

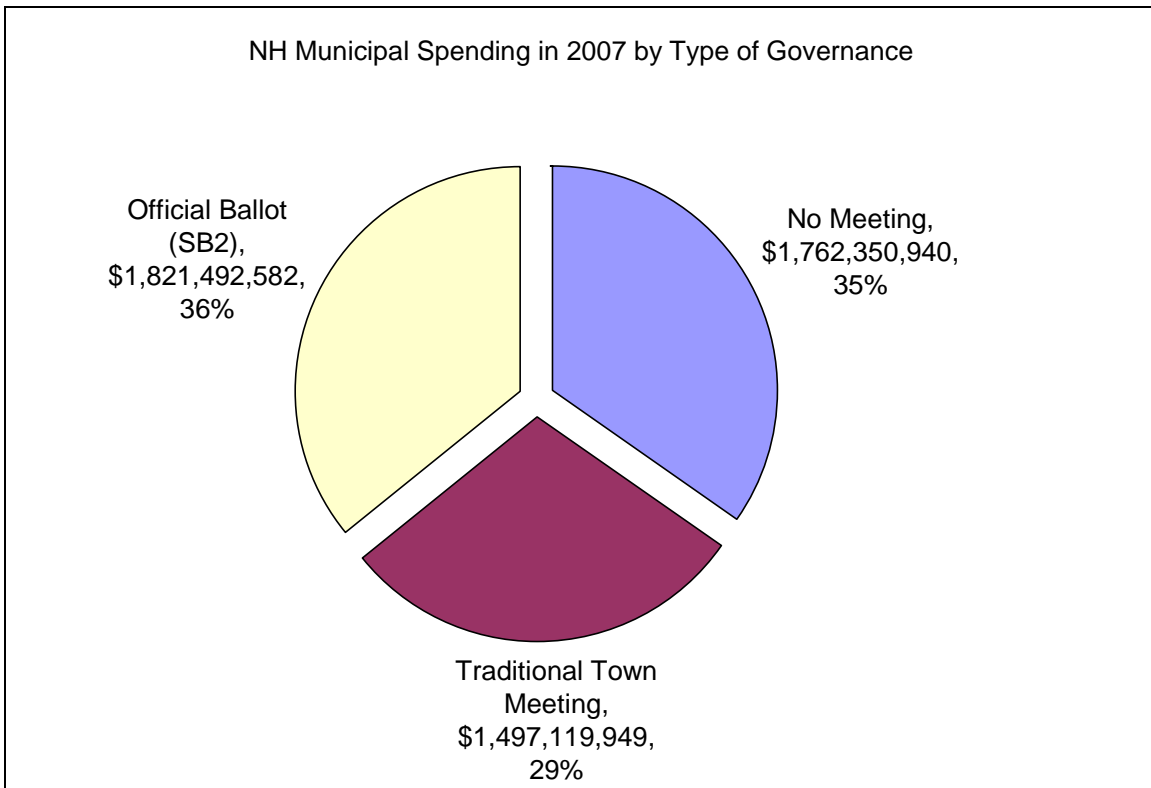
Most Local Appropriations in New Hampshire are Raised Under SB2

In 1995, the legislature passed Senate Bill 2 (SB2), which allows any local political subdivision of the state whose legislative body raises and appropriates funds through any annual meeting to adopt voting by official ballot on all warrant articles.

