

THE WMUR / UNH NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION POLL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

October 18, 2010

LYNCH MAINTAINS LEAD OVER STEPHEN FOR NH GOVERNOR

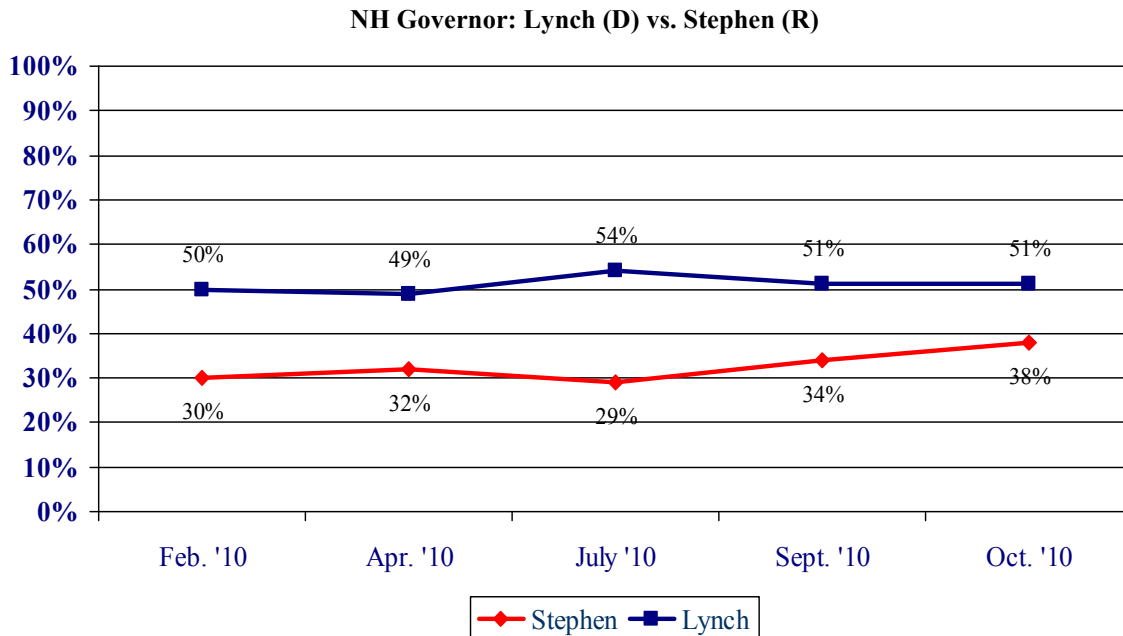
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DURHAM, NH – Governor John Lynch continues to hold a double-digit lead over his Republican challenger John Stephen, but the gap between the two candidates has narrowed in recent weeks.

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR / UNH New Hampshire Election Poll**,* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Seven hundred nine (709) randomly selected New Hampshire likely voters were interviewed by telephone between October 7 and October 12, 2010. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 3.7 percent.

With just over two weeks remaining until the election, incumbent Democrat John Lynch continues to lead former Health and Human Services Commissioner John Stephen in the election for New Hampshire governor, although the race has narrowed somewhat. In the most recent WMUR / UNH election poll, 51% of likely voters say they will vote for Lynch, 38% prefer Stephen, 2% favor Libertarian John Babiarz, 1% prefer some other candidate, and 9% are undecided.

