

WMUR / GRANITE STATE POLL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

October 1, 2008

BUSH HEADING OUT OF OFFICE WITH DISMAL APPROVAL RATINGS IN NH

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DURHAM, NH – Beset by economic problems at home and lingering wars abroad, President George W. Bush continues to be very unpopular in New Hampshire.

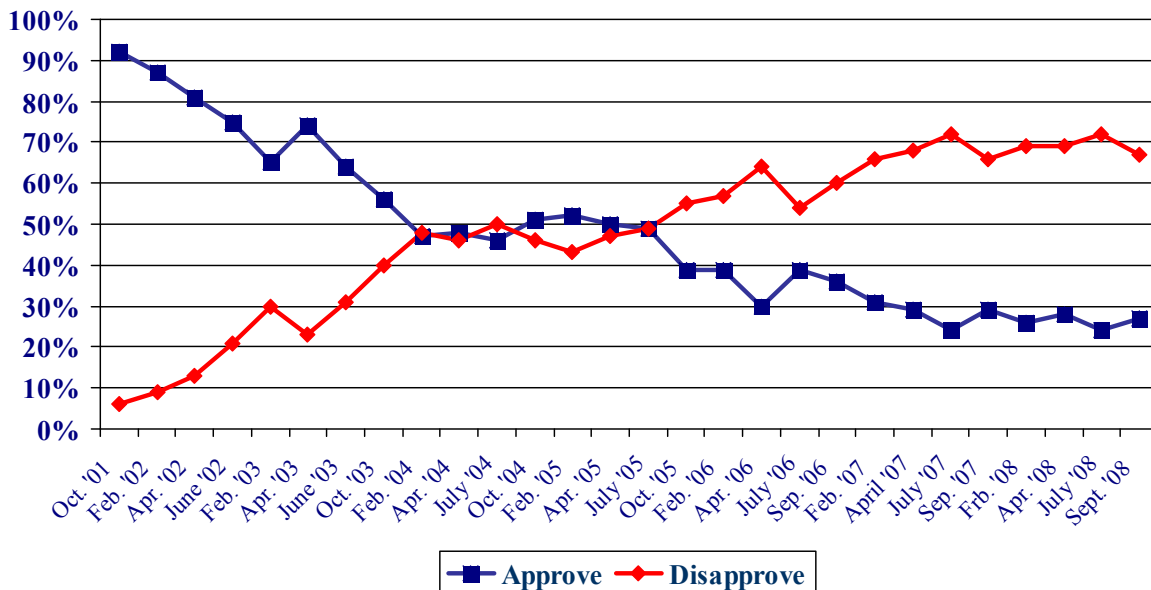
These findings are based on the latest **WMUR / Granite State Poll**,* sponsored by WMUR-TV and conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred fifty (550) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between September 14 and September 21, 2008. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.2%.

Presidential Approval

There are only 3 months left in the presidency of George W. Bush and he continues to maintain abysmally low approval ratings in New Hampshire. In the most recent WMUR Granite State Poll, only 27% of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the job Bush is doing as president, 67% disapprove, and 6% are neutral. This represents a slight increase since July, but his approval rating remains below 30%. This is close to the average of national presidential polls reported this week on pollster.com which finds 28% nationwide approve of Bush.

Only 54% of Republicans now approve of Bush's performance as President while 92% of Democrats and 75% of political Independents disapprove.

