

New Hampshire: Battleground in the Fight to Dismantle Democracy

A Wakeup Call for Granite Staters and the Nation

Granite State Matters

Why did the Make Liberty Win political action committee focus over 100 of its 237 endorsements on candidates in our tiny state of New Hampshire?

This report explains why, and what "Make Liberty Win" really means -- to those living here and to an entire country whose democracy is under threat.

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Wake Up Calls

The stories that follow are not supposed to happen in America. They are evidence of attacks on our democracy, uniquely targeting New Hampshire.

- You wake up after a snowstorm. You learn that your child's teacher will have to be let go because a small group reduced the school budget by half last night.
- The county ski hill you've enjoyed all your life has closed. The entire management team walked out when new board appointees insisted on slashing the highly profitable site's expenses.
 - You attend morning worship service, only to see a member of a militia group at the podium.
- You are the town's sole police officer. You walk into work only to learn that your job was cut by the Select Board last night.
 - You are an elected school board member. One evening, armed, uniformed men in masks show up at the board meeting. One holds up 3 fingers and a thumb in the "white power" sign of white supremacists. You are not white.

Billionaires Get a Pass?

Mainstream reporters often cover attacks on democracy in two vastly different ways: "fringe" [extreme] vs. "normal." Militia groups, theocrats, and attendees at the annual libertarian Porcfest are extreme. "Average libertarians" and billionaire "political donors...like the Koch brothers" are not painted as extremists.¹

This report details how these two groups collaborate. It reveals how libertarian extremists took over the Republican Party. It details the tight relationship between the so-called "hard-core fringes" and the wealthy, powerful "average libertarians" paying to drive their agenda. Readers will see that these relationships are indisputable, hiding in plain sight. Especially in New Hampshire.

This report is a wakeup call to the dismantling of our democracy. And where it will lead unless residents stop it.

Why New Hampshire?

The national Make Liberty Win PAC endorsed 235 state candidates across the US. Nearly half, 113, were running in a single, tiny state: New Hampshire.² Why?

¹ Quinn, Annalisa. "These libertarians want to take over New Hampshire. But first, a clothing-optional gun show", Boston Globe, August 9, 2023..<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/08/09/magazine/a-week-inside-the-libertarian-porcfest-in-new-hampshire/>

² "Candidate Endorsements", Make Liberty Win website, <https://www.makelibertywin.com/candidates/>,

New Hampshire is an easy target for takeover, due to:

- its small size
- its large, volunteer legislature
- its total turnover of elected officials every 2 years

In addition, the state has the potential for wider influence.

It is a center of influence and connections:

- To DC, because many inhabitants know a member of Congress or a Presidential candidate personally
- Globally, because of its proximity to world-class universities and their alumnae living in the state

Free Staters also cited the "*live free or die*" motto when they chose New Hampshire as their "libertarian utopia." That was in 2003. A decade later, fascist, and theocratic groups would target the state for similar reasons.

How "Liberty" began replacing Democracy

The idea of democracy is that people work together to create an infrastructure of rules and regulations by which they agree to be governed.

Winston Churchill is said to have quipped, "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others."

Common alternatives to democracy are:

- 1) dictatorship, rule by a single authority;
- 2) plutocracy, rule by the wealthy under any system of government they control;
- 3) theocracy, government by divine guidance;

- 4) anarchy, as seen in "failed" states such as Somalia. The French Revolution also devolved into anarchy before Napoleon took over as dictator.

New Hampshire's democracy is under attack from all four of these directions. All four use "liberty" as a battle cry to attack democracy. For fascist militia and theocrats, dismantling democracy is a step toward control. For libertarians, the goal is freedom to do as they please, provided they do not harm others. Merriam Webster describes such "a utopian society of individuals who enjoy complete freedom without government" as "anarchy."³

Freedom vs. Democracy

Democracy would say that a majority vote decides the rules. Then all must comply to create a stable and prosperous society. "Freedom first" means that the individual's right to choose has priority. If your next-door neighbor turns his property into a garbage dump or a firing range or a fentanyl lab, he is free to do so. If seeing a naked person walking down the street bothers you, it's your job to stay away or close your eyes. If a billionaire buys up state parks, neighborhoods and highways, that is a desirable move toward privatization.

³ "Anarchy", Merriam-Webster dictionary, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/anarchy>

People become freedom-seeking libertarians from two main directions. Young college students find the concept of no rules exciting. Why should they not be able to smoke what they want, have sex with whom they please, and never pay taxes? Their libertarian economics textbook compares being poor to failing a class. Giving welfare to poor people is like raising a failing student's grade, the textbook suggests.⁴

Billionaires like Charles and David Koch seek "freedom" for more practical reasons. They own companies plagued by hundreds of millions in potential fines from the Environmental Protection Agency. The Occupational Safety & Health Administration is taking their firms to court. A jury awarded \$200 million against them for defrauding the government. Their father belonged to the John Birch Society and taught them government is evil; its functions should be privatized. Of course, they support a Libertarian Party, whose goal is to destroy the agencies plaguing them.⁵

And that is how the idea of democracy began to be replaced by the priority of "liberty."

4 Dietsch, Jeanne. "Teaching kids to be libertarian: if classmates died from earning an 'F'.", Saving Humankind-ness" blog.
<https://savinghumankind.wordpress.com/2021/04/03/libertarians-rely-on-social-insurance/>

5 Mayer, Jane. "Koch method: free market mayhem" and "The states: gaining ground", Dark Money, Anchor Books, New York: NY. 2016.

6 Quotes, from Democracy to "Liberty"

1) *Democracy is "government by the people, especially: rule of the majority"*

- Merriam Webster, definition of democracy

2) *"We want to be a minority."*⁶

- Theme song of libertarian Free Staters, sung on YouTube by Jason Osborne (viewed by the author & others but removed since)

3) *"Democracy is a soft form of communism."*⁷

- Free State Project board member and libertarian candidate for US Senate 2022 Jeremy Kauffman

4) *"What I propose is a Free State Project, in which freedom-minded people...pledge that you will work to reducing government to the minimal functions of protecting life, liberty, and property, establish residence in a small state and take over the state government..."*⁸ - Free State Project founder Jason Sorens

5) *"We believe these are also the proper positions of the Republican Party." To phase out:*

- *Dept of Health & Human Services (Social Security, Medicare, Disaster Recovery, FDA)*
- *Dept. of Education (Public Schools)*
- *Drug Enforcement Agency and Transportation Security Administration*

⁶ "The Free State Party has completely taken over the Republican Party in NH", r/newhampshire, Reddit, 2021.

https://www.reddit.com/r/newhampshire/comments/mmscp5/the_free_state_movement_has_completely_taken_over

⁷ MacQuarrie, Brian. "Free staters seek to undo New Hampshire government from within," Boston Globe, September 3, 2022.

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/09/03/metro/free-staters-seek-undo-nh-government-within/>,

⁸ "Announcement: The Free State Project" The Libertarian Enterprise, July 23, 2001. <https://ncc-1776.org/tle2001/libe131-20010723-03.html>

- *Any restriction on any mutually agreed upon conduct or exchange between parties*
- *and more...*

- Republican Liberty Caucus [RLC] Statement of Principles and Policies⁹
Free Stater Tim Condon founded the RLC NH.

