



## This post has been flagged: Free Speech & Social Media

Who should regulate online speech—states or social media companies?

This spring, Texas passed a law preventing companies like Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and TikTok from discriminating against online expression by removing a post or digital content, generating broader questions about states' powers to regulate speech on social media platforms. In court, these tech companies argued that the law was unconstitutional, because they exercise editorial discretion, as publishers, protected under the First Amendment. While the Supreme Court blocked the law from taking effect in an emergency ruling, the case has been appealed, and continues to make its way through the courts. The final decision will carry significant implications for proposed legislation in other states, including New Hampshire.

At this *Ideas on Tap*, we'll unpack these tangled issues in conversation with legal experts and legislature watchers. Our panelists will help us think about states' obligations to their citizens, whether they can regulate social media companies, and if state laws can limit companies' First Amendment rights.

Watch your email for updates about *Ideas on Tap* this fall!

The logo for 'ideas on tap' features the words 'ideas' and 'on tap' in a red, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a yellow circle containing a black and white illustration of a lit lightbulb.

PINT-SIZED CONVERSATIONS ABOUT BIG IDEAS

An illustration on a teal background shows a man with a white shirt, tie, and glasses on a smartphone screen. He has his hands raised as if speaking. To the right of the phone is a large orange megaphone with a black cone. Above the phone are three curved lines representing a signal or broadcast.

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Monday, June 27, 2022  
Feathered Friend Brewery, Concord, NH

The logo for New Hampshire Humanities features a colorful, stylized graphic of the letters 'NH' in blue, red, and green. Below the graphic, the words 'NEW HAMPSHIRE' are in a small, blue, sans-serif font, and 'humanities' is in a larger, blue, sans-serif font.

## Moderator:



**MEG MOTT, PH.D.** is Professor of Politics Emerita and Town Moderator in Putney, Vermont. After twenty years of teaching political theory and constitutional law to Marlboro College undergraduates, Meg Mott has taken her love of argument to the general public. She attended the University of New Hampshire in the 1970s and is currently teaching at Keene State College. Meg's award-winning series *Debating Our Rights* on the first ten amendments brings civil discussions on contentious issues to public libraries and colleges.

## Panelists:

**ANNA BROWN** is Director of Research & Analysis at Citizens Count, a nonprofit dedicated to providing unbiased information about New Hampshire issues and candidates. She co-hosts the podcast *\$100 Plus Mileage*, a joint project with the Granite State News Collaborative, covering lesser-known legislation before the NH General Court. She is also a regular guest and subject matter expert on NH politics for NHPBS, NH Public Radio, and other media outlets. She received her master's degree in justice studies from UNH.



**NICK CAPODICE** co-hosts NHPR's *Civics 101*, the podcast refresher course on the basics of how our democracy works. For four years he and Hannah McCarthy have interviewed hundreds of scholars, politicians, judges and teachers to break down the fundamentals of our government. Nick and Hannah also wrote *A User's Guide to Democracy: How America Works*, an illustrated primer on civics. Nick lives in Concord, where he cooks Sichuan food and talks way too much about board games.



**JOHN GREABE** directs the Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership & Public Service. He is also a professor of law at the UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law, teaching constitutional law, civil procedure, and related courses. His scholarship focuses on constitutional law, federal courts, and civil rights litigation, and he also writes a periodic columns on the developments in constitutional law for the *Concord Monitor* and *NH Bulletin*.



**JUSTIN SILVERMAN** is executive director of the New England First Amendment Coalition. Silverman is a former journalist and a current Massachusetts-based attorney. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Maine School of Law and New England Law | Boston.



# Welcome!

Thank you for attending *Ideas on Tap*, New Hampshire Humanities' series of "pint-sized conversations about big ideas."

## What do you think?

- Who should regulate online speech?
- Are all social media sites the same?  
Should they be regulated as if they are?
- Is the Internet a public square or a private club?
- What obligations come with the rights of the First Amendment?

*Please feel free to write a question to the panelists on the question cards provided at your table, or by raising your hand for the roving microphone. We'll try to answer as many questions as time allows.*

*This series was made possible by the Mellon Foundation.*



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