



February 15, 2017

NH RESIDENTS POSITIVE ABOUT SUNUNU, LEGISLATURE, STATE OUTLOOK

By: Andrew E. Smith, Ph.D.
Zachary S. Azem, M.A.
Sean P. McKinley, M.A.

andrew.smith@unh.edu
603-862-2226
cola.unh.edu/survey-center

DURHAM, NH – Newly-elected Governor Chris Sununu's job approval is consistent with those of his predecessors at the outset of their governorships, and his personal favorability has risen considerably since the 2016 campaign. Granite Staters are increasingly positive about the State Legislature's performance and the overall direction of the state.

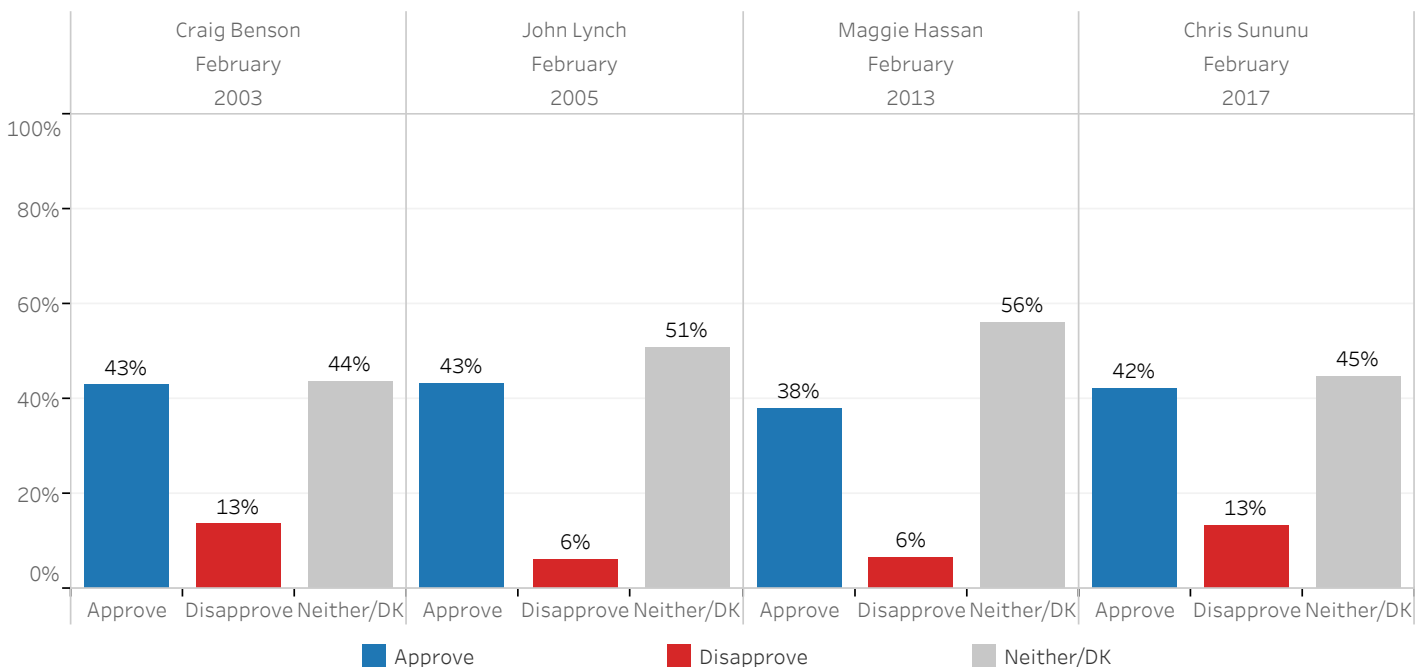
These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll***, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred and five (505) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone between January 31 and February 8, 2017. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.4 percent.