6) *"The Office of Legislative Services has received your request to draft legislation... sunseting all legislative acts."*

- In September 2023 Free Stater Jason Gerhard [R, Merrimack-25] submitted a bill request to terminate all NH laws.

The Free Staters and the Plutocrats

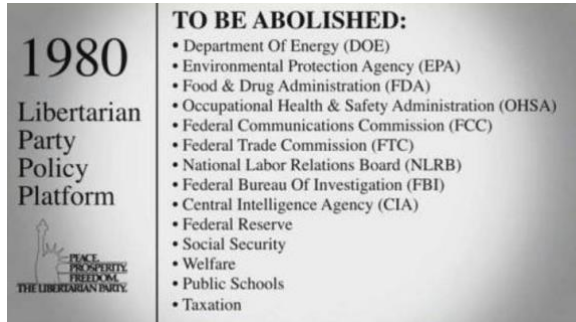
Yale PhD student Jason Sorens founded the idealistic libertarian Free State Project [FSP]. This group is driven by a belief that if authorities did not interfere, everyone would get along just fine. Charles and David Koch led the plutocratic libertarians. These billionaires want lower taxes and fewer environmental, safety, and labor fines. In New Hampshire, the Free Staters and the plutocrats now work jointly, openly. But the Kochs started elsewhere.

Back in 1980, David Koch ran for Vice President on a platform to dismantle most of the federal government (*Image 1*). Even with the Koch fortune behind his message, the Libertarian Party only won 1% of the vote.¹⁰

⁹ "Statement of Principles & Positions: Govt Reform", Republican Liberty Caucus website, <https://rlc.org/statement-of-principles-positions/>

¹⁰ "Libertarian Party", Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Libertarian-Party>

Image 1-Libertarian Party Platform of Edward Clark & David Koch, the libertarian candidates for US President & Vice President



After the 1980 election, Charles and David Koch abandoned traditional politics. Instead, they turned their efforts to building a stealth network to influence politicians and voters. Secrecy was a priority.

The Kochs' network founded free market think tanks in most states. NH's Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy was one of them, chaired by John H. Sununu¹¹, then his son James. The Kochs began funding university departments and scholarships to promote libertarianism. They set up complex networks of nonprofits to mask their actions and avoid campaign finance constraints. They began the long, slow series of lawsuits that led to the *Citizens United* decision that removed corporate spending controls.¹²

But Jason Sorens was too impatient to wait for the Koch's carefully engineered plan. In 2001, *Libertarian Enterprise* published "Let's Secede!", in which Sorens wrote:

¹¹ The Kochs and John H Sununu attended the MIT School of Engineering together: 1953-59 Charles; 1957-66 John; 1958-63 David.

¹² Mayer, Jane. "The Investors", *Dark Money*, Anchor Books, New York: NY, 2016.

What I propose is a Free State Project, in which freedom-minded people...pledge that you will work to reducing government to the minimal functions of protecting life, liberty, and property, establish residence in a small state and take over the state government...

Once we've taken over the state government, we can slash state and local budgets... Furthermore, we can eliminate substantial federal interference by refusing to take highway funds and the strings attached to them.¹³

The FSP would start when 20,000 signed up to move. In 2003, the FSP chose New Hampshire as their "Libertarian Homeland." The influx began.

Mission: Convert the Republican Party

The first FSP Director of Member Services was Tim Condon. Condon had already founded the Republican Liberty Caucus [RLC] in Florida. Its mission was to shift the Republican Party toward libertarianism. Condon founded the NH RLC when he moved here. The RLC's goals [page 8] largely match the libertarian platform of David Koch from four decades ago.¹⁴

¹⁵ This shows that Free Staters are not different from "average libertarians" such as the Kochs.

¹³ "Announcement: The Free State Project" The Libertarian Enterprise, July 23, 2001. <https://ncc-1776.org/tle2001/libe131-20010723-03.html>

¹⁴ Republican Liberty Caucus website, <https://rlc.org/statement-of-principles-positions/>

¹⁵ The RLC website now seems to feel that it is achieving its mission; it touts Marjorie Taylor Green as earning a "perfect score" on its Liberty Index. <https://rlc.org/>

FSP Courts Wealthy Support

In fact, Sorens sought support for the FSP from wealthy plutocrats early on. On February 27, 2004, at the American Enterprise Institute [AEI], Sorens described the FSP and its ability to act as “a wedge in increasing liberty in the US.”¹⁶ Charles and David Koch founded their Americans for Prosperity [AFP] nonprofit in 2004 with the same goal.¹⁷

At the AEI meeting, William Kelly of Cox Newspapers asked Sorens if the FSP conducted background checks to ensure they were not bringing criminals into the state. Sorens replied that would be too invasive, “this is built on trust.”

No Rules, No Laws

In fact, libertarians' agorism, anarcho-capitalist philosophy denies the rule-of-law (*Image 2*). Agorism allows any mutually agreeable, contracted exchange between two parties. Anarcho-capitalism [ancap] denies the right of government to regulate or tax any transaction. It says that democracy encroaches on



Image 2- Speaker photo from 2023 Porcfest promotion

¹⁶ Martens, Pam. "The Far Right's Plot to Capture NH, Counterpunch, April 27, 2009. <https://www.counterpunch.org/2009/04/27/the-far-right-s-plot-to-capture-new-hampshire/>

¹⁷ "Charles Koch looks back at his legacy: "Boy, did we screw up." Fortune, November 13, 2020. <https://fortune.com/2020/11/13/charles-koch-book-believe-in-people>

individual freedom. Agorism/ancap is espoused by Free Staters, the Libertarian Party of NH, and the Freedom Caucus that took over the Republican Party.

Multiple Free Staters have been convicted of money laundering or tax evasion.¹⁸ ¹⁹ But Koch Industries was convicted of far worse: defrauding of the government, massive pollution, and more.²⁰ Both groups want to dismantle government regulation and oversight.

Sorens Tightens His Koch Connections

By 2008, Sorens was a trusted affiliate of the Koch network. He became a Senior Affiliated Scholar at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. The Mercatus Center is an independent non-profit, founded by Richard Fink, Executive VP of Koch Industries.²¹ It researches justifications for ancap policies.²² Sorens has co-authored an annual volume with William Ruger, a VP of the Charles Koch

18 "Ian Freeman convicted on all counts relating to bitcoin money laundering", US Attorney's Office, December 22, 2022.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-nh/pr/ian-freeman-convicted-all-counts-relating-bitcoin-money-laundering-scheme>

19 Two more guilty pleas in Keene bitcoin exchange, Union Leader, August 15, 2022. https://www.unionleader.com/news/courts/two-more-guilty-pleas-in-keene-based-alleged-unlicensed-bitcoin-exchange/article_c7f09dda-20b5-5744-aa8b-bbba744f9867.html

20 Mayer, Jane. "Koch method: free market mayhem" and "The states: gaining ground", Dark Money, Anchor Books, New York: NY. 2016.

21 "Mercatus Center", Sourcewatch,

https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Mercatus_Center

22 "Richard Fink's 3-phase plan to take over politics in America", <https://www.shortform.com/blog/richard-fink/>

Institute.²³ It is entitled "Freedom in the 50 States", published in conjunction with Mercatus and the Cato Institute.²⁴

Shifting the Focus to State Control

In 2010, the US Supreme Court's Citizen United decision freed the Kochs and other plutocrats to deploy their billions toward controlling elected officials. To ensure that their tax cuts, regulatory cuts, and other interests were prioritized in every state, plutocrats founded the American Legislative Exchange Council [ALEC].

