

# WMUR / UNH New Hampshire Tracking Poll

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

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## **HODES PULLS AHEAD OF BASS IN NH DISTRICT 2, DISTRICT 1 TIGHTENS**

Durham, NH – Democrat challenger Paul Hodes has pulled ahead of Republican Charlie Bass in the race for New Hampshire's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District. In the 1<sup>st</sup> District, incumbent Republican Jeb Bradley is facing a stronger than expected challenge from political newcomer Carol Shea-Porter.

These findings are based on the 2006 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.\* Six hundred eighty-two (682) likely New Hampshire voters were interviewed between October 29 and November 1, 2006. The potential sampling error for the statewide survey is  $\pm 3.8\%$ . Three-hundred fifty-two likely 1<sup>st</sup> District voters were surveyed (margin of sampling error of  $\pm 5.2\%$ ) and 330 likely 2<sup>nd</sup> District voters were interviewed (margin of sampling error  $\pm 5.4\%$ ). For more information about the WMUR / UNH Election Tracking Poll, go to [www.unh.edu/survey-center/track06meth.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/survey-center/track06meth.pdf).

### **NH First District**

The race for New Hampshire's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District pits two term Republican incumbent Jeb Bradley against newcomer Democrat Carol Shea-Porter. In a reflection of the anti-Republican mood across the country, Bradley is holding only a narrow lead over Shea-Porter. In the latest WMUR / UNH Tracking Poll, 47% of likely 1<sup>st</sup> District voters say they will vote for Bradley, 42% favor Shea-Porter, 1% favor some other candidate, and 10% remain undecided. Historically, an incumbent with less than 50% of the vote in polls just before an election is likely to lose.

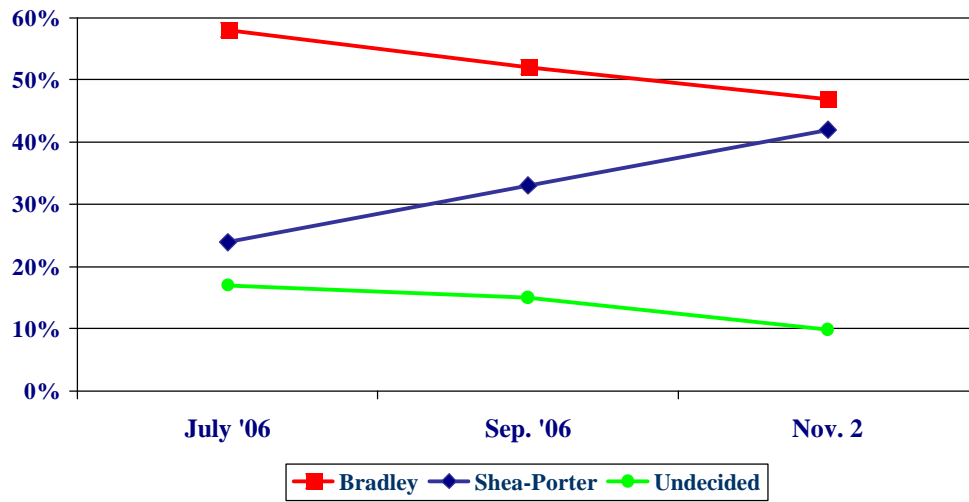
Shea-Porter had been trailing throughout the campaign but has pulled within range of winning this historically Republican seat because of highly motivated Democrat voters and dispirited Republicans. She is leading among those voters who say they are extremely interested in the election by a 62% to 38% margin and is tied among voters who say they will definitely vote. Shea-Porter also does well with voters with post graduate educations and voters living in the Lakes region of the 1<sup>st</sup> District.

Bradley has some good news from this poll in that he leads among swing voters, those voters who do not consistently vote for Democrats or Republicans, by 54% to 16%. His challenge is to get more Republicans and swing voters to the polls on election day to counter the current Democratic advantage in turnout. Bradley runs strongest among Republicans, men, and voters in Massachusetts border towns.

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\* 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.