Gubernatorial Approval

Chris Sununu was sworn in as New Hampshire's 82nd governor on January 5, 2017. He begins his term with similar approval ratings as his three most recent predecessors, Craig Benson, John Lynch, and Maggie Hassan. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 42% of Granite Staters say they approve of the job Sununu is doing as governor, 13% disapprove, and 45% are neutral or don't know enough to say. In February 2003, 43% of New Hampshire adults said they approved of the job Craig Benson was doing as Governor, in February 2005, 43% approved of John Lynch, and in February 2013, 38% approved of Maggie Hassan.

Republicans (58%), those who frequently listen to conservative radio (57%) and those who frequently watch WMUR (52%) are most likely to say they approve of the job Sununu is doing as governor. Democrats (28%) and those who have completed postgraduate work (31%) are least likely to approve of Sununu.

NH Gubernatorial Approval at 1 Month into Term

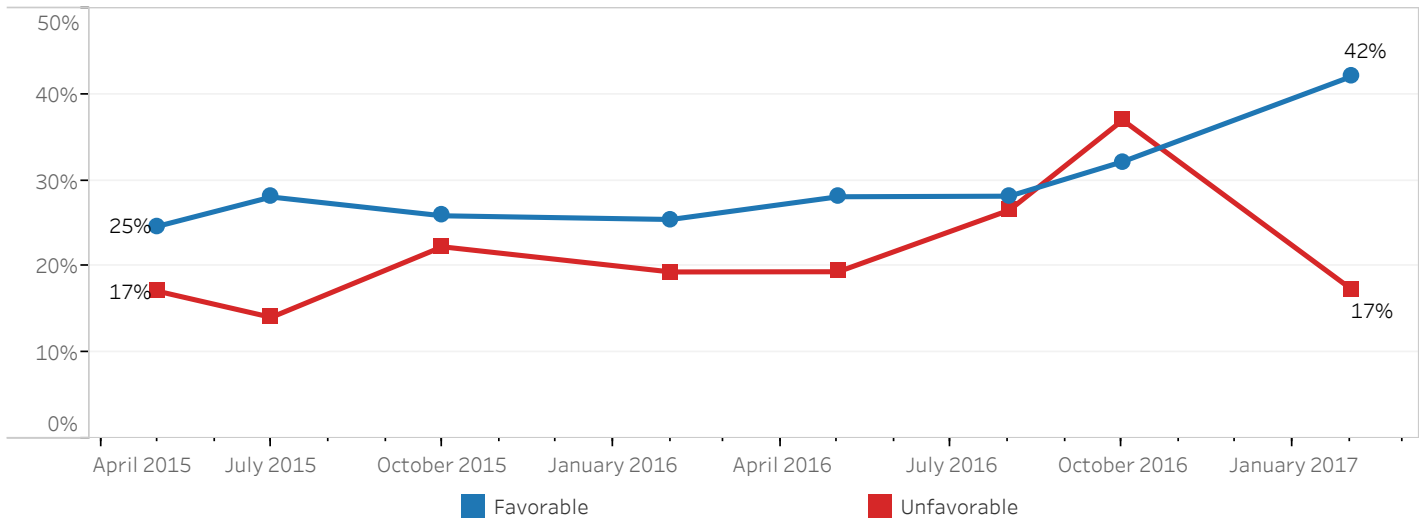


* We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as *the Granite State Poll*, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

Favorability Ratings - Governor Chris Sununu

Sununu's personal favorability ratings have increased since his election in November 2016. Currently, 42% of New Hampshire adults say they have a favorable opinion of Sununu, 17% have an unfavorable opinion, 19% are neutral, and 22% say they don't know enough about him to say. Sununu's net favorability rating, the percentage having a favorable opinion minus the percentage having an unfavorable opinion, is +25%, up significantly from -5% in October 2016. Sununu is very popular among Republicans (+50% net favorable) and popular among Independents (+31%), but somewhat unpopular among Democrats (-9%).

