

Research Memo: George S. Hansel (R, NH-02)

Abortion

Keene Sentinel: Hansel Thought Abortion Was “Best Decided At The State Level.” “Generally viewed as a moderate Republican, Hansel supports a woman’s right to an abortion and favors legalization of marijuana, a drug that is currently illegal under federal law. Hansel said it’s an issue that’s best decided at the state level. He said New Hampshire has taken the right approach on abortion.” [Keene Sentinel, 6/7/22]

Hansel Said That Abortion Could Be Regulated By States “Pretty Well.” QUESTION: “If Roe v. Wade is overturned, would you vote to codify Roe v. Wade? Where do you stand on that?” HANSEL: “So, New Hampshire handles that issue very, very well. My responsibility is to make sure that the citizens of New Hampshire have access to safe and legal abortions. And I think the states can do it pretty well if Roe v. Wade is overturned.” [Hansel Tracking, 6/7/22] [Video]

Hansel That That He Would Vote Against Federal Protections For Abortion And Against A Federal Abortion Ban, Saying Abortion Was A Matter Of “States’ Rights.” SEXTON: “And on abortion you identify as pro-choice. If you’re in Congress, would you vote in favor of essentially protecting abortion to 24 weeks nationally?” HANSEL: “It’s a state’s rights issue at this point. Now that Roe’s been overturned, it’s up to the states to- [CROSSTALK] I hope every state does as well with the issue as New Hampshire does.” SEXTON: “But if there is federal legislation, you’re a no either way?” HANSEL: “I’m pro-choice.” SEXTON: “So I guess on a state-by state basis. pro-choice,” HANSEL: “I’m pro-choice. I believe New Hampshire does a great job with it. I’m not in favor of passing federal legislation having to do with the issue.” SEXTON: “Period. So, it’s a no on either side. So, no to a ban and a no to a protection.” HANSEL: “Absolutely, it’s states’ rights. It’s a state issue at this point.” [WMUR, 7/17/22] [Video]

Hansel Said That Abortion Was An Issue “That’s Firmly With The States, Which Is Where It Belongs.” 11:04 HANSEL: “So this is an issue that’s firmly with the states, which is where it belongs. This is a contentious issue. And it belongs- the decisions belong with the- as close to the people as possible.” [NH Journal NH-02 GOP Primary Debate, 8/2/22] [Video]

Hansel Said He Would Not Support Federal Abortion Legislation. 12:00 MODERATOR: “I’m sorry, would you support federal legislation regarding abortion?” HANSEL: “No.” [NH Journal NH-02 GOP Primary Debate, 8/2/22] [Video]

- **Hansel Said He Would Vote Against Codifying The Right To An Abortion, Saying He Was “Not Interest In Any Federal Legislation Having T Do With That Issue.”** 12:37 MODERATOR: “But if there’s a vote to codify, they call codify Roe v. Wade, but have a federal standard for all 50 states?” “No. I mean, I’ve been fighting for local control my entire political career that doesn’t stop when I become a congressman. We’re going to be fighting for local control. BURNS: “It’s a yes or no answer. Do you vote for it or against it?” HANSEL: Thanks, Bob. I’m not interested in any federal legislation having to do with that issue.” [NH Journal NH-02 GOP Primary Debate, 8/2/22] [Video]

Guns

Hansel Said That While There May Be Ways To Improve The Current Background Check System To Purchase A Firearm, He Thought It Was “A Pretty Comprehensive System At This Point.” “Expanded background checks to include private gun sales and an increase in the buying age for AR-15 style rifles from

18 to 21 are two suggestions that have been made by some groups in the wake of recent shootings. 'I think the current background check system, there may be ways for it to be more effectively used, but from my review of it, it is a pretty comprehensive system at this point,' Hansel said." [Keene Sentinel, 6/7/22]

Keene Sentinel: Hansel "Refused To Commit On The Question Of Increasing The Buying Age For Certain Types Of Weapons." "He refused to commit on the question of increasing the buying age for certain types of weapons. 'I'm not sure, we've got to see what comes out of the Senate,' he said. 'Any legislative changes need to have bipartisan support.'" [Keene Sentinel, 6/7/22]

Hansel Said That He Would Not Back New Laws Concerning Guns Elected To Congress Because The "States Do A Good Job Of Regulating In Most Cases." 03:38 SEXTON: "What about a so-called assault weapons ban? Yes or no on that? Hansel: "No. I'm not interested in going down to create new federal laws on firearms. I think that our states to a good job of regulating in most cases. Let's figure out and focus on the problem and come up with a solution." [WMUR, [7/17/22](#)] [Video]