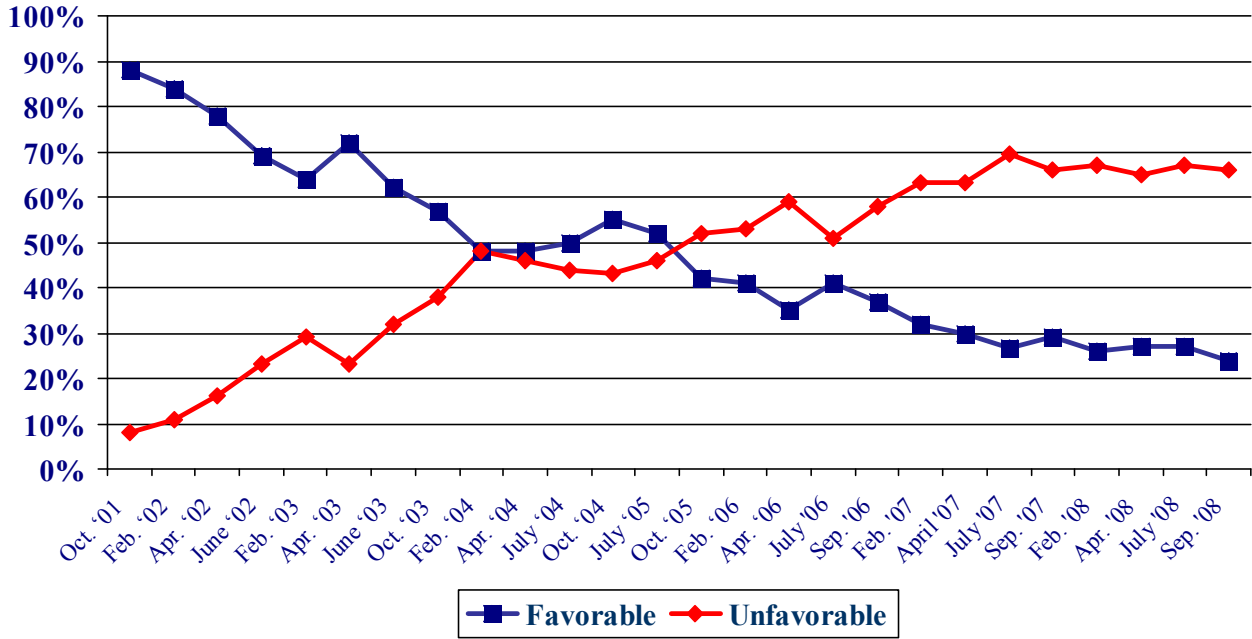
Presidential Approval – G.W. Bush



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

Bush's personal favorability rating is at a record low in New Hampshire. Only 24% of New Hampshire adults have a favorable opinion of Bush, 66% have an unfavorable opinion of him, and 10% are neutral or don't know. Bush's net favorability rating, the percentage having a favorable opinion minus the percentage having an unfavorable opinion, is an extremely low -42%. Bush's favorability rating has continued to decline due to a drop in support among Republicans – only 51% of Republicans now say they have a favorable opinion of Bush, down from 66% in a year ago.

