

THE GRANITE STATE POLL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

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SOCIAL ISSUES DIVIDE NH

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DURHAM, NH – New Hampshire residents are split in their opinions about several controversial social issues being discussed in the New Hampshire legislature.

These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll**,* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred three (503) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between April 13 and April 22, 2009. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.4 percent.

Social Issues in the 2009 NH Legislature

In 2006, Democrats gained control of both the New Hampshire House and Senate for the first time in almost a century. And having another Democrat, John Lynch, as Governor, has led to the proposal of several bills on social topics that would have not been considered during times of Republican control. In 2007, the New Hampshire legislature passed civil unions for gay and lesbian couples, and a ban on smoking in bars and restaurants and is considering additional controversial legislation in 2009. Republicans have used this social legislative agenda against Democrats, arguing that they are trying to pass laws that are not supported by the people of the state while Democrats have argued that their control of the legislature, and ability to pass social legislation, is supported by the voters that have put them in the majority.

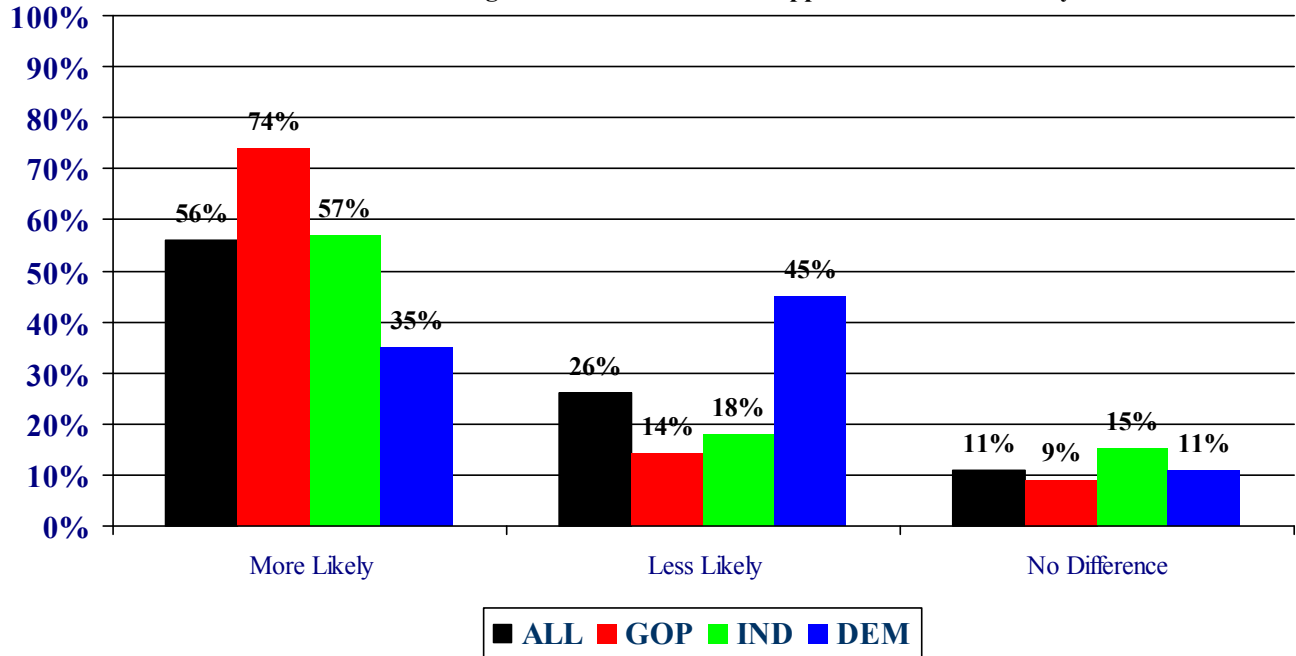
In the latest Granite State Poll, several questions were included to try to assess how New Hampshire stands on several of the more controversial issues, including the death penalty, parental notification for minors wanting to get an abortion, banning discrimination against transgendered individuals, legalizing medicinal marijuana, and mandating seat belts for all occupants of vehicles. And not surprisingly, both Republicans and Democrats can find some support for their position that New Hampshire supports, or opposes, these controversial bills.

