

# THE GRANITE STATE POLL

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

### LYNCH JOB APPROVAL NEARS 80% – MAINTAINS WIDE LEAD IN GOV. RACE

August 3, 2006

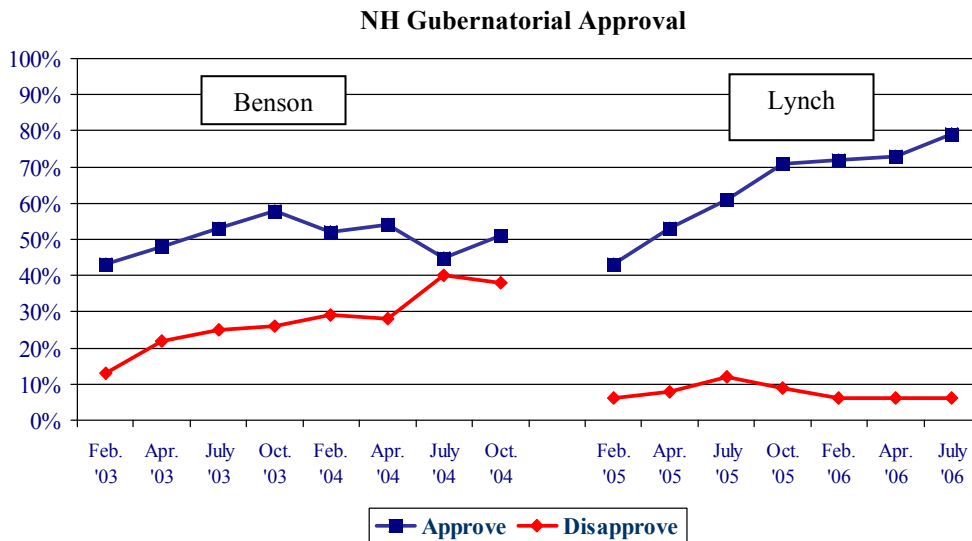
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 UNH Survey Center  
[www.unh.edu/survey-center](http://www.unh.edu/survey-center)  
 603/862-2226

DURHAM, NH – New Hampshire Governor John Lynch’s job approval rating has soared to 79 percent. Lynch continues to hold a commanding lead over his Republican opponent, Jim Coburn, in the race for New Hampshire Governor.

These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll**,\* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. The Granite State Poll is sponsored by the University of New Hampshire. Five hundred ten (510) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between July 21 and July 31, 2006. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.3 percent.

#### Gubernatorial Approval

John Lynch’s approval rating as New Hampshire Governor has reached unprecedented levels in the run up to the November reelection. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 79 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the job Lynch has done as governor, only 6 percent disapprove, and 15 percent are neutral. “Lynch’s approval ratings are in the stratosphere. Only President George W. Bush, in the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup>, has reached these levels of job approval in New Hampshire” said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center.



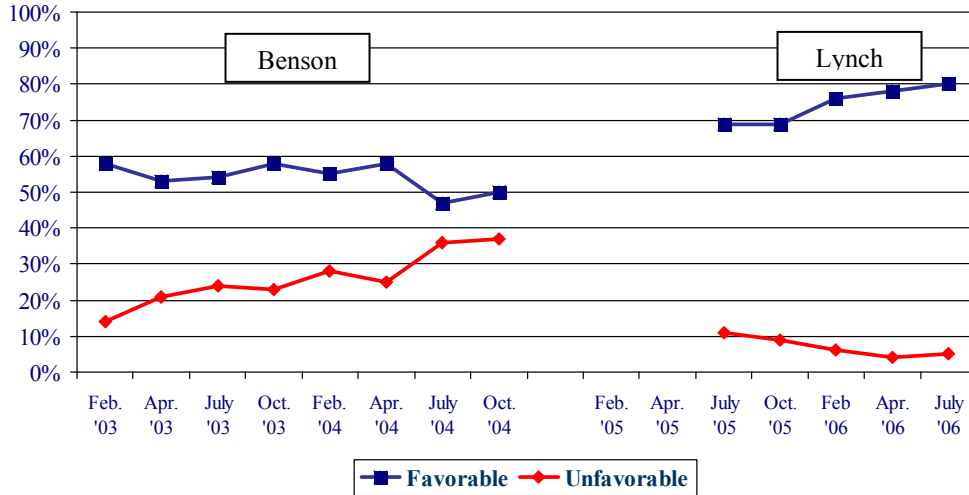
Lynch gets very high job approval ratings from all political groups – 87 percent of Democrats approve of the job Lynch is doing as governor, 75 percent of Republicans, approve, and 74 percent of Independents. Among self-identified Liberals, 94 percent approve of the job Lynch is doing as governor, 81 percent of moderates approve, and even 74 percent of Conservatives approve.

