

LOCAL NEWS OCTOBER 28, 2026

Goodlander, Tang Williams clash harshly during Granite State Debate



Rep. Maggie Goodlander and Republican Lily Tang Williams sharply disagreed on guns, immigration and affordability in a televised debate Wednesday night.



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Maggie Goodlander, left, and Lily Tang Williams, right, are running in New Hampshire's 2nd Congressional District. Provided by the Goodlander and Tang Williams campaigns

U.S. Rep. Maggie Goodlander and Republican candidate Lily Tang Williams made their respective cases to voters during a televised debate on Wednesday night.

Goodlander cited her accomplishments and experience over her first term in Congress as proof-positive she's earned another bid in Washington, D.C.



"It's been the honor of my lifetime to represent you in Congress," Goodlander said Wednesday night. "Your struggles are my struggles; your opportunities are my opportunities. We have so much more work to do to lower the sky-high cost of living, to crack down on the corruption that's jacking up your costs and to keep the promises we've made to one another as Americans."

Her opponent, Tang Williams, told the voters of the 2nd Congressional District that her tenacity and principles are what's missing in New Hampshire's federal delegation.

"There is a serious choice, Granite Staters. American patriot, communism survivor who really grew up in poverty and knows your concerns and knows your struggles and I want to help you," Tang Williams said. "I will hold town halls, she has not done town halls for this year, zero, I did 10 town halls. Who do you trust to serve you and to keep communism out of New Hampshire, out of America?"

This is a rematch of the 2024 race, when Goodlander beat Tang Williams by a six-point margin to secure her first term in Congress.

The first of the Granite State Debates, broadcast live on WMUR, was moderated by Adam Sexton, with questions asked by Union Leader Statehouse Bureau Chief Kevin Landrigan and WMUR anchors Steve Bottari and Christa Delkamp. Goodlander and Tang Williams clashed starkly over gun control, immigration policy and the border, and affordability.

Tang Williams frequently confronted Goodlander directly, while Goodlander remained composed in her approach — the difference in demeanor was particularly evident about 30 minutes through the debate when Landrigan asked the candidates about defense manufacturing. Tang Williams steered the discussion [toward the proposed purchase of a Nashua property by a Chinese beverage company](#) last year.

"There are two other projects, do you even know, are owned by Chinese companies? They're very dangerous companies, what have you done?" Tang Williams said. "I'm the whistleblower, I always take everything I've got to stand for New Hampshire."

"I know that you believe you are this whistleblower and this is about you, but really what this is about are rules of the road that haven't been updated and that I'm leading the charge to update," Goodlander said. "To make sure that our critical infrastructure in our communities are safe from foreign interference."



Early in the debate, Goodlander and Tang Williams displayed different rationales for the causes and potential solutions regarding gun violence. Tang Williams said she opposes any gun control policies and emphasized the role of parents and families in preventing violence. Goodlander said constitutional reforms are needed to prevent killings.

“Gun violence is the number-one killer of our kids in America, and that fact should weigh heavily on any person in a position of public trust. No kid should have to go to school and be fearful that they’re going to be shot dead and no parent should have to worry about that,” Goodlander said. “The fact is we’ve got common sense, constitutional, bipartisan ideas to crack down on this epidemic in our country.”

“New Hampshire is one of the safest states in the country because we have constitutional carry,” Tang Williams said. “Because law-abiding citizens use it to defend their communities, their families.”

On affordability, Goodlander described the issue as “the crisis of our time” and said rising fuel prices were caused by the Trump administration and are directly related to citizens’ ability to keep their heads above water.

“This is the No. 1 challenge, it’s what is standing in between hardworking people in this state who are working two to three jobs, still coming up thousands of dollars in the red,” Goodlander said.

“We’ve got to end this war, we’ve got to similarly end the trade wars, the tariffs that have been a tax on working people in every corner of this state,” Goodlander said.

Tang Williams said Goodlander focuses on President Donald Trump too often and doesn’t have a solid plan to reduce rising prices. She called for ending the war in Iran and developing all available sources of energy.

“We stopped building refineries since the '70s because people play politics and protest,” Tang Williams said.

“My solution is to not play politics, to actually bring people together. Get natural gas, cheap, affordable, to New Hampshire through pipelines,” she said.

The pair also clashed over funding for security along New Hampshire’s northern border and about Immigrations and Customs Enforcement action during the second Trump administration.



"ICE did not have to go to communities to arrest criminals if we got rid of sanctuary states and sanctuary cities because they do not cooperate with law enforcement at the federal level and the ICE got doxxed and threatened, their families were threatened," Tang Williams said. "That's one reason why they had to wear a mask."

Goodlander struck a different chord.

"ICE is not keeping our country safe, it's not keeping our communities safe, and it goes back to what I was saying earlier about the blank checks and the lack of accountability," Goodlander said.

"What I see every day in our local law enforcement partners around the state are people who are operating with professionalism, with transparency and with accountability," Goodlander said. "They're not wearing masks, they are honoring the fourth amendment to our constitution, they are following due process. What we're seeing at the federal level has really undermined that basic trust, and public safety depends on public trust."



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