

June 25, 2020

**WIDESPREAD SUPPORT IN NH FOR ABSENTEE VOTING DUE TO COVID-19; ONE-THIRD PREFER TO VOTE ABSENTEE IN NOVEMBER**

By: Sean P. McKinley, M.A.  
 Zachary S. Azem, M.A.  
 Andrew E. Smith, Ph.D.

andrew.smith@unh.edu  
 603-862-2226  
 cola.unh.edu/unh-survey-center

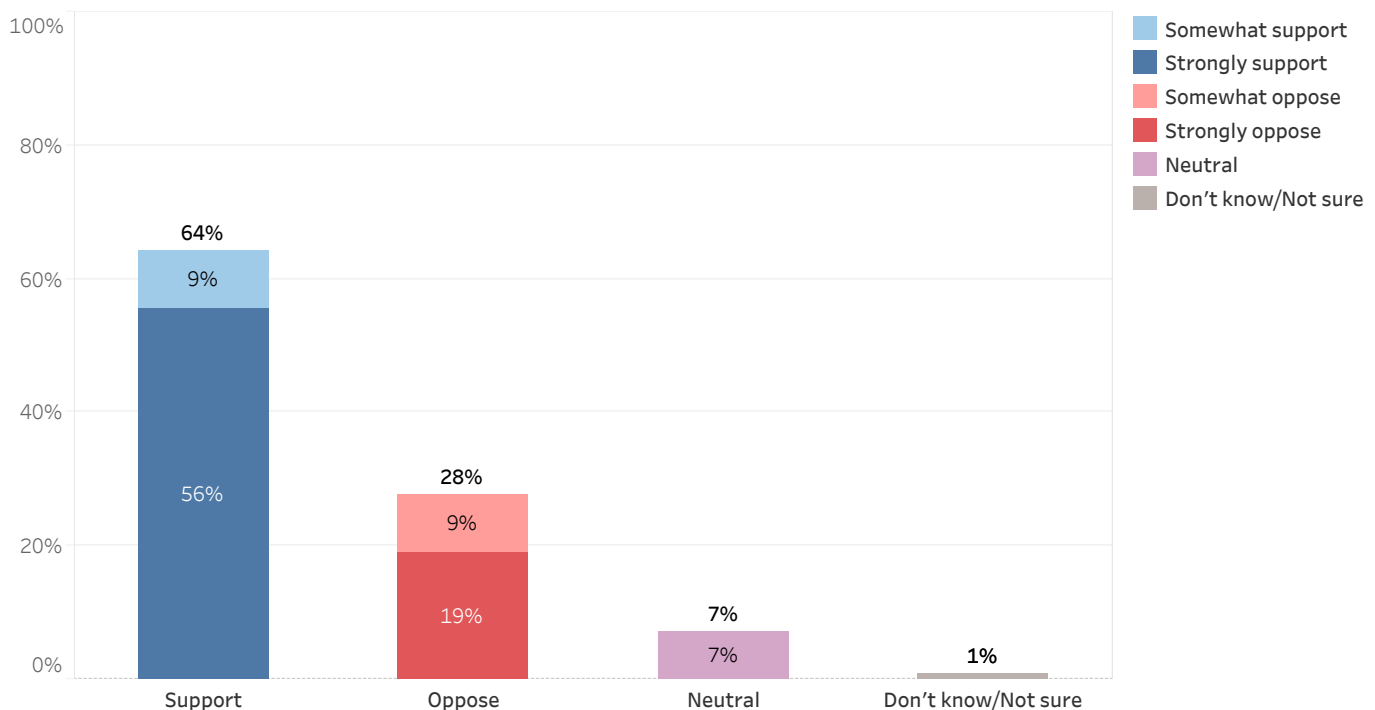
DURHAM, NH - Nearly two-thirds of New Hampshire residents support being able to vote using an absentee ballot due to concerns about COVID-19. One-third of likely voters in the November general election say that they would prefer to vote using an absentee ballot rather than voting in-person. Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to support being able to choose to vote absentee. A slim majority believe voter fraud is a very or somewhat serious problem in the country, but fewer residents believe it is a serious problem in New Hampshire and most in the state are confident their vote will be counted accurately.

These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Panel\*** survey, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Nine hundred ninety-seven (997) Granite State Panel members completed the survey online between June 18 and June 22, 2020. Data were weighted by respondent sex, age, education, and region of the state to targets from the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, as well as party registration levels provided by the New Hampshire Secretary of State. The Granite State Panel is part of an effort by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center to investigate new ways of gathering and understanding the opinion of New Hampshire residents. Granite State Panel members are recruited from randomly-selected landline and cell phone numbers across New Hampshire and surveys are sent periodically to panel members.

**Absentee Voting**

According to the New Hampshire Secretary of State and Attorney General, any New Hampshire voter may choose to vote using an absentee ballot if they do not want to go to a polling location due to concerns about COVID-19. New Hampshire residents are quite supportive of this decision; nearly two-thirds (64%) strongly (56%) or somewhat (9%) support it, just over a quarter (28%) somewhat (9%) or strongly (19%) oppose it, 7% are neutral, and 1% don't know or are unsure.