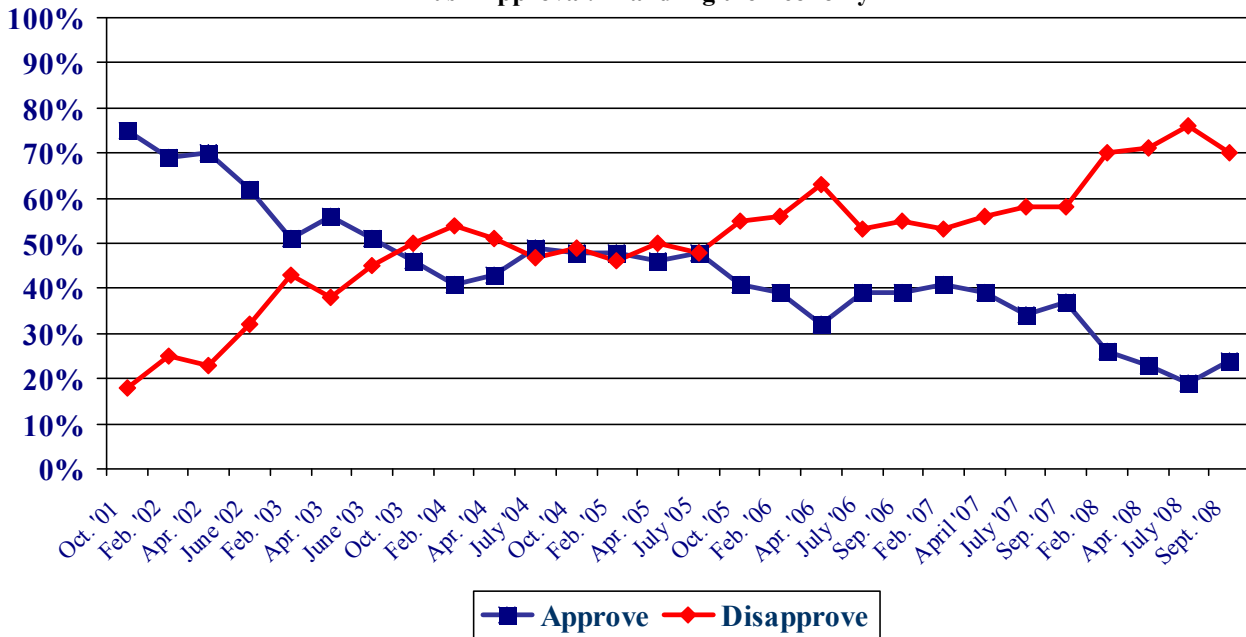
Favorability Ratings – G.W. Bush



Economic Approval Rating

Despite the market upheavals of recent weeks, there has been a slight uptick in approval for how Bush has handled the economy. Currently, 24% of New Hampshire residents, say they approve of the job President Bush is doing handling the economy, 70% disapprove, and 6% are neutral. The percentage of New Hampshire residents who approve of Bush's handling of the economy had been steadily declining for more than a year.

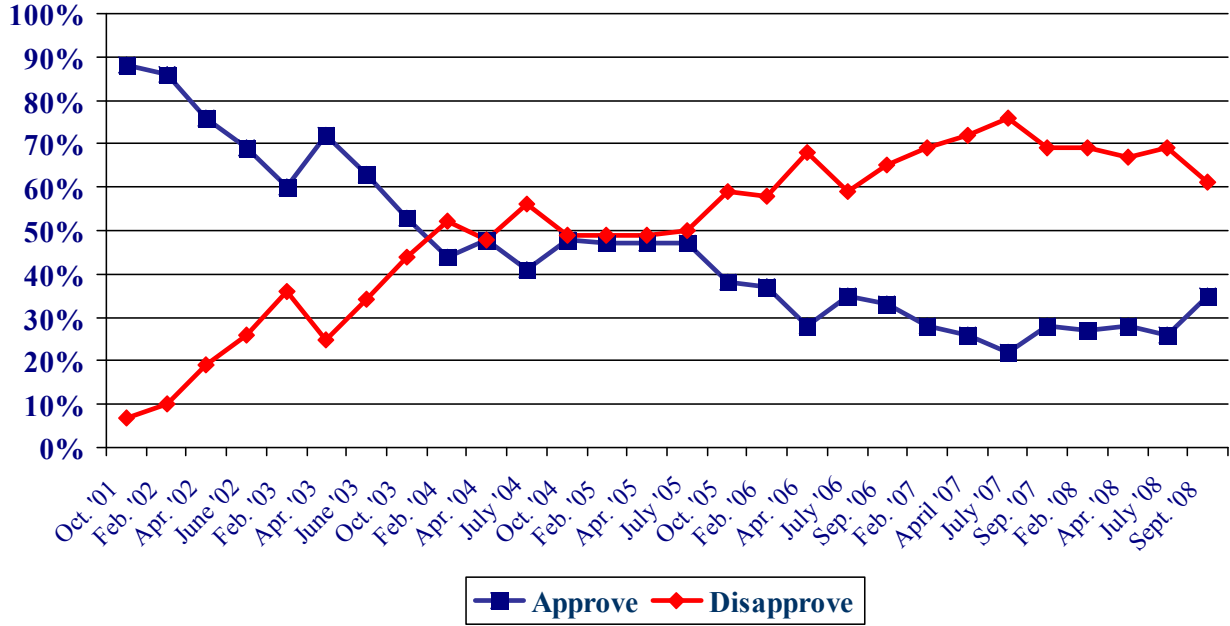
Bush Approval: Handling the Economy



Foreign Affairs

Although approval of Bush's handling of foreign policy has improved slightly in recent months, it continues to be unpopular in New Hampshire. When asked about how the President is handling foreign affairs, only 35% of New Hampshire adults say they approve, 61% disapprove, and 3% are neutral. The percentage who approval of Bush's handling of foreign affairs has increased 9 percentage points since July

