

WMUR / UNH New Hampshire Tracking Poll

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LITTLE CHANGE IN RACE FOR PRESIDENT IN NH

Durham, NH – John Kerry continues to narrowly lead George Bush in New Hampshire. Craig Benson's lead over Democratic challenger John Lynch is also relatively unchanged in the race for New Hampshire Governor.

These findings are based on the 2004 WMUR / UNH New Hampshire Tracking Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. This survey is sponsored by WMUR-TV Manchester and the University of New Hampshire.* Eight hundred fifty (850) likely New Hampshire voters were interviewed between October 27 and October 29, 2004. The potential sampling error for the survey is $\pm 3.4\%$. (For more information about the NH Election Tracking Poll, go to www.unh.edu/survey-center/track04.html)

Presidential Election

The race between John Kerry and George Bush in New Hampshire is still very close. In the latest WMUR / UNH New Hampshire Tracking Poll, 50 percent of likely voters say they will vote for Kerry, 46 percent will vote for Bush, 1 percent will vote for Ralph Nader or some other candidate, and 3 percent remain undecided. The most important issues to voters in the presidential election continue to be the war in Iraq (25%), the war on terrorism (20%), and jobs and the economy (18%).

Kerry runs strongest among Democrats and in the North Country, the Connecticut Valley, and in the vote-rich Seacoast. Bush does best among Republicans and in the Manchester area. Kerry leads among swing voters by 54 percent to 34 percent.

Gubernatorial Election

In the race for New Hampshire Governor, incumbent Republican Craig Benson leads over John Lynch 47 percent to 44 percent with 1 percent favoring some other candidate, and 8 percent still undecided. Benson has consistently been below 50 percent in the WMUR / UNH tracking poll. This is an indication that his reelection is in jeopardy as undecided voters typically break toward the challenger. The most important issues in the race for Governor are taxes (29%), education funding (17%), jobs and the economy (14%), and ethics in government (12%).

Benson and Lynch do well among their partisans and tied among swing voters. Benson does best in Massachusetts border towns and in Manchester. Lynch's strongest support comes from voters in the Connecticut Valley, the North Country, and in the Seacoast.

U.S. Senate

Incumbent Republican Senator Judd Gregg still holds a commanding lead over Democratic challenger "Granny D" Haddock. Sixty-three percent of likely voters prefer Gregg, 23 percent prefer Granny D, 1 percent favor some other candidate and 13 percent are still undecided. Gregg has maintained a wide lead over Granny D throughout the race.

U.S. Congress

The race for U.S. Representative from New Hampshire's First Congressional district has narrowed slightly. Currently, 57 percent favor incumbent Republican Jeb Bradley, 31 percent favor Democrat Justin Nadeau, 1 percent favor some other candidate, and 12 percent are undecided. Bradley held a 60 percent to 26 percent lead in yesterday's WMUR / UNH tracking poll.

In the Second District, incumbent Republican Charlie Bass leads Democrat Paul Hodes 58 percent to 32 percent, with 1 percent preferring some other candidate and 9 percent undecided.

* We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as the *WMUR / UNH New Hampshire Tracking Poll*, sponsored by WMUR-TV and the University of New Hampshire.

2004 Presidential Election - Bush vs. Kerry vs. Nader

"Now, suppose the 2004 presidential election were being held TODAY. If you had to choose between George W. Bush, the Republican ... John Kerry, the Democrat ... or Ralph Nader, the Independent, who would you vote for?" (ROTATE CANDIDATES)

	<u>George W. Bush</u>	<u>John Kerry</u>	<u>Other/ Nader</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	46%	50%	1%	3%	746
October 26-28	47%	49%	1%	3%	823
October 27-29 (Latest)	46%	50%	1%	3%	834
Democrat	6	92	1	1	344
Independent	33	50	6	10	125
Republican	91	9	0	0	349
Registered Democrat	11	88	0	0	225
Undeclared	32	59	4	6	288
Registered Republican	89	11	0	0	274
Not registered	49	44	2	6	44
Core GOP	96	3	1	0	303
Swing Voter	34	54	4	9	240
Core Dem.	3	96	0	1	291
Male	49	46	2	3	402
Female	43	54	1	3	432
18 to 34	41	55	2	2	140
35 to 49	52	43	2	3	321
50 to 64	43	54	1	2	250
65 and over	39	57	0	4	109
North Country	26	70	1	3	75
Central / Lakes	53	41	1	4	141
Connecticut Valley	36	62	1	1	113
Mass Border	50	44	2	4	223
Seacoast	37	63	0	0	135
Manchester Area	60	36	2	3	146
Approve Bush as Pres.	89	7	2	2	405
Neither	39	30	0	30	18
Disapprove of Bush	3	94	1	2	405
1st Cong. District	48	50	1	1	432
2nd Cong. District	44	50	2	4	401
1st E.C. District	38	59	2	1	178
2nd E.C. District	44	51	0	5	162
3rd E.C. District	44	56	0	0	181
4th E.C. District	55	39	3	2	158
5th E.C. District	49	43	1	7	147

