

# THE WMUR POLL

University of New Hampshire Survey Center

## FIRST CD GOP RACE WIDE OPEN

By: Andrew E. Smith, Ph.D. 603/862-2226  
UNH Survey Center  
www.unh.edu/survey-center

DURHAM, NH -- The race for the Republican nomination for Congress from New Hampshire's First District is wide open with none of the eight candidates able to pull away from the field. The favorites in the other Congressional primary races are winning easily.

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR Poll**, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center for WMUR-TV, Manchester, NH. Five hundred ninety-one (591) likely primary voters were interviewed between August 26 and September 3, 2002 (margin of sampling error, +/-4 percent). Included in this sample were 344 likely GOP primary voters (margin of sampling error, +/-5 percent), and 247 likely Democratic primary voters (margin of sampling error, +/-6 percent).

### GOP PRIMARY - FIRST CD

In the race to replace John Sununu from New Hampshire's First Congressional District, eight relatively unknown candidates are vying for the right to face Martha Fuller Clark in the November election. However the media attention, and big dollars, of the candidates for U.S. Senate and New Hampshire Governor have overshadowed this important race. Currently, Jeb Bradley, State Senator from Wolfeboro holds a slight lead with 17 percent of the vote, followed by John Stephen with 15 percent, Sean Mahoney with 9 percent, Wayne Barrows with 3 percent, and Vivian Clark with 3 percent. Fran Wendleboe, Gary Scott Hoffman, and Bob Bevill all received less than 3 percent of the vote. An amazingly high 47 percent of likely GOP primary voters say they are still undecided.

Because of the high percentage of undecided voters, the WMUR / Union Leader debate this week should play an important part in determining the outcome of this race.

### GOP PRIMARY - SECOND CD

Four-term Republican incumbent, Charlie Bass looks to easily win his primary challenge from long-shot Gene Douglas. Bass currently is supported by 81 percent of likely Republican primary voters, Douglas is favored by 3 percent, 1 percent favor some other candidate, and 15 percent are undecided. Bass has already looked past the primary to his November tilt with Katrina Swett, his likely Democratic challenger.

### DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY - FIRST CD

Although she has had her sights on the November 2002 election for sometime, Democrat Martha Fuller Clark does face a primary challenge in New Hampshire's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District from Sean Patrick Dean. Clark should have no difficulty holding off Dean as she currently leads 70 percent to 6 percent for Dean. Three percent of likely Democratic

primary voters favor some other candidate, and 21 percent remain undecided. Clark will face off in November against the eventual Republican nominee in what promises to be a close, hard fought election.

### **Democratic Primary - Second CD**

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, newcomer Katrina Swett, wife of former 2<sup>nd</sup> District Congressman Dick Swett, holds a comfortable lead over Norman Jackman, a lawyer from Lincoln, 56 percent to 21 percent with 22 percent still undecided. Jackman ran for the Democratic nomination in 2000, losing to Barney Brannen. Swett now faces the difficult challenge of upsetting incumbent Charlie Bass in November.

**NH 1<sup>st</sup> CD Primary Election - Likely GOP Primary Voters**

Bradley	17%
Stephen	15
Mahoney	9
Barrows	3
Clark	3
Wendelboe	1
Hoffman	*
Bevill	*
Other	4
Undecided	47

(N=145)

**NH 2<sup>nd</sup> CD Primary Election - Likely GOP Primary Voters**

Bass	81%
Douglas	3
Other	1
Undecided	15

(N=186)

**NH 1<sup>st</sup> CD Primary Election - Likely Democratic Primary Voters**

Clark	70%
Dean	6
Other	3
Undecided	21

(N=108)

**NH 2<sup>nd</sup> CD Primary Election - Likely Democratic Primary Voters**

Swett	56%
Jackman	21
Other	1
Undecided	22

(N=131)

### **WMUR Poll Methodology**

These findings are based on the most recent WMUR Poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center from August 26 to September 3, 2002. A random sample of 591 New Hampshire likely September primary voters was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to +/- 4 percent. Results reported for other subgroups have potential for somewhat larger variation than those for the entire population. The margin of sampling error for likely 1<sup>st</sup> CD GOP primary voters (N=145) is +/-8 percent, the margin of sampling error for likely 2<sup>nd</sup> GOP primary voters (N=186) is +/-7 percent, the margin of sampling error for likely 1<sup>st</sup> CD Democratic primary voters (N=108) is +/-9 percent, the margin of sampling error for likely 2<sup>nd</sup> Democratic primary voters (N=131) is +/-9 percent.

