

# THE WMUR GRANITE STATE POLL

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

### NEW HAMPSHIRE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT AFGHANISTAN

August 3, 2010

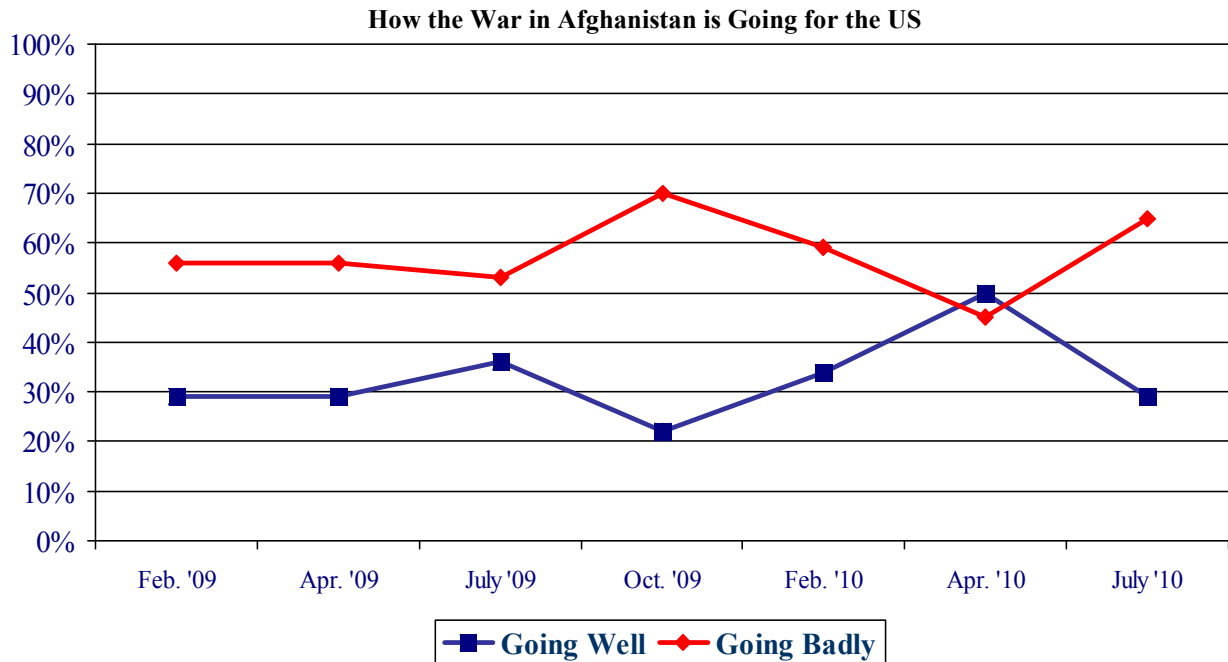
By: Andrew E. Smith, Ph.D.  
UNH Survey Center  
www.unh.edu/survey-center  
603/862-2226

DURHAM, NH – New Hampshire residents are pessimistic about the progress of the war in Afghanistan. Approval of the Obama administration’s handling of the war in Iraq continues to decline.

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR Granite State Poll**,\* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred four (504) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between July 19 and July 27, 2010. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.4 percent.

