

THE USA TODAY / CNN NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION POLL

University of New Hampshire Survey Center

TOO CLOSE TO CALL

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DURHAM, NH -- The race for U.S. Senate from New Hampshire between Republican John Sununu and Democrat Jeanne Shaheen is too close to call. However, Republicans should win both House seats as well as the Governor's office.

These findings are based on the latest **USA Today / CNN New Hampshire Election Poll**, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Six hundred fifty-eight (658) New Hampshire likely voters were interviewed between October 30 and November 2, 2002 (margin of sampling error, +/-3.8 percent). Included in this sample are 320 likely voters in the 1st Congressional district (margin of sampling error, +/- 5.5 percent) and 338 likely voters in the 2nd Congressional district (margin of sampling error, +/- 5.3 percent). (For more detailed results, visit the Survey Center web site at www.unh.edu/survey-center and click on Press Releases.)

U.S. SENATE

The race for U.S. Senate in New Hampshire is heading down to the wire. With two days left until the election, Congressman John Sununu has a 1 percentage point lead over Governor Jeanne Shaheen in a race that may determine control of the U.S. Senate. Among likely voters, 46 percent say they will vote for Sununu, 45 percent say they will vote for Shaheen, 4 percent favor Libertarian Ken Blevens, 2 percent favor some other candidate, and 2 percent are undecided. Sununu is on a bit of a roll in the final days of the campaign. In a recent WMUR / UNH Poll released on October 31, he trailed Shaheen by 46 percent to 42 percent.

Sununu and Shaheen have both locked up most of their party base and the battle for the Senate seat will be fought over the votes of swing voters. Among swing voters, those voters who do not vote consistently for Democrats or Republicans, Shaheen leads by 49 percent to 31 percent. "Shaheen has a definite edge among swing voters, but she has to win this important group by a large margin to overcome the Republicans edge in registration," said UNH Survey Center Director Andrew Smith. Among likely voters who are registered as Undeclared (sometimes referred to as "Independent") Shaheen is leading by 47 percent to 38 percent.

Sununu voters say the most important issues in the Senate race are taxes (30%), the economy (21%), and Social Security and Medicare (13%). Shaheen voters say the most important issues in the Senate race are the economy (28%), Social Security and Medicare (19%), the possible war with Iraq (16%), and health care (15%).

FINAL SENATE PROJECTION

When undecided voters are allocated to the candidates they are most likely to support, Sununu winds up with 47 percent of the vote, Shaheen ends up with 46 percent, Blevens with 4 percent, and other candidates with 2 percent.

1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

In the race for John Sununu's seat in New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, Republican Jeb Bradley holds a 49 percent to 43 percent lead over Democrat Martha Fuller Clark, with 2 percent favoring Libertarian Dan Belforti, 2 percent

favoring some other candidate, and 5 percent undecided. After undecided votes are allocated, Bradley leads 51 percent to 45 percent, which should be enough for him to win. However, undecided voters have been breaking for Clark in recent days and she has cut into Bradley's lead. In a WMUR / UNH Poll released earlier this week, Bradley was leading Clark 49 percent to 31 percent. Among the always important swing voters, Bradley leads Clark 45 percent to 36 percent.

2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

In the 2nd District, incumbent Republican Charlie Bass holds a comfortable lead over his Democratic challenger, Katrina Swett. Fifty-eight percent of likely voters in the 2nd District say they will vote for Bass, 28 percent say they will vote for Swett, 3 percent favor Libertarian Rosalie Babiarz, 1 percent favor some other candidate, and 10 percent are undecided. After undecided votes are allocated, Bass lead Swett 62 percent to 34 percent. Bass' lead is outside the poll's margin of error and he will likely be reelected.

GOVERNOR

In the race for Governor, Republican Craig Benson holds a 52 percent to 38 percent lead over Democrat Mark Fernald with 3 percent favoring Libertarian John Babiarz, 1 percent favor some other candidate, and 6 percent are undecided. When undecided votes are allocated, Benson leads Fernald 56 percent to 40 percent. Benson has led Fernald since the September primary will likely win the election.

USA Today / CNN New Hampshire Election Poll

These findings are based on the **USA Today / CNN New Hampshire Election Poll**, a random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center from October 30 to November 2, 2002. A random sample of 658 likely voters in New Hampshire was interviewed. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 3.8 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, the likelihood of voting in the November election, 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.

