
Granite State Report

INDEPENDENT NEW HAMPSHIRE JOURNALISM · NORTHFIELD, NH

FOUNDING DOCUMENT

The Constitution of Granite State Report

VERSION 2 · FOR SIGNATURE · OCTOBER 14, 2026

Preamble

Granite State Report exists because the people of New Hampshire own the records their government makes, and most of them never see those records. GSR's job is to get them, read them, and put them in front of the public with reporting that says plainly what they show.

This constitution sets the rules GSR operates under. It binds the editor, every contributor, and every business arrangement GSR enters. It is public, it is dated, and it changes only in public.

Article I Name, Seat, and Legal Form

- I.1** The publication's name is Granite State Report ("GSR"). Its home on the web is granitestatereport.com. Its seat is Northfield, New Hampshire.
- I.2** GSR is a sole proprietorship owned and operated by Dexter Dow under a trade name registered with the New Hampshire Secretary of State under RSA 349.
- I.3** GSR may change its legal form. A change of form does not amend this constitution. Any successor entity adopts it as written, and no governing document of that entity may contradict it.
- I.4** While GSR is a sole proprietorship, no person holds ownership in it and no person may be promised ownership. Any participation interest offered to a collaborator is a phantom unit under a written agreement with a written conversion clause, reviewed by New Hampshire counsel before signing.
- I.5** GSR's official contacts are granitestatereport@gmail.com and 603-931-9264. Every GSR letter, page, and signature block uses them.

Article II Mission

Granite State Report gets New Hampshire's public records, reads them,



publishes them, and reports what they show about how public power is used, from the State House to the town office. We answer to readers, never to the people we cover. We show our documents, name our sources, and correct our mistakes in public.

- II.1** The mission is the test for every story, page, product, partnership, and dollar. Work that does not serve it is work GSR does not take on.

Article III The Record Comes First

- III.1** GSR reporting starts from documents: statutes, court filings, budgets, minutes, contracts, correspondence, and records obtained under RSA 91-A. Officials are asked to explain the documents. Their explanation does not replace them.
- III.2** GSR publishes or links the primary documents behind its reporting wherever law, privacy, and safety allow, so readers can check the work themselves. Statutes and court decisions are cited by section from their official text.
- III.3** Every load-bearing claim in a GSR article appears in a fact-check table, marked Verified or Attributed, with its source named. Every article ends with a sources block.
- III.4** GSR fabricates nothing. No invented fact, quote, number, date, name, case, statute, citation, or link appears in its work. A claim that cannot be supported is labeled as unverified or cut.
- III.5** When GSR finds no record of something, it says it found no record. It does not say the thing does not exist.
- III.6** A description of what a document does, such as “the only provision that...,” is itself a claim, and it is checked against the full text before it carries a story.
- III.7** Quotes are exact or labeled as paraphrase. GSR never puts words in a real person's mouth.
- III.8** GSR never reports an action it has not taken. A records request, comment request, or letter that was not sent is not described as sent anywhere: not in a story, an editor's note, a social post, or a page.

Article IV Equal Access and GSR's Own Records Requests

- IV.1** GSR files public-records requests on the same footing as any other requester. A press credential buys no better place in line under RSA 91-A, and GSR never claims one. The statute's only media category, in RSA 91-A:4, IX, concerns a fee, not access.
- IV.2** Each open records matter is tracked by agency and kept separate from every other matter and from unpublished reporting.



- IV.3** GSR publishes how public bodies respond to its requests, including compliance, delay, and denial, measured against the text of the statute and the dates on the record.
- IV.4** When GSR or its editor obtains records about the editor, GSR reports on them as it would on anyone else, with a disclosure.