#### The War in Afghanistan

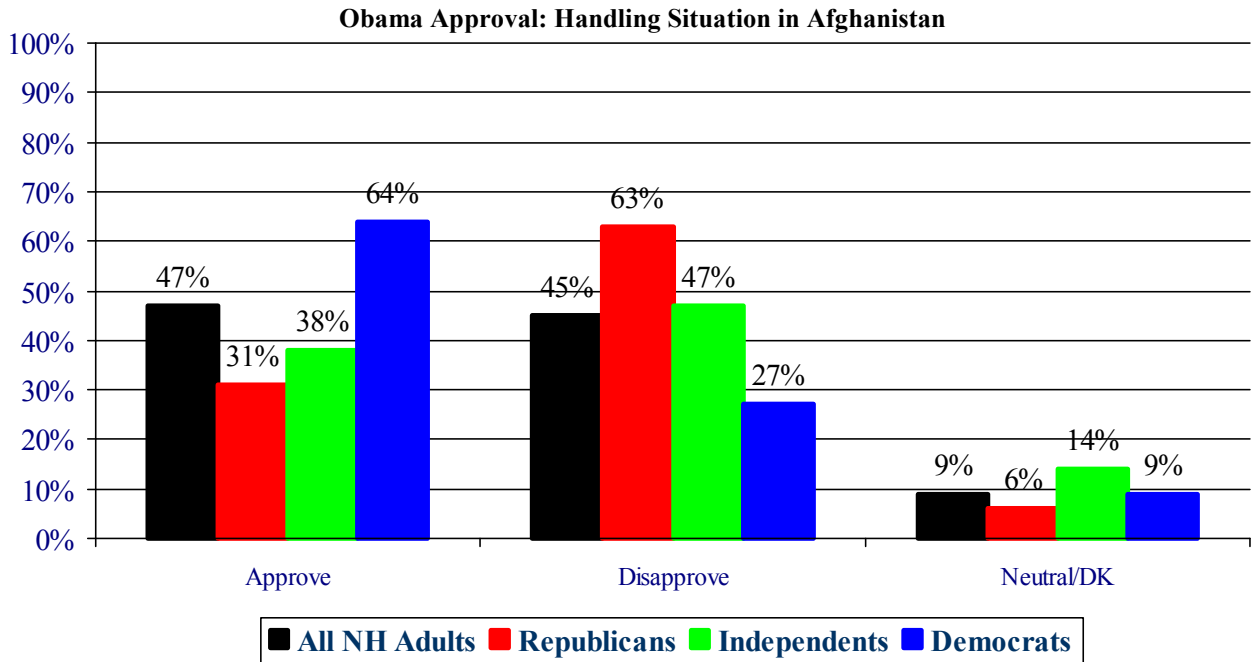
July marked the deadliest month for U.S. forces in the nine year old conflict in Afghanistan and Granite Staters’ perceptions of the progress of the war among have dropped significantly. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 65% of New Hampshire adults think the war in Afghanistan is going badly, 29% think it is going well, and 6% don’t know. The percentage of those who believe the war is going badly has risen by 20 percentage points. When last asked in April, 50% of Granite Staters thought the war was going well, and 45% believed it was going badly.



\* 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.

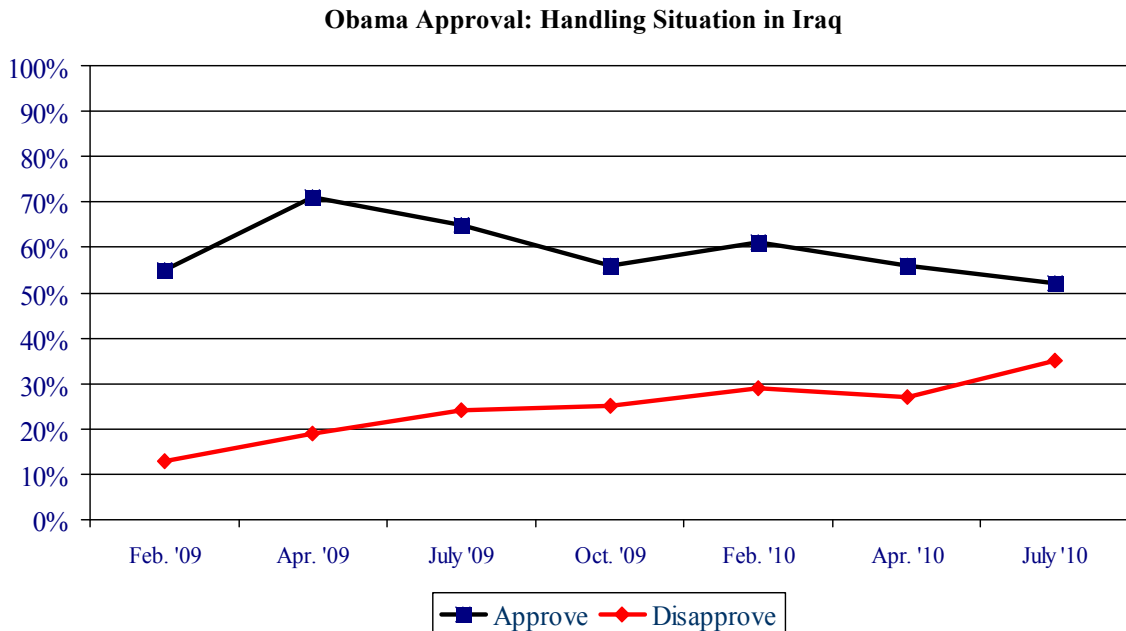
### Presidential Approval on Afghanistan

