

THE WMUR GRANITE STATE POLL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

GROWING UNEASE ABOUT AFGHAN WAR

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UNH Survey Center
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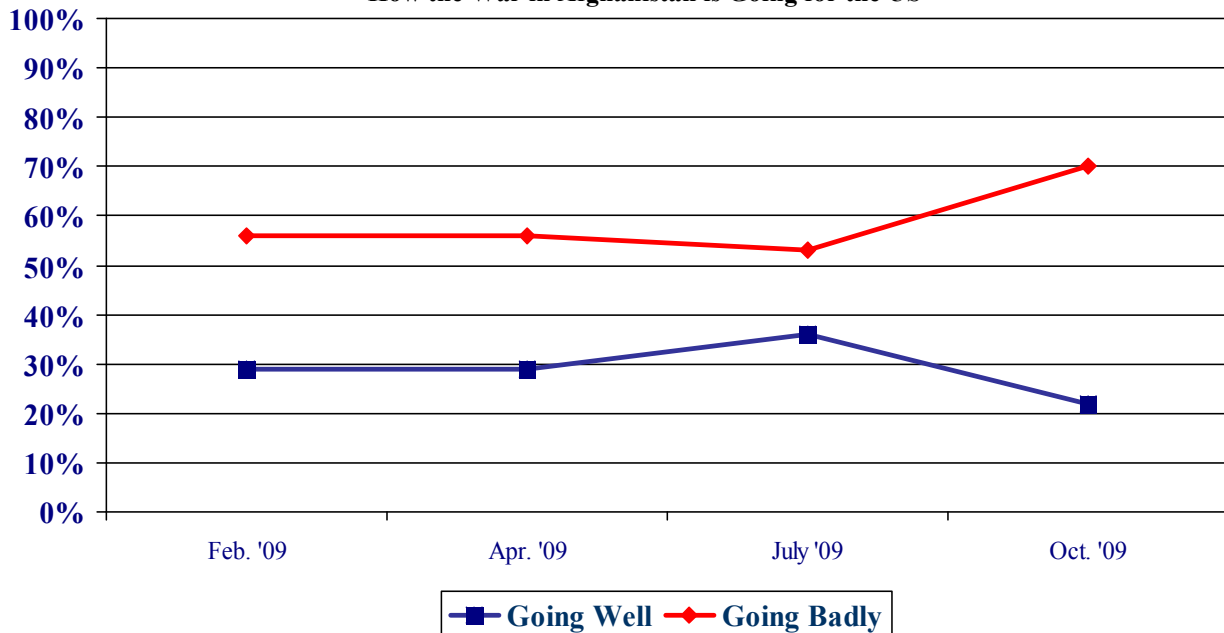
DURHAM, NH – New Hampshire adults believe the war in Afghanistan is going badly for the United States and a plurality support increasing US troop presence there.

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR Granite State Poll**,* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred and three (503) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between September 25 and October 2, 2009. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.4 percent.

The War in Afghanistan

The Obama Administration is facing a critical decision about how to move forward with an Afghanistan strategy that deals with the deteriorating military situation there. In New Hampshire, there has been a significant increase in the perception that the war is going badly for the US. Currently, 70% of New Hampshire adults think the war in Afghanistan is going badly for the US, 22% think it is going well, and 8% don't know. The percentage of Granite Staters who think the war in Afghanistan is going badly for the US has increased 17 percentage points since July. And the pessimism is bipartisan – 72% of Democrats, 70% of Independents, and 69% of Republicans think the war in Afghanistan is going badly for the US.

