

# THE WMUR / UNH POLL

University of New Hampshire

## GOP CANDIDATES LEAD IN BOTH CONGRESSIONAL RACES

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**FOR RELEASE**  
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DURHAM, NH -- Republicans Jeb Bradley continues to hold a sizeable lead over Democrat Martha Fuller Clark in the race for New Hampshire's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. Incumbent Republican Charlie Bass has seen his lead over Democrat Katrina Swett shrink in the race for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District seat.

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR / UNH Poll**, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. The WMUR / UNH Poll is sponsored by WMUR-TV of Manchester, New Hampshire. Six hundred eighty (680) New Hampshire likely voters were interviewed between October 3 and October 8, 2002 (margin of sampling error, +/-4 percent). Included in this sample are 316 likely voters in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District (margin of sampling error, +/-5.5 percent) and 309 likely voters in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District (margin of sampling error, +/-5.5 percent). (For more detailed results, visit the Survey Center web site at [www.unh.edu/survey-center](http://www.unh.edu/survey-center) and click on Press Releases.)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District

In New Hampshire's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, Democratic State Representative Martha Fuller Clark is running against Republican State Representative Jeb Bradley. In the most recent WMUR / UNH Poll, Bradley holds a sizeable lead over Clark. Currently, 49 percent of likely voters in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District support Bradley, 31 percent support Clark, 2 percent support Libertarian Dan Belforti, 3 percent support some other candidate, and 15 percent are undecided. Bradley has widened his lead over Clark since early October when he led 47 percent to 34 percent.

"Clark ran against John E. Sununu for this seat in 2000, but early her advantages in name recognition and fundraising have not been enough to overcome the fact that there are simply more Republicans than Democrats in the 1<sup>st</sup> District" said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. Clark has not been able to narrow the gap by winning over swing voters, those who do not consistently vote for Democrats or Republicans. Swing voters favor Bradley by 45 percent to 27 percent.

Clark gets her strongest support from Democrats and supporters of legal abortions. Bradley's strongest support comes from Republicans, newcomers to New Hampshire, abortion opponents, and gun owners.

Bradley also holds sizeable leads among both men and women in the 1<sup>st</sup> District.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District

Incumbent Republican Charlie Bass has seen his once comfortable lead over Democrat Katrina Swett in shrink in New Hampshire's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District. In the most recent WMUR / UNH Poll, 47 percent of likely voters in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District support Bass, 41 percent support Swett, 3 percent favor Libertarian Rosalie Babiarez, 1 percent support some other candidate, and 8 percent are undecided. Support for Bass has declined steadily since June when 58 percent of likely voters said they planned to vote for Bass and 32 percent favored Swett. In a WMUR / UNH Poll earlier in October, Bass lead Swett by 52 percent to 30 percent.

“The drop in support for Bass is an indication that the Swett campaign has hit its stride. It will still be very difficult for them to upset an incumbent, but they have come a long way in narrowing the gap” said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. Among swing voters, Bass leads Swett by 54 percent to 25 percent.

Bass gets his strongest support from Republicans, gun owners, and abortion opponents. Swett’s strongest supporters are Democrats and supporters of legal abortions.

**NH SENATE & NH HOUSE**

Turning to the New Hampshire Senate, likely November voters were asked if they would vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate from their district. In the most recent WMUR / UNH Poll, 43 percent of likely voters say they plan to vote for the Republican candidate in their NH Senate District, 39 percent favor the Democratic candidate, and 19 percent are undecided.

In generic New Hampshire House races, Republicans also lead. Currently, 42 percent of likely voters say they will vote for the Republican candidate for the New Hampshire House of Representatives, 37 percent favor the Democratic candidate, and 20 percent are undecided.