The data have been weighted to adjust for numbers of adults and telephone lines within households, sex of the respondent, region of the state, and likelihood of voting in the September 10 NH Primary Election. 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 Granite State Poll were asked:

- ASK GOP IN 1ST CD ONLY "Now, I'm going to read you the names of the candidates who are on the Republican primary ballot for U.S. Congress from the First District. If you were voting in the Republican primary for U.S. Congress today, would you vote for ... Wayne Barrows ... Bob Bevill ... Jeb Bradley ... Vivian Clark... Gary Scott Hoffman ... Sean Mahoney ... John Stephen ... or Fran Wendelboe?" ROTATE CANDIDATES
- ASK GOP IN 2ND CD ONLY "Now, I'm going to read you the names of the candidates who are on the Republican primary ballot for U.S. Congress from the Second District. If you were voting in the Republican primary for U.S. Congress today, would you vote for ... Charlie Bass or Eugene Douglas?" ROTATE CANDIDATES
- ASK DEMS IN 1ST CD ONLY "Now, I'm going to read you the names of the candidates who are on the Democratic primary ballot for U.S. Congress from the First District. If you were voting in the Democratic primary for U.S. Congress today, would you vote for ... Martha Fuller Clark or Sean Patrick Dean?" IF DK/UNDECIDED: "Do you lean toward Dean or Clark?"
- ASK DEMS IN 2ND CD ONLY "Now, I'm going to read you the names of the candidates who are on the Democratic primary ballot for U.S. Congress from the Second District. If you were voting in the Democratic primary for U.S. Congress today, would you vote for ... Norman Jackman or Katrina Swett?"

**Republican 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District Primary**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Barrows</u></b> <b>3%</b>	<b><u>Bradley</u></b> <b>17%</b>	<b><u>Clark</u></b> <b>3%</b>	<b><u>Hoff-</u></b> <b><u>man</u></b> <b>0%</b>	<b><u>Mahoney</u></b> <b>9%</b>	<b><u>Stephen</u></b> <b>15%</b>	<b><u>Wendel-</u></b> <b><u>boe</u></b> <b>1%</b>	<b><u>Other</u></b> <b>4%</b>	<b><u>DK</u></b> <b>47%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>145</b>
Undeclared	1	17	7	2	17	7	1	0	48	38
Registered GOP	4	18	2	0	6	17	1	5	47	108
Conservative GOP	4	23	1	0	11	14	1	5	41	69
Moderate GOP	3	15	1	0	6	14	1	4	57	50
Swing Voter	1	11	13	3	13	16	0	0	41	18
Extremely interested	2	35	4	0	13	15	0	10	22	37
Very interested	6	13	4	0	4	16	1	3	53	70
Somewhat interested	1	8	2	2	14	13	0	1	60	37
Will vote unless emergency	2	18	4	0	0	18	2	2	54	24
Will definitely vote	4	17	3	1	11	14	1	5	45	120
Northern NH	0	52	0	0	8	24	0	0	16	14
Central/Lakes	0	12	0	0	29	5	2	0	52	17
Hillsborough County	6	3	2	0	6	25	0	5	53	43
Seacoast	3	21	6	1	6	9	1	5	49	71
18 to 29	0	15	3	2	10	5	0	6	58	36
30 to 45	0	16	2	0	6	19	0	0	57	45
46 to 64	15	27	0	0	6	10	2	0	40	23
65 and over	4	19	8	0	15	26	2	0	26	33
5 years or less in NH	0	9	0	5	18	6	3	0	60	13
6 to 10 years	0	19	4	0	0	17	0	12	48	19
11 to 20 years	1	27	8	0	0	8	0	0	56	22
More than 20 years	5	17	3	0	12	18	1	2	42	86
Male	4	25	2	0	11	9	0	0	48	78
Female	2	9	4	1	6	21	1	9	46	67
High school or less	4	14	5	0	9	16	0	6	46	30
Some college	1	19	1	0	12	14	1	9	45	41
College graduate	6	21	6	1	10	13	0	0	42	44
Post-graduate	3	15	2	0	4	20	2	0	55	27