Favorability Ratings - NH Governor Chris Sununu

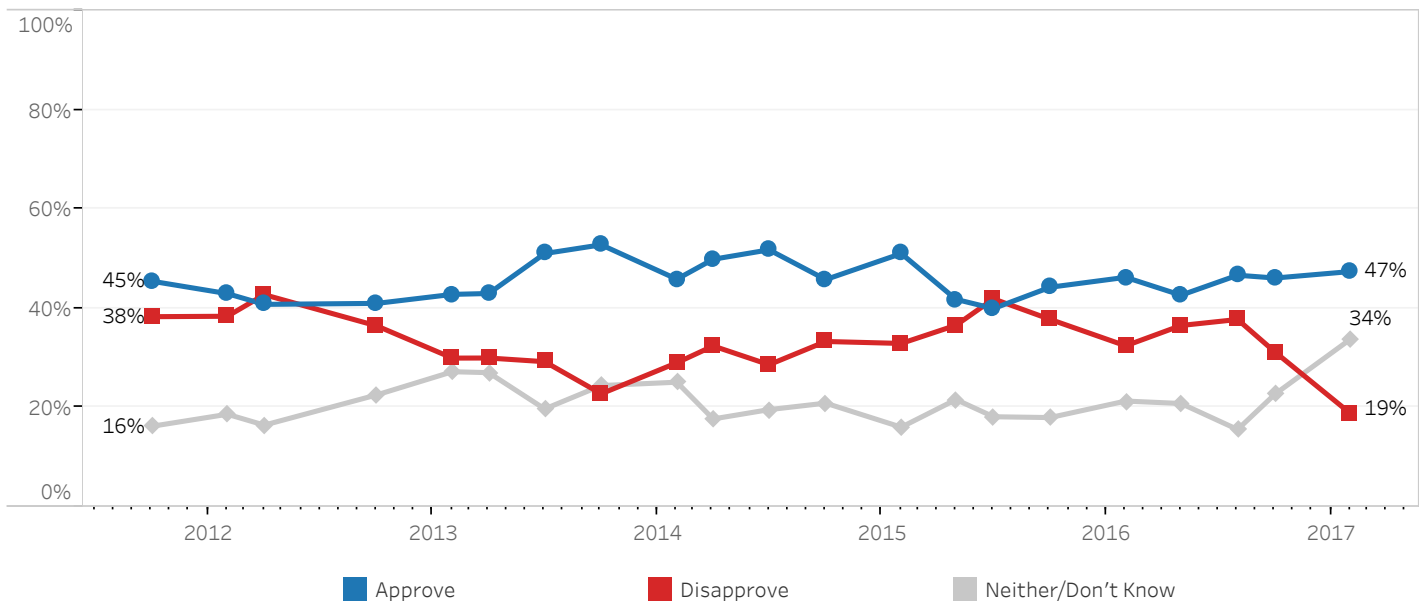


Approval of New Hampshire Legislature

Republicans retained control of both houses of the New Hampshire legislature in the November 2016 election. This represents the first time since 2010 that one party has held both houses of the legislature and the Governor's office. Currently, 47% of New Hampshire adults approve of how the State Legislature is doing its job, 19% disapprove, and 34% are neutral or don't know enough to say. Approval of the State Legislature has largely remained steady recently, but only half as many New Hampshire adults disapprove of the job they are doing compared to August 2016, when 38% disapproved.

Approval is somewhat tied to partisanship: a majority (58%) of Republicans approve of the job the legislature is doing but only 44% of Independents and 38% of Democrats feel that way.