**First Congressional District  
(Likely Voters)**

	<u>Oct. 3-8</u>	<u>Oct. 23-29</u>
Bradley (R)	47%	49%
Clark (D)	34	31
Belforti (L)	1	2
Other	5	3
Don’t Know	13	15
	(N=298)	(N=316)

**Second Congressional District  
(Likely Voters)**

	<u>June ‘02</u>	<u>Oct. 3-8</u>	<u>Oct. 23-29</u>
Bass (R)	58%	52%	47%
Swett (D)	32	30	41
Babiarz (L)	-	1	3
Other	2	5	1
Don’t Know	8	14	8
	(N=258)	(N=266)	(N=309)

**NH State Senate  
(Likely Voters)**

	<u>Oct. 3-8</u>	<u>Oct. 23-29</u>
Republican	40%	43%
Democrat	35	39
Undecided	25	19
	(N=586)	(N=628)

**NH State House  
(Likely Voters)**

	<u>Oct. 3-8</u>	<u>Oct. 23-29</u>
Republican	39%	42%
Democrat	32	37
Undecided	29	20
	(N=573)	(N=601)

**WMUR / UNH Poll Methodology**

These findings are based on the most recent WMUR / UNH Poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center from October 23 to October 29, 2002. A random sample of 680 likely voters in New Hampshire was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 3.8 percent. Included in this sample are 316 likely voters in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District (margin of sampling error, +/-5.5 percent) and 309 likely voters in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District (margin of sampling error, +/-5.5 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, 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 WMUR / UNH Poll were asked:

- "I'd like you to think about the election for your representative to the U.S. Congress. As of today, do you plan to vote for Jeb Bradley, the Republican candidate ... Martha Fuller Clark, the Democratic candidate ... Dan Belforti (BELL-FORT-EE), the Libertarian candidate ... or do you plan to skip the election for U.S. Congress at this time?" ROTATE CANDIDATES
- "I'd like you to think about the election for your representative to the U.S. Congress. As of today, do you plan to vote for Charlie Bass, the Republican candidate ... Katrina Swett, the Democratic candidate ... Rosalie Babiarz (BAB-EE-ARZ), the Libertarian ... or do you plan to skip the election for U.S. Congress at this time?" ROTATE CANDIDATES
- "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?"
- "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?"

**U.S. Congress - First District**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Bradley</u></b> <b>49%</b>	<b><u>Clark</u></b> <b>31%</b>	<b><u>Belforti</u></b> <b>2%</b>	<b><u>Other</u></b> <b>3%</b>	<b><u>Undecided</u></b> <b>15%</b>	<b><u>(N)</u></b> <b>316</b>
Registered Democrat	22	61	2	2	13	68
Undeclared	33	39	3	4	20	120
Registered Republican	79	7	0	3	12	128
Core Republican	81	3	0	2	14	133
Swing Voter	45	27	3	4	21	87
Core Democrat	9	76	2	2	12	92
Democrat	15	70	1	2	13	110
Independent	36	26	0	3	35	39
Republican	77	6	2	3	12	156
Will vote unless emergency	44	34	1	3	18	55
Will definitely vote	50	30	2	3	15	258
Extremely interested in election	55	27	5	4	10	90
Very interested	48	36	0	2	14	156
Somewhat interested	42	28	0	2	27	62
Not very interested	59	0	0	20	21	8
18 to 29	47	28	2	2	21	81
30 to 45	48	34	2	3	14	122
46 to 64	49	34	3	3	11	57
65 and over	57	29	0	3	11	45
5 years or less in NH	64	23	0	0	13	39
6 to 10 years	62	24	0	0	14	25
11 to 20 years	53	23	1	3	20	48
More than 20 years	44	36	2	3	14	197
Male	57	26	1	4	12	157
Female	42	35	2	2	19	160
Abortion always legal	35	47	1	1	15	149
Legal in some cases	59	19	0	5	17	116
Always illegal	70	8	11	0	11	28
Gun owning household	58	29	3	2	8	122
No guns in household	42	34	1	3	19	181