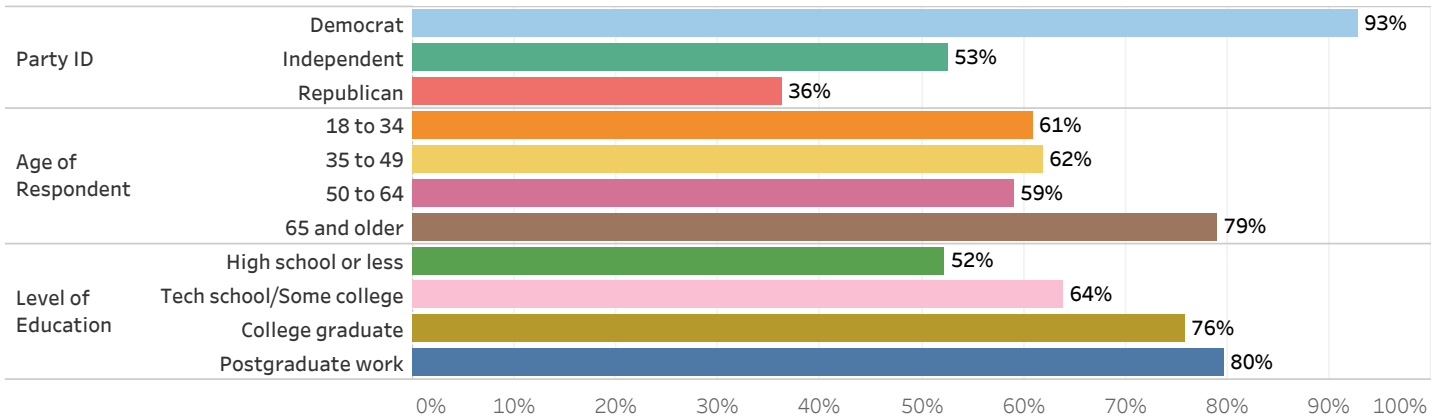
**Support or Oppose Any NH Voter Being Able to Choose to Vote Absentee Due to COVID-19 Concerns - June 2020**



\* We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as *the Granite State Panel*, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

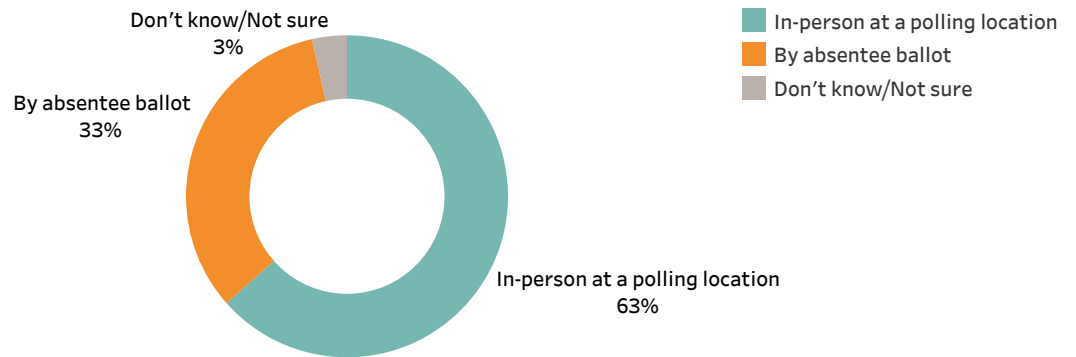
Self-identified Democrats (93%) are far more likely than Independents (53%) and Republicans (36%) to support any NH voter being able to choose to vote absentee due to concerns about COVID-19. Residents aged 65 and older (79%) are also more likely than others to support this policy, while residents with lower levels of education are less likely than others to support it.

**Support Any NH Voter Being Able to Choose to Vote Absentee Due to COVID-19 Concerns - June 2020 - By Demographics**



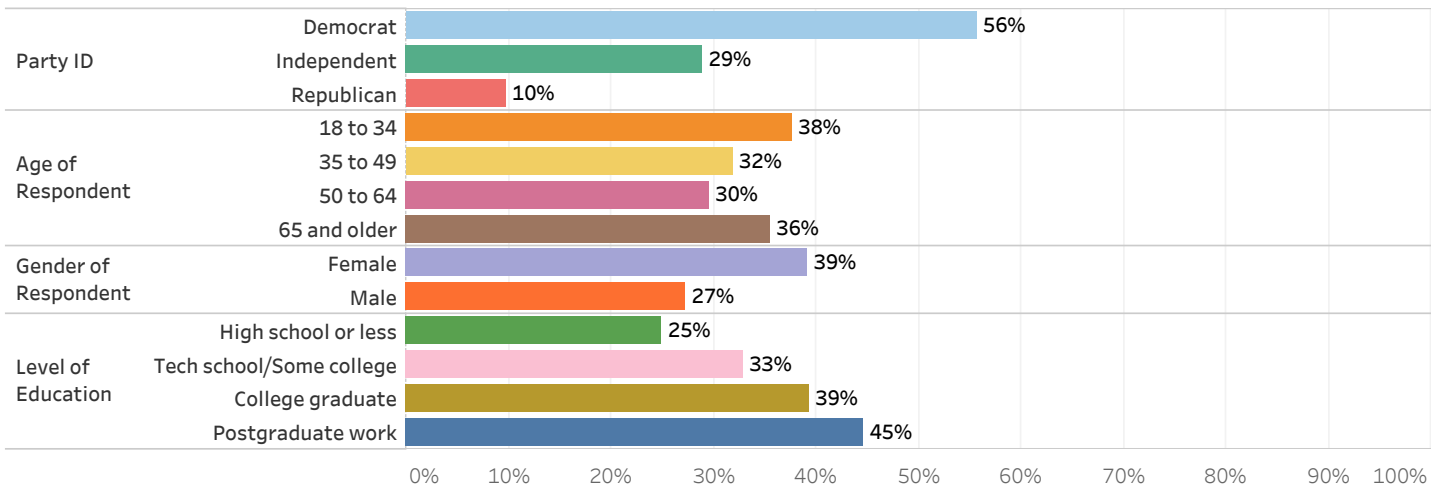
Based on what they know now, 63% of likely voters in New Hampshire say they would prefer to vote in-person at a polling location, one-third (33%) would prefer to vote by absentee ballot, and 3% don't know or are unsure.