While most think the war in Afghanistan is going badly for the United States, New Hampshire adults are split in their opinions of how well President Obama is handling the situation. Currently, 47% of New Hampshire adults approve of his handling of Afghanistan, 45% disapprove, and 9% are neutral or don't know. Obama receives support from a majority of Democrats (64% approve), while most Republicans and a plurality of political independents – 63% and 47%, respectively – disapprove of his handling of the conflict.

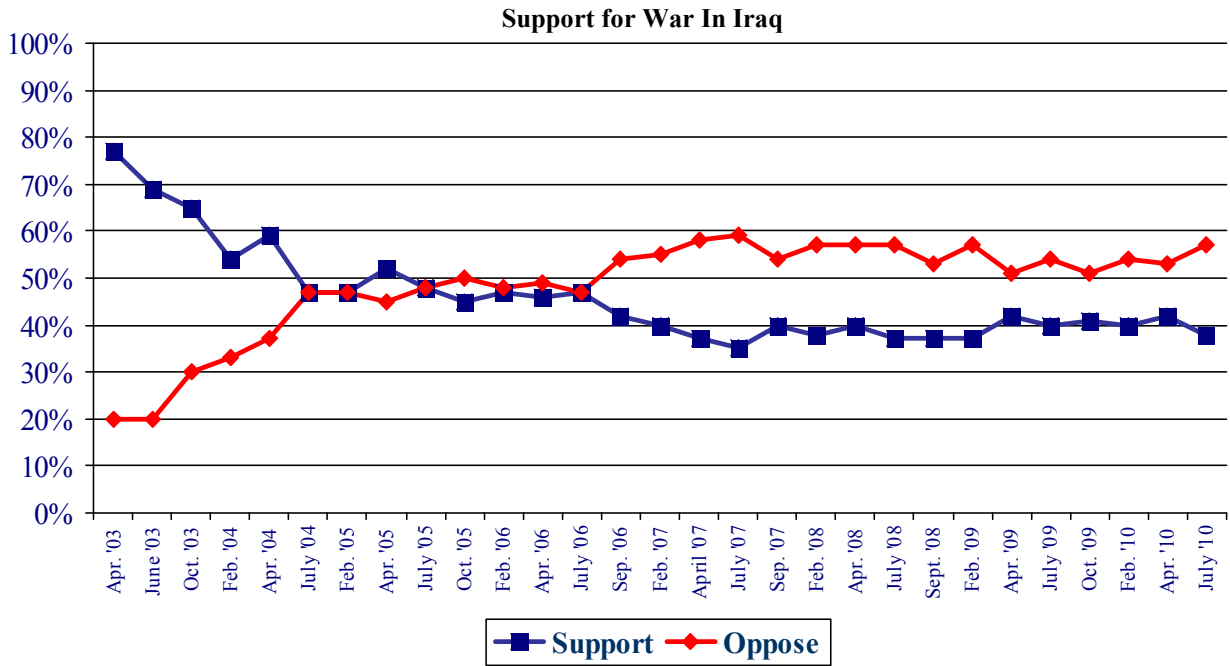


### Presidential Approval on Iraq

Approval of President Obama's handling of the situation in Iraq has been declining throughout 2010, although a majority still approve of his actions. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 52% of New Hampshire adults approve of his handling of Iraq, 35% disapprove, and 12% are neutral. Obama continues hold majority support from Democrats and a plurality of political independents – 73% and 49%, respectively – but most Republicans (52%) now disapprove of the administration's actions in Iraq, up from 36% disapproval in April.

