

## Who We Are

**The Coalition of NH Taxpayers** is the largest taxpayer advocacy organization in this state.

Our **Board of Directors** is made up of a broad array of people, some of whom have served in office, or even held a position in state, municipal, or school government.

Quite a few of our Directors were once that lone voice at a school district or annual town meeting; the person who asked the right questions at that public meeting, shedding light on the process so other taxpayers could be informed.

We have Directors who specialize in Constitutional issues, taxes, property rights, land use, budgets, right to know, litigation, education, or any number of government issues.

Our members are often activists or taxpayers who have found out how effective working with CNHT can be.

**CNHT's** Board of Directors tries to attract people to our Board who have shown they are dedicated to keeping our state's citizens free from the burden of unnecessary taxation, regulation and an oppressive judiciary.

We are all volunteers. Some have as much as 10 to 15 years involvement in municipal government. Some of us are new and have been through a handful of election cycles. But we all combine our efforts, experience, and knowledge to help New Hampshire taxpayers understand how they can be effective in being involved in what goes on in their school or municipality.

You probably have not seen **CNHT** in the news very often. That is no accident. We choose to work quietly and effectively with our members and taxpayer activists.

## What We Do

**CNHT** can only help activists work to keep government small and efficient. We can not come to your town or school and fight for you. We serve as a source of information and we are the contact through which the taxpayer can get in touch with officials or individuals who can help them.

We have "institutional knowledge" of many towns or schools past political battles, the local officials who are running the school or municipality, and similar issues which have occurred in other communities. We keep records of what activists learned from those events and attempt to formulate plans for meeting the next set of challenges.

With the help of **CNHT** you can avoid wasting time researching which statutes apply to your situation.

We can help you draft a petition, letter to the editor, warrant article, or even a pro se court case. **CNHT** puts on workshops about budget committees, assessments, and the right-to-know law, to name a few.

We are often the first to learn about changing events in municipal government because we have friends and members on many different boards and committees.

One of the most important and effective things we do is something that has evolved with our growing list of interested contacts and that is answering taxpayer questions very rapidly by email. We simply forward your question to any of our Directors who specialize in your topic and return an answer as fast as possible.

School boards, selectmen, planning and zoning board members have associations, so why shouldn't New Hampshire taxpayers?

## The NH Constitution

**Part I Article 8: Accountability of Magistrates and Officers; Public's Right to Know** - All power residing originally in, and being derived from, the people, all the magistrates and officers of government are their substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to them. Government, therefore should be open, accessible, accountable, and responsive. To that end, the public right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted.

**Relevant State Statute: RSA 91-A:1 Preamble** - Openness in the conduct of public business is essential to a democratic society. The purpose of this chapter is to ensure both the greater possible public access to the actions, discussion, and records of all public bodies, and their accountability to the people.

**Part I Article 12: Protection and Taxation Reciprocal** - Every member of the community has a right to be protected by it, in the enjoyment of his life, liberty and property; he is therefore bound to contribute his share in the expense of such protection, and to yield his personal service when necessary. But no part of a man's property shall be taken from him, or applied to public uses, without his own consent or that of the representative body of the people. Nor are the inhabitants of the state controllable by any other laws than those to which they, or their representative body, have given their consent.

**Relevant State Statutes:  
RSAs 71 through 90  
Municipal Government 31 through 53e  
Schools 186 through 200-L**

### Legal

To find past court decisions see "**The NH Reports**". For a working knowledge of how state laws are interpreted by the courts, see: "**NH Practice and Procedure**". This material and hardbound copies of the State Statutes or RSAs can be found at the State Supreme Court Library in Concord, NH.