Article V Independence

- V.1** GSR is not owned by, funded by, or affiliated with any political party, candidate, campaign, political committee, government body, or corporate parent.
- V.2** No reader, subscriber, sponsor, commissioner, partner, or public official gains any say over what GSR reports, how it reports it, or when it publishes. Payment buys reporting work. It never buys a conclusion, a preview, or a veto.
- V.3** No one can pay to be covered, and no one can pay to be left out. GSR never offers to withhold, soften, or delay a story in exchange for anything, and never threatens coverage to get something.
- V.4** GSR does not endorse candidates for public office.
- V.5** Any person in a GSR editorial role who becomes a declared candidate for public office, or takes a paid or titled role with a campaign, party, or political committee, steps out of every editorial decision touching that race, office, or organization. GSR discloses the step-down publicly on the day it takes effect.
- V.6** Every outside business the editor owns or works for is named on the GSR site. A GSR story that covers a customer or prospect of such a business discloses the relationship. No such business pitches a sale to a public body that has an open GSR records dispute or an unpublished GSR investigation, and every customer is named on a public register within five business days of a sale.
- V.7** GSR accepts nothing of value from a person or body it covers, other than records and access available to any member of the public.

Article VI Fairness and the Right to Respond

- VI.1** A person or body that a GSR story accuses of wrongdoing receives a specific request for comment and a reasonable chance to answer before publication, unless delay would put someone at risk.
- VI.2** A response is reported fairly. Silence is reported as silence, with the date the request went out. A person who declines to comment for a stated reason is never described as having failed to respond.
- VI.3** Opinion and analysis are labeled as such. Signed accountability and opinion work carries the Dexter Dow byline. Neutral explainers carry the GSR Staff byline. GSR never publishes under an invented name.



- VI.4** Headlines, images, captions, and social posts must be supported by the story they promote.
- VI.5** GSR never presents an altered or generated image as a real photograph. Every image carries a credit, and every illustration is labeled.

Article VII Minimizing Harm

- VII.1** Private individuals receive more protection than public officials. GSR names a private person only when the public interest requires it.
- VII.2** GSR does not name a minor, or a victim of a sexual offense or of domestic abuse, without a clear public-interest reason and, wherever possible, that person's consent.
- VII.3** Before publishing any document, GSR redacts information that serves no public purpose and could cause harm, including identification and account numbers, medical details, and the home addresses of private people.
- VII.4** Documents submitted by readers are verified before GSR reports on them and are reviewed for private information before GSR posts them.
- VII.5** GSR does journalism for the public. It does not do private investigation: no surveillance, no locating people, no background checks, no work for a party to litigation, and no private reports. Commissioned work is published as journalism or declined. GSR treats RSA 106-F, New Hampshire's licensing law for private investigators, as the outer edge of this rule.

Article VIII Sources and Confidentiality

- VIII.1** GSR prefers sources who speak on the record and names them.
- VIII.2** A promise of confidentiality is made only by the editor, only when the information matters and cannot be obtained another way. Once made, it is kept. GSR tells every source plainly what it can and cannot protect.
- VIII.3** Information from an anonymous source is verified independently before GSR reports it.
- VIII.4** GSR never tries to identify a person who chose to send it material anonymously.

Article IX Corrections

- IX.1** Every correction states four things: what GSR published, what is true, what changed in the text, and the date and time of the fix.
- IX.2** Corrections run at the top of the article in house style and stay there permanently. GSR never fixes a factual error silently.
- IX.3** A correction goes out on every channel that carried the original.
- IX.4** The response scales to the error. A misspelled name gets a line. A wrong fact in the lede gets a standalone note and a social post.



- IX.5** When an error came from a source, the correction names the source and says whether the source was asked about it.
- IX.6** Corrections and editor's notes are never placed behind a payment or sign-up wall.
- IX.7** Anyone may request a correction at granitestatereport@gmail.com. GSR reviews every request and tells the requester what it decided.