Death Penalty

In the past year, two high profile death penalty cases were heard in New Hampshire, including one in which the defendant was sentenced to death. But the House of Representatives has recently approved legislation that would ban the death penalty in New Hampshire. This position is not likely to help Democrats should they run for re-election in 2010 – 56% of New Hampshire adults said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for State Senate who supports the death penalty for people convicted of murder, only 26% said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate for State Senate who supports the death penalty, 11% said this would make no difference in their vote, and 7% are not sure.

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

Likelihood of Voting For a Candidate Who Supports the Death Penalty

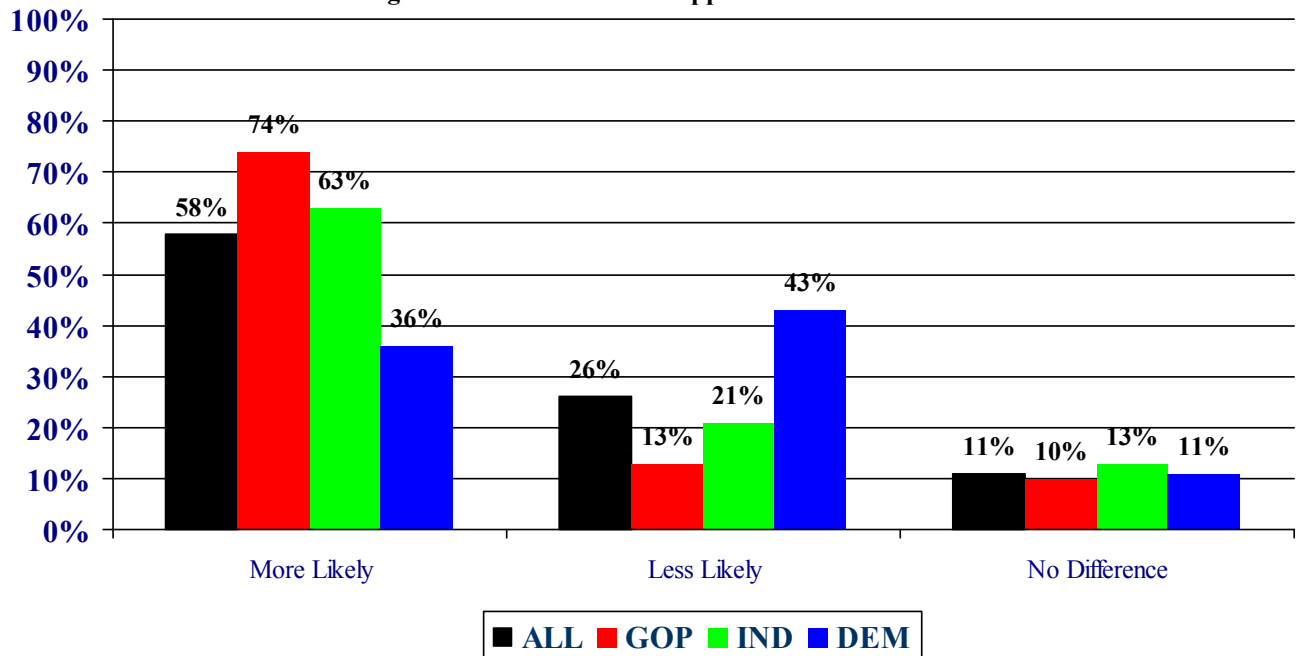


Republicans (74%) and conservatives (76%) say they would be more likely to vote for a State Senate candidate who supported the death penalty while a majority of liberals (54%) but a plurality of Democrats (45%), say they would be more likely to vote against such a candidate.

Parental Notification

In 2003, the Republican controlled New Hampshire House and Senate passed a law that required minors to notify their parents or legal guardians before they could get an abortion. Democrats overturned this law in 2007, but the issue resurfaced in 2009. This is also an issue where Democrats appear to be out of step with the public – 58% of New Hampshire adults said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for State Senate who favored a parental notification law, 26% said they would be less likely to vote for such a candidate, 11% said it would make no difference in their vote, and 6% are unsure.

