

# THE WMUR / UNH NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION POLL

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

October 15, 2010

### KUSTER TAKES LEAD IN NH SECOND, GUINTA MAINTAINS LEAD IN FIRST

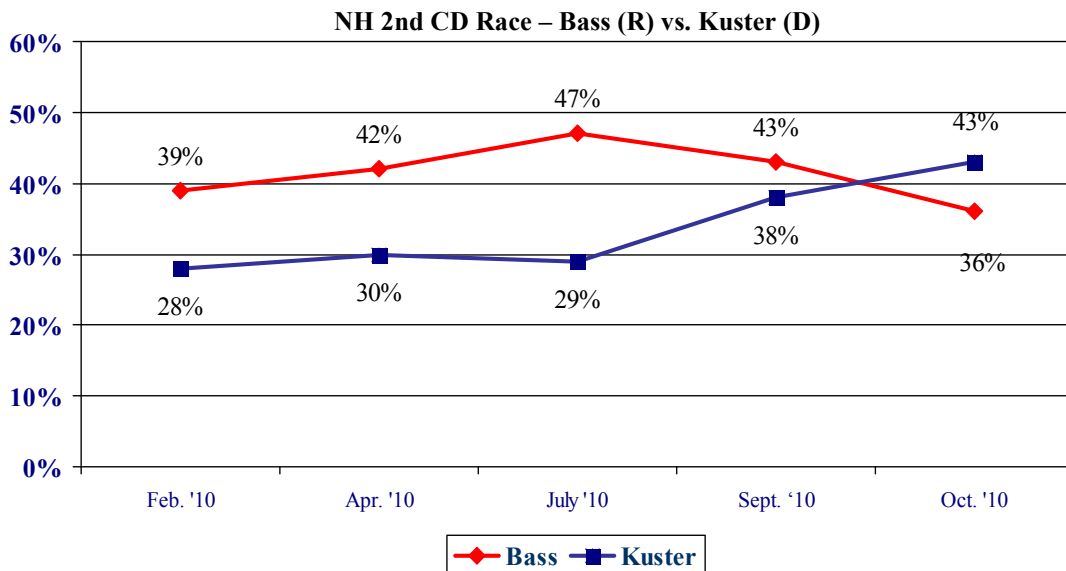
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603/862-2226

DURHAM, NH – Democrat Ann McLane Kuster has overtaken Republican Charlie Bass in the race for New Hampshire's Second Congressional District seat. In the First C.D., Republican Frank Guinta continues to lead incumbent Carol Shea-Porter.

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. Included was a subsample of 340 likely voters in the NH First Congressional District (margin of sampling error +/-5.3%), and a subsample of 369 Second Congressional District likely voters (margin of sampling error +/-5.1%).

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District

For the first time during the campaign, Democrat Ann McLane Kuster has overtaken her opponent, Republican Charlie Bass, in the Second Congressional District. Bass, who held this seat between 1995 and 2007, has seen his once formidable lead over Kuster evaporate since the September 14 primary. Currently, 43% of likely 2<sup>nd</sup> CD voters say they will vote for Kuster, 36% support Bass, 3% prefer Libertarian Howard Wilson, 1% favor independent Tim Van Blommestein, 1% prefer some other candidate, and 16% remain undecided. In late September, Bass held a narrow 43% to 38% lead over Kuster, but led by 18 percentage points in July.

