

WMUR / UNH New Hampshire Tracking Poll

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KERRY LEAD SHRINKS, LYNCH PULLS PAST BENSON IN NH

Durham, NH – John Kerry’s already narrow lead over George Bush in New Hampshire has gotten even smaller. In the race for NH Governor, Democratic challenger John Lynch has pulled ahead of incumbent Craig Benson.

These findings are based on the 2004 WMUR / UNH New Hampshire Tracking Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. This survey is sponsored by WMUR-TV Manchester and the University of New Hampshire.* Seven hundred sixteen (716) likely New Hampshire voters were interviewed between October 28 and October 30, 2004. The potential sampling error for the survey is $\pm 3.7\%$. (For more information about the NH Election Tracking Poll, go to www.unh.edu/survey-center/track04.html)

Presidential Election

The race for New Hampshire’s 4 electoral votes has tightened. In the latest WMUR / UNH New Hampshire Tracking Poll, 49 percent of likely voters say they will vote for Kerry, 48 percent will vote for Bush, 2 percent will vote for Ralph Nader or some other candidate, and 2 percent remain undecided. The most important issues to voters in the presidential election continue to be the war in Iraq (25%), the war on terrorism (20%), and jobs and the economy (18%).

Kerry runs strongest among Democrats and in the North Country, the Connecticut Valley, and the NH Seacoast. Bush does best among Republicans and in the Massachusetts border towns and the Manchester area. Kerry’s lead among swing voters has slipped to 49 percent to 42 percent.

Gubernatorial Election

In the race for New Hampshire Governor, John Lynch has moved ahead of incumbent Republican Craig Benson. In the latest tracking poll, 47 percent of likely voters say they will vote for Lynch, 45 percent say they will vote for Benson, 2 percent favor some other candidate, and 7 percent are still undecided. Undecided voters typically break toward the challenger and Lynch appears to be benefiting from this pattern. The most important issues in the race for Governor are taxes (31%), education funding (18%), jobs and the economy (13%), and ethics in government (12%).

Benson and Lynch do well among their partisans, but Lynch now leads among swing voters by 46 percent to 37 percent. Benson does best in Massachusetts border towns and in Manchester. Lynch’s strongest support comes from voters in the Connecticut Valley, the North Country, and in the Seacoast.

U.S. Senate

Incumbent Republican Senator Judd Gregg still holds a commanding lead over Democratic challenger “Granny D” Haddock. Sixty-three percent of likely voters prefer Gregg, 24 percent prefer Granny D, 1 percent favor some other candidate and 11 percent are still undecided. Gregg has maintained a wide lead over Granny D throughout the race.

U.S. Congress

The race for U.S. Representative from New Hampshire’s First Congressional district has narrowed somewhat, but incumbent Jeb Bradley still holds a commanding lead over Democrat Justin Nadeau. Currently, 55 percent of likely First District voters favor Bradley, 33 percent favor Nadeau, 1 percent favor some other candidate, and 11 percent are undecided.

The Second District race has also tightened, but incumbent Republican Charlie Bass still holds a wide lead over Democrat Paul Hodes 56 percent to 35 percent, with 9 percent undecided.

* We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as the *WMUR / UNH New Hampshire Tracking Poll*, sponsored by WMUR-TV and the University of New Hampshire.

U.S. President - Bush vs. Kerry vs. Nader

"Now, suppose the 2004 presidential election were being held TODAY. If you had to choose between George W. Bush, the Republican ... John Kerry, the Democrat ... or Ralph Nader, the Independent, who would you vote for?" (ROTATE CANDIDATES)

	<u>George W. Bush</u>	<u>John Kerry</u>	<u>Other/ Nader</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	46%	50%	1%	3%	746
October 26-28	47%	49%	1%	3%	823
October 27-29	46%	50%	1%	3%	834
October 28-30 (Latest)	48%	49%	2%	2%	700
Democrat	8	91	1	0	288
Independent	41	46	7	7	96
Republican	89	10	1	1	307
Registered Democrat	12	87	0	0	182
Undeclared	36	58	4	2	240
Registered Republican	88	10	0	1	234
Not registered	48	46	2	4	42
Core GOP	96	3	1	0	258
Swing Voter	42	49	4	5	193
Core Dem.	4	96	0	0	249
Male	51	44	2	2	338
Female	45	53	1	1	363
18 to 34	39	57	3	1	115
35 to 49	55	43	2	1	271
50 to 64	47	51	1	1	203
65 and over	43	53	0	4	100
North Country	32	65	2	2	64
Central / Lakes	53	42	2	3	115
Connecticut Valley	34	62	2	1	97
Mass Border	57	40	2	1	189
Seacoast	39	61	0	0	118
Manchester Area	58	38	2	3	117
Approve Bush as Pres.	89	7	2	1	358
Neither	56	32	0	12	14
Disapprove of Bush	2	96	1	1	323
1st Cong. District	49	48	1	2	363
2nd Cong. District	47	49	2	2	337
1st E.C. District	37	59	2	1	151
2nd E.C. District	47	50	1	2	129
3rd E.C. District	48	52	0	0	149
4th E.C. District	58	36	3	2	130
5th E.C. District	52	45	0	3	133

