

C O N C O R D 1 0 1

**1. As Christians, WHY Should We Engage  
In the Governmental / Political Sphere of Culture?**

Objective:

*At the end of this section, you will be able to articulate three rationales for active Christian engagement in the governmental/political realm of culture.*

- Our Past
  - Scripture
    - Who is your favorite Biblical character?
      - What was his/her relationship to the governing authorities of the time? What impact did that Biblical character have on the civil government?
    - Some key OT/NT Biblical examples of godly persons who influenced civil government in extraordinary ways:
    - New Testament Passages
      - Romans 13.1-7
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2.1-4
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2.13-17
      - Where does civil government derive its authority? For what purpose? What are Christians called to do in relation to civil government?
  - Church History
    - Can you think of examples, from both early church times and from modern history, of Christian influence on civil government resulting in the common good?

- The American Story
  - What role did the pursuit of religious liberty play in the birth of the American nation?
  
  - Who is invested with sovereignty in the United States?
  
- Our Future
  - Are politics simply “downstream of culture,” or is there an argument to be made that politics inform & influence culture? Can you think of any examples?
  
- Our Present
  - What is unique about the way NH civil government is set up?

Activation:

- Which reasons for active Christian engagement with the governmental sphere of culture are most compelling to you?
  
- What are some other compelling reasons for Christian engagement with government not mentioned here?

## **2. How Should We Engage with Government: What About State Elections, Voting, and Running for Office?**

Objective:

*At the end of this section, you will be able to describe a) some of the unique aspects of NH state government relative to other U.S. states and b) how those aspects affect your voting and your ability to run for office.*

- State Elections & Branches of Government
  - Describe the impact of NH's two-year cycles on local elections, the federal congressional delegation (NH's U.S. Representatives and Senators), and the US Presidential Primary:
  
  - What is the make-up of the NH Legislature? How is this unusual?
  
  - What is unusual about the Governorship and the Executive Council in NH? What are their primary functions?
  
- Voting
  - What are political parties?
    - How does a political party get organized/recognized?
  
    - What is the effect of the growing number of undeclared voters ("independents")?
  
  - Where do you vote?
  
  - How do you determine whom to vote for?

- Running for Office
  - How do you present yourself to run for local or state office?
  - Why is candidate recruitment so important in NH?

Activation & Discovery:

- FIND OUT WHO YOUR LEGISLATORS ARE is by visiting <http://gencourt.state.nh.us> and clicking on the **Your Legislators** button in the left-hand margin; then use the **Select a Town** dropdown
  - Click through on a legislator's name to find contact information, committee assignment/s, and a biography
  - If you live in a city with multiple wards, use Google to find your city's mechanism for finding your ward: some use an online form, some a street listing, some just a drawn map

MY REP/S + CONTACT INFO:

MY SENATOR + CONTACT INFO:

- Which unique aspects of the way that the NH state government is set up strike you the most?
- Can you imagine yourself running for office? Can you think of anyone who would be a great candidate?

### **3. How Should We Engage with Government: How Can We Influence the Law-making Process?**

Objective:

*At the end of this section, you will be able to explain a) how an idea becomes a law in NH and b) how citizens can best influence that process.*

- How does an idea *begin* the process of becoming a law in NH?
  
- How are bills debated & discussed in the NH legislature, called the General Court?
  - How can you weigh in when a committee holds a public hearing on a bill (list 3 ways)?
  
  - What makes for effective testimony in a committee hearing?
  
  - How can you know when important bills are being debated?
  
  - What does the committee debating a bill provide for the whole chamber, either the House or the Senate, when a bill goes out of committee to be voted on by the whole chamber?

- What is unusual about the NH General Court's treatment of bills in the whole chamber, either the House or the Senate?
  - What and when is crossover?
  
- What conditions must be true for a bill to reach the Governor's desk?
  - What are the Governor's options and the results of each option when a bill reaches his desk?

Activation & Discovery:

- SEARCH FOR AN "LSR" BY TOPIC:
  - Useful from Oct – Jan to anticipate legislation of concern/interest
  - <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/default.aspx> > **Legislation** tab (top navigation bar) > **LSR's** (in dropdown)
  - Type **Education**, for example, in the "Search by a word within the LSR's title" **text box** > click **Submit**
  
- SEARCH FOR A BILL BY TOPIC (you don't know the bill #)
  - <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/default.aspx> > **Legislation** tab (top navigation bar) > **Advanced Search** or **Quick Bill Search** (in dropdown)
  - Type an area of interest to you into the "Title Search" **text box** > click **Submit**

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- FIND OUT WHAT A BILL SAYS + ITS STATUS (you do know the bill #)
  - <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/default.aspx> > type "**hb23**" or "**sb456**," for example, into the "Enter Bill #" **text box** in the top left **Find a 2019 Bill** box > click **Find**
    - **Docket:** chronological history of bill, last/next scheduled meetings
    - **Status:** similar info as Docket but arranged differently
    - **Bill Text:** [in either HTML or .PDF format]
    - **Roll Calls:** a list of Yeas and Nays on the bill in the full chamber (not in the committee)
    - **Audio Files:** recording of related public hearing/s
  
- FIND OUT HOW YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED
  - Use the **Roll Call** feature above to find out how they voted on a specific bill; OR
  - To find out how your legislators have voted on all legislation to date: <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/default.aspx> > **Members** tab (top navigation bar) > **Voting Records** (in dropdown) > use search parameters to choose chamber, year, and legislator; click **Search** and you will get that legislator's voting record to date on *all legislation of the session* (not just the one bill you highlighted)
  
- What surprises you the most about how a bill becomes a law in NH? Did you learn anything new?
  
- Are you now more willing (emboldened, encouraged) or less willing (intimidated, overwhelmed) to personally influence legislation in NH? Or do you remain unchanged in your level of resolve?

#### **4. How Should We Engage with Government: What Is the Status of Current Issues? What Is the Role of Prayer?**

Objective:

*At the end of this section, you will be able to a) accurately explain the status of some current bills relative to NH's legislative process, b) choose the best methods of advocacy/influence with friends & legislators to reach your desired outcome for those pieces of legislation, and c) integrate an effective prayer strategy into that advocacy.*

- What is the status of current legislation related to Cornerstone's vision of a New Hampshire where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished?
- What prayer approaches can you employ to see "[His] kingdom come, and [His] will be done on earth as it is heaven" regarding the government sphere of NH culture?

Activation:

- What are your best next steps for impacting the government sphere of NH culture?