

Questions for State Candidates

Election season provides a great opportunity to listen to candidates and ask questions.

Questions Based on Personal Experience

The best questions address issues that are important to you and are based on personal experience. The following examples show how personal experience can help frame candidate questions.

- *I am in my seventies and had to stop working because of my health. My housing costs have increased to the point that I worry about losing my housing. What is your plan that would help voters like me and stabilize housing costs in New Hampshire?*
- *My spouse has dementia. I have been the primary caregiver for five years and it is getting harder each day. Do you have any personal experience taking care of a family member and what policies would you put in place to support caregivers like me?*

Questions Based on NH AHA Priorities: Age-Friendly Communities, Caregiver Support, Workforce, Transportation, Diversity and Ageism

Economic Stability and Housing

Older adults are the fastest growing homeless population. In New Hampshire, we are seeing skyrocketing housing costs and a more than 50% increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023. What are your plans to ensure older individuals have access to safe, affordable housing?

Resources:

- businessnhmagazine.com/article/the-high-cost-of-living-in-nh
- aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/9ac2d2a7e8c360b4e75932b96f59a20b/addressing-older-adult-homelessness.pdf

Caregiving

Statistics show that there are approximately 170,000 caregivers in New Hampshire providing 2.3 billion in unpaid care that is physically, emotionally and financially burdensome. How would your policies provide much needed support to caregivers?

Resources:

aarp.org/caregiving/financial-legal/info-2023/unpaid-caregivers-provide-billions-in-care.html

Long Term Supports and Services

Most Granite Staters want to receive long term services and supports in their community and not in nursing facilities. Generally, Medicaid Home and Community Based Services are less costly than nursing facility care. What programs and services would you champion to ensure individuals have a choice in where and how to receive long term supports and services?

Resources:

nhfpi.org/resource/long-term-services-and-supports-in-new-hampshire-a-review-of-the-states-medicaid-funding-for-older-adults-and-adults-with-physical-disabilities

Workforce Shortage

The 2022 report “Giving Care: A Strategic Plan” published by the New Hampshire Endowment for Health projects that New Hampshire’s health care labor shortage, which some have called a catastrophic problem, will worsen if we do not act. What are your ideas to attract, grow, and retain the healthcare workforce in New Hampshire?

Resources:

healthforcenh.org/about

Transportation

More than 250,000 people in NH are aged 65 or older and approximately 20% of this population do not drive and have limited options to get to groceries or go to medical appointments. As New Hampshire ages, this problem will grow. Can you commit to meaningful state investment to make New Hampshire more mobile?

Resources:

dot.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt811/files/inline-documents/who-needs-transportation-a-snapshot-of-transit-need-in-new-hampshire.pdf

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

New Hampshire Stay, Work, Play has made the commitment to “making the state a more welcoming, inclusive, and just place for people of color via both public policy advocacy and community conversations.” Will you support this commitment and if so, how will it be reflected in your policies?

Resources:

nhcje.org/resources

nebhe.org/wp-content/uploads/New-Hampshire-DEI-Fact-Sheet.pdf

Information for Federal Elections

states.aarp.org/maine/election-questions
aarp.org/politics-society/government-elections