NH Governor: Benson vs. Lynch

"Now, suppose the 2004 gubernatorial election was being held today and the candidates were Craig Benson, the Republican and John Lynch, the Democrat. Who would you vote for ... Craig Benson or John Lynch?" (ROTATE CANDIDATES)

	<u>Craig Benson</u>	<u>John Lynch</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	47%	44%	1%	9%	747
October 26-28	47%	42%	1%	9%	816
October 27-29	47%	44%	1%	8%	825
October 28-30 (Latest)	45%	47%	2%	7%	696
Democrat	15	78	1	6	287
Independent	38	46	5	11	95
Republican	74	19	1	6	308
Registered Democrat	12	85	1	2	179
Undeclared	36	51	3	10	240
Registered Republican	79	16	1	4	235
Not registered	36	40	0	24	40
Core GOP	85	9	1	5	259
Swing Voter	37	46	3	13	189
Core Dem.	8	88	1	3	247
Male	48	44	2	7	333
Female	42	50	1	7	363
18 to 34	31	55	1	13	115
35 to 49	51	41	1	7	268
50 to 64	43	51	3	3	203
65 and over	47	47	0	6	101
North Country	26	58	0	16	62
Central / Lakes	44	48	3	6	117
Connecticut Valley	34	58	1	7	96
Mass Border	54	38	3	6	186
Seacoast	38	56	1	5	117
Manchester Area	57	37	1	6	118
Approve Bush as Pres.	72	19	2	7	357
Neither	30	58	0	12	16
Disapprove of Bush	15	78	2	5	322
1st Cong. District	46	45	2	7	361
2nd Cong. District	43	49	1	6	335
1st E.C. District	34	54	0	11	149
2nd E.C. District	43	52	2	3	129
3rd E.C. District	46	48	1	5	147
4th E.C. District	61	31	1	6	130
5th E.C. District	41	49	2	8	132

U.S. Senate Race: Gregg vs. Haddock

"Suppose the election for U.S. Senate were being held TODAY and the candidates were Judd Gregg, the Republican and Doris "Granny D" Haddock, the Democrat. Who would you vote for ... Judd Gregg or "Granny D" Haddock?" ROTATE CANDIDATES

	<u>Judd Gregg</u>	<u>Doris Haddock</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	62%	23%	1%	13%	738
October 26-28	63%	22%	1%	14%	815
October 27-29	63%	23%	1%	13%	820
October 28-30 (Latest)	63%	24%	1%	11%	695
Democrat	34	50	2	13	281
Independent	63	14	2	20	98
Republican	90	3	0	7	309
Registered Democrat	35	54	2	10	175
Undeclared	57	25	2	16	240
Registered Republican	95	3	0	2	235
Not registered	41	20	0	39	42
Core GOP	97	0	0	3	259
Swing Voter	65	12	1	22	193
Core Dem.	26	60	3	11	243
Male	67	21	1	10	333
Female	60	27	1	13	362
18 to 34	50	30	1	19	112
35 to 49	66	21	1	12	273
50 to 64	64	26	2	8	201
65 and over	69	24	0	8	100
North Country	54	28	2	17	64
Central / Lakes	70	23	0	6	114
Connecticut Valley	54	35	0	11	97
Mass Border	69	18	2	11	184
Seacoast	46	30	3	21	118
Manchester Area	79	18	0	4	119
Approve Bush as Pres.	88	5	1	7	360
Neither	70	7	0	23	16
Disapprove of Bush	36	47	2	15	318
1st Cong. District	65	22	2	12	364
2nd Cong. District	62	26	1	11	331
1st E.C. District	54	31	1	14	150
2nd E.C. District	67	24	0	9	129
3rd E.C. District	54	25	4	17	150
4th E.C. District	77	16	1	6	130
5th E.C. District	68	22	0	10	127

