

New Hampshire US Senate 2026

THE ISSUES

CHRIS
PAPPAS

DEMOCRAT



JOHN
SUNUNU

REPUBLICAN



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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Legal. “I remain committed to...the right to safe and legal abortion.” Sponsored a bill prohibiting government restrictions on abortion access in 2021. Sponsored a bill protecting access to out-of-state abortion services.	Likely ban. “I’m pro-life .” Says abortion is a state issue: “I wouldn’t do anything at the federal level to undermine” the NH law, which allows abortions up to 24 weeks. In 2006, voted to make it a federal crime to take a minor across state lines for an abortion. In 2003, voted against an amendment affirming that Roe v. Wade should not be overturned.
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	Yes. Would “invest in lower-cost, clean energy solutions.” Voted for \$369 billion in clean energy investments. Voted to increase funding for climate resilience. “It is critical that Congress develop and pass thoughtful, innovative solutions to the climate crisis before it’s too late.”	Likely no. Supports increasing domestic oil and gas production. “We need to protect [U.S.] energy dominance.” Called the Inflation Reduction Act, with \$369 billion in climate and clean energy funding, “reckless spending.” Would expand nuclear energy production in New Hampshire.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	Sponsored a bill to fund small and mid-size police departments for training and recruitment. Introduced a bill to fund “substance use treatment and prevention.” In 2021, voted to ban racial profiling and no-knock warrants, require body cameras, and limit qualified immunity .	Unclear. In 2005, introduced a bill to reauthorize a federal anti-terrorism law after amending it to include “essential safeguards for the privacy and civil liberty rights of law-abiding Americans.” In 2026, highlighted this effort “to reform surveillance laws to protect ordinary Americans.”
ECONOMY Cut or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Increase. Says the Big Beautiful Bill’s cuts to government programs were “completely backwards.” Voted against a bill that cut SNAP benefits. Introduced a bill that would ban surveillance pricing to raise food prices. “There’s a role for the government to play to provide...investments in the middle class.”	Cut. Supports cuts to government programs in the Big Beautiful Bill. Says certain “federal requirements” for housing funds “aren’t necessary” in New Hampshire. Wants decreased federal control of funding: “Let New Hampshire decide how to invest.”
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Likely no. Says he “has stood firm” against efforts “to dismantle public education.” “I’ll keep fighting for strong public schools.”	Yes. Supports New Hampshire’s school voucher program , which allows parents, regardless of income, to use tax dollars to send children to private schools. “It puts money and power in the hands of the parent” and “drives...competition.”
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Tighten. Voted to block mining upstream from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Introduced a bill to “hold polluters accountable” for PFAS contamination. “No industry should be given a free pass to poison our water.” Supports protecting the White Mountain National Forest.	Mostly tighten. Supports “permitting reform” to expedite construction of electric transmission lines and gas pipelines. In 2007, sponsored a bill to “establish national pollutant tonnage limitations.” In 2006, introduced a bill to expand protected wilderness in the White Mountain national forests.

ISSUES	PAPPAS (D)	SUNUNU (R)
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Tighten. Voted to expand background checks and encouraging states to pass red flag laws. Supports “the right to bear arms” and getting “dangerous weapons out of the wrong hands.” Sponsored a bill requiring safe gun storage. In 2021, sponsored a bill banning assault weapons.	Loosen. Supports a right to concealed carry across state lines. Said such permits “should be treated the same way as driver’s licenses.” “I will always support our Second Amendment rights.”
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Increase. Opposes cuts to Medicaid and Medicare. Would make Affordable Care Act premium subsidy tax credits permanent. Introduced a bill to “ expand rural telehealth access.” Voted to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices and cap insulin at \$35. “Everyone deserves affordable health care.”	Mostly decrease. Supports cuts to Medicaid and the program’s new work requirements . Says Affordable Care Act premium subsidies were “meant to expire.” Would decrease federal regulations in healthcare. “We need more competition .” “ Everyone should have access to a health savings account .”
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	Supports increased enforcement on those who “cross the border illegally and commit serious crimes.” In 2021, sponsored a bill to protect pathways to legal status for Dreamers , including DACA recipients. Introduced a bill “to redirect ICE’s \$75 billion slush fund” to fund local police. Supports “commonsense guardrails for ICE.”	“If people are here illegally , committed crimes, they should be deported.” Supports programs “to allow people to come here legally” and would “work to fix those programs.” “We need seasonal workers.” Says under the current administration, “we’ve got stability and security on the border.” Criticizes birthright citizenship.
IRAN WAR Support the war in Iran?	No. Says the war in Iran “is a war of choice, with no plan for how to win it or conclude it.” Voted five times to require Congressional authorization for military action in Iran. Says the “power to wage war” should not be “a unilateral decision to be made by the President.” Supports keeping “a lid on [Iran’s] nuclear program.”	Mixed. Regarding the war with Iran, “If you’re asking me if I would have done this, no.... But...in the long run, our national security interests...will have been supported.” Says presidents “have the right to defend what they see as our national security interests.” “ Iran can’t have a nuclear weapon.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	Easier. Sponsored a bill to restore federal employees’ collective bargaining rights. In 2021 sponsored a bill to expand employees’ organizing and collective bargaining rights.	No position found.
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Expand. Sponsored a bill banning discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Voted for federal recognition of same-sex marriages. Voted against banning transgender students from women’s sports. Sponsored a bill to restore funding for an LGBTQ+ crisis hotline.	Mixed. Supports a U.S. Supreme Court ruling upholding bans on transgender athletes in women and girls’ sports. In 2004, voted against a proposed constitutional amendment declaring marriage “shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman.” Said the states should decide.
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	Yes. Would “Will continue to lead the fight to... secure...higher wages.” In 2019, voted to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025.	Unclear. In 2005 opposed raising the federal minimum : “When you raise the minimum wage you are pricing some workers out of the market.”
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Raise. Voted against extending Trump’s 2017 tax cuts, which included a break for the very wealthy and the largest one-time cut in the corporate tax rate. Said it “gave tax giveaways to the wealthiest ...and biggest corporations.”	Lower. Supports extending Trump’s 2017 tax cuts, which included a break for the very wealthy and the largest one-time cut in the corporate tax rate. Says “voting against” the extension “was voting for the biggest tax increase in American history.”
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Easier. Voted three times against requiring proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote in a federal election. Opposes NH’s voter ID law , which excludes student IDs as acceptable IDs. “I remain committed to safeguarding our free and fair elections.”	Harder. Supports requiring proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote in a federal election. “The federal government absolutely has powers with respect to federal elections.” Supports a voter ID bill: “ Attach it to every critical piece of legislation.... Don’t stop until you get it done.”

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