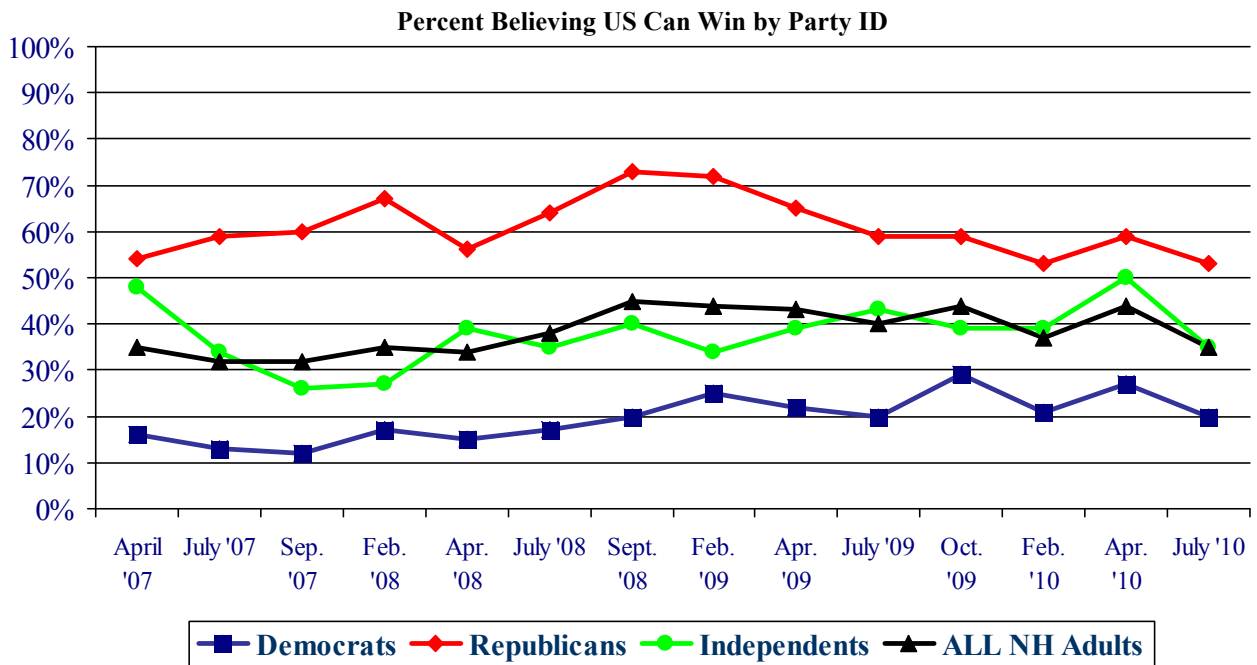


Most New Hampshire residents continue to believe that going to war in Iraq was a bad idea. Currently, 38% of Granite Staters support the US having gone to war with Iraq, 57% oppose it, and 6% are neutral. The percentage of New Hampshire adults who support or oppose the US having gone to war in Iraq has remained relatively stable for the past 3 years.



### Can the US Win?

Similar to their feelings about Afghanistan, Granite Staters are pessimistic about the US winning the war in Iraq. Currently, only 35% of New Hampshire adults think the US can win the Iraq War, 48% think we cannot win, and 17% don't know. Republicans continue to be the most optimistic about the US prospects of victory in Iraq, with 53% believing the US can win. Democrats continue to be the least optimistic with only 20% thinking winning the Iraq war is possible.



## 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 (512) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between April 18 and April 28, 2010. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.4 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.

### Presidential Approval - Handling of Situation in Iraq

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling the situation with Iraq?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
<b>July '10</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>(498)</b>
<b>Apr. '10</b>	56%	17%	27%	(504)
<b>Feb. '10</b>	61%	9%	29%	(492)
<b>Oct. '09</b>	56%	19%	25%	(496)
<b>July '09</b>	65%	10%	24%	(554)
<b>Apr. '09</b>	71%	10%	19%	(498)
<b>Feb. '09</b>	55%	32%	13%	(609)

### Support for War in Iraq

“Do you support or oppose the United States having gone to war with Iraq?”