Article X Readers

- X.1** GSR writes for a general New Hampshire reader, in plain English.
- X.2** Readers may comment, send tips, submit documents, and challenge the work. Comments are moderated under a published comment policy, and GSR never edits a reader's words to change their meaning. Reader polls run outside articles, never inside them.
- X.3** GSR collects only the reader information it needs to deliver what the reader signed up for, uses it for nothing else, and does not sell it.
- X.4** Any price GSR charges, and any rule deciding which work sits behind a payment or sign-up wall, is published on the site in plain terms.
- X.5** Community features on the GSR site, including reader profiles and resident verification, give no person, public official included, any influence over GSR's reporting. Information collected to verify a resident is used for verification only.

Article XI Money

- XI.1** GSR may earn revenue from reader subscriptions and memberships, single-article and pass purchases, sponsorship of specific records requests, commissioned journalism under Article VII, licensing of its work, clearly labeled sponsorship, and grants that carry no editorial control.
- XI.2** GSR takes no commission, sponsorship, or grant from a political party, candidate, campaign, or political committee, and none from a person or body GSR is investigating.
- XI.3** A sponsor of a records request pays for that request. The sponsor gains no control over the request, its outcome, or the reporting that follows.
- XI.4** Payments to GSR are payments to a business. GSR does not describe them as charitable and claims no tax benefit for the person paying. If GSR becomes a tax-exempt organization, this section is amended under Article XVII before any such language appears.
- XI.5** GSR publishes a public accounting of reader support at the end of each year.



Article XII People and Authority

- XII.1** The editor, Dexter Dow, holds final authority over everything GSR publishes and answers for every published word. Nothing goes live without the editor's approval.
- XII.2** Every contributor, collaborator, and partner agrees in writing to this constitution before their work runs under the GSR name. No partnership agreement overrides it.
- XII.3** GSR's recognition programs choose honorees from the public record. Recognition is never sold. Sitting elected officials and declared candidates are not eligible as individuals, with one exception: the Legislator of the Month, chosen from the public record and never by party.

Article XIII Tools

GSR uses software tools in research and production, and names them on its methods page. No tool is a source. Nothing a tool produces is published as fact until a person has checked it against the record, and the editor answers for every error regardless of how it entered the work.

Article XIV The Archive

- XIV.1** Published work stays published. GSR does not quietly remove or rewrite a published story. If law or safety requires a removal, GSR posts a note saying what was removed and why.
- XIV.2** Every document in the Granite State Archive that a GSR article relied on links to that article.
- XIV.3** Standing pages carry a version log. A standing page is not changed without a log entry.

Article XV Continuity

If GSR stops publishing, the editor will publish notice, keep the archive and its corrections online for as long as he reasonably can, and refund prepaid reader support for service not delivered, prorated.

Article XVI Interpretation

- XVI.1** Where any other GSR policy, page, contract, or plan conflicts with this constitution, this constitution controls.
- XVI.2** Where a rule in this constitution can be read two ways, the reading that gives readers more and GSR less controls.
- XVI.3** No court enforces this constitution, and under the First Amendment none could. Its force is that it is written down where anyone can read it, and that a breach can be reported to the editor and answered in public.



Article XVII Amendment

- XVII.1** The editor may amend this constitution.
- XVII.2** Every amendment receives a new version number and date and a public changelog entry stating what changed and why. Earlier versions remain available to the public.
- XVII.3** An amendment that loosens any rule in the articles on the Record, Independence, Fairness, or Corrections is published at least 30 days before it takes effect.
- XVII.4** No amendment removes or alters a correction, disclosure, or editor's note already published.
- XVII.5** Anyone may propose an amendment at granitestatereport@gmail.com. Every proposal gets an answer.

Article XVIII Adoption

This constitution takes effect when signed and dated by the editor below, and it is published on granitestatereport.com with its version log.

Dexter Dow, Founder and Editor

Date

VERSION LOG

v2 · October 14, 2026 · Text for adoption; takes effect on the editor's signature above. Supersedes the unsigned v1 draft of the same day: added Article XVI Interpretation; added V.3 (no paying for coverage or silence), the comment rule in X.2, the methods-page line in XIII, and XVII.5 (reader-proposed amendments); replaced numeric cross-references with article names.

