Dooryard Gazette

Deerfield's State Representatives and FSP-Aligned Legislation

By Maryann Clark

Deerfield is currently represented in the New Hampshire House of Representatives by five Republicans: Jason Osborne, Kevin Verville, Terry Roy, James Spillane, and Jess Edwards.

In an effort to discern how best to understand the positions they represent, we have undertaken an analysis of these representatives' voting records to see if any consistent pattern or patterns present themselves.

Jason Osborne currently serves as House Majority Leader and is a publicly acknowledged participant in the Free State Project (FSP). According to reporting by the Washington Monthly and the Boston Globe, Osborne moved to New Hampshire from Ohio in 2010 as part of the FSP, having signed their pledge years earlier. The Free State Project describes its mission as concentrating liberty-minded people in New Hampshire to expand personal and economic freedom (see also article on the next page).

Policies most commonly associated with the FSP include eliminating taxes, privatizing public education through vouchers and school choice programs, expanding gun rights, weakening unions, cutting Medicaid and other social safety net programs, deregulation, cryptocurrency advocacy, opposition to renewable energy mandates, blocking broad-based income or sales taxes in New Hampshire, and reducing the size and cost of government.

Taking our cue from the Majority Leader, we have undertaken to compare the voting records (as described below) of the other four Deerfield representatives to that of Leader Osborne to determine how much daylight falls between the House Leader's votes and those of the other Deerfield representatives. A close alignment would suggest greater support for an FSB agenda, while a looser correlation would indicate differing priorities.

The voting data we have used was pulled from LegiScan and cross referenced with the General Court of NH website for all bills Mr. Osborne sponsored or co-sponsored from 2016 through 2026. After removing duplicates, the dataset included 201 unique bills. A review of those 201 bills found that approximately 69 percent showed strong or moderate alignment with the FSP policy priorities described above. Of those 201 bills, 65 had a recorded House floor vote. These votes are the basis for the findings below.

Dooryard Gazette Inc. is a registered 501c3 entity qualified to do business in New Hampshire. The Dooryard Gazette®, whose purpose is Public Education, is published quarterly, and delivered to every mail and post office box in Deerfield, NH. We try to ensure that the information we provide is factual and accurate but admit that the Dooryard Gazette® *is* prepared by humans. Corrections or clarifications will be published as required. Contact us by email at inbox@DooryardGazette.org, by telephone at (603) 463-1187 or by postal mail at P.O. Box 404, Deerfield, NH 03037. Comments, feedback, and donations are always welcome. - Erroll Rhodes, Managing Editor

Because the dataset is limited to bills Leader Osborne sponsored or co-sponsored, this analysis measures agreement with legislation he actively supported. Each bill was rated for its alignment with the FSP agenda as having Strong, Moderate, or Low/No FSP Alignment based on the policy agenda described above. Strong alignment was assigned to bills that directly and unambiguously advanced these priorities. Moderate alignment was assigned to bills that did so indirectly or partially. Low or No alignment was assigned to bills with minor or no meaningful FSP connection. These classifications involve judgment calls rather than a strict formula, and reasonable people could disagree on individual bills.

Voting Agreement with Osborne on His Sponsored and Co-Sponsored Bills

Deerfield Representatives and NH House Republican Caucus

Bill Category	Verville	Roy	Spillane	Edwards	NH House R Avg
Strong FSP Alignment (34 bills)	100.0%	95.8%	97.1%	96.9%	96.8%
Moderate FSP Alignment (12 bills)	88.9%	85.7%	90.9%	100.0%	87.3%
Low or No FSP Alignment (19 bills)	80.0%	66.7%	73.7%	88.9%	75.7%

The Broader Republican Pattern

On Osborne's sponsored and co-sponsored bills with strong FSP alignment, all four of his Deerfield colleagues and the NH House Republican caucus voted with him more than 95 percent of the time. Agreement rates among both the Deerfield representatives and the broader Republican caucus were generally lower on bills with low or no clear FSP connection.

The Deerfield representatives are not outliers within their party. They are part of a Republican caucus that has broadly embraced the Free State Project's legislative agenda as reflected in Osborne's sponsored and co-sponsored bills.

Citizens in Deerfield must draw their own conclusions about how accurately these representatives' voting patterns reflect voter priorities.

Dooryard Gazette Inc. is a registered 501c3 entity qualified to do business in New Hampshire. The Dooryard Gazette®, whose purpose is Public Education, is published quarterly, and delivered to every mail and post office box in Deerfield, NH. We try to ensure that the information we provide is factual and accurate but admit that the Dooryard Gazette® *is* prepared by humans. Corrections or clarifications will be published as required. Contact us by email at inbox@DooryardGazette.org, by telephone at (603) 463-1187 or by postal mail at P.O. Box 404, Deerfield, NH 03037. Comments, feedback, and donations are always welcome. - Erroll Rhodes, Managing Editor