



# Woodstock Select Board

165 Lost River Rd • PO Box 156 • Woodstock, New Hampshire 03262

*R. Gil Rand, Charyl Reardon, Scott Rice*

September 15, 2025

State Representative - Ross Berry  
Election Law Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
33 North State Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairperson Ross Berry and Members of the Election Law Committee,

On behalf of the Woodstock Select Board, we are writing in strong opposition to the proposed amendment to **HB 686-FN**, scheduled for public hearing on September 16, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Granite Place, Room 158.

This amendment mirrors the intent of the previously vetoed SB 213, seeking to limit the ability of public employees—including town administrators and managers—to communicate vital information to our residents. While framed as a measure to restrict political advocacy, in practice it would cast far too wide a net, chilling the dissemination of factual, nonpartisan information such as voter guides and explanatory materials related to warrant articles.

Such resources are essential for ensuring that voters are well-informed about the issues they face at the ballot box. Restricting them undermines transparency, weakens democratic participation, and creates unnecessary obstacles for small towns like Woodstock that already operate with limited staff and resources.

We are particularly concerned that this legislation would have a disproportionate impact on smaller municipalities, where clear communication from administrators and managers is often the only way residents receive accurate, unbiased information about local issues. If enacted, this amendment would not strengthen trust in government, but instead erode it.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose the amendment to HB 686-FN and to support the ability of municipalities to communicate openly and effectively with their residents.

Thank you for your service and for your consideration of our position.

Respectfully,  
Woodstock Select Board

Charyl Reardon  
Chair, Woodstock Select Board

Scott Rice  
Woodstock Select Board

R. Gil Rand  
Woodstock Select Board