### NH 1st Congressional District

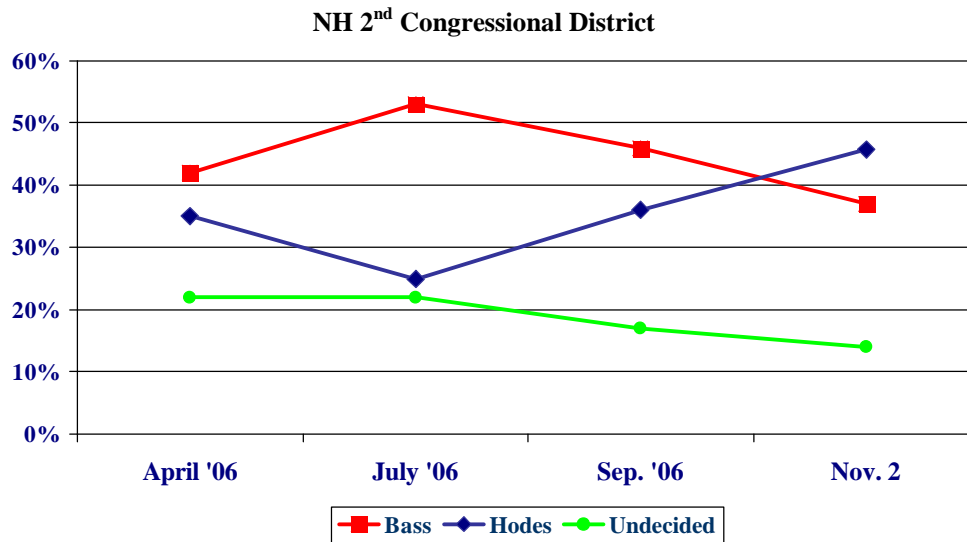


## NH Second District

Charlie Bass has been on Democrat radar screens since he won this district in western New Hampshire in 1994. The 2<sup>nd</sup> District has become more Democratic since that time, but Bass has easily won reelection 5 times. This year, he is in a rematch with his 2004 challenger, Concord attorney Paul Hodes. While Bass easily defeated Hodes in 2004 (58% to 38%), he is in a much tougher battle in 2006. Reflecting an anti-Republican national mood, voters in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District are taking their anger against President Bush and the war in Iraq out on Bass. Currently, 45% of likely voters in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District say they will vote for Hodes, only 37% say they will vote for Bass, 2% prefer Libertarian Ken Blevins, 2% prefer some other candidate, and 14% are undecided.

Democrats in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District are highly motivated and this is a tremendous advantage for Hodes. Among voters who say they are extremely interested in the election, Hodes leads 68% to 23%. He also leads by 50% to 37% among voters who say they will definitely vote.

Bass' hope for pulling out a victory in this election is to somehow motivate Republicans in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District to get out and vote. While running negative ads my cause swing voters to stay home, it is questionable whether the ads he and the Republican Party are running will drive Republicans to the polls.



## Iraq and Bush

The war in Iraq and attitudes toward President Bush are the driving issues in both districts. Two-thirds of likely voters statewide say that the war in Iraq is very important to their vote for Congress, 27% say it is somewhat important, and 6% say it is not very important or not important at all. Similarly, 62% of voters say that supporting or opposing President Bush is very important, 19% say Bush is somewhat important, and 18% think Bush is not very important or not important at all in their vote.

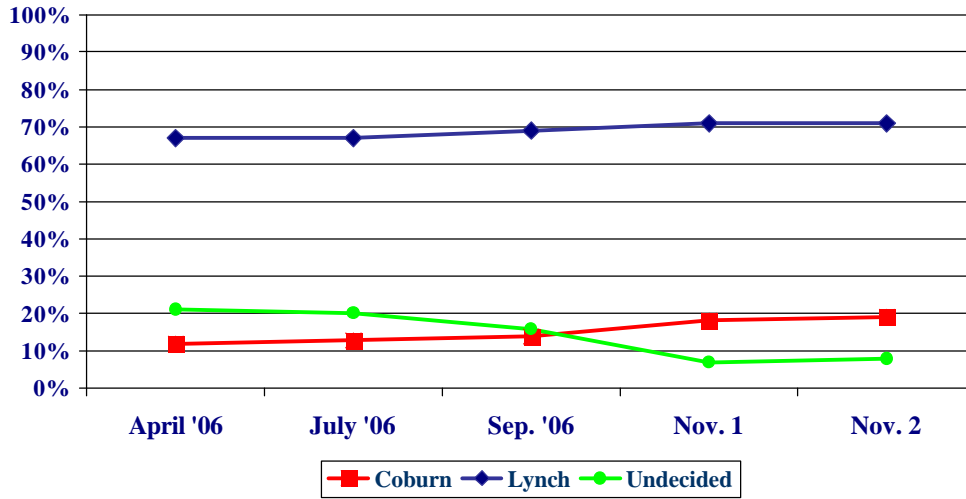
Among 1<sup>st</sup> District voters who say that Iraq is very important to their vote, 50% say they will vote for Shea-Porter and only 38% say they will vote for Bradley. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, 52% of those who say Iraq is very important say they will vote for Hodes and 32% say they will vote for Bass.

