

GRANITE STATE POLL UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

NH INCUMBENTS IN GOOD POSITION FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

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FOR RELEASE
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DURHAM, NH -- Senator Judd Gregg and Congressmen Charlie Bass and Jeb Bradley all have strong favorability ratings in New Hampshire which will help position them for re-election in November.

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 eleven (511) randomly selected adults were interviewed by telephone between February 4 and February 12, 2004. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.3 percent. (For more detailed results, visit the Survey Center web site at www.unh.edu/survey-center and click on Press Releases.)

Senatorial Favorability

Eight months before the November 2004 election, Republican Senator Judd Gregg continues to be viewed favorably in New Hampshire. Currently, 63 percent of Granite Staters say they have a favorable opinion of Gregg, only 10 percent have an unfavorable opinion, 12 percent are neutral, and 15 percent don't know enough about him to say. Gregg's net favorability rating, the percentage having a favorable opinion of him minus those having an unfavorable opinion, is a very strong +53 percent. Gregg's favorability ratings have remained high for several years. "Incumbent senators are hard to beat and Senator Gregg's high favorability ratings are an indication that he has positioned himself well for reelection in November," said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. Senator Gregg receives solid support from both Democrats and Republicans.

Senator John Sununu, New Hampshire's junior Senator and also a Republican, is not as well liked as Gregg. But Sununu, who is not up for reelection until 2008, has solid favorability ratings. Currently, 52 percent say they have a favorable opinion of Sununu, 26 percent have an unfavorable opinion of him, 11 percent are neutral, and 12 percent do not know enough about him to say. Sununu's net favorability rating is +26 percentage points. "John Sununu is a much more polarizing senator than Judd Gregg. Republicans like very much like Sununu but Democrats and liberals are inclined to dislike him," stated Dr. Smith.

U.S. Representative Favorability

Second District Congressman, Republican Charlie Bass continues to receive modest favorability ratings statewide, but they have slipped in his District. Currently, 46 percent of New Hampshire adults say they have a favorable opinion of Bass, 16 percent have an unfavorable opinion, 12 percent are neutral, and 26 percent don't know enough about him to say. In the Second District, only 45 percent have a favorable opinion of him, 23 percent have an unfavorable opinion, 12 percent are neutral, and 20 percent say they don't know enough about him to say. Bass' net favorability rating is at +30 percent where it has been since last June but his net favorability rating in the Second District has dropped to +22 percent from +42 percent in October. "New Hampshire's Second Congressional District is more Democratic than the First District. Bass favorability ratings are down, in part, because of the beating all Republicans have taken in from candidates running in the New Hampshire Democratic Presidential primary," said Dr. Smith.

In the First District, first term Republican Jeb Bradley's favorability ratings have remained relatively unchanged since his election and he is still less well known than Congressman Bass. Thirty-four percent of Granite Staters have a favorable opinion of Bradley, 10 percent are unfavorable, 16 percent are neutral, and 39 percent do not know enough about him to say. In the First District, 41 percent have a favorable opinion of Bradley, 12 percent have an unfavorable opinion, 14 percent are neutral and 33 percent don't know enough about him to say. Statewide, Congressman Bradley's net favorability rating is +24 percent. In the First District Bradley's net favorability rating is +29 percent.

U.S. Right Track / Wrong Track

An important indicator of how people think the country is doing is the "right track - wrong track" question. New Hampshire adults are more pessimistic about the direction the United States is heading than they were in 2003. Currently, only 43 percent think the U.S. is headed in the right direction, 49 percent feel it is headed on the wrong track and 8 percent are unsure. In October, 51 percent believed the U.S. was headed in the right direction and only 43 percent thought things were off on the wrong track.

There is a significant partisan gap in where New Hampshirites feel the country is headed. Republicans and conservatives feel very strongly that the U.S. is on the right track, whereas Democrats and liberals are very uneasy about the path the country is on.