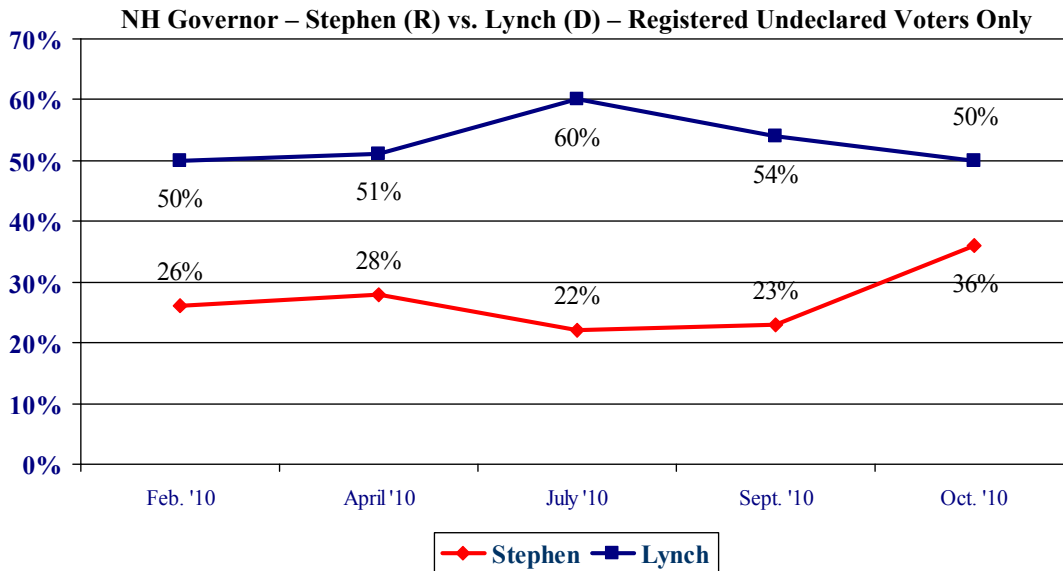
Among voters who say they will definitely vote, Lynch holds a smaller lead, 49% to 40%. Stephen does better among voters who say they are extremely interested in the election -- he only trails Lynch by 3 percentage points, 48% to 45%, among this group.



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

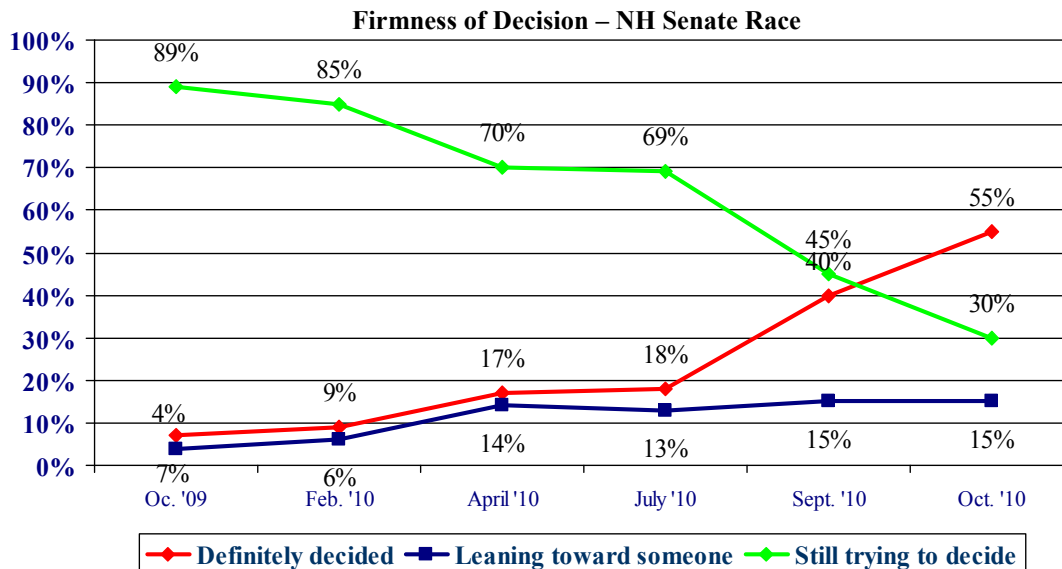
Lynch gets his strongest support from Democrats, voters with post-graduate educations, voters who never attend church, and residents of the North Country. Stephen's strongest support comes from Republicans, Tea Party supporters, voters who are excited about the outcome of the November elections, regular churchgoers, and residents of greater Manchester.

Stephen continues to have problems solidifying his Republican base. Only 67% of registered Republicans say they will vote for Stephen while 89% of registered Democrats say they will vote for Lynch. Among Undeclared voters, often called Independents, Lynch holds a 50% to 36% lead. However, Lynch's lead among undeclared voters has been cut in half in recent weeks – Lynch held a 31 percentage point lead over Stephen among undeclared voters in late September and only holds a 16 percentage point lead now.



