

WMUR / UNH New Hampshire Tracking Poll

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KERRY, BENSON HOLD NARROW LEADS

Durham, NH – John Kerry’s slim lead over George Bush in New Hampshire has narrowed slightly. Incumbent governor Craig Benson continues to lead Democratic challenger John Lynch.

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 forty-one (841) likely New Hampshire voters were interviewed between October 26 and October 28, 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 closer than ever. In the latest WMUR / UNH tracking poll, 49 percent of likely voters say they will vote for Kerry, 47 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 (24%), jobs and the economy (20%), and the war on terrorism (19%).

Kerry runs strongest among Democrats and in the North Country and the Connecticut Valley. 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 has widened his slight lead over John Lynch. Currently 47 percent of New Hampshire voters say they plan to vote for Benson, 42 prefer Lynch, 1 percent favor some other candidate, and 9 percent are undecided. In yesterday’s WMUR / UNH tracking poll, Benson held a 47 percent to 44 percent lead over Lynch.

Benson and Lynch do well among their partisans and are now tied among swing voters. Benson does best in Massachusetts border towns, where his anti-tax message plays especially well, and in Manchester. Lynch’s strongest support comes from voters in the Connecticut Valley.

U.S. Senate

Incumbent Republican Senator Judd Gregg holds a commanding 63 percent to 22 percent lead over Democratic challenger “Granny D” Haddock with 1 percent preferring some other candidate and 14 percent remaining undecided. Gregg has maintained a wide lead over Granny D throughout the race.

U.S. Congress

In New Hampshire’s First Congressional district there has been no change in the race between incumbent Republican Jeb Bradley and Democrat Justin Nadeau. Currently, 60 percent of likely voters say they will vote for Bradley, 26 percent prefer Nadeau, and 14 percent are undecided.

In the Second District, incumbent Republican Charlie Bass leads Democrat Paul Hodes 57 percent to 31 percent, with 1 percent preferring some other candidate and 11 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)

	George W Bush	John Kerry	Other/ Nader	Undecided	(N)
September 25 – October 3	50%	45%	1%	5%	521
October 25-27	46%	50%	1%	3%	746
October 26-28 (Latest)	47%	49%	1%	3%	823
Democrat	6	91	1	2	332
Independent	31	55	2	11	116
Republican	90	9	1	0	362
Registered Democrat	12	87	0	0	220
Undeclared	32	60	2	6	271
Registered Republican	89	10	0	0	287
Not registered	43	51	0	6	43
Core GOP	95	4	1	0	318
Swing Voter	34	55	2	8	228
Core Dem.	3	96	0	1	277
Male	51	45	1	2	396
Female	43	53	1	3	427
18 to 34	46	52	1	2	154
35 to 49	52	43	2	4	325
50 to 64	40	58	0	2	218
65 and over	46	51	0	3	109
North Country	26	68	2	5	73
Central / Lakes	48	48	0	4	141
Connecticut Valley	40	59	0	1	117
Mass Border	50	45	1	4	212
Seacoast	47	51	2	0	134
Manchester Area	59	37	1	3	145
Approve Bush as Pres.	90	7	1	3	390
Neither	40	28	3	29	17
Disapprove of Bush	7	90	1	2	414
1st Cong. District	52	46	1	1	415
2nd Cong. District	42	53	1	4	408
1st E.C. District	37	60	1	2	168
2nd E.C. District	45	50	1	4	164
3rd E.C. District	51	49	1	0	188
4th E.C. District	56	40	2	2	154
5th E.C. District	48	44	1	6	144

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)

	Craig Benson	John Lynch	Other	DK/ Not Sure	(N)
September 25 – October 3	43%	43%	1%	13%	527
October 25-27	47%	44%	1%	9%	747
October 26-28 (Latest)	47%	42%	1%	9%	816
Democrat	17	71	1	10	328
Independent	38	40	3	19	113
Republican	79	16	0	5	360
Registered Democrat	13	79	1	7	216
Undeclared	42	44	2	12	271
Registered Republican	80	14	1	5	285
Not registered	40	27	0	33	42
Core GOP	85	10	0	5	317
Swing Voter	41	41	1	17	224
Core Dem.	10	81	2	8	275
Male	54	37	1	8	390
Female	42	47	1	11	425
18 to 34	46	39	1	14	152
35 to 49	52	37	1	11	319
50 to 64	42	51	2	6	218
65 and over	48	45	0	6	110
North Country	39	46	0	15	73
Central / Lakes	46	48	0	5	139
Connecticut Valley	32	56	1	11	117
Mass Border	54	34	3	10	212
Seacoast	47	43	1	10	130
Manchester Area	57	34	0	9	146
Approve Bush as Pres.	78	15	1	6	386
Neither	21	55	0	23	18
Disapprove of Bush	20	67	1	12	409
1st Cong. District	52	38	1	9	409
2nd Cong. District	43	46	1	10	407
1st E.C. District	38	48	1	14	167
2nd E.C. District	46	48	1	5	161
3rd E.C. District	53	36	2	9	182
4th E.C. District	53	36	1	10	155
5th E.C. District	47	42	1	10	145