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 February 4 to February 12, 2004. A random sample of 511 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.

Favorability Rating - Senator Judd Gregg

"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. Senator Judd Gregg."

	<u>Oct. '01</u>	<u>Feb. '02</u>	<u>Apr. '02</u>	<u>June '02</u>	<u>Feb. '03</u>	<u>Apr. '03</u>	<u>June '03</u>	<u>Oct. '03</u>	<u>Feb. '04</u>
Favorable	62%	62%	60%	58%	58%	61%	58%	63%	63%
Neutral	9	9	6	10	8	8	10	8	12
Unfavorable	13	15	16	17	18	13	16	14	10
Don't Know	16	14	18	15	16	18	16	16	15
(N)	(679)	(724)	(691)	(638)	(652)	(507)	(514)	(496)	(509)

Favorability Rating - Senator John Sununu

"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. Senator John Sununu." (Respondents were asked about U.S. REPRESENTATIVE John Sununu from October 2001 to June 2002. He was elected Senator in November 2002.)

	<u>Oct. '01</u>	<u>Feb. '02</u>	<u>Apr. '02</u>	<u>June '02</u>	<u>Feb. '03</u>	<u>Apr. '03</u>	<u>June '03</u>	<u>Oct. '03</u>	<u>Feb. '04</u>
Favorable	63%	57%	55%	52%	55%	55%	48%	54%	52%
Neutral	8	9	7	10	9	9	11	10	11
Unfavorable	17	21	24	24	29	23	29	23	26
Don't Know	12	13	14	14	8	12	11	13	12
(N)	(681)	(724)	(693)	(639)	(651)	(507)	(513)	(495)	(510)

Favorability Rating - U.S. Representative Charlie Bass

"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. U.S. Representative Charlie Bass."

STATEWIDE	<u>Oct. '01</u>	<u>Feb. '02</u>	<u>Apr. '02</u>	<u>June '02</u>	<u>Feb. '03</u>	<u>Apr. '03</u>	<u>June '03</u>	<u>Oct. '03</u>	<u>Feb. '04</u>
Favorable	52%	52%	50%	46%	53%	50%	46%	53%	46%
Neutral	12	10	11	13	12	11	17	11	12
Unfavorable	13	15	14	14	15	11	15	14	16
Don't Know	24	23	25	26	21	29	22	23	26
(N)	(681)	(722)	(692)	(639)	(647)	(507)	(513)	(496)	(510)

2 nd C.D.	<u>Oct. '01</u>	<u>Feb. '02</u>	<u>Apr. '02</u>	<u>June '02</u>	<u>Feb. '03</u>	<u>Apr. '03</u>	<u>June '03</u>	<u>Oct. '03</u>	<u>Feb. '04</u>
Favorable	56%	59%	52%	53%	59%	49%	54%	59%	45%
Neutral	13	9	11	15	7	11	14	10	12
Unfavorable	15	16	18	18	19	13	15	17	23
Don't Know	17	17	19	15	16	27	17	14	20
(N)	(353)	(265)	(333)	(306)	(318)	(238)	(241)	(259)	(265)

Favorability Rating - U.S. Representative Jeb Bradley

"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. U.S. Representative Jeb Bradley."

STATEWIDE	<u>Feb. '03</u>	<u>Apr. '03</u>	<u>June '03</u>	<u>Oct. '03</u>	<u>Feb. '04</u>
Favorable	39%	38%	37%	35%	34%
Neutral	14	11	20	15	16
Unfavorable	9	9	14	10	10
Don't Know	38	42	29	41	39
(N)	(649)	(507)	(514)	(495)	(510)

1st C.D.	<u>Feb. '03</u>	<u>Apr. '03</u>	<u>June '03</u>	<u>Oct. '03</u>	<u>Feb. '04</u>
Favorable	44%	44%	41%	40%	41%
Neutral	15	11	23	13	14
Unfavorable	10	9	14	12	12
Don't Know	31	37	22	35	33
(N)	(331)	(269)	(273)	(239)	(265)

