



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

From: Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Chair, Public Safety Advisory Board
Date: June 22, 2026
Subject: Proposed Ordinances Changes – Social Districts

RECOMMENDATION

Accept this report and set the attached ordinances amending Title I, General Code; Chapter 14, Morals and Conduct for a public hearing on August 10, 2026.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The State passed RSA 178:33-38 in 2025, allowing municipalities the option to authorize and establish social districts within their communities. A social district is a defined outdoor area in which a person may consume alcoholic beverages sold by a liquor licensee. The City placed a question on the November 2025 ballot asking voters if the City should allow the operation of social districts. The voters approved authorization of social districts which can be established by the City Council.

Following the election, the Public Safety Advisory Board began a review of this issue and the potential process to establish social districts within the City. A sub-committee was formed to work through the potential issues and concerns of the community and the public safety agencies. Following these discussions, the advisory committee and the Public Safety Advisory Board have voted to put forward a proposed ordinance to enable the City Council to establish and manage social districts.

The proposed amendment creates an exemption from the general prohibition on consumption of alcohol on public property, directs Code Administration to establish an application and enforcement policy and procedure, and provides for a review and recommendation by the Public Safety Advisory Board before the City Council can establish a social district.