Approval Rating - NH Legislature

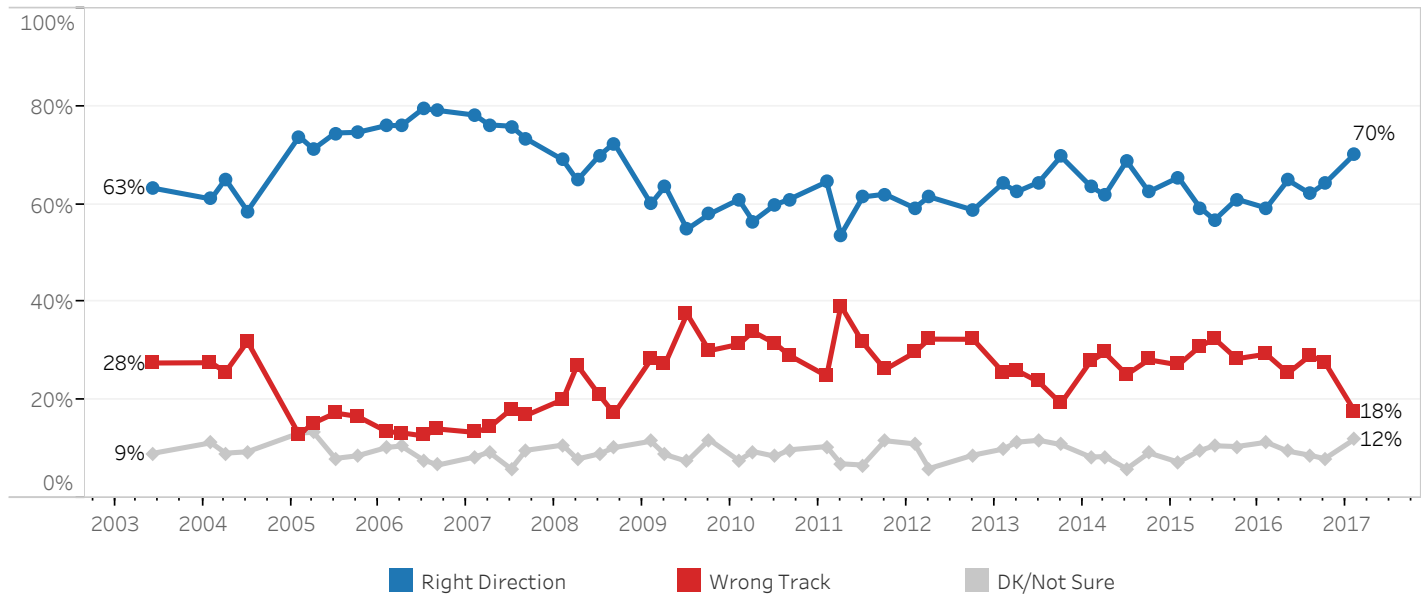


Right Direction or Wrong Track

Most New Hampshire residents continue to think the state as a whole is headed in the right direction. Currently, 70% of New Hampshire adults feel the state is heading in the right direction, only 18% think the state is seriously off on the wrong track, and 12% don't know or are unsure. The percentage of Granite Staters who think the state is on the right track (70%) is tied for the highest amount since September 2008. This feeling is bipartisan as majorities of Republicans (77%), Democrats (71%), and Independents (60%) say the state is headed in the right direction.

Respondents who frequently read the Union Leader (85%) and those with a high school degree or less (82%) are most likely to say NH is heading in the right direction.

NH Heading in Right Direction or On Wrong Track?



Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest Granite State Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred and five (505) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed in English by landline and cellular telephone between January 31 and February 8, 2017. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.4 percent. These MSE's have not been adjusted for design effect. The design effect for the survey is 1.2%.

The random sample used in the Granite State Poll was purchased from Marketing Systems Group (MSG), Horsham, PA. MSG screens each selected telephone number to eliminate non-working numbers, disconnected numbers, and business numbers to improve the efficiency of the sample, reducing the amount of time interviewers spend calling non-usable numbers.

The data have been weighted to adjust for numbers of adults and telephone lines within households. Additionally, data were weighted by respondent sex, age, education, and region of the state to targets from the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. In addition to potential sampling error, all surveys have other potential sources of non-sampling error including question order effects, question wording effects, and non-response. Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100%. The number of respondents in each demographic below may not equal the number reported in cross-tabulation tables as some respondents choose not to answer some questions.

For more information about the methodology used in the Granite State Poll, contact Dr. Andrew Smith at (603) 862-2226 or by email at andrew.smith@unh.edu.

