

THE GRANITE STATE POLL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

LYNCH JOB APPROVAL CLIMBS TO 73% – HAS WIDE LEAD IN GOV. RACE

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www.unh.edu/survey-center
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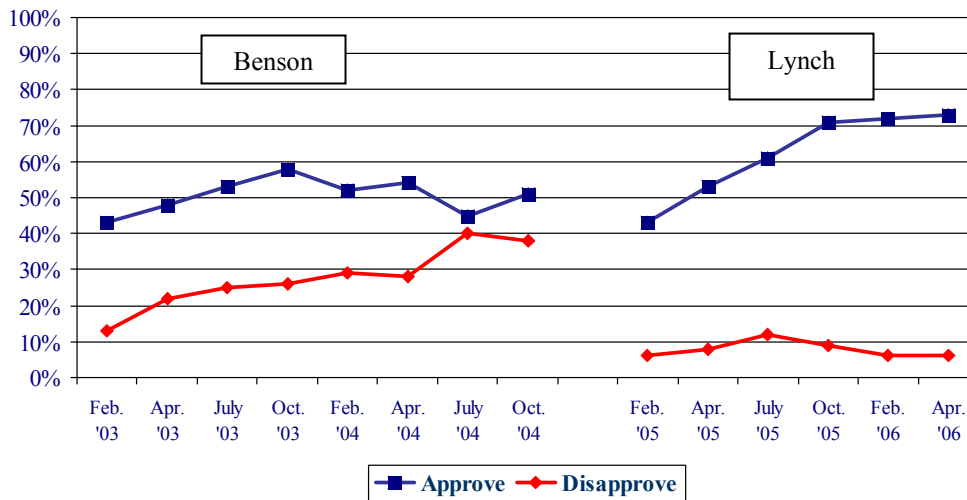
DURHAM, NH – New Hampshire Governor John Lynch’s job approval rating has climbed even higher to 73 percent. Lynch holds a commanding lead over his Republican opponent, Jim Coburn, in the race for New Hampshire Governor.

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 nine (509) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between April 20 and April 27, 2006. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.4 percent.

Gubernatorial Approval

John Lynch’s approval rating as New Hampshire Governor continues to inch higher, putting him in excellent position for his reelection in November. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 73 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the job Lynch has done as governor, only 6 percent disapprove, and 21 percent are neutral. By comparison, 54 percent of Granite Staters approved of the job Craig Benson was doing at a similar point in his administration.

NH Gubernatorial Approval



Lynch gets high ratings from all political groups – 79 percent of Democrats approve of the job Lynch is doing as governor, 72 percent of Republicans, approve, and 59 percent of Independents. “Lynch’s support is across the board,” said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. “Even Republicans and conservatives approve of his job performance by wide margins.”

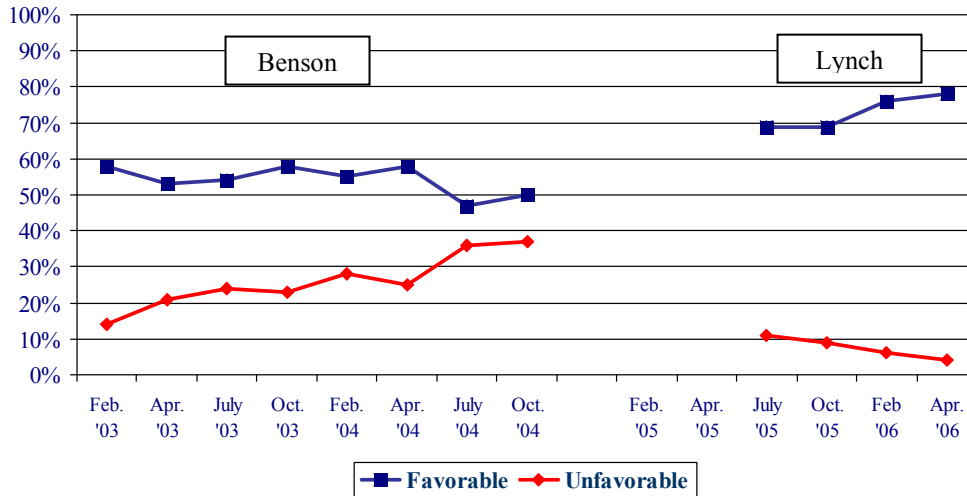
Lynch has typically worked well with the Republican controlled legislature, but one instance when they clashed was over Lynch’s plan to raise the high school dropout age from 16 to 18. Lynch argued that this would reduce New Hampshire’s dropout rate while legislators argued that it would increase the burden on local schools and do little to reduce dropout rates. Most Granite Staters (57%) believe the governor and think that raising the dropout age to 18 would reduce high school dropouts, 39 percent think it would not reduce dropouts and 5 percent are unsure. But two-thirds (68%) favor raising the dropout age to 18, 24 percent oppose this, and 8 percent are neutral.