Likelihood of Voting For a Candidate Who Supports Parental Notification for Abortions

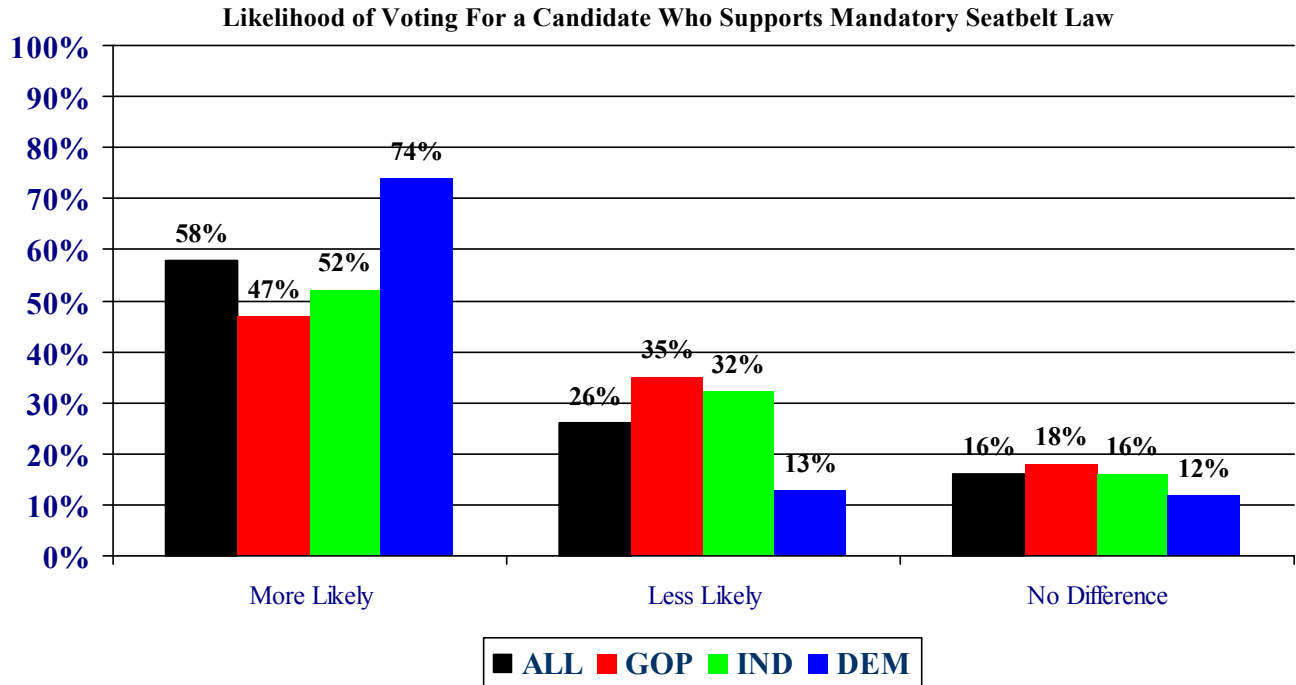


Republicans, conservatives, and regular church goers are most likely to say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported parental notification while. But even relatively high percentages of Democrats (36%), and people who

support legal abortion in all circumstances (35%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for State Senate who supports parental notification. “Parental notification of abortion is an issue that cuts across the abortion debate,” said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. “Even many ardent supporters of legal abortion believe parents should have a role in their child’s decision to have an abortion.”

Mandatory Seatbelt Usage

There is a renewed push to pass a mandatory seatbelt law in New Hampshire, and the New Hampshire House of Representatives approved a bill earlier this month that would require all vehicle occupants to wear a seat belt. A similar measure failed to gain approval from the Senate in 2007. Democrats in the Senate appear to have the support of the public on this issue – 58% of New Hampshire adults said they are more likely to vote for a candidate that supported a mandatory seat belt law, 26% said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate with this position, and 16% said it would make no difference in their vote.

