

THE GRANITE STATE POLL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

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OBAMA BEGINS PRESIDENCY WITH HIGH MARKS IN NH

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DURHAM, NH – President Barack Obama has high approval ratings in New Hampshire during the early stages of his presidency.

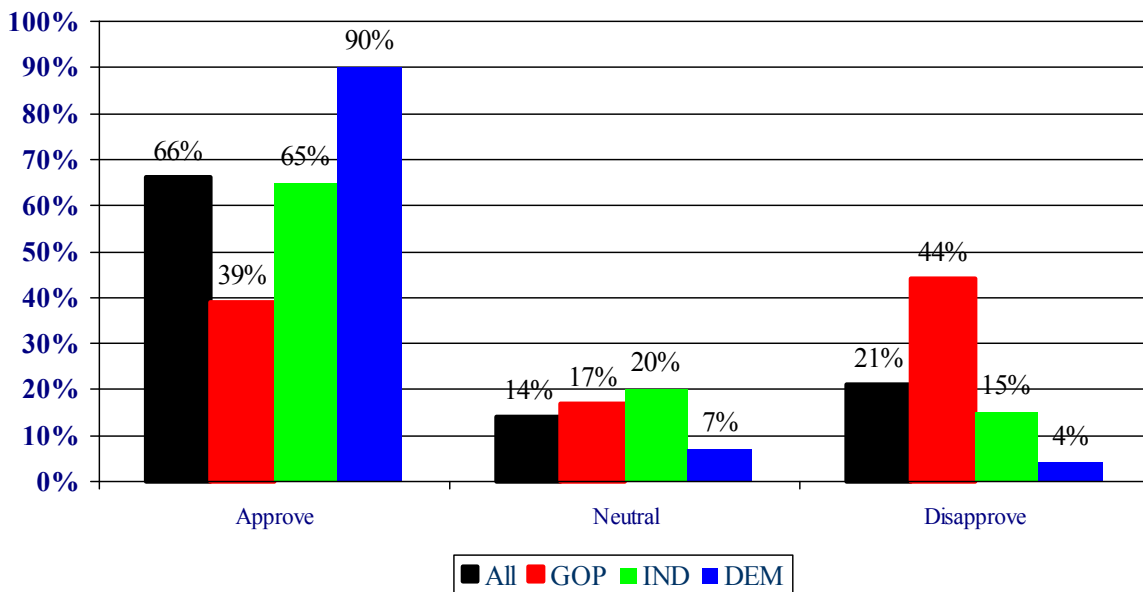
These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll**,* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Six hundred nineteen (619) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between February 5 and February 9, 2009. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-3.9 percent.

Presidential Approval

In the first Granite State Poll conducted after President Obama's inauguration, a solid majority of New Hampshire adults approve of how he has performed so far as President. Currently, 66% of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the job Obama is doing as president, 21% disapprove, and 14% are neutral.

Obama continues to receive the approval of political independents and the vast majority of Democrats. Currently, 65% of political independents approve of his job performance, and 90% of Democrats approve. However, a plurality of Republicans disapprove of Obama's performance as President – 44% disapprove while 39% approve – an indication that old partisan divides are reviving.