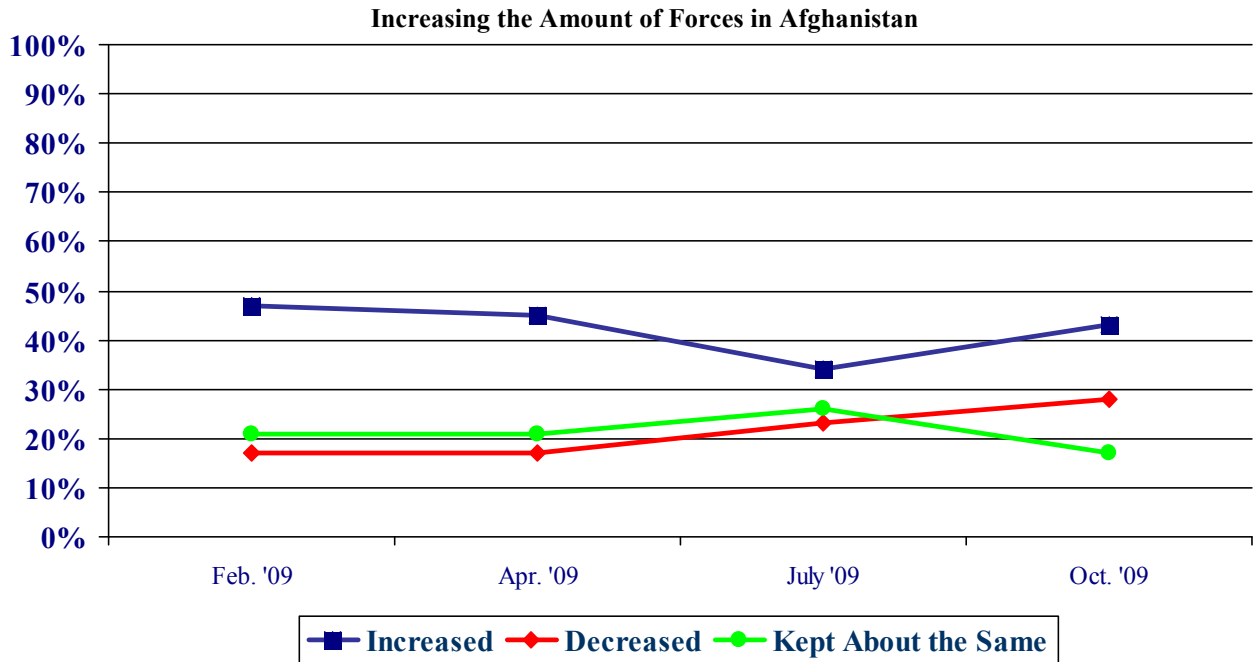
How the War in Afghanistan is Going for the US



* We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as *the Granite State Poll*, sponsored by WMUR-TV, and conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

Increasing the Amount of Forces in Afghanistan

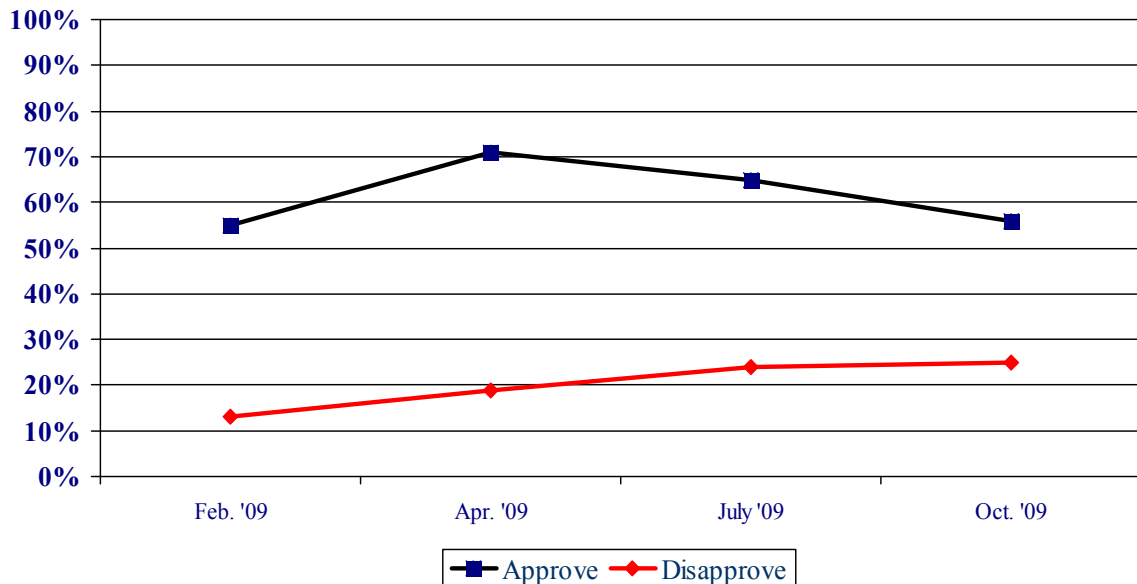
There is, however, significant disagreement about how to best respond to worsening conditions in Afghanistan. A plurality of New Hampshire residents (43%) think the US should increase its troops in Afghanistan, 28% think the amount of forces should be decreased, 17% think troop levels should be kept about the same, and 12% don't know. Republicans are most likely to favor increasing US forces in Afghanistan, with 61% wanting to see an increase, while Democrats (28%) and political independents (35%) are much less supportive of expanding US forces.