Benson vs. Lynch

"Now, suppose the 2004 gubernatorial election was being held today and the candidates were Craig Benson, the Republican and John Lynch, the Democrat. Who would you vote for ... Craig Benson or John Lynch?" (ROTATE CANDIDATES)

	<u>Craig Benson</u>	<u>John Lynch</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	47%	44%	1%	9%	747
October 26-28	47%	42%	1%	9%	816
October 27-29 (Latest)	47%	44%	1%	8%	825
Democrat	18	73	1	8	341
Independent	38	44	5	12	123
Republican	78	15	1	6	349
Registered Democrat	14	79	1	6	221
Undeclared	40	47	3	10	286
Registered Republican	79	15	1	4	273
Not registered	46	28	0	26	43
Core GOP	86	9	0	5	303
Swing Voter	40	43	3	14	234
Core Dem.	11	82	1	6	288
Male	51	41	2	7	394
Female	43	47	1	9	431
18 to 34	44	41	1	13	138
35 to 49	51	38	1	10	317
50 to 64	43	52	2	3	248
65 and over	44	49	0	6	109
North Country	34	53	0	13	73
Central / Lakes	46	45	2	6	140
Connecticut Valley	35	56	1	8	112
Mass Border	53	36	2	8	220
Seacoast	40	52	1	6	132
Manchester Area	58	33	1	8	147
Approve Bush as Pres.	76	15	2	7	403
Neither	19	63	0	18	20
Disapprove of Bush	18	72	1	8	401
1st Cong. District	48	42	1	9	428
2nd Cong. District	45	46	2	7	397
1st E.C. District	39	50	1	10	177
2nd E.C. District	48	46	2	5	160
3rd E.C. District	46	46	1	7	177
4th E.C. District	56	33	1	10	158
5th E.C. District	47	44	2	7	146

Senatorial Race: Gregg vs. Haddock

"Suppose the election for U.S. Senate were being held TODAY and the candidates were Judd Gregg, the Republican and Doris "Granny D" Haddock, the Democrat. Who would you vote for ... Judd Gregg or "Granny D" Haddock?" ROTATE CANDIDATES

	<u>Judd Gregg</u>	<u>Doris Haddock</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	62%	23%	1%	13%	738
October 26-28	63%	22%	1%	14%	815
October 27-29 (Latest)	63%	23%	1%	13%	820
Democrat	37	45	2	16	334
Independent	59	17	1	23	124
Republican	90	3	0	7	350
Registered Democrat	39	50	1	10	217
Undeclared	56	23	2	20	284
Registered Republican	94	3	0	3	273
Not registered	43	16	0	41	42
Core GOP	95	1	0	4	303
Swing Voter	64	13	0	23	236
Core Dem.	28	55	2	14	280
Male	69	19	1	12	392
Female	58	27	1	14	428
18 to 34	52	28	1	20	136
35 to 49	68	18	1	14	316
50 to 64	62	27	1	10	246
65 and over	67	25	0	8	110
North Country	56	24	3	17	76
Central / Lakes	71	22	0	7	138
Connecticut Valley	56	35	0	10	113
Mass Border	63	19	2	16	214
Seacoast	48	29	1	21	133
Manchester Area	79	15	0	6	146
Approve Bush as Pres.	86	5	0	8	405
Neither	62	5	0	33	20
Disapprove of Bush	40	42	2	16	394
1st Cong. District	65	22	1	12	428
2nd Cong. District	61	24	1	14	391
1st E.C. District	58	28	1	13	178
2nd E.C. District	68	23	0	9	160
3rd E.C. District	56	23	2	18	178
4th E.C. District	72	15	1	11	155
5th E.C. District	64	24	0	12	140