ALEC lets corporate and non-profit leaders help legislators write model laws. ALEC serves as a clearing house to push their interests into every state's laws.²⁵ They also develop bills to limit local authority. That keeps control at the state level. Then ALEC contributes to campaigns of legislators who support their bills, using its corporate members' donations.²⁶

23 William Ruger LinkedIn page, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/william-ruger-35155711/>

24 "Freedom in the 50 States", <https://www.freedominthe50states.org/> (Note the title does not say "United States." This reflects libertarian anti-federalism.)

²⁵ Sanches, Yvonne. and O'Dell, Rob. "What is ALEC?" USA Today, April 3, 2019.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2019/04/03/alec-american-legislative-exchange-council-model-bills-republican-conservative-devos-gingrich/3162357002/>

²⁶ "ALEC exposed", The Center for Media and Democracy, https://www.alecexposed.org/wiki/What_is_ALEC

New Hampshire Passes Shoot to Kill

At first, corporations and organizations of many stripes joined ALEC. The National Rifle Association was among them.²⁷ One of the bills pushed by ALEC is known as Stand Your Ground. It says people need not try to retreat if they feel their lives are in danger. They may shoot to kill. The NH legislature passed it in June 2011.²⁸ Efforts to repeal it since have failed.

In 2011, the nonprofit Color of Change began calling ALEC's corporate members to demand they drop out. They explained that ALEC "worked to suppress the Black vote." In February 2012, Trayvon Martin's murder was justified using the Stand-Your-Ground law. Many public-facing corporations fled ALEC.²⁹ But privately-owned Koch Industries and a hundred other groups remain: fossil fuel

²⁷ Graves, Linda. "The history of the NRA/ALEC gun agenda", PRWatch, December 15, 2012. <https://www.prwatch.org/news/2012/12/11908/backgrounder-history-nraalec-gun-agenda>

²⁸ McCormack, Kathy. "NH expands deadly force law", Associated Press, June 23, 2011. https://www.eagletribune.com/news/local_news/nh-expands-deadly-force-law/article_85e1a948-a5f4-594d-a92d-363bd43659d8.html

²⁹ "Major corporations leave ALEC as ColorOfChange organizing effort continues", Color of Change website, https://colorofchange.org/press_release/major-companies-leave-alec-colorofchange-organizin/

and energy companies, Big Pharma, insurance, railroads, and delivery interests.^{30 31}

The Koch Network Struggles

The Kochs' image plummeted. Their network donations helped win congressional and state races in 2012, but left Obama as President. By 2014, Senate Majority Leader Harvey Reid was attacking the Kochs almost daily from the Senate floor for "trying to buy America." Even the Republican National Committee warned that they were too reliant on a few large donors' influence.

The Kochs staged a donor network retreat in June 2014 at Laguna Beach. A mole taped the proceedings. It revealed that "Charles Koch's grand strategist" Richard Fink laid out a plan to donors to rebrand the Koch name.³²

Koch Rebranding at St. Anselm's

The rebranding campaign began. It tried to associate the Koch name with popular efforts to improve criminal justice and fight "crony capitalism." One such event took place at St. Anselm's Institute of Politics in Manchester, NH in November 2015. Koch Communications Director Steve

³⁰ "Who still funds ALEC?" Common Cause, June 11, 2020.

<https://www.commoncause.org/democracy-wire/who-still-funds-alec/>,

³¹ "List of members of the American Legislative Exchange Council (current)", Wikipedia,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_members_of_the_American_Legislative_Exchange_Council,

³² Mayer, Jane. *Dark Money*, Anchor Books, New York: NY. 2016, pp 437-440.

Lombardo presented *Beyond the Political Spin: How Koch is Driving Freedom, Fairness and Prosperity*.

An attending reporter quoted Charles Koch's complaints about "politicians beholden to corporations who get them elected." She asked whether candidates were not beholden to the Kochs. Lombardo answered, "Charles is frustrated that a lot of the candidates [he's donated to] have not done a lot of the things they said they were going to do." Lombardo then equated that frustration with what any voter might feel, whether giving \$5 or \$500 million.³³

Lombardo did not address whether candidates might feel more beholden to a \$500 million donor than a \$5 donor.

Free Staters Gaining Ground

While libertarian plutocrats were frustrated at the federal level, Free Staters were embedding themselves in New Hampshire government. After Free Staters moved, they were supposed to join with "liberty-minded" natives to gradually dismantle and privatize government. The FSP urged "movers" to keep a low profile, run for town office, and move on to the NH House without revealing their affiliation.

³³ Lindsay. "Koch communications officer delivers spin to St. Anselm's College", People for the American Way, November 13, 2015. <https://www.pfaw.org/blog-posts/koch-communications-officer-delivers-spin-to-st-anselms-college-activists-call-out-kochproblem/>

Greg Moore got a job as Chief of Staff for the NH House in 2011.³⁴ Jason Osborne first won election as a state representative in 2014. Jess Edwards won in 2016.

The FSP founded the Liberty Alliance as its activist organization once enough movers were in the state. The Liberty Alliance includes both movers and native ancaps. Alliance members hand out a "Gold Standard" document to legislators as they enter every NH House or Senate session. The sheet instructs them how to vote on key "liberty" bills. Each summer, legislators are graded according to how they voted.³⁵ Many of the graded votes are on bills similar to ALEC models.

In 2014 and again in 2018, NH legislators submitted bills "relative to identification of the source of legislative bill proposals" in attempts to make ALEC's influence public. Both bills were killed in committee.^{36 37} As a result, legislators can only guess which bills, or parts of bills, were designed by the special interests belonging to ALEC.

³⁴ Greg Moore, "Experience", LinkedIn, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/greg-moore-0b406550/>

³⁵ "Liberty Ratings", NH Liberty Alliance website, <https://www.nhliberty.org/liberty-ratings/>

³⁶ New Hampshire General Court bill search: 2014-
[https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2014/HB1207.pdf207](https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2014/HB1207.pdf207;); 2018
https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/legacy/bs2016/billText.aspx?sy=2018&id=449&txtFormat=pdf&v=current

³⁷ New Hampshire General Court bill search: 2014-
[https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2014/HB1207.pdf207](https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2014/HB1207.pdf207;); 2018
https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/legacy/bs2016/billText.aspx?sy=2018&id=449&txtFormat=pdf&v=current

In October 2023, NH House Majority Floor Leader Joe Sweeney [R-Salem] was honored by ALEC for his helpfulness to their cause.³⁸

Militias and Evangelicals Join the Fight against Democracy

During the Obama years, white supremacist and militia groups began to grow. While these groups began distinct from libertarians, shared goals brought them closer over time. Donald Trump's rhetoric swelled their numbers. Meanwhile, evangelical groups formed around anti-abortion action. They became more strident as gender issues came to the fore. All opposed the concept of a democracy that included people different from themselves.