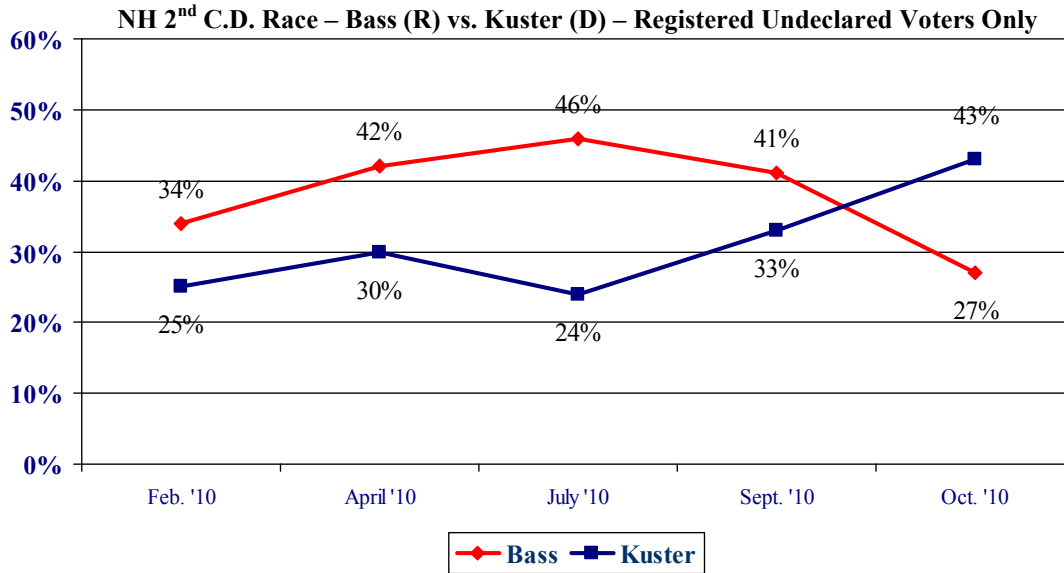


Kuster gets her strongest support from Democrats, independent voters, those who approve of President Obama, Tea Party opponents, and voters with post-graduate educations. Bass receives his strongest support from Republicans, Tea Party Supporters, and those who disapprove of Obama.

\* 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.

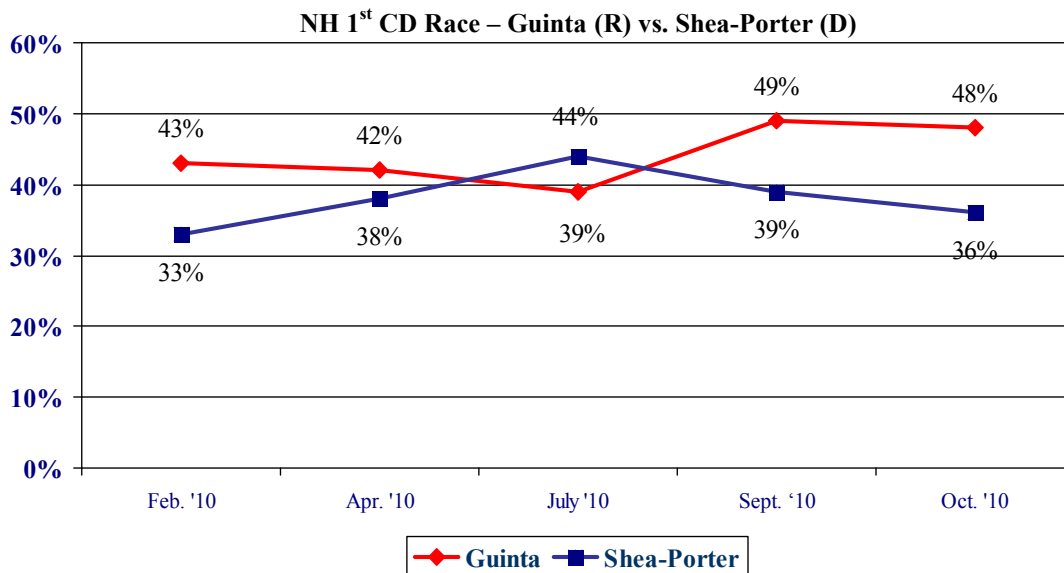
While Republicans are more energized than Democrats in the First District, Second District Democrats seem to have been energized by Kuster’s primary campaign against Katrina Swett. Among voters who say they are extremely interested in the election, Kuster and Bass are tied with 42% a piece.

Kuster now leads among voters who are registered Undeclared, often referred to as Independents. Bass has been losing support from these voters throughout the fall. Currently, 43% of Undeclared voters support Kuster, 27% prefer Bass, 5% support some other candidate, and 25% are undecided.



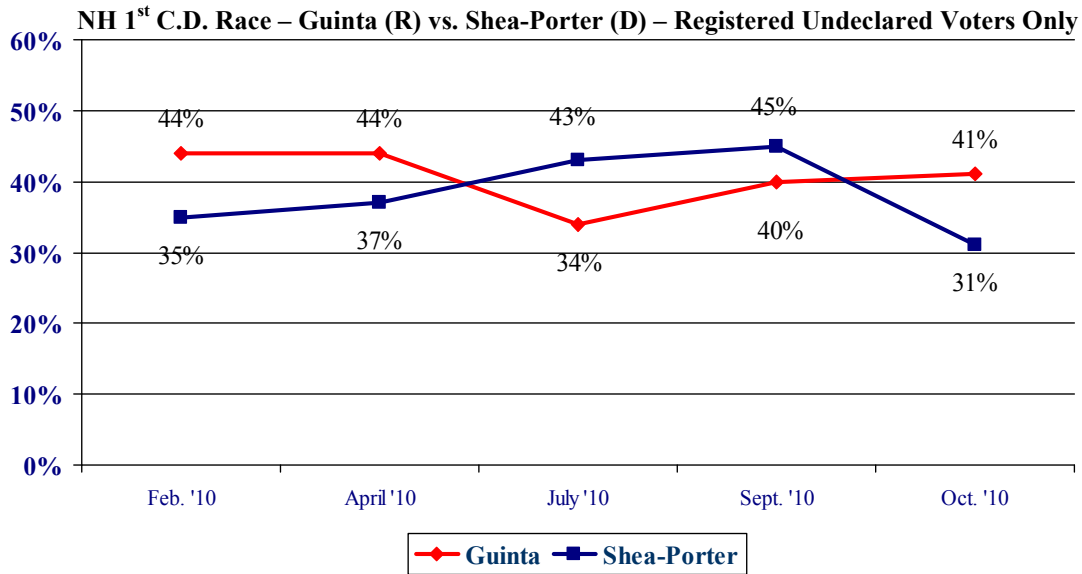
**1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District**

