

Know Before You Go: NH-01 District Primer

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In the last election, Democrat Carol Shea-Porter won this district by only 5,000 votes (1%).

That's too close! With your help, we're going to keep this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

About the Democratic Candidate

Introduction: Democrat **Chris Pappas** began his public service career as a State Representative in 2002, serving two terms, and was subsequently elected to two terms as the Treasurer of Hillsborough County. Since 2013, Pappas has represented District 4 on the New Hampshire Executive Council and is the co-owner of his family's business, Puritan Backroom Restaurant. Born and raised in Manchester, he graduated from Harvard College in 2002 before returning to NH to help run the Puritan. Pappas is running to fill the seat held by retiring Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter.

Issues: Pappas supports universal healthcare, paid family leave, campaign finance reform, common sense gun control, and a \$15 minimum wage. As a member of the NH Executive Council, Pappas reversed the decision to defund family planning services, secured investments for clean energy in NH, and implemented a Medicaid expansion to fight the opioid epidemic and insure more New Hampshire residents than ever before.

Recent Elections: Since 2006, New Hampshire's first district has swung between Democratic and Republican representatives. The win margin in the district is typically small and has decreased in recent years. Pappas won as the Democratic nominee in the primary in September 2018 with 17,212 votes. In the same primary, the Republican challenger, Eddie Edwards, received 16,091 votes.

Strengths: Pappas is a life-long resident of the district and runs a family-owned small business in Manchester. He has a proven track record of success in the public sector on the New Hampshire Executive Council, including addressing infrastructure issues and addressing the opioid epidemic. He has numerous high-profile endorsements, such as those from Senators Shaheen and Hassan, as well as from several local business leaders.

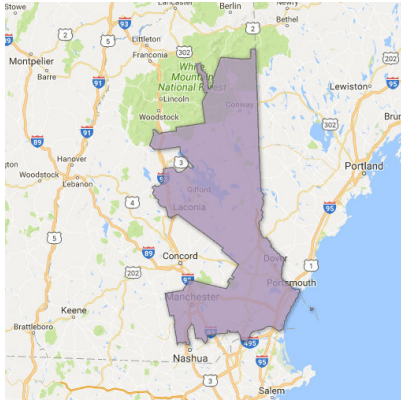
About the Republican Candidate

Introduction: Republican **Eddie Edwards** is the former chief of police of South Hampton. A Navy veteran and graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, Edwards spent a career in law enforcement before moving to the private sector to help small businesses reduce regulation. He is currently on the board of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Hampshire, helping to fight opioid abuse, and serves as the chairman of the Governor's Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice. If elected, Edwards would be the first black Congressman elected in NH.

Issues: A strong proponent of gun rights, Edwards would oppose legislation for stricter federal gun control. He favors strengthening immigration laws. Although he wants to repeal and replace Obamacare, he has not proposed a replacement. He also wants to cut the federal corporate tax rate, although he has no idea how to pay for this, and it is likely that the shortfall will be made up in cuts to education and other essentials.

Strengths: As a veteran and former police chief, he likely has the support of these communities. His "less government is better government" stance and anti-bureaucratic sentiments will likely appeal to those who are critical or skeptical of politicians and public servants alike. NH-01 went to Trump in 2016; those voters may be attracted by Edwards' support of the current President.

Potential Weaknesses: Edwards supports Trump's border wall, his anti-choice stance, and his other conservative positions. These positions may alienate progressive and centrist residents of the urban areas of NH-01.



NH-01: Better Know the District

Geography

NH-01 covers the mid- to southeastern part of the state, including the greater Manchester, Seacoast, and Lakes regions, as well as part of the White Mountains area. The population is concentrated in the southern part of the district, near Manchester, which is the largest city in the state; the Seacoast region is also well-populated. Thirty-three percent of the district is rural, while 67% is urban.

Citizenry

The district is not racially diverse, with approximately 94% of its residents identifying as white. Socioeconomically, the district is mixed, with pockets of both lower income residents and higher income residents. The median household income is \$66,806, which is above the national household median.

NH-01: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Manchester, 110,000
- Dover, 31,000
- Rochester, 30,000
- Merrimack, 26,000
- Portsmouth, 21,000
- Laconia, 16,000

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 173K (47%)
- Trump: 179K (48%)

2016 House Results

- Shea-Porter (D): 162K (46%)
- Guinta (R): 157K (44%)
- Other: 35K (10%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 207K
- Eligible, not registered: 107K

2014 House Results

- Shea-Porter (D): 117K (48%)
- Guinta (R): 126K (52%)

Elections

Though NH-01 voted for President Obama in both 2008 and 2012, the district is split ideologically between liberals and conservatives, and Trump won NH-01 by 1% in 2016. Since 2006, when Shea-Porter first won the seat, NH-01 has flipped back and forth between Democratic and Republican representatives, specifically Shea-Porter and her challenger, former Manchester mayor Frank Guinta. While Guinta unseated Shea-Porter in 2010 with 54% versus Shea-Porter's 42.4%, Shea-Porter won the seat back in 2012 with 49.8% to Guinta's 46%. In 2014, Shea-Porter lost to Guinta 52% to 48% before winning the seat in 2016 by 46% to 44%.

Higher Education

NH-01 is home to the University of New Hampshire, the largest university in the state. Between its three campuses in Durham, Manchester, and Concord (located in New Hampshire's 2nd District), the university has over 15,000 students. New Hampshire's first district is also home to smaller universities and community colleges, including Southern New Hampshire University and Saint Anselm College, both in Manchester, as well as the Community College System of New Hampshire, with locations throughout the district. Students are a great voter registration opportunity and possible source of volunteers!

Industries

Educational services, healthcare, and social assistance constitute nearly 25% of the the district's employment, while manufacturing and retail trades constitute 12.4% and 12.8% respectively. Historically, traditional manufacturing in textiles drove the New Hampshire economy. With manufacturing's decline during the 20th century, the state's manufacturing economy, while reduced, has shifted to electronic component manufacturing and other high-tech industries. The economy also varies by region. Specifically, high-tech work and healthcare are prominent in the Seacoast and Upper Valley, while tourism, and thus service work, is more prominent in the Lakes Region.