In 2016, CNN replayed robocalls from white supremacists' American National SuperPAC, made to New Hampshire residents in support of Donald Trump.³⁹

Members of the Oath Keepers repeated the "birther" myth that Obama was born outside the US. Oath Keepers targets military, law enforcement and veterans, all of whom have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution. Oath Keepers

³⁸ House Majority Leader Sweeney honored by ALEC, InDepth NH, October 5, 2023. <https://indepthnh.org/2023/10/05/house-majority-floor-leader-sweeney-honored-by-american-legislative-exchange-council/>

³⁹ "White supremacists robocalling in NH", CNN, February 5, 2016. <https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2016/02/05/white-supremacists-robocalling-new-hampshire-griffin-dnt-lead.cnn>

swear never to disarm Americans or to "invade and subjugate any state that asserts its sovereignty."⁴⁰

After the 2016 election, members of the NH Oath Keepers began appearing as *ad hoc* groups monitoring Carroll County commission meetings⁴¹ and the Keene Armed Forces Career Center. That was just the beginning.

Chipping Away at Democracy's Foundation: An Educated Public

In 2016, Chris Sununu was elected governor of New Hampshire. Prior to his administration, the state's schools regularly ranked among the top three in the nation.

It was Sununu's near-loss in the 2016 NH Republican gubernatorial primary that put libertarians in charge of public education. The primary vote was split among four candidates. To everyone's surprise -- except, perhaps, the Liberty Alliance -- free-market evangelical Frank Edelblut came in a close second. He was only 800 votes behind Chris Sununu, scion of former governor John H. Sununu.⁴²

⁴⁰ "Orders we will not obey", Iowa Oathkeepers,

<https://iowaoathkeepers.wordpress.com/10-orders-we-will-not-obey/>

⁴¹ "Oath Keepers to attend county commission meetings", Conway Daily Sun, August 4, 2017. https://www.conwaydailysun.com/news/oath-keepers-to-attend-county-meetings/article_0540195b-4e23-55b6-80d2-3f53e2a26f15.html

⁴² Morris, Alice. "What was behind Frank Edelblut's surprise finish?", Concord Monitor, September 17, 2016.

<https://www.concordmonitor.com/how-did-Frank-Edelblut-squeak-out-an-unexpected-second-finish-in-NH-governor-race-4760735>

Governor Chris Sununu ensured Edelblut would not primary him a second time. He appointed Edelblut Commissioner of Education in 2017 and again in 2021,

Public education is essential to maintaining a democracy. Both the 1980 Libertarian Platform and today's Republican Liberty Caucus seek to abolish public education. Any political minority that wants their own or God's interests to rule over the interests of the majority needs to:

- stop schools from promoting democracy and equality
- gain state funding for religious education
- grow the pool of poorly educated people, who will work for less and be easily manipulated
- stop powerful teacher unions from voting against "Liberty" candidates and policies.

Suppose that minority could also convince parents to accept financial responsibility for their children's education? Giving every child a modest voucher instead of supporting entire schools would cut taxes dramatically.

Edelblut: Fox in the Henhouse

As Commissioner, Edelblut used the watchwords of "liberty" and "choice." But his main outcomes have been theocratic.

Edelblut has a Master of Divinity degree. He sent his children to theocratic Hillsdale College. Edelblut gave federal funds to start a charter school in Peterborough that

teaches Hillsdale's curriculum.⁴³ Edelblut has served on the board of the theocratic Patrick Henry College of Virginia since 2009. Patrick Henry College teaches that the Bible is literally true, that Eve was created from Adam's rib, and all people are descended from them. The college has brought legal suits to force tax support of religious schools, while explicitly banning any government oversight of such education.^{44 45}

Having home-schooled seven children, Edelblut was the perfect person to attack New Hampshire's public education system. If he could dismantle one of the nation's top-rated systems, other states could follow.⁴⁶

Plutocrats Expand Their Footprint

Meanwhile, the Koch network was enlarging its New Hampshire footprint. Governor Sununu appointed Drew Cline, director of the Josiah Bartlett Center think tank, to chair the NH Board of Education. In 2018, the Kochs

⁴³ Rooney, Jack. A new charter school opens its doors in Peterborough, Monadnock Ledger Transcript, November 12, 2021.

<https://www.ledgertranscript.com/A-New-Charter-School-to-Open-its-Doors-in-Peterborough-43504501>

⁴⁴ Patrick Henry College website, <https://www.phc.edu/statement-of-biblical-worldview>,

⁴⁵ Onosko, Joe and Frenkiewich, Jeff. "Can Edelblut's past help explain his destructive public education policies?" The Telegraph,

<https://www.nashuatelegraph.com/opinion/local-commentary/2022/06/25/can-edelbluts-past-help-explain-his-destructive-public-education-policies/>

⁴⁶ Moon, Jason. "In background and outlook, Edelblut an unconventional choice", NHPR, 1/29/2017.

<https://www.nhpr.org/education/2017-01-29/in-background-and-outlook-edelblut-an-unconventional-pick-for-n-h-s-top-education-post>

donated \$1 million to St. Anselm College's NH Institute of Politics.⁴⁷ Jason Sorens, already affiliated with Kochs' Mercatus Center, was hired by St. Anselm's in 2019 to direct their Center for Ethics in Society.⁴⁸

The plutocratic libertarian agenda was advancing federally, too. By 2018, Former Federal Reserve Chair Paul Volcker declared the US was moving toward a plutocracy.⁴⁹ The combination of tax cuts for the wealthiest and slow wage growth maximized disparity. The regulatory framework and institutions of democracy were fraying. President Trump appointed climate-change denier Scott Pruitt to run the Environmental Protection Authority,⁵⁰ for-profit schools investor Betsy DeVos⁵¹ to lead the Department of Education, and Republican mega-donor Louis de Joy to slow down postal service before the 2020 election.⁵²

⁴⁷ Craig, Em. Koch foundation gives \$1m for NHIOP 'research', The St. Anselm's Crier, November 28, 2018. <https://criernewsroom.com/news/2018/11/28/koch-foundation-gives-1m-for-nhiop-research/>

⁴⁸ Jason Sorens Linked In page, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jason-sorens/>

⁴⁹ "Paul Volcker sees a 'hell of a mess in every direction", NY Times, October 20, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/23/business/dealbook/paul-volcker-federal-reserve.html>,

⁵⁰ " Trump Picks Scott Pruitt, Climate Change Denialist, to Lead E.P.A.", NY Times, December 7, 2016. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/07/us/politics/scott-pruitt-epa-trump.html>

⁵¹ "Inside the financial holdings of billionaire Betsy DeVos", American Progress, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/inside-the-financial-holdings-of-billionaire-betsy-devos/>

⁵² "Trump admits he is undermining USPS to make it harder to vote by mail", The Guardian, August 13, 2020.

COVID and Extremism Explode

Then COVID hit. Mask and vaccine mandates and venue shutdowns sparked outrage in both Liberty Alliance and militia groups. Membership and militancy soared as the election approached. Free Stater Jeremy Kauffman boasted at a national Libertarian Party debate that Governor Sununu removed mandates because Free Staters protested outside his home. Kauffman claimed the FSP was the only libertarian group that had ever reached the third stage of the maxim, *"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."*⁵³

Amid the uproar against mandates came George Floyd's murder. Black Lives Matter [BLM] protests flared in New Hampshire. Dartmouth moved an anti-BLM speaker online because of threats by Antifa adherents.⁵⁴ A video reportedly showed armed drills of the Nationalist Social Club [NSC-131], wearing swastikas. Two NSC-131 members

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/aug/13/donald-trump-usps-post-office-election-funding>

⁵³ Jeremy Kaufman, "Is the free state project a better idea than the libertarian party", Reason Podcast, https://d2h6a3ly6ooodw.cloudfront.net/reason_tv_audio_8125285.mp3, minute 34:36.