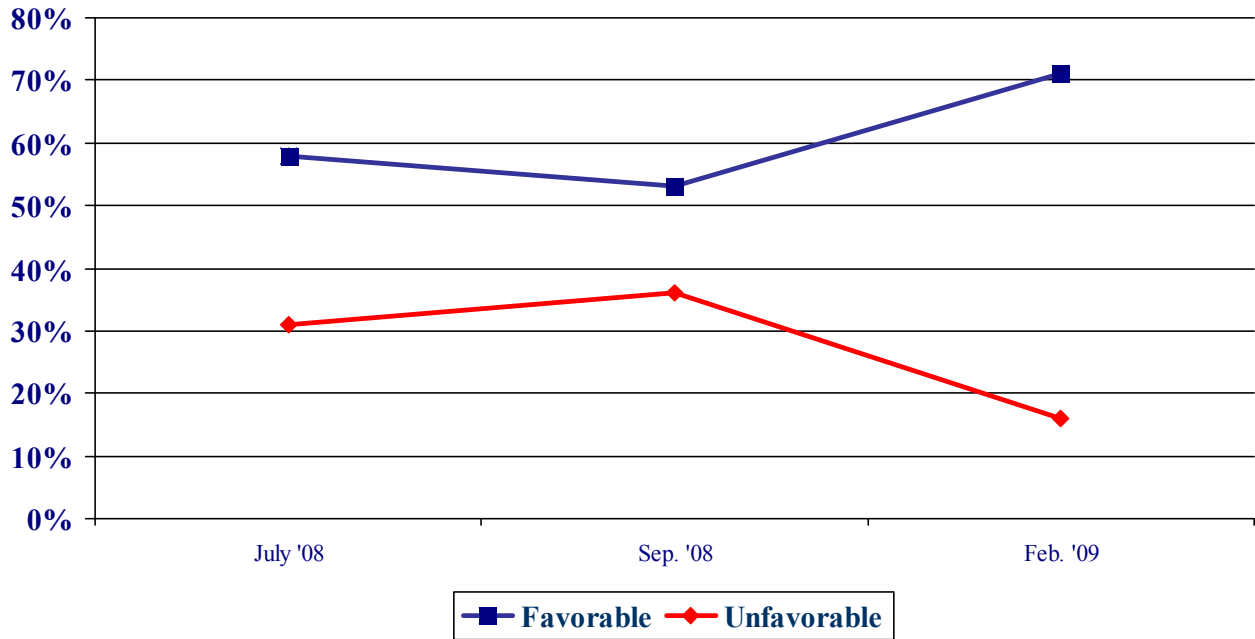
Presidential Approval – Barack Obama



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

Obama's personal favorability rating has risen substantially since his election. Obama is currently view favorably by 71% of NH adults, 16% have an unfavorable opinion of him, and 9% are neutral. Obama's net favorability rating, the percentage having a favorable opinion minus the percentage having an unfavorable opinion, is +55%, the highest net approval rating he has received in the Granite State Poll. Nearly all Democrats (95%) have a favorable opinion of Obama, 45% of Republicans have a favorable opinion, and 68% of political independents view him favorably.

