beat Hassan ... polls suggest ... the GOP will take possession of the Senate ...”

W. Bush, Mitt Romney and John Kasich, and who remained a powerful lawyer in the state capital of Concord. Finally was Steve Merrill, who became a two-term governor.

With a Republican lineage like that — with a tradition of conservatism that retains trace elements today — the failure of top GOP figures to take a race insiders believe they would win with ease suggests the presence of a broader factor.

Like everything else in American politics, the partial answer comes down to two words: Donald Trump.

Trump loyalists have taken an increasingly prominent place in the formal organization of the New Hampshire GOP. But only a third of New Hampshire residents overall have a favorable opinion of Mr. Trump, according to the latest Granite State Poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Though he tops the polls among Republicans for the 2024 nomination, he does not rate highest in net favorability among potential primary voters. Florida's Gov. Ron DeSantis takes first place with 62%, with Mr. Trump at 54%.

The disconnect between traditional Republicans and Trump Republicans, a feature of internal GOP struggles in many states, has significant implications in several important political contests. In Wyoming, that struggle will determine the fate of Rep. Liz Cheney, whose apostasies include voting to impeach Mr. Trump and her presence as vice chair of the congressional committee examining the origins of the January Capitol insurrection. It is a factor in races to determine successors to several retiring Republicans, including Sens. Rob Portman of Ohio, Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania and Roy Blunt of Missouri, along with Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois.

"You have Trump people here who control the party, and regular conservative Republicans don't want to try to appeal to them," said Andrew Smith, director of the UNH Survey Center. "The Trumpistas may not be chasing people away but a lot of people don't want to put up with them. There have been ugly incidents."

The result is that the Republicans are in the unhappy position of trying to persuade one or more of their congressional candidates to take on the Senate race, or to nominate state Senate President Chuck Morse or Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut, or to consider retired Army Gen. Don Bolduc, who was passed over by Mr. Trump for an endorsement when he aimed for the GOP Senate nomination in 2020 but who campaigned here recently.

"The Trump element in the party doesn't have the status or capability to win the general election," said Mr. Rath, a onetime member of the Republican National Committee. "Many people don't want to have anything to do with them. The party now is full of true believers but there aren't enough of them to win an election."

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### Letters to the Editor

#### Election integrity: ultimately God wins

To the editor:  
"Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned." This phrase reminds me of Hillary Clinton. She was scorned by her nation in 2016. In response, she claimed Trump committed election fraud. She became the prototype for the furious "Trump Derangement Syndrome" crowd.

Leftist media ridicules those questioning the integrity of the 2020 election yet supports Clinton's claims. Double standards.

Concerning 2020, Democrats conspired alongside major players like the news media, social media, elites, technocrats, judges, election boards, legislatures, and woke activists.

News media like CNN, MSNBC, and Associated Press perpetuated leftist narratives. They portrayed Biden as centrist, buried scandals involving his son, and twisted Trump's words about Charlottesville leveling charges of racism. They perpetuated the RussiaGate hoax fabricated by Clinton and deceived the public regarding violent leftist rioting in Democrat cities. Following the election, they ridiculed those concerned with its integrity.

Social media like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube suspended vocal conservative participants. "Fact checkers" silenced anyone contradicting the narrative.

Woke elites and technocrats contributed to leftist organizations influencing Democrat votes in swing states. Mark Zuckerberg donated over \$350 million through an organization, Center for Tech and Civic Life, towards this objective. Open Society Foundation (George Soros) supported campaigns of woke Democrat prosecutors who do not aggressively prosecute crime.

Judges, legislatures and election boards changed voting procedures, favoring the left. Democrats hired Marc Elias, an election lawyer, adept at exploiting the system. Taking advantage of COVID hysteria, his strategies created the possibility of virtually undetectable election fraud involving indiscriminate mail-in voting, ballot harvesting and inadequate voter identification. Election workers included improperly prepared, late and unsigned ballots. Senile nursing home residents were exploited for their ballots by unscrupulous individuals.

Democrats want to enshrine some of these practices across the nation, claiming that appropriate controls like voter identification are racist.

Woke activists terrorized the nation during 2020. Democrat mayors in cities like Portland and Seattle allowed violent, destructive rioting to continue for weeks. When Trump responded by defending federal buildings, leftist media labeled him as a Hitler wannabe.