⁵⁴ Fisher, Damien. "Dartmouth under fire after canceling a live event over AntiFa threats", January 22, 2022. <https://www.bostonherald.com/2022/01/22/fisher-dartmouth-under-fire-after-canceling-live-event-over-antifa-threats/>,

were arrested for draping a white supremacist banner over a highway in Dover.⁵⁵

That September, militant anti-vaxxers and ancap candidates won many Republican primaries. NH elections that fall set a record of 814,092 ballots cast.⁵⁶ Donald Trump and Don Bolduc failed to win at the top of the ticket.

Trump supporters were not happy. In a chilling video posted on Reddit, Proud Boy Founder Gavin McKinnis says, "We need more violence from Trump supporters. Choke a m*f*er. Choke a b*tch. Choke a tr*nnie."⁵⁷

That is not the message such groups put out in public. Like many extremist groups, the NH Proud Boys try to attract members through innocuous means. Their website claims to be a pro-Western, libertarian social club for men. After the election, NH Proud Boys showed up, masked, at Stop-the-Steal protests.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ Molmud, Jack. "NeoNazi leaders will not face penalties in New Hampshire attorney general charges", News Center Maine, June 7, 2023. <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/local/neo-nazi-leaders-will-not-face-penalties->

⁵⁶ "NH sets record", WMUR, November 6, 2020. <https://www.wmur.com/article/new-hampshire-sets-election-turnout-record-2020/34599609>

⁵⁷ "Founder of the Proud Boys explains what they're all about", Reddit, November, 2022. https://www.reddit.com/r/BadChoicesGoodStories/comments/yea8ft/founder_of_the_proud_boys_explains_what_theyre, accessed

⁵⁸ Proud Boys website, <https://proudboysnh.org/>,

Extremists' Masks Come Off

Five New Hampshire residents were charged for actions at the Capitol on January 6th.⁵⁹ The US Justice Department charged various Proud Boys and Oath Keepers with interfering with certification of the Electoral College vote and seditious conspiracy relating to January 6, 2021.^{60 61}

As part of the follow-up investigation, lawyers found names of nearly 300 New Hampshire residents on the membership rolls of the Oath Keepers. Like other fascist groups, Oath Keepers targeted military and law enforcement members and veterans into its ranks. Solicitations reminded recipients that they took an oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Many of the 300 expressed alarm to find themselves members of a group that supported violent civil disobedience and government takeover.⁶²

⁵⁹ Kisluk, Jessica. "Where 5 New Hampshire residents stand with cases connected to Jan. 6 attack", W
<https://www.wmur.com/article/5-new-hampshire-people-charged-capitol-riot/44716143#>

⁶⁰ Reilly, Ryan, Barnes, Daniel & Grumbach, Gary. "Oath keepers founder sentenced to 18 years for January 6 seditious conspiracy", NBC News, May 25, 2023. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/oath-keepers-founder-sentenced-18-years-jan-6-seditious-conspiracy-casrcna85852>,

⁶¹ Dreisbach, Tom. "Conspiracy Charges Bring Proud Boys' History Of Violence Into Spotlight", NPR, April 9, 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/09/985104612/conspiracy-charges-bring-proud-boys-history-of-violence-into-spotlight>

⁶² Bookman, Todd. "From law enforcement to a sitting state senator, nearly 300 New Hampshire names appear in Oath Keepers database", New HampshirePR, March 3, 2022, <https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2022-03-03/oath-keepers-new-hampshire-police-officers-militia>,

Theocrats and Birchers

Not all NH election deniers are Nazi-inspired. Members of the NH Patriot Hub want to return to the days of the Pilgrim's Christian theocracy in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.⁶³ ⁶⁴ The NH Patriot Hub hosts MAGA and American flag-waving events regularly in Pelham, Concord, and Plymouth.⁶⁵ Its leaders urge Christians to become actively involved in government and school boards, to support separation of races and of gender roles.⁶⁶

Some church goers have reported seeing members of militia groups at the podium, but more commonly they appear at school board meetings. The Constitution Party of New Hampshire [CPNH] runs a summer camp in Rindge and has a growing number of followers on social media. CPNH is affiliated with the John Birch Society. Charles Koch and his father supported the Society and its efforts to fight 1960's integration and equal voting rights.⁶⁷

⁶³ Cameron, Kirk. "The pilgrims' formula to save America," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwrXHUsNC6E&t=1s>

⁶⁴ "Massachusetts Bay Colony", Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Massachusetts-Bay-Colony>

⁶⁵ Patriot Hub Facebook group page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/484530105953298/>

⁶⁶ Patriot Hub website, <https://www.nhpatriothub.org/>,

⁶⁷ Graves, Lisa. How Koch-backed Birch Society at height of Its Attacks on MLK, Jan 28, 2016. <https://www.prwatch.org/news/2016/01/13017/how-charles-koch-backed-john-birch-society-height-its-attacks-martin-luther-king>



Image 3- Before entering a Nashua school board meeting. The man on the right is signaling "WP" for "white power" with three fingers up and thumb and forefinger together.

In the summer of 2021, NH Proud Boys began standing outside and at the back of the room at Nashua Board of Education meetings (*Image 3*). They taunted Board members as they walked to their cars. The Board included Raymond Guarino and Gloria Timmons, president of the Nashua chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.⁶⁸

The Rise of the Liberty Alliance

Although extremists failed to win at the top of the 2020 ticket, down ballot they swept NH elections. Nearly all ran as Republicans. For the first time in history, Liberty Alliance legislators dominated a state House Republican caucus.

⁶⁸ Houghton, Kimberly. Union Leader, July 29, 2021.
https://www.unionleader.com/news/local/nashua-school-officials-voice-concerns-over-proud-boy-presence/article_232c9519-849f-5d4c-a4a8-c587d86fe6a4.html

Records show Jason Osborne donated thousands to Republican House campaigns that year.⁶⁹ Rep. Osborne's donation recipients likely helped elect him House Majority Leader in January 2021, another libertarian first.⁷⁰

Liberty Alliance members dominating the NH House majority caucus dubbed themselves the "Freedom Caucus." They helped Commissioner Edelblut pass an Education Freedom Accounts [EFA] bill. It closely resembled model legislation from ALEC. The FSP, Liberty Alliance, and AFP all considered the EFA program a major victory and an example of their political clout. Dismantling public education would allow them to cut taxes, kneecap teacher unions, and better influence the next generation.

Free Staters Move into Key Positions

Greg Moore is a board member of FSP. He left his position as Chief of Staff at the NH House to become NH State

Image 4- AFP postcard in support of school vouchers.



⁶⁹ Money to Candidates from Jason Osborne, Open Secrets, <https://www.opensecrets.org/search?q=jason+osborne&type=donors>

⁷⁰ NH House candidates often run campaigns on a few thousand dollars.

Director of the AFP.^{71 72} With the NH House under Liberty Alliance control, the AFP stepped in to help move the ancap agenda forward in ALEC bills. AFP members knocked doors and sent postcards to NH voters in support of the EFA program.

In February 2021, the NH House heard the EFA voucher bill. In the largest participation ever seen by senior legislators, 3,198 voters signed in to oppose the bill. Only 600 signed in favor.⁷³ The bill was retained in committee.