**Preferred Method of Voting in General Election Based on What Know Now - June 2020**



More than half (56%) of self-identified Democrats say they would prefer to vote in the general election by absentee ballot, but only 29% of Independents and 10% of Republicans agree. Despite being most likely to support absentee ballots being available to anyone concerned with contracting COVID-19, respondents aged 65 and older are no more likely than those under 35 to say they would prefer to vote via absentee ballot. Women and those with a college degree or more education are slightly more likely than men and those without a college degree to prefer voting in the general election using an absentee ballot.

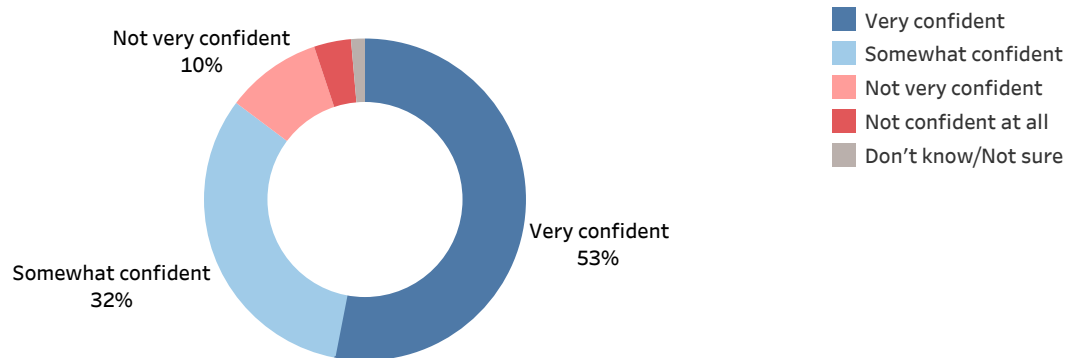
**Prefer Voting by Absentee Ballot in General Election - June 2020 - By Demographics**



## Election Integrity

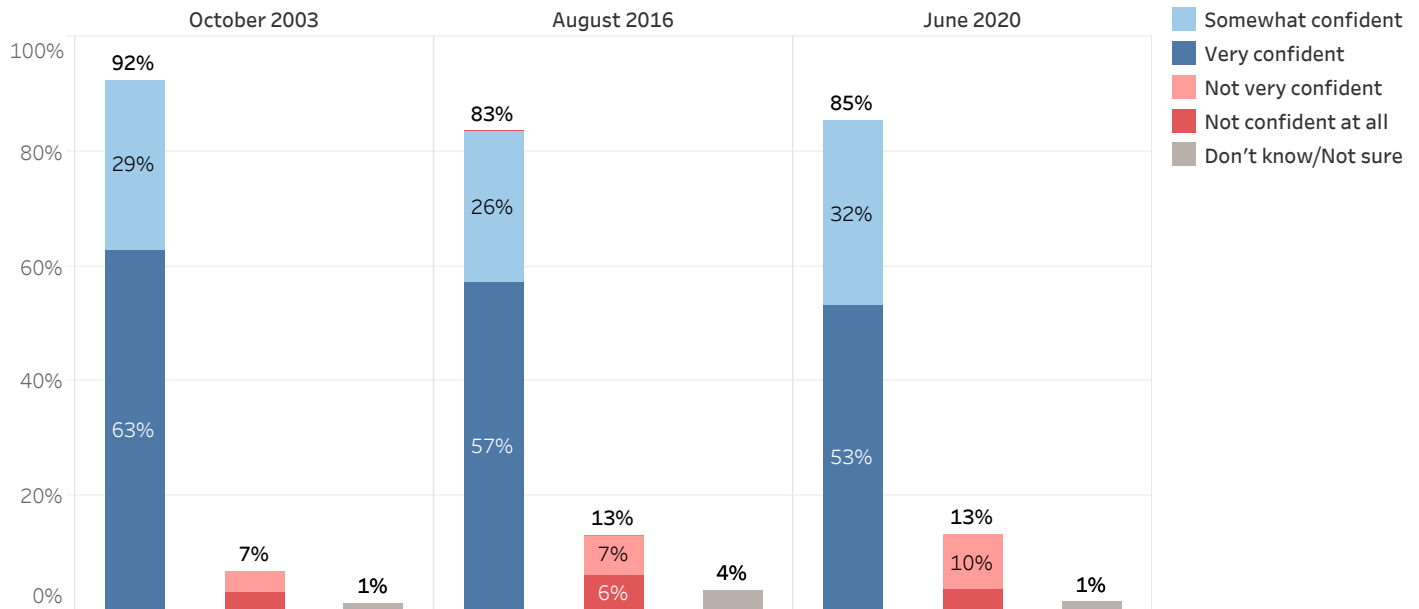
More than half (53%) of New Hampshire likely voters are very confident that their vote in the November general election will be accurately counted, and another third (32%) are somewhat confident that this will happen. Ten percent are not very confident their vote will be accurately counted, 4% are not confident at all that this will happen, and 1% don't know or are unsure.