- **Hansel "I'm Not Interested In Going Down To Create New Federal Laws On Firearms."** [WMUR, [7/17/22](#)] [Video]
- **Hansel Said That We Need To "Make Sure That We're Enforcing The Laws That Are On The Books" When It Came To Guns.** 01:43 SEXTON: "What about something like guns, where there's a lot of conflict. You know, the Congress just passed a bill to expand background checks on gun purchasers under 21. If you're in Congress in CD-02 in 2023, would you vote in favor of expanding expanded background checks beyond age 21. HANSEL: "We need to make sure that we're enforcing the laws that are on the books. The current federal background check law has pretty broad categories where we should be doing a better job." [WMUR, [7/17/22](#)] [Video]

Trump

Dec. 2014: Hansel Said He Had "Growing Interest" In A Potential Presidential Campaign By Then-Ohio Governor John Kasich. "I have a growing interest in a possible presidential run by @JohnKasich. Glad I live in #FITN NH. <http://dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/12/03/kasich-displays-moderate-side-for-top-corporate-executives.html>" [Twitter - @GeorgeHansel, [12/4/14](#)]

Hansel Said He Was "Not Thrilled" With Trump's Presidential Campaign Heading Into Election Day 2020, Saying "I'm Not Really Supporting Anyone Who's On The Ballot" And Was "Disheartened By The Whole Thing." 25:25 CALLER: "Who are you voting for? HANSEL: "Who am I voting for? For president?" CALLER: "You, see I told you I was putting you on the spot." HANSEL: "Well, you know, I'm not really thrilled with any of the candidates. I'm, frankly, not looking forward to- I'm looking forward to the election being over but I'm pretty disheartened by the whole thing so without going into detail I can tell you I'm really not supporting anyone who's on the ballot." [...] 26:54 HANSEL: "And I wasn't, by the way, I wasn't referring to the down ballot- sorry to cut you off, but I just wanted to make sure that people take what I said in context. I wasn't referring to the down ballot candidates, just the presidential race." [The Weekend with George Hansel, [10/31/20](#)] [Audio]

- **Hansel Said That It Was "Sad" That "Out Of A Country Of This Many That This Is The Best We Can Come Up With" And Showed That "Something's Not Working As It Should."** 26:05 CALLER: "I'm not supporting anyone either. I'm voting against is what I'm doing. People can figure that out. I'm voting against. I'm not voting for." HANSEL: "I think a lot of people are in that boat and it's unfortunate. It's just sad out of a country of this many that this is the best we can come up with. Something's not working as it should." [The Weekend with George Hansel, [10/31/20](#)] [Audio]

Keene Sentinel: Hansel Saw Himself As “Separate From The Politics Of Donald Trump’s Make America Great Again Movement.” “Earlier Tuesday, Hansel told WMUR he’s running on a pro-choice platform and considers himself an independent voice, separate from the politics of Donald Trump’s Make America Great Again movement.” [Keene Sentinel, [5/31/22](#)]

- **Hansel Said He Was “Shocked And Saddened” After Trump Supporters Resorted To A Violent Insurrection To Stop The Certification Of Biden’s Victory.** “Hansel issued a statement saying he was ‘shocked and saddened’ after Trump supporters staged a violent insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, as Congress was attempting to certify Joe Biden’s presidential victory.” [Keene Sentinel, [5/31/22](#)]
 - **Hansel: “Such Actions And Violence Must Be Condemned In The Strongest Possible Terms.”** “Such actions and violence must be condemned in the strongest possible terms,’ he said. ‘In Southwest New Hampshire, we know how to work together and respect each other even when we disagree. It’s important that we live up to that reputation, promote kindness, and focus on protecting the values we share and the important institutions that we all hold dear.” [Keene Sentinel, [5/31/22](#)]

Hansel Said He Would Not Actively Seek An Endorsement From Trump But Would Accept It If It Was Offered. “As to whether he would seek Trump’s endorsement? ‘If it comes, I’ll take it, but I’m not really big on endorsements, frankly,’ Hansel said. ‘I think it’s my ideas. I try to be an independent voice, and that’s what’s important to me.” [WMUR, [5/31/22](#)] (Video)