Granite State Poll, Winter 2017 Demographics

		N	%
Sex of Respondent	Female	258	51%
	Male	247	49%
Age of Respondent	18 to 34	127	27%
	35 to 49	107	23%
	50 to 64	147	31%
	65 and older	90	19%
Level of Education	High school or less	126	26%
	Technical school/Some college	210	43%
	College graduate	93	19%
	Postgraduate work	63	13%
Region of State	Central / Lakes	85	17%
	Connecticut Valley	85	17%
	Manchester Area	82	16%
	Mass Border	128	25%
	North Country	41	8%
	Seacoast	85	17%
Registered to Vote	Reg. Democrat	118	24%
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	239	48%
	Reg. Republican	139	28%
Party ID	Democrat	168	35%
	Independent	129	27%
	Republican	183	38%

Gubernatorial Approval

“Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Sununu is handling his job as governor?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/DK</u>	<u>N</u>
Feb 2017	42%	13%	45%	476

Favorability Ratings - Governor Chris Sununu

“Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Sununu is handling his job as governor?”

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>N</u>
May 2015	25%	8%	17%	51%	567
Jul 2015	28%	7%	14%	51%	530
Oct 2015	26%	10%	22%	42%	581
Feb 2016	25%	13%	19%	43%	684
May 2016	28%	12%	19%	40%	618
Aug 2016	28%	10%	27%	36%	467
Oct 2016	32%	7%	37%	24%	767
Feb 2017	42%	19%	17%	22%	502

Legislature Approval

“And generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way the New Hampshire legislature is handling its job?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/Don't Know</u>	<u>N</u>
Oct 2011	45%	38%	17%	537
Feb 2012	42%	38%	20%	522
Apr 2012	40%	42%	18%	533
Oct 2012	41%	36%	23%	634
Feb 2013	43%	30%	28%	571
Apr 2013	42%	30%	28%	498
Jul 2013	51%	29%	20%	504
Oct 2013	53%	23%	25%	649
Feb 2014	46%	29%	26%	556
Apr 2014	50%	33%	17%	495
Jul 2014	51%	29%	20%	646
Oct 2014	46%	33%	21%	656
Feb 2015	51%	32%	17%	501
May 2015	42%	36%	22%	561
Jul 2015	40%	42%	19%	517
Oct 2015	45%	37%	18%	567
Feb 2016	46%	33%	22%	661
May 2016	43%	37%	21%	595
Aug 2016	47%	38%	16%	509
Oct 2016	46%	31%	23%	875
Feb 2017	47%	19%	34%	489

NH - Right Direction or Wrong Track

“Do you think things in New Hampshire are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?”

	<u>Right Direction</u>	<u>Wrong Track</u>	<u>DK/Not Sure</u>	<u>N</u>		<u>Right Direction</u>	<u>Wrong Track</u>	<u>DK/Not Sure</u>	<u>N</u>
Jun 2003	63%	28%	9%	509	Feb 2009	60%	28%	12%	605
Feb 2004	61%	28%	11%	500	Feb 2010	61%	31%	8%	490
Apr 2004	65%	26%	9%	530	Apr 2010	57%	34%	9%	503
Jul 2004	59%	32%	9%	503	Jul 2010	60%	32%	9%	496
Feb 2005	74%	13%	13%	535	Sep 2010	61%	29%	10%	511
Apr 2005	71%	15%	13%	488	Feb 2011	65%	25%	11%	517
Jul 2005	75%	17%	8%	494	Apr 2011	54%	39%	7%	491
Oct 2005	75%	17%	9%	502	Jul 2011	61%	32%	7%	503
Feb 2006	76%	14%	10%	495	Oct 2011	62%	26%	12%	544
Apr 2006	76%	13%	11%	501	Feb 2012	59%	30%	11%	517
Jul 2006	80%	13%	8%	497	Apr 2012	62%	32%	6%	532
Sep 2006	79%	14%	7%	509	Oct 2012	59%	32%	9%	622
Feb 2007	78%	13%	8%	524	Feb 2013	64%	26%	10%	573
Apr 2007	76%	14%	9%	506	Apr 2013	63%	26%	11%	497
Jul 2007	76%	18%	6%	500	Jul 2013	64%	24%	12%	509
Sep 2007	73%	17%	10%	507	Oct 2013	70%	19%	11%	646
Feb 2008	69%	20%	11%	547	Feb 2014	64%	28%	8%	570
Apr 2008	65%	27%	8%	491	Apr 2014	62%	30%	8%	505
Jul 2008	70%	21%	9%	514	Jul 2014	69%	25%	6%	656
Sep 2008	72%	17%	10%	535	Oct 2014	63%	28%	9%	666
Feb 2009	60%	28%	12%	605	Feb 2015	65%	27%	7%	501
Apr 2009	64%	27%	9%	497	May 2015	59%	31%	10%	562
Jul 2009	55%	38%	7%	557	Jul 2015	57%	33%	11%	522
Oct 2009	58%	30%	12%	496	Oct 2015	61%	28%	11%	581
					Feb 2016	59%	29%	11%	669
					May 2016	65%	25%	10%	593
					Aug 2016	62%	29%	9%	517
					Oct 2016	64%	28%	8%	890
					Feb 2017	70%	18%	12%	496