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

November Gubernatorial Election

Lynch's personal favorability rating is also very high. In the latest Granite State Poll, 78 percent of New Hampshire residents say they have a favorable opinion of Lynch, only 4 percent have an unfavorable opinion, 10 percent are neutral, and 8 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, increased to +74 percent. This is the highest rating ever for a New Hampshire politician by the Granite State Poll.

Favorability Ratings – NH Governor



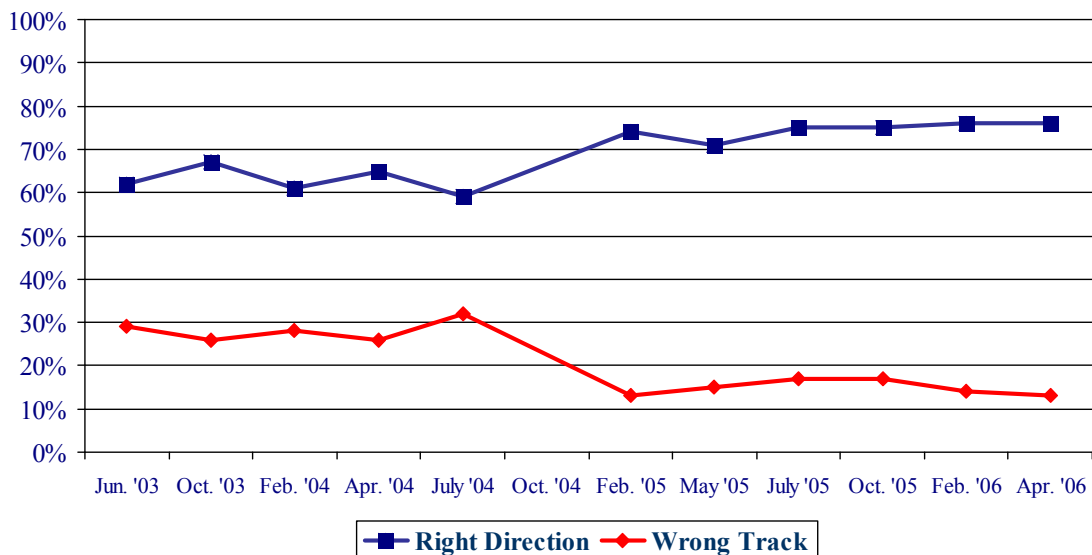
Lynch's Republican opponent in November, State Representative Jim Coburn, is essentially unknown in New Hampshire – only 4 percent of Granite Staters have a favorable opinion of Coburn, 3 percent have an unfavorable opinion of him, 9 percent are neutral, and 85 percent don't know enough about Coburn to say.

Lynch's popularity and Coburn's lack of name recognition result in a lopsided lead for Lynch. Currently, 67 percent of likely voters say they will vote for Lynch, 12 percent say they will vote for Coburn, 1 percent prefer some other candidate, and 21 percent are undecided. Coburn has recently started to air television commercials, but he has a very difficult task mounting a serious challenge to Lynch in November.

Right Direction or Wrong Track?

Granite Staters are extremely optimistic about the future of New Hampshire. Seventy-six 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 11 percent say they don't know. This indicator of optimism about the state has remained at high levels over the past year.