Activists organized protests and descended upon polling locations, causing legitimate concerns of rioting and voter intimidation. When police responded, activists claimed they were suppressing minority voting.

Leftist media exploited these events to mislead the public. Responsible voters need to supplement their media diet with conservative news to counteract propaganda. Sadly, the national news section of KPC News doesn't serve this end well. Instead, selected articles from news services like AP reinforce it.

For more information regarding election irregularities, I recommend a well-written book titled "Rigged: How the Media, Big Tech, and the Democrats Seized our Elections" by Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist. Additionally, I recommend an article titled "The Secret History of the Shadow Campaign that Saved the 2020 Election" on the Time website, bragging about the leftist propaganda campaign. Also, Project Veritas has a great undercover exposé on YouTube titled "CNN Director Admits Network Engaged in Propaganda to Remove Trump from Presidency."

For conservative news, I recommend Fox News, Western Journal, The Federalist, Alpha News, BlazeTV, Breitbart News and Newsmax. Also, follow bold Republican congressmen Rand Paul, James Lankford, Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley, Mike Braun, Tom Cotton, Jim Jordan, John Kennedy and Jim Banks on Facebook and YouTube.

I am not a Trump loyalist. He is prideful and engages in coarse locker room talk. He is not adept at guarding his speech, anticipating distortion by leftist media weasels. But, as a Christian, I would vote for virtually any pro-life Republican over a pro-abortion, Neo-Marxist Democrat.

Finally, Psalm 2 is comforting to the believer. Ultimately the plotting of evil men leads to their destruction. God wins.

If you would like more recommendations, email me at [sparkmanr1@mediacommbb.net](mailto:sparkmanr1@mediacommbb.net).

**Robert Sparkman**  
Rome City

#### Higher taxes can discourage economic growth

To the editor:  
In a letter to the editor published in the Nov. 20 edition of The News Sun, Lori Gagen claims I misrep-

resented the Noble County Economic Development executive director's position in an earlier letter by writing he "supported the (proposed widening and flattening of Baseline Road) project." She claims she was present at the meeting in question and his comments were general in nature and in were no way an endorsement of this particular project.

Yet The News Sun article to which I referred states, "Noble County Economic Development Corp. Executive Director Gary Gatman was on hand for Monday's meeting on another matter, but weighed in on the impact for the NCEDC of a flatter, wider Baseline Road." This article states pretty clearly that the executive director was specifically referring to the Baseline Road project. I wasn't there. I don't know which interpretation of Mr. Gatman's remarks is correct. If Lori Gagen is correct in her interpretation, thanks for clearing that up.

Let's consider the statement that good roads are important for economic development. In general, that is true. It could be used to justify any road project. On the other hand, high taxes discourage economic development. How do these generalities apply to rural roads and the county motor vehicle excise surtax? Larry DeBoer and Anita Yadavalli of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University considered this question in some detail in a study titled "Indiana's County Motor Vehicle Excise Surtax and Wheel Tax" On page 36 of their study they state, "There is plenty of evidence that more and better roads promote economic growth, and that higher taxes discourage growth. But the evidence points to interstate highways as the roads that matter, and to broad-based taxes on property and income as the taxes that matter. There is scant evidence that local roads or the surtax/wheel tax have a big effect on growth." In other words, there is little evidence the Baseline Road project is likely to significantly promote economic development.

**Larry Wolf**  
Avilla

#### Highway department appreciates assistance

To the editor:  
Steuben County Highway was notified of a vehicular accident involving the pedestrian bridge north of the Ramada Inn on S.R. 127 on the morning of Nov. 17.

A loaded tanker truck accessed the wooden pedestrian bridge from the multi-use path off of C.R. 400N. The wooden bridge collapsed under the weight of the tanker truck.

The pedestrian bridge will be closed until repairs are made. Contractors have already been contacted for estimates.

The County would like to extend thanks to Angola Fire Department, Steuben County Sheriff's Department, Steuben County Emergency Management, First Call Towing and RMS for their assistance in containing the scene and successfully pumping off and removing the tanker.

**Charles "Chip" Porter**  
Steuben County engineer

#### Letter Policy

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We reserve the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of libel, poor taste or repetition.

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