A similar pattern holds for voters who say Bush is very important to their vote. Shea-Porter leads among 1<sup>st</sup> District voters who say Bush is very important to their vote by 54% to 37% and Hodes leads among 2<sup>nd</sup> District voters who say that Bush is very important to their vote by a 56% to 31% margin.

## NH Governor

Incumbent John Lynch continues to maintain a wide lead over Republican Jim Coburn in the race for New Hampshire Governor. The latest tracking poll has Lynch at 71%, Coburn has 19%, 3% prefer some other candidate and 8% are undecided.

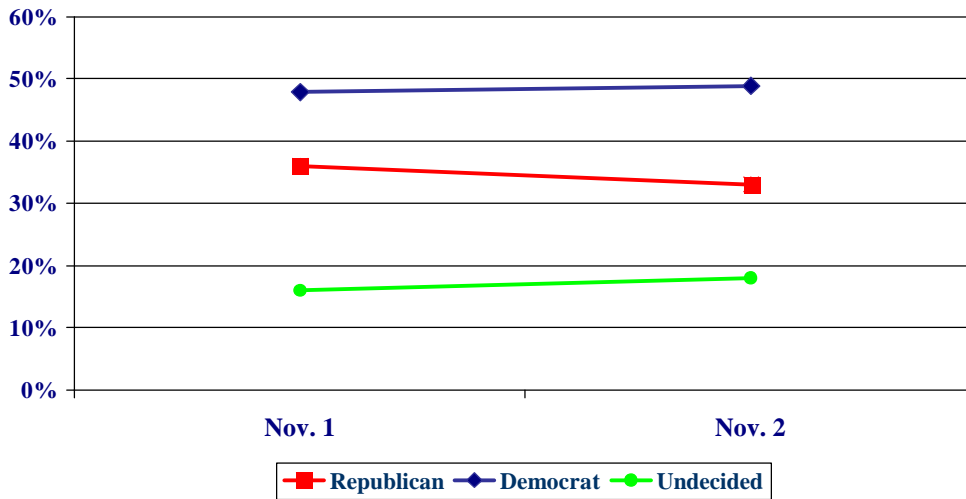
### Vote for NH Governor



### NH Senate

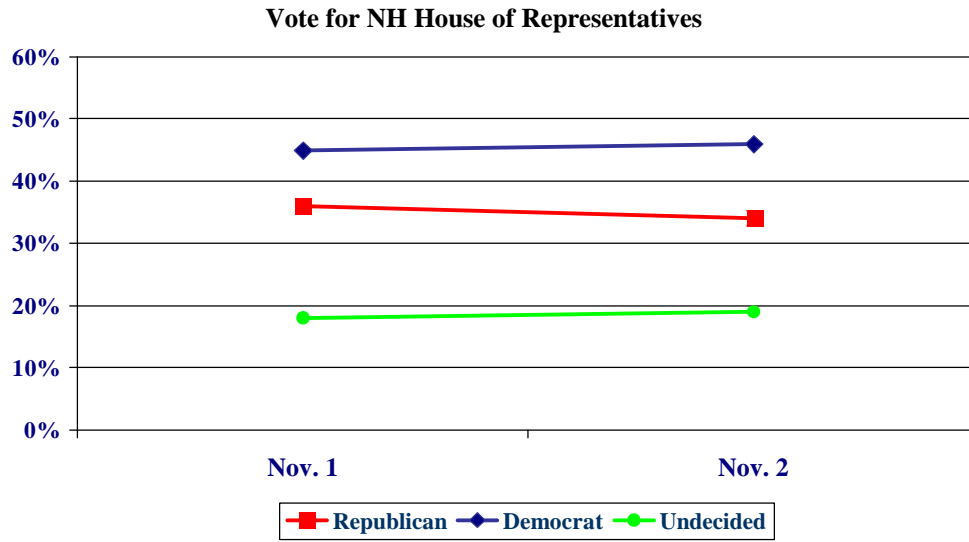
Democrats continue to lead in generic ballots for the New Hampshire Senate. In the latest track, 49% of likely voters say they plan to vote for the Democrat in their State Senate district, 33% plan to vote for the Republican, and 18% are undecided.