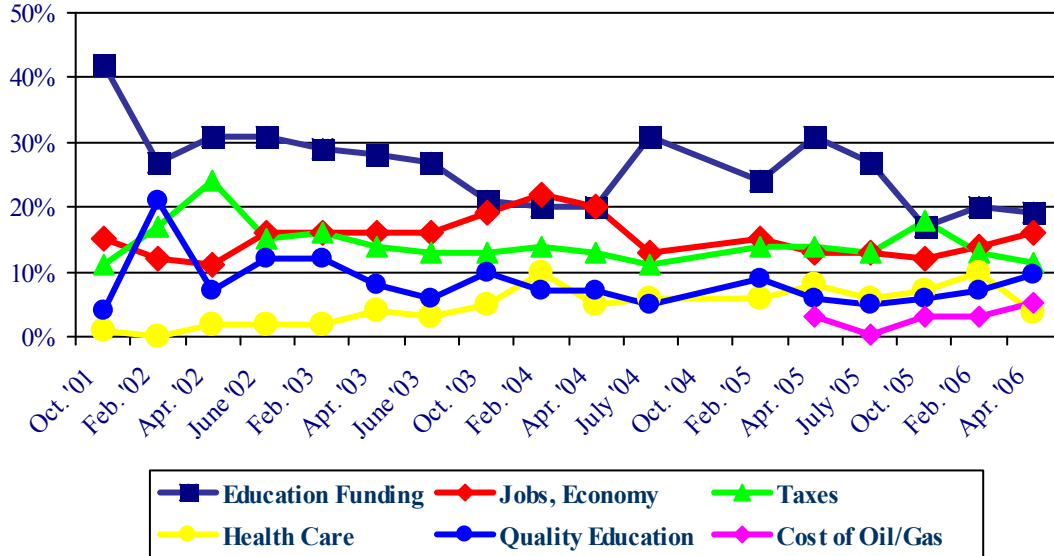
NH Heading in Right Direction or On Wrong Track?



Most Important Problem Facing New Hampshire

How to fund primary and secondary education is seen as the important problem facing the state of New Hampshire (cited by 19 percent of respondents) followed by jobs and the economy (16%), high taxes and desires to change the tax system (11%), the quality of education (10%), the cost of gas and oil (5%), health care issues (4%), and population growth and sprawl (3%). There has been little change in the top three most important in recent months.

Most Important Problem Facing NH



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 April 20 to April 27, 2006. A random sample of 509 New Hampshire adults was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 4.4 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>
Apr. '06	73%	21%	6%	(489)
Feb. 2006	72	22	6	(491)
Oct. 2005	71	20	9	(495)
July 2005	61	26	12	(490)
Apr. 2005	53	39	8	(480)
Feb. 2005	43	51	6	(524)
Apr. '04 -- Benson	54%	18%	28%	(524)
Feb. 2004 -- Benson	52	19	29	(495)
Oct. 2003 -- Benson	58	16	26	(485)
June 2003 - Benson	53	22	25	(505)
Apr. 2003 -- Benson	48	30	22	(496)
Feb. 2003 - Benson	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>
Apr. 2006	78%	10%	4%	8%	+74%	(503)
Feb. 2006	76	12	6	6	+70%	(499)
Oct. 2005	69	13	9	8	+60%	(508)
July 2005	69	9	11	11	+58%	(500)
Oct. 2004	34	13	12	40	+22%	(573)
July 2004	17	8	6	69	+11%	(508)
Feb. 2004	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>
Apr. 2006	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>
Apr. 2006	67%	12%	1%	21%	(440)

Will Raising Dropout Age to 18 Reduce Dropouts?

"Recently, a bill that would raise the high school dropout age from 16 to 18 was considered in the New Hampshire Legislature. Governor Lynch favors this bill while the Senate voted against it. Based on what you know, do you think raising the dropout age to 18 would reduce the number of high school dropouts?"

	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	57
No	39
Don't Know	5
	(N=506)

Favor/Oppose Raising Dropout Age to 18?

"What about you ... Do you favor or oppose raising the high school dropout age from 16 to 18

	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	68
Neutral	8
Oppose	24
	(N=507)

Most Important Problem Facing New Hampshire

"Let's turn to the State of New Hampshire ... There are many problems facing the STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE today. In general, what do you think is the most IMPORTANT problem facing the STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE today?"