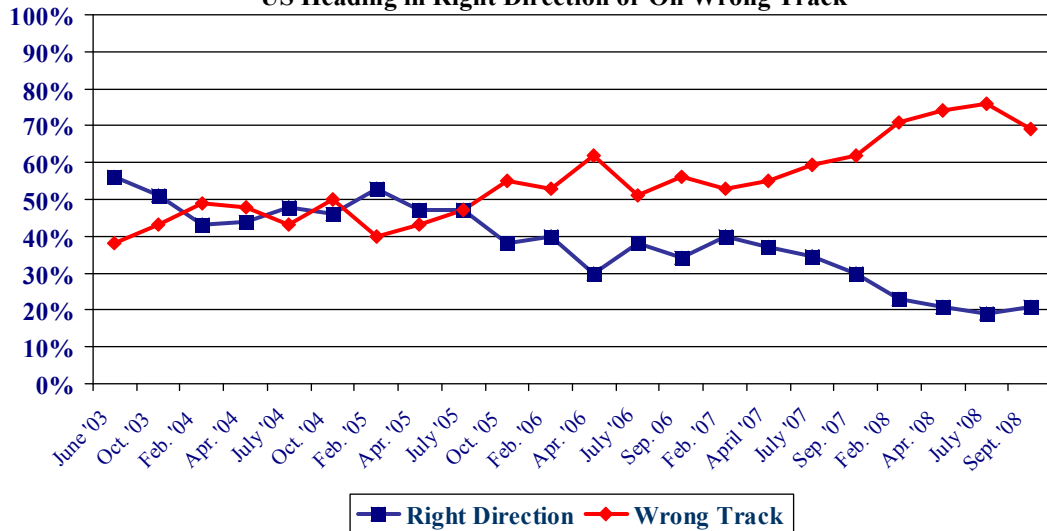
Bush Approval: Foreign Affairs



Right Track – Wrong Track

Overall, New Hampshire residents remain pessimistic about the direction the country is heading. Only 21% think things in this country are generally going in the right direction, 69% think things are seriously off on the wrong track, and 10% don't know. Even Republicans are deeply pessimistic with only 41% thinking things are headed in the right direction while only 6% of Democrats and 14% of Independents think things are headed in the right direction.

US Heading in Right Direction or On Wrong Track



Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR / Granite State Poll**, sponsored by WMUR-TV and conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred fifty (550) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between September 14 and September 21, 2008. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.2 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 President Bush is handling his job as president?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Sep. '08	27%	6%	67%	(545)
July '08	24%	4%	72%	516
Apr. '08	28%	3%	69%	(500)
Feb. '08	26%	5%	69%	(550)
Sep. '07	29%	5%	66%	(507)
July '07	24%	4%	72%	(523)
Apr. '07	29%	3%	68%	(512)
Feb. '07	31%	4%	66%	(529)
Sept. '06	36%	3%	60%	(507)
July '06	39%	7%	54%	(501)
Apr. '06	30%	6%	64%	(496)
Feb. '06	39%	3%	57%	(495)
Oct. '05	39%	6%	55%	(505)
July '05	49%	4%	47%	(498)
Apr. '05	50%	3%	47%	(483)
Feb. '05	52%	4%	43%	(533)
Oct. '04	51%	3%	46%	(567)
July '04	46%	4%	50%	(503)
Apr. '04	48%	6%	46%	(536)
Feb. '04	47%	5%	48%	(505)
Oct. '03	56%	4%	40%	(502)
June '03	64%	5%	31%	(511)
Apr. '03	71%	6%	23%	(503)
Feb. '03	65%	4%	30%	(646)
June '02	75%	5%	21%	(658)
Apr. '02	81%	6%	13%	(685)
Feb. '02	87%	4%	9%	(724)
Oct. '01	92%	2%	6%	(687)

Presidential Approval – Economy

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling THE ECONOMY?"