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(N)</u>
<b>July '10</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>(501)</b>
<b>Apr. '10</b>	42%	5%	53%	(507)
<b>Feb. '10</b>	40%	6%	54%	(491)
<b>Oct. '09</b>	41%	8%	51%	(499)
<b>July '09</b>	40%	6%	54%	(553)
<b>Apr. '09</b>	42%	7%	51%	(502)
<b>Feb. '09</b>	37%	5%	57%	(616)
<b>Sept. '09</b>	37%	7%	53%	(544)
<b>July '08</b>	37%	6%	57%	(511)
<b>Apr. '08</b>	40%	3%	57%	(498)
<b>Feb. '08</b>	38%	5%	57%	(548)
<b>Sep. '07</b>	40%	6%	54%	(506)
<b>July '07</b>	35%	6%	59%	(516)
<b>Apr. '07</b>	37%	5%	58%	(510)
<b>Feb. '07</b>	40%	5%	55%	(525)
<b>Sept. '06</b>	42%	4%	54%	(510)
<b>July '06</b>	47%	6%	47%	(500)
<b>Apr. '06</b>	46%	5%	49%	(496)
<b>Feb. '06</b>	47%	5%	48%	(500)
<b>Oct. '05</b>	45%	4%	50%	(502)
<b>July '05</b>	48%	5%	48%	(493)
<b>Apr. '05</b>	52%	3%	45%	(489)
<b>Feb. '05</b>	47%	6%	47%	(537)
<b>July '04</b>	47%	6%	47%	(498)
<b>Apr. '04</b>	59%	4%	37%	(536)
<b>Feb. '04</b>	54%	3%	33%	(509)
<b>Oct. '03</b>	65%	5%	30%	(496)
<b>June '03</b>	69%	4%	20%	(513)
<b>Apr. '03</b>	77%	4%	20%	(506)

### Can US Win in Iraq?

“Do you think the United States can win or cannot win the war in Iraq?”

	<u>Can Win</u>	<u>Cannot Win</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N)</u>
<b>July '10</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>(497)</b>
<b>Apr. '10</b>	44%	39%	16%	(502)
<b>Feb. '10</b>	37%	49%	14%	(489)
<b>Oct. '09</b>	44%	43%	13%	(491)
<b>July '09</b>	40%	46%	15%	(549)
<b>Apr. '09</b>	43%	45%	12%	(486)
<b>Feb. '09</b>	44%	41%	15%	(597)
<b>Sept. '08</b>	45%	41%	14%	(532)
<b>July '08</b>	38%	52%	10%	(511)
<b>Apr. '08</b>	34%	56%	10%	(495)
<b>Feb. '08</b>	35%	53%	12%	(544)
<b>Sep. '07</b>	32%	55%	13%	(503)
<b>July '07</b>	32%	57%	11%	(504)
<b>Apr. '07</b>	35%	55%	10%	(512)

### Presidential Approval - Handling of Situation in Afghanistan

"Now, let's talk about the war in Afghanistan. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling the situation with Afghanistan?"

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
<b>July '10</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>(494)</b>

### How is the War in Afghanistan Going for the U.S.?

“What is your impression of how the war in Afghanistan is going for the United States right now? Would you say it is going very well ... somewhat well ... somewhat badly ... or very badly?”

	<u>Going Well</u>	<u>Going Badly</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N)</u>
<b>July '10</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>(503)</b>
<b>Apr. '10</b>	50%	45%	6%	(511)
<b>Feb. '10</b>	34%	59%	7%	(494)
<b>Oct. '09</b>	22%	70%	8%	(500)
<b>July '09</b>	36%	53%	12%	(556)
<b>Apr. '09</b>	29%	56%	15%	(498)
<b>Feb. '09</b>	29%	56%	14%	(619)