**Confidence Your General Election Vote Will Be Counted Accurately - June 2020**



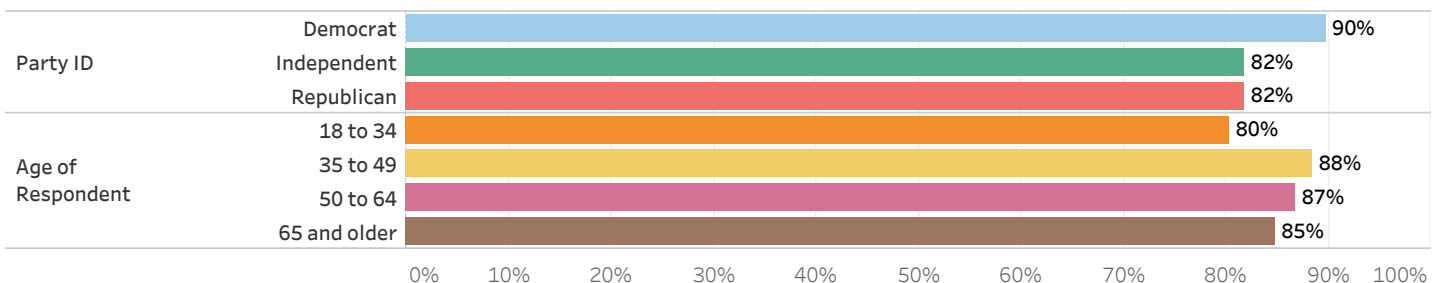
Confidence among likely New Hampshire voters that their vote will be accurately counted largely matches the confidence of respondents in August 2016 when asked about their confidence that their vote in the previous election had been accurately counted. However, confidence is slightly lower than in October 2003, when 92% were very or somewhat confident that their previous vote had been accurately counted.

**Confidence in Accuracy of General Election Vote**



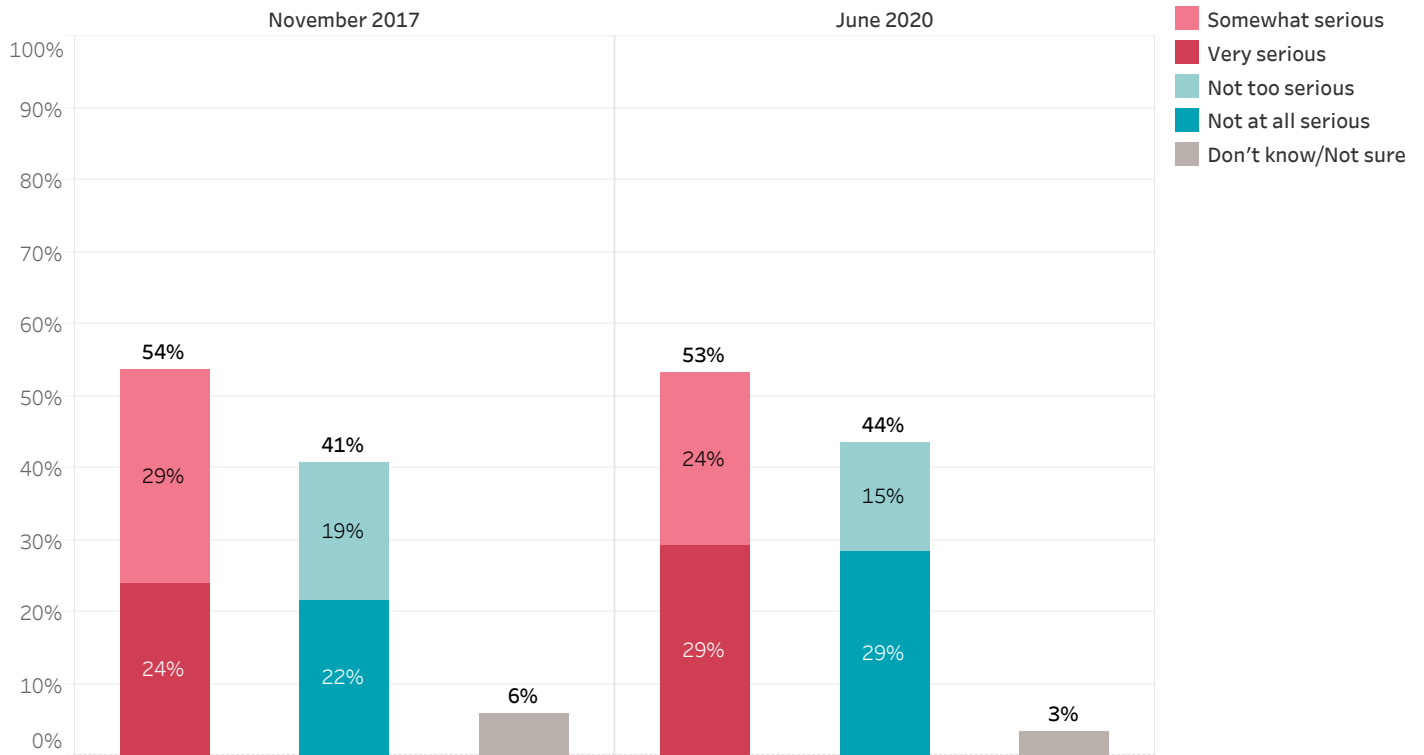
Self-described Democrats (90%) are slightly more likely than others to be very or somewhat confident that their general election vote will be accurately counted, while those under 35 are slightly less likely than older respondents to believe this.