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Sep. '08	24%	6%	70%	(539)
July '08	19%	5%	76%	(515)
Apr. '08	23%	5%	71%	(499)
Feb. '08	26%	4%%	70%	(548)
Sep. '07	37%	5%	58%	(502)
July '07	34%	8%	58%	(518)
Apr. '07	39%	5%	56%	(512)
Feb. '07	41%	5%	53%	(529)
Sept. '06	39%	6%	55%	(508)
July '06	39%	8%	53%	(497)
Apr. '06	32%	5%	63%	(502)
Feb. '06	39%	5%	56%	(495)
Oct. '05	41%	4%	55%	(500)
July '05	48%	4%	48%	(495)
Apr. '05	46%	5%	50%	(490)
Feb. '05	48%	5%	46%	(534)
Oct. '04	48%	3%	49%	(568)
July '04	49%	5%	47%	(499)
Apr. '04	43%	6%	51%	(538)
Feb. '04	41%	5%	54%	(506)
Oct. '03	46%	4%	50%	(499)
June '03	51%	3%	45%	(512)
Apr. '03	56%	6%	38%	(502)
Feb. '03	51%	6%	43%	(644)
June '02	62%	6%	32%	(644)
Apr. '02	70%	7%	23%	(688)
Feb. '02	69%	6%	25%	(725)
Oct. '01	75%	8%	18%	(684)

Presidential Approval - Foreign Affairs

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling FOREIGN AFFAIRS?"

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Sep. '08	35%	3%	61%	(546)
July '08	26%	5%	69%	(515)
Apr. '08	28%	5%	67%	(498)
Feb. '08	27%	4%	69%	(546)
Sep. '07	28%	3%	69%	(505)
July '07	22%	3%	74%	(519)
Apr. '07	26%	2%	72%	(510)
Feb. '07	28%	3%	69%	(529)
Sept. '06	33%	2%	65%	(506)
July '06	35%	6%	59%	(497)
Apr. '06	28%	4%	68%	(500)
Feb. '06	37%	5%	58%	(495)
Oct. '05	38%	3%	59%	(502)
July '05	47%	3%	50%	(497)
Apr. '05	47%	4%	49%	(486)
Feb. '05	47%	4%	49%	(533)
Oct. '04	48%	3%	49%	(568)
July '04	41%	3%	56%	(499)
Apr. '04	48%	5%	48%	(539)
Feb. '04	44%	4%	52%	(507)
Oct. '03	53%	3%	44%	(501)
June '03	63%	3%	34%	(512)
Apr. '03	72%	3%	25%	(506)
Feb. '03	60%	4%	36%	(646)
June '02	69%	5%	26%	(644)
Apr. '02	76%	5%	19%	(690)
Feb. '02	86%	4%	10%	(722)
Oct. '01	88%	4%	7%	(685)

Favorability Rating - President George W. Bush

"Next, I'd like to get your overall opinion of some people in the news. As I read each name, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person - or if you have never heard of him or her. President George W. Bush."

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
Sep. '08	24%	10%	66%	-42%	(544)
July '08	27%	6%	67%	-40%	(519)
Apr. '08	27%	7%	65%	-38%	(500)
Feb. '08	26%	4%	67%	-41%	(554)
Sep. '07	29%	5%	66%	-37%	(507)
July '07	27%	4%	69%	-42%	(523)
Apr. '07	30%	7%	63%	-33%	(515)
Feb. '07	32%	5%	63%	-31%	(535)
Sept. '06	37%	5%	58%	-21%	(513)
July '06	41%	7%	51%	-10%	(500)
Apr. '06	35%	6%	59%	-24%	(505)
Feb. '06	41%	6%	53%	-12%	(499)
Oct. '05	42%	6%	52%	-10%	(510)
July '05	52%	2%	46%	+6%	(497)
Oct. '04	55%	2%	43%	+12%	(574)
July '04	50%	6%	44%	+6%	(506)
Apr. '04	48%	6%	46%	+2%	(540)
Feb. '04	48%	4%	48%	0	(510)
Oct. '03	57%	4%	38%	+19%	(503)
June '03	62%	6%	32%	+30%	(514)
Apr. '03	72%	5%	23%	+49%	(503)
Feb. '03	64%	7%	29%	+35%	(651)
June '02	69%	8%	23%	+46%	(641)
Apr. '02	78%	6%	16%	+62%	(693)
Feb. '02	84%	5%	11%	+73%	(726)
Oct. '01	88%	4%	8%	+80%	(678)