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

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Bass</u></b> <b>81%</b>	<b><u>Douglas</u></b> <b>3%</b>	<b><u>Other</u></b> <b>1%</b>	<b><u>Undecided</u></b> <b>15%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>186</b>
Undeclared	72	6	1	22	64
Registered Republican	85	2	2	11	121
Conservative GOP	88	1	0	11	85
Moderate GOP	75	4	4	17	61
Swing Voter	74	8	0	18	28
Extremely interested in Primary	75	5	0	20	43
Very interested	84	1	3	11	83
Somewhat interested	79	5	0	16	57
Will vote unless emergency	72	4	1	23	32
Will definitely vote	83	3	1	13	152
Northern NH	66	0	0	34	37
Western NH	80	7	1	12	32
Central/Lakes	84	0	0	16	49
Hillsborough County	91	5	0	4	50
Seacoast	74	8	11	7	17
18 to 29	73	0	0	26	32
30 to 45	76	8	3	12	57
46 to 64	90	0	0	9	32
65 and over	82	2	1	15	60
5 years or less in NH	68	0	0	32	13
6 to 10 years	64	0	0	36	12
11 to 20 years	79	7	5	9	49
More than 20 years	84	2	0	13	107
Male	91	0	0	9	112
Female	65	8	3	24	74
High school or less	71	5	1	23	45
Some college	82	2	0	16	50
College graduate	85	4	3	9	69
Post-graduate	86	0	0	14	20

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

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<u><b>Clark</b></u> <b>70%</b>	<u><b>Dean</b></u> <b>6%</b>	<u><b>Other</b></u> <b>3%</b>	<u><b>Undecided</b></u> <b>21%</b>	<u><b>(N=)</b></u> <b>108</b>
Registered Democrat	73	5	4	17	81
Undeclared	59	7	0	35	26
Swing Voter	61	6	10	23	26
Moderate DEM	64	3	3	30	30
Liberal DEM	84	0	0	15	44
Extremely interested in Primary	95	5	0	0	28
Very interested	72	2	2	25	45
Somewhat interested	49	12	9	30	31
Will vote unless emergency	67	4	0	29	18
Will definitely vote	70	5	4	20	88
Northern NH	66	0	0	34	5
Central/Lakes	79	20	0	1	7
Hillsborough County	59	10	10	21	35
Seacoast	75	2	0	23	60
18 to 29	77	6	0	18	16
30 to 45	66	11	2	21	46
46 to 64	89	0	0	11	20
65 and over	57	0	12	31	22
5 years or less in NH	57	0	0	43	6
6 to 10 years	86	8	0	7	10
11 to 20 years	74	8	0	19	22
More than 20 years	67	5	5	22	66
Male	57	9	9	25	41
Female	77	3	0	20	67
High school or less	66	12	0	22	31
Some college	59	1	0	39	16
College graduate	75	4	3	18	34
Post-graduate	73	3	10	14	26

**Democratic 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Primary**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Jackman</u></b> <b>21%</b>	<b><u>Swett</u></b> <b>56%</b>	<b><u>Other</u></b> <b>1%</b>	<b><u>Undecided</u></b> <b>22%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>131</b>
Registered Democrat	16	64	0	20	81
Undeclared	31	42	2	26	50
Swing Voter	24	32	3	40	23
Moderate DEM	16	60	0	24	53
Liberal DEM	16	69	0	15	49
Extremely interested in Primary	23	54	0	23	27
Very interested	12	66	0	22	60
Somewhat interested	31	42	2	25	39
Will vote unless emergency	19	41	5	36	15
Will definitely vote	22	58	0	20	113
Northern NH	40	47	0	13	26
Western NH	6	57	3	34	27
Central/Lakes	27	68	0	5	35
Hillsborough County	17	49	0	35	34
Seacoast	10	56	0	35	9
18 to 29	29	42	4	25	17
30 to 45	18	57	0	26	61
46 to 64	25	68	0	7	21
65 and over	26	54	0	19	27
5 years or less in NH	35	43	0	22	26
6 to 10 years	26	46	0	28	14
11 to 20 years	10	55	4	31	19
More than 20 years	19	62	0	19	70
Male	28	48	0	24	67
Female	15	63	1	21	64
High school or less	15	50	0	36	23
Some college	56	25	0	19	29
College graduate	23	47	0	31	32
Post-graduate	3	83	2	12	47