Respondents to the USA Today / CNN New Hampshire Election Poll were asked:

- "Suppose the election for U.S. Senate were being held TODAY. If you had to choose between John Sununu, the Republican ... Jeanne Shaheen, the Democrat ... or Ken Blevens, the Libertarian ... who would you vote for? ROTATE CANDIDATES (IF OTHER, UNDECIDED, NEITHER, DK): "As of today, do you LEAN more toward Sununu, the Republican ... Blevens, the Libertarian ... or Shaheen the Democrat?"
- "Which ONE of the following issues is MOST important to you when you think about your vote for Senator this year ... economic conditions ... health care ... the possibility of war with Iraq ... Social Security or Medicare ... terrorism ... or taxes?" ROTATE RESPONSES
- ASK TO RESIDENTS OF 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: "Now I'd like you to think about the election for your representative to the U.S. Congress. Do you plan to vote for Jeb Bradley, the Republican ... Martha Fuller Clark, the Democrat ... or Dan Belforti (BELL-FORT-EE), the Libertarian?" ROTATE (IF OTHER, UNDECIDED, NEITHER, DK): "As of today, do you LEAN more toward Bradley, the Republican ... Belforti, the Libertarian ... or Clark the Democrat?"
- ASK OF RESIDENTS OF 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: "Now I'd like you to think about the election for your representative to the U.S. Congress. Do you plan to vote for Charlie Bass, the Republican ... Katrina Swett, the Democrat ... or Rosalie Babiarz (BAB-EE-ARZ), the Libertarian?" ROTATE (IF OTHER, UNDECIDED, NEITHER, DK): "As of today, do you LEAN more toward Bass, the Republican ... Babiarz, the Libertarian ... or Swett the Democrat?"
- "Suppose the election for New Hampshire Governor was being held TODAY. Would you vote for Craig Benson, the Republican ... Mark Fernald, the Democrat ... or John Babiarz, the Libertarian?" ROTATE (IF OTHER, UNDECIDED, NEITHER, DK): "As of today, do you lean more toward Fernald, the Democrat ... Babiarz, the Libertarian ... or Benson, the Republican?"

U.S. Senate Election - Sununu vs. Shaheen

	Registered Voters		Likely Voters					Undecideds
	<u>Oct. '01¹</u>	<u>Feb '02¹</u>	<u>Apr. '02¹</u>	<u>June '02¹</u>	<u>Oct. 3-8²</u>	<u>Oct. 23-29²</u>	<u>Oct. 30-Nov. 2³</u>	<u>Allocated³</u>
Shaheen (D)	38%	42%	42%	42%	47%	46%	45%	46%
Sununu (R)	50	49	50	51	44	42	46	47
Blevens (L)	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	4
Other	3	4	2	3	3	2	2	2
Undecided (N)	9 (505)	6 (554)	6 (526)	4 (529)	6 (590)	7 (648)	2 (644)	2 (644)

¹ Granite State Poll - UNH Survey Center

² WMUR / UNH Poll - UNH Survey Center

³ USA Today / CNN New Hampshire Election Poll - UNH Survey Center

First Congressional District

	<u>Oct. 3-8</u>	<u>Oct. 23-29</u>	<u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 2</u>	<u>Undecideds Allocated</u>
Bradley (R)	47%	49%	49%	51%
Clark (D)	34	31	43	45
Belforti (L)	1	2	2	2
Other	5	3	2	2
Don't Know	13	15	5	
	(N=298)	(N=316)	(N=305)	(N=305)

Second Congressional District

	<u>June '02</u>	<u>Oct. 3-8</u>	<u>Oct. 23-29</u>	<u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 2</u>	<u>Undecideds Allocated</u>
Bass (R)	58%	52%	47%	58%	62%
Swett (D)	32	30	41	28	34
Babiarz (L)	-	1	3	3	3
Other	2	5	1	1	1
Don't Know	8	14	8	10	
	(N=258)	(N=266)	(N=309)	(N=335)	(N=335)

NH Gubernatorial Election

	<u>June '02</u>	<u>Oct. 3-8</u>	<u>Oct. 23-29</u>	<u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 2</u>	<u>Undecideds Allocated</u>
Benson (R)	48%	49%	49%	52%	56%
Fernald (D)	35	33	37	38	40
Babiarz	--	2	2	3	4
Other	2	4	2	1	*
Undecided	15	11	10	6	
	(N=518)	(N=612)	(N=651)	(N=642)	(N=642)