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>
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

	<u>Approve</u> 27%	<u>Neutral</u> 6%	<u>Disapprove</u> 67%	<u>(N=)</u> 545
STATEWIDE				
Registered Democrat	6%	1%	93%	125
Undeclared	24%	4%	72%	214
Registered Republican	47%	13%	39%	162
Not registered	28%	5%	67%	43
Democrat	7%	1%	92%	238
Independent	19%	7%	75%	86
Republican	54%	11%	35%	208
Liberal	7%	2%	92%	113
Moderate	21%	5%	74%	231
Conservative	52%	10%	38%	165
Union household	18%	6%	77%	82
Non-union	29%	6%	65%	454
5 years or less in NH	21%	4%	75%	42
6 to 10 years	29%	4%	67%	39
11 to 20 years	29%	6%	65%	89
More than 20 years	27%	6%	67%	358
18 to 34	15%	5%	80%	60
35 to 49	25%	10%	65%	144
50 to 64	28%	5%	67%	188
65 and over	31%	3%	67%	128
Male	29%	5%	67%	263
Female	25%	8%	67%	282
High school or less	39%	5%	56%	99
Some college	26%	7%	68%	114
College graduate	27%	5%	68%	180
Post-graduate	20%	7%	72%	144
Less than \$30K	17%	6%	77%	49
\$30K to \$60K	32%	6%	61%	92
\$60K to \$75K	24%	9%	67%	56
\$75K to \$100K	28%	6%	67%	73
More than \$100K	27%	5%	68%	131
Married	33%	5%	62%	375
Divorced/separated	15%	11%	74%	100
Never married	12%	4%	84%	60
Protestant	33%	10%	58%	209
Catholic	30%	4%	66%	171
Other	17%	2%	81%	140
Attend services 1 or more/week	41%	10%	49%	129
1-2 times a month	34%	1%	65%	75
Less often	23%	6%	71%	143
Never	18%	5%	78%	173
North Country	42%	2%	55%	46
Central/Lakes	24%	7%	69%	96
Connecticut Valley	19%	12%	69%	81
Mass Border	31%	4%	65%	154
Seacoast	22%	4%	74%	85
Manchester Area	29%	8%	63%	84
1st Cong. District	28%	5%	67%	264
2nd Cong. District	26%	8%	66%	281

Presidential Approval Rating - Economy

	<u>Approve</u> 24%	<u>Neutral</u> 6%	<u>Disapprove</u> 70%	<u>(N=)</u> 538
STATEWIDE				
Registered Democrat	6%	2%	92%	126
Undeclared	23%	4%	73%	210
Registered Republican	39%	13%	48%	159
Not registered	27%	2%	70%	42
Democrat	7%	1%	91%	238
Independent	16%	5%	79%	86
Republican	46%	12%	42%	200
Liberal	5%	1%	94%	113
Moderate	17%	7%	76%	226
Conservative	47%	9%	44%	163
Union household	13%	8%	79%	84
Non-union	25%	6%	69%	444
5 years or less in NH	16%	3%	81%	42
6 to 10 years	31%	1%	68%	38
11 to 20 years	22%	4%	75%	90
More than 20 years	24%	8%	68%	352
18 to 34	18%	3%	79%	60
35 to 49	20%	4%	76%	144
50 to 64	26%	9%	65%	187
65 and over	25%	6%	69%	125
Male	25%	6%	70%	258
Female	23%	7%	70%	280
High school or less	35%	5%	60%	99
Some college	22%	6%	72%	110
College graduate	22%	6%	73%	176
Post-graduate	19%	7%	74%	145
Less than \$30K	15%	4%	80%	48
\$30K to \$60K	28%	2%	70%	91
\$60K to \$75K	21%	2%	78%	56
\$75K to \$100K	29%	8%	63%	71
More than \$100K	22%	8%	70%	133
Married	27%	6%	67%	368
Divorced/separated	17%	7%	76%	99
Never married	16%	2%	82%	60
Protestant	29%	7%	64%	205
Catholic	26%	7%	67%	171
Other	16%	3%	82%	137
Attend services 1 or more/week	26%	10%	64%	123
1-2 times a month	32%	6%	63%	77
Less often	21%	6%	73%	143
Never	20%	4%	76%	171
North Country	39%	7%	53%	46
Central/Lakes	23%	6%	71%	94
Connecticut Valley	14%	6%	80%	79
Mass Border	27%	6%	68%	154
Seacoast	18%	2%	80%	82
Manchester Area	27%	10%	63%	83
1st Cong. District	25%	5%	70%	259
2nd Cong. District	23%	7%	70%	279