**Very or Somewhat Confident Your General Election Vote Will Be Counted Accurately - June 2020 - By Demographics**



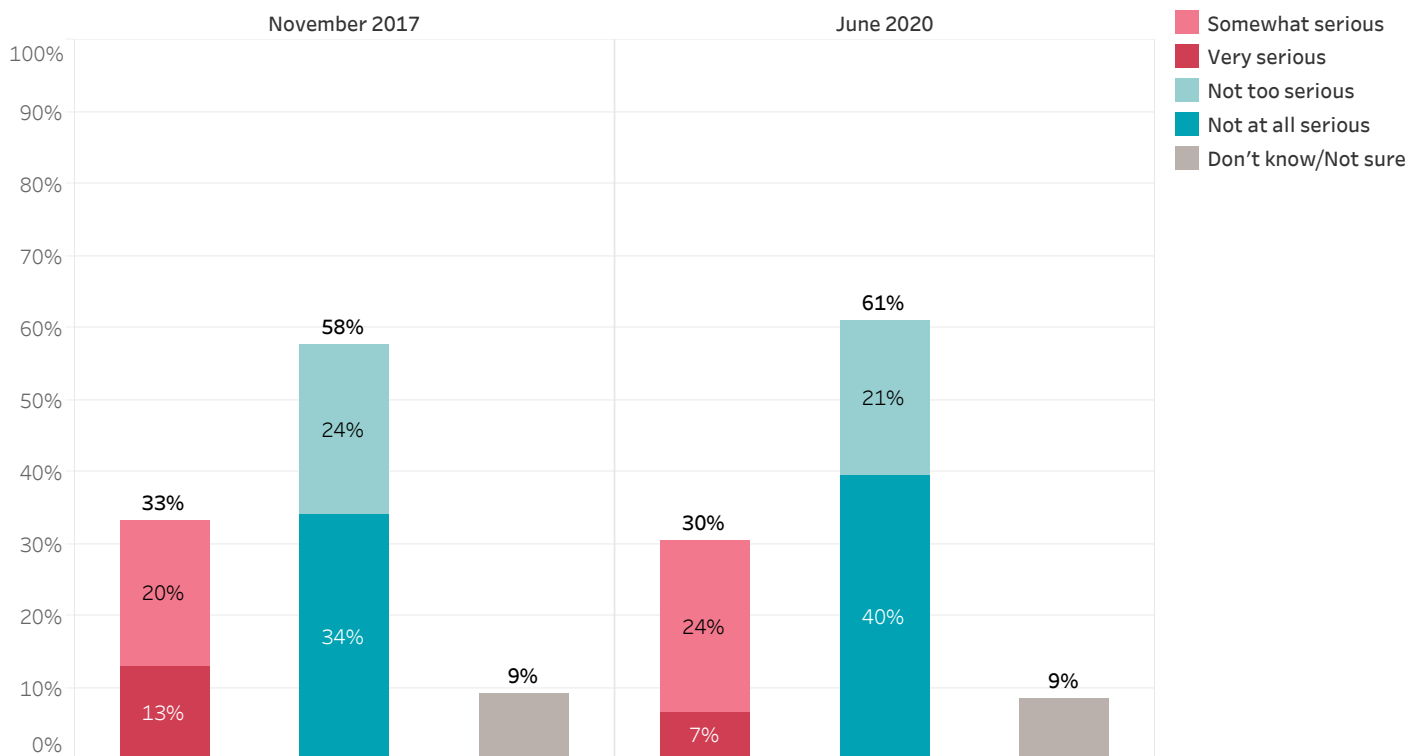
More than half (53%) of New Hampshire residents believe that voter fraud is a very (29%) or somewhat (24%) serious problem in the United States; 44% believe voter fraud is not too serious (15%) or not at all serious (29%), while 3% don't know or are unsure.

### Seriousness of Voter Fraud Problem in the United States



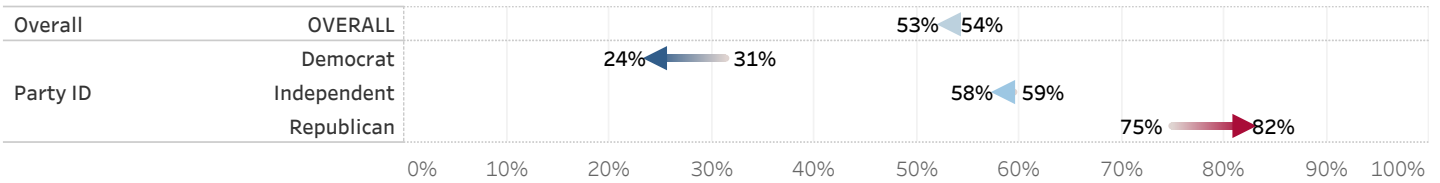
New Hampshire residents are far less likely to believe voter fraud is a serious problem in New Hampshire: only three in ten (30%) believe that voter fraud is a very serious (7%) or somewhat serious (24%) problem in the state while 61% believe it is not too serious (21%) or not at all serious (40%) and 9% don't know or are unsure. There has been little change in attitudes on this issue since November 2017.

### Seriousness of Voter Fraud Problem in New Hampshire



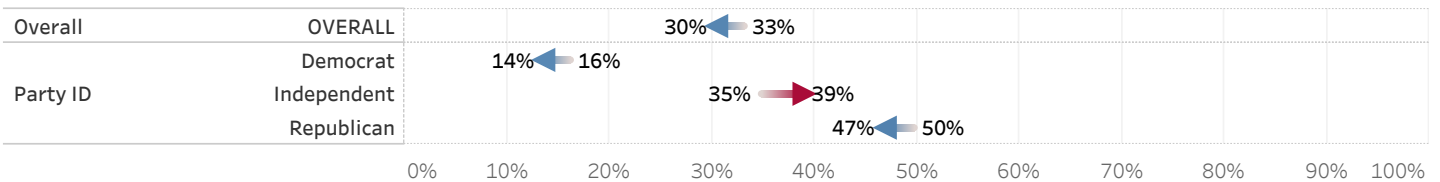
Self-described Republicans (82%) are far more likely than Democrats (24%) to say that voter fraud is a very or somewhat serious problem in the United States, and the two groups have moved in opposite directions since November 2017, with the percentage of Democrats who believe this falling by seven percentage points and the percentage of Republicans who believe this increasing by seven points.