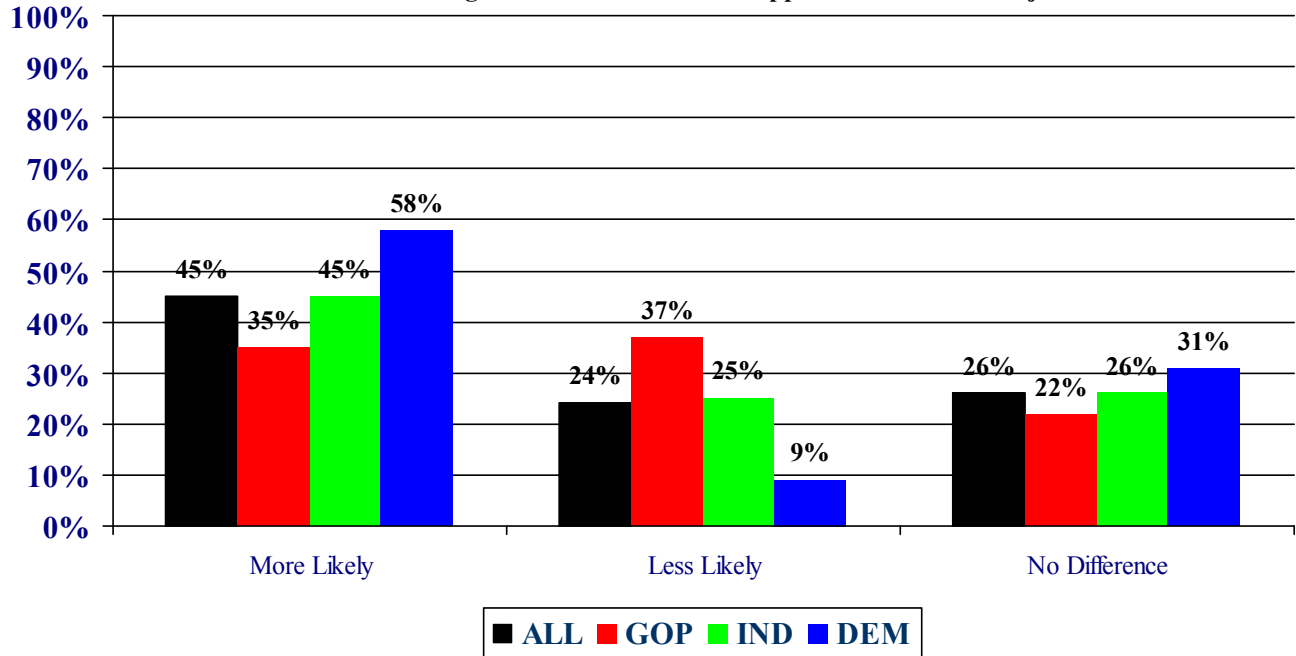


Democrats, liberals, adults with a post-graduate degree, and residents of the Connecticut Valley are most likely to say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported a mandatory seatbelt law. But even a plurality of Republicans (47%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported mandating seatbelt use.

Medicinal Marijuana

Another controversial issue is a measure that would legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes. The State Senate is in the process of holding hearings on a bill that the House passed last month that would permit the use of medicinal marijuana. Democrats appear to have modest public support for their position – 45% of New Hampshire adults said they would be more likely to vote for a State Senate candidate who supported legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes, 24% said they would be less likely to vote for such a candidate, 26% said it would make no difference in their vote, and 4% are unsure.

