

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Bryanna Marceau <bmarceau@concordnhchamber.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 3:08 PM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Cc: Aspell, Thomas; 'BYRON CHAMPLIN'
Subject: Chamber priorities for upcoming City Council priority-setting meeting

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Hello Janice,

I hope you are having a nice week so far. On behalf of the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, I'm writing to share the priorities developed by our Local Government Affairs Committee for consideration at the City Council's upcoming priority-setting meeting. Our committee, made up of local business leaders and community stakeholders, met to identify issues we believe are important to the continued economic vitality and quality of life in our city. We appreciate the opportunity to share these priorities with City Council and to be part of the collaborative dialogue that supports our community's success. Below you will find a summary of the committee's recommended priorities. We would be grateful if you could please share this information with City Council as they prepare for their discussions.

Thank you very much for your time and for your help in passing this along. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or if additional information would be helpful.

Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce Priorities

Message: To establish Concord as a welcoming destination for businesses and families in order to expand tax base.

Actions to support this message include:

- Removing barriers to commercial and residential development, specifically regulatory reform and administrative reform.
- Responsibly investing in key infrastructure: water, sewer, and roads in targeted areas of the city.

Best,
 Bree



Bryanna Marceau, IOM (she/her)
 President & CEO
 Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce



(603) 224-2508



49 South Main Street, Suite 104, Concord, NH 03301



CONCORDNHCHAMBER.COM



Bonenfant, Janice

From: Jim Schlosser <jim4concord@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 9:18 AM
To: * City Clerk
Subject: Proposed City Council Priority on Reducing Homelessness

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Janice: Would you please distribute this to all City Councilors for Monday's Priority Setting meeting?
Thanks so much.

Jim

+++++

Proposed Priority 2026-2027

To advance the City's plan to end homelessness through 2027, the City Council will work through the Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness

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- To
- measurably reduce homelessness in Concord
- by growing a coordinated, quantified, public-private partnership
- approach with regular public updates. This will include both improving service coordination and increasing housing opportunities.
-

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Jim Schlosser
Ward 7 City Councilor
Concord, NH
781-879-2089
www.jim4concord.com

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Tom <twmurph5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 5:43 AM
To: * City Clerk
Subject: City Council priorities for 2026 - Reduce Property Taxes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please forward this request to the Mayor and all City Council members.

Residential Property Taxes in Concord are not sustainable!

I can no longer afford to live in this City, and cannot afford to move. I am truly concerned for all Seniors that are on fixed incomes and have no options.

The number one priority for the Council is to SIGNIFICANTLY reduce spending and capital investments while looking for ways to open the doors for businesses/manufacturing to invest in this city.

You have shut the door to businesses because this city is seen as hard to work with - this needs to change immediately!

Tom Murphy
Goldenrod Lane
Concord

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Jeff Wells <jeffwellsnh@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2026 10:58 AM
To: * City Clerk
Cc: Brown,Stacey
Subject: Setting Priorities for the Future of Concord
Attachments: Priority Setting for the Future of Concord.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please include my letter as part of the public record for the upcoming Priority Setting Session

Jeff Wells
18 Samuel Dr, Concord, NH 03301

To the Members of the City Council,

I am writing as a long-time Concord resident and taxpayer to ask you to do something both responsible and necessary:

pause new borrowing while maintaining our essential services.

This is not a call to cut police, fire, roads, schools, or basic city operations. It is a call to stop loading new long-term debt onto residents while the City's financial obligations are already stretched to historic levels.

Concord now carries hundreds of millions of dollars in bonded debt between the City and the School District. Every new project approved today commits taxpayers for 20 to 30 years of principal and interest payments, regardless of what the economy, property values, or household incomes look like in the future.

That is not prudent fiscal management. It is a structural risk.

A household facing rising costs and economic uncertainty does not take out new long-term loans for discretionary projects. It protects the essentials first. The City should do the same.

There is a critical distinction that City Hall must start respecting:

Needs vs. Wants.

Needs are public safety, core infrastructure, code-required maintenance, and legally mandated services. Wants are expansions, upgrades, new buildings, aesthetic improvements, and projects that may be desirable but are not essential to keep the City functioning.

