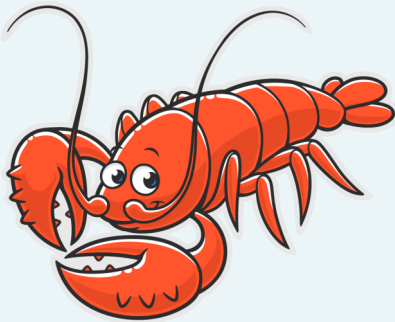


# ***COLORFUL CHARACTERS OF THE NH PRIMARY***



## **The Lobsterman**

His real name was Jeffrey Costa and he was from Nashua, but everyone called him the Lobsterman. He had originally gotten the nickname when he was a professional wrestler. He often participated in wrestling matches that raised money for New Hampshire charities. He ran for the presidency in the 2000 and 2008 primaries as the candidate for the Crustacean Party, which wasn't a real political party. (A crustacean is a type of marine animal, like a lobster or a crab, that has its skeleton on the outside of its body.)

## **Vermin Supreme**

One of the most colorful characters to ever run in the New Hampshire primary was Vermin Supreme, a performance artist from Massachusetts. Vermin was known for wearing an upside-down boot on his head and carrying a large toothbrush. He ran for president in 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020. If he wins the presidency, he promises that everyone in America will get a pony. He even once organized a pony protest and parade in Concord when he claimed another candidate didn't like ponies enough.



## **Colossus G. Benson**

Colossus was a 500-pound gorilla who lived at Benson's Wild Animal Farm in Hudson. His real name was Tony. In 1980, the owners of Benson's Wild Animal Farm decided to register Colossus for the New Hampshire primary to get publicity for their farm.

They took him to Concord to file at the secretary of state's office, but he was so big they decided to leave him in a trailer outside of the state house. Instead, they dressed a chimpanzee in a white tuxedo and sent him to the secretary of state's office with a note to represent Colossus. The secretary of state, Bill Gardner, wouldn't let Colossus file for the presidency because he was only 16 years old, and you have to be 35 to run for the presidency. Colossus eventually moved to the Cincinnati Zoo, which had a larger habitat for him.