**Presidential Approval Rating - Iraq**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Approve</u></b> <b>52%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u></b> <b>12%</b>	<b><u>Disapprove</u></b> <b>35%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>498</b>
Likely Voter	54%	12%	34%	449
Non-Likely Voter	41%	10%	49%	49
Registered Democrat	72%	7%	20%	125
Registered Undeclared	54%	12%	34%	204
Registered Republican	38%	19%	44%	128
Democrat	73%	6%	21%	213
Independent	49%	16%	35%	95
Republican	32%	17%	52%	181
Liberal	75%	7%	17%	108
Moderate	55%	12%	33%	209
Conservative	34%	17%	49%	155
McCain/Palin Voter	29%	19%	52%	197
Obama/Biden Voter	76%	7%	17%	245
Other	28%	6%	66%	16
Did Not Vote in 2008	28%	9%	63%	32
Union household	67%	5%	28%	64
Non-union	50%	13%	37%	432
10 yrs or less in NH	43%	10%	48%	95
11 to 20 years	55%	11%	34%	88
More than 20 years	55%	13%	32%	312
18 to 34	46%	10%	44%	53
35 to 49	42%	15%	43%	108
50 to 64	56%	9%	34%	183
65 and over	58%	15%	27%	149
Male	57%	11%	32%	240
Female	48%	13%	39%	258
High school or less	38%	17%	45%	101
Some college	50%	11%	39%	115
College graduate	47%	14%	39%	159
Post-graduate	74%	7%	19%	119
Less than \$30K	52%	8%	39%	61
\$30K to \$60K	39%	18%	43%	89
\$60K to \$75K	70%	10%	21%	37
\$75K to \$100K	57%	15%	28%	56
\$100K or more	62%	5%	33%	129
Married	53%	14%	34%	348
Divorced/separated	57%	11%	32%	86
Never married	49%	4%	47%	57
Protestant	54%	14%	32%	179
Catholic	43%	13%	43%	165
Other	62%	8%	30%	142
Attend services 1 or more/week	50%	14%	36%	135
1-2 times a month	56%	12%	32%	71
Less often	45%	13%	42%	128
Never	59%	10%	31%	154
North Country	61%	2%	37%	50
Central / Lakes	59%	13%	28%	83
Connecticut Valley	55%	10%	35%	66
Mass Border	45%	18%	36%	137
Seacoast	56%	10%	34%	82
Manchester Area	46%	10%	43%	81
First Cong. Dist	53%	12%	35%	260
Second Cong. Dist	52%	12%	36%	238

**Support / Oppose US War in Iraq**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Support</u></b> <b>38%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u></b> <b>6%</b>	<b><u>Oppose</u></b> <b>57%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>501</b>
Likely Voter	39%	5%	56%	451
Non-Likely Voter	28%	9%	62%	50
Registered Democrat	16%	3%	82%	125
Registered Undeclared	32%	4%	63%	204
Registered Republican	69%	9%	22%	129
Democrat	14%	3%	83%	214
Independent	38%	7%	55%	96
Republican	66%	8%	26%	182
Liberal	16%	4%	81%	108
Moderate	33%	4%	63%	213
Conservative	63%	8%	29%	153
McCain/Palin Voter	65%	9%	26%	197
Obama/Biden Voter	18%	3%	80%	246
Other	9%	3%	87%	18
Did Not Vote in 2008	38%	8%	54%	32
Union household	47%	2%	51%	64
Non-union	36%	6%	57%	434
10 yrs or less in NH	45%	5%	50%	95
11 to 20 years	40%	4%	55%	89
More than 20 years	35%	6%	59%	314
18 to 34	37%	12%	51%	52
35 to 49	42%	5%	53%	107
50 to 64	35%	3%	62%	186
65 and over	38%	6%	56%	151
Male	42%	3%	54%	243
Female	33%	8%	59%	258
High school or less	35%	6%	59%	99
Some college	42%	6%	51%	117
College graduate	44%	7%	49%	161
Post-graduate	27%	3%	71%	119
Less than \$30K	42%	3%	55%	60
\$30K to \$60K	39%	6%	55%	89
\$60K to \$75K	26%	2%	72%	37
\$75K to \$100K	33%	5%	62%	56
\$100K or more	39%	3%	59%	129
Married	38%	6%	56%	347
Divorced/separated	41%	4%	55%	90
Never married	30%	4%	66%	57
Protestant	41%	7%	52%	180
Catholic	44%	6%	50%	166
Other	26%	3%	71%	143
Attend services 1 or more/week	43%	8%	49%	137
1-2 times a month	43%	5%	51%	71
Less often	42%	3%	55%	125
Never	28%	5%	67%	156
North Country	20%	4%	76%	50
Central / Lakes	32%	7%	61%	82
Connecticut Valley	41%	2%	57%	66
Mass Border	51%	9%	41%	138
Seacoast	31%	5%	63%	81
Manchester Area	36%	4%	60%	84
First Cong. Dist	37%	7%	56%	263
Second Cong. Dist	38%	4%	57%	238

