



U.S. Senate Candidates Discuss Economic Future At UNH Oct. 20

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EDITORS AND REPORTERS: Journalists planning to cover the event are asked to RSVP to Lori Wright at lori.wright@unh.edu and 603-862-0574.

DURHAM, N.H. - The University of New Hampshire will host economic forums featuring former Gov. Jeanne Shaheen and Sen. John Sununu, candidates for U.S. Senate, Monday, Oct. 20, 2008.

"Our Future in the Innovation Century: An Evening with the U.S. Senate Candidates" will feature two consecutive, one-hour forums with each candidate to discuss energy and the green economy, entrepreneurship, and economic insecurity. The forums will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in Huddleston Hall on Main Street, and are free and open to the public.

The event is co-hosted by the UNH Department of Political Science and Whittemore School of Business and Economics; the New Hampshire High Technology Council (NHHTC), the voice of the Granite State's technology sector; and TechNet, a national bipartisan network of more than 175 technology CEOs.

"The technology sector, with its innovation and new ideas, has been a critical driver of economic growth, job creation, prosperity, and quality of life in the United States and particularly in New Hampshire. Information technology is responsible for nearly all of the increase in economic growth over the last decade in the nation and our state, adding \$2 trillion annually to the American economy," UNH President Mark Huddleston said.

The economy continues to be an issue of primary concern to New Hampshire voters. According to a recent poll conducted by the UNH Survey Center, 47 percent of likely New Hampshire voters say that jobs and the economy are the most important issue in their decision for president this fall.

According to Matt Pierson, chairman of NHHTC, "New Hampshire's economic base has changed from traditional manufacturing to a concentration in high technology and skilled professional services. The state consistently ranks among the top 10 in percentage of employment in high technology. Approximately one quarter of the state's economy is related to the high-technology industry."

"Growing the technology sector in New Hampshire and throughout the United States is the best long-term solution to generating the resources needed for education and other critical investments as well as to providing high-quality jobs," said Lezlee Westine, president and CEO of TechNet.

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