U.S. Senate - Likely Voters

	<u>Sununu</u>	<u>Shaheen</u>	<u>Blevens</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N)</u>
STATEWIDE Oct. 23-29	42%	46%	2%	2%	7%	648
STATEWIDE Oct. 30 - Nov. 2	46%	45%	4%	2%	2%	644
Core Republican	88	6	2	2	1	269
Swing Voter	31	49	11	4	5	162
Core Democrat	5	92	1	1	0	212
Registered Democrat	11	85	2	1	0	164
Undeclared	38	47	8	3	4	246
Registered Republican	79	15	2	2	2	232
Democrat ID	11	87	1	1	0	244
Independent ID	19	51	17	7	7	94
Republican ID	83	10	2	2	2	300
May vote	38	36	10	4	12	6
Will vote unless emergency	39	51	2	4	4	129
Will definitely vote	48	44	5	2	1	508
Extremely interested in election	47	48	2	2	1	178
Very interested	49	42	5	2	2	328
Somewhat interested	39	48	4	4	5	122
Not very interested	29	58	5	3	4	16
Economic conditions	41	56	1	0	3	99
Health care	26	60	2	10	3	51
War with Iraq	34	51	15	0	0	63
Social Security/Medicare	39	58	2	0	1	66
Terrorism	58	26	9	1	5	31
Taxes	73	23	2	2	1	80
Other	39	48	0	13	0	28
1st District	45	47	3	2	2	311
2nd District	47	44	5	3	2	332
Northern NH	33	58	4	5	0	91
Western NH	47	43	5	3	2	62
Central/Lakes	52	42	4	2	0	114
Hillsborough County	52	40	3	2	3	188
Seacoast	44	48	4	2	3	188
Male	48	42	5	4	1	308
Female	44	49	3	1	3	335
18 to 29	44	42	10	1	3	63
30 to 39	67	27	2	2	2	90
40 to 49	45	44	6	3	2	153
50 to 59	31	57	6	3	3	132
60 to 69	42	53	0	3	2	90
70 and over	56	43	1	0	0	101

Most Important Issue in Senate Race

STATEWIDE	<u>Economy</u>	<u>Health Care</u>	<u>War w/ Iraq</u>	<u>Soc.Sec. Medicare</u>	<u>Terror-ism</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
	23%	12%	15%	16%	7%	18%	7%	2%	435
Sununu voters	21	7	11	13	9	30	6	2	191
Shaheen voters	28	15	16	19	4	9	7	1	199
Blevens voters	5	5	55	9	17	8	0	0	17
Other	0	42	0	0	2	16	31	8	12
Undecided	37	17	3	6	22	7	0	9	8
Core Republican	21	9	12	13	12	26	5	2	178
Swing Voter	20	14	18	13	8	18	8	2	109
Core Democrat	28	14	17	21	1	9	8	1	148
Registered Democrat	24	8	19	25	2	13	7	2	113
Undeclared	26	16	15	13	6	17	5	2	169
Registered Republican	19	10	12	12	12	24	9	1	153
Democrat ID	27	15	16	21	2	11	7	1	170
Independent ID	14	14	22	8	8	19	11	3	65
Republican ID	23	8	13	13	11	25	6	2	197
May vote	22	9	8	18	12	29	2	0	5
Will vote unless emergency	25	5	15	15	8	28	3	1	85
Will definitely vote	22	13	15	16	7	16	8	2	345
Extremely interested in election	19	10	19	12	7	21	8	3	121
Very interested	23	13	14	16	8	16	9	1	220
Somewhat interested	29	7	14	22	5	21	0	1	79
Not very interested	21	27	5	16	4	25	0	3	14
1st District	18	12	13	20	8	22	3	2	219
2nd District	28	11	17	11	6	15	11	1	215
Northern NH	28	11	26	11	6	10	9	0	66
Western NH	22	12	18	4	10	18	16	0	35
Central/Lakes	26	8	10	18	4	23	9	1	68
Hillsborough County	20	15	12	17	7	19	6	4	136
Seacoast	22	10	15	19	8	20	4	1	129
Male	22	11	15	12	10	20	8	3	224
Female	24	13	16	20	4	17	6	1	211
18 to 29	48	0	22	8	9	8	3	2	42
30 to 39	28	10	9	1	2	35	11	4	57
40 to 49	29	14	10	9	8	21	7	2	116
50 to 59	18	18	14	19	6	15	9	1	87
60 to 69	16	11	16	28	10	17	1	1	56
70 and over	7	10	24	33	5	14	6	0	66