New Hampshire's ALEC chairs were Representatives Ken Weyler⁷⁴ and Jordan Ulery.⁷⁵ ALEC chairs feed ALEC templates into state bills. Rep. Weyler leads the House Finance Committee 1. As such, he is responsible for the content of both of the state's budget bills, HB1 and HB2.

Rep. Weyler slid the EFA voucher bill into the omnibus FY 2022-23 budget. It passed. Governor Sununu quietly signed it into law "without the usual fanfare."⁷⁶

⁷¹ FSP board members, FSP website, <https://www.fsp.org/board>

⁷² Greg Moore, LinkedIn page, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/greg-moore-0b406550/>

⁷³ Historic turnout over HB 20", Reaching Higher NH, February 3, 2021. <https://reachinghighernh.org/2021/02/03/a-historic-turnout-over-hb-20-the-statewide-voucher-program-extends-public-hearing-to-next-week>

⁷⁴ Sexton, Adam. "New Hampshire representative resigns as state committee chair after sharing controversial document about COVID 19 vaccines", WMUR, October 6, 2021. <https://www.wmur.com/article/new-hampshire-rep-ken-weyler-resignation-committee/37887021>, accessed June 22, 2023

⁷⁵ "State Chairs", ALEC website, <https://alec.org/about/state-chairs/>,

⁷⁶ DiStaso, John. "Without fanfare Sununu signs \$135 billion state budget policy focused trailer bill into law", WMUR, June 25, 2021.

Former US Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, part of the ancap plutocrats' billionaire funding network⁷⁷, came to the state to celebrate the passage of NH's EFA law.⁷⁸

In January, the Koch-founded Cato Institute celebrated New Hampshire as the "Freest" State. The choice was made by FSP Founder Jason Sorens and a Vice President of the Charles Koch Institute, William Ruger. Governor Chris Sununu attended the ceremony (*Image 5*).



Image 5- Governor Sununu, VP Koch Industries William Ruger and FSP founder Jason Sorens at the Cato Institute, celebrating NH as the "Freest State."

The ancaps appeared to be on their way to achieving their takeover. In March 2022, thirteen NH Freedom Caucus members voted for an amendment to secede from the US. However, House Majority Leader Osborne and most Liberty Alliance members opposed it.⁷⁹ Their goal had moved

<https://www.wmur.com/article/without-fanfare-sununu-signs-dollar135-billion-state-budget-policy-focused-trailer-bill-into-law/36846302>

⁷⁷ Mayer, Jane. "The Investors", Dark Money, Anchor Books, New York: NY, p. 21

⁷⁸ "Two Trump cabinet secretaries promote school choice", Yahoo News, August 31, 2021 <https://money.yahoo.com/two-trump-cabinet-secretaries-promote-224800336.html>

⁷⁹ Ramer, Holly, Yahoo News, March 10, 2022. <https://news.yahoo.com/nh-lawmakers-firmly-reject-seceding-214351837.html>

beyond secession.⁸⁰ Their goal was to become the first state under ancap rule. New Hampshire could become Sorens' "wedge" for dismantling government in the rest of the nation.

New Hampshire Starts to Wake Up

As ancaps revealed their real intentions, the New Hampshire public began to wake up. In Croydon, after FSP members won two of three Selectboard seats, they dissolved the police department. Any law enforcement in Croydon requires a call to the state police. Then Free Staters convinced a handful of residents to cut the Croydon school budget in half during a poorly attended meeting in a snowstorm.⁸¹

The Croydon School Board, led by a Free Stater, wanted to replace the public school's teachers with a private, commercial option. She and NH Education Commissioner Edelblut recommended Prenda. This Arizona company provides online lessons. It instructs an adult "Guide" how to teach. To qualify, the Guide only needs to pass an interview with Prenda and a background check.⁸²

⁸⁰ Jeremy Kaufman, "Is the free state project a better idea than the libertarian party", Reason Podcast, https://d2h6a3ly6ooodw.cloudfront.net/reasontv_audio_8125285.mp3, minute 34:36.

⁸¹ MacQuarrie, Brian. "Free staters seek to undo New Hampshire government from within," Boston Globe, September 3, 2022. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/09/03/metro/free-staters-seek-undo-nh-government-within/>

⁸² Personal interview with Prenda staff.

Angry townspeople forced a referendum and overturned the budget cuts, but not before national press featured the story.^{83 84}

Soon after, Gunstock County Freedom Caucus members appointed two ancaps to the Gunstock Area Ski Commission. These commissioners wanted to cut government expenditures on the ski area, despite its making record profits for the county. The frustrated management team walked out *en masse*. The popular resort closed. Residents and skiers across New England complained furiously. More negative national press resulted. Management insisted on the removal of both commissioners before agreeing to return.⁸⁵

Meanwhile, NSC-131 numbers were growing. Members distributed white supremacist pamphlets. NSC-131 stickers appeared on lamp posts and signs. In May 2022, NSC-131 members threatened NH Representative Manny Espitia.⁸⁶ In May 2023, the US Attorney in New Hampshire added a

⁸³ Gibson, Sarah. "Croydon voters overturn school budget cut", May 8, 2022. https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2022-05-08/croydon-voters-overturn-school-budget-cut_<https://nymag.com/news/features/67285/>,

⁸⁴ "In NH libertarians' budget cuts and a small town battle to save public education" Forbes, May 17, 2022.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/petergreene/2022/05/17/in-new-hampshire-libertarians-budget-cuts-and-a-small-town-battle-to-save-public-education/>

⁸⁵ Associated Press. "Gunstock Mountain resort to reopen after commission overhaul", New HampshirePR, August 2, 2023 <https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2022-08-02/gunstock-mountain-resort-to-reopen-after-commission-overhaul>,

⁸⁶ Confirmed by phone with Mr. Espitia.

unit to fight hate crimes and terrorism.⁸⁷ That summer, NSC-131 protested with Nazi salutes at a cafe (*Image 6*).



Image 6 - Left, photo from the NSC-131 Telegram channel outside the Teetotaler Cafe, Concord 6-18-2023; right, an NSC sticker on a street sign

Awareness Arouses Pushback

With heightened media coverage, public alarm at extremism grew. Belknap County citizens formed a PAC to fight the re-election of the extremists who interfered with their county ski area.⁸⁸ Granite State Matters distributed anti-extremist signs statewide. Concerned citizens wrote over 100,000 personally addressed postcards urging voters to reject extremism.

That fall, Jason Sorens lost a local election for the Amherst Planning Board. Free Staters and Liberty Alliance members

⁸⁷ Callery, Tim. US attorney in NH adds prosecutors on hate crimes, domestic terrorism, WMUR, May, 30,2023. <https://www.wmur.com/article/us-attorney-nh-hate-crimes-domestic-terrorism/44044182>

⁸⁸ Gokee, Amanda. "After voters wake up to 'extremism' a new Belknap County delegation takes shape" New Hampshire Bulletin, November 11, 2022. <https://newhampshirebulletin.com/2022/11/18/after-voters-wake-up-to-extremism-a-new-belknap-county-delegation-takes-shape/>

lost their dominance in the Republican caucus. Republicans nearly lost the majority in the House.

Where will democracy head from here?