### Vote for NH State Senate



### NH House

Democrats also lead in generic ballots for the New Hampshire House. In the latest track, 46% of likely voters say they plan to vote for the Democrat in their State House district, 34% plan to vote for the Republican, and 19% are undecided.



### NH Governor: Lynch vs. Coburn

"Suppose the election for New Hampshire governor was being held Today. Would you vote for Jim Coburn, the Republican ... or John Lynch, the Democrat ... or do you plan to skip that election?" (ROTATE CANDIDATES) IF UNDECIDED: "As of today, do you lean more to Lynch, the Democrat or Coburn, the Republican?"

	<u>Coburn</u>	<u>Lynch</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>Oct. 29 - Oct. 31</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>496</b>
<b>Oct. 29 - Nov. 1</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>663</b>
Democrat	2%	95%	0%	3%	317
Independent	6%	70%	7%	17%	108
Republican	47%	40%	3%	10%	230
Registered Democrat	3%	95%	0%	3%	202
Undeclared	11%	74%	5%	11%	266
Registered Republican	46%	42%	3%	9%	195
Core GOP	56%	31%	3%	10%	189
Swing Voter	8%	71%	6%	15%	171
Core Dem.	1%	97%	0%	2%	296
Definitely vote	17%	76%	2%	5%	459
Probably vote	22%	61%	4%	13%	204
Extremely interested in election	13%	82%	0%	4%	167
Very interested	21%	72%	2%	6%	273
Somewhat/Not very interested	20%	62%	6%	13%	222
Male	23%	66%	3%	7%	321
Female	14%	76%	2%	8%	342
18 to 34	21%	61%	1%	17%	77
35 to 49	21%	65%	6%	8%	202
50 to 64	16%	76%	0%	7%	248
65 and over	19%	76%	3%	2%	124
HS or less	26%	63%	2%	10%	117
Some college	21%	66%	4%	9%	158
College graduate	18%	74%	3%	6%	226
Postgrad education	12%	79%	2%	7%	155
North Country	30%	60%	1%	9%	57
Central / Lakes	10%	81%	4%	5%	112
Connecticut Valley	18%	72%	3%	7%	100
Mass Border	28%	59%	3%	10%	169
Seacoast	11%	81%	2%	6%	119
Manchester Area	17%	75%	0%	8%	104
1st Cong. District	20%	70%	2%	8%	343
2nd Cong. District	17%	72%	3%	7%	320
1st E.C. District	25%	65%	1%	8%	130
2nd E.C. District	8%	80%	5%	6%	156
3rd E.C. District	19%	68%	3%	10%	134
4th E.C. District	22%	71%	1%	6%	124
5th E.C. District	21%	68%	2%	8%	120

**NH 1st Congressional District: Bradley vs. Shea-Porter**

"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 ... Carol Shea-Porter, the Democrat ... or do you plan to skip the election for U.S. Congress at this time?". ROTATE CANDIDATES IF UNDECIDED: "As of today, do you lean more to Shea-Porter, the Democrat or Bradley, the Republican?"

