

Kelly Ayotte endorsed in GOP gubernatorial primary by union for N.H. state employees

The State Employees' Association, which also endorsed in the Democratic primary, said it now has “two candidates we can put our faith in.”

By [Steven Porter](#) Globe Staff, Updated May 29, 2



Former Republican Senator Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire speaks at a campaign rally, Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020, at Lanconia Municipal Airport in Gilford, N.H. Ayotte is running for governor after fellow Republican Chris Sununu said he's not seeking reelection to a fifth term. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)ROBERT F. BUKATY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONCORD, N.H. — The State Employees' Association, a labor union that represents more than 10,000 workers across New Hampshire, endorsed

former US senator Kelly Ayotte on Wednesday in the state's GOP primary for governor.

The group's president, Rich Gulla, praised Ayotte for her leadership in crisis, her ability to collaborate across party lines, and her dedication to New Hampshire values.

"Her pragmatic approach to governance and her deep understanding of New Hampshire's issues uniquely position her to tackle the challenges ahead and deliver results for all citizens," he said.

The union, [SEA/SEIU Local 1984](#), which has also [endorsed Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington](#) in the Democratic primary, said it now has "two candidates we can put our faith in" as the gubernatorial election approaches.

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The group endorsed Warmington in late February after meeting with her and fellow Democratic candidate Joyce Craig, the former mayor of Manchester. Then the group met [in March and April](#) with former New Hampshire Senate President Chuck Morse and Ayotte in the Republican primary.

In a statement, Ayotte said she is proud to have the endorsement.

“From maintaining our roads and bridges to protecting the public to serving our most vulnerable, our state employees play a vital role in making New Hampshire a great place to live, work, and raise a family,” she said. “I’m proud to have their support, and as Governor, I look forward to working alongside our hardworking state employees every day to keep our state safe, prosperous, and free.”

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