Decisions Being Made

As the election approaches, a higher percentage of voters have definitely decided on who they will vote for. Currently, 55% of likely voters say they have definitely decided who they will vote for in the race for Governor, 15% are leaning to a candidate, and 30% are still trying to decide. Lynch leads Stephen by 59% to 40% among voters who have definitely decided who they will support.



Most Important Problem Facing New Hampshire

New Hampshire residents remained concerned about the state's economy and. Currently, 39% of New Hampshire adults say the economy and jobs is the most important issue facing the state, followed by the state budget (13%), high taxes (13%), the cost of health care (10%), education funding (7%), and the quality of education (4%).

Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR Granite State Poll**, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Seven hundred nine (709) randomly selected New Hampshire likely voters were interviewed by telephone between October 7 and October 12, 2010. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 3.7 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.

Firmness of NH Governor Vote

"I know that it is early, but have you definitely decided who you will vote for in the New Hampshire Gubernatorial election in 2010 ... are you leaning toward someone ... or have you considered some candidates but are still trying to decide?"

	<u>Oct. '09</u>	<u>Feb. '10</u>	<u>Apr. '10</u>	<u>July '10</u>	<u>Sept' 10</u>	<u>Oct. '10</u>
Definitely Decided	7%	9%	17%	18%	40%	55%
Leaning Toward Someone	4%	6%	14%	13%	15%	15%
Still Trying to Decide	89%	85%	70%	69%	45%	30%
(N=)	(454)	(440)	(461)	(450)	(473)	(709)

NH Governor – John Stephen vs. John Lynch – Likely Voters

"If the 2010 gubernatorial election was being held today and the candidates were John Stephen, the Republican and John Lynch, the Democrat, who would you vote for?" ROTATE CANDIDATES

	<u>Feb. '10</u>	<u>Apr. '10</u>	<u>July '10</u>	<u>Sept. '10</u>	<u>Oct. '10</u>
John Stephen	30%	32%	29%	34%	38%
John Lynch	50%	49%	54%	51%	51%
John Babiarz	--	--	--	--	2%
Other	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Don't Know	19%	18%	15%	14%	9%
(N=)	(444)	(460)	(448)	(470)	(705)

Most Important Problem Facing New Hampshire

"Of the following list, which one of these will be the single most important issue in your vote for New Hampshire governor this year ... education funding ... taxes ... the state budget ... jobs and the economy ... the cost of health care ... the quality of public education ... or something else?" ROTATE RESPONSES

	<u>Jobs / Economy</u>	<u>Educ. Funding</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>Health Care</u>	<u>Quality Educ.</u>	<u>State Budget</u>	<u>Other/ DK</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
Oct. '10	39%	7%	13%	10%	4%	13%	14%	(709)

