

To: NH Democrats c/o Chairman Ray Buckley

Date: November 12, 2021

Re: Rules Committee Constitutional Amendments, Dissenting Opinion

Having voted with the minority, as members of the Rules Committee, we formally request that this opinion be posted by the NHDP Chair, or designee, as provided under Section E, Electioneering of the Proposed Rules for the 2021 NH Democratic Party Midterm Convention.

In the past, the Rules Committee members have attempted to come to consensus relating to proposed amendments to the Constitution. In 2021, the Rules Committee received more than 65 proposed amendments to the Constitution, several of which were decided on 4 to 3 votes.

In particular, the Rules Committee received several amendments relating to expanding the representation of Town Chairs on the NHDP State Committee. In the end, an amendment was adopted that added only one town chair per county to the state committee. We firmly believe, and voted with two other Rules Committee members, for more expansive amendments that would have added more town chairs to the committee. In addition, while we were in favor of some middle ground here, we are fully supportive of providing any town chair with a seat on the NHDP State Committee and provide the following justification:

Town chairs are the heart and soul of the democratic party in New Hampshire. They are the connection to the grassroots. They volunteer their time to support candidates who boldly step up to run for office from the bottom of our ticket, in our cities and towns, to the highest offices at the top of the ticket. Town chairs support and grow the grassroots in their communities through activities on the town committees bringing important volunteers to the table. Town chairs know their cities and towns and are most closely connected to the voters, understand what is important to voters and the most effective messaging and communication strategies integral to growing our party.

The 2020 elections caused us to lose majorities in the NH House, the NH Senate, the Executive Council and the Governor's seat in advance of the 10-year redistricting; the effects of the 2020 election will be with us for another 10 years.

Some of the conversations during the Rules Committee meetings on the issues of expanding town chair representation on the state committee and other issues, like ending proxy voting, and ensuring access and ableism to party meetings were troubling and do not represent my opinions and values, nor do we suspect many in our party.

We must bring more voices into the fold. We fully understand that being a member of the state committee is not the will of all town chairs. However, if town chairs want to be at the table, we should welcome them with open arms and value their experience and perspectives to reach our ultimate goal of winning elections from the bottom of the ticket to the top.

Signed: Hon. Mindi Messmer, Representative Tim Smith, and Hon. Liz McConnell