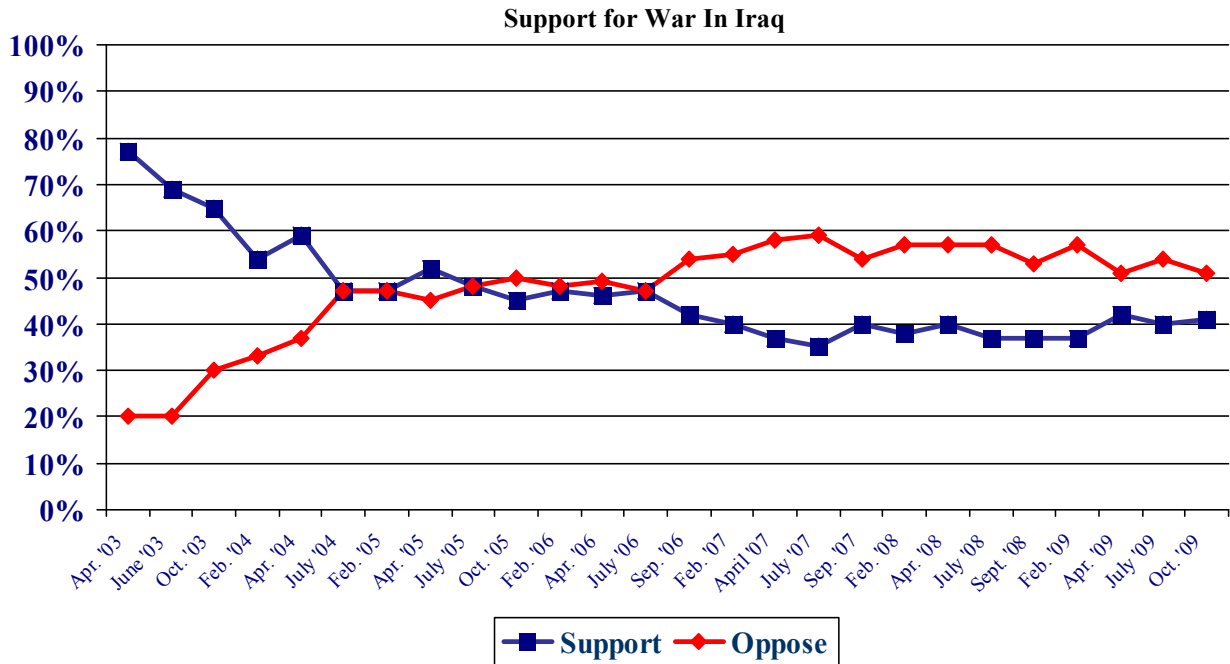
Presidential Approval on Iraq

President Obama continues to see a decline in approval over his handling of the Iraq War. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 56% of New Hampshire adults approve of his handling of the war, 25% disapprove, and 19% are neutral. Obama continues to hold onto majority support from Democrats and political independents – 83% and 57%, respectively – but Republicans tend to disapprove of his actions in Iraq, with 31% approving and 43% disapproving.