Firmness of choice for New Hampshire Governor

STATEWIDE	<u>Definitely Decided</u> 55%	<u>Leaning Toward Someone</u> 15%	<u>Still Trying To Decide</u> 30%	<u>(N=)</u> 709
Registered Democrat	65%	12%	22%	201
Registered Undeclared	48%	18%	35%	271
Registered Republican	55%	13%	32%	235
Democrat	64%	13%	23%	298
Independent	45%	12%	43%	98
Republican	49%	17%	34%	309
Core Republican	54%	16%	30%	282
Swing Voter	35%	17%	47%	159
Core Democrat	68%	12%	20%	267
Excited about election outcome	56%	16%	27%	423
Depressed about election outcome	60%	10%	30%	195
Neutral/Don't Know	37%	18%	44%	90
Extremely interested in election	71%	11%	18%	304
Very interested	48%	18%	34%	297
Somewhat/Not very interested	29%	15%	56%	108
Definitely will vote	60%	14%	26%	559
Will vote unless emergency	36%	18%	46%	150
Support Tea Party	51%	18%	31%	241
Neutral	42%	17%	41%	180
Oppose Tea Party	69%	12%	19%	257
Approve of Obama	65%	12%	23%	312
Neutral	24%	37%	39%	26
Disapprove of Obama	49%	16%	36%	370
Male	57%	15%	28%	350
Female	53%	15%	33%	359
18 to 34	50%	13%	36%	50
35 to 49	42%	21%	37%	178
50 to 64	61%	13%	26%	265
65 and over	59%	12%	29%	208
High school or less	50%	8%	42%	120
Some college	50%	17%	33%	126
College graduate	54%	18%	27%	263
Post graduate	63%	12%	25%	198
Attend services 1 or more/week	52%	22%	26%	203
1 2 times a month	53%	9%	38%	102
Less often	54%	15%	31%	214
Never	61%	10%	29%	173
10 yrs or less in NH	42%	18%	40%	108
11 to 20 years	50%	16%	34%	141
More than 20 years	59%	14%	27%	457
North Country	60%	6%	34%	59
Central / Lakes	58%	18%	24%	116
Connecticut Valley	49%	10%	40%	93
Mass Border	51%	19%	31%	215
Seacoast	57%	14%	30%	111
Manchester Area	60%	13%	27%	116
First Cong. Dist	55%	15%	30%	339
Second Cong. Dist	55%	15%	30%	369

NH Governor – John Stephen vs. John Lynch – Likely Voters

STATEWIDE	<u>Stephen</u> 38%	<u>Lynch</u> 51%	<u>Other</u> 3%	<u>DK</u> 9%	<u>(N)</u> 705
Registered Democrat	6%	89%	1%	4%	200
Registered Undeclared	36%	50%	3%	10%	268
Registered Republican	67%	18%	5%	10%	232
Democrat	5%	88%	2%	5%	299
Independent	29%	49%	3%	19%	97
Republican	72%	15%	5%	8%	306
Core Republican	77%	11%	5%	6%	279
Swing Voter	28%	46%	2%	23%	157
Core Democrat	2%	94%	1%	3%	269
Definitely decided vote	40%	59%	1%	1%	384
Leaning toward someone	42%	48%	4%	6%	104
Still trying to decide	32%	38%	7%	23%	214
Excited about election outcome	49%	40%	4%	7%	419
Depressed about election outcome	20%	71%	2%	7%	197
Neutral/Don't Know	25%	56%	2%	18%	89
Extremely interested in election	45%	48%	3%	5%	302
Very interested	34%	52%	4%	9%	294
Somewhat/Not very interested	26%	54%	3%	18%	109
Definitely will vote	40%	49%	3%	8%	555
Will vote unless emergency	30%	56%	4%	10%	149
Support Tea Party	70%	18%	6%	5%	240
Neutral	40%	41%	1%	18%	180
Oppose Tea Party	5%	88%	2%	5%	257
Approve of Obama	5%	89%	1%	5%	313
Neutral	26%	45%	0%	29%	25
Disapprove of Obama	66%	19%	5%	10%	366
Male	44%	47%	4%	6%	348
Female	31%	55%	3%	11%	357
18 to 34	37%	42%	9%	11%	52
35 to 49	40%	47%	1%	12%	178
50 to 64	37%	53%	3%	8%	261
65 and over	36%	53%	4%	6%	205
High school or less	45%	42%	1%	12%	120
Some college	41%	44%	6%	9%	125
College graduate	40%	50%	3%	8%	264
Post-graduate	28%	62%	2%	8%	193
Attend services 1 or more/week	49%	43%	3%	4%	201
1-2 times a month	37%	48%	4%	11%	103
Less often	35%	51%	4%	10%	212
Never	30%	60%	2%	8%	171
10 yrs or less in NH	37%	54%	4%	5%	109
11 to 20 years	36%	47%	4%	14%	141
More than 20 years	38%	51%	3%	7%	451
North Country	27%	61%	8%	4%	57
Central / Lakes	36%	56%	1%	7%	112
Connecticut Valley	29%	54%	4%	14%	96
Mass Border	43%	46%	2%	8%	214
Seacoast	31%	57%	4%	9%	110
Manchester Area	48%	41%	3%	8%	116
First Cong. Dist	42%	47%	3%	7%	336
Second Cong. Dist	33%	54%	3%	10%	369