Gubernatorial Approval

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/DK</u>	<u>N</u>
STATEWIDE		42%	13%	45%	476
Registered to Vote	Reg. Democrat	27%	23%	50%	108
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	38%	13%	49%	227
	Reg. Republican	63%	3%	34%	133
Party ID	Democrat	28%	25%	47%	157
	Independent	39%	12%	49%	122
	Republican	58%	2%	39%	173
Ideology	Liberal	28%	28%	45%	106
	Moderate	36%	15%	50%	159
	Conservative	60%	2%	38%	150
Media Usage	Listen to Conserv Radio	57%	3%	40%	61
	Listen to NHPR	41%	22%	37%	153
	Read Boston Globe	21%	28%	51%	50
	Read Local Newspapers	45%	15%	41%	151
	Read Union Leader	46%	12%	43%	86
	Watch WMUR	52%	8%	41%	278
Age of Respondent	18 to 34	41%	8%	50%	117
	35 to 49	44%	12%	45%	107
	50 to 64	49%	13%	38%	134
	65 and older	34%	18%	48%	86
Sex of Respondent	Female	37%	18%	45%	243
	Male	47%	8%	45%	232
Level of Education	High school or less	48%	7%	46%	114
	Technical school/Some college	45%	11%	45%	201
	College graduate	38%	15%	46%	85
	Postgraduate work	31%	29%	40%	62
Frequency Attend Relig. Service	Attend services 1 or more/week	51%	10%	39%	87
	Once-twice a month	50%	6%	44%	56
	Few times a year	45%	6%	48%	115
	Never	34%	20%	46%	185
2016 Presidential Election Vote	Donald Trump	60%	3%	37%	173
	Hillary Clinton	24%	26%	50%	169
	Gary Johnson	79%	3%	18%	17
	Other	46%	13%	41%	39
	Did Not Vote	20%	8%	71%	44
Gun Owner in Household	Gun Owner	49%	9%	41%	205
	Not Gun Owner	37%	17%	46%	238
Labor Union Member	Not Union Member	44%	13%	43%	400
	Union Member	37%	10%	54%	64
Veteran/Active in Household	Active/Veteran Military	41%	11%	48%	127
	Not Active/Veteran Military	43%	13%	43%	340
Region of State	Central / Lakes	33%	20%	47%	84
	Connecticut Valley	47%	7%	46%	81
	Manchester Area	42%	10%	48%	76
	Mass Border	46%	15%	39%	116
	North Country	42%	4%	54%	40
	Seacoast	42%	17%	41%	78
Congressional District	First Cong. District	37%	16%	46%	226
	Second Cong. District	47%	10%	43%	250