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

### Favorability Ratings

Lynch's personal favorability rating is also very high. In the latest Granite State Poll, 80 percent of New Hampshire residents say they have a favorable opinion of Lynch, only 5 percent have an unfavorable opinion, 8 percent are neutral, and 7 percent say they don't know enough about him to say. Lynch's net favorability rating, the percentage having a favorable opinion minus the percentage having an unfavorable opinion, is an incredibly high +75 percent.

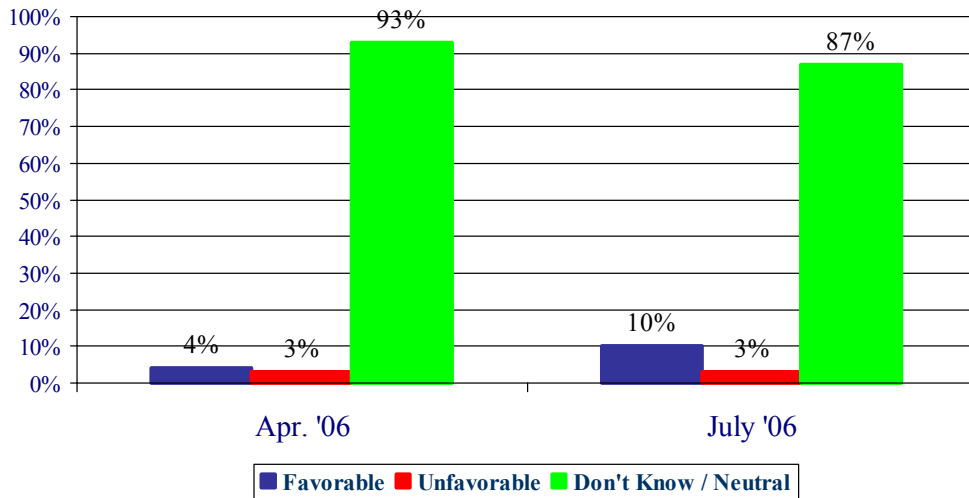
### Favorability Ratings – NH Governor



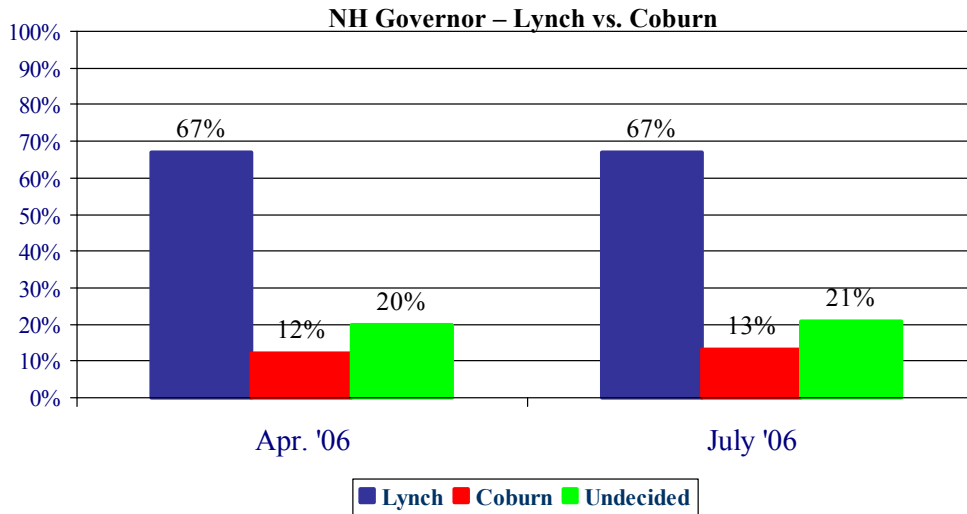
### November Gubernatorial Election

Lynch's Republican opponent in November, State Representative Jim Coburn, remains unknown to most people in New Hampshire – only 10 percent of Granite Staters have a favorable opinion of Coburn, 3 percent have an unfavorable opinion of him, 8 percent are neutral, and 79 percent don't know enough about Coburn to say.

### Favorability Ratings – Jim Coburn

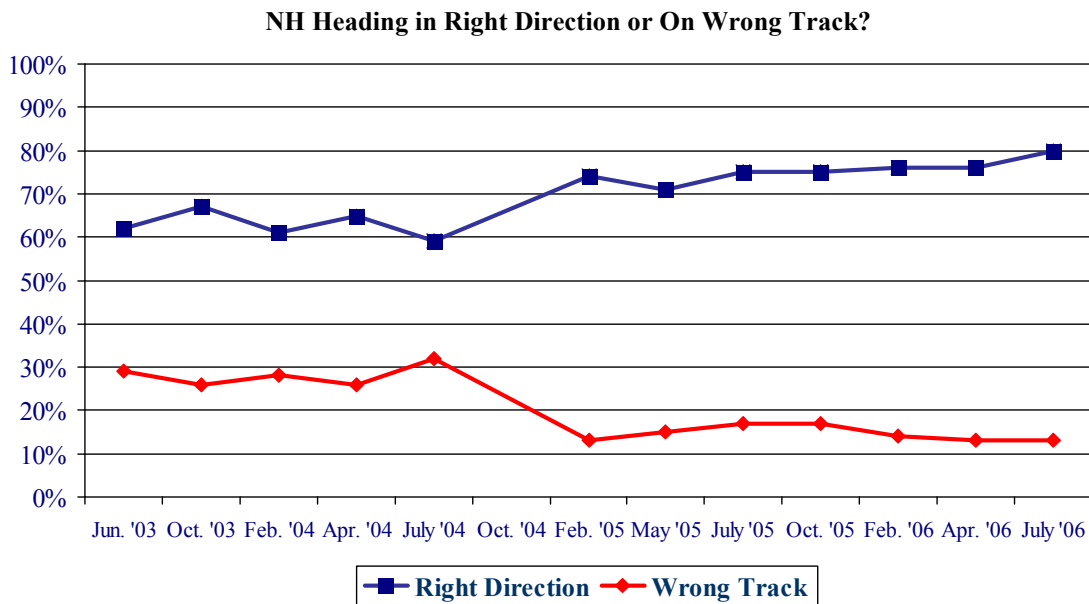


Lynch's high popularity and job approval, combined with Coburn's lack of name recognition, produce a wide lead for Lynch. Currently, 67 percent of likely voters say they will vote for Lynch, 13 percent say they will vote for Coburn, and 20 percent are undecided. Coburn has already put political ads on television, but these have had little impact as Lynch's lead over Coburn has remained unchanged since April.



### Right Direction or Wrong Track?

Granite Staters remain extremely optimistic about the future of New Hampshire. Eighty percent think things in New Hampshire are generally going in the right direction, only 13 percent think things are seriously off on the wrong track, and 8 percent say they don't know. This indicator of optimism about the state has remained at high levels over the past year.



### Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the most recent Granite State Poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center from July 21 and July 31, 2006. A random sample of 510 New Hampshire adults was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 4.3 percent. Results reported for other subgroups have potential for somewhat larger variation than those for the entire population.

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.