In New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, incumbent Democrat Carol Shea-Porter faces an increasingly difficult re-election fight to former Manchester Mayor Frank Guinta. Currently, 48% of likely 1<sup>st</sup> C.D. voters say they will vote for Guinta, 36% say they will vote for Shea-Porter, 2% support Libertarian Philip Hodson, 2% prefer independent Mark Whitman, Jr., 1% prefer some other candidate, and 11% are undecided.



Republicans are more enthusiastic about this election than are Democrats. Among voters who say they are extremely interested in the election, Guinta holds a 58% to 34% lead.

Undeclared voters have shifted their support several times during the campaign but Shea-Porter has seen a significant erosion in support from this group since September. Currently, 41% of voters registered undeclared say they will vote for Guinta, 31% support Shea-Porter, 7% prefer some other candidate, and 21% are undecided. In September, Shea-Porter held a 45% to 40% advantage among undeclared voters.



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**US House First Congressional District – Guinta vs. Shea-Porter**

“Let’s turn to the November election for the U.S. House of Representatives from the FIRST DISTRICT. Will you vote for Frank Guinta, the Republican ... Carol Shea-Porter, the Democrat ... Philip Hodson, the Libertarian, Mark Whitman, Jr., the Independent ... or haven’t you decided yet?”\* ROTATE CANDIDATES

	<u>Feb. '10</u>	<u>Apr. '10</u>	<u>July '10</u>	<u>Sept. '10</u>	<u>Oct. '10</u>
Guinta	43%	42%	39%	49%	48%
Shea-Porter	33%	38%	44%	39%	36%
Hodson	-	-	-	-	2%
Whitman	-	-	-	-	2%
Other	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%
Don't know / undecided	22%	19%	16%	9%	11%
(N=)	(168)	(225)	(238)	(237)	(339)

\*Hodson and Whitman not included in earlier surveys.

**US House Second Congressional District – Bass vs. Kuster**

“Let’s turn to the November election for the U.S. House of Representatives from the SECOND DISTRICT. Will you vote for Charlie Bass, the Republican ... Ann McLane Kuster, the Democrat ... Howard Wilson, the Libertarian ... Tim Van Blommestein, the Independent ... or haven’t you decided yet?”\* ROTATE CANDIDATES

	<u>Feb. '10</u>	<u>Apr. '10</u>	<u>July '10</u>	<u>Sept. '10</u>	<u>Oct. '10</u>
Bass	39%	42%	47%	43%	36%
Kuster	28%	30%	29%	38%	43%
Wilson	-	-	-	-	3%
Van Blommestein	-	-	-	-	1%
Other	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%
Don't know / undecided	32%	27%	23%	16%	16%
(N=)	(174)	(231)	(197)	(220)	(363)

\*Wilson and Van Blommestein not included in earlier surveys.