1st Congressional District: Bradley vs. Nadeau

"Suppose the election for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY and the candidates in your district were Jeb Bradley, the Republican and Justin Nadeau (NED – O), the Democrat. Who would you vote for ... Jeb Bradley or Justin Nadeau?"
 ROTATE CANDIDATES

	<u>Jeb Bradley</u>	<u>Justin Nadeau</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	60%	26%	0%	14%	383
October 26-28	60%	26%	0%	14%	399
October 27-29 (Latest)	57%	31%	1%	12%	417
Democrat	18	65	1	16	166
Independent	54	21	3	21	59
Republican	92	3	0	5	188
Registered Democrat	19	67	0	14	109
Undeclared	49	31	2	17	139
Registered Republican	94	5	0	1	148
Not registered	48	19	0	33	22
Core GOP	98	0	0	2	160
Swing Voter	59	17	2	23	118
Core Dem.	9	77	1	13	139
Male	62	25	1	13	186
Female	54	35	0	11	231
18 to 34	55	28	0	17	75
35 to 49	65	23	1	12	162
50 to 64	53	37	2	8	127
65 and over	46	43	0	11	49
REGION OF STATE					
Northern NH	34	57	0	9	42
Central/Lakes	76	21	0	3	49
Hillsborough County	72	22	0	6	89
Seacoast	52	31	1	16	238
Approve Bush as Pres.	86	4	1	9	216
Neither	38	24	0	38	7
Disapprove of Bush	25	61	1	14	193

2nd Congressional District: Bass vs. Hodes

"Suppose the election for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY and the candidates in your district were Charlie Bass, the Republican and Paul Hodes, the Democrat. Who would you vote for ... Charlie Bass or Paul Hodes?" ROTATE CANDIDATES

	<u>Charlie Bass</u>	<u>Paul Hodes</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	57%	30%	2%	12%	346
October 26-28	57%	31%	1%	11%	412
October 27-29 (Latest)	58%	32%	1%	9%	400
Democrat	27	61	0	11	171
Independent	59	26	0	15	63
Republican	91	3	1	6	160
Registered Democrat	27	66	0	7	109
Undeclared	51	34	1	14	144
Registered Republican	93	3	1	3	125
Not registered	59	21	0	20	20
Core GOP	95	0	1	3	142
Swing Voter	60	19	1	20	115
Core Dem.	19	74	0	7	143
Male	66	26	1	7	204
Female	50	38	0	12	196
18 to 34	45	36	0	19	64
35 to 49	61	25	1	12	151
50 to 64	57	39	0	4	115
65 and over	62	36	1	2	62
REGION OF STATE					
Northern NH	56	35	0	9	69
Western NH	46	44	0	11	75
Central/Lakes	60	35	0	5	85
Hillsborough County	61	26	1	12	146
Seacoast	74	20	0	6	24
Approve Bush as Pres.	86	6	1	7	186
Neither	59	17	0	24	11
Disapprove of Bush	32	57	0	11	203

New Hampshire House Races: Democrat vs. Republican

"Please think about the upcoming election for your representative to the New Hampshire House of Representatives. As of today ... do you plan to vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate for the New Hampshire House of Representatives ... or do you plan to skip the election for New Hampshire House of Representatives this time?" ROTATE PARTIES

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	41%	40%	3%	15%	686
October 26-28	41%	39%	3%	17%	766
October 27-29 (Latest)	41%	40%	1%	17%	771
Democrat	5	81	1	14	324
Independent	23	31	5	40	101
Republican	82	4	1	14	336
Registered Democrat	2	86	1	10	210
Undeclared	26	41	2	31	253
Registered Republican	86	5	0	9	271
Not registered	30	41	2	27	34
Core GOP	91	0	0	9	294
Swing Voter	23	31	4	42	199
Core Dem.	2	89	0	9	277
Male	45	33	2	20	369
Female	37	47	1	15	401
18 to 34	33	44	0	22	121
35 to 49	45	35	1	18	292
50 to 64	39	44	1	16	236
65 and over	41	42	4	13	109
North Country	30	51	0	19	70
Central / Lakes	46	38	1	15	134
Connecticut Valley	31	52	1	16	107
Mass Border	47	31	3	19	197
Seacoast	32	53	0	14	121
Manchester Area	48	31	1	20	142
Approve Bush as Pres.	74	7	2	18	375
Neither	15	56	0	28	16
Disapprove of Bush	9	73	1	17	376
1st Cong. District	44	42	1	14	393
2nd Cong. District	38	39	2	21	377
1st E.C. District	34	46	0	20	167
2nd E.C. District	40	40	1	19	155
3rd E.C. District	42	46	0	12	163
4th E.C. District	47	36	1	16	146
5th E.C. District	44	31	5	20	134