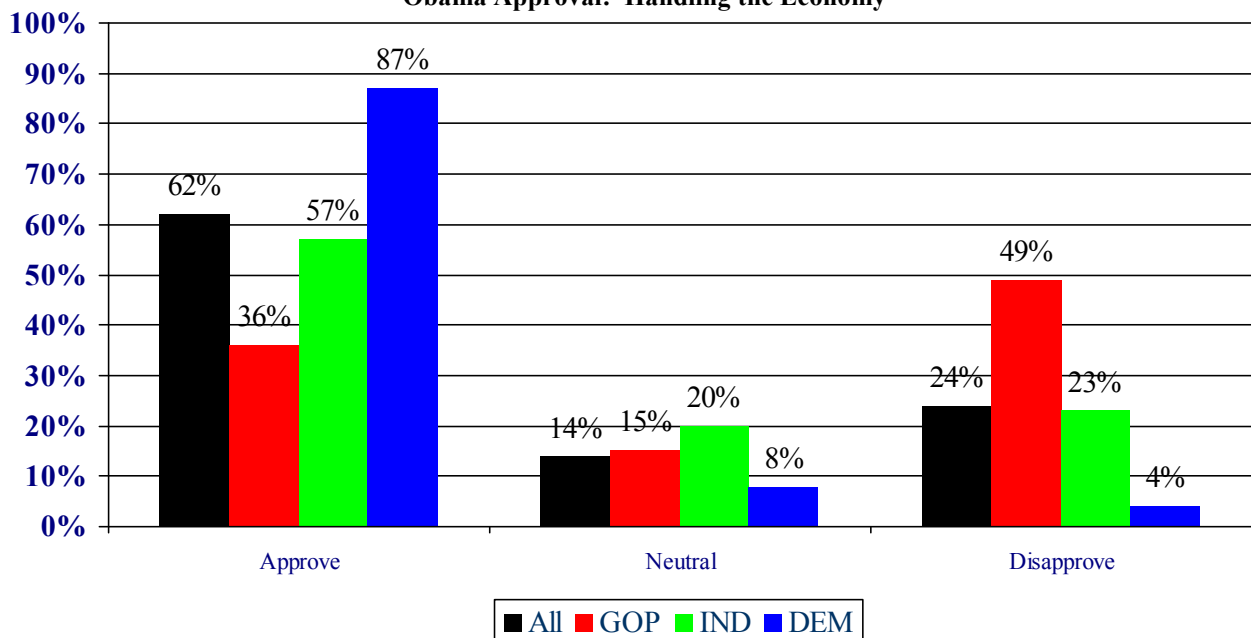
Favorability Ratings – Barack Obama



Economic Approval Rating

Both the U.S. and New Hampshire economies have dropped significantly in recent months, but most Granite stater approve of the steps Obama has taken so far to steady the market. Currently, 62% of New Hampshire adults approve of how Obama is handling the economy, 24% disapprove, and 14% are neutral.

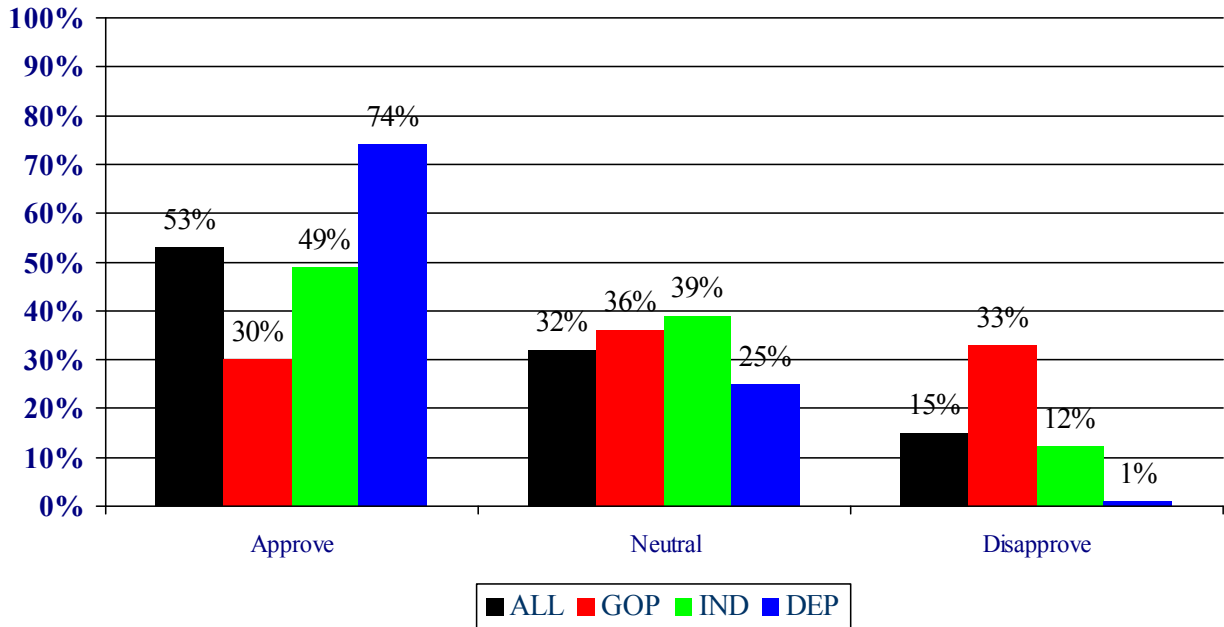
Obama Approval: Handling the Economy



Foreign Affairs

Obama's handling of foreign affairs also receives the support of most New Hampshire residents. Currently, 53% approve of how Obama is handling foreign affairs, 15% disapprove, and 32% are neutral.