	<u>Jobs, the Economy</u>	<u>Education Funding</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>Health Care</u>	<u>Quality Educ.</u>	<u>Growth/ Sprawl</u>	<u>State Budget</u>	<u>Cost of Gas/Oil</u>	<u>Other/ DK</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
Apr. '06	16%	19%	11%	4%	10%	3%	2%	5%	30%	(501)
Feb. '06	14	20	13	10	7	3	1	3	29	(498)
Oct. '05	12	17	18	7	6	5	2	3	30	(503)
July '05	13	27	13	6	5	4	2	*	28	(496)
Apr. '05	13	31	14	8	6	3	5	3	18	(487)
Feb. '05	15	24	14	6	9	2	2	*	28	(541)
July '04	13	31	11	6	5	4	2	0	28	(504)
Apr. '04	20	20	13	5	7	3	4	0	29	(536)
Feb. '04	22	20	14	10	7	2	5	0	21	(502)
Oct. '03	19	21	13	5	10	3	6	0	23	(490)
June '03	16	27	13	3	6	1	9	0	25	(513)
Apr. '03	16	28	14	4	8	2	6	0	22	(497)
Feb. '03	16	29	16	2	12	2	2	0	21	(644)
June '02	16	31	15	2	12	1	5	0	18	(424)
Apr. '02	11	31	24	2	7	2	1	0	22	(684)
Feb. '02	12	27	17	0	21	1	3	0	19	(312)
Oct. '01	15	42	11	1	4	2	*	0	25	(519)

* Less than 1%

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>
Apr. '06	76%	13%	11%	(501)
Feb. '06	76%	14%	10%	(495)
Oct. '05	75%	17%	9%	(502)
July '05	75%	17%	8%	(494)
May '05	71%	15%	13%	(488)
Feb. '05	74%	13%	13%	(535)
July '04	59%	32%	9%	(503)
Apr. '04	65%	26%	9%	(530)
Feb. '04	61%	28%	11%	(500)
Oct. '03	67%	26%	7%	(485)
Jun. '03	62%	29%	9%	(510)

Gubernatorial Approval

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 73%	<u>Neutral</u> 21%	<u>Disapprove</u> 6%	<u>(N)</u> 489
Registered Democrat	76	20	3	113
Undeclared	73	21	5	191
Registered Republican	76	16	8	116
Not registered	63	30	7	67
Democrat	79	16	4	214
Independent	59	34	7	90
Republican	72	20	8	159
Liberal	76	23	2	98
Moderate	77	19	4	221
Conservative	69	17	14	129
Union household	89	9	2	67
Non-union	71	22	7	409
5 years or less in NH	58	37	5	50
6 to 10 years	71	25	4	54
11 to 20 years	71	22	7	88
More than 20 years	77	17	6	277
18 to 34	54	38	7	87
35 to 49	79	17	4	164
50 to 64	78	16	6	138
65 and over	75	18	7	74
Male	76	18	6	236
Female	71	24	5	253
High school or less	69	24	6	137
Some college	75	15	10	96
College graduate	70	25	5	163
Post-graduate	84	14	2	78
Less than \$30K	63	26	11	33
\$30K to \$60K	72	20	8	94
\$60K to \$75K	81	15	3	41
\$75K to \$100K	83	9	8	53
More than \$100K	74	22	4	91
Married	75	19	6	333
Divorced/separated	73	22	6	85
Never married	64	28	8	59
Protestant	79	17	4	190
Catholic	73	20	8	163
Other	68	26	5	119
Attend 1 or more/week	81	14	5	111
1-2 times a month	73	23	4	57
Less often	75	19	6	169
Never	68	28	3	135
Northern NH	78	20	2	40
Central/Lakes	87	8	6	88
Connecticut Valley	67	25	8	80
Massachusetts Border	67	29	5	121
Seacoast	77	17	6	81
Greater Manchester	68	24	8	76
1st Cong. District	73	21	6	262
2nd Cong. District	74	20	6	227