Likelihood of Voting For a Candidate Who Supports Medicinal Marijuana

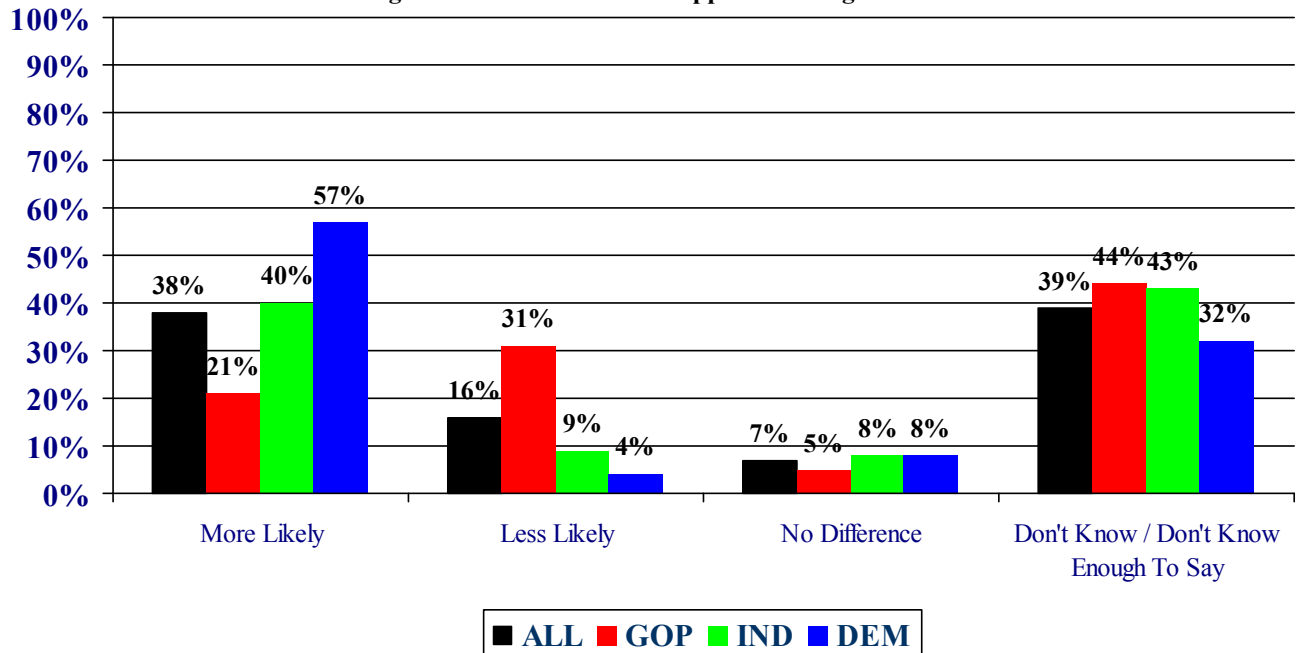


Democrats, liberals, and those 18 to 24 years of age are most likely to they would be more likely to vote for a State Senate candidate who supports legalized marijuana for medicinal use. Republicans are evenly divided on this issue, with 35% saying they would be more likely to vote for such a candidate and 37% saying they would be less likely to cast their vote for a State Senate candidate holding this position.

Transgendered Discrimination Bill

A bill that would add transgendered individuals to anti-discrimination protection laws was narrowly passed by the New Hampshire House earlier this month, but a considerable percentage of the New Hampshire public have yet to form an opinion on this issue. While 38% of New Hampshire adults said they would be more likely to vote a candidate for state senate that supported a bill that would protect transgendered individuals from discrimination and 16% said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate with such a position, 39% said did not know enough about the issue to form an opinion or were unsure and another 7% said it would make no different in their vote.

Likelihood of Voting For a Candidate Who Supports Transgendered Discrimination Bill



Republicans and conservatives are most likely to say that they would be less likely to vote for a candidate for State Senate that supported a bill protecting transgendered individuals from discrimination, and Democrats, liberals, and adults aged 18 to 24 said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate that supported such a bill.

Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest Granite State Poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred three (503) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between April 13 and April 22, 2009. 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.

Medicinal Marijuana

“Next, I'd like to ask you how some other issues the New Hampshire legislature has dealt with recently would affect your vote for a candidate for state senate.”

“Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for state senate if they supported legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes?”

45% MORE LIKELY
24% LESS LIKELY
26% NO DIFFERENCE (VOLUNTEERED)
4% DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
(N=501)

Parental Notification

“Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for state senate if they supported requiring parents to be notified before their daughter under the age of 18 could receive an abortion?”

58% MORE LIKELY
26% LESS LIKELY
11% NO DIFFERENCE (VOLUNTEERED)
6% DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
(N=500)

Transgender Rights

“Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for state senate if they supported a law that protected transgendered individuals from discrimination, or do you feel you don't know enough about this issue to say?”

IF ASKED: "Transgendered someone who is born into one sex but identifies themselves as the opposite sex."

38% MORE LIKELY
16% LESS LIKELY
7% NO DIFFERENCE (VOLUNTEERED)
39% DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
(N=500)

Mandatory Seat Belts

“Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for state senate if they supported a law that required ALL vehicle occupants to use seat belts, if the vehicle has them?”

58% MORE LIKELY
26% LESS LIKELY
16% NO DIFFERENCE (VOLUNTEERED)
0% DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
(N=501)

Death Penalty

“Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for state senate if they supported the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?”