### Gubernatorial Approval

“GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Lynch is handling his job as governor?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral/DK</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>July 2006</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>(498)</b>
<b>Apr. 2006</b>	73	21	6	(489)
<b>Feb. 2006</b>	72	22	6	(491)
<b>Oct. 2005</b>	71	20	9	(495)
<b>July 2005</b>	61	26	12	(490)
<b>Apr. 2005</b>	53	39	8	(480)
<b>Feb. 2005</b>	43	51	6	(524)
<b>July 2004 -- Benson</b>	45%	14%	40%	(484)
<b>Apr. 2004 -- Benson</b>	54	18	28	(524)
<b>Feb. 2004 -- Benson</b>	52	19	29	(495)
<b>Oct. 2003 -- Benson</b>	58	16	26	(485)
<b>June 2003 - Benson</b>	53	22	25	(505)
<b>Apr. 2003 -- Benson</b>	48	30	22	(496)
<b>Feb. 2003 - Benson</b>	43	44	13	(618)

### Favorability Ratings – Governor (Businessman) John Lynch

"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. Governor (Hopkinton businessman) John Lynch."

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>July 2006</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>+75%</b>	<b>(505)</b>
<b>Apr. 2006</b>	78	10	4	8	+74%	(503)
<b>Feb. 2006</b>	76	12	6	6	+70%	(499)
<b>Oct. 2005</b>	69	13	9	8	+60%	(508)
<b>July 2005</b>	69	9	11	11	+58%	(500)
<b>Oct. 2004</b>	34	13	12	40	+22%	(573)
<b>July 2004</b>	17	8	6	69	+11%	(508)
<b>Feb. 2004</b>	7	9	6	77	+1%	(509)

### Favorability Rating – State Rep. Jim Coburn

"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. State Representative Jim Coburn."

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>July 2006</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>+7%</b>	<b>(498)</b>
<b>Apr. 2006</b>	4	9	3	85	+1%	(507)

**2006 NH Governor – Lynch v. Coburn  
(Likely November Voters)**

"Now, suppose the 2006 gubernatorial election was being held TODAY. Would you vote for Jim Coburn, the Republican or John Lynch, the Democrat?"

	<u>Lynch</u>	<u>Coburn</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>July 2006</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>(422)</b>
<b>Apr. 2006</b>	67	12	1	21	(440)

**NH - Right Direction or Wrong Track**

"Do you think things in New Hampshire are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?"

	<u>Right Direction</u>	<u>Wrong Track</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>July '06</b>	80%	13%	8%	(497)
<b>Apr. '06</b>	76%	13%	11%	(501)
<b>Feb. '06</b>	76%	14%	10%	(495)
<b>Oct. '05</b>	75%	17%	9%	(502)
<b>July '05</b>	75%	17%	8%	(494)
<b>May '05</b>	71%	15%	13%	(488)
<b>Feb. '05</b>	74%	13%	13%	(535)
<b>July '04</b>	59%	32%	9%	(503)
<b>Apr. '04</b>	65%	26%	9%	(530)
<b>Feb. '04</b>	61%	28%	11%	(500)
<b>Oct. '03</b>	67%	26%	7%	(485)
<b>Jun. '03</b>	62%	29%	9%	(510)