Net Favorability Ratings

	<u>Oct. '01</u>	<u>Feb. '02</u>	<u>Apr. '02</u>	<u>June '02</u>	<u>Feb. '03</u>	<u>Apr. '03</u>	<u>June '03</u>	<u>Oct. '03</u>	<u>Feb. '04</u>
Bass (State)	+39%	+37%	+36%	+36%	+38%	+39%	+31%	+30	+30
Bass (2 nd CD)	+41	+43	+34	+37	+40	+36	+39	+42	+22
Bradley (State)	--	--	--	--	+30	+29	+23	+25	+24
Bradley (1 st CD)	--	--	--	--	+34	+35	+27	+28	+29
Gregg	+49	+47	+44	+40	+40	+48	+42	+49	+53
Sununu	+46	+36	+31	+27	+26	+32	+19	+31	+26

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>June 2003</u>	<u>Oct. 2003</u>	<u>Feb. 2004</u>
Right Direction	56%	51%	43%
Wrong Track	38	43	49
Don't know	5	6	8
(N=)	(511)	(487)	(503)

Favorability Rating - Judd Gregg

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 63%	<u>Neutral</u> 12%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 10%	<u>Don't Know</u> 15%	<u>(N)</u> 509
Registered Democrat	57	17	20	7	115
Undeclared	56	14	9	21	278
Registered Republican	89	4	1	6	114
Democrat	49	17	18	15	226
Independent	65	17	2	17	90
Republican	82	4	3	11	182
Liberal	51	14	19	16	116
Moderate	60	15	10	15	211
Conservative	81	6	4	9	137
Union household	61	13	14	12	60
Non-union	63	12	9	15	445
5 Years or less in NH	39	18	3	39	77
6 to 10 years	45	17	7	32	42
11 to 20 years	68	11	9	12	98
More than 20 years	70	11	12	7	286
18 to 34	50	16	5	28	114
33 to 49	68	9	8	15	172
50 to 64	57	15	17	11	131
65 and over	83	10	5	2	76
Male	65	12	9	14	244
Female	62	13	10	15	265
High school or less	66	8	7	18	127
Some college	63	11	13	13	129
College graduate	67	11	6	16	150
Post-graduate	53	22	14	11	99
Less than \$30K	66	11	10	12	58
\$30K to \$60K	61	17	11	11	153
\$60K to \$75K	58	13	12	16	59
\$75K to \$100K	62	10	8	19	54
More than \$100K	68	10	10	12	83
Married	65	14	9	12	348
Divorced/separated	65	5	12	18	81
Never married	48	16	11	24	72
Protestant	69	12	9	10	199
Catholic	67	9	9	15	155
Other	49	17	12	21	140
Northern NH	61	14	11	14	68
Western NH	57	13	12	19	48
Central/Lakes	70	12	8	10	80
Hillsborough County	61	10	11	18	154
Seacoast	65	14	9	13	159
1st Cong. District	64	10	10	16	265
2nd Cong. District	63	15	10	13	244
1st E.C. District	62	12	12	14	99
2nd E.C. District	67	14	7	11	104
3rd E.C. District	62	14	11	13	101
4th E.C. District	61	11	11	17	102
5th E.C. District	62	11	8	19	97