<b>Oct. 29 - Nov. 1</b>	<b><u>Bradley</u></b> <b>47%</b>	<b><u>Shea-Porter</u></b> <b>42%</b>	<b><u>Other</u></b> <b>1%</b>	<b><u>Undecided</u></b> <b>10%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>340</b>
Democrat	14%	78%	1%	7%	154
Independent	46%	28%	0%	26%	57
Republican	88%	4%	0%	7%	127
Registered Democrat	11%	82%	0%	7%	99
Undeclared	43%	40%	2%	15%	133
Registered Republican	86%	7%	0%	7%	109
Core GOP	97%	0%	1%	2%	103
Swing Voter	54%	16%	0%	31%	89
Core Dem.	8%	88%	1%	3%	144
Definitely vote	47%	47%	0%	6%	232
Probably vote	48%	31%	2%	20%	108
Extremely interested in election	38%	62%	0%	0%	93
Very interested	49%	41%	0%	9%	141
Somewhat/Not very interested	52%	25%	2%	21%	104
Iraq very important to vote	39%	50%	0%	11%	221
Iraq somewhat important	63%	25%	2%	10%	97
Iraq not very/not important	68%	30%	0%	2%	21
Bush very important to vote	37%	54%	0%	9%	211
Bush somewhat important	62%	20%	3%	15%	55
Bush not very/not important	69%	21%	0%	10%	69
Male	57%	37%	0%	6%	172
Female	38%	46%	1%	15%	168
18 to 34	52%	34%	0%	14%	42
35 to 49	51%	35%	1%	12%	115
50 to 64	42%	49%	0%	9%	108
65 and over	47%	47%	1%	5%	74
HS or less	55%	37%	0%	8%	64
Some college	56%	29%	0%	14%	87
College graduate	44%	46%	1%	9%	116
Postgrad education	33%	57%	1%	8%	70
North Country	50%	31%	3%	16%	22
Central / Lakes	37%	63%	0%	0%	41
Mass Border	64%	23%	1%	12%	76
Seacoast	42%	50%	1%	7%	119
Manchester Area	44%	40%	0%	16%	82

## NH 2nd Congressional District: Bass vs. Hodes

"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 ... Paul Hodes, the Democrat ... Ken Blevins, the Libertarian ... or do you plan to skip the election for U.S. Congress at this time?". ROTATE CANDIDATES IF UNDECIDED: "As of today, do you lean more to Hodes, the Democrat ... Bass, the Republican ... or Blevins, the Libertarian?"

	<u>Bass</u>	<u>Hodes</u>	<u>Blevins</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>Oct. 29 - Nov. 1</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>320</b>
Democrat	14%	73%	0%	1%	12%	159
Independent	26%	26%	13%	4%	32%	50
Republican	76%	12%	1%	3%	8%	107
Registered Democrat	11%	80%	0%	0%	9%	100
Undeclared	31%	42%	5%	3%	19%	133
Registered Republican	74%	10%	2%	3%	10%	87
Core GOP	91%	0%	1%	1%	7%	87
Swing Voter	30%	27%	9%	6%	28%	83
Core Dem.	8%	82%	0%	1%	10%	148
Definitely vote	37%	50%	2%	1%	10%	225
Probably vote	36%	34%	4%	6%	22%	95
Extremely interested in election	23%	68%	2%	2%	5%	73
Very interested	39%	45%	1%	1%	13%	133
Somewhat/Not very interested	42%	30%	4%	4%	20%	114
Iraq very important to vote	32%	52%	2%	1%	13%	212
Iraq somewhat important	46%	34%	0%	4%	16%	81
Iraq not very/not important	49%	24%	11%	8%	8%	24
Bush very important to vote	31%	56%	1%	0%	12%	193
Bush somewhat important	47%	25%	4%	5%	19%	74
Bush not very/not important	41%	33%	8%	4%	14%	47
Male	39%	42%	5%	3%	12%	150
Female	35%	48%	0%	2%	15%	170
18 to 34	46%	39%	2%	0%	13%	34
35 to 49	33%	39%	7%	6%	16%	87
50 to 64	38%	48%	0%	1%	13%	140
65 and over	40%	44%	1%	3%	12%	50
HS or less	38%	33%	4%	4%	21%	54
Some college	46%	41%	2%	2%	9%	71
College graduate	39%	42%	3%	2%	13%	106
Postgrad education	27%	57%	1%	2%	13%	86
North Country	40%	49%	0%	0%	11%	36
Central / Lakes	33%	48%	5%	0%	13%	69
Connecticut Valley	33%	47%	2%	4%	14%	101
Mass Border	45%	39%	1%	4%	11%	93
Manchester Area	26%	44%	7%	0%	23%	21

### Impact of Iraq on Congressional Vote

"How important is the war in Iraq to your vote for U.S. Congress ... very important ... somewhat important ... not very important ... or not important at all?"