**Gubernatorial Approval**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Approve</u></b> <b>79%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u></b> <b>15%</b>	<b><u>Disapprove</u></b> <b>6%</b>	<b><u>(N)</u></b> <b>498</b>
Registered Democrat	87%	9%	4%	94
Undeclared	80%	14%	6%	173
Registered Republican	74%	17%	9%	137
Not registered	76%	19%	5%	80
Democrat	87%	9%	4%	185
Independent	74%	18%	7%	86
Republican	75%	17%	8%	201
Liberal	94%	4%	3%	90
Moderate	81%	13%	6%	193
Conservative	74%	17%	9%	161
Union household	79%	13%	8%	72
Non-union	79%	15%	6%	415
5 years or less in NH	67%	23%	10%	52
6 to 10 years	75%	19%	6%	55
11 to 20 years	79%	14%	6%	81
More than 20 years	83%	12%	6%	292
18 to 34	76%	18%	7%	82
35 to 49	76%	17%	8%	136
50 to 64	84%	11%	5%	162
65 and over	81%	14%	4%	94
Male	80%	14%	6%	239
Female	79%	15%	6%	259
High school or less	78%	14%	7%	116
Some college	82%	14%	4%	114
College graduate	77%	15%	7%	153
Post-graduate	82%	13%	5%	107
Less than \$30K	79%	18%	3%	47
\$30K to \$60K	81%	14%	5%	98
\$60K to \$75K	84%	13%	3%	50
\$75K to \$100K	83%	10%	7%	57
More than \$100K	83%	10%	7%	91
Married	79%	14%	7%	329
Divorced/separated	79%	16%	5%	93
Never married	84%	12%	5%	63
Protestant	80%	12%	8%	164
Catholic	79%	15%	6%	192
Other	79%	16%	5%	112
Attend 1 or more/week	81%	14%	5%	123
1-2 times a month	76%	13%	11%	64
Less often	82%	12%	6%	155
Never	79%	17%	4%	124
Northern NH	83%	13%	4%	48
Central/Lakes	83%	12%	4%	81
Connecticut Valley	76%	22%	2%	68
Massachusetts Border	77%	13%	10%	133
Seacoast	77%	17%	7%	88
Greater Manchester	81%	13%	6%	79

**Favorability Rating - John Lynch**

	<u>Favorable</u> <b>80%</b>	<u>Neutral</u> <b>8%</b>	<u>Unfavorable</u> <b>5%</b>	<u>Don't Know</u> <b>7%</b>	<u>(N)</u> <b>505</b>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
Registered Democrat	86%	6%	4%	4%	95
Undeclared	82%	6%	7%	5%	176
Registered Republican	78%	10%	5%	6%	139
Not registered	73%	8%	3%	16%	83
Democrat	87%	6%	3%	4%	188
Independent	81%	9%	5%	5%	89
Republican	76%	7%	8%	9%	203
Liberal	89%	4%	3%	4%	91
Moderate	87%	4%	4%	5%	195
Conservative	72%	12%	9%	7%	165
Union household	84%	8%	4%	4%	73
Non-union	80%	8%	6%	7%	423
5 years or less in NH	68%	5%	7%	20%	55
6 to 10 years	75%	12%	2%	11%	56
11 to 20 years	82%	7%	6%	5%	82
More than 20 years	84%	8%	6%	3%	297
18 to 34	79%	11%	6%	5%	85
35 to 49	78%	11%	4%	6%	139
50 to 64	83%	5%	8%	4%	163
65 and over	83%	4%	2%	11%	96
Male	79%	9%	6%	7%	243
Female	81%	7%	5%	7%	262
High school or less	76%	9%	7%	9%	119
Some college	83%	5%	6%	6%	115
College graduate	80%	10%	5%	4%	153
Post-graduate	84%	6%	3%	7%	110
Less than \$30K	81%	11%	3%	5%	49
\$30K to \$60K	77%	9%	5%	9%	99
\$60K to \$75K	81%	6%	10%	2%	50
\$75K to \$100K	88%	2%	7%	3%	58
More than \$100K	88%	4%	5%	2%	93
Married	81%	7%	6%	6%	331
Divorced/separated	79%	8%	4%	8%	97
Never married	83%	11%	4%	2%	65
Protestant	80%	5%	8%	7%	165
Catholic	82%	10%	3%	4%	195
Other	78%	7%	5%	9%	115
Attend 1 or more/week	82%	4%	3%	11%	125
1-2 times a month	81%	8%	9%	2%	65
Less often	82%	9%	6%	3%	157
Never	77%	10%	4%	8%	129
Northern NH	85%	4%	4%	7%	48
Central/Lakes	80%	3%	8%	9%	81
Connecticut Valley	79%	9%	2%	10%	70
Massachusetts Border	79%	9%	7%	5%	135
Seacoast	78%	8%	6%	7%	91
Greater Manchester	82%	12%	1%	4%	81
1st Cong. District	78%	9%	6%	7%	258
2nd Cong. District	83%	7%	5%	6%	247

