



NH Continues Its Reign as America’s Best Taxpayer ROI State

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by Michael Graham

For the seventh year in a row, an analysis of taxes, spending, and government efficiency finds New Hampshire taxpayers are getting the best tax-dollar “return on investment (ROI)” in the nation.

WalletHub employed an expert panel to analyze 30 metrics of the quality and efficiency of state-government services across five categories — education, health, safety, economy, and infrastructure/pollution — and taking into account the drastically different rates at which citizens are taxed in each state.

And once again, New Hampshire is #1. New Hampshire’s tax burden is the third-lowest in the U.S., while the quality of its government services ranks fourth — the only state to rank in the top 10 in both categories.

N.H. Speaker of the House Sherm Packard (R-Londonderry) says “it’s no surprise that New Hampshire continuously ranks among the best states in the nation – we have the lowest poverty rate, our tax burden is the third lowest and our quality of government services ranks fourth. With sound management from our Republican-led legislature and good fiscal policies, we have been able to improve the lives of NH families and small businesses.”

New Hampshire is far and away the frontrunner among New England states. The Granite State is alone in the top 10 performing states, all of which have Republican governors. Massachusetts ranks 38th for taxpayer return on investment, and Connecticut ranks 43rd — the lowest in the region.

“The last year New Hampshire wasn’t first was 2015,” a Wallethub spokesperson told NHJournal. “This is the seventh consecutive year it ranks first.”

“New Hampshire has the best taxpayer ROI because its residents benefit from high-quality government services, while paying the third-lowest amount of taxes in the country, just above

\$2,600,” said data analyst Jill Gonzalez. “More specifically, the state has a high-quality healthcare system, a low crime rate and a low unemployment rate.”

Massachusetts and Connecticut are among the bottom 15 states with the lowest taxpayer ROI. While residents of the two states receive high quality government services, they pay some of the highest taxes nationwide, amounting to around \$6,000 annually,” Gonzalez added.

Among New Hampshire’s high points noted by the Wallethub analysis:

- Lowest poverty rate in the nation.
- Second-lowest violent crime rate.
- Fifth-best school system.
- Ranked seventh in health outcomes

And it’s not just ROI. “Live Free or Die” New Hampshire is also on top of the Cato Institute’s “Freedom in the 50 States” index, knocking Florida out of the top spot.

The Fraser Institute’s Economic Freedom in North America has also ranked the Granite State the top state or province in North America for the second year in a row.

“New Hampshire’s low-tax culture forces the government to measure program quality by how efficient and effective services are, not by how much is spent,” said Andrew Cline, president of the Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy. “That’s what separates New Hampshire from all other states.”