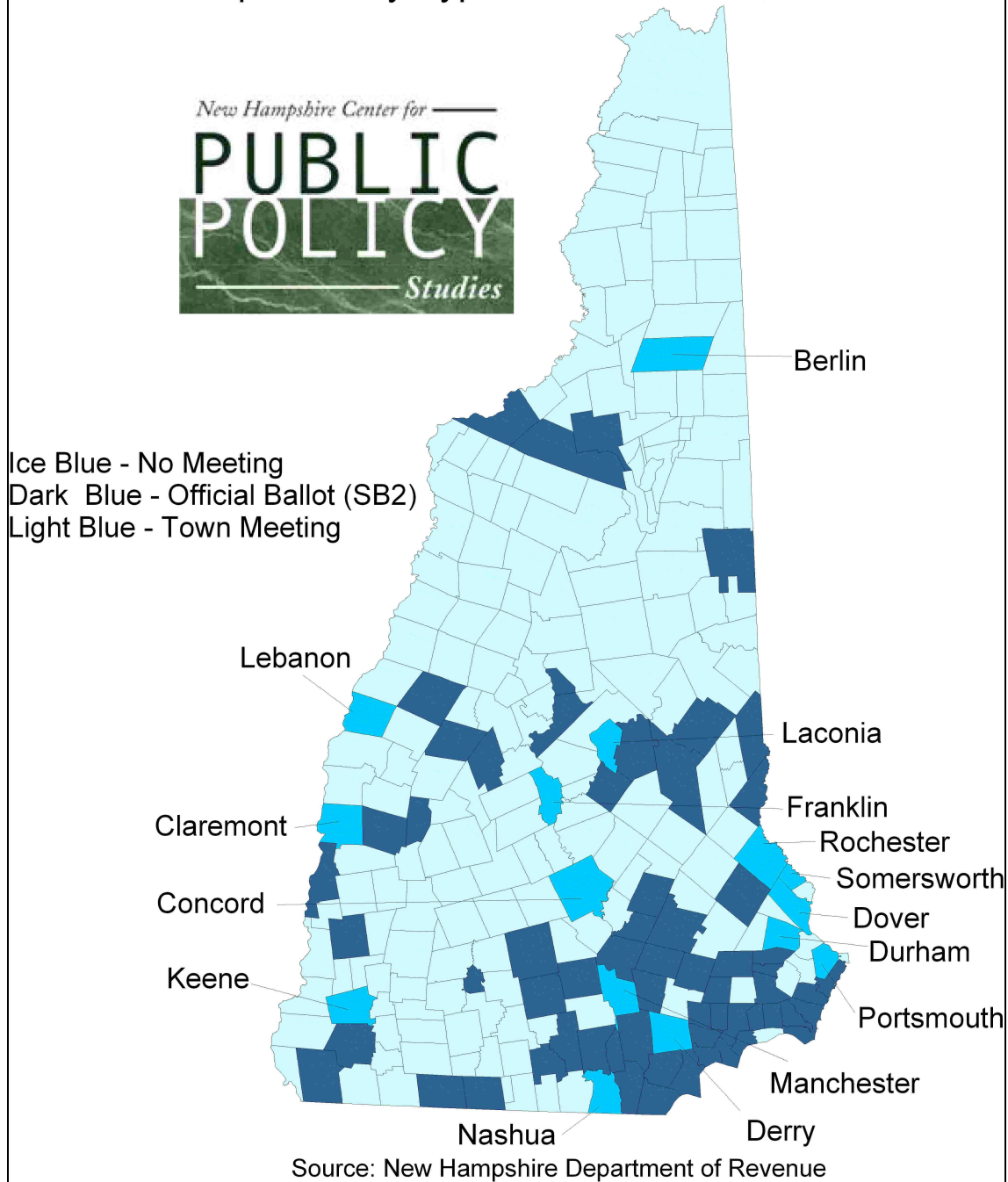
By 2008 more than 35% of New Hampshire’s population lived in the 63 towns that adopted SB2 as an alternative to the more traditional ‘town meeting’ municipalities. About 30% of New Hampshire’s residents live in ‘town meeting’ towns, and about 34% of New Hampshire’s residents live in the 15 municipalities with no town meeting, usually a city with a council form of government.

Municipal appropriations in New Hampshire are divided in a similar way. Of the \$5 billion in local level appropriations raised by New Hampshire municipalities in 2007 to fund local schools and other municipal services \$1.8 billion (36%) was appropriated in towns following the SB2 form of governance. Towns that followed the more traditional town meeting format had \$1.5 billion in spending in 2007.

The SB2 law requires two sessions, the first of which consists of explanation, discussion and debate of each warrant article; voters may amend and vote on amendments, but no final vote may be taken on any warrant article at the first session. The second session is held to elect officers by official ballot, to vote on questions required by law to be inserted on the official ballot, and to vote on all warrant articles from the first session by official ballot.



NH Municipalities by Type of Governance, 2008



New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies
One Eagle Square
Suite 510
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-4903
phone: (603) 226-2500
fax: (603) 226-3676
www.NHpolicy.org