**Favorability Rating - Jim Coburn**

	<u>Favorable</u> <b>10%</b>	<u>Neutral</u> <b>8%</b>	<u>Unfavorable</u> <b>3%</b>	<u>Don't Know</u> <b>79%</b>	<u>(N)</u> <b>498</b>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
Registered Democrat	7%	10%	5%	77%	93
Undeclared	8%	10%	1%	81%	176
Registered Republican	12%	7%	3%	78%	138
Not registered	15%	6%	3%	76%	82
Democrat	11%	9%	4%	76%	186
Independent	7%	7%	3%	84%	89
Republican	11%	7%	3%	79%	201
Liberal	14%	7%	7%	73%	91
Moderate	6%	6%	3%	84%	190
Conservative	12%	12%	1%	75%	163
Union household	10%	13%	3%	74%	73
Non-union	10%	7%	3%	80%	417
5 years or less in NH	17%	5%	2%	76%	55
6 to 10 years	10%	6%	7%	77%	54
11 to 20 years	7%	6%	2%	85%	82
More than 20 years	10%	10%	3%	78%	293
18 to 34	17%	4%	1%	77%	85
35 to 49	11%	10%	5%	74%	139
50 to 64	8%	8%	4%	80%	162
65 and over	6%	10%	0%	83%	91
Male	10%	8%	3%	80%	236
Female	10%	9%	3%	78%	261
High school or less	5%	10%	2%	83%	117
Some college	17%	8%	3%	73%	113
College graduate	13%	5%	2%	80%	151
Post-graduate	5%	9%	6%	81%	110
Less than \$30K	11%	8%	0%	80%	49
\$30K to \$60K	5%	9%	3%	84%	97
\$60K to \$75K	5%	15%	2%	77%	50
\$75K to \$100K	20%	8%	0%	72%	58
More than \$100K	8%	10%	7%	75%	92
Married	8%	8%	3%	81%	327
Divorced/separated	14%	9%	2%	75%	95
Never married	13%	5%	4%	79%	65
Protestant	10%	10%	2%	78%	164
Catholic	12%	7%	3%	78%	192
Other	7%	6%	6%	81%	115
Attend 1 or more/week	10%	8%	1%	81%	123
1-2 times a month	14%	8%	7%	71%	65
Less often	12%	7%	4%	78%	154
Never	6%	11%	2%	81%	129
Northern NH	11%	2%	3%	84%	48
Central/Lakes	9%	10%	4%	77%	77
Connecticut Valley	6%	9%	4%	81%	67
Massachusetts Border	6%	9%	1%	84%	134
Seacoast	15%	12%	3%	70%	91
Greater Manchester	14%	4%	4%	79%	81
1st Cong. District	13%	9%	2%	76%	253
2nd Cong. District	7%	7%	4%	82%	245