Presidential Approval Rating - Foreign Affairs

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 35%	<u>Neutral</u> 3%	<u>Disapprove</u> 61%	<u>(N=)</u> 546
Registered Democrat	9%	1%	90%	126
Undeclared	31%	2%	67%	214
Registered Republican	65%	6%	30%	163
Not registered	27%	9%	64%	42
Democrat	11%	0%	89%	238
Independent	21%	6%	73%	86
Republican	70%	5%	25%	209
Liberal	7%	2%	91%	113
Moderate	30%	2%	68%	230
Conservative	67%	5%	28%	167
Union household	27%	3%	70%	84
Non-union	37%	3%	60%	452
5 years or less in NH	28%	0%	72%	42
6 to 10 years	38%	4%	59%	39
11 to 20 years	33%	4%	62%	90
More than 20 years	37%	3%	60%	359
18 to 34	22%	2%	77%	60
35 to 49	39%	3%	58%	144
50 to 64	37%	2%	60%	191
65 and over	33%	5%	62%	127
Male	37%	3%	60%	264
Female	34%	4%	63%	283
High school or less	42%	5%	53%	98
Some college	35%	2%	62%	113
College graduate	37%	3%	60%	180
Post-graduate	30%	3%	67%	146
Less than \$30K	19%	3%	77%	47
\$30K to \$60K	39%	3%	58%	92
\$60K to \$75K	35%	0%	65%	56
\$75K to \$100K	36%	8%	56%	73
More than \$100K	40%	1%	59%	133
Married	43%	2%	55%	377
Divorced/separated	19%	8%	73%	99
Never married	19%	2%	80%	59
Protestant	42%	5%	54%	210
Catholic	41%	3%	57%	173
Other	23%	1%	76%	139
Attend services 1 or more/week	53%	2%	46%	128
1-2 times a month	40%	3%	56%	78
Less often	27%	6%	67%	143
Never	28%	1%	70%	172
North Country	50%	0%	50%	46
Central/Lakes	38%	1%	61%	95
Connecticut Valley	20%	6%	74%	81
Mass Border	37%	5%	58%	154
Seacoast	26%	2%	72%	84
Manchester Area	46%	3%	50%	86
1st Cong. District	37%	2%	61%	265
2nd Cong. District	34%	4%	62%	281