Oct. 29 - Nov. 1	<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u> 66%	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Imp.</u> 27%	<u>Not Very</u> <u>Imp.</u> 4%	<u>Not At</u> <u>All Imp.</u> 2%	<u>DK</u> 0%	<u>(N=)</u> 680
Democrat	72%	23%	3%	1%	0%	324
Independent	71%	22%	4%	2%	0%	110
Republican	55%	34%	6%	4%	0%	238
Registered Democrat	71%	25%	3%	0%	0%	205
Undeclared	66%	27%	3%	3%	0%	276
Registered Republican	60%	29%	7%	4%	0%	199
Core GOP	53%	36%	7%	4%	0%	194
Swing Voter	67%	26%	3%	4%	0%	178
Core Dem.	74%	22%	3%	0%	0%	302
Definitely vote	71%	22%	4%	2%	0%	465
Probably vote	54%	37%	5%	3%	0%	215
Extremely interested in election	81%	12%	3%	3%	1%	166
Very interested	69%	26%	4%	1%	0%	280
Somewhat/Not very interested	52%	39%	5%	4%	0%	232
Male	64%	27%	7%	3%	0%	329
Female	68%	28%	2%	2%	1%	351
18 to 34	41%	43%	12%	5%	0%	80
35 to 49	60%	32%	4%	3%	0%	213
50 to 64	73%	23%	3%	1%	0%	249
65 and over	74%	19%	4%	3%	1%	126
HS or less	60%	30%	5%	4%	0%	121
Some college	72%	23%	3%	1%	0%	165
College graduate	66%	28%	4%	2%	0%	230
Postgrad education	63%	28%	6%	2%	1%	157
North Country	69%	27%	2%	2%	0%	59
Central / Lakes	77%	19%	4%	0%	0%	113
Connecticut Valley	68%	25%	2%	4%	2%	103
Mass Border	54%	35%	8%	2%	0%	174
Seacoast	72%	22%	1%	5%	0%	122
Manchester Area	64%	29%	5%	1%	0%	108
1st Cong. District	66%	28%	3%	3%	0%	350
2nd Cong. District	66%	26%	5%	2%	1%	330
1st E.C. District	71%	23%	2%	3%	1%	134
2nd E.C. District	72%	23%	3%	2%	0%	159
3rd E.C. District	66%	26%	4%	4%	0%	135
4th E.C. District	61%	31%	6%	2%	0%	128
5th E.C. District	58%	33%	7%	2%	0%	123

### Impact of Bush on Congressional Vote

"How important is supporting or opposing President Bush to your vote for U.S. Congress ... very important ... somewhat important ... not very important ... or not important at all?"

Oct. 29 - Nov. 1	<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u> 62%	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Imp.</u> 19%	<u>Not Very</u> <u>Imp.</u> 8%	<u>Not At</u> <u>All Imp.</u> 10%	<u>DK</u> 1%	<u>(N=)</u> 675
Democrat	74%	14%	6%	6%	1%	321
Independent	52%	22%	10%	14%	1%	110
Republican	51%	26%	11%	12%	1%	236
Registered Democrat	74%	13%	7%	5%	1%	204
Undeclared	58%	20%	8%	13%	1%	275
Registered Republican	55%	25%	10%	9%	1%	196
Core GOP	50%	29%	10%	10%	1%	193
Swing Voter	49%	22%	13%	16%	1%	175
Core Dem.	77%	12%	4%	5%	1%	301
Definitely vote	66%	16%	7%	10%	1%	461
Probably vote	53%	27%	10%	9%	0%	214
Extremely interested in election	75%	9%	4%	11%	1%	165
Very interested	64%	18%	10%	7%	1%	277
Somewhat/Not very interested	50%	29%	9%	12%	1%	231
Male	61%	21%	9%	9%	0%	324
Female	63%	18%	8%	10%	2%	351
18 to 34	44%	27%	13%	16%	0%	81
35 to 49	61%	18%	11%	10%	0%	211
50 to 64	64%	22%	6%	6%	1%	247
65 and over	70%	13%	5%	11%	2%	123
HS or less	60%	19%	7%	13%	1%	120
Some college	62%	23%	5%	7%	3%	164
College graduate	60%	18%	10%	11%	0%	226
Postgrad education	65%	18%	10%	7%	0%	159
North Country	55%	24%	6%	13%	2%	57
Central / Lakes	69%	18%	6%	6%	1%	112
Connecticut Valley	62%	23%	4%	9%	2%	103
Mass Border	57%	23%	9%	10%	0%	174
Seacoast	68%	13%	8%	10%	1%	123
Manchester Area	59%	16%	15%	10%	0%	108
1st Cong. District	63%	16%	10%	10%	0%	348
2nd Cong. District	61%	23%	6%	9%	1%	327
1st E.C. District	63%	19%	6%	11%	1%	130
2nd E.C. District	67%	19%	6%	6%	2%	157
3rd E.C. District	63%	17%	8%	11%	1%	136
4th E.C. District	60%	17%	11%	11%	1%	128
5th E.C. District	55%	25%	10%	10%	0%	123