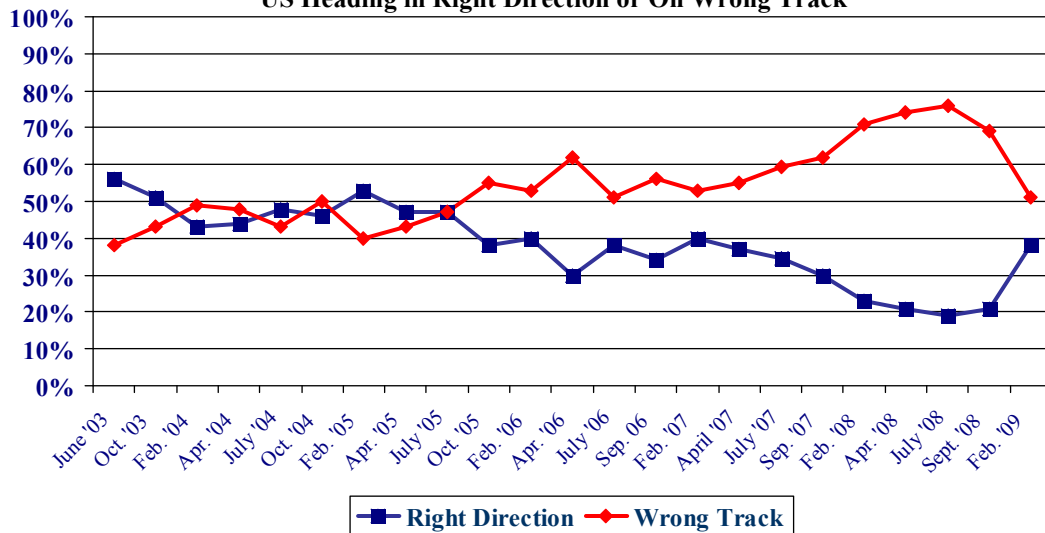
Obama Approval: Foreign Affairs



Right Track – Wrong Track

Overall, New Hampshire residents continue to be pessimistic about the direction the country is heading, though there has been a significant improvement in this trend since Obama took office. Only 38% of New Hampshire adults think things in this country are generally going in the right direction, 51% think things are seriously off on the wrong track, and 11% don't know. Democrats are most optimistic about the country's direction, with 51% thinking we are on the right track and 40% saying the country is on the wrong track, while only 27% of Republicans think the US is going in the right direction and 66% say things on the wrong track.

US Heading in Right Direction or On Wrong Track



Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll** conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Six hundred nineteen (619) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between February 5 and February 9, 2009. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-3.9 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

“GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Feb. '09	66%	14%	21%	(614)

Presidential Approval – Economy

“GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling THE ECONOMY?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Feb. '09	62%	14%	24%	(614)

Presidential Approval - Foreign Affairs

“GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling FOREIGN AFFAIRS?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Feb. '09	53%	32%	15%	(607)

Favorability Rating – President Barack Obama

"Next, I'd like to get your overall opinion of some people who have been in the news. As I read each name, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person - or if you don't know enough about him or her to say. President Barack Obama?"

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
Feb. '09	71%	9%	16%	+55%	(619)
Sep. '08	53%	9%	36%	+17%	(522)
July '08	58%	10%	31%	+27%	(474)

Right Track - Wrong Track

“Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?”

	<u>Right</u> <u>Direction</u>	<u>Wrong</u> <u>Track</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
Feb. '09	38%	51%	11%	(610)
Sep. '08	21%	69%	10%	(540)
July '08	19%	73%	8%	(508)
Apr. '08	21%	74%	5%	(487)
Feb. '08	23%	71%	7%	(553)
Sep. '07	30%	62%	8%	(505)
July '07	34%	59%	6%	(523)
Apr. '07	37%	55%	8%	(510)
Feb. '07	40%	53%	7%	(516)
Sept. '06	34%	56%	10%	(510)
July '06	38%	51%	11%	(496)
Apr. '06	30%	62%	8%	(501)
Feb. '06	40%	53%	7%	(487)
Oct. '05	38%	55%	7%	(498)
July '05	47%	47%	6%	(492)
Apr. '05	46%	43%	11%	(487)
Feb. '05	53%	40%	7%	(535)
Oct. '04	46%	50%	4%	(574)
July '04	48%	43%	10%	(500)
Apr. '04	44%	48%	8%	(535)
Feb. '04	43%	49%	8%	(503)
Oct. '03	51%	43%	6%	(487)
June '03	56%	38%	5%	(511)