**US House – Frank Guinta vs. Carol Shea-Porter – Likely Voters**

<b>1ST CONGRESSIONAL DIST.</b>	<b><u>Guinta</u> 48%</b>	<b><u>Shea-Porter</u> 36%</b>	<b><u>Other</u> 5%</b>	<b><u>DK</u> 11%</b>	<b><u>(N)</u> 339</b>
Registered Democrat	6%	87%	2%	5%	86
Registered Undeclared	41%	31%	7%	21%	116
Registered Republican	82%	6%	5%	7%	135
Democrat	8%	81%	3%	9%	128
Independent	45%	27%	10%	18%	41
Republican	80%	4%	5%	11%	167
Core Republican	88%	0%	4%	8%	155
Swing Voter	35%	26%	12%	28%	71
Core Democrat	3%	90%	3%	5%	113
Excited about election outcome	63%	22%	5%	10%	215
Depressed about election outcome	16%	65%	4%	16%	86
Neutral/Don't Know	37%	47%	9%	7%	38
Extremely interested in election	58%	34%	3%	4%	151
Very interested	44%	35%	8%	14%	147
Somewhat/Not very interested	28%	44%	4%	25%	42
Definitely will vote	54%	34%	3%	9%	270
Will vote unless emergency	28%	43%	11%	18%	69
Support Tea Party	88%	3%	4%	6%	128
Neutral	49%	17%	9%	24%	81
Oppose Tea Party	4%	83%	3%	9%	116
Approve of Obama	9%	82%	3%	6%	131
Neutral	54%	8%	12%	26%	12
Disapprove of Obama	75%	6%	6%	13%	195
Male	54%	31%	6%	9%	164
Female	43%	39%	4%	13%	175
18 to 34	44%	36%	5%	16%	28
35 to 49	54%	29%	7%	11%	88
50 to 64	42%	44%	4%	10%	119
65 and over	53%	32%	4%	11%	101
High school or less	54%	31%	6%	10%	61
Some college	57%	30%	5%	8%	56
College graduate	50%	31%	5%	14%	134
Post-graduate	38%	48%	4%	10%	86
Attend services 1 or more/week	61%	24%	5%	11%	108
1-2 times a month	63%	25%	3%	10%	42
Less often	44%	38%	4%	14%	100
Never	32%	54%	8%	6%	80
10 yrs or less in NH	47%	29%	10%	14%	58
11 to 20 years	54%	32%	3%	11%	72
More than 20 years	47%	38%	4%	10%	208
North Country	36%	44%	4%	16%	30
Central / Lakes	45%	36%	4%	15%	28
Mass Border	59%	25%	5%	11%	73
Seacoast	39%	49%	5%	8%	111
Manchester Area	56%	25%	5%	13%	97

**US House – Charlie Bass vs. Ann McClane Kuster – Likely Voters**

<b>2ND CONGRESSIONAL DIST.</b>	<b><u>Bass</u> 36%</b>	<b><u>Kuster</u> 43%</b>	<b><u>Other</u> 5%</b>	<b><u>DK</u> 16%</b>	<b><u>(N)</u> 363</b>
Registered Democrat	12%	79%	3%	6%	114
Registered Undeclared	27%	43%	5%	25%	149
Registered Republican	78%	4%	7%	10%	98
Democrat	7%	77%	3%	13%	170
Independent	20%	41%	7%	31%	53
Republican	78%	3%	7%	12%	139
Core Republican	83%	2%	7%	9%	126
Swing Voter	23%	35%	9%	32%	82
Core Democrat	5%	82%	1%	13%	155
Excited about election outcome	47%	36%	5%	11%	202
Depressed about election outcome	20%	54%	2%	24%	110
Neutral/Don't Know	27%	48%	10%	15%	51
Extremely interested in election	42%	42%	4%	12%	151
Very interested	34%	47%	6%	14%	146
Somewhat/Not very interested	28%	38%	5%	28%	65
Definitely will vote	39%	43%	5%	12%	284
Will vote unless emergency	24%	44%	6%	27%	79
Support Tea Party	70%	8%	10%	12%	109
Neutral	40%	31%	3%	27%	98
Oppose Tea Party	8%	81%	2%	9%	141
Approve of Obama	8%	76%	3%	13%	182
Neutral	14%	47%	12%	28%	11
Disapprove of Obama	67%	8%	7%	18%	170
Male	40%	36%	7%	16%	181
Female	32%	51%	3%	15%	182
18 to 34	33%	40%	12%	16%	24
35 to 49	44%	28%	3%	26%	87
50 to 64	33%	48%	5%	14%	142
65 and over	36%	50%	6%	8%	105
High school or less	29%	39%	8%	24%	59
Some college	49%	32%	6%	13%	67
College graduate	42%	41%	3%	14%	128
Post-graduate	25%	56%	5%	14%	109
Attend services 1 or more/week	48%	35%	7%	9%	93
1-2 times a month	40%	38%	2%	20%	61
Less often	29%	48%	6%	17%	108
Never	30%	50%	3%	16%	91
10 yrs or less in NH	34%	36%	4%	26%	49
11 to 20 years	42%	37%	4%	17%	68
More than 20 years	35%	47%	5%	13%	243
North Country	35%	48%	3%	14%	28
Central / Lakes	32%	49%	5%	14%	85
Connecticut Valley	32%	46%	7%	16%	95
Mass Border	41%	36%	5%	18%	137
Manchester Area	38%	52%	0%	10%	18