56% MORE LIKELY
26% LESS LIKELY
11% NO DIFFERENCE (VOLUNTEERED)
7% DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
(N=501)

More or Less Likely to Support State Senator who Supports Medical Marijuana

STATEWIDE	<u>More Likely</u> 45%	<u>Less Likely</u> 24%	<u>No Difference</u> 26%	<u>DK</u> 4%	<u>(N)</u> 501
Registered Democrat	60%	12%	27%	2%	122
Registered Undeclared	44%	23%	29%	4%	197
Registered Republican	35%	40%	20%	5%	145
Democrat	58%	9%	31%	2%	176
Independent	45%	25%	26%	4%	103
Republican	35%	37%	22%	5%	205
Liberal	61%	7%	30%	3%	111
Moderate	51%	21%	27%	2%	188
Conservative	28%	42%	23%	7%	156
Union household	45%	14%	37%	4%	71
Non-union	45%	26%	25%	4%	425
10 yrs or less in NH	49%	22%	26%	2%	92
11 to 20 years	43%	14%	39%	3%	90
More than 20 years	44%	28%	23%	5%	311
18 to 34	55%	14%	24%	7%	55
35 to 49	41%	25%	30%	3%	143
50 to 64	45%	26%	28%	1%	178
65 and over	47%	25%	21%	7%	118
Male	48%	26%	23%	3%	242
Female	43%	23%	29%	4%	258
High school or less	40%	32%	24%	4%	129
Some college	55%	22%	16%	7%	118
College graduate	48%	23%	28%	1%	139
Post-graduate	37%	19%	40%	4%	107
Less than \$30K	52%	17%	28%	3%	44
\$30K to \$60K	43%	27%	26%	4%	90
\$60K to \$75K	40%	22%	36%	2%	46
\$75K to \$100K	39%	30%	27%	5%	56
\$100K or more	44%	26%	29%	1%	106
Married	41%	27%	29%	3%	362
Divorced/separated	54%	21%	20%	4%	84
Never married	63%	12%	18%	7%	50
Protestant	37%	30%	28%	5%	191
Catholic	42%	29%	27%	2%	161
Other	61%	9%	25%	5%	134
Attend services 1 or more/week	28%	40%	28%	4%	141
1-2 times a month	40%	29%	26%	5%	55
Less often	49%	20%	27%	4%	143
Never	58%	12%	26%	4%	148
North Country	35%	32%	28%	5%	43
Central / Lakes	52%	19%	26%	2%	81
Connecticut Valley	52%	17%	27%	4%	66
Mass Border	45%	23%	27%	5%	138
Seacoast	45%	24%	24%	6%	83
Manchester Area	40%	33%	26%	2%	90
First Cong. Dist	45%	26%	24%	5%	261
Second Cong. Dist	46%	23%	28%	3%	236

More or Less Likely to Support State Senator who Supports Parental Notification

STATEWIDE	<u>More Likely</u> 58%	<u>Less Likely</u> 26%	<u>No Difference</u> 11%	<u>DK</u> 6%	<u>(N)</u> 500
Registered Democrat	38%	43%	9%	10%	121
Registered Undeclared	56%	26%	12%	6%	198
Registered Republican	76%	11%	11%	3%	145
Democrat	36%	43%	11%	11%	177
Independent	63%	21%	13%	2%	101
Republican	74%	13%	10%	4%	205
Liberal	29%	50%	9%	12%	111
Moderate	60%	23%	15%	3%	188
Conservative	79%	12%	5%	4%	156
Union household	46%	36%	15%	3%	69
Non-union	59%	24%	10%	6%	426
10 yrs or less in NH	58%	28%	10%	3%	91
11 to 20 years	50%	35%	6%	9%	91
More than 20 years	60%	23%	12%	6%	310
18 to 34	52%	31%	9%	8%	55
35 to 49	54%	26%	16%	4%	143
50 to 64	59%	25%	10%	6%	178
65 and over	63%	26%	5%	6%	118
Male	61%	24%	9%	6%	243
Female	55%	27%	13%	5%	257
High school or less	70%	17%	7%	6%	130
Some college	58%	25%	8%	9%	116
College graduate	58%	25%	13%	4%	138
Post-graduate	42%	37%	16%	4%	108
Less than \$30K	74%	24%	1%	2%	43
\$30K to \$60K	53%	26%	13%	9%	91
\$60K to \$75K	53%	34%	12%	0%	48
\$75K to \$100K	51%	32%	17%	0%	56
\$100K or more	53%	26%	12%	9%	106
Married	58%	25%	11%	6%	361
Divorced/separated	64%	28%	6%	2%	84
Never married	49%	27%	14%	9%	50
Abortion Always Legal	35%	42%	14%	8%	178
Abortion Sometimes Legal	67%	19%	8%	5%	232
Abortion Never Legal	86%	9%	5%	1%	61
Protestant	65%	22%	9%	4%	192
Catholic	65%	18%	11%	6%	160
Other	38%	40%	13%	9%	132
Attend services 1 or more/week	74%	17%	7%	2%	142
1-2 times a month	51%	34%	13%	2%	55
Less often	54%	24%	16%	5%	142
Never	47%	33%	8%	11%	148
North Country	51%	32%	10%	7%	43
Central / Lakes	55%	30%	8%	7%	83
Connecticut Valley	58%	32%	9%	2%	67
Mass Border	60%	22%	13%	5%	135
Seacoast	55%	25%	8%	12%	83
Manchester Area	65%	19%	13%	3%	90
First Cong. Dist	59%	22%	13%	6%	259
Second Cong. Dist	57%	29%	9%	6%	237