New Hampshire Senate Races: Democrat vs. Republican

"Please think about the upcoming election for your representative to the New Hampshire Senate. As of today ... do you plan to vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate for the New Hampshire Senate ... or do you plan to skip the election for New Hampshire Senate this time?" ROTATE PARTIES

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	45%	40%	3%	12%	691
October 26-28	44%	40%	2%	14%	762
October 27-29 (Latest)	42%	42%	1%	15%	767
Democrat	5	83	0	12	322
Independent	23	36	4	37	104
Republican	85	5	0	10	332
Registered Democrat	5	88	0	6	215
Undeclared	29	41	2	27	251
Registered Republican	86	5	0	9	265
Not registered	32	49	0	20	34
Core GOP	92	2	0	6	289
Swing Voter	27	32	3	38	200
Core Dem.	2	92	0	6	278
Male	49	33	1	17	365
Female	36	51	1	12	402
18 to 34	35	42	0	23	121
35 to 49	45	38	1	16	290
50 to 64	44	45	0	11	237
65 and over	37	49	2	12	108
North Country	28	52	2	18	70
Central / Lakes	42	42	0	16	132
Connecticut Valley	30	50	1	19	110
Mass Border	48	38	2	12	201
Seacoast	33	53	0	13	116
Manchester Area	58	30	0	13	138
Approve Bush as Pres.	76	10	1	13	367
Neither	15	52	0	33	16
Disapprove of Bush	11	74	1	15	381
1st Cong. District	45	42	1	12	389
2nd Cong. District	39	43	1	17	378
1st E.C. District	34	45	1	20	167
2nd E.C. District	39	43	0	18	154
3rd E.C. District	42	47	0	11	157
4th E.C. District	53	36	0	11	145
5th E.C. District	44	39	3	14	138

Most Important Issue in Vote for President

"Of the following list, which one of these will be the single most important issue in your vote for president this year ... the U.S. campaign against terrorism ... the war in Iraq ... the economy and jobs ... education ... health care ... Medicare and prescription drugs ... Social Security ... gas and oil prices ... or something else?" ROTATE RESPONSES

	<u>Jobs</u>	<u>Iraq</u>	<u>Terror</u>	<u>Educ.</u>	<u>Health Care</u>	<u>Medicare/ Rx Drugs</u>	<u>Social Security</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>All Equal</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	22%	22%	21%	3%	8%	2%	2%	11%	5%	3%	758
October 26-28	20%	24%	19%	3%	9%	2%	2%	12%	6%	2%	838
October 27-29 (Latest)	18%	25%	20%	4%	9%	3%	3%	11%	6%	1%	846
Democrat	25	34	3	5	12	4	2	8	6	1	349
Independent	18	22	14	3	12	0	8	14	7	1	127
Republican	12	17	40	3	5	2	2	13	5	1	350
Registered Democrat	23	34	3	5	10	4	4	10	8	0	227
Undeclared	21	27	15	5	12	2	4	10	4	2	292
Registered Republican	13	13	42	3	4	2	2	12	6	3	274
Not registered	10	34	8	0	10	3	1	28	5	0	48
Core GOP	11	14	43	2	5	2	2	15	5	1	303
Swing Voter	21	29	12	4	8	2	5	11	6	2	248
Core Dem.	23	32	3	5	13	5	3	8	7	1	294
Bush Voter	13	17	41	2	4	1	2	14	5	2	379
Kerry Voter	22	34	3	5	13	4	4	8	6	1	416
Male	18	22	23	2	8	3	4	13	6	1	403
Female	18	27	17	5	9	3	2	10	6	2	443
18 to 34	19	29	15	5	8	0	3	14	7	2	140
35 to 49	20	22	23	5	8	1	2	14	5	1	324
50 to 64	18	28	23	2	8	3	3	8	6	1	252
65 and over	15	21	14	2	10	12	7	10	7	2	116
North Country	15	27	16	3	14	6	1	9	8	0	77
Central / Lakes	21	20	18	2	7	3	2	17	9	1	141
Connecticut Valley	20	35	11	5	8	3	3	10	3	2	115
Mass Border	19	27	23	3	7	2	4	8	5	2	227
Seacoast	19	24	17	3	10	4	2	11	8	3	137
Manchester Area	15	16	29	6	9	2	5	15	3	0	149
Approve Bush as Pres.	13	17	37	2	5	2	2	15	6	1	409
Neither	15	21	12	14	6	5	13	7	7	0	20
Disapprove of Bush	23	32	4	5	12	4	4	8	6	1	411
1st Cong. District	19	20	20	4	7	3	4	15	6	1	439
2nd Cong. District	17	30	19	3	10	3	2	8	6	2	407
1st E.C. District	17	27	14	4	10	5	3	12	6	0	182
2nd E.C. District	22	25	20	2	10	2	3	9	5	1	
3rd E.C. District	21	21	20	3	7	3	2	14	7	2	186
4th E.C. District	15	20	28	5	6	2	7	11	5	1	159
5th E.C. District	17	30	20	4	10	1	2	9	5	2	150