Obama Approval: Handling Situation in Iraq

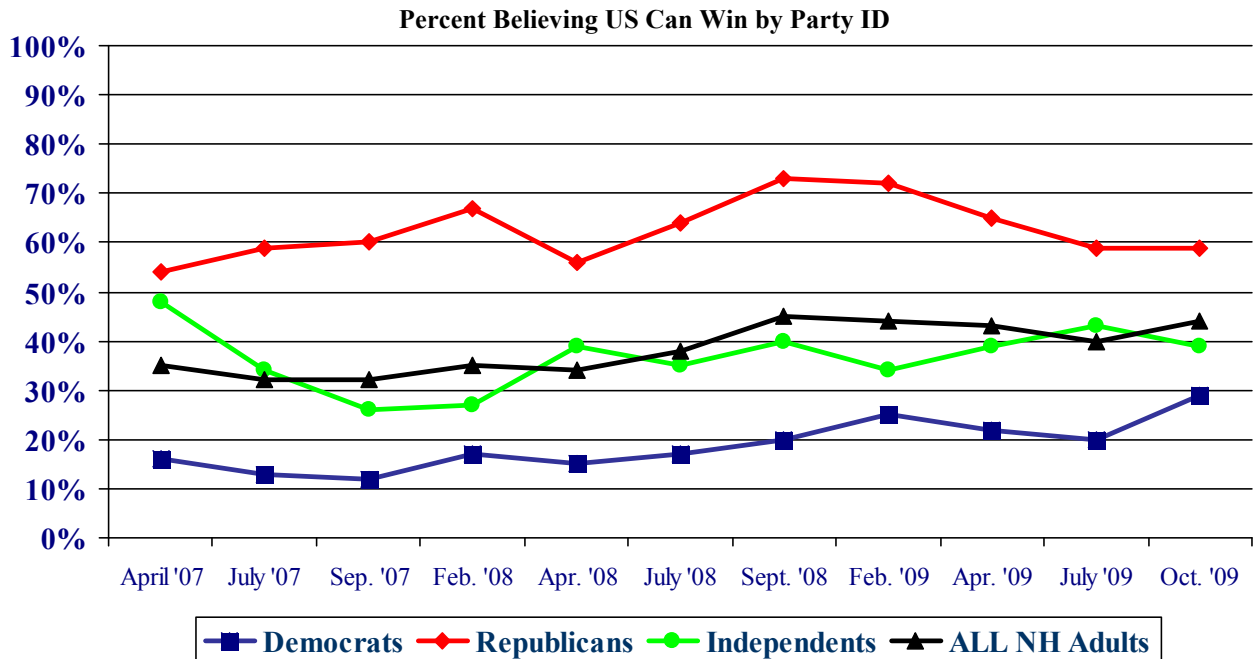


But most New Hampshire residents continue to think that going to war in Iraq was a bad idea. Currently, 41% of Granite Staters support having gone to war with Iraq, 51% oppose it, and 8% are neutral. The percentage of New Hampshire adults who support or oppose having gone to war in Iraq has not changed significantly since April.



Can the US Win?

There has been a slight increase in the percentage of those who think the US can win the war, particularly among Democrats. Currently, 44% of New Hampshire adults think the US can win the Iraq War, 43% think we cannot win, and 13% don't know. Republicans continue to be the most optimistic about the US prospects of victory in Iraq, with 59% believing it is winnable, while Democrats are the least optimistic with 29% thinking winning the Iraq war is possible. However, this is an increase from only 20% in July.



Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR Granite State Poll**, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred and three (503) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between September 25 and October 2, 2009. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.4 percent.

The data have been weighted to adjust for numbers of adults and telephone lines within households, respondent sex, and region of the state. 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.

