

**All elected officials, appointed officials and employees of the town are required to take an oath of office before beginning to discharge their duties.**

**CHAPTER 42  
OATHS OF TOWN OFFICERS**

**Section 42:1**

**42:1 Oath Required.** – Every town officer shall make and subscribe the oath or declaration as prescribed by part 2, article 84 of the constitution of New Hampshire and any such person who violates said oath after taking the same shall be forthwith dismissed from the office involved.

[Art.] 84. [Oath of Civil Officers.] Any person chosen governor, councilor, senator, or representative, military or civil officer, (town officers excepted) accepting the trust, shall, before he proceeds to execute the duties of his office, make and subscribe the following declaration, viz. *-[WIC Note: Art. 84 of Part 2 of the Constitution excludes town officers. However, state law (RSA 42:1 above) requires town officers to take the same oath as state officers (below).]*

I, A.B. do solemnly swear, that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America and the state of New Hampshire, and will support the constitution thereof. So help me God.

I, A.B. do solemnly and sincerely swear and affirm that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all duties incumbent on me as ....., according to the best of my abilities, agreeably to the rules and regulations of this constitution and laws of the state of New Hampshire. So help me God. [WIC Note: Underline added.]

... Provided always, when any person chosen or appointed as aforesaid shall be of the denomination called Quakers, or shall be scrupulous of swearing, and shall decline taking the said oaths, such person shall take and subscribe them, omitting the word "swear," and likewise the words "So help me God," subjoining instead thereof, "This I do under the pains and penalties of perjury."

I, A.B., do solemnly and sincerely swear and affirm, that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as.....according to the best of my abilities, agreeably to the rules and regulations of this constitution, and the laws of the State of New Hampshire. So help me God

June 2, 1784

Amended 1792 three times, changing president to governor; shortening oath of allegiance; and dispensing with need to take second oath.

Amended 1970 adding allegiance to the United States of America.

**Section 42:1-a**

**42:1-a Manner of Dismissal; Breach of Confidentiality. –**

I. The manner of dismissing a town officer who violates the oath as set forth in RSA 42:1 shall be by petition to the superior court for the county in which the town is located.

II. Without limiting other causes for such a dismissal ...