**Believe Voter Fraud in U.S. is Very or Somewhat Serious Problem - Change from November 2017 to June 2020**



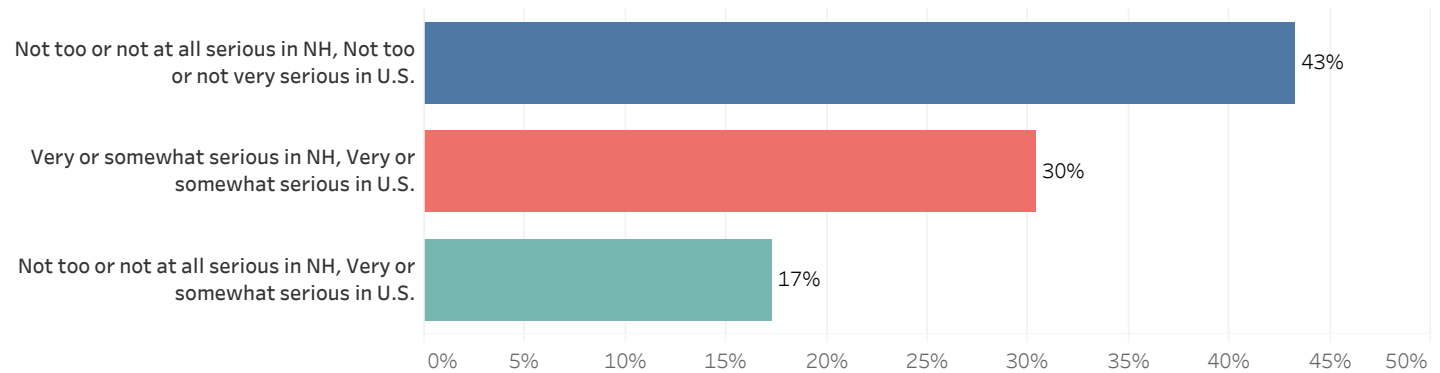
Self-described Republicans (47%) and Independents (39%) are more likely than Democrats (14%) to say that voter fraud is a very or somewhat serious problem in New Hampshire, but Democrats and Republicans have moved largely in tandem in their opinion on this question since November 2017.

**Believe Voter Fraud in NH is Very or Somewhat Serious Problem - Change from November 2017 to June 2020**



Overall, 43% of New Hampshire residents believe that voter fraud is a not too or not at all serious problem in both New Hampshire and in the United States at large, while 30% believe that voter fraud is a very or somewhat serious problem in both the state and the country. Seventeen percent believe that voter fraud is a very or somewhat serious problem in the country at large but not too or not at all serious of a problem in New Hampshire, while no respondents believe that voter fraud is a very or somewhat serious problem in the state but not the country.

**Seriousness of Voter Fraud Problem in New Hampshire & United States - June 2020**



## Granite State Panel Methodology

These findings are based on the latest Granite State Panel survey, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Nine hundred ninety-seven (997) Granite State Panel members completed the survey online between June 18 and June 22, 2020. Data were weighted by respondent sex, age, education, and region of the state to targets from the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, as well as party registration levels provided by the New Hampshire Secretary of State.

The Granite State Panel is part of an effort by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center to investigate new ways of gathering and understanding the opinion of New Hampshire residents. Granite State Panel members are recruited from randomly-selected landline and cell phone numbers across New Hampshire. Respondents to the Granite State Poll were asked if they wished to participate in further research and asked to provide an email address. Those who agreed and provided an email address were added to the panel. Panel members were also recruited by texting a random sample of cellular telephones in the state and inviting the recipient to take a short survey.

For each survey which they complete, panel members are entered into quarterly drawings to earn rewards, such as gift certificates from statewide and internet companies. Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100%. The number of respondents in each demographic below may not equal the number reported in cross-tabulation tables as some respondents choose not to answer some questions.

For more information about the methodology used in the Granite State Panel, contact Dr. Andrew Smith at (603) 862-2226 or by email at [andrew.smith@unh.edu](mailto:andrew.smith@unh.edu).

### Granite State Panel, June 2020 Demographics

		N	%
Gender of Respondent	Female	495	51%
	Male	477	49%
Age of Respondent	18 to 34	263	27%
	35 to 49	225	23%
	50 to 64	292	30%
	65 and older	201	21%
Level of Education	High school or less	356	36%
	Tech school/Some college	305	31%
	College graduate	205	21%
	Postgraduate work	124	13%
Region of State	Central / Lakes	175	18%
	Connecticut Valley	138	14%
	Manchester Area	179	18%
	Mass Border	244	25%
	North Country	96	10%
	Seacoast	162	16%
Party ID	Democrat	441	45%
	Independent	115	12%
	Republican	416	43%
Voting Registration	Registered Democrat	266	28%
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	407	43%
	Registered Republican	279	29%

### Support or Oppose Any NH Voter Being Able to Choose to Vote Absentee Due to COVID-19 Concerns

Currently, any New Hampshire voter can choose to vote using an absentee ballot if they do not want to go to a polling location due to concerns about COVID-19. Do you support or oppose this policy?

	<u>Strongly support</u>	<u>Somewhat support</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>Don't know/Not sure</u>	<u>N</u>
June 2020	56%	9%	7%	9%	19%	1%	997

### Preferred Method of Voting in General Election Based on What Know Now

Based on what you know now, in what way would you prefer to vote in the general election in November?

	<u>By absentee ballot</u>	<u>In-person at a polling location</u>	<u>Don't know/Not sure</u>	<u>N</u>
June 2020	33%	63%	3%	942

### Confidence Your General Election Vote Will Be Counted Accurately

How confident are you that your vote in the November general election will be accurately counted?

	<u>Very confident</u>	<u>Somewhat confident</u>	<u>Not very confident</u>	<u>Not confident at all</u>	<u>Don't know/Not sure</u>	<u>N</u>
June 2020	53%	32%	10%	4%	1%	941

### Seriousness of Voter Fraud Problem in the United States

How serious of a problem do you think voter fraud is in the country as a whole?