More or Less Likely to Support State Senator who Supports Transgender Discrimination Bill

	<u>More Likely</u>	<u>Less Likely</u>	<u>No Difference</u>	<u>DK / Don't Know Enough To Say</u>	<u>(N)</u>
STATEWIDE	38%	16%	7%	39%	500
Registered Democrat	58%	6%	5%	31%	121
Registered Undeclared	43%	9%	6%	41%	200
Registered Republican	14%	35%	8%	43%	143
Democrat	57%	4%	8%	32%	178
Independent	40%	9%	8%	43%	103
Republican	21%	31%	5%	44%	203
Liberal	67%	4%	5%	24%	112
Moderate	37%	12%	8%	42%	189
Conservative	19%	33%	6%	42%	154
Union household	56%	5%	11%	29%	71
Non-union	35%	18%	7%	41%	424
10 yrs or less in NH	37%	22%	5%	36%	90
11 to 20 years	58%	12%	9%	21%	91
More than 20 years	33%	16%	7%	44%	311
18 to 34	50%	12%	8%	31%	55
35 to 49	41%	17%	9%	33%	142
50 to 64	35%	18%	8%	38%	180
65 and over	33%	13%	3%	51%	118
Male	34%	18%	5%	42%	242
Female	41%	14%	9%	35%	258
High school or less	22%	12%	8%	57%	128
Some college	40%	14%	5%	42%	118
College graduate	42%	22%	7%	30%	139
Post-graduate	49%	16%	9%	25%	107
Less than \$30K	30%	14%	5%	51%	43
\$30K to \$60K	41%	12%	9%	38%	90
\$60K to \$75K	30%	13%	17%	40%	48
\$75K to \$100K	48%	13%	5%	35%	56
\$100K or more	37%	21%	9%	33%	105
Married	39%	17%	8%	36%	362
Divorced/separated	32%	15%	3%	49%	84
Never married	40%	9%	7%	43%	49
Protestant	29%	20%	8%	43%	191
Catholic	30%	17%	7%	46%	161
Other	61%	9%	7%	23%	134
Attend services 1 or more/week	29%	27%	6%	38%	142
1-2 times a month	31%	19%	10%	40%	54
Less often	36%	12%	7%	46%	144
Never	52%	9%	7%	32%	148
North Country	35%	9%	3%	53%	43
Central / Lakes	42%	16%	6%	36%	83
Connecticut Valley	38%	6%	13%	43%	67
Mass Border	39%	21%	5%	35%	138
Seacoast	38%	6%	13%	44%	82
Manchester Area	34%	29%	4%	33%	88
First Cong. Dist	39%	15%	8%	38%	258
Second Cong. Dist	37%	17%	6%	40%	238