**U.S. Congress 2nd District - Likely Voters**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Bass</u></b> <b>47%</b>	<b><u>Swett</u></b> <b>41%</b>	<b><u>Babiarz</u></b> <b>3%</b>	<b><u>Other</u></b> <b>1%</b>	<b><u>Undecided</u></b> <b>8%</b>	<b><u>(N)</u></b> <b>309</b>
Registered Democrat	15	78	0	1	6	99
Undeclared	40	42	8	0	10	105
Registered Republican	83	6	0	2	8	104
Core Republican	89	4	3	0	4	95
Swing Voter	54	25	6	3	12	92
Core Democrat	8	83	1	1	8	121
Democrat	15	75	1	1	9	140
Independent	58	23	11	2	6	51
Republican	80	10	2	1	7	117
Will vote unless emergency	42	37	4	2	15	49
Will definitely vote	48	42	3	1	6	257
Extremely interested in election	48	39	6	1	6	84
Very interested	45	45	1	1	9	147
Somewhat interested	50	36	3	2	9	72
Not very interested	49	44	0	1	6	6
18 to 29	41	43	6	0	9	84
30 to 45	40	46	3	2	9	117
46 to 64	62	29	0	2	7	51
65 and over	53	41	0	0	6	53
5 years or less in NH	30	52	9	0	9	35
6 to 10 years	37	58	0	0	5	39
11 to 20 years	44	48	1	0	7	67
More than 20 years	54	33	3	2	9	165
Male	49	42	5	1	3	145
Female	45	41	1	2	12	163
Abortion always legal	32	53	4	1	9	166
Legal in some cases	59	31	1	2	8	110
Always illegal	79	12	8	0	1	20
Gun owning household	59	30	4	1	6	119
No guns in household	37	50	2	1	9	182

### NH Senate - Likely Voters

STATEWIDE	<u>Republican</u> 43%	<u>Democrat</u> 39%	<u>Undecided</u> 19%	<u>(N)</u> 628
Registered Democrat	8	88	4	170
Undeclared	28	35	37	223
Registered Republican	81	6	13	235
Core Republican	87	2	11	234
Swing Voter	33	21	45	172
Core Democrat	2	91	7	219
Democrat	5	85	9	254
Independent	26	15	59	84
Republican	82	4	14	278
Will vote unless emergency	39	37	25	102
Will definitely vote	43	39	18	520
Extremely interested in election	48	36	16	176
Very interested	38	41	21	308
Somewhat interested	45	38	17	129
Not very interested	46	21	33	14
Northern NH	35	47	18	93
Western NH	37	44	19	63
Central/Lakes	37	39	25	113
Hillsborough County	49	31	20	172
Seacoast	45	40	15	186
18 to 29	48	39	14	169
30 to 45	37	44	19	238
46 to 64	44	40	16	108
65 and over	47	28	25	99
5 years or less in NH	48	29	22	75
6 to 10 years	44	47	8	60
11 to 20 years	37	48	15	118
More than 20 years	43	36	20	366
Male	45	36	19	305
Female	40	41	19	322
Abortion always legal	30	51	19	315
Legal in some cases	54	29	17	230
Always illegal	62	16	21	49
Gun owning household	52	31	17	242
No guns in household	36	45	18	367

### NH House - Likely Voters

STATEWIDE	<u>Republican</u> 42%	<u>Democrat</u> 37%	<u>Undecided</u> 20%	<u>(N)</u> 601
Registered Democrat	8	85	7	167
Undeclared	30	34	37	211
Registered Republican	80	6	15	224
Core Republican	88	2	9	228
Swing Voter	31	18	51	159
Core Democrat	2	90	9	212
Democrat	4	82	14	248
Independent	22	12	66	77
Republican	84	4	12	266
Will vote unless emergency	38	37	25	98
Will definitely vote	43	37	19	497
Extremely interested in election	45	35	21	173
Very interested	41	40	19	295
Somewhat interested	42	37	21	120
Not very interested	49	25	26	13
Northern NH	36	44	21	86
Western NH	34	42	24	63
Central/Lakes	40	34	26	108
Hillsborough County	48	32	20	166
Seacoast	45	40	15	178
18 to 29	48	40	12	160
30 to 45	37	39	24	233
46 to 64	39	40	22	103
65 and over	49	32	19	91
5 years or less in NH	50	32	18	72
6 to 10 years	45	44	11	58
11 to 20 years	36	46	18	113
More than 20 years	42	35	22	349
Male	45	35	20	292
Female	40	40	20	309
Abortion always legal	30	49	20	306
Legal in some cases	54	29	17	214
Always illegal	65	17	18	47
Gun owning household	54	27	20	235
No guns in household	35	46	18	348