



The Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire **State House, 107 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301**

JANET L. STEVENS
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
DISTRICT THREE

Annual Report from Executive Councilor Janet Stevens – January 2022

It is an honor to serve as the Executive Councilor for District Three and to represent 266,000 New Hampshire citizens residing in 32 towns and cities. Unique to our nation, the five-member Executive Council, has a myriad of responsibilities including approving receipts and expenditures of state funds over \$10,000, vetting gubernatorial nominees to serve in state government, serving on the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intramodal Transportation, conducting hearings for judicial nominees, to overseeing federal relief funds allocated to New Hampshire, and confirming hundreds of volunteers to serve on the state's 300 plus State Boards and Commissions.

The Executive Council met for 24 scheduled meetings with the Governor to carry out the duties of confirming appointments and passing state contracts. This past year, the Executive Council reviewed and approved more than 2,100 contracts and passed several billion dollars of state contracts, covering memberships in professional organizations to approving nearly \$1.2 billion dollars for New Hampshire's Medicaid Care Management program. More than 240 contracts, in excess of approximately \$174 million dollars, were approved by the Council and awarded to local government, non-profits organizations, businesses in District Three. This amount reflects a portion of federal relief funds awarded to District Three.

Until the end of the State of Emergency, the disbursement of COVID-19 federal relief funds was authorized by the Governor and presented to the Executive Council as Informational Items. From the June 16, 2021, Executive Council meeting until the end of the year, the Council was charged with reviewing requests to accept and expend federal COVID-19 relief funds which included the Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 State Fiscal Recovery Funds, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal agency funds. The Executive Council approved 100% of new, multi-year federal COVID-19 relief funds presented for acceptance and expenditure in excess of approximately \$1.1 billion dollars.

The first tranche of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF) has been distributed to all District Three municipalities. The second and final tranche will be released mid-Summer of 2022 for a total disbursement of more than \$39.2 million to the district, including more than \$12.8 million to the City of Portsmouth, which received funds directly from the U.S. Treasury. In conjunction with the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR), I reached out to leadership in all District Three communities to assist with applications and eligible uses for these funds, which range from public health expenditures to water infrastructure upgrades.

The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) comprised of the five Executive Councilors and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, is charged with updating New Hampshire's Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) every two years. To assess/collect public comments and feedback on the projects and themes of the draft TYP for 2023-2032, I hosted five hearings throughout the district and participated in separate GACIT Public Meetings. District Three has 63 separate road, bridge, active transportation and airport improvement projects in the TYP which are fully funded at \$655 million dollars, which includes the approval of \$418 million by the Executive Council on December 8, 2021. The TYP includes \$121 million in debt service for the benefits of the I-93 expansion projects which brings the total project funding to \$776 million.

The council also met on 12 separate occasions to conduct hearings for 24 gubernatorial nominees to serve as judges and justices within the Circuit, Superior and state Supreme Court, commissioners of state agencies, and the 32nd Attorney General for the State of New Hampshire. The Executive Council approved thirteen new judges to serve in the Circuit court system and three justices to serve in the Superior court. Filling these vacancies was essential to addressing the month-long backlogs in hearings and jury trials, exacerbated by the COVID -19 pandemic.

Please contact my office at any time I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,
Executive Councilor Janet Stevens

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