U.S. Congress 1st District - Likely Voters

	<u>Bradley</u>	<u>Clark</u>	<u>Belforti</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N)</u>
STATEWIDE Oct. 23-29	49%	31%	2%	3%	15%	316
STATEWIDE Oct. 30-Nov. 2	49%	43%	2%	2%	5%	305
Core Republican	90	4	2	1	3	123
Swing Voter	45	36	4	0	15	68
Core Democrat	6	88	0	4	2	114
Registered Democrat	14	79	0	4	2	94
Undeclared	44	43	4	0	8	115
Registered Republican	87	6	2	1	4	97
Democrat ID	10	82	0	3	4	126
Independent ID	52	28	6	1	13	42
Republican ID	83	11	2	1	4	135
May vote	55	21	24	0	0	3
Will vote unless emergency	48	41	1	2	8	64
Will definitely vote	49	43	2	2	4	239
Extremely interested in election	52	42	0	2	3	90
Very interested	47	45	2	1	6	152
Somewhat interested	51	37	4	2	5	58
Not very interested	20	53	0	9	18	5
Northern NH	63	30	0	5	2	32
Central/Lakes	67	29	0	2	2	34
Hillsborough County	42	53	0	1	5	78
Seacoast	45	43	3	2	7	161
Male	56	37	1	1	5	152
Female	42	48	2	3	5	154
18 to 29	51	41	4	4	0	24
30 to 39	63	29	0	0	8	41
40 to 49	50	39	2	2	7	70
50 to 59	41	48	5	4	2	67
60 to 69	46	50	1	1	2	43
70 and over	44	47	0	0	9	52

U.S. Congress 2nd District - Likely Voters

	<u>Bass</u>	<u>Swett</u>	<u>Babiarz</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N)</u>
STATEWIDE Oct. 23-29	47%	41%	3%	1%	8%	309
STATEWIDE Oct. 30-Nov. 2	58%	29%	3%	1%	10%	335
Core Republican	92	4	0	0	4	145
Swing Voter	55	16	7	3	18	93
Core Democrat	10	77	2	0	11	97
Registered Democrat	18	71	3	0	8	71
Undeclared	48	31	5	1	15	128
Registered Republican	88	5	0	1	6	137
Democrat ID	23	63	2	1	11	118
Independent ID	46	17	11	3	24	53
Republican ID	89	7	0	0	3	161
May vote	69	21	0	7	3	4
Will vote unless emergency	45	30	3	0	22	64
Will definitely vote	61	28	3	1	7	267
Extremely interested in election	59	37	0	0	3	89
Very interested	62	24	3	1	10	175
Somewhat interested	48	31	5	2	13	60
Not very interested	35	16	6	2	40	11
Northern NH	53	27	2	3	16	59
Western NH	60	31	1	0	8	62
Central/Lakes	49	35	3	0	13	79
Hillsborough County	64	25	5	0	7	110
Male	66	23	4	1	6	155
Female	52	33	2	1	13	180
18 to 29	59	26	10	1	5	37
30 to 39	67	22	1	0	10	48
40 to 49	55	28	4	0	13	83
50 to 59	47	39	2	2	10	65
60 to 69	49	42	0	0	9	48
70 and over	77	11	0	3	8	47

NH Governor - Likely Voters

	<u>Benson</u>	<u>Fernald</u>	<u>Babiarz</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N)</u>
STATEWIDE Oct. 23-29	49%	37%	2%	2%	10%	651
STATEWIDE Oct. 30-Nov. 2	52%	38%	3%	1%	6%	642
Core Republican	89	7	1	0	2	266
Swing Voter	50	25	10	0	15	164
Core Democrat	8	86	1	1	4	211
Registered Democrat	14	78	3	1	4	165
Undeclared	51	34	6	0	9	245
Registered Republican	81	13	2	1	5	231
Democrat ID	16	77	2	1	3	244
Independent ID	45	21	10	0	23	97
Republican ID	84	10	2	0	2	296
May vote	56	17	10	4	13	6
Will vote unless emergency	47	39	4	0	10	129
Will definitely vote	54	37	3	1	5	507
Extremely interested in election	51	43	3	1	3	180
Very interested	57	34	3	0	5	323
Somewhat interested	45	38	5	1	11	122
Not very interested	32	45	4	0	18	16
1st District	50	38	3	1	8	313
2nd District	55	37	3	0	4	329
Northern NH	42	42	5	0	11	91
Western NH	47	44	4	0	5	62
Central/Lakes	57	38	2	1	2	111
Hillsborough County	60	29	3	0	8	188
Seacoast	48	42	4	1	4	190
Male	59	33	4	0	4	305
Female	47	42	3	1	7	336
18 to 29	55	36	5	0	4	63
30 to 39	71	24	0	0	5	89
40 to 49	51	35	5	2	7	152
50 to 59	39	51	6	0	4	131
60 to 69	49	40	2	0	9	91
70 and over	57	35	1	0	7	101