Most Important Issue in NH

	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>State Budget</u>	<u>Jobs & Economy</u>	<u>Health Care</u>	<u>Cost/Quality Of Education</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
STATEWIDE	13%	13%	39%	10%	11%	10%	3%	709
Registered Democrat	9%	8%	35%	18%	18%	10%	2%	201
Registered Undeclared	9%	16%	42%	8%	10%	12%	3%	270
Registered Republican	21%	15%	41%	7%	7%	8%	2%	235
Democrat	5%	11%	38%	13%	16%	11%	4%	300
Independent	12%	11%	41%	9%	9%	16%	2%	99
Republican	20%	17%	40%	8%	6%	7%	2%	307
Core Republican	18%	14%	43%	8%	6%	8%	2%	280
Swing Voter	15%	19%	40%	7%	9%	8%	1%	160
Core Democrat	6%	9%	35%	15%	18%	13%	4%	269
Excited about election outcome	15%	15%	41%	9%	11%	7%	2%	421
Depressed about election outcome	8%	8%	41%	12%	13%	15%	4%	198
Neutral/Don't Know	12%	16%	29%	13%	10%	16%	4%	90
Extremely interested in election	13%	15%	36%	9%	11%	14%	2%	306
Very interested	14%	14%	42%	11%	10%	5%	3%	295
Somewhat/Not very interested	9%	7%	43%	11%	14%	13%	4%	109
Definitely will vote	14%	13%	39%	9%	11%	10%	2%	558
Will vote unless emergency	8%	14%	39%	15%	11%	9%	4%	151
Support Tea Party	18%	14%	45%	9%	4%	9%	2%	240
Neutral	17%	17%	38%	7%	11%	6%	3%	181
Oppose Tea Party	5%	12%	37%	14%	17%	14%	2%	259
Approve of Obama	8%	11%	35%	13%	17%	13%	3%	315
Neutral	10%	8%	37%	13%	13%	17%	3%	26
Disapprove of Obama	17%	16%	43%	8%	6%	7%	3%	367
Male	16%	18%	38%	8%	8%	10%	2%	348
Female	10%	9%	40%	13%	14%	10%	3%	361
18 to 34	11%	3%	41%	5%	18%	19%	4%	52
35 to 49	13%	12%	38%	10%	13%	11%	3%	176
50 to 64	12%	15%	42%	9%	8%	11%	3%	264
65 and over	15%	16%	35%	14%	12%	7%	1%	208
High school or less	19%	13%	35%	18%	5%	8%	3%	121
Some college	12%	15%	40%	15%	4%	11%	3%	125
College graduate	14%	13%	42%	7%	12%	9%	3%	265
Post-graduate	8%	14%	37%	8%	19%	12%	3%	196
Attend services 1 or more/week	14%	12%	40%	13%	10%	8%	3%	203
1-2 times a month	9%	18%	37%	10%	12%	11%	4%	102
Less often	14%	15%	40%	8%	14%	8%	2%	213
Never	13%	12%	37%	10%	10%	15%	2%	173
10 yrs or less in NH	13%	7%	36%	12%	15%	12%	5%	108
11 to 20 years	14%	10%	42%	7%	12%	11%	4%	141
More than 20 years	12%	16%	39%	11%	10%	9%	2%	457
North Country	13%	3%	37%	15%	15%	9%	7%	59
Central / Lakes	11%	25%	30%	12%	10%	10%	1%	115
Connecticut Valley	17%	12%	36%	3%	17%	12%	3%	96
Mass Border	16%	11%	45%	10%	7%	7%	4%	214
Seacoast	5%	13%	41%	14%	15%	11%	1%	111
Manchester Area	13%	14%	41%	10%	8%	13%	1%	115
First Cong. Dist	12%	13%	40%	12%	11%	11%	1%	338
Second Cong. Dist	13%	14%	38%	9%	11%	10%	4%	371