### 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>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>Oct. 29 - Oct. 31</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>482</b>
<b>Oct. 29 - Nov. 1</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>650</b>
Democrat	7%	80%	13%	314
Independent	30%	32%	39%	99
Republican	74%	7%	19%	230
Registered Democrat	8%	84%	8%	200
Undeclared	25%	45%	30%	257
Registered Republican	74%	9%	17%	193
Core GOP	90%	1%	10%	190
Swing Voter	25%	25%	50%	159
Core Dem.	3%	88%	9%	295
Definitely vote	33%	51%	15%	445
Probably vote	37%	36%	27%	205
Extremely interested in election	27%	62%	11%	163
Very interested	36%	46%	18%	268
Somewhat/Not very interested	37%	36%	27%	218
Male	43%	39%	18%	320
Female	26%	53%	20%	330
18 to 34	37%	42%	21%	74
35 to 49	34%	46%	20%	200
50 to 64	33%	47%	20%	242
65 and over	36%	47%	17%	122
HS or less	39%	44%	17%	114
Some college	41%	36%	23%	156
College graduate	33%	49%	18%	218
Postgrad education	27%	54%	19%	154
North Country	38%	48%	14%	55
Central / Lakes	22%	60%	17%	111
Connecticut Valley	26%	54%	20%	99
Mass Border	48%	32%	20%	165
Seacoast	33%	50%	16%	117
Manchester Area	33%	41%	26%	103
1st Cong. District	38%	44%	18%	335
2nd Cong. District	31%	49%	20%	315
1st E.C. District	30%	51%	18%	126
2nd E.C. District	27%	54%	18%	154
3rd E.C. District	38%	43%	19%	129
4th E.C. District	36%	38%	25%	123
5th E.C. District	42%	43%	15%	117

### 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>Undecided</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>Oct. 29 - Oct. 31</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>484</b>
<b>Oct. 29 - Nov. 1</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>651</b>
Democrat	6%	82%	12%	317
Independent	26%	36%	38%	99
Republican	74%	8%	17%	229
Registered Democrat	5%	87%	8%	202
Undeclared	25%	45%	29%	258
Registered Republican	75%	12%	13%	190
Core GOP	89%	2%	9%	188
Swing Voter	25%	29%	46%	159
Core Dem.	2%	90%	9%	297
Definitely vote	34%	54%	12%	449
Probably vote	32%	37%	31%	202
Extremely interested in election	27%	62%	10%	165
Very interested	35%	49%	17%	268
Somewhat/Not very interested	36%	39%	25%	216
Male	39%	43%	17%	315
Female	28%	54%	19%	335
18 to 34	39%	47%	14%	74
35 to 49	29%	52%	19%	198
50 to 64	33%	46%	21%	244
65 and over	38%	48%	14%	123
HS or less	36%	42%	22%	114
Some college	42%	40%	18%	156
College graduate	32%	52%	16%	220
Postgrad education	25%	57%	17%	154
North Country	38%	52%	9%	55
Central / Lakes	27%	59%	14%	112
Connecticut Valley	27%	53%	20%	99
Mass Border	45%	35%	20%	166
Seacoast	31%	54%	15%	118
Manchester Area	28%	48%	25%	101
1st Cong. District	35%	48%	17%	333
2nd Cong. District	31%	50%	19%	318
1st E.C. District	31%	52%	16%	128
2nd E.C. District	28%	56%	16%	155
3rd E.C. District	37%	46%	17%	129
4th E.C. District	32%	44%	24%	122
5th E.C. District	40%	43%	17%	117