Presidential Approval - Handling of Situation in Iraq

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling the situation with Iraq?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Oct. '09	56%	19%	25%	(496)
July '09	65%	10%	24%	(554)
Apr. '09	71%	10%	19%	(498)
Feb. '09	55%	32%	13%	(609)

Support for War in Iraq

“Do you support or oppose the United States having gone to war with Iraq?”

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Oct. '09	41%	8%	51%	(499)
July '09	40%	6%	54%	(553)
Apr. '09	42%	7%	51%	(502)
Feb. '09	37%	5%	57%	(616)
Sept. '09	37%	7%	53%	(544)
July '08	37%	6%	57%	(511)
Apr. '08	40%	3%	57%	(498)
Feb. '08	38%	5%	57%	(548)
Sep. '07	40%	6%	54%	(506)
July '07	35%	6%	59%	(516)
Apr. '07	37%	5%	58%	(510)
Feb. '07	40%	5%	55%	(525)
Sept. '06	42%	4%	54%	(510)
July '06	47%	6%	47%	(500)
Apr. '06	46%	5%	49%	(496)
Feb. '06	47%	5%	48%	(500)
Oct. '05	45%	4%	50%	(502)
July '05	48%	5%	48%	(493)
Apr. '05	52%	3%	45%	(489)
Feb. '05	47%	6%	47%	(537)
July '04	47%	6%	47%	(498)
Apr. '04	59%	4%	37%	(536)
Feb. '04	54%	3%	33%	(509)
Oct. '03	65%	5%	30%	(496)
June '03	69%	4%	20%	(513)
Apr. '03	77%	4%	20%	(506)

Can US Win in Iraq?

"Do you think the United States can win or cannot win the war in Iraq?"

	<u>Can Win</u>	<u>Cannot Win</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Oct. '09	44%	43%	13%	(491)
July '09	40%	46%	15%	(549)
Apr. '09	43%	45%	12%	(486)
Feb. '09	44%	41%	15%	(597)
Sept. '08	45%	41%	14%	(532)
July '08	38%	52%	10%	(511)
Apr. '08	34%	56%	10%	(495)
Feb. '08	35%	53%	12%	(544)
Sep. '07	32%	55%	13%	(503)
July '07	32%	57%	11%	(504)
Apr. '07	35%	55%	10%	(512)

How is the War in Afghanistan Going for the U.S.?

"Now, let's talk about the war in Afghanistan. What is your impression of how the war in Afghanistan is going for the United States right now? Would you say it is going very well ... somewhat well ... somewhat badly ... or very badly?"

	<u>Going Well</u>	<u>Going Badly</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Oct. '09	22%	70%	8%	(500)
July '09	36%	53%	12%	(556)
Apr. '09	29%	56%	15%	(498)
Feb. '09	29%	56%	14%	(619)

Should Amount of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan be Modified?

"Do you think the number of U.S. military forces in Afghanistan should be increased ... decreased ... or kept about the same?"

	<u>Increased</u>	<u>Decreased</u>	<u>Kept the Same</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Oct. '09	43%	28%	17%	12%	(496)
July '09	34%	23%	26%	16%	(552)
Apr. '09	45%	17%	21%	17%	(495)
Feb. '09	47%	17%	21%	15%	(608)