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 Dorris "Granny D" Haddock, the Democrat. Who would you vote for ... Judd Gregg or "Granny D" Haddock?" ROTATE CANDIDATES

	Judd Gregg	Doris Haddock	Other	DK/ Not Sure	(N)
September 25 – October 3	52%	21%	0%	16%	527
October 25-27	62%	23%	1%	13%	738
October 26-28 (Latest)	63%	22%	1%	14%	815
Democrat	36	44	2	18	325
Independent	56	15	1	28	115
Republican	90	3	0	6	362
Registered Democrat	35	51	1	13	215
Undeclared	56	20	2	21	269
Registered Republican	94	3	0	2	286
Not registered	43	14	0	43	42
Core GOP	95	2	0	3	317
Swing Voter	62	12	1	25	227
Core Dem.	27	54	2	16	270
Male	69	19	1	11	390
Female	58	25	1	16	426
18 to 34	55	23	1	21	152
35 to 49	66	18	1	14	319
50 to 64	61	26	1	12	217
65 and over	70	25	0	5	111
North Country	56	17	4	23	75
Central / Lakes	68	23	0	8	138
Connecticut Valley	55	32	0	13	120
Mass Border	61	19	2	19	205
Seacoast	61	24	1	14	132
Manchester Area	74	18	0	8	145
Approve Bush as Pres.	86	5	0	8	392
Neither	59	5	0	36	18
Disapprove of Bush	41	39	2	18	402
1st Cong. District	68	20	1	11	414
2nd Cong. District	59	24	1	16	401
1st E.C. District	59	21	2	18	169
2nd E.C. District	66	24	0	9	163
3rd E.C. District	64	20	2	14	185
4th E.C. District	69	18	1	13	152
5th E.C. District	59	26	0	14	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

	Jeb Bradley	Justin Nadeau	Other	DK/ Not Sure	(N)
September 25 – October 3	58%	25%	0%	17%	270
October 25-27	60%	26%	0%	14%	383
October 26-28 (Latest)	60%	26%	0%	14%	399
Democrat	21	60	1	19	146
Independent	59	17	0	25	50
Republican	90	3	0	7	199
Registered Democrat	22	65	0	13	95
Undeclared	52	24	1	23	124
Registered Republican	92	5	0	3	159
Not registered	43	14	0	43	21
Core GOP	94	2	0	5	174
Swing Voter	63	11	0	26	104
Core Dem.	10	73	1	16	121
Male	67	19	0	13	182
Female	55	31	0	14	217
18 to 34	57	25	0	19	82
35 to 49	70	17	1	13	157
50 to 64	53	35	0	12	104
65 and over	51	37	0	12	51
Northern NH	39	47	0	15	38
Central/Lakes	71	27	0	1	37
Hillsborough County	74	17	0	9	91
Seacoast	57	25	0	17	232
Approve Bush as Pres.	88	4	0	8	212
Neither	16	20	0	64	6
Disapprove of Bush	30	51	1	19	181

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

	Charlie Bass	Paul Hodes	Other	DK/ Not Sure	(N)
September 25 – October. 3	53%	28%	1%	18%	256
October 25-27	57%	30%	2%	12%	346
October 26-28 (Latest)	57%	31%	1%	11%	412
Democrat	30	56	1	12	182
Independent	54	28	0	18	63
Republican	89	4	1	6	159
Registered Democrat	29	62	0	9	120
Undeclared	50	32	2	16	146
Registered Republican	92	4	1	3	124
Not registered	61	11	0	28	20
Core GOP	93	1	1	4	141
Swing Voter	58	20	2	20	120
Core Dem.	22	69	0	9	151
Male	62	29	2	7	206
Female	51	34	1	15	206
18 to 34	54	28	0	18	71
35 to 49	55	28	2	15	158
50 to 64	52	41	0	7	110
65 and over	69	29	1	1	61
Northern NH	57	32	1	11	72
Western NH	45	44	0	11	76
Central/Lakes	60	32	0	8	95
Hillsborough County	59	25	3	13	142
Seacoast	65	28	0	7	27
Approve Bush as Pres.	83	8	1	8	175
Neither	54	19	0	27	11
Disapprove of Bush	36	51	1	12	223

