



History of Politics in Concord, NH



@CityofConcordNH

ConcordNH.gov



Concord becomes the capital in 1808: Concord was named the capital in 1808 and the state house was completed in 1819. The state house is the oldest state house in the country where legislators still meet in the original chambers. It currently acts as the office location for the governor, executive council and general court.

Lincoln visit of 1860: One of the most famous visits to Concord by a political figure was the 1860 stop by Abraham Lincoln. Although the visit was brief, it proved to be an important one for Lincoln in the lead-up to his election as the 16th president. Lincoln was encouraged to speak in Exeter where he was visiting his son Robert at Phillips Exeter Academy. Lincoln would make a quick stop in Concord on March 1, speaking at Phenix Hall. Though the exact words are lost to time, the speech itself was reportedly on the evils of slavery. That speech in New Hampshire is often cited as helping grow Lincoln's support that eventually led him to the presidency.

Roosevelt returns, 1912: The original Phenix Hall burned down in 1893 and a new building was built. Theodore Roosevelt gave a speech at the new Phenix Hall in 1912. Roosevelt had already made a famous visit to Concord in 1902, giving a speech at the state fair in August of that year. Photographs of that speech still exist today.



New Hampshire's own President: Though presidential visits dot the Concord historical landscape, New Hampshire's own president Franklin Pierce called the city home. Pierce was born in Hillsboro, NH in 1804 and would go on to set up his law practice in Concord. He would follow his brother Benjamin into politics and was elected as a legislator in 1829. Pierce would soon be appointed chairman of the house education committee and then speaker of the house in 1831. In 1832, Pierce was nominated to the House of Representatives. Pierce would serve in the Senate, though he eventually resigned and served as a general in the Mexican-American war. Later, he returned to Concord to practice law before the call of political office pulled him back, leading to his election as President in 1852.



First in the nation: Thanks to the New Hampshire primary, Concord remains a major political hot spot as most candidates are expected to make a visit to the area in an effort to garner early support and gain momentum. The first primary in New Hampshire was held in 1916. In recent years, other states have moved up their own primary elections in an effort to take the "first-in-the-nation" status from the Granite State, but New Hampshire has managed to stay ahead by moving its own date up.