**Can US Win War in Iraq?**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Can Win</u> 35%</b>	<b><u>Cannot Win</u> 48%</b>	<b><u>Don't Know</u> 17%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u> 497</b>
Likely Voter	35%	49%	16%	449
Non-Likely Voter	34%	45%	22%	48
Registered Democrat	20%	67%	13%	124
Registered Undeclared	29%	52%	19%	201
Registered Republican	57%	30%	13%	130
Democrat	20%	64%	16%	212
Independent	35%	41%	24%	95
Republican	53%	35%	12%	181
Liberal	24%	60%	16%	108
Moderate	26%	58%	16%	208
Conservative	54%	31%	15%	154
McCain/Palin Voter	54%	31%	15%	196
Obama/Biden Voter	19%	65%	16%	244
Other	29%	51%	20%	18
Did Not Vote in 2008	59%	23%	18%	31
Union household	30%	52%	19%	65
Non-union	36%	48%	16%	429
10 yrs or less in NH	38%	50%	12%	90
11 to 20 years	39%	42%	20%	89
More than 20 years	34%	49%	17%	314
18 to 34	26%	43%	31%	53
35 to 49	45%	43%	11%	107
50 to 64	28%	55%	17%	181
65 and over	40%	46%	14%	151
Male	41%	45%	14%	241
Female	30%	51%	20%	255
High school or less	42%	42%	16%	100
Some college	38%	47%	15%	116
College graduate	34%	54%	12%	160
Post-graduate	28%	48%	24%	117
Less than \$30K	43%	46%	11%	60
\$30K to \$60K	39%	45%	16%	90
\$60K to \$75K	20%	61%	20%	37
\$75K to \$100K	30%	55%	15%	55
\$100K or more	35%	51%	14%	128
Married	37%	48%	14%	345
Divorced/separated	28%	53%	18%	88
Never married	33%	41%	26%	57
Protestant	40%	43%	17%	180
Catholic	41%	45%	14%	164
Other	23%	58%	19%	142
Attend services 1 or more/week	44%	42%	14%	136
1-2 times a month	39%	46%	16%	71
Less often	37%	48%	15%	127
Never	26%	54%	19%	153
North Country	28%	60%	12%	50
Central / Lakes	37%	44%	18%	83
Connecticut Valley	36%	47%	17%	66
Mass Border	42%	43%	15%	135
Seacoast	28%	54%	19%	80
Manchester Area	33%	49%	17%	84
First Cong. Dist	33%	51%	16%	261
Second Cong. Dist	38%	45%	18%	235