WMUR: When Asked If He Would Back Trump In 2024, Hansel “Didn’t Directly Answer The Question,” Saying He Would Look At The Presidential Election At A Later Time. “When asked whether he would support another presidential run for Donald Trump, he didn’t directly answer the question. ‘We have some great candidates, I’m sure, that are going to step forward,’ he said. ‘We’ll see who steps forward to take that top job, and I’ll assess it then.” [WMUR, [5/31/22](#)] (Video)

Keene Sentinel: “Hansel Dodged A Question As To Where He Would Support” A Trump Presidential Bid In 2024. “Hansel dodged a question as to whether he would support the twice-impeached Trump if he becomes the Republican nominee for president in 2024. ‘I think there are a lot of great people who are considering that top job and we’ll see,’ he said. ‘I’ll evaluate it when people step up and we’ll see what happens.” [Keene Sentinel, [6/7/22](#)]

Hansel Refused To Say Who He Had Voted For In The 2016 Presidential Election And Said He Voted For Trump In The 2020 Presidential Election. 04:25 SEXTON: “A lot of voters want to know where you stand on former President Donald Trump. Did you support Donald Trump for President in 2016?” HANSEL: “I wasn’t very involved with partisan politics at that time. I don’t get so wrapped up in personalities, I’m about ideas.” SEXTON: “And what about 2020? Did you vote for President Trump in 2020?” HANSEL: “I voted for Trump in 2020. What’s the alternative? Voting for inflation? Like a lot of people I saw what was coming and saw these reckless spending bill that were just piled on top of each other and that we’re paying for now.” [WMUR, [7/17/22](#)] [Video]

Hansel Said That He Voted For Trump Only In 2020. 7:32 QUESTION: “Did you vote for Donald Trump in 2020? And how do you describe- what’s your answer when voters come up to you and say, so where are you on Trump?” HANSEL: “Yeah, I get those questions. I did. It should be. Thank you for the question. I did vote for Trump in 2020.” [NH Journal NH-02 GOP Primary Debate, [8/2/22](#)] [Video] XXXX

Research Memo: Robert A. Burns (R, NH-02)

Abortion

Burns Said He Was “Pro-Life” And Believed That Life Begins At Conception. “I am pro-life and I believe that life begins at conception. In Congress, I will support the sanctity of human life. I have worked on campaigns for many pro-life candidates including Mike Huckabee, Newt Gingrich, and Ovide Lamontagne. I support President Trump’s nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court and last year’s confirmation of Justice Neil Gorsuch.” [WMUR, [2018 Election Guide](#)]

Burns Said He Supported Overturning Roe V Wade And That It Was “Unnecessary To Allow Abortion Up To” The Period Of Viability. “Burns, meanwhile, said in an interview he supports overturning Roe v. Wade. ‘In the context of the Mississippi law, with the science and technology of today, it’s unnecessary to allow abortion up to the period allowed in Roe v. Wade,’ which is viability, as defined at the time of the decision as the beginning of the third trimester, Burns said.” [WMUR, [12/16/21](#)]

Burns Supported Federal “Fetal Heartbeat Legislation.” “I would support fetal heartbeat legislation in Congress, and would work to ensure that adoption is supported.” [Burns for NH, accessed [7/29/22](#)]

- **GOP House Members Backed A Federal “Fetal Heartbeat” Bill That Could Ban Abortion Nationwide After Five Weeks Of Pregnancy.** “Republican members of the House of Representatives expressed support for federal legislation on Thursday that would ban abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected. That comes three weeks after many Republicans said abortion was now an issue for the states and the people to decide following the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to overturn the landmark 1973 abortion rights ruling Roe v. Wade on June 24.” [Newsweek, [7/15/22](#)]
 - **Legislation Did Not Contain An Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Protect The Health Of The Mother.** “On Thursday, Representative Kelly spoke from the House floor in favor of his heartbeat bill and was joined by several of his Republican colleagues. The legislation, if passed by the House and Senate and signed by the president, would “prohibit abortions when an unborn child’s heartbeat is detected” except where necessary to save the life of pregnant woman.” [Newsweek, [7/15/22](#)]
 - **Headline: “GOP Push For Nationwide Abortion Ban”** [Newsweek, [7/15/22](#)]

Burns Said That He Was “The Only Pro-Life Candidate” In The GOP Primary And That He Would “Vote For A Fetal Heartbeat Bill.” 10:52 BURNS: “I am the only pro-life candidate up here. I absolutely will vote for a fetal heartbeat bill, and I will put into our Constitution. Instead of codifying Roe v. Wade, I think we should codify life.” [NH Journal NH-02 GOP Primary Debate, [8/2/22](#)] [Video]