Right now, Concord is financing wants with long-term debt while residents are struggling with rising property taxes, utility bills, insurance, food, and housing costs. That disconnect is growing, and so is the financial risk to this city.

Every new bond reduces flexibility.

Every new project crowds out future priorities.

Every new interest payment is a tax increase in disguise.

I am asking the Council to adopt a simple and responsible principle:

No new borrowing except for true public safety, legal mandates, or critical infrastructure repair until Concord's financial position stabilizes.

This does not require cutting services. It requires prioritizing them and delaying everything else.

Concord does not have a revenue problem. It has a debt discipline problem.

The longer this continues, the harder it will be to maintain the very services residents depend on. Please do not mortgage the future to build things the City can live without today.

Thank you for your service and for considering this request.

Respectfully,

Jeff Wells

Concord, New Hampshire

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Raymond Pinard <ray@raypinard.com>
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 10:53 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Cc: Raymond Pinard
Subject: Fw: City plan 2026
Attachments: 2024-2025-City-Council-Priorities.pdf

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Hi Janice:

I was reviewing the list of priorities. I have the following suggestions for Mayor Champlin and City Manager Aspell.

1. The list has too many "priorities".
2. The City does not have the cash or bonding capacity to do all these projects.
3. The entire council should hold an exercise, in public, where they "vote" on three priorities in each category. The top three in each category form the informal priority list. The remaining projects go on the back-burner.
4. The Mayor had final on the three priorities. He can then bring these to the council for a vote, or otherwise act as required.

This should take about an hour. I do not see a need to review or lobby for certain projects. This has been in front of councilors for almost two years.

For over 33 years I have used this process with businesses and non-profits. it helps eliminate a lot of noise.
All the best, Ray

Raymond E. Pinard
43 N. Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-620-7500

From: raymond pinard <raypinard@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2026 12:00
To: Raymond Pinard <ray@raypinard.com>
Subject: City plan 2026

https://urldfense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_concordnh.gov_DocumentCenter_View_21678_2024-2D2025-2DCity-2DCouncil-2DPriorities&d=DwIFAg&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=npJbx5Ufmm03txX30rVBTzwmFx0_KPa4li7hFPAnAIM&m=xsmr2GbdIUX5Dwn_6-IMUXtqGJ2ZSBATtcC3IK6PEsn6LksAyfT5YFp9-6-bfHNw&s=sJ8rctqS-l_rNrzBGf8yoRt2ZbLt8a9YxYlmfm_KH0A&e=

Ray Pinard
43 N. Fruit Street



2024-2025 CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Members of City Council met on March 4, 2024 to discuss and set priorities for the remainder of CY 2024, as well as CY 2025. Council members came up with the following list of priorities as goals to focus on over the next two years. The information below is in non-prioritized order.

1. Finance & Technology:

- Balance the Budget Minimizing Tax Rate Impact
- Maintain AA+ Bond Rating
- Maintain Compliance with Fiscal Policy Goals (Debt Ratio)
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Implementation
- Assessing Full Measure & List
- Pursue Federal/State Funding
- Cost Containment – Health Insurance Costs
- Technology Infrastructure Projects

2. Organizational:

- Recruitment & Retention
- Class & Compensation Study
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Belonging Implementation, to prevent racism and discrimination in the community
- Solid Waste Contract Implementation
- Community Communication

3. Housing/Homelessness: Continue to enter into public-private partnerships to support housing projects (market rate/workforce/affordable) utilizing available tools and programs to support partners and developers:

- RSA 79-E Community Tax Relief Incentives
- Community Development Block Grants
- Revolving Loan Fund Program
- Sale of City-Owned Development Sites/Surplus Real Estate
- Zoning Amendments
- High Functioning, Coordinated, Quantified Approach to Homelessness with, Public Updates
- Pursue City/County/State Partnerships

4. Transportation & Utility Infrastructure:

- Fully Fund Street Paving and Sidewalk Program
- New Airport Terminal
- Loudon Road Bridge
- Heights Sewer Improvement Project
- Broken Ground Water Booster Pump Station
- McKee Square
- I-93 Project with or without Bridge Deck (including Storrs St. Extension)
- State Parking Garages
- Public Transportation

