

THE WMUR GRANITE STATE POLL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

October 5, 2012

VOTERS DIVIDED ON INCOME TAX AMENDMENT

By: Andrew E. Smith, Ph.D.
Chad S. Novak, M.A.
UNH Survey Center
603/862-2226
www.unh.edu/survey-center

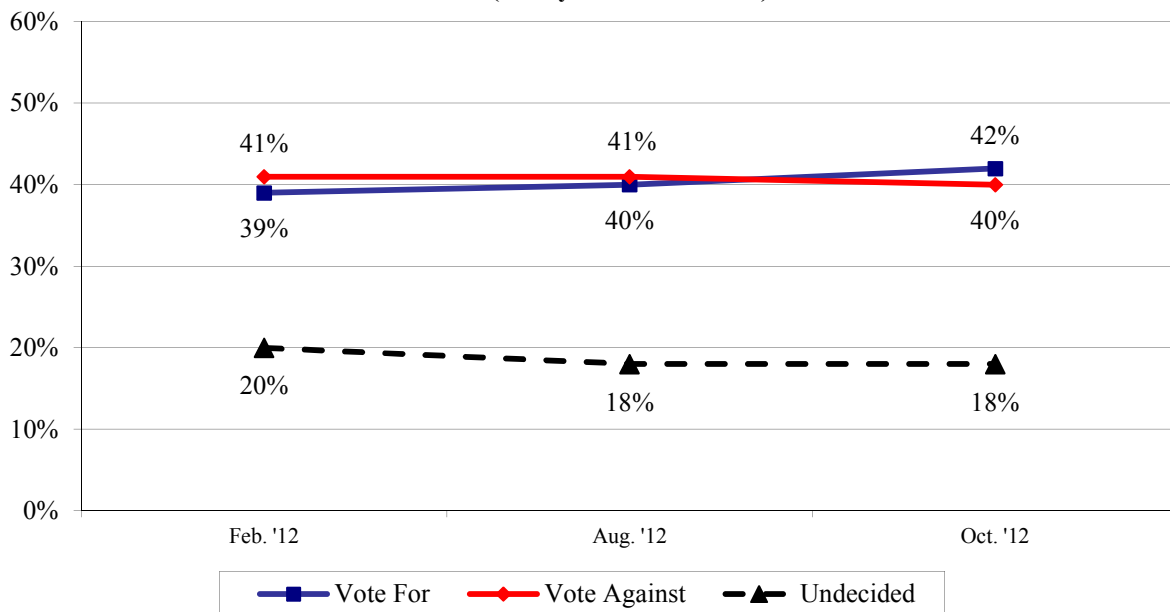
DURHAM, NH –A constitutional amendment to prohibit an income tax in New Hampshire has only modest support. For it to pass it would require support from two-thirds of voters and it is likely to be defeated this fall.

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR Granite State Poll**,* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Six hundred and thirty-eight (638) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone between September 27 and September 30, 2012. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 3.9 percent. Included is a subsample of 600 likely general election voters (margin of sampling error +/- 4.0%).

Income Tax Amendment

An amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution will be on the ballot this November that will prohibit a state income tax. When asked whether or not they would vote for this amendment, Granite State voters remain divided. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 42% said they would vote for the amendment, 40% would vote against it, and 18% are unsure. But since this amendment requires a two-thirds majority, passage is doubtful. The proposed amendment gets support from only a slim majority of Republicans (53%), while most Democrats (50%) oppose it. Independents are more divided, with 48% supporting the amendment and 35% planning to vote against it. Support for the amendment has remained unchanged since February.

Vote For/Against Income Tax Amendment
(Likely 2012 NH Voters)



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

Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest WMUR Granite State Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Six hundred and thirty-eight (638) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone between September 27 and September 30, 2012. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 3.9 percent. Included is a subsample of 600 likely general election voters (margin of sampling error +/- 4.0%).

The data have been weighted to adjust for numbers of adults and telephone lines within households, respondent sex, and region of the state. 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.

State Income Tax Amendment

“This November, there will be a proposed amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution on the ballot which would prohibit the state from having an income tax. As of now, would you say you would vote for or against the proposed amendment to prohibit an income tax, or don’t you know enough about this to say?”

(ASKED IN FEB. 2012) “Recently, the New Hampshire House of Representatives proposed an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution which would prohibit the state from having an income tax. If this amendment were to pass the New Hampshire Senate, it would be on the ballot in November. As of now, would you say you would vote for or against the proposed amendment to prohibit an income tax, or don’t you know enough about this to say?”

| | <u>Feb. '12</u> | <u>Aug. '12</u> | <u>Oct. '12</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Vote For | 39% | 40% | 42% |
| Vote Against | 41% | 41% | 40% |
| Don't Know | 20% | 18% | 18% |
| (N=) | (520) | (553) | (596) |

Vote For/Against Amendment To Prohibit State Income Tax

| STATEWIDE | <u>Vote For</u> 42% | <u>Vote Against</u> 40% | <u>Don't Know</u> 18% | <u>(N=)</u> 596 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Registered Democrat | 29% | 53% | 18% | 161 |
| Registered Undeclared | 43% | 38% | 19% | 233 |
| Registered Republican | 56% | 31% | 13% | 161 |
| Democrat | 29% | 50% | 21% | 277 |
| Independent | 48% | 35% | 17% | 77 |
| Republican | 53% | 32% | 15% | 232 |
| Liberal | 26% | 58% | 16% | 128 |
| Moderate | 41% | 42% | 18% | 248 |
| Conservative | 55% | 28% | 17% | 182 |
| Support Tea Party | 58% | 32% | 10% | 151 |
| Neutral | 46% | 32% | 23% | 135 |
| Oppose Tea Party | 33% | 49% | 18% | 280 |
| Union household | 39% | 47% | 15% | 85 |
| Non union | 42% | 40% | 18% | 505 |
| Read Union Leader | 50% | 34% | 15% | 191 |
| Read Boston Globe | 35% | 40% | 25% | 95 |
| Watch WMUR | 46% | 38% | 16% | 357 |
| Listen to NHPR | 27% | 58% | 16% | 207 |
| 18 to 34 | 36% | 31% | 33% | 64 |
| 35 to 49 | 52% | 31% | 17% | 104 |
| 50 to 64 | 42% | 44% | 14% | 212 |
| 65 and over | 37% | 46% | 17% | 198 |
| Male | 41% | 46% | 13% | 294 |
| Female | 42% | 35% | 23% | 301 |
| High school or less | 38% | 33% | 29% | 125 |
| Some college | 47% | 34% | 19% | 124 |
| College graduate | 43% | 43% | 14% | 203 |
| Post graduate | 39% | 48% | 13% | 139 |
| Attend services 1 or more/week | 51% | 32% | 17% | 157 |
| 1 2 times a month | 47% | 35% | 17% | 55 |
| Less often | 37% | 43% | 21% | 174 |
| Never | 37% | 48% | 15% | 178 |
| North Country | 25% | 51% | 24% | 48 |
| Central / Lakes | 27% | 54% | 18% | 110 |
| Connecticut Valley | 36% | 43% | 21% | 84 |
| Mass Border | 47% | 34% | 20% | 169 |
| Seacoast | 50% | 39% | 11% | 101 |
| Manchester Area | 55% | 29% | 16% | 84 |
| First Cong. Dist | 49% | 35% | 15% | 271 |
| Second Cong. Dist | 35% | 45% | 20% | 322 |