Most Important Issue in Vote for Governor

"Of the following list, which one of these will be the single most important issue in your vote for New Hampshire governor this year ... education funding ... taxes ... ethics in government ... the cost of health insurance ... cuts in public services ... jobs and the economy ... health care ... or something else?" ROTATE RESPONSES

	<u>Educ.</u>		<u>Ethics</u>	<u>Cost of</u>	<u>Cuts in</u>	<u>Jobs/</u>	<u>Health</u>		<u>All</u>		
	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>in Govt.</u>	<u>Hlth Ins.</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Econ.</u>	<u>Care</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Equal</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	18%	28%	13%	7%	4%	15%	7%	3%	2%	3%	756
October 26-28	17%	29%	12%	7%	4%	13%	8%	4%	3%	3%	836
October 27-29 (Latest)	17%	29%	12%	7%	4%	14%	8%	4%	3%	2%	847
Democrat	22	16	13	8	8	16	10	5	2	2	349
Independent	21	30	12	8	0	11	8	3	5	2	128
Republican	11	42	10	6	2	14	6	3	2	2	350
Registered Democrat	19	14	17	5	8	17	9	4	4	3	227
Undeclared	20	28	12	8	3	13	10	4	1	1	294
Registered Republican	13	43	7	6	3	14	5	4	3	3	273
Not registered	11	22	14	15	2	12	11	4	3	7	48
Core GOP	11	43	8	6	2	15	6	4	3	2	303
Swing Voter	17	29	15	8	3	12	8	3	3	2	249
Core Dem.	24	13	13	7	8	16	10	5	2	2	294
Benson Voter	12	44	4	7	1	16	7	4	2	2	382
Lynch Voter	25	14	21	6	7	12	9	4	2	1	364
Male	16	34	10	8	4	12	7	4	3	3	405
Female	18	24	13	6	5	17	9	4	3	2	442
18 to 34	16	25	10	8	5	19	4	6	2	5	140
35 to 49	20	34	9	5	3	15	7	4	2	1	324
50 to 64	15	28	17	7	5	15	8	2	3	1	252
65 and over	17	18	10	13	7	7	18	5	3	3	116
North Country	22	10	12	11	8	16	13	2	3	2	77
Central / Lakes	14	29	16	4	4	15	6	7	4	0	141
Connecticut Valley	22	21	10	8	4	18	9	3	2	2	115
Mass Border	15	37	8	7	3	15	6	3	4	2	228
Seacoast	22	26	14	6	2	9	10	6	1	5	137
Manchester Area	12	33	12	9	5	14	7	3	2	2	149
Approve Bush as Pres.	12	43	9	6	2	14	5	4	3	3	410
Neither	36	13	17	8	0	9	7	0	7	3	20
Disapprove of Bush	21	16	14	8	7	16	10	4	2	1	410
1st Cong. District	16	29	12	8	4	14	7	5	2	3	440
2nd Cong. District	19	28	11	6	4	15	8	3	4	1	407
1st E.C. District	21	13	11	10	7	15	11	5	3	2	182
2nd E.C. District	14	30	15	4	3	17	9	4	2	2	162
3rd E.C. District	23	28	9	6	2	15	7	5	2	4	186
4th E.C. District	10	39	12	8	3	16	4	2	4	2	160
5th E.C. District	16	34	12	5	7	9	8	4	2	2	150