Presidential Approval Rating - Overall

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 66%	<u>Neutral</u> 14%	<u>Disapprove</u> 21%	<u>(N=)</u> 614
Registered Democrat	91%	5%	4%	182
Registered Undeclared	66%	16%	18%	225
Registered Republican	38%	17%	46%	164
Democrat	90%	7%	4%	262
Independent	65%	20%	15%	121
Republican	39%	17%	44%	220
Liberal	91%	7%	2%	118
Moderate	75%	13%	12%	285
Conservative	33%	18%	50%	168
McCain/Palin Voter	33%	18%	49%	236
Obama/Biden Voter	92%	7%	1%	299
Other	60%	17%	23%	9
Did Not Vote in 2008	58%	32%	10%	46
Union household	74%	8%	18%	90
Non-union	64%	15%	21%	517
10 yrs or less in NH	64%	12%	24%	98
11 to 20 years	64%	15%	21%	108
More than 20 years	67%	13%	20%	402
18 to 34	60%	20%	20%	71
35 to 49	70%	10%	20%	173
50 to 64	70%	11%	19%	218
65 and over	57%	18%	24%	137
Male	57%	15%	28%	305
Female	74%	13%	13%	309
High school or less	55%	17%	28%	138
Some college	62%	18%	20%	140
College graduate	70%	12%	18%	211
Post-graduate	73%	9%	18%	124
Less than \$30K	59%	18%	23%	60
\$30K to \$60K	64%	14%	23%	95
\$60K to \$75K	65%	11%	24%	58
\$75K to \$100K	66%	13%	22%	63
\$100K or more	74%	10%	16%	142
Married	67%	11%	22%	421
Divorced/separated	59%	20%	22%	116
Never married	67%	17%	16%	75
Protestant	62%	16%	22%	218
Catholic	65%	12%	23%	203
Other	73%	11%	16%	169
Attend services 1 or more/week	59%	15%	27%	142
1-2 times a month	71%	10%	19%	85
Less often	64%	16%	20%	193
Never	72%	11%	17%	180
North Country	56%	14%	30%	58
Central / Lakes	68%	13%	18%	106
Connecticut Valley	80%	11%	8%	85
Mass Border	61%	13%	26%	167
Seacoast	71%	11%	18%	106
Manchester Area	57%	19%	24%	93
First Cong. Dist	64%	15%	22%	308
Second Cong. Dist	68%	12%	20%	306

Presidential Approval Rating - Economy

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 62%	<u>Neutral</u> 14%	<u>Disapprove</u> 24%	<u>(N=)</u> 614
Registered Democrat	86%	9%	4%	183
Registered Undeclared	63%	14%	23%	225
Registered Republican	33%	16%	51%	163
Democrat	87%	8%	4%	263
Independent	57%	20%	23%	121
Republican	36%	15%	49%	219
Liberal	88%	8%	4%	118
Moderate	70%	11%	18%	285
Conservative	27%	21%	52%	168
McCain/Palin Voter	28%	17%	55%	237
Obama/Biden Voter	90%	7%	3%	300
Other	56%	21%	23%	9
Did Not Vote in 2008	54%	30%	17%	46
Union household	66%	12%	22%	90
Non-union	61%	14%	24%	517
10 yrs or less in NH	58%	12%	30%	99
11 to 20 years	62%	16%	23%	109
More than 20 years	63%	13%	23%	401
18 to 34	52%	17%	31%	71
35 to 49	69%	8%	24%	173
50 to 64	66%	13%	21%	219
65 and over	53%	20%	27%	136
Male	54%	16%	30%	304
Female	70%	12%	19%	311
High school or less	52%	16%	32%	138
Some college	62%	14%	24%	139
College graduate	64%	14%	22%	212
Post-graduate	69%	11%	20%	124
Less than \$30K	56%	22%	23%	59
\$30K to \$60K	61%	17%	21%	95
\$60K to \$75K	60%	8%	32%	58
\$75K to \$100K	57%	8%	34%	63
\$100K or more	74%	7%	19%	142
Married	64%	11%	25%	420
Divorced/separated	54%	22%	23%	116
Never married	62%	14%	24%	75
Protestant	58%	13%	29%	218
Catholic	61%	15%	24%	203
Other	68%	11%	20%	169
Attend services 1 or more/week	55%	18%	27%	142
1-2 times a month	67%	8%	25%	85
Less often	60%	12%	28%	193
Never	69%	12%	19%	180
North Country	52%	5%	42%	56
Central / Lakes	65%	15%	20%	105
Connecticut Valley	75%	10%	14%	85
Mass Border	54%	16%	29%	167
Seacoast	70%	10%	20%	107
Manchester Area	57%	20%	23%	93
First Cong. Dist	61%	14%	25%	309
Second Cong. Dist	62%	14%	24%	305