	<u>Very serious</u>	<u>Somewhat serious</u>	<u>Not too serious</u>	<u>Not at all serious</u>	<u>Don't know/Not sure</u>	<u>N</u>
November 2017	24%	29%	19%	22%	6%	946
June 2020	29%	24%	15%	29%	3%	997

### Seriousness of Voter Fraud Problem in New Hampshire

How serious of a problem do you think voter fraud is in the state of New Hampshire?

	<u>Very serious</u>	<u>Somewhat serious</u>	<u>Not too serious</u>	<u>Not at all serious</u>	<u>Don't know/Not sure</u>	<u>N</u>
November 2017	13%	20%	24%	34%	9%	946
June 2020	7%	24%	21%	40%	9%	997

**Support or Oppose Any NH Voter Being Able to Choose to Vote Absentee Due to COVID-19 Concerns**

		<u>Strongly support</u>	<u>Somewhat support</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>Don't know/Not sure</u>	<u>N</u>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>June 2020</b>	56%	9%	7%	9%	19%	1%	997
<b>Voting Registration</b>	Registered Democrat	88%	5%	4%	0%	3%		266
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	56%	7%	8%	8%	20%	0%	407
	Registered Republican	22%	17%	9%	18%	34%	1%	279
<b>Party ID</b>	Democrat	88%	4%	3%	1%	3%	0%	441
	Independent	38%	14%	11%	12%	21%	4%	115
	Republican	24%	12%	10%	16%	37%	1%	416
<b>Ideology</b>	Liberal	87%	4%	5%	0%	4%	0%	430
	Moderate	43%	15%	4%	8%	25%	6%	85
	Conservative	24%	11%	9%	19%	36%	1%	414
<b>Media Usage</b>	Boston Globe reader	91%	2%		5%	2%		76
	NHPR listener	52%	9%	8%	10%	21%	1%	880
	Union Leader reader	52%	11%	9%	6%	22%		155
	WMUR viewer	54%	9%	8%	10%	18%	1%	736
<b>Age of Respondent</b>	18 to 34	59%	2%	5%	14%	18%	2%	263
	35 to 49	55%	7%	5%	7%	26%	0%	225
	50 to 64	47%	12%	14%	9%	17%	1%	292
	65 and older	65%	14%	3%	4%	14%		201
<b>Gender of Respondent</b>	Female	61%	8%	9%	8%	12%	2%	495
	Male	51%	9%	5%	10%	25%	0%	477
<b>Level of Education</b>	High school or less	43%	9%	10%	11%	25%	1%	356
	Tech school/Some college	55%	9%	5%	8%	23%	1%	305
	College graduate	67%	9%	6%	9%	9%	0%	205
	Postgraduate work	72%	7%	6%	4%	10%		124
<b>Region of State</b>	Central / Lakes	57%	14%	3%	3%	21%	3%	175
	Connecticut Valley	62%	5%	5%	7%	21%		138
	Manchester Area	43%	11%	11%	19%	15%	2%	179
	Mass Border	62%	8%	9%	7%	14%		244
	North Country	40%	7%	14%	7%	31%		96
	Seacoast	62%	6%	2%	9%	20%	1%	162



**Preferred Method of Voting in General Election Based on What Know Now**

		<u>By absentee ballot</u>	<u>In-person at a polling location</u>	<u>Don't know/Not sure</u>	<u>N</u>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>June 2020</b>	33%	63%	3%	942
<b>Voting Registration</b>	Registered Democrat	55%	39%	5%	249
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	32%	65%	3%	392
	Registered Republican	12%	84%	3%	277
<b>Party ID</b>	Democrat	56%	39%	5%	418
	Independent	29%	69%	2%	96
	Republican	10%	88%	2%	410
<b>Ideology</b>	Liberal	54%	41%	5%	408
	Moderate	32%	65%	3%	79
	Conservative	10%	88%	3%	401
<b>Media Usage</b>	Boston Globe reader	64%	33%	3%	76
	NHPR listener	31%	66%	3%	828
	Union Leader reader	27%	72%	2%	152
	WMUR viewer	32%	64%	4%	694
<b>Age of Respondent</b>	18 to 34	38%	59%	3%	233
	35 to 49	32%	66%	2%	215
	50 to 64	30%	66%	5%	284
	65 and older	36%	62%	3%	197
<b>Gender of Respondent</b>	Female	39%	55%	6%	465
	Male	27%	71%	1%	452
<b>Level of Education</b>	High school or less	25%	71%	4%	326
	Tech school/Some college	33%	66%	1%	288
	College graduate	39%	56%	5%	200
	Postgraduate work	45%	50%	5%	123
<b>Region of State</b>	Central / Lakes	38%	61%	1%	166
	Connecticut Valley	29%	70%	1%	137
	Manchester Area	24%	74%	2%	159
	Mass Border	38%	57%	5%	231
	North Country	27%	62%	10%	92
	Seacoast	38%	60%	2%	154