After the 2022 elections, according to House members, Majority Leader and FSP member Jason Osborne instructed the House Freedom Caucus to keep a low profile. They should wait until future sessions, when they again have the numbers they need. Then they could renew efforts to slash state government.

Now, more FSP activity takes place under cover. FSP member Kevin Haley recruits new movers (*Image 7*), helps manage events, and works in "anonymous digital activism."

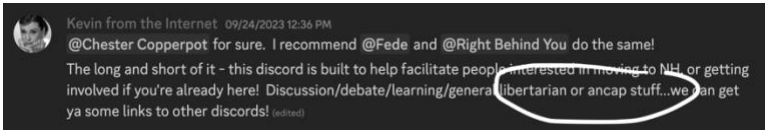


Image 7- Post from Free State Discord moderator who runs the server recruiting people to move to New Hampshire to join the libertarian/ancap movement.

On his FSP Discord Channel,⁸⁹ Haley warns that any negativity around the Free-State Project or moving to New Hampshire will result in banning from the channel.

Presidential Candidates Seek FSP Favor

FSP's symbol is the porcupine. Its annual Porcupine Festival, Porcfest, attracts over 2,000 attendees from around the

⁸⁹ Free State Project, Discord server, <https://discord.com/channels/547451199381569538/884437398203809833>

world. Despite increasing opposition to the FSP, three presidential hopefuls spoke at Porcfest in June 2023: Marianne Williamson, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Robert Kennedy, Jr.⁹⁰

Another Porcfest speaker was Jeremy Kaufman, the Free State board member⁹¹ who ran for a US Senate seat as a Libertarian. He revealed to the Boston Globe, earlier:

My hope would be that you can simply make [New Hampshire] unattractive enough [to non-FSPers] that if you want there to be a giant welfare state, what are you doing here?⁹²

Jason Sorens, still an FSP board member, also spoke at Porcfest. Sorens has recanted his 2001 belief that Free Staters need to secede to form their ancap utopia.^{93 94} Instead, ancap seems poised to supersede democracy.

Ancap "agorism" was on full display at Porcfest 2023. Cannabis and other illegal merchandise were common

⁹⁰ Porcfest online brochure, <https://porcfest.com/about/speakers/>,

⁹¹ FSP board members, FSP website, <https://www.fsp.org/board>

⁹² MacQuarrie, Brian. "Free staters seek to undo New Hampshire government from within," Boston Globe, September 3, 2022. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/09/03/metro/free-staters-seek-undo-nh-government-within/>

⁹³ (Sorens still coauthors the annual Mercatus/Cato Institute publication *Freedom in the 50 States*.⁹³ However, Sorens left St. Anselm's. He is joining William Ruger at the libertarian American Institute for Economics Research [AIER]. Ruger left his position as VP of Research for the Charles Koch Institute to become president of AIER.)

⁹⁴ William Ruger LinkedIn page, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/william-ruger-35155711/>

(Image 8.) One booth reportedly was 3D-printing an untraceable-gun.⁹⁵



Tables at PorcFest offered a host of illegal products for sale. Agorists believe people can make any consensual exchanges of legal or illegal goods or services, without reporting profits or paying taxes.

Agorism is a plank in the FSP-run Libertarian Party of NH.⁹⁶ It denies the validity of NH laws.

Getting Rid of Laws Altogether

In September 2023, Free Stater and NH Representative Jason Gerhard [R, Merrimack-25] moved the ancap agenda one step closer. He proposed a bill to sunset all NH laws (Image 9).

⁹⁵ Quinn, Annalisa. "These libertarians want to take over New Hampshire. But first, a clothing-optional gun show", Boston Globe, August 9, 2023. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/08/09/magazine/a-week-inside-the-libertarian-porcfeast-in-new-hampshire/>

⁹⁶ 2023 Libertarian Party of NH Platform, https://lphn.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/12/1671068653457_Platform-Final-Report.pdf,



Image 8: Rep. Gerhard's confirmation of bill submitted to sunset all NH laws

Free State Leaders in Plain Sight

Few NH residents realize the depth of Free State control. Free Staters lead the NH House of Representatives, the NH Liberty Alliance, the NH AFP, the Hillsborough County Moms for Liberty, as well as the LPNH and its militant Mises Caucus. Before last year's pushback, they also dominated Select Boards in Grafton and Croydon, as well as the Gunstock County Commission.

Extremism Feeds On Attention

People who have left extremist groups describe how members became more extreme over time. Jason Van Tatenhove, formerly of the Oath Keepers, left when the leader began denying the Holocaust.⁹⁷ Joe Bishop-Henchman, chair of the Libertarian National Committee, left after the board accepted violent and racist

⁹⁷ Smith, John L. "Bundy ranch standoff provided a warning of what was to come", Nevada Independent, <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/bundy-ranch-standoff-provided-a-warning-of-what-was-to-come>

proclamations. At least some of those were in New Hampshire.⁹⁸

Dennis Pratt, a member of the LPNH's judicial committee,⁹⁹ boasted to a New York Sun reporter in September, 2022:

"We are the most libertarian, 'based'¹⁰⁰ organization in the country. We get pushback quite a bit from the Libertarian Party itself."

Militant members of the LPNH, led by FSP board chair Carla Gericke, have formed a radical Mises Caucus. Gericke is the former executive director of FSP and former organizer of Porcfest. The NH Mises Caucus Twitter/X account promised to take any steps necessary to gain a Granite State libertarian homeland (*Image 10*).

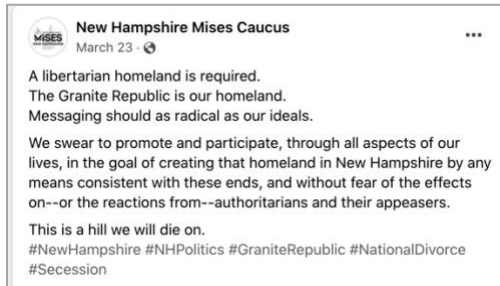


Image 9- Tweet from the NH Mises Caucus of the Libertarian Party

⁹⁸ Timmins, Annemarie. "The unraveling of the libertarian party of NH", June 22, 2021. <https://newhampshirebulletin.com/2021/06/22/the-unraveling-of-the-libertarian-party-of-new-hampshire/>

⁹⁹ Judicial committee members, LPNH website, <https://lpth.org/about/committees/>

¹⁰⁰ "Based" is slang meaning the opposite of "woke."

On Martin Luther King Day 2022, LPNH tweeted that Blacks are not owed reparations, but are "in debt" to the US because they "receive special federal funding due to race and are first-in-line for every college and every job." The tweeters claimed their "mean" tweets attracted thousands of new Twitter followers.

Threats came next. On a Jan 6 photo of members of Congress hiding, the NHLP account tweeted, "Politicians should have to fear for their lives on a daily basis." Free Staters then joined in (*Image 11*).



Image 10- Free state member tweet, following LPNH threat to politicians

Moms for Liberty is another group that drifted to extremism.

Florida, Moms for Liberty and the FSP



Image 11- Moms for Liberty co-founder Bridget Ziegler, with husband Florida Republican Party Chair, Christian Ziegler, and Governor Ron DeSantis

Moms for Liberty was founded by three women in Florida, including Bridget Ziegler. Bridget's husband is Christian Ziegler, Chair of the Florida Republican Party (*Image 12*).

New Hampshire is one of the states targeted by Moms for Liberty. It has chapters in Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties. Rachel Goldsmith, former executive director of the FSP, chairs the Hillsborough County Moms for Liberty.