Presidential Approval Rating - Foreign Affairs

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 53%	<u>Neutral</u> 32%	<u>Disapprove</u> 15%	<u>(N=)</u> 607
Registered Democrat	74%	24%	2%	182
Registered Undeclared	57%	30%	13%	222
Registered Republican	26%	41%	33%	160
Democrat	74%	25%	1%	263
Independent	49%	39%	12%	117
Republican	30%	36%	33%	217
Liberal	76%	23%	1%	116
Moderate	58%	33%	9%	283
Conservative	27%	37%	36%	164
McCain/Palin Voter	27%	39%	34%	232
Obama/Biden Voter	75%	24%	1%	299
Other	44%	45%	11%	8
Did Not Vote in 2008	39%	45%	16%	46
Union household	59%	26%	15%	90
Non-union	52%	34%	14%	509
10 yrs or less in NH	51%	28%	21%	97
11 to 20 years	53%	32%	15%	109
More than 20 years	53%	34%	13%	396
18 to 34	46%	34%	20%	71
35 to 49	60%	24%	17%	172
50 to 64	56%	32%	12%	216
65 and over	42%	45%	13%	133
Male	48%	35%	17%	298
Female	57%	30%	13%	310
High school or less	46%	30%	24%	135
Some college	44%	41%	15%	139
College graduate	57%	32%	11%	210
Post-graduate	63%	25%	13%	122
Less than \$30K	44%	38%	18%	59
\$30K to \$60K	46%	35%	19%	95
\$60K to \$75K	55%	31%	14%	57
\$75K to \$100K	61%	25%	14%	63
\$100K or more	59%	26%	14%	142
Married	56%	30%	14%	414
Divorced/separated	38%	43%	18%	115
Never married	54%	31%	15%	75
Protestant	49%	33%	18%	214
Catholic	50%	36%	15%	202
Other	64%	26%	10%	166
Attend services 1 or more/week	50%	34%	16%	138
1-2 times a month	57%	29%	14%	85
Less often	52%	32%	16%	192
Never	57%	30%	13%	179
North Country	53%	30%	17%	55
Central / Lakes	51%	36%	14%	104
Connecticut Valley	64%	26%	10%	84
Mass Border	54%	28%	19%	165
Seacoast	54%	33%	14%	107
Manchester Area	41%	45%	14%	93
First Cong. Dist	49%	35%	16%	309
Second Cong. Dist	56%	30%	14%	298