Favorability Rating - John Sununu

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 52%	<u>Neutral</u> 11%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 26%	<u>Don't Know</u> 12%	<u>(N)</u> 510
Registered Democrat	37	13	43	6	115
Undeclared	48	11	25	17	277
Registered Republican	77	7	10	6	115
Democrat	34	11	45	10	225
Independent	47	15	15	23	90
Republican	77	8	8	7	184
Liberal	35	13	43	9	116
Moderate	51	13	25	12	211
Conservative	72	7	13	8	138
Union household	39	12	41	8	60
Non-union	54	11	24	12	445
5 Years or less in NH	46	12	23	19	77
6 to 10 years	53	11	21	15	42
11 to 20 years	53	9	26	13	98
More than 20 years	52	11	27	9	288
18 to 34	48	13	19	20	114
33 to 49	56	9	22	13	173
50 to 64	45	13	34	8	131
65 and over	61	11	23	6	76
Male	55	11	23	11	245
Female	49	10	28	12	265
High school or less	54	11	22	13	127
Some college	56	8	23	13	129
College graduate	56	11	21	11	152
Post-graduate	37	12	40	10	99
Less than \$30K	46	16	32	7	58
\$30K to \$60K	51	12	28	9	153
\$60K to \$75K	47	9	29	15	59
\$75K to \$100K	43	11	28	18	54
More than \$100K	60	12	20	8	83
Married	52	11	26	10	350
Divorced/separated	58	9	23	11	81
Never married	43	10	25	22	72
Protestant	63	7	23	7	200
Catholic	51	10	25	14	155
Other	36	16	31	17	140
Northern NH	50	20	19	11	68
Western NH	43	14	34	10	47
Central/Lakes	61	12	23	4	80
Hillsborough County	45	8	28	19	155
Seacoast	58	7	25	10	159
1st Cong. District	56	9	24	11	265
2nd Cong. District	47	12	28	13	245
1st E.C. District	54	16	21	9	99
2nd E.C. District	52	11	23	14	105
3rd E.C. District	58	7	28	7	101
4th E.C. District	53	5	28	14	102
5th E.C. District	40	13	30	17	96

Favorability Rating - Charlie Bass

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 46%	<u>Neutral</u> 12%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 16%	<u>Don't Know</u> 26%	<u>(N)</u> 510
Registered Democrat	40	17	27	16	115
Undeclared	43	10	14	32	278
Registered Republican	61	11	7	21	115
Democrat	41	13	24	22	226
Independent	46	9	13	32	90
Republican	55	11	8	26	184
Liberal	32	14	25	30	116
Moderate	50	13	14	22	211
Conservative	56	9	11	24	138
Union household	46	13	22	19	60
Non-union	47	12	15	27	446
5 Years or less in NH	27	11	14	48	77
6 to 10 years	50	4	11	35	42
11 to 20 years	40	15	16	29	98
More than 20 years	53	12	17	18	288
18 to 34	35	11	9	45	114
33 to 49	45	13	15	28	174
50 to 64	47	15	23	15	131
65 and over	63	6	18	13	76
Male	50	13	17	21	246
Female	44	11	15	30	265
High school or less	53	9	15	23	127
Some college	42	8	14	35	129
College graduate	50	14	13	23	152
Post-graduate	39	16	23	22	99
Less than \$30K	45	17	18	21	58
\$30K to \$60K	50	10	19	21	153
\$60K to \$75K	36	22	13	28	59
\$75K to \$100K	57	5	11	26	54
More than \$100K	46	15	18	22	83
Married	48	14	15	22	350
Divorced/separated	47	7	17	29	81
Never married	37	9	15	39	72
Protestant	55	12	15	17	201
Catholic	50	9	15	26	155
Other	31	14	17	38	140
Northern NH	49	15	15	21	68
Western NH	41	10	30	19	48
Central/Lakes	62	9	11	18	80
Hillsborough County	44	10	20	25	155
Seacoast	41	14	10	35	159
1st Cong. District	48	11	9	32	265
2nd Cong. District	45	12	23	20	245
1st E.C. District	49	12	17	22	99
2nd E.C. District	45	10	16	29	105
3rd E.C. District	41	14	12	34	101
4th E.C. District	48	13	12	27	102
5th E.C. District	49	8	23	20	97