NH 1st Congressional District: Bradley vs. Nadeau

"Suppose the election for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY and the candidates in your district were Jeb Bradley, the Republican and Justin Nadeau (NED – O), the Democrat. Who would you vote for ... Jeb Bradley or Justin Nadeau?"
 ROTATE CANDIDATES

	<u>Jeb Bradley</u>	<u>Justin Nadeau</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	60%	26%	0%	14%	383
October 26-28	60%	26%	0%	14%	399
October 27-29	57%	31%	1%	12%	417
October 28-30 (Latest)	55%	33%	1%	11%	357
Democrat	16	72	1	11	140
Independent	45	25	4	27	48
Republican	90	3	0	7	168
Registered Democrat	11	75	0	13	86
Undeclared	48	34	3	15	125
Registered Republican	92	5	0	2	126
Not registered	42	19	0	39	20
Core GOP	96	0	0	4	136
Swing Voter	55	19	2	24	104
Core Dem.	8	83	1	8	118
Male	58	28	1	13	160
Female	52	37	1	10	197
18 to 34	47	37	0	16	65
35 to 49	64	23	1	13	135
50 to 64	51	40	2	6	105
65 and over	45	41	0	14	49
Northern NH	40	50	0	10	36
Central/Lakes	70	27	0	3	44
Hillsborough County	60	31	0	9	77
Seacoast	52	32	2	15	200
Approve Bush as Pres.	82	5	1	12	192
Neither	37	30	0	34	6
Disapprove of Bush	22	67	1	10	157

NH 2nd Congressional District: Bass vs. Hodes

"Suppose the election for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY and the candidates in your district were Charlie Bass, the Republican and Paul Hodes, the Democrat. Who would you vote for ... Charlie Bass or Paul Hodes?" ROTATE CANDIDATES

	Charlie Bass	Paul Hodes	Other	Undecided	(N=)
October 25-27	57%	30%	2%	12%	346
October 26-28	57%	31%	1%	11%	412
October 27-29	58%	32%	1%	9%	400
October 28-30 (Latest)	56%	35%	0%	9%	340
Democrat	21	69	0	10	143
Independent	53	25	0	22	51
Republican	92	4	0	4	141
Registered Democrat	17	73	0	9	91
Undeclared	50	37	0	13	115
Registered Republican	94	2	1	3	110
Not registered	51	36	0	13	22
Core GOP	96	0	0	3	125
Swing Voter	55	23	1	21	88
Core Dem.	16	78	0	6	127
Male	61	32	0	7	175
Female	50	38	0	12	165
18 to 34	37	44	0	19	49
35 to 49	62	29	0	9	135
50 to 64	53	39	0	9	95
65 and over	58	40	1	2	54
Northern NH	53	39	0	8	58
Western NH	42	45	0	14	63
Central/Lakes	61	36	0	3	69
Hillsborough County	59	30	0	10	126
Seacoast	64	25	0	11	24
Approve Bush as Pres.	84	9	0	7	167
Neither	51	20	0	29	9
Disapprove of Bush	27	63	0	10	163

NH House of Representatives: Democrat vs. Republican

"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?" ROTATE PARTIES

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	41%	40%	3%	15%	686
October 26-28	41%	39%	3%	17%	766
October 27-29	41%	40%	1%	17%	771
October 28-30 (Latest)	42%	40%	1%	17%	661
Democrat	7	80	1	12	277
Independent	23	28	3	46	82
Republican	81	5	1	14	298
Registered Democrat	4	84	1	12	172
Undeclared	26	41	1	31	220
Registered Republican	89	4	1	6	229
Not registered	28	44	2	26	37
Core GOP	89	0	0	10	252
Swing Voter	28	31	2	39	165
Core Dem.	3	86	1	10	244
Male	47	34	1	18	319
Female	38	45	1	17	342
18 to 34	34	49	1	16	103
35 to 49	47	32	0	21	254
50 to 64	40	45	0	15	196
65 and over	43	39	3	15	98
North Country	34	46	0	20	60
Central / Lakes	49	38	1	11	108
Connecticut Valley	28	52	2	18	93
Mass Border	51	29	1	18	171
Seacoast	33	50	0	17	110
Manchester Area	46	34	0	20	118
Approve Bush as Pres.	72	9	1	19	335
Neither	24	61	0	15	15
Disapprove of Bush	11	72	1	16	309
1st Cong. District	45	39	0	16	339
2nd Cong. District	39	40	2	19	322
1st E.C. District	35	45	0	19	141
2nd E.C. District	41	40	2	17	124
3rd E.C. District	45	40	0	14	144
4th E.C. District	47	34	1	18	120
5th E.C. District	42	36	2	19	124