NH Senate - Likely Voters

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N)</u>
STATEWIDE Oct. 23-29	43%	39%	19%	628
STATEWIDE Oct. 30-Nov. 2	48%	39%	13%	606
Core Republican	91	3	6	265
Swing Voter	30	33	37	136
Core Democrat	4	90	5	205
Registered Democrat	6	88	6	160
Undeclared	40	37	23	215
Registered Republican	85	8	7	231
Democrat ID	9	84	7	229
Independent ID	31	30	39	83
Republican ID	84	6	10	289
May vote	44	33	23	5
Will vote unless emergency	40	42	18	121
Will definitely vote	50	39	11	480
Extremely interested in election	49	45	6	170
Very interested	51	35	14	312
Somewhat interested	40	41	19	109
Not very interested	30	44	27	15
1st District	45	40	14	291
2nd District	51	38	11	315
Northern NH	38	42	20	86
Western NH	57	36	7	61
Central/Lakes	52	38	10	109
Hillsborough County	52	36	12	176
Seacoast	43	43	14	173
Male	53	33	13	284
Female	43	45	12	322
18 to 29	50	40	10	57
30 to 39	54	31	15	87
40 to 49	51	38	11	140
50 to 59	29	49	21	121
60 to 69	46	43	11	87
70 and over	58	34	8	96

NH House - Likely Voters

	<u>Republican</u> 42%	<u>Democrat</u> 37%	<u>Undecided</u> 20%	<u>(N)</u> 601
STATEWIDE Oct. 23-29				
STATEWIDE Oct. 30-Nov. 2	47%	38%	15%	598
Core Republican	92	1	7	263
Swing Voter	30	31	40	132
Core Democrat	1	91	8	202
Registered Democrat	5	86	9	157
Undeclared	37	39	25	215
Registered Republican	87	4	9	226
Democrat ID	4	84	12	225
Independent ID	27	32	42	80
Republican ID	87	4	9	289
May vote	31	39	30	4
Will vote unless emergency	44	39	17	117
Will definitely vote	48	38	14	476
Extremely interested in election	48	44	8	171
Very interested	51	32	18	304
Somewhat interested	37	44	18	110
Not very interested	40	50	10	12
1st District	44	41	16	291
2nd District	51	35	14	307
Northern NH	47	38	15	83
Western NH	51	35	14	64
Central/Lakes	48	37	14	103
Hillsborough County	48	35	17	172
Seacoast	46	42	13	176
Male	52	33	15	286
Female	43	42	14	312
18 to 29	47	42	11	56
30 to 39	59	27	14	82
40 to 49	50	40	10	139
50 to 59	34	42	24	122
60 to 69	43	45	12	86
70 and over	55	32	13	95

Presidential Approval Rating - George W. Bush

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 69%	<u>Neutral</u> 3%	<u>Disapprove</u> 28%	<u>(N=)</u> 460
Sununu voters	97	1	2	205
Shaheen voters	43	3	54	210
Blevens voters	56	1	44	17
Other	66	19	16	11
Undecided	97	0	3	8
Core Republican	96	2	2	192
Swing Voter	70	5	25	112
Core Democrat	36	3	61	157
Registered Democrat	45	3	52	119
Undeclared	64	4	31	178
Registered Republican	92	2	7	164
Democrat ID	40	3	57	179
Independent ID	67	9	25	68
Republican ID	95	1	4	209
May vote	74	5	21	5
Will vote unless emergency	68	7	26	94
Will definitely vote	69	2	28	362
Extremely interested in election	64	4	32	128
Very interested	70	1	28	231
Somewhat interested	75	4	21	88
Not very interested	61	12	27	14
1st District	71	3	27	230
2nd District	67	3	29	231
Northern NH	62	5	33	68
Western NH	60	2	38	39
Central/Lakes	70	3	27	77
Hillsborough County	73	2	24	144
Seacoast	70	4	26	132
Male	71	2	27	227
Female	68	4	28	234
18 to 29	73	1	26	44
30 to 39	81	0	19	60
40 to 49	63	5	32	117
50 to 59	61	6	33	96
60 to 69	73	2	26	60
70 and over	73	2	26	69