Are Things in NH on Right/Wrong Track

	<u>Right</u> <u>Direction</u> 76%	<u>Wrong</u> <u>Track</u> 13%	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u> 11%	<u>(N)</u> 501
STATEWIDE				
Registered Democrat	73	11	17	113
Undeclared	73	18	9	198
Registered Republican	84	9	8	119
Not registered	77	12	11	69
Democrat	75	14	11	219
Independent	70	12	18	93
Republican	81	12	7	163
Liberal	74	16	10	100
Moderate	77	12	11	227
Conservative	75	16	9	130
Union household	82	13	5	67
Non-union	75	14	12	421
5 years or less in NH	73	10	17	54
6 to 10 years	82	11	7	56
11 to 20 years	71	10	19	91
More than 20 years	76	16	8	281
18 to 34	76	13	12	89
35 to 49	78	11	11	169
50 to 64	76	16	8	141
65 and over	72	13	15	75
Male	79	11	10	244
Female	73	16	11	257
High school or less	74	14	12	141
Some college	77	13	10	98
College graduate	79	11	10	166
Post-graduate	75	14	11	80
Less than \$30K	69	13	18	33
\$30K to \$60K	70	22	8	94
\$60K to \$75K	72	17	11	43
\$75K to \$100K	86	11	3	51
More than \$100K	79	10	11	98
Married	76	13	11	343
Divorced/separated	74	14	11	84
Never married	79	14	7	61
Protestant	77	12	11	198
Catholic	81	11	8	163
Other	75	14	11	121
Attend 1 or more/week	77	12	11	112
1-2 times a month	67	15	18	56
Less often	81	12	6	176
Never	77	11	12	138
Northern NH	64	22	13	39
Central/Lakes	80	11	9	90
Connecticut Valley	68	16	15	80
Massachusetts Border	78	10	12	128
Seacoast	82	11	7	84
Greater Manchester	76	17	8	77
1st Cong. District	78	13	8	268
2nd Cong. District	74	13	13	233

Favorability Rating - John Lynch

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 78%	<u>Neutral</u> 10%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 4%	<u>Don't Know</u> 8%	<u>(N)</u> 503
Registered Democrat	84	11	1	4	113
Undeclared	79	10	3	7	200
Registered Republican	76	8	9	7	118
Not registered	67	9	6	18	70
Democrat	85	9	1	5	220
Independent	66	16	5	12	93
Republican	76	6	9	10	164
Liberal	78	12	2	8	100
Moderate	82	9	1	7	230
Conservative	74	8	12	5	132
Union household	89	4	1	5	67
Non-union	76	11	5	8	423
5 years or less in NH	69	7	4	19	55
6 to 10 years	70	14	4	13	56
11 to 20 years	79	8	6	7	92
More than 20 years	81	10	4	5	281
18 to 34	53	14	6	26	89
35 to 49	82	9	3	6	171
50 to 64	84	8	4	4	142
65 and over	83	11	5	2	73
Male	80	10	5	6	246
Female	76	9	4	11	257
High school or less	77	10	7	6	143
Some college	75	11	5	9	99
College graduate	74	10	3	13	165
Post-graduate	89	8	1	1	81
Less than \$30K	74	10	9	8	33
\$30K to \$60K	78	12	6	4	95
\$60K to \$75K	96	1	0	4	43
\$75K to \$100K	87	5	3	6	52
More than \$100K	77	12	2	8	99
Married	80	9	4	7	343
Divorced/separated	79	11	5	5	86
Never married	63	13	5	18	61
Protestant	83	8	2	7	198
Catholic	76	6	8	10	164
Other	73	17	3	7	124
Attend 1 or more/week	86	7	3	4	112
1-2 times a month	70	12	4	14	58
Less often	80	7	5	8	176
Never	72	15	3	9	141
Northern NH	76	15	1	7	41
Central/Lakes	88	3	4	4	89
Connecticut Valley	74	14	6	7	82
Massachusetts Border	70	14	4	12	127
Seacoast	82	6	4	8	84
Greater Manchester	77	8	7	9	77
1st Cong. District	77	9	5	9	270
2nd Cong. District	79	11	4	7	233