U.S. Right Direction / Wrong Track

	<u>Right Direction</u> 21%	<u>Wrong Track</u> 69%	<u>Don't Know</u> 10%	<u>(N=)</u> 540
STATEWIDE				
Registered Democrat	4%	91%	5%	125
Undeclared	17%	74%	9%	210
Registered Republican	40%	45%	15%	161
Not registered	23%	60%	17%	41
Democrat	6%	89%	5%	234
Independent	14%	75%	10%	86
Republican	41%	43%	16%	205
Liberal	4%	91%	5%	113
Moderate	17%	75%	8%	228
Conservative	40%	43%	17%	164
Union household	11%	77%	12%	85
Non-union	23%	67%	10%	446
5 years or less in NH	27%	65%	9%	41
6 to 10 years	26%	62%	12%	39
11 to 20 years	21%	71%	7%	86
More than 20 years	20%	69%	11%	356
18 to 34	15%	74%	10%	58
35 to 49	20%	72%	8%	143
50 to 64	22%	67%	11%	188
65 and over	23%	68%	9%	127
Male	26%	65%	8%	261
Female	16%	72%	12%	280
High school or less	19%	66%	15%	96
Some college	19%	75%	7%	111
College graduate	24%	67%	10%	179
Post-graduate	21%	69%	10%	145
Less than \$30K	17%	72%	11%	48
\$30K to \$60K	18%	73%	9%	92
\$60K to \$75K	14%	81%	5%	55
\$75K to \$100K	25%	69%	6%	70
More than \$100K	27%	63%	10%	132
Married	25%	65%	10%	373
Divorced/separated	9%	78%	12%	98
Never married	15%	80%	5%	57
Protestant	23%	65%	12%	206
Catholic	25%	65%	10%	170
Other	15%	78%	6%	137
Attend services 1 or more/week	28%	59%	12%	126
1-2 times a month	25%	65%	10%	76
Less often	19%	75%	7%	139
Never	17%	73%	10%	173
North Country	26%	58%	16%	45
Central/Lakes	20%	71%	8%	95
Connecticut Valley	17%	75%	8%	80
Mass Border	22%	66%	12%	152
Seacoast	16%	79%	5%	83
Manchester Area	26%	60%	14%	85
1st Cong. District	22%	69%	9%	265
2nd Cong. District	20%	68%	12%	275

Favorability Rating - George W. Bush

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 24%	<u>Neutral</u> 9%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 66%	<u>DK</u> 1%	<u>(N)</u> 544
Registered Democrat	5%	1%	94%	0%	125
Undeclared	18%	9%	73%	0%	212
Registered Republican	45%	17%	37%	1%	164
Not registered	29%	2%	62%	7%	42
Democrat	5%	2%	93%	0%	236
Independent	11%	7%	81%	1%	85
Republican	51%	16%	31%	2%	209
Liberal	5%	1%	93%	1%	112
Moderate	15%	7%	77%	1%	229
Conservative	52%	15%	33%	1%	167
Union household	14%	10%	74%	1%	84
Non-union	26%	8%	65%	1%	451
5 years or less in NH	15%	8%	76%	1%	42
6 to 10 years	26%	7%	67%	0%	39
11 to 20 years	22%	7%	71%	0%	89
More than 20 years	25%	9%	65%	1%	356
18 to 34	10%	7%	83%	0%	60
35 to 49	23%	10%	67%	1%	142
50 to 64	28%	8%	64%	0%	189
65 and over	24%	7%	67%	2%	128
Male	25%	10%	64%	0%	263
Female	23%	8%	68%	1%	281
High school or less	35%	6%	56%	3%	99
Some college	24%	10%	66%	0%	113
College graduate	23%	9%	67%	1%	178
Post-graduate	19%	8%	74%	0%	145
Less than \$30K	14%	4%	78%	3%	49
\$30K to \$60K	30%	5%	63%	2%	92
\$60K to \$75K	21%	11%	67%	0%	54
\$75K to \$100K	22%	11%	66%	0%	73
More than \$100K	26%	5%	68%	0%	132
Married	30%	7%	62%	1%	377
Divorced/separated	11%	12%	75%	1%	96
Never married	11%	8%	79%	2%	60
Protestant	29%	10%	59%	2%	209
Catholic	30%	6%	64%	0%	172
Other	12%	7%	80%	0%	138
Attend services 1 or more/week	38%	8%	53%	0%	129
1-2 times a month	28%	8%	63%	1%	76
Less often	19%	11%	69%	0%	142
Never	15%	6%	77%	2%	172
North Country	29%	9%	58%	4%	46
Central/Lakes	25%	9%	66%	0%	96
Connecticut Valley	16%	4%	78%	1%	81
Mass Border	25%	9%	65%	1%	153
Seacoast	20%	9%	70%	1%	84
Manchester Area	31%	13%	56%	0%	85
1st Cong. District	27%	9%	64%	0%	265
2nd Cong. District	21%	9%	68%	1%	279