Favorability Ratings - Governor Chris Sununu

		Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	N
STATEWIDE		42%	19%	17%	22%	502
Registered to Vote	Reg. Democrat	22%	23%	33%	22%	118
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	44%	17%	17%	22%	236
	Reg. Republican	56%	21%	4%	18%	139
Party ID	Democrat	24%	22%	33%	21%	168
	Independent	44%	18%	13%	25%	128
	Republican	56%	19%	6%	19%	182
Ideology	Liberal	24%	22%	36%	18%	114
	Moderate	37%	24%	18%	20%	164
	Conservative	58%	17%	6%	19%	163
Media Usage	Listen to Conserv Radio	62%	15%	7%	16%	65
	Listen to NHPR	40%	12%	29%	19%	158
	Read Boston Globe	29%	15%	33%	22%	52
	Read Local Newspapers	46%	16%	19%	20%	159
	Read Union Leader	50%	15%	17%	18%	88
	Watch WMUR	51%	20%	12%	17%	287
Age of Respondent	18 to 34	41%	13%	15%	31%	124
	35 to 49	51%	13%	18%	18%	107
	50 to 64	40%	31%	14%	14%	147
	65 and older	37%	17%	23%	22%	89
Sex of Respondent	Female	39%	18%	23%	21%	257
	Male	46%	20%	12%	22%	245
Level of Education	High school or less	44%	23%	12%	21%	124
	Technical school/Some college	42%	17%	17%	24%	210
	College graduate	43%	22%	18%	16%	92
	Postgraduate work	38%	18%	27%	16%	62
Frequency Attend Relig. Service	Attend services 1 or more/week	48%	19%	13%	20%	88
	Once-twice a month	35%	24%	18%	23%	63
	Few times a year	51%	19%	9%	21%	120
	Never	37%	19%	22%	22%	196
2016 Presidential Election Vote	Donald Trump	59%	19%	6%	17%	184
	Hillary Clinton	23%	23%	33%	21%	179
	Gary Johnson	69%	11%	13%	7%	18
	Other	48%	12%	11%	29%	43
	Did Not Vote	35%	16%	10%	39%	45
Gun Owner in Household	Gun Owner	51%	21%	12%	17%	220
	Not Gun Owner	35%	17%	22%	26%	250
Labor Union Member	Not Union Member	45%	18%	17%	19%	417
	Union Member	28%	24%	18%	29%	72
Veteran/Active in Household	Active/Veteran Military	44%	24%	15%	17%	131
	Not Active/Veteran Military	42%	18%	18%	22%	362
Region of State	Central / Lakes	43%	14%	25%	19%	85
	Connecticut Valley	47%	20%	15%	18%	85
	Manchester Area	46%	25%	10%	19%	80
	Mass Border	40%	20%	18%	22%	127
	North Country	50%	19%	14%	17%	41
	Seacoast	33%	16%	20%	31%	85
Congressional District	First Cong. District	37%	19%	19%	25%	240
	Second Cong. District	47%	19%	16%	18%	261