Favorability Rating - Jim Coburn

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 4%	<u>Neutral</u> 9%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 3%	<u>Don't Know</u> 85%	<u>(N)</u> 507
Registered Democrat	3	13	2	81	115
Undeclared	4	7	2	86	201
Registered Republican	5	9	2	84	119
Not registered	1	4	9	87	70
Democrat	2	10	3	84	220
Independent	5	5	3	87	96
Republican	4	9	3	83	165
Liberal	2	13	2	83	101
Moderate	4	9	3	84	230
Conservative	5	7	5	84	132
Union household	1	7	2	89	67
Non-union	4	9	3	84	427
5 years or less in NH	1	10	3	86	55
6 to 10 years	7	11	2	80	56
11 to 20 years	5	6	4	85	92
More than 20 years	3	9	3	85	283
18 to 34	5	7	3	85	89
35 to 49	4	12	2	82	172
50 to 64	3	5	2	89	142
65 and over	2	10	7	81	76
Male	5	8	4	82	246
Female	3	9	2	87	261
High school or less	4	7	3	85	145
Some college	4	9	4	83	99
College graduate	4	9	3	85	167
Post-graduate	3	13	1	84	81
Less than \$30K	6	6	0	88	33
\$30K to \$60K	4	9	4	83	95
\$60K to \$75K	2	3	4	92	43
\$75K to \$100K	4	8	1	87	53
More than \$100K	5	5	2	89	99
Married	4	9	3	85	347
Divorced/separated	3	7	2	88	86
Never married	7	11	3	79	61
Protestant	3	11	0	86	198
Catholic	6	9	5	80	165
Other	2	5	4	89	124
Attend 1 or more/week	6	8	3	82	113
1-2 times a month	2	4	6	88	58
Less often	6	13	2	79	178
Never	1	6	2	91	141
Northern NH	0	2	1	96	41
Central/Lakes	6	7	3	84	90
Connecticut Valley	3	13	1	83	82
Massachusetts Border	4	8	4	84	129
Seacoast	2	10	2	86	84
Greater Manchester	5	8	6	80	78
1st Cong. District	4	9	3	84	272
2nd Cong. District	4	8	3	86	236

NH Governor - Lynch v Coburn

STATEWIDE	<u>Coburn</u> 12%	<u>Lynch</u> 67%	<u>Other</u> 1%	<u>DK</u> 21%	<u>(N=)</u> 440
Registered Democrat	2	88	0	9	105
Undeclared	8	69	0	23	183
Registered Republican	26	44	1	29	105
Not registered	14	66	2	18	46
Democrat	3	88	0	9	204
Independent	7	59	1	33	69
Republican	26	45	1	28	149
Liberal	2	86	0	12	92
Moderate	9	66	0	24	206
Conservative	23	55	2	21	115
Union household	6	83	0	11	65
Non-union	13	65	1	22	368
5 years or less in NH	24	56	0	20	46
6 to 10 years	18	72	0	10	48
11 to 20 years	13	69	1	18	81
More than 20 years	7	69	0	24	253
18 to 34	21	55	0	24	69
35 to 49	9	74	0	17	157
50 to 64	8	73	0	19	127
65 and over	10	57	1	32	67
Male	10	69	1	20	215
Female	13	66	0	21	225
High school or less	11	66	1	22	113
Some college	13	68	2	17	87
College graduate	15	58	0	27	150
Post-graduate	5	88	0	8	80
Less than \$30K	4	81	5	10	25
\$30K to \$60K	11	66	0	22	83
\$60K to \$75K	5	68	0	27	37
\$75K to \$100K	3	71	0	26	50
More than \$100K	17	72	0	11	90
Married	12	68	0	20	309
Divorced/separated	7	69	2	22	76
Never married	19	61	0	20	49
Protestant	14	64	0	23	180
Catholic	14	66	1	19	141
Other	7	73	1	20	105
Attend 1 or more/week	18	67	0	15	107
1-2 times a month	18	70	0	12	45
Less often	8	65	1	26	161
Never	7	72	1	20	116
Northern NH	12	68	0	20	35
Central/Lakes	8	72	2	19	84
Connecticut Valley	12	60	0	27	68
Massachusetts Border	16	61	0	23	111
Seacoast	12	76	0	12	74
Greater Manchester	8	68	2	22	65
1st Cong. District	15	68	1	17	238
2nd Cong. District	8	67	1	25	203

Will Raising Dropout Age to 18 Reduce Dropouts?