Presidential Approval Rating - Iraq

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 56%	<u>Neutral</u> 19%	<u>Disapprove</u> 25%	<u>(N=)</u> 496
Registered Democrat	85%	7%	8%	130
Registered Undeclared	55%	22%	22%	201
Registered Republican	33%	22%	45%	131
Democrat	83%	9%	8%	208
Independent	57%	24%	19%	75
Republican	31%	26%	43%	201
Liberal	83%	10%	7%	97
Moderate	69%	16%	15%	194
Conservative	30%	26%	45%	166
McCain/Palin Voter	28%	27%	45%	198
Obama/Biden Voter	83%	10%	7%	236
Other	37%	32%	31%	22
Did Not Vote in 2008	46%	22%	32%	24
Union household	76%	9%	15%	67
Non-union	53%	21%	27%	417
10 yrs or less in NH	51%	20%	29%	80
11 to 20 years	69%	10%	20%	94
More than 20 years	54%	21%	25%	311
18 to 34	61%	21%	18%	44
35 to 49	56%	18%	26%	138
50 to 64	60%	15%	25%	197
65 and over	50%	25%	25%	104
Male	54%	20%	26%	243
Female	59%	18%	23%	253
High school or less	43%	25%	32%	88
Some college	54%	18%	28%	105
College graduate	55%	20%	25%	199
Post-graduate	75%	11%	14%	96
Less than \$30K	44%	34%	22%	33
\$30K to \$60K	57%	17%	27%	69
\$60K to \$75K	77%	12%	11%	52
\$75K to \$100K	44%	23%	33%	63
\$100K or more	67%	13%	20%	122
Married	55%	19%	26%	360
Divorced/separated	59%	19%	22%	77
Never married	62%	14%	24%	49
Protestant	54%	23%	23%	174
Catholic	52%	18%	30%	195
Other	73%	11%	16%	104
Attend services 1 or more/week	46%	22%	32%	115
1-2 times a month	49%	28%	23%	67
Less often	58%	22%	19%	167
Never	66%	8%	26%	132
North Country	61%	13%	26%	52
Central / Lakes	47%	18%	34%	81
Connecticut Valley	52%	29%	19%	65
Mass Border	58%	15%	27%	156
Seacoast	60%	14%	26%	66
Manchester Area	61%	25%	14%	77
First Cong. Dist	59%	18%	24%	247
Second Cong. Dist	54%	20%	26%	249

Support / Oppose US War in Iraq

STATEWIDE	<u>Support</u> 41%	<u>Neutral</u> 8%	<u>Oppose</u> 51%	<u>(N=)</u> 499
Registered Democrat	16%	5%	79%	128
Registered Undeclared	38%	6%	56%	201
Registered Republican	69%	11%	20%	136
Democrat	16%	6%	78%	206
Independent	37%	4%	58%	78
Republican	67%	11%	22%	203
Liberal	13%	4%	83%	97
Moderate	35%	8%	58%	195
Conservative	64%	9%	27%	168
McCain/Palin Voter	71%	9%	19%	201
Obama/Biden Voter	13%	4%	82%	234
Other	40%	18%	41%	23
Did Not Vote in 2008	47%	15%	38%	24
Union household	30%	9%	62%	65
Non-union	42%	8%	50%	422
10 yrs or less in NH	38%	4%	58%	80
11 to 20 years	46%	6%	49%	94
More than 20 years	40%	9%	51%	313
18 to 34	34%	4%	62%	44
35 to 49	46%	8%	46%	138
50 to 64	41%	8%	51%	196
65 and over	37%	8%	56%	108
Male	44%	8%	48%	245
Female	38%	8%	54%	254
High school or less	40%	8%	52%	86
Some college	39%	7%	54%	107
College graduate	50%	8%	42%	201
Post-graduate	26%	7%	67%	96
Less than \$30K	38%	8%	54%	33
\$30K to \$60K	52%	6%	42%	68
\$60K to \$75K	22%	8%	70%	53
\$75K to \$100K	48%	8%	44%	63
\$100K or more	35%	5%	60%	120
Married	42%	9%	50%	361
Divorced/separated	39%	7%	53%	79
Never married	38%	4%	58%	49
Protestant	41%	10%	49%	174
Catholic	46%	9%	44%	194
Other	27%	2%	71%	104
Attend services 1 or more/week	45%	14%	41%	117
1-2 times a month	44%	5%	51%	70
Less often	39%	8%	53%	166
Never	37%	4%	59%	130
North Country	36%	3%	60%	52
Central / Lakes	38%	10%	52%	81
Connecticut Valley	47%	4%	49%	67
Mass Border	38%	8%	54%	154
Seacoast	38%	9%	53%	66
Manchester Area	49%	11%	40%	80
First Cong. Dist	41%	10%	49%	246
Second Cong. Dist	41%	6%	53%	252

Can US Win War in Iraq?

