

Frequently Asked Questions

The following answers are based on the New Hampshire Constitution and its historical Redress and Remonstrance Petitions Process.

❖ What is Redress?

- Essentially Redress is Righting a Wrong done to someone.
<http://1828.mshaffer.com/d/word/redress>
- Constitutional Redress in New Hampshire is the traditional way to be heard and compensated when you have been injured by the State. You have a Right to be Heard and made Whole by the New Hampshire Legislature for the Grievances you have suffered.

❖ What is Remonstrance?

- Essentially Remonstrance is giving a strong and convincing reasons for an opinion.
<http://1828.mshaffer.com/d/word/remonstrance>
- Constitutional Remonstrance in New Hampshire is the traditional way for us to instruct Our legislature about the laws and resolutions we wish them to pass on Our behalf.

❖ What is a Constitutional Petition for Redress or Remonstrance?

- The use of petitions is described in Part One, Article 32 of the New Hampshire Constitution as **1) to Consult, 2) to Instruct and 3) to Redress** public grievances.
 - Article 32: "The people have a right, in an orderly and peaceable manner, to assemble and **consult** upon the common good, give **instructions** to their representatives, and to request of the legislative body, by way of petition or remonstrance, **redress** of the wrongs done them, and of the grievances they suffer."

❖ Why should I care about the Redress and Remonstrance Petitions process in New Hampshire?

- The New Hampshire Constitution has the most direct and straight forward Petition Provisions of any constitution, it is up to us to take the lead and restore this process.
- The Majority of the People as well as their Representative know very little about any of the New Hampshire Constitution because it is not taught in Our Schools.
- Article 31 of the New Hampshire Bill of Rights Orders the Legislature to listen to the People and to directly address their Petitions.
 - Part One, Article 31: The legislature **shall assemble for the redress of public grievances** and for making such laws as the public good may require.

❖ What is the history of the Petitions Process in New Hampshire?

- New Hampshire has a long and colorful petitions history dating back to the founding of the Province. This process was used from 1653 to 1951 for nearly everything from addressing civil rights, opposing taxes, fixing corruption, establishing corrective laws and much, much more.
 - The historical Senate Journals provide undisputable proof that these petitions, which are also considered Constituency Bills, took priority over Legislative Bills because the public safety was usually at stake.
 - A significant difference between Constituency and Legislative Bills is that these Petitions don't expire at the end of a Legislative session the way regular Bills do.
 - Recent evidence of the durability of these Petitions can be found in the 1779 Redress Petition of the 24 enslaved Africans that sought their freedom through this process. Their grievance was originally tabled in 1780. Their petition was finally heard and their freedom granted in 2013. Follow this link to read all about it <http://www.boston.com/metrodesk/2013/06/07/governor-maggie-hassan-signs-bill-into-law-that-frees-african-slaves/YaonUzPhj9Bvn1AkqZPkEO/story.html>
 - This link will take you to a recent letter by NH Secretary of State Archivist Brian Burford explaining some of the history of the Petitions Process.
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=467936236655098&set=pb.467901526658569.-2207520000.1384719720.&type=3&theater>
 - This link will take you to the Secretary of State's Petitions Index where you can search all the different reasons why Thousands upon Thousands of petitioners were heard by the New Hampshire Legislature over the span of about 300 years.
<http://nhredress.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/petition-index-consolidated.pdf>

❖ What does the Historical NH Petitions Process Consist of?

- During the Provincial period, Petitions were submitted to the Executive Council who in turn passed them onto the House of Representatives. (There was no Senate).
- It is unclear to this writer how Petitions were handled under the 1776 Constitution.
- After the 1784 Constitution was ratified petitions were submitted to the General Court Clerk to be read before the Legislature in Convention.
- Both prior to and after 1784, simple petitions were immediately resolved on the floor of the House of Representatives. More complex petitions were assigned to specialized ad-hoc committees which returned to the floor with recommendations for a vote.

- On the occasions when more than one party of interest was involved, hearings were scheduled at a future date and public notice of those hearings were published in the local papers of the day by the Petitioners.

❖ **What is the current status of the New Hampshire Petitions Process?**

- We are still searching for answers as to how this Constitutional Mandate came to be so despised by the General Court but there seems to be a correlation between the Creation of Legislative Services and retirement of the Petitions Process.
- Because the Petitions Process is strictly Of, By and For the People, this process has the potential to greatly weaken the ability of small groups of politicians to control the entire New Hampshire government.
- The biggest problem however is that most Legislators are willfully ignorant of the New Hampshire Constitution generally and are specifically unaware of the Article 31 mandate to hear petitions of the People.

❖ **When is the last time Petitions were heard by the General Court?**

- As mentioned above, a 1779 Redress Petition was brought forward in 2013 whereby the General Court posthumously granted 14 of the original 24 African slaves their freedom.
- In 2011 and 2102, over 30 Petitioners seeking Redress testified before the Redress Committee, but it had no Constitutional Authority to provide Redress. This committee had been created only with authority to recommend future Legislation based on its findings;
 - Of the 27 Petitioners who's grievances against State governmental entities were proven to be founded, not one received remedy from the General Court.

❖ **What can be done to restore this Constitutional Process.**

- The first step is to educate the Public and the Legislature about this Constitutional mandate to listen to Public Grievances and to Make Corrective Laws to prevent other People from being likewise damaged by the State or its political subdivisions and agencies.
- The effort to educate People is well under way. Redress and Remonstrance Petitions have been created throughout 2013 to address various concerns People have had with Our current government, its legislature and its laws.
 - The first Petition was filed in April of 2013 and has well over 500 signature on file with it. This Petition seeks to remove 189 State Reps for violating their Oaths of Office by voting to diminish our Right to Defend Ourselves, Our Families and others. This Petition was sponsored by State Reps John Hikel, Lenette Peterson and Al Baldasaro.

- A Petition was filed in October 2013 along with about 80 of its over 200 signatures and seeks to Repeal Common Core and to Restore Local Control to the parents of each community. This petition was sponsored by State Reps John Hikel and Jeanine Notter.
 - The "Nullify Obama Care" Petition will most likely be the next one to be filed as it approaches 100 signatures. It seeks to restore to the People of New Hampshire, the Right to pursue all health remedies from whatever sources without prosecution. It will be sponsored by State Reps John Hikel, Lenette Peterson and Peter Hansen in November 2013.
 - There is a Petition to remove select exit tolls from the Everett Turnpike which will be sponsored by State Reps Jeanine Notter, Lenette Peterson and John Hikel in November 2013.
 - There is a Petition seeking to bring relief to Wrongful Foreclosure Victims of Bank Fraud which will be sponsored by State Rep John Hikel in November 2013.
 - There is a petition in support of the labeling of Genetically Modified Foods which will be sponsored by State Rep John Hikel in December of 2013.
- A variety of Petitions still need to be written to address issues like the Nullification of the NDAA, End Regional Planning Commissions, End Mandatory Vaccination, Prohibit Fluoridated Water, Prohibit Smart Meters, Prohibit Data Collection Devices (plate Scanners Etc...), Creation of Sound Money/Alternative Currency/Legal Tender

We hope you'll join us in bringing awareness of the Petitions Process to others.

We are assembling a list of politicians so that we can vote out enemies of Redress and vote in champions of Redress in the 2014 State election.