- **Burns: “Instead Of Codifying Roe V. Wade, I Think We Should Codify Life.”** [NH Journal NH-02 GOP Primary Debate, [8/2/22](#)] [Video]
- **Burns Said That He Would “Absolutely” Support What The Moderator Called “A Federal Fetal Heartbeat Bill In All 50 States.** 12:055 MODERATOR: “So, I’m sure Bob, I’m gonna [unintelligible] your answer. So you’re saying you’d support a federal fetal heartbeat bill all 50 states would have? I

just make sure I understand your position. Thanks so much.” BURNS: “Absolutely.” [NH Journal NH-02 GOP Primary Debate, [8/2/22](#)] [Video]

- **Burns Said He Would Vote Against Codifying Roe V Wade And Suggested That “From What I’ve Heard From The Other Candidates [...] It Sounds Like They’re Just Not Going To Show Up To Vote.”** 12:17 BURNS: “And to go further. I mean, I would support voting. I don’t know. You know, obviously, we’ve seen legislation in the House where they’re trying to codify Roe v. Wade, I don’t know how these other two would vote. I would vote against that. You know, I, from what I’ve heard from other candidates, it sounds like they’re just not going to show up to vote.” [NH Journal NH-02 GOP Primary Debate, [8/2/22](#)] [Video]

Guns

Burns: “I Do Not Support Additional Gun Control Legislation.” “The 2nd Amendment has been under siege by those who wish to reduce our rights to carry a firearm and protect ourselves, our families, and our property. I do not support additional gun control legislation and will oppose attempts to reduce our Constitutional rights.” [Burns for NH, accessed [7/25/22](#)]

WMUR: Burns Was “A Vocal Defender Of Gun Rights” And Believed The Answer To Mass Shooting Was “To Make It Easier” For People “To Carry Guns.” “Burns is a vocal defender of gun rights. When it comes to stopping mass shootings, he believes the answer is to make it easier for law-abiding citizens to carry guns to defend themselves, in part by passing a national reciprocity law for concealed carry of firearms. ‘Where legal gun owners, non-felons, can carry their guns across borders,’ he said. ‘We’re talking about people like truck drivers. We’re talking about people in RVs. I mean, these are their homes that they can’t legally carry a gun in, and that’s ludicrous.’” [WMUR, [7/13/22](#)] [Video]

- **Headline: “Congressional Candidate Burns Supports Broader Gun Rights, More Abortion Restrictions”** [WMUR, [7/13/22](#)] [Video]

[WMUR - Closeup]

Burns Said He Did Not Support Any Restrictions On Guns And Supported Passing National Reciprocity To Allow People To Carry Guns Across State Lines. 27:51 MODERATOR: “re there any restrictions on the second amendment that any of you support?” BURNS: “No. And I would go farther I would. I would get a national reciprocity so that we can carry across state lines.” [NH Journal NH-02 GOP Primary Debate, [8/2/22](#)] [Video]

- **Burns Said That Allowing National Reciprocity For Guns Would Allow Law Abiding Citizens To More Easily Carry Guns, Which Would Help Prevent Crime.** 53:55 MODERATOR: “What can Congress do to address rising crime?” 55:23 BURNS: “So, one thing is I think that we need national reciprocity. I think that, you know, the only reason that my car doesn’t typically, you know, or myself doesn’t typically have a gun was because, oh, I might have to go down to Massachusetts, or Connecticut. I think that if we had more law-abiding citizens caring with a national reciprocity where we didn’t have to worry about, hey, I’m going to Hollis us today, will I accidentally drive into Massachusetts and commit a felony. That’s number one.” [NH Journal NH-02 GOP Primary Debate, [8/2/22](#)] [Video]

Trump

Burns Served As Trump's National Youth Coalition Chairman During The 2016 Presidential Election.

“A former Hillsborough County treasurer, Burns served as Trump's National Youth Coalition chairman leading up to the 2016 election.” [Keene Sentinel, 8/11/18]

- **Burns Joined The Trump Team In 2015 As The Campaign's National Youth Coalition.** “Burns joined the Trump team in 2015 as the campaign's National Youth Coalition chair. He is currently running in a 2nd District GOP primary against Littleton business owner Jeff Cozzens, with the winner of the September 2022 party primary taking on Democratic U.S. Rep. Annie Kuster.” [WMUR, [12/9/21](#)] [Video]

Burns Hired Former Trump's 2017 NH State Director To Serve As A Senior Advisor On Burns' 2018 US House Campaign.