STATEWIDE	Can Win 44%	Cannot Win 43%	Don't Know 13%	(N=) 491
Registered Democrat	29%	57%	14%	125
Registered Undeclared	40%	44%	16%	198
Registered Republican	63%	26%	11%	134
Democrat	29%	57%	14%	203
Independent	39%	47%	15%	73
Republican	59%	29%	12%	203
Liberal	21%	63%	15%	96
Moderate	42%	44%	14%	195
Conservative	58%	31%	11%	164
McCain/Palin Voter	62%	26%	12%	197
Obama/Biden Voter	28%	58%	13%	230
Other	45%	41%	15%	23
Did Not Vote in 2008	47%	46%	8%	24
Union household	43%	37%	20%	65
Non-union	44%	44%	12%	416
10 yrs or less in NH	45%	47%	8%	78
11 to 20 years	43%	43%	14%	92
More than 20 years	44%	42%	14%	310
18 to 34	62%	36%	1%	44
35 to 49	46%	44%	10%	134
50 to 64	40%	45%	16%	196
65 and over	41%	44%	15%	105
Male	52%	37%	11%	244
Female	35%	49%	16%	247
High school or less	52%	34%	13%	86
Some college	41%	48%	11%	103
College graduate	48%	40%	12%	199
Post-graduate	30%	53%	17%	95
Less than \$30K	40%	45%	14%	32
\$30K to \$60K	49%	39%	12%	68
\$60K to \$75K	29%	54%	17%	51
\$75K to \$100K	50%	35%	15%	63
\$100K or more	41%	49%	10%	121
Married	43%	43%	14%	355
Divorced/separated	36%	50%	13%	79
Never married	60%	37%	3%	49
Protestant	42%	41%	17%	172
Catholic	50%	39%	12%	193
Other	33%	59%	7%	102
Attend services 1 or more/week	46%	37%	18%	113
1-2 times a month	41%	47%	12%	69
Less often	46%	41%	13%	165
Never	40%	51%	9%	128
North Country	41%	49%	10%	52
Central / Lakes	39%	42%	19%	80
Connecticut Valley	50%	47%	3%	60
Mass Border	47%	39%	14%	153
Seacoast	45%	39%	16%	66
Manchester Area	37%	50%	13%	80
First Cong. Dist	46%	39%	15%	249
Second Cong. Dist	42%	47%	11%	243

How is the War in Afghanistan going for the US?

STATEWIDE	<u>Well</u> 22%	<u>Badly</u> 70%	<u>Don't Know</u> 8%	<u>(N=)</u> 500
Registered Democrat	26%	70%	4%	127
Registered Undeclared	16%	75%	8%	202
Registered Republican	27%	67%	7%	136
Democrat	20%	72%	8%	207
Independent	22%	70%	8%	76
Republican	24%	69%	8%	205
Liberal	20%	75%	6%	97
Moderate	23%	70%	7%	197
Conservative	22%	71%	7%	168
McCain/Palin Voter	24%	68%	8%	201
Obama/Biden Voter	21%	73%	7%	235
Other	17%	71%	12%	23
Did Not Vote in 2008	15%	62%	23%	24
Union household	20%	72%	8%	67
Non-union	22%	70%	8%	423
10 yrs or less in NH	15%	75%	10%	79
11 to 20 years	24%	69%	7%	94
More than 20 years	23%	70%	7%	315
18 to 34	16%	71%	13%	44
35 to 49	28%	64%	9%	138
50 to 64	22%	76%	2%	197
65 and over	17%	68%	15%	108
Male	20%	76%	4%	245
Female	23%	64%	13%	255
High school or less	18%	69%	13%	88
Some college	26%	65%	8%	105
College graduate	22%	70%	8%	201
Post-graduate	19%	78%	3%	97
Less than \$30K	10%	77%	12%	33
\$30K to \$60K	24%	69%	8%	70
\$60K to \$75K	21%	72%	7%	52
\$75K to \$100K	31%	57%	12%	63
\$100K or more	20%	79%	0%	122
Married	24%	68%	7%	364
Divorced/separated	14%	75%	11%	79
Never married	18%	74%	8%	49
Protestant	23%	68%	9%	177
Catholic	26%	68%	6%	196
Other	11%	81%	8%	102
Attend services 1 or more/week	26%	65%	8%	117
1-2 times a month	29%	60%	12%	70
Less often	16%	76%	9%	167
Never	22%	72%	6%	130
North Country	12%	82%	6%	52
Central / Lakes	16%	74%	9%	82
Connecticut Valley	24%	69%	7%	65
Mass Border	25%	67%	8%	156
Seacoast	23%	66%	10%	65
Manchester Area	24%	67%	9%	80
First Cong. Dist	24%	68%	8%	249
Second Cong. Dist	19%	72%	8%	251