STATEWIDE	<u>Yes</u> 57%	<u>No</u> 39%	<u>DK</u> 5%	<u>(N=)</u> 506
Registered Democrat	62	33	5	115
Undeclared	58	39	3	197
Registered Republican	52	43	5	119
Not registered	52	41	7	70
Democrat	66	31	3	219
Independent	51	44	6	94
Republican	50	44	6	165
Liberal	59	37	4	101
Moderate	58	38	4	226
Conservative	58	36	6	132
Union household	59	40	2	67
Non-union	57	39	5	425
5 years or less in NH	44	47	9	55
6 to 10 years	50	42	9	56
11 to 20 years	62	34	4	92
More than 20 years	59	38	3	282
18 to 34	51	42	8	89
35 to 49	64	33	4	173
50 to 64	54	44	3	139
65 and over	56	39	4	76
Male	55	39	5	245
Female	58	38	4	260
High school or less	61	38	2	144
Some college	60	37	2	98
College graduate	53	40	7	167
Post-graduate	56	38	6	81
Less than \$30K	50	45	5	32
\$30K to \$60K	58	38	3	95
\$60K to \$75K	73	27	0	43
\$75K to \$100K	61	35	4	52
More than \$100K	50	42	8	98
Married	57	39	4	346
Divorced/separated	61	34	5	86
Never married	51	44	6	61
Protestant	56	38	5	197
Catholic	60	37	4	166
Other	52	43	6	123
Attend 1 or more/week	58	39	4	113
1-2 times a month	63	28	9	57
Less often	55	43	2	176
Never	55	38	7	142
Northern NH	54	42	4	41
Central/Lakes	55	41	4	90
Connecticut Valley	63	30	7	82
Massachusetts Border	54	43	3	128
Seacoast	64	33	4	84
Greater Manchester	51	43	6	78
1st Cong. District	57	38	5	270
2nd Cong. District	56	39	4	235

Favor / Oppose Raising Dropout Age to 18

STATEWIDE	<u>Favor</u> 68%	<u>Neutral</u> 8%	<u>Oppose</u> 24%	<u>(N=)</u> 507
Registered Democrat	74	5	21	114
Undeclared	66	9	26	201
Registered Republican	62	11	26	119
Not registered	70	6	23	69
Democrat	72	6	22	219
Independent	64	12	24	95
Republican	65	8	27	165
Liberal	69	7	24	101
Moderate	69	5	25	227
Conservative	66	10	24	132
Union household	70	2	27	67
Non-union	67	9	24	428
5 years or less in NH	62	14	24	55
6 to 10 years	74	3	23	56
11 to 20 years	68	12	20	91
More than 20 years	66	6	27	285
18 to 34	70	8	21	89
35 to 49	73	6	21	174
50 to 64	61	9	30	140
65 and over	64	10	27	76
Male	62	8	29	245
Female	72	8	19	261
High school or less	68	7	25	145
Some college	76	5	19	100
College graduate	64	11	24	167
Post-graduate	62	6	32	80
Less than \$30K	63	7	30	33
\$30K to \$60K	69	3	29	95
\$60K to \$75K	78	11	11	43
\$75K to \$100K	61	7	32	53
More than \$100K	64	5	31	97
Married	66	9	26	347
Divorced/separated	73	6	20	86
Never married	69	4	26	61
Protestant	62	11	27	198
Catholic	77	4	19	167
Other	63	10	27	122
Attend 1 or more/week	73	8	19	113
1-2 times a month	71	4	25	58
Less often	65	10	26	178
Never	66	8	26	140
Northern NH	70	13	16	41
Central/Lakes	62	6	32	90
Connecticut Valley	61	15	24	83
Massachusetts Border	62	6	31	129
Seacoast	76	7	17	83
Greater Manchester	79	3	17	78
1st Cong. District	73	6	21	270
2nd Cong. District	62	10	28	236