**Presidential Approval Rating - Afghanistan**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Approve</u></b> <b>47%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u></b> <b>9%</b>	<b><u>Disapprove</u></b> <b>45%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>494</b>
Likely Voter	47%	8%	44%	446
Non-Likely Voter	42%	10%	48%	48
Registered Democrat	62%	12%	26%	123
Registered Undeclared	47%	8%	45%	200
Registered Republican	36%	7%	57%	130
Democrat	64%	9%	27%	209
Independent	38%	14%	47%	94
Republican	31%	6%	63%	183
Liberal	67%	6%	27%	106
Moderate	49%	11%	40%	212
Conservative	30%	6%	63%	149
McCain/Palin Voter	28%	7%	65%	196
Obama/Biden Voter	67%	9%	25%	241
Other	16%	0%	84%	18
Did Not Vote in 2008	25%	20%	55%	31
Union household	50%	9%	41%	64
Non-union	46%	8%	46%	427
10 yrs or less in NH	40%	7%	54%	92
11 to 20 years	45%	7%	48%	88
More than 20 years	49%	10%	42%	310
18 to 34	42%	11%	46%	51
35 to 49	42%	5%	54%	107
50 to 64	49%	6%	44%	183
65 and over	49%	14%	38%	148
Male	48%	6%	46%	239
Female	46%	11%	43%	255
High school or less	37%	15%	48%	96
Some college	48%	8%	44%	115
College graduate	42%	4%	54%	160
Post-graduate	59%	10%	31%	119
Less than \$30K	44%	20%	36%	58
\$30K to \$60K	44%	4%	53%	89
\$60K to \$75K	55%	8%	37%	36
\$75K to \$100K	51%	8%	41%	55
\$100K or more	52%	3%	45%	129
Married	47%	7%	45%	342
Divorced/separated	46%	16%	38%	89
Never married	48%	5%	46%	56
Protestant	49%	11%	39%	177
Catholic	38%	7%	55%	163
Other	54%	8%	38%	142
Attend services 1 or more/week	48%	9%	43%	134
1-2 times a month	54%	10%	36%	71
Less often	36%	8%	56%	123
Never	52%	8%	40%	155
North Country	51%	7%	42%	48
Central / Lakes	55%	10%	35%	80
Connecticut Valley	47%	8%	45%	65
Mass Border	42%	7%	51%	137
Seacoast	47%	10%	43%	81
Manchester Area	42%	11%	46%	83
First Cong. Dist	44%	11%	45%	259
Second Cong. Dist	50%	6%	44%	235

**How is the War in Afghanistan going for the US?**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Well</u></b> <b>29%</b>	<b><u>Badly</u></b> <b>65%</b>	<b><u>Don't Know</u></b> <b>6%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>503</b>
Likely Voter	29%	66%	5%	452
Non-Likely Voter	26%	58%	16%	51
Registered Democrat	32%	65%	3%	125
Registered Undeclared	25%	68%	6%	205
Registered Republican	37%	57%	6%	130
Democrat	29%	67%	4%	214
Independent	27%	64%	9%	97
Republican	31%	64%	5%	184
Liberal	31%	64%	5%	108
Moderate	29%	68%	3%	213
Conservative	31%	59%	10%	155
McCain/Palin Voter	29%	64%	7%	199
Obama/Biden Voter	31%	64%	5%	246
Other	7%	85%	8%	18
Did Not Vote in 2008	24%	65%	11%	32
Union household	33%	64%	3%	65
Non-union	29%	65%	7%	436
10 yrs or less in NH	27%	70%	3%	95
11 to 20 years	25%	66%	8%	89
More than 20 years	30%	63%	7%	316
18 to 34	20%	71%	8%	53
35 to 49	33%	61%	6%	108
50 to 64	24%	70%	6%	186
65 and over	35%	60%	6%	151
Male	30%	67%	3%	243
Female	28%	63%	9%	261
High school or less	29%	61%	9%	101
Some college	33%	59%	8%	117
College graduate	27%	67%	6%	162
Post-graduate	26%	72%	3%	119
Less than \$30K	32%	59%	9%	61
\$30K to \$60K	33%	64%	4%	91
\$60K to \$75K	22%	74%	4%	37
\$75K to \$100K	22%	71%	6%	56
\$100K or more	29%	69%	2%	128
Married	30%	64%	5%	350
Divorced/separated	30%	62%	8%	90
Never married	20%	71%	8%	56
Protestant	34%	58%	8%	182
Catholic	32%	64%	4%	166
Other	21%	75%	4%	143
Attend services 1 or more/week	31%	60%	9%	137
1-2 times a month	38%	61%	1%	71
Less often	27%	68%	5%	128
Never	26%	69%	5%	156
North Country	32%	64%	4%	50
Central / Lakes	23%	71%	6%	84
Connecticut Valley	28%	67%	5%	66
Mass Border	32%	64%	4%	138
Seacoast	29%	61%	10%	82
Manchester Area	30%	62%	8%	84
First Cong. Dist	29%	63%	8%	264
Second Cong. Dist	29%	67%	5%	240