**Confidence Your General Election Vote Will Be Counted Accurately**

		<u>Very confident</u>	<u>Somewhat confident</u>	<u>Not very confident</u>	<u>Not confident at all</u>	<u>Don't know/Not sure</u>	<u>N</u>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>June 2020</b>	53%	32%	10%	4%	1%	941
<b>Voting Registration</b>	Registered Democrat	59%	29%	9%	3%	0%	248
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	55%	28%	13%	2%	1%	392
	Registered Republican	43%	42%	7%	6%	2%	277
<b>Party ID</b>	Democrat	62%	28%	9%	1%	0%	417
	Independent	51%	31%	9%	6%	3%	96
	Republican	44%	38%	10%	6%	2%	410
<b>Ideology</b>	Liberal	61%	29%	9%	1%	0%	407
	Moderate	54%	30%	8%	4%	4%	79
	Conservative	44%	37%	11%	6%	2%	401
<b>Media Usage</b>	Boston Globe reader	59%	26%	6%	5%	5%	76
	NHPR listener	51%	33%	11%	4%	2%	827
	Union Leader reader	49%	31%	6%	9%	4%	153
	WMUR viewer	49%	34%	12%	4%	1%	694
<b>Age of Respondent</b>	18 to 34	54%	26%	16%	1%	2%	233
	35 to 49	51%	38%	8%	3%	0%	215
	50 to 64	50%	37%	8%	5%	0%	283
	65 and older	58%	27%	6%	6%	4%	196
<b>Gender of Respondent</b>	Female	52%	35%	10%	2%	0%	465
	Male	55%	29%	8%	5%	2%	450
<b>Level of Education</b>	High school or less	53%	27%	15%	3%	2%	326
	Tech school/Some college	53%	35%	6%	6%	1%	287
	College graduate	51%	38%	8%	3%	1%	200
	Postgraduate work	58%	31%	8%	3%	1%	123
<b>Region of State</b>	Central / Lakes	56%	34%	9%	2%	0%	166
	Connecticut Valley	54%	35%	8%	3%	0%	136
	Manchester Area	48%	27%	10%	11%	4%	158
	Mass Border	60%	26%	9%	2%	2%	232
	North Country	41%	43%	10%	5%		92
	Seacoast	51%	34%	13%	1%	1%	155

### Seriousness of Voter Fraud Problem in the United States

		Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not at all serious	Don't know/Not sure	N
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>June 2020</b>	29%	24%	15%	29%	3%	997
<b>Voting Registration</b>	Registered Democrat	14%	10%	20%	54%	1%	266
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	27%	24%	17%	29%	3%	407
	Registered Republican	46%	35%	10%	6%	4%	279
<b>Party ID</b>	Democrat	14%	10%	20%	52%	4%	441
	Independent	26%	32%	12%	20%	9%	115
	Republican	45%	37%	11%	5%	1%	416
<b>Ideology</b>	Liberal	14%	10%	19%	54%	3%	430
	Moderate	23%	32%	13%	22%	10%	85
	Conservative	46%	34%	12%	6%	1%	414
<b>Media Usage</b>	Boston Globe reader	12%	10%	25%	51%	2%	76
	NHPR listener	32%	25%	15%	26%	3%	880
	Union Leader reader	40%	21%	13%	24%	2%	155
	WMUR viewer	30%	23%	16%	26%	4%	736
<b>Age of Respondent</b>	18 to 34	34%	19%	19%	26%	3%	263
	35 to 49	32%	24%	15%	27%	2%	225
	50 to 64	27%	30%	14%	25%	4%	292
	65 and older	21%	23%	11%	41%	4%	201
<b>Gender of Respondent</b>	Female	31%	23%	12%	29%	6%	495
	Male	26%	25%	19%	29%	1%	477
<b>Level of Education</b>	High school or less	38%	28%	14%	18%	3%	356
	Tech school/Some college	32%	22%	13%	30%	2%	305
	College graduate	18%	23%	20%	35%	4%	205
	Postgraduate work	14%	22%	16%	45%	4%	124
<b>Region of State</b>	Central / Lakes	25%	20%	17%	31%	7%	175
	Connecticut Valley	24%	20%	18%	36%	2%	138
	Manchester Area	46%	21%	12%	19%	2%	179
	Mass Border	27%	28%	9%	34%	2%	244
	North Country	34%	25%	23%	16%	2%	96
	Seacoast	19%	30%	18%	29%	4%	162

### Seriousness of Voter Fraud Problem in New Hampshire

		Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not at all serious	Don't know/Not sure	N
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>June 2020</b>	7%	24%	21%	40%	9%	997
<b>Voting Registration</b>	Registered Democrat	5%	8%	14%	70%	3%	266
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	3%	27%	21%	42%	8%	407
	Registered Republican	14%	34%	28%	12%	12%	279
<b>Party ID</b>	Democrat	2%	11%	16%	65%	5%	441
	Independent	9%	30%	12%	35%	14%	115
	Republican	11%	36%	29%	14%	10%	416
<b>Ideology</b>	Liberal	3%	9%	18%	66%	4%	430
	Moderate	8%	29%	20%	32%	12%	85
	Conservative	11%	39%	25%	17%	8%	414
<b>Media Usage</b>	Boston Globe reader	2%	8%	16%	70%	4%	76
	NHPR listener	8%	25%	21%	37%	9%	880
	Union Leader reader	12%	30%	20%	37%	2%	155
	WMUR viewer	7%	24%	22%	37%	10%	736
<b>Age of Respondent</b>	18 to 34	6%	24%	29%	34%	6%	263
	35 to 49	6%	30%	19%	35%	10%	225
	50 to 64	6%	24%	20%	39%	10%	292
	65 and older	8%	14%	16%	54%	7%	201
<b>Gender of Respondent</b>	Female	2%	23%	23%	38%	13%	495
	Male	11%	23%	19%	42%	5%	477
<b>Level of Education</b>	High school or less	5%	33%	22%	27%	13%	356
	Tech school/Some college	11%	24%	18%	41%	6%	305
	College graduate	4%	14%	26%	49%	7%	205
	Postgraduate work	5%	13%	19%	58%	5%	124
<b>Region of State</b>	Central / Lakes	4%	23%	24%	38%	11%	175
	Connecticut Valley	3%	16%	24%	45%	11%	138
	Manchester Area	11%	26%	26%	29%	9%	179
	Mass Border	12%	18%	18%	47%	4%	244
	North Country	3%	39%	27%	27%	3%	96
	Seacoast	1%	28%	14%	44%	13%	162