Legislature Approval

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither/Don't Know	N
STATEWIDE		47%	19%	34%	489
Registered to Vote	Reg. Democrat	30%	30%	40%	110
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	45%	21%	35%	233
	Reg. Republican	65%	6%	28%	136
Party ID	Democrat	38%	26%	36%	161
	Independent	44%	21%	36%	124
	Republican	58%	11%	31%	180
Ideology	Liberal	34%	34%	32%	109
	Moderate	43%	14%	43%	159
	Conservative	59%	11%	30%	158
Media Usage	Listen to Conserv Radio	59%	12%	28%	59
	Listen to NHPR	44%	26%	30%	155
	Read Boston Globe	46%	23%	31%	52
	Read Local Newspapers	49%	23%	28%	154
	Read Union Leader	61%	9%	31%	88
	Watch WMUR	49%	19%	33%	280
Age of Respondent	18 to 34	56%	14%	30%	122
	35 to 49	43%	26%	30%	107
	50 to 64	49%	16%	35%	141
	65 and older	40%	20%	41%	86
Sex of Respondent	Female	42%	21%	37%	249
	Male	52%	17%	31%	240
Level of Education	High school or less	54%	13%	33%	121
	Technical school/Some college	44%	18%	38%	202
	College graduate	51%	19%	31%	90
	Postgraduate work	40%	30%	30%	62
Frequency Attend Relig. Service	Attend services 1 or more/week	50%	15%	35%	90
	Once-twice a month	56%	9%	35%	59
	Few times a year	47%	19%	34%	117
	Never	45%	22%	33%	192
2016 Presidential Election Vote	Donald Trump	59%	12%	29%	181
	Hillary Clinton	34%	25%	41%	172
	Gary Johnson	60%	12%	28%	17
	Other	35%	36%	29%	39
	Did Not Vote	56%	13%	31%	45
Gun Owner in Household	Gun Owner	46%	20%	34%	216
	Not Gun Owner	46%	19%	35%	241
Labor Union Member	Not Union Member	49%	19%	33%	410
	Union Member	40%	16%	44%	67
Veteran/Active in Household	Active/Veteran Military	52%	18%	30%	128
	Not Active/Veteran Military	46%	18%	36%	352
Region of State	Central / Lakes	47%	23%	30%	85
	Connecticut Valley	43%	17%	40%	82
	Manchester Area	54%	17%	30%	77
	Mass Border	46%	20%	34%	122
	North Country	46%	20%	34%	41
	Seacoast	46%	15%	39%	82
Congressional District	First Cong. District	47%	16%	37%	232
	Second Cong. District	46%	22%	32%	257

NH - Right Direction or Wrong Track

		Right Direction	Wrong Track	DK/Not Sure	N
STATEWIDE		70%	18%	12%	496
Registered to Vote	Reg. Democrat	70%	20%	10%	113
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	67%	20%	13%	235
	Reg. Republican	77%	12%	11%	139
Party ID	Democrat	71%	19%	10%	164
	Independent	60%	23%	17%	126
	Republican	77%	13%	10%	183
Ideology	Liberal	61%	26%	12%	114
	Moderate	75%	14%	10%	159
	Conservative	73%	15%	12%	163
Media Usage	Listen to Conserv Radio	67%	18%	15%	66
	Listen to NHPR	71%	20%	9%	157
	Read Boston Globe	73%	15%	11%	52
	Read Local Newspapers	77%	17%	6%	155
	Read Union Leader	85%	8%	7%	87
	Watch WMUR	73%	16%	11%	285
Age of Respondent	18 to 34	74%	15%	11%	125
	35 to 49	63%	21%	16%	106
	50 to 64	71%	18%	11%	142
	65 and older	73%	18%	10%	90
Sex of Respondent	Female	65%	22%	13%	255
	Male	76%	13%	11%	242
Level of Education	High school or less	82%	4%	14%	124
	Technical school/Some college	64%	23%	13%	206
	College graduate	70%	20%	10%	91
	Postgraduate work	70%	20%	9%	63
Frequency Attend Relig. Service	Attend services 1 or more/week	72%	19%	9%	89
	Once-twice a month	78%	6%	16%	63
	Few times a year	67%	19%	14%	117
	Never	69%	20%	11%	193
2016 Presidential Election Vote	Donald Trump	74%	14%	12%	185
	Hillary Clinton	70%	22%	8%	177
	Gary Johnson	76%	22%	2%	18
	Other	61%	20%	19%	40
	Did Not Vote	62%	18%	20%	45
Gun Owner in Household	Gun Owner	72%	14%	14%	220
	Not Gun Owner	70%	22%	8%	244
Labor Union Member	Not Union Member	70%	17%	12%	416
	Union Member	74%	18%	8%	68
Veteran/Active in Household	Active/Veteran Military	73%	21%	7%	129
	Not Active/Veteran Military	70%	16%	14%	358
Region of State	Central / Lakes	58%	23%	18%	83
	Connecticut Valley	66%	20%	14%	84
	Manchester Area	79%	15%	6%	80
	Mass Border	74%	16%	11%	127
	North Country	74%	21%	5%	40
	Seacoast	71%	14%	15%	81
Congressional District	First Cong. District	74%	17%	9%	236
	Second Cong. District	67%	18%	15%	260