NH Governor - Lynch v. Coburn

	<u>Coburn</u> 13%	<u>Lynch</u> 67%	<u>Other</u> 0%	<u>DK</u> 20%	<u>(N=)</u> 422
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
Registered Democrat	1%	93%	0%	6%	86
Undeclared	10%	72%	0%	18%	155
Registered Republican	24%	49%	0%	27%	125
Not registered	15%	50%	0%	34%	48
Democrat	2%	90%	0%	8%	165
Independent	6%	72%	1%	22%	66
Republican	27%	45%	0%	28%	177
Liberal	3%	92%	0%	4%	76
Moderate	9%	73%	0%	18%	174
Conservative	23%	47%	0%	30%	144
Union household	8%	67%	0%	25%	68
Non-union	14%	67%	0%	19%	349
5 years or less in NH	29%	53%	0%	19%	44
6 to 10 years	16%	64%	0%	21%	39
11 to 20 years	15%	61%	0%	23%	69
More than 20 years	9%	72%	0%	19%	260
18 to 34	18%	53%	0%	29%	69
35 to 49	20%	60%	0%	19%	112
50 to 64	7%	77%	0%	16%	140
65 and over	8%	71%	0%	21%	86
Male	14%	64%	0%	22%	193
Female	12%	70%	0%	18%	229
High school or less	11%	68%	0%	21%	87
Some college	9%	65%	0%	25%	98
College graduate	16%	69%	0%	14%	132
Post-graduate	12%	67%	1%	20%	101
Less than \$30K	9%	72%	0%	18%	35
\$30K to \$60K	9%	68%	1%	22%	84
\$60K to \$75K	9%	75%	0%	16%	46
\$75K to \$100K	17%	73%	0%	10%	49
More than \$100K	17%	65%	0%	18%	83
Married	15%	69%	0%	16%	290
Divorced/separated	9%	65%	0%	27%	72
Never married	8%	61%	1%	30%	52
Protestant	19%	60%	0%	21%	149
Catholic	10%	72%	0%	18%	158
Other	10%	70%	1%	20%	95
Attend 1 or more/week	19%	61%	0%	21%	117
1-2 times a month	14%	72%	0%	14%	55
Less often	9%	67%	0%	24%	127
Never	10%	71%	1%	18%	105
Northern NH	7%	80%	0%	13%	41
Central/Lakes	13%	60%	0%	28%	73
Connecticut Valley	2%	79%	0%	19%	57
Massachusetts Border	20%	59%	1%	20%	106
Seacoast	12%	68%	0%	21%	73
Greater Manchester	15%	70%	0%	15%	71
1st Cong. District	13%	66%	0%	21%	223
2nd Cong. District	12%	69%	0%	19%	200

**Are Things in NH on Right/Wrong Track**

	<b><u>Right Direction</u></b> <b>80%</b>	<b><u>Wrong Track</u></b> <b>13%</b>	<b><u>Don't Know</u></b> <b>8%</b>	<b><u>(N)</u></b> <b>497</b>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>				
Registered Democrat	84%	6%	9%	94
Undeclared	81%	14%	5%	170
Registered Republican	84%	9%	7%	137
Not registered	68%	22%	10%	83
Democrat	79%	12%	9%	184
Independent	81%	13%	6%	85
Republican	82%	12%	6%	201
Liberal	82%	13%	5%	90
Moderate	82%	9%	9%	192
Conservative	77%	17%	6%	163
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5 years or less in NH	84%	4%	12%	54
6 to 10 years	66%	19%	14%	55
11 to 20 years	81%	15%	3%	81
More than 20 years	82%	12%	7%	291
18 to 34	82%	13%	5%	85
35 to 49	81%	14%	5%	135
50 to 64	79%	13%	8%	162
65 and over	81%	7%	12%	91
Male	81%	12%	7%	237
Female	78%	13%	8%	259
High school or less	74%	17%	9%	116
Some college	80%	9%	11%	111
College graduate	85%	11%	3%	152
Post-graduate	79%	12%	9%	109
Less than \$30K	71%	21%	8%	48
\$30K to \$60K	74%	13%	13%	98
\$60K to \$75K	92%	4%	5%	49
\$75K to \$100K	81%	17%	2%	56
More than \$100K	87%	11%	3%	91
Married	80%	13%	7%	325
Divorced/separated	80%	12%	8%	93
Never married	86%	11%	4%	65
Protestant	78%	13%	9%	165
Catholic	82%	11%	7%	190
Other	80%	13%	7%	114
Attend 1 or more/week	79%	14%	7%	124
1-2 times a month	80%	14%	6%	65
Less often	80%	12%	8%	153
Never	81%	11%	9%	128
Northern NH	80%	17%	3%	47
Central/Lakes	78%	12%	10%	79
Connecticut Valley	79%	16%	5%	69
Massachusetts Border	79%	12%	9%	132
Seacoast	80%	13%	6%	88
Greater Manchester	81%	9%	11%	80
1st Cong. District	80%	12%	8%	253
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cong. District	79%	13%	8%	244