5. Community & Economic Development:

- Interim Zoning Amendments / Initiate Master Plan Update / Concord Next 2.0
- Implement Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Economic Development Website Overhaul / Digital Marketing Package
- Destination Marketing
- New Airport Terminal
- Heights Sewer Project
- Pursue Public / Private Partnerships
- Placemaking / Gateways / Community Art / Murals (Food Trucks)
- Regulatory Amendments – Review Charitable Gaming
- Mayor's Business Visitation Program
- Historic Preservation Initiatives

6. Energy / Environment / Sustainability:

- Community Power Review
- Complete Solar Arrays at Old Turnpike Landfill / Hall Street Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Convert Remaining Ornamental Street Lights to LED
- EV Charging Stations (Parking Garages, Surface Lots, Parks)
- Energy Diversification / Efficiency
- Street Trees / Open Space

7. Public Safety:

- New Police Station
- City Hall Campus Master Plan & Schematic Design
- Fire Gear Replacement
- Build Out Police Department Social Worker Staffing & Funding Options
- Community Policing
- Fire Department Equipment Replacement
- Continuous Improvement in Public Safety Effectiveness
- Recruitment & Retention

8. Recreation & Leisure:

- Complete Construction of New Canal Street Riverfront Park
- White Park Inclusionary Playground
- Complete New Penacook Library & Activity Center (Divest 3 Merrimack St.)
- Memorial Field Design & Partnership Review
- Keach Park Lights
- Bicentennial Square “Light Renovation” (Paver Replacement)
- Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT):
 - Complete purchase of Horseshoe Pond to Contoocook River with NHDOT
 - Sunflower Field Section
- Beaver Meadow Golf Course Clubhouse Options
- Garrison Park Pool
- Terrill Park
- Kiwanis Park Design
- Identify Additional East Side Greenspace

Bonenfant, Janice

From: dwm1111@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 10:36 AM
To: * City Clerk
Subject: Concord City Council Priorities List

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear City Clerk,

Please forward this email to all Concord City Councilors and Mayor Champlin.

As a resident of Ward 7 in Concord, I have noticed that the 2024-25 City Council Priorities include, under item two in the Organizational section, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Belonging Implementation (DEIJB) as an initiative to prevent racism and discrimination in our community.

However, are you aware that State Law HB2, signed by Governor Ayotte for 2025, allows cities and towns in New Hampshire that incorporate DEI into their master plans or municipal operations to be sued? This law prohibits political subdivisions and public agencies from implementing, promoting, or engaging in any DEI-related programs, trainings, and policies.

Although courts have blocked enforcement of this law against many schools, the risk of lawsuits targeting municipalities—especially regarding general, non-school operations—remains high due to this legislation.

I am concerned that if City Council lists any DEIJB programs as priorities or includes them in the Master Plan, taxpayers could face liability. The city might become vulnerable to lawsuits based on discrimination. For example, subcontractors could claim they were excluded from bidding on projects due to the demographic makeup of their employees. The same reasoning applies to hiring city employees; to avoid discrimination lawsuits, the city must ensure that hiring is strictly based on qualification, not characteristics such as race, color, sex, or other protected traits.

Therefore, I request that the DEIJB priority be removed from the City Council Priority list. City Council members are responsible for protecting the interests of Concord residents, and I believe keeping this priority may expose the city to costly litigation. Subcontractor and employee selection should focus on merit. It is important for Concord to avoid negative publicity and potentially expensive lawsuits.

Thank you for your attention.

Linda Mead

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Bethany Clarke <bethanymariahclarke@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 2:17 PM
To: Jim Schlosser; Bethany Clarke; * City Clerk; Sam Pike
Subject: council priorities

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Jim and Council,

I believe you're meeting tonight (?? not sure with the snow) to discuss council priorities. My husband and I are very interested in bringing more culture and diversity to Concord through food trucks and support for small businesses, affordable/available childcare, and making our city more walkable, sustainable and accessible to all through investment in public transportation, bike lanes, and walking paths. I'm not sure exactly what categories these fall under for you, but these are our priorities as mid thirties professionals who plan to be in the city long term. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bethany

pronouns: she/her

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