“Republican congressional candidate Robert Burns has hired conservative activist Matt Ciepielowski as a senior adviser to his campaign, according to a news release Thursday. [...] Ciepielowski served as New Hampshire state director for President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign. Before that, he worked as the field director for the New Hampshire chapter of Americans for Prosperity and as a regional director for Youth for Ron Paul during the former Texas congressman's 2012 presidential campaign.” [Keene Sentinel, 8/19/18]

- **Headline: “Political Notebook: Congressional Candidate Burns Hires Trump Campaign Staffer”** [Keene Sentinel, 8/19/18]

Burns Said That His Time As Trump's National Youth Coalition Chair As An Indelible Experience That Helped Him Decide To Run For Office.

“Robert Burns, one of seven Republicans vying to unseat U.S. Rep. Ann M. Kuster, D-N.H., in the state's 2nd Congressional District, contends that he is the clear conservative choice for voters in the upcoming primary. In an interview at The Sentinel Tuesday, the former Hillsborough County treasurer said his early and avid support for President Donald Trump sets him apart in a crowded field. Burns served as Trump's National Youth Coalition chairman leading up to the 2016 election. He described that time as a heady and indelible experience that helped inform his own decision to run for office. In his telling, Trump was the only presidential candidate talking about creating a level playing field for international trade.” [Keene Sentinel, 8/23/18]

Burns Was Endorsed By Two NH Co-Chairs Of Trump's 2016 And 2020 Campaigns And By Trump's Former Liaison To The Pentagon And DHS.

“Republican Bob Burns has been endorsed in his bid for the 2nd Congressional District U.S. House seat by three early and influential supporters of former President Donald Trump. [...] Burns is being endorsed by: State Rep. Al Baldasaro of Londonderry, who co-chaired both Trump's New Hampshire campaign and the national campaign's veterans' coalition. [...] State Rep. Fred Doucette of Salem, who co-chaired Trump's 2016 and 2020 campaign in the Granite State. [...] Former state Rep. Joshua Whitehouse of Farmington, who had many roles with the Trump campaign in New Hampshire and nationally and later served as the Trump White House's liaison to the Pentagon and to the Department of Homeland Security.” [WMUR, [12/9/21](#)] [Video]

- **Trump Advisor Said “Burns Has Been There With Us From Early Days Of The Trump Campaign” And Was “The Best Candidate To Bring The ‘America First’ Policies Of President Trump To Congress.”** “Robert Burns has been there with us from the early days of the Trump campaign, and is a strong supporter to this day,” Whitehouse said. ‘He is the best candidate to bring the ‘America First’ policies of President Trump to Congress.” [WMUR, [12/9/21](#)] [Video]

- **Headline: “Top NH Trump Supporters Endorse Burns For US House In NH-02”** [WMUR, [12/9/21](#)] [Video]

Christopher Miller, Former Acting Defense Secretary Under Trump, Endorsed Burns And Would Advise The Campaign On Foreign Policy. “Republican congressional candidate Bob Burns is picking up more support from another former Trump administration official. Former Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller is endorsing Burns, according to a campaign spokesperson. [...] Miller served as acting secretary at the Pentagon for the final few months of the Trump administration. The campaign said he will also be serving as a foreign policy advisor to Burns.” [WMUR, [7/7/22](#)]

- **Miller: Burns Was “The Only Serious Candidate And The Only Conservative Running” In The Race And Will “Adopt An American First Foreign Policy Doctrine.”** “Robert Burns is the only serious candidate, and the only conservative running in New Hampshire’s Second District,’ Miller said in a written statement. ‘Burns understands the threats posed by enemies of the United States, will take a stance against forever wars and adopt an America First foreign policy doctrine.” [WMUR, [7/7/22](#)]
- **Headline: “Republican 2nd District Candidate Picks Up Endorsement From Former Trump Administration Official”** [WMUR [7/7/22](#)]

Burns Said He Was The Only Person In 2022 NH-02 GOP Primary That Had Voted For Trump In 2016 And Had “Committed To Supporting Trump In The Future. 9:01 BURNS: “Okay, I’m the only person up here that voted for Trump in 2016. I started working for Trump in 2015 as youth coalition’s chair, worked heavily with the campaign. I have multiple endorsements from former administration officials. I am the only American First candidate up here and I’m the only person who’s committed to supporting Trump in the future.” [NH Journal NH-02 GOP Primary Debate, [8/2/22](#)] [Video]