U.S. Right Direction / Wrong Track

	<u>Right Direction</u> 38%	<u>Wrong Track</u> 51%	<u>Don't Know</u> 11%	<u>(N=)</u> 610
STATEWIDE				
Registered Democrat	52%	38%	10%	179
Registered Undeclared	34%	54%	12%	223
Registered Republican	28%	62%	11%	165
Democrat	51%	40%	9%	259
Independent	33%	48%	20%	121
Republican	27%	66%	7%	220
Liberal	57%	33%	10%	117
Moderate	39%	47%	14%	285
Conservative	24%	69%	6%	166
McCain/Palin Voter	22%	68%	10%	237
Obama/Biden Voter	52%	38%	10%	294
Other	35%	56%	9%	9
Did Not Vote in 2008	37%	44%	19%	45
Union household	44%	39%	17%	89
Non-union	38%	53%	10%	515
10 yrs or less in NH	40%	56%	4%	100
11 to 20 years	34%	52%	14%	108
More than 20 years	39%	49%	12%	396
18 to 34	44%	49%	8%	71
35 to 49	40%	53%	7%	171
50 to 64	37%	53%	11%	215
65 and over	38%	47%	15%	137
Male	33%	54%	12%	302
Female	43%	47%	9%	308
High school or less	34%	53%	13%	138
Some college	35%	51%	13%	138
College graduate	45%	47%	9%	212
Post-graduate	36%	55%	9%	121
Less than \$30K	38%	46%	16%	60
\$30K to \$60K	49%	43%	8%	95
\$60K to \$75K	37%	58%	5%	57
\$75K to \$100K	26%	63%	12%	61
\$100K or more	40%	51%	9%	141
Married	39%	52%	9%	416
Divorced/separated	34%	50%	16%	116
Never married	44%	42%	14%	74
Protestant	40%	52%	8%	216
Catholic	39%	49%	12%	202
Other	33%	55%	12%	167
Attend services 1 or more/week	36%	49%	14%	143
1-2 times a month	38%	55%	7%	83
Less often	41%	52%	7%	191
Never	38%	49%	13%	180
North Country	31%	57%	12%	55
Central / Lakes	40%	48%	12%	104
Connecticut Valley	50%	42%	8%	84
Mass Border	36%	57%	7%	168
Seacoast	36%	46%	17%	107
Manchester Area	38%	52%	10%	92
First Cong. Dist	36%	51%	12%	309
Second Cong. Dist	41%	50%	9%	301

Favorability Rating – Barack Obama

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 71%	<u>Neutral</u> 9%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 16%	<u>DK</u> 3%	<u>(N)</u> 619
Registered Democrat	94%	4%	1%	1%	183
Registered Undeclared	72%	9%	15%	3%	227
Registered Republican	44%	14%	36%	6%	166
Democrat	95%	2%	2%	1%	263
Independent	68%	17%	12%	3%	123
Republican	45%	12%	36%	6%	223
Liberal	95%	1%	3%	1%	118
Moderate	80%	11%	8%	2%	287
Conservative	39%	13%	41%	7%	170
McCain/Palin Voter	39%	16%	39%	5%	239
Obama/Biden Voter	98%	2%	0%	1%	300
Other	60%	17%	23%	0%	9
Did Not Vote in 2008	70%	14%	9%	6%	46
Union household	72%	10%	12%	6%	90
Non-union	72%	9%	17%	3%	521
10 yrs or less in NH	67%	8%	21%	4%	101
11 to 20 years	72%	10%	19%	0%	110
More than 20 years	73%	9%	14%	4%	402
18 to 34	72%	5%	20%	3%	71
35 to 49	72%	9%	17%	3%	174
50 to 64	74%	10%	11%	4%	219
65 and over	67%	10%	20%	4%	140
Male	64%	10%	21%	5%	306
Female	78%	7%	12%	2%	313
High school or less	65%	9%	20%	6%	140
Some college	70%	9%	16%	4%	140
College graduate	74%	9%	15%	2%	212
Post-graduate	76%	9%	13%	2%	124
Less than \$30K	72%	9%	16%	3%	60
\$30K to \$60K	73%	7%	16%	4%	95
\$60K to \$75K	66%	11%	21%	2%	57
\$75K to \$100K	64%	14%	20%	2%	63
\$100K or more	80%	5%	13%	2%	142
Married	71%	9%	18%	3%	423
Divorced/separated	69%	12%	12%	6%	117
Never married	77%	5%	16%	1%	75
Protestant	66%	10%	21%	2%	218
Catholic	72%	7%	18%	3%	205
Other	76%	10%	9%	5%	169
Attend services 1 or more/week	65%	12%	22%	2%	143
1-2 times a month	71%	9%	18%	1%	86
Less often	71%	8%	19%	2%	194
Never	78%	7%	9%	7%	181
North Country	59%	14%	19%	8%	58
Central / Lakes	74%	6%	16%	3%	106
Connecticut Valley	80%	7%	8%	5%	85
Mass Border	67%	7%	21%	4%	168
Seacoast	78%	8%	13%	2%	108
Manchester Area	68%	14%	18%	0%	94
First Cong. Dist	72%	10%	16%	2%	311
Second Cong. Dist	71%	7%	17%	5%	308