More or Less Likely to Support State Senator who Supports Seatbelt Law

STATEWIDE	<u>More Likely</u> 58%	<u>Less Likely</u> 26%	<u>No Difference</u> 16%	<u>DK</u> 0%	<u>(N)</u> 501
Registered Democrat	76%	14%	10%	0%	122
Registered Undeclared	58%	25%	16%	1%	199
Registered Republican	43%	36%	20%	0%	144
Democrat	74%	13%	12%	1%	179
Independent	52%	32%	16%	0%	102
Republican	47%	35%	18%	0%	204
Liberal	79%	11%	10%	0%	112
Moderate	53%	30%	16%	1%	189
Conservative	49%	34%	17%	0%	155
Union household	56%	22%	20%	2%	71
Non-union	58%	27%	15%	0%	425
10 yrs or less in NH	63%	22%	14%	1%	90
11 to 20 years	48%	27%	24%	1%	91
More than 20 years	60%	27%	13%	0%	311
18 to 34	49%	30%	17%	3%	55
35 to 49	53%	26%	22%	0%	142
50 to 64	61%	26%	13%	0%	180
65 and over	63%	25%	11%	0%	119
Male	56%	32%	13%	0%	242
Female	60%	21%	18%	1%	259
High school or less	52%	29%	18%	1%	130
Some college	57%	29%	14%	0%	116
College graduate	55%	29%	15%	1%	138
Post-graduate	69%	16%	15%	0%	108
Less than \$30K	63%	24%	13%	1%	44
\$30K to \$60K	60%	25%	14%	0%	89
\$60K to \$75K	59%	20%	21%	0%	48
\$75K to \$100K	61%	26%	11%	2%	56
\$100K or more	57%	25%	18%	0%	106
Married	58%	26%	16%	0%	363
Divorced/separated	65%	22%	12%	0%	83
Never married	39%	37%	22%	2%	50
Protestant	61%	23%	15%	1%	192
Catholic	53%	31%	17%	0%	161
Other	60%	25%	15%	1%	134
Attend services 1 or more/week	55%	26%	17%	1%	142
1-2 times a month	63%	17%	20%	0%	54
Less often	65%	25%	10%	0%	145
Never	52%	31%	17%	0%	146
North Country	41%	47%	13%	0%	43
Central / Lakes	62%	24%	14%	0%	83
Connecticut Valley	72%	13%	16%	0%	67
Mass Border	55%	28%	16%	0%	136
Seacoast	66%	20%	13%	1%	83
Manchester Area	48%	31%	20%	1%	90
First Cong. Dist	57%	28%	14%	1%	261
Second Cong. Dist	59%	25%	16%	0%	236

More or Less Likely to Support State Senator who Supports Death Penalty

STATEWIDE	<u>More Likely</u> 56%	<u>Less Likely</u> 26%	<u>No Difference</u> 11%	<u>DK</u> 7%	<u>(N)</u> 501
Registered Democrat	34%	49%	9%	8%	122
Registered Undeclared	56%	25%	11%	8%	198
Registered Republican	74%	10%	13%	4%	145
Democrat	35%	45%	11%	8%	178
Independent	57%	18%	15%	10%	103
Republican	74%	14%	9%	4%	204
Liberal	29%	54%	8%	9%	112
Moderate	54%	25%	15%	6%	189
Conservative	76%	10%	9%	5%	154
Union household	42%	30%	23%	5%	71
Non-union	58%	26%	9%	7%	425
10 yrs or less in NH	51%	30%	9%	9%	92
11 to 20 years	50%	32%	15%	3%	90
More than 20 years	59%	23%	11%	7%	311
18 to 34	63%	27%	4%	6%	55
35 to 49	62%	22%	14%	2%	143
50 to 64	51%	25%	12%	12%	179
65 and over	52%	32%	10%	6%	118
Male	64%	28%	6%	2%	242
Female	48%	25%	16%	11%	259
High school or less	71%	14%	6%	9%	130
Some college	70%	15%	9%	6%	118
College graduate	46%	36%	11%	6%	138
Post-graduate	34%	40%	20%	6%	107
Less than \$30K	54%	23%	12%	11%	44
\$30K to \$60K	55%	32%	9%	4%	91
\$60K to \$75K	53%	29%	11%	7%	48
\$75K to \$100K	60%	27%	11%	2%	56
\$100K or more	55%	27%	14%	4%	105
Married	55%	27%	12%	6%	362
Divorced/separated	66%	19%	7%	8%	84
Never married	47%	37%	9%	7%	50
Protestant	60%	23%	12%	5%	191
Catholic	65%	16%	12%	6%	162
Other	37%	42%	11%	11%	133
Attend services 1 or more/week	56%	23%	16%	5%	142
1-2 times a month	55%	26%	14%	5%	55
Less often	65%	22%	7%	5%	143
Never	48%	31%	9%	12%	147
North Country	57%	37%	0%	5%	43
Central / Lakes	48%	32%	15%	6%	83
Connecticut Valley	52%	36%	5%	7%	65
Mass Border	60%	21%	12%	7%	138
Seacoast	57%	23%	13%	7%	83
Manchester Area	58%	21%	14%	7%	90
First Cong. Dist	63%	21%	10%	6%	261
Second Cong. Dist	48%	32%	12%	8%	236