THE WMUR GRANITE STATE POLL
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

July 8, 2011

ECONOMY STILL TOP PROBLEM FACING GRANITE STATE

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DURHAM, NH – Governor John Lynch remains very popular in New Hampshire, but Granite Staters are still concerned about the economy and the state budget.

These findings are based on the latest WMUR Granite State Poll,* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred sixteen (516) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between June 21 and July 1, 2011. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.3 percent.

Gubernatorial Approval

Governor John Lynch continues to enjoy strong approval for the job he is doing as governor. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 65% of NH adults say they approve of the way he is handling his job as governor, 23% disapprove, and 12% are neutral or don’t know. Lynch continues to have strong support among Democrats (82% approve) and also receives majority support from Independents (54%) and Republicans (52%).

The chart below shows the trend in Governor John Lynch's approval ratings over time.

Lynch’s personal favorability ratings are also high. In the latest Granite State Poll, 66% of New Hampshire adults say they have a favorable opinion of Lynch, 19% have an unfavorable opinion, 10% are neutral, and 5% say they don’t know enough about him to say. Lynch’s net favorability rating, the percentage having a favorable opinion minus the percentage having an unfavorable opinion, remains very high, +47%. Lynch receives a high net favorability from Democrats (+71%) as well as from Independents (+42%), and even receives positive net favorability ratings from Republicans (+25%).

* 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.
Concerns about the state’s economy and unemployment continue to be seen as the most important problem facing the state (34%), followed by concerns about the state budget (18%). Other frequently cited concerns are the newly elected Republican legislature (6%), high taxes (6%), and health care (4%). 12% of Democrats said the GOP legislature is the most important problem facing the state.
Most New Hampshire residents believe the state is headed in the right direction. Currently, 61% of New Hampshire adults feel the state is heading in the right direction, 32% think the state is seriously off on the wrong track, and 7% don’t know. This represents a return to the longer term trend after a drop in the April Granite State Poll.

There is bipartisan consensus about the direction the state is heading -- majorities of Democrats (64%), Republicans (61%), and Independents (55%), all say the state is headed in the right direction.
Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest WMUR Granite State Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred sixteen (516) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between June 21 and July 1, 2011. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.3 percent.

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.

Gubernatorial Approval

“GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Lynch is handling his job as governor?”

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<th>Disapprove</th>
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Favorability Ratings – Governor John Lynch

“Next, I’d like to get your overall opinion of some people in the news. As I read each name, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person - or if you have never heard of him or her. Governor John Lynch.”

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Most Important Problem Facing New Hampshire

“Let's turn to the State of New Hampshire ... There are many problems facing the STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE today. In general, what do you think is the most IMPORTANT problem facing the STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE today?”

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<th>Educ. Funding</th>
<th>Taxes</th>
<th>Health Care</th>
<th>Quality Educ.</th>
<th>Growth/Sprawl</th>
<th>State Budget</th>
<th>Cost of Gas/Oil</th>
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* Less than 1%
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?”

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<td>4%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30K to $60K</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60K to $75K</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75K to $100K</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100K or more</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend services 1 or more/week</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 times a month</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less often</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Country</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central / Lakes</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Valley</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Border</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seacoast</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester Area</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Cong. Dist</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Cong. Dist</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>