Favorability Rating - Jeb Bradley

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 34%	<u>Neutral</u> 16%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 10%	<u>Don't Know</u> 39%	<u>(N)</u> 510
Registered Democrat	33	19	18	29	115
Undeclared	29	17	9	45	278
Registered Republican	47	11	7	35	115
Democrat	33	18	15	35	226
Independent	22	23	7	47	90
Republican	42	11	7	39	184
Liberal	22	17	17	43	116
Moderate	35	20	9	36	211
Conservative	48	8	9	35	138
Union household	32	21	17	30	60
Non-union	35	15	10	40	446
5 Years or less in NH	21	19	8	52	77
6 to 10 years	31	17	16	36	42
11 to 20 years	26	16	8	50	98
More than 20 years	41	15	11	33	288
18 to 34	32	13	13	42	114
33 to 49	38	17	5	40	174
50 to 64	29	18	16	36	131
65 and over	40	11	9	40	76
Male	35	18	11	36	246
Female	34	14	10	42	265
High school or less	40	12	6	42	127
Some college	33	16	15	36	129
College graduate	38	13	11	37	152
Post-graduate	22	26	9	43	99
Less than \$30K	45	15	9	31	58
\$30K to \$60K	35	17	11	36	153
\$60K to \$75K	21	15	14	50	59
\$75K to \$100K	42	18	6	35	54
More than \$100K	33	19	16	32	83
Married	34	18	10	37	350
Divorced/separated	42	12	5	40	81
Never married	27	10	20	43	72
Protestant	43	13	9	34	201
Catholic	35	14	11	40	155
Other	22	20	11	46	140
Northern NH	34	20	6	39	68
Western NH	26	11	4	60	48
Central/Lakes	40	16	11	33	80
Hillsborough County	25	15	15	45	155
Seacoast	44	16	10	30	159
1st Cong. District	41	14	12	33	265
2nd Cong. District	27	18	9	46	245
1st E.C. District	37	17	7	39	99
2nd E.C. District	38	22	6	34	105
3rd E.C. District	40	14	12	33	101
4th E.C. District	34	11	16	39	102
5th E.C. District	22	16	12	49	97

U.S. On Right Track or Wrong Track

	<u>Right Direction</u>	<u>Wrong Track</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>(N)</u>
	43%	49%	8%	503
STATEWIDE				
Registered Democrat	23	71	6	113
Undeclared	43	48	9	273
Registered Republican	64	30	6	114
Democrat	25	67	8	222
Independent	40	50	10	88
Republican	66	27	7	181
Liberal	24	69	7	115
Moderate	44	49	7	207
Conservative	62	31	7	137
Union household	49	49	2	58
Non-union	43	49	8	440
5 Years or less in NH	37	54	9	77
6 to 10 years	57	35	8	42
11 to 20 years	41	51	8	98
More than 20 years	43	50	7	281
18 to 34	49	39	11	114
33 to 49	47	48	5	168
50 to 64	39	56	5	130
65 and over	36	50	14	76
Male	48	46	6	243
Female	39	51	9	260
High school or less	48	40	12	126
Some college	39	50	10	127
College graduate	48	48	3	148
Post-graduate	35	60	5	99
Less than \$30K	33	54	13	57
\$30K to \$60K	40	49	11	152
\$60K to \$75K	46	50	4	58
\$75K to \$100K	48	46	6	52
More than \$100K	55	43	2	83
Married	44	48	8	343
Divorced/separated	42	50	8	80
Never married	42	53	5	72
Protestant	44	48	8	198
Catholic	46	47	6	152
Other	41	51	8	138
Northern NH	42	51	7	68
Western NH	33	61	6	47
Central/Lakes	38	51	11	80
Hillsborough County	45	49	6	152
Seacoast	48	43	9	157
1st Cong. District	49	44	7	264
2nd Cong. District	37	54	8	238
1st E.C. District	38	53	8	99
2nd E.C. District	43	46	11	103
3rd E.C. District	43	47	10	99
4th E.C. District	53	44	3	101
5th E.C. District	38	56	6	94