NH Senate: Democrat vs. Republican

"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?" ROTATE PARTIES

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	45%	40%	3%	12%	691
October 26-28	44%	40%	2%	14%	762
October 27-29	42%	42%	1%	15%	767
October 28-30 (Latest)	42%	42%	0%	16%	662
Democrat	6	83	0	10	277
Independent	23	33	1	44	86
Republican	82	5	0	13	296
Registered Democrat	3	89	0	8	173
Undeclared	30	41	1	28	223
Registered Republican	87	5	0	8	226
Not registered	23	50	0	26	38
Core GOP	90	1	0	8	249
Swing Voter	29	30	1	40	168
Core Dem.	2	91	0	7	245
Male	47	36	0	17	319
Female	37	47	1	15	344
18 to 34	35	45	1	19	105
35 to 49	46	36	0	18	253
50 to 64	43	46	0	11	199
65 and over	39	44	1	16	97
North Country	33	49	0	18	60
Central / Lakes	44	40	0	16	109
Connecticut Valley	31	50	1	18	95
Mass Border	49	37	1	13	176
Seacoast	34	48	0	18	109
Manchester Area	53	33	0	14	114
Approve Bush as Pres.	71	12	1	17	335
Neither	24	56	0	20	15
Disapprove of Bush	12	74	0	14	311
1st Cong. District	45	39	0	15	339
2nd Cong. District	39	44	1	17	324
1st E.C. District	35	45	0	20	142
2nd E.C. District	39	43	0	18	125
3rd E.C. District	44	42	0	14	140
4th E.C. District	52	35	0	13	120
5th E.C. District	41	42	2	15	127

Most Important Issue in Vote for President

"Of the following list, which one of these will be the single most important issue in your vote for president this year ... the U.S. campaign against terrorism ... the war in Iraq ... the economy and jobs ... education ... health care ... Medicare and prescription drugs ... Social Security ... gas and oil prices ... or something else?" ROTATE RESPONSES

	<u>Jobs</u>	<u>Iraq</u>	<u>Terror</u>	<u>Educ.</u>	<u>Health Care</u>	<u>Medicare/ Rx Drugs</u>	<u>Social Security</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>All Equal</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	22%	22%	21%	3%	8%	2%	2%	11%	5%	3%	758
October 26-28	20%	24%	19%	3%	9%	2%	2%	12%	6%	2%	838
October 27-29	18%	25%	20%	4%	9%	3%	3%	11%	6%	1%	846
October 28-30 (Latest)	18%	25%	20%	4%	9%	3%	3%	12%	6%	1%	711
Democrat	25	34	4	5	12	4	2	8	6	0	294
Independent	15	21	13	3	11	0	7	18	12	0	99
Republican	11	17	39	3	5	2	3	14	4	2	306
Registered Democrat	24	31	4	5	11	5	3	10	7	0	183
Undeclared	19	27	16	4	11	1	3	11	7	1	244
Registered Republican	12	15	41	3	5	3	2	13	4	2	234
Not registered	10	35	8	0	10	4	1	26	2	4	46
Core GOP	10	14	43	2	5	3	2	16	4	2	258
Swing Voter	18	28	12	5	10	0	6	12	8	2	201
Core Dem.	25	33	4	4	12	5	2	9	6	0	253
Bush Voter	12	17	39	2	4	2	2	15	5	2	333
Kerry Voter	22	34	4	5	13	4	3	9	6	0	342
Male	19	23	22	2	7	2	3	14	6	1	340
Female	17	26	19	5	10	3	2	11	5	2	371
18 to 34	14	26	16	9	10	0	0	17	5	1	116
35 to 49	19	24	25	4	8	1	2	13	5	1	276
50 to 64	19	27	21	2	8	3	3	10	7	2	203
65 and over	16	21	14	1	10	10	9	11	6	1	105
North Country	20	25	10	2	14	4	2	12	9	2	65
Central / Lakes	18	24	17	2	6	2	3	19	7	1	115
Connecticut Valley	16	34	12	7	10	5	3	8	5	1	98
Mass Border	19	27	26	2	7	2	2	10	3	2	192
Seacoast	18	22	18	4	9	4	3	10	10	2	121
Manchester Area	14	16	30	5	11	1	4	15	3	0	119
Approve Bush as Pres.	13	18	36	2	5	2	2	16	6	1	361
Neither	16	26	11	4	8	10	11	4	9	0	16
Disapprove of Bush	23	33	4	6	12	4	3	8	6	1	330
1st Cong. District	18	20	21	5	8	3	4	15	6	1	369
2nd Cong. District	17	30	20	2	10	3	2	9	5	1	342
1st E.C. District	18	27	10	5	11	4	4	13	7	1	152
2nd E.C. District	21	26	20	2	10	1	3	10	5	1	130
3rd E.C. District	21	22	22	3	6	4	1	13	7	1	154
4th E.C. District	15	19	32	6	7	1	5	11	4	0	130
5th E.C. District	15	30	20	3	10	3	1	12	4	3	135