Should Amount of U.S. forces in Afghanistan be modified?

	<u>Increased</u> 43%	<u>Decreased</u> 28%	<u>Kept About the Same</u> 17%	<u>Don't Know</u> 12%	<u>(N=)</u> 496
STATEWIDE					
Registered Democrat	29%	38%	17%	17%	128
Registered Undeclared	38%	31%	18%	13%	200
Registered Republican	65%	14%	13%	8%	136
Democrat	28%	39%	17%	16%	207
Independent	35%	28%	21%	15%	74
Republican	61%	16%	15%	8%	205
Liberal	23%	45%	15%	16%	95
Moderate	46%	22%	19%	13%	196
Conservative	54%	24%	14%	8%	167
McCain/Palin Voter	63%	13%	15%	9%	202
Obama/Biden Voter	24%	40%	17%	18%	231
Other	67%	23%	10%	0%	23
Did Not Vote in 2008	44%	25%	27%	4%	24
Union household	42%	32%	15%	11%	67
Non-union	44%	27%	17%	12%	419
10 yrs or less in NH	34%	35%	17%	14%	77
11 to 20 years	51%	27%	14%	8%	94
More than 20 years	42%	27%	17%	13%	316
18 to 34	35%	40%	13%	12%	44
35 to 49	41%	25%	19%	15%	137
50 to 64	45%	29%	18%	8%	197
65 and over	43%	26%	13%	18%	106
Male	52%	26%	13%	9%	244
Female	35%	29%	20%	15%	252
High school or less	44%	27%	24%	5%	87
Some college	35%	37%	16%	12%	106
College graduate	46%	25%	14%	15%	200
Post-graduate	44%	25%	16%	15%	97
Less than \$30K	29%	33%	33%	6%	33
\$30K to \$60K	54%	25%	15%	6%	71
\$60K to \$75K	21%	45%	13%	21%	52
\$75K to \$100K	54%	17%	14%	15%	63
\$100K or more	41%	29%	19%	11%	121
Married	46%	25%	16%	13%	361
Divorced/separated	38%	33%	20%	9%	78
Never married	37%	36%	16%	11%	49
Protestant	47%	22%	20%	11%	175
Catholic	44%	29%	15%	12%	192
Other	33%	39%	15%	13%	104
Attend services 1 or more/week	52%	21%	17%	10%	117
1-2 times a month	35%	28%	22%	15%	69
Less often	42%	25%	17%	16%	165
Never	38%	39%	14%	9%	131
North Country	40%	36%	18%	6%	52
Central / Lakes	44%	23%	18%	15%	82
Connecticut Valley	35%	38%	12%	15%	64
Mass Border	51%	28%	10%	11%	154
Seacoast	42%	19%	26%	12%	65
Manchester Area	38%	25%	24%	14%	80
First Cong. Dist	45%	22%	19%	14%	249
Second Cong. Dist	42%	33%	14%	11%	247