

This passage is an excerpt from a book.

CHANGING THE PRIMARY IN 1948

Primary Benefits

From 1920 through 1948, the New Hampshire presidential primary received little notice. That's because voters were only choosing delegates to the national nominating conventions. The candidates' names appeared nowhere on the ballot! Consequently, there was no incentive for the presidential candidates to campaign in New Hampshire—and therefore there was no media attention.

This all changed beginning with the 1952 presidential primary. Three years earlier, then-New Hampshire House Speaker Richard Upton proposed legislation to include candidates' names on the ballot. This, he reasoned, would give the primary more meaning and spike voter interest, which had bottomed out to a paltry 18% of registered voters in the 1944 primary. Upton never envisioned, nor necessarily sought for New Hampshire, all of the ensuing media attention that the primary has received over the years.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Notice & Wonder

- Write down any words you don't know and look them up in a dictionary.
- How did changing the law change the NH primary?
- Why would people be more likely to vote if they could vote directly for the candidates?

Source: This passage is from a book by Richard Padova called *First in the Nation: One Insider's View of the New Hampshire Presidential Primary, 1980–2004, with a Look Ahead to 2008* (2007), p. 12.