Most Important Issue in Vote for Governor

"Of the following list, which one of these will be the single most important issue in your vote for New Hampshire governor this year ... education funding ... taxes ... ethics in government ... the cost of health insurance ... cuts in public services ... jobs and the economy ... health care ... or something else?" ROTATE RESPONSES

	<u>Educ.</u> <u>Funding</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>Ethics</u> <u>in Govt.</u>	<u>Cost of</u> <u>Hlth Ins.</u>	<u>Cuts in</u> <u>Services</u>	<u>Jobs/</u> <u>Econ.</u>	<u>Health</u> <u>Care</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>All</u> <u>Equal</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
October 25-27	18%	28%	13%	7%	4%	15%	7%	3%	2%	3%	756
October 26-28	17%	29%	12%	7%	4%	13%	8%	4%	3%	3%	836
October 27-29	17%	29%	12%	7%	4%	14%	8%	4%	3%	2%	847
October 28-30 (Latest)	18%	31%	12%	5%	5%	13%	8%	4%	3%	2%	713
Democrat	23	16	15	6	9	13	9	5	3	2	294
Independent	22	32	16	3	1	8	10	3	5	0	100
Republican	11	45	7	5	3	15	7	3	2	1	307
Registered Democrat	22	15	13	5	11	13	9	5	4	4	183
Undeclared	21	31	14	5	2	10	11	4	2	1	245
Registered Republican	13	45	6	5	3	16	5	3	2	1	234
Not registered	10	27	21	9	4	7	8	4	2	6	46
Core GOP	11	47	6	6	2	16	6	4	2	1	259
Swing Voter	17	31	15	4	3	11	10	4	3	3	201
Core Dem.	25	14	15	6	10	11	9	4	3	3	253
Benson Voter	10	49	2	6	2	17	7	5	2	2	308
Lynch Voter	27	14	22	5	8	10	8	4	2	1	327
Male	18	34	10	5	4	12	8	4	2	3	341
Female	17	27	13	6	6	14	9	4	3	1	371
18 to 34	22	26	13	3	3	18	3	6	2	3	116
35 to 49	18	36	7	4	5	14	7	4	3	2	277
50 to 64	16	29	16	7	5	13	9	2	3	1	204
65 and over	15	25	12	9	9	5	15	6	2	3	105
North Country	15	14	13	7	11	17	16	0	3	3	65
Central / Lakes	17	33	16	2	2	11	7	6	5	1	116
Connecticut Valley	23	20	7	7	8	16	9	5	2	2	98
Mass Border	15	40	8	5	4	15	6	3	3	2	193
Seacoast	22	29	15	5	4	6	11	6	1	2	121
Manchester Area	15	34	13	7	4	14	5	3	2	3	119
Approve Bush as Pres.	11	44	8	5	2	15	6	4	3	2	364
Neither	24	16	16	8	10	8	9	0	9	0	16
Disapprove of Bush	24	17	16	5	8	11	10	4	2	2	329
1st Cong. District	17	32	13	6	3	13	7	4	2	2	371
2nd Cong. District	18	29	10	4	7	13	10	4	3	2	341
1st E.C. District	18	16	12	9	7	16	12	5	4	1	153
2nd E.C. District	17	28	14	3	4	13	11	5	2	3	130
3rd E.C. District	25	33	10	4	2	12	6	5	1	1	154
4th E.C. District	9	37	13	8	2	18	5	1	4	3	132
5th E.C. District	18	39	9	3	10	7	7	4	2	2	135