Moms for Liberty seeks to incite the public against teachers, school boards, and unions. The group started protesting mask mandates, but soon found that the more extremist it became, the more attention it gained. It promoted book bans and hosted former Secretary of Education DeVos calling for the closure of the US Department of Education. NH Moms for Liberty offered a \$500 bounty against teachers. The bounty incentivizes people to accuse teachers of disobeying a vague ALEC-model law that limits discussions of racism and discrimination.¹⁰¹

Moms for Liberty is powerful because it combines the interests of three sectors: the Free State and plutocratic ancaps dismantling public education; the militia groups fighting "woke" culture; and the evangelicals and theocrats rewriting history to revive conservative values. This coalition encourages divisiveness and distrust of professionals dedicated to helping children. It also promotes the ancap idea that public education is not a right, but an infringement on rights. This sets the stage for substituting small vouchers in place of universal education.

¹⁰¹ Farrish, Terry. "Two veteran nh teachers and a free stater talk education, InDepth NH, August 4, 2022. <https://indepthnh.org/2022/08/04/two-veteran-n-h-teachers-and-a-free-stater-talk-education/>

The Latest AFP & FSP Targets

Greg Moore turned NH AFP attention in another direction over the summer. New Hampshire is the last state in New England to outlaw recreational marijuana. Most residents favor cannabis legalization. NH ancaps see the issue as a means to attract

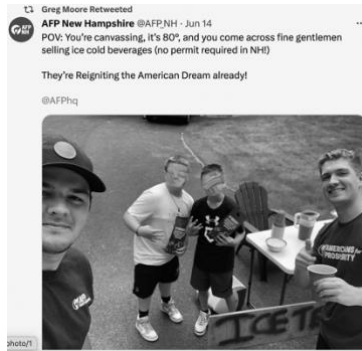


Image 12- NH AFP canvassers

youth. Young Americans for Liberty [YAL] is a Koch-funded group with over 1 million followers nationwide. YAL and the AFP are working to get “liberty legislators” elected in New Hampshire, based on legalizing cannabis (*Image 13*).¹⁰²

AFP NH telemarketers have also been calling NH voters about cannabis since this Spring. In June, they advertised for a Grassroots Engagement Manager. This person will be in charge of people hired for \$22 per hour by an AFP-funded group called Canvass America.¹⁰³ Canvass America sends a postcard to each voter after speaking with them..¹⁰⁴

Meanwhile, the Free State Project has recruited Maine Senator Eric Brakey to be its new director. Brakey hopes to

¹⁰² Young Americans for Liberty NH website, <https://yaliberty.org/nh/>

¹⁰³ Canvass America donors, Open Secrets, <https://www.opensecrets.org/campaign-expenditures/vendor?cycle=2020&vendor=Canvass+America>,

¹⁰⁴ Canvass America website, <https://www.canvassamerica.com/our-approach>,

expand FSP wins within the state. William Ruger has become president and Jason Sorens, senior fellow, at the American Institute of Economics Research, in MA. From there, they hope to expand libertarianism across the US.

Prior to the 2024 NH Presidential primary, AFP Action blanketed conservative NH voters with anti-Trump postcards. (*image 14*).¹⁰⁵ They chose Nikki Haley as their candidate.

Image 13- AFP postcard to New Hampshire voters



Haley did not prevail. Yet without a cap on election spending, Plutocrats bend many races their way. Emily Seidel, President of the Kochs' AFP, quantified their impact. She said the AFP has won 82% of the campaigns it supports from the primary stage on.¹⁰⁶

A study by professors at the University of Alberta and Emory University and by a researcher at Competition Economics affirms Seidel's claim. The study concludes:

¹⁰⁵ Based on reports from NH residents contacted by the AFP or monitoring AFP communications.

¹⁰⁶ Kotch, Alex. "Republicans make big advances thanks to citizens united", The American Prospect, September 10, 2014. <https://prospect.org/power/republicans-make-big-advances-thanks-citizens-united/>

Citizens United is associated with an increase in Republican election probabilities in state House races of approximately four percentage points overall...¹⁰⁷

Conclusion

New Hampshire's democracy is under attack. Successful takeover here could domino to other states. The 2024 election will focus on the Presidential race, but state elections are crucial. Militia groups will show up at the polls. Plutocrats will fund disinformation to muddy any outcome not to their liking. If our democracy's foundation were still strong, those attacks would fail, as they have done so far. But ancaps are undermining democracy's foundations from below as others attack from above.

NH ancaps' goal now is to regain control of the House Republican caucus. They are also targeting county commissions, school districts, and local select boards.

Libertarians Are Not Ultra-Conservatives

Readers of this report should understand clearly that libertarians are not ultra-conservatives. They intend to destroy American democracy.

¹⁰⁷ Klumpp, Tilman, Mialon, Hugo and Williams, Michael. "The Business of American Democracy: Citizens United, Independent Spending, and Elections", University of Alberta, October, 2015.
<https://sites.ualberta.ca/~klumpp/docs/cu.pdf>

If Election Outcomes Are Unclear

If national election results lie in question, the situation could become far worse. Militia and theocratic groups will join forces with ancaps.

The path from anarchy to dictatorship is short. People will accept secure authoritarianism over violence and chaos. Germany became a dictatorship and ended civil liberties, all in 1933. To forestall takeover by drug lords, President Obrado put the military in charge of police forces in Mexico this year. NH refugees from the Dominican Republic and Peru report that gangs at home have become so powerful, they shoot people who venture out, for their cellphones.

Can NH Unite to Fight Extremism?

If residents want New Hampshire to continue to be *their* home, they must wake up. They must recognize that their way of life is at risk.

Can large-government progressives and small-government conservatives collaborate? If not, they will find themselves ruled by extremists who believe in neither.

Those attacking democracy have enormous power, resources, and reach. But volunteers often hold their own when defending their homes and their way of life. Voters demonstrated this in Croydon when they voted down the Free-State agenda and candidates. If the public does save

democracy here, New Hampshire can serve as a model for other beleaguered states.

Are the Media Brave Enough to Help?

Will the press and social media help raise the alarm? Or are they afraid to investigate wealthy anarcho-capitalists with the same vigor as violent militias? Will they have the insight to portray the pain, destruction and violence that accompanies anarchy and authoritarianism? Will they reveal the process plutocrats are using to convince the naive and gullible to let them profiteer and pollute?

Extremists Are a Tiny Minority

Elections replace NH legislature, executive council, and governor every two years. The state has 900,000 registered voters. Even 5,000 Free Staters and ten times as many Liberty Alliance members are only a tiny minority.

3 Steps to Save Democracy

Voters can keep anti-democracy candidates out of office. The first challenge is to identify them. The second step is to ensure other candidates oppose them. The remaining step is for people to vote in every town, primary, special, and general election as if their own and their families' futures depend upon it. Because they do.

Please pass this booklet on.

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About the author

Jeanne Dietsch is a former New Hampshire Senator and mother of two. Her professional career was as an entrepreneur. Her companies included an intelligent robotics manufacturer and a market research firm. She was also a columnist for *IEEE Robotics and Automation* magazine. She earned a Master's in Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Jeanne founded Granite State Matters in October 2021, to help busy people keep up with happenings in New Hampshire that affect their lives and livelihoods.