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

	Republican	Democrat	Other	DK/ Not Sure	(N)
October 25-27	41%	40%	3%	15%	686
October 26-28 (Latest)	41%	39%	3%	17%	766
Democrat	4	83	1	12	311
Independent	19	29	9	42	100
Republican	81	4	2	14	345
Registered Democrat	3	88	2	8	205
Undeclared	24	41	5	30	241
Registered Republican	85	4	1	10	286
Not registered	25	37	5	32	31
Core GOP	89	1	1	9	307
Swing Voter	21	28	8	43	196
Core Dem.	1	92	1	6	263
Male	46	32	4	18	364
Female	37	46	2	15	402
18 to 34	35	42	1	22	134
35 to 49	46	34	3	17	297
50 to 64	37	47	1	14	209
65 and over	43	39	6	13	109
North Country	25	50	0	25	67
Central / Lakes	41	41	3	15	137
Connecticut Valley	33	49	1	17	111
Mass Border	44	33	6	17	194
Seacoast	41	44	1	13	121
Manchester Area	52	29	2	17	136
Approve Bush as Pres.	74	7	3	16	367
Neither	10	54	0	36	15
Disapprove of Bush	10	70	2	17	381
1st Cong. District	47	38	3	13	383
2nd Cong. District	36	41	3	20	383
1st E.C. District	30	46	1	23	157
2nd E.C. District	41	40	2	17	159
3rd E.C. District	44	40	2	13	166
4th E.C. District	51	37	2	10	144
5th E.C. District	41	32	7	21	133

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

	Republican	Democrat	Other	DK/ Not Sure	(N)
October 25-27	45%	40%	3%	12%	691
October 26-28 (Latest)	44%	40%	2%	14%	762
Democrat	6	81	1	12	308
Independent	21	33	8	38	98
Republican	85	5	1	9	345
Registered Democrat	7	87	0	6	209
Undeclared	29	40	5	26	237
Registered Republican	86	4	1	9	281
Not registered	30	45	0	26	32
Core GOP	92	2	1	6	307
Swing Voter	25	30	6	39	191
Core Dem.	2	91	1	6	264
Male	51	32	3	14	360
Female	38	47	1	14	401
18 to 34	39	38	1	21	135
35 to 49	49	35	3	13	294
50 to 64	40	45	2	13	208
65 and over	41	46	2	11	109
North Country	23	49	3	24	67
Central / Lakes	39	43	1	16	135
Connecticut Valley	34	46	1	19	114
Mass Border	49	36	3	11	192
Seacoast	43	44	1	12	115
Manchester Area	62	27	2	9	139
Approve Bush as Pres.	79	7	2	11	361
Neither	3	48	0	49	16
Disapprove of Bush	12	70	2	16	380
1st Cong. District	49	37	2	12	378
2nd Cong. District	39	43	2	16	384
1st E.C. District	33	41	2	24	156
2nd E.C. District	42	42	0	17	158
3rd E.C. District	46	41	2	11	159
4th E.C. District	57	35	1	7	147
5th E.C. District	44	38	5	13	134

