

# Granite State Taxpayers

As Amended November 29, 2018

## Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be Granite State Taxpayers, hereinafter referred to as GST.

## Article II Beliefs and Goals

Government should be responsible and accountable, serving the needs of its citizens in a measured and reasonable manner. The growth of government spending and taxation must be brought and/or kept under control, with budgets based on available revenues rather than on spending desires. Spending and taxes of all levels of government should be reasonable, controlled by those who pay the bills - taxpayers.

## Article III Purpose

The purpose of GST is to create an organization of men and women who share, support, promote and defend a non-partisan, fiscally conservative, constitutional approach to government at all levels; to educate the general public on issues relative to taxes, spending, the benefits of fiscal restraint, and the constitution; and to represent taxpayer interests at the New Hampshire State Legislature. Further, that GST members encourage local control.

## Article IV Officers/Executive Committee

Section 1. The officers of GST shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. The GST officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its first meeting in an odd-numbered year, and assume their duties upon election.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chairman shall be the presiding officer.

Section 4. The Officers and Directors of GST may offer advice, counsel and assistance to any taxpayer, or to any taxpayers association or group that shares GST's purpose and beliefs and seeks GST's help.

## Article V Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of up to 13 Directors who are elected by the membership, including the Officers comprising the Executive Committee, which is elected from among the Directors. Any officer who is also a Director shall have only one vote.

Section 2. It shall be the role of the Board of Directors to set policy, promote the growth of GST, uphold GST's public image, and manage the affairs of the organization.

Section 3. It is the duty of the members of the Board of Directors to attend all scheduled meetings. Four excused meetings are allowed each year. To be excused, a Board member shall call the secretary prior to the meeting. Two unexcused meetings or more than four excused meetings, or action detrimental to the interests of GST, shall constitute grounds for the individual to be replaced by vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Whenever a Board Member must be replaced, or a vacancy exists on the Board, the Directors shall elect a replacement, or elect a Director to fill the vacancy, at a Board of Directors meeting.

## Article VI Membership

Section 1. Voting membership is open to any individual New Hampshire taxpayer, voter or resident who supports the goals and purposes of GST, subject to the approval of a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors may remove any member for cause or reason by a majority vote.

Section 3. Non-voting membership for corporations and organizations with similar interests may be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. A member shall be considered in good standing if his/her current dues are paid.

## Article VII Membership Dues

Section 1. GST membership dues shall be set by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Dues for all current members shall be due by January 1. For new members joining after September 1 in a calendar year, the dues for that year may be reduced by 50%.

Section 3. Contributions, donations and sponsorships may be accepted by the Board of Directors at any time in any amount.

Section 4. GST's fiscal year shall begin January 1st of each year.

## Article VIII Qualifications and Tenure of Officers

Section 1. Officers shall be members in good standing. Officers and Directors shall serve a term of two years to coincide with the term of office of the New Hampshire legislators, or until succeeded.

## **Article IX Duties and Responsibilities of Officers and Executive Committee**

Section 1. The Chairman shall represent GST in all matters of concern to the organization and shall have general supervision over the activities, affairs, finances, growth, public relations and projects of GST as directed by the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Vice Chairman shall serve in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman, and shall assist the Chairman in his/her duties.

Section 3. The Secretary shall maintain minutes of all meetings and provide copies of the minutes of each meeting at least 10 days before the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting. Copies of the Treasurer's report shall be part of the minutes. The Secretary shall maintain attendance records.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall maintain all financial records of GST, deposit all funds in a bank approved by the directors, file all necessary reports annually, provide copies of all such reports to the Secretary and make records available for audit within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year. All checks in excess of \$500 shall be co-signed by the Treasurer and the Chairman.

Section 5. It will be the duty of the Executive Committee to conduct the affairs of GST between meetings of the Board.

Section 6. The Chairman or three members of the Executive Committee may call a meeting of the Committee at his/her or their discretion.

## **Article X Committees**

Section 1. The Board shall establish all Standing Committees and the Chairman shall appoint chairmen and members at his/her discretion. The Chairman may also appoint ad hoc committees as he/she determines it is necessary.

Section 2. There shall be a Finance Committee, chosen from the Board of Directors, which shall meet quarterly to review the financial condition of the organization and make a report to the Directors after its meeting.

## **Article XI Meetings**

Section 1. If approved by the Board of Directors, a Biennial Meeting of the Members shall be held in the month of November or December in even-numbered years to announce the election results of GST Directors and the results of the vote, if any, on any changes to the bylaws. Newly elected Directors shall assume office January 1 in odd numbered years.

Section 2. The Chairman shall call at least six (6) Board of Directors meetings each year, one of which shall be held at least one month prior to the Biennial Meeting of the Members.

Section 3. Quorum for a Board of Directors meeting shall be 40% of the elected and appointed Officers and Directors.

Section 4. All GST members in good standing are welcome at all Board of Directors meetings.

## **Article XII Election of the Board of Directors**

Section 1. The Chairman shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three GST members in good standing who shall report their proposed slate of up to 13 Directors to the Board of Directors at least one month before the Biennial Meeting of the Members.

Section 2. Any member in good standing may be nominated by any other member in good standing at the regular Board of Directors meeting preceding the Biennial Meeting of the Members.

Section 3. The Secretary, or his/her designee, shall prepare ballots containing the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of Directors and any floor nominations, and copies of any proposed changes to the bylaws and mail or email either them, or a notice of link to a website where they are posted, to all GST members in good standing at least 15 days before the Biennial Meeting of the Members.

Section 4. Voting shall be by mail or by email or by completion of an on-line questionnaire.

Section 5. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to vote.

Section 6. Members shall return their ballots by mail to the official address of the corporation or by email or by completing an on-line questionnaire, any of which are to be received no later than 5:00 P.M., two days before the day of the annual meeting.

Section 7. Only ballots returned on time shall be counted. Said ballots first shall be verified as legitimate, and then counted at a time and place, as directed by the Board or by the Secretary, or his/her designee, prior to the Biennial Meeting of the Members.

Section 8. All elections shall be decided by majority vote.

## **Article XIII Order and Procedures**

The Chairman shall announce the basis for the rules of all meetings if in conflict with Robert's Rules of Order, otherwise Robert's Rules of Order shall be applicable.

## **Article XIV Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended by a 3/5 vote of the members voting by ballot as specified in Article XII.