

WHAT IT MEANS TO THE STATE AND THE NATION

More than 80 years of political tradition have uniquely prepared New Hampshire residents to cast the first votes in presidential politics.

For generations, we've made time to meet candidates at the school gym or town hall, tuned into debates and interviews on our local TV and radio stations, hosted candidate breakfast events at local restaurants, and invited national news and political programs to broadcast from our taverns.

Today, we welcome candidates and the media into our homes, schools, offices, hotels and restaurants because we understand that our participation in the political process ensures presidential hopefuls will meet and share ideas with ordinary citizens before the race propels them into an atmosphere of closed fundraisers, staged rallies and national advertising campaigns.

As a result of these traditions, the perception and the reality are that hosting the first-in-the-nation primary provides a tremendous opportunity for the state of New Hampshire and provides unparalleled benefits to the nation's political process as well.

Notice & Wonder

- Write down any words you don't know and look them up in a dictionary.
- What do you think is different about the presidential primary in New Hampshire from the primary in other states?
- How do you think New Hampshire's presidential primary benefits the nation?



Source: This passage is from a study written by Ross Gittell, Brian Gottlob, and many other people. The study was called "First in the Nation, the New Hampshire Primary: What It Means to the State and the Nation," and it was produced by the Library and Archives of New Hampshire's Political Tradition at the New Hampshire State Library in 2000.