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

	Jobs	Iraq	Terror	Educ.	Health Care	Medicare/ Rx Drugs	Social Security	Other	All Equal	Don't Know	(N=)
October 25-27	22%	22%	21%	3%	8%	2%	2%	11%	5%	3%	758
October 26-28 (Latest)	20%	24%	19%	3%	9%	2%	2%	12%	6%	2%	838
Democrat	26	33	2	5	11	3	3	10	6	1	338
Independent	24	22	11	3	14	0	4	13	7	3	119
Republican	14	16	38	2	5	2	2	13	6	2	364
Registered Democrat	25	34	2	4	8	3	3	13	6	1	222
Undeclared	21	26	14	4	13	2	3	10	5	2	279
Registered Republican	16	12	40	2	4	2	1	13	7	3	286
Not registered	18	35	7	1	10	4	0	21	4	0	46
Core GOP	13	13	42	2	5	2	1	14	6	2	317
Swing Voter	25	30	9	3	8	2	3	11	6	3	240
Core Dem.	24	32	2	5	13	3	3	11	6	1	281
Bush Voter	15	15	39	2	4	1	1	15	6	2	385
Kerry Voter	24	34	2	4	12	3	4	10	5	2	405
Male	22	21	23	2	7	2	3	13	6	1	401
Female	18	27	15	5	10	3	2	11	6	3	437
18 to 34	25	26	12	5	7	1	2	14	6	2	154
35 to 49	23	21	22	3	8	0	0	14	6	2	330
50 to 64	16	29	21	3	9	1	3	9	7	2	221
65 and over	16	21	19	2	8	12	7	11	3	2	116
North Country	19	24	13	5	14	8	1	8	9	0	76
Central / Lakes	20	21	18	3	10	1	1	15	10	2	140
Connecticut Valley	23	36	10	3	7	1	1	13	3	3	121
Mass Border	20	24	22	3	6	1	4	8	9	3	217
Seacoast	25	22	18	2	9	3	2	13	4	2	137
Manchester Area	15	19	27	4	10	3	3	15	2	1	147
Approve Bush as Pres.	15	15	37	2	5	2	1	15	7	2	394
Neither	15	17	6	15	0	5	12	14	9	6	19
Disapprove of Bush	25	33	3	4	12	3	3	9	5	2	421
1st Cong. District	20	19	21	4	7	3	4	15	6	2	422
2nd Cong. District	20	29	17	3	10	2	1	9	6	2	416
1st E.C. District	19	28	13	4	12	5	1	10	7	1	172
2nd E.C. District	21	26	18	3	9	1	2	13	7	2	165
3rd E.C. District	22	20	21	2	7	3	2	15	6	3	191
4th E.C. District	18	20	26	4	6	3	4	10	6	2	156
5th E.C. District	21	26	19	5	9	0	2	14	4	1	148

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

	Educ.	Taxes	Ethics in Gov.	Cost of Hlth. Ins.	Cuts in Services	Jobs/ Econ.	Health Care	Other	All Equal	Don't Know	(N=)
October 25-27	18%	28%	13%	7%	4%	15%	7%	3%	2%	3%	756
October 26-28 (Latest)	17%	29%	12%	7%	4%	13%	8%	4%	3%	3%	836
Democrat	22	18	13	6	7	14	11	5	2	2	336
Independent	21	28	13	12	0	13	6	0	4	3	119
Republican	11	41	11	5	3	13	6	4	3	3	363
Registered Democrat	18	17	19	4	6	17	10	4	3	2	222
Undeclared	22	29	11	9	3	11	9	3	2	2	277
Registered Republican	12	41	9	5	3	13	6	5	3	4	285
Not registered	10	25	11	15	3	12	11	1	2	9	46
Core GOP	11	43	9	5	3	14	6	5	3	3	317
Swing Voter	16	29	15	10	3	11	7	2	3	4	237
Core Dem.	25	15	14	5	7	14	12	5	3	2	281
Benson Voter	11	44	6	8	2	14	6	4	3	2	383
Lynch Voter	25	15	21	4	6	11	10	4	2	2	344
Male	14	35	13	8	3	12	6	4	3	2	400
Female	20	25	11	5	5	15	10	3	3	3	436
18 to 34	19	25	10	8	5	16	4	5	3	6	154
35 to 49	17	35	11	5	4	14	7	4	2	1	327
50 to 64	18	27	16	6	3	13	9	1	5	2	221
65 and over	14	23	12	11	6	7	16	6	3	3	116
North Country	23	14	8	10	5	18	14	3	3	2	76
Central / Lakes	11	29	13	4	7	17	6	6	4	3	140
Connecticut Valley	21	24	15	9	4	12	9	1	1	2	121
Mass Border	18	37	9	3	1	16	7	4	4	1	215
Seacoast	18	29	13	8	2	9	8	4	2	8	137
Manchester Area	14	31	15	9	6	9	8	3	3	2	147
1st Cong. District	14	30	11	8	4	13	8	4	2	4	422
2nd Cong. District	20	29	13	5	4	13	8	3	3	1	413
1st E.C. District	21	16	9	10	6	16	12	4	3	4	172
2nd E.C. District	15	32	13	4	5	13	8	3	4	2	165
3rd E.C. District	18	31	9	6	1	16	7	4	2	5	191
4th E.C. District	13	38	13	6	4	12	6	2	3	2	156
5th E.C. District	19	31	18	6	4	8	7	5	1	1	146