

SAINT
ANSELM
COLLEGE



1 8 8 9

SAINT ANSELM
COLLEGE

NEW HAMPSHIRE
INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

**A SURVEY OF NEW
HAMPSHIRE VOTER ATTITUDES
OCTOBER 2020**

Neil Levesque
Executive Director, New Hampshire Institute of Politics

Faculty Advisor:
Tauna Sisco, PhD
Chair, Department of Sociology

SURVEY NOTES:

These results are from the Saint Anselm College Survey Center poll based on online surveys of 1147 New Hampshire voters likely to vote in this fall's elections for President, Governor, and Congress. Surveys were collected between October 1st and 4th, 2020, from cell phone users randomly drawn from a sample of registered voters reflecting the demographic and partisan characteristics of the voting population. For questions in which respondents were asked to select from a list of options (e.g. presidential preference), choices were presented in random order. Names were presented in random order for each of the political figure and candidate series (e.g. candidate image). The survey has an overall margin of sampling error of +/- 2.9% with a confidence interval of 95%; the margins of sampling error for questions specific to congressional districts are 4.0% for District 1 and 4.2% for District 2. The data are weighted for age, gender, geography, and education based on a voter demographic model derived from historical voting patterns, but are not weighted by party registration or party identification.

The Survey Center continually studies the components that construct a poll, such as interview techniques, voter modeling, and collection methods, in order to refine its methodology and adjust to changes in voter and respondent behavior. This poll departs from the Center's standard use of live telephone interviews and implements an online collection methodology that has been under ongoing study and refinement. Comparison with Center polling employing telephone interviews, as this presentation explicitly does in its review of public figure favorability, should be evaluated in this context.

OVERVIEW:

New Hampshire Institute of Politics Executive Director Neil Levesque summarized the results, saying, “This is the first significant movement we’ve seen in the presidential race so far, with Joe Biden now preferred by New Hampshire likely voters over Trump by a 12-point margin at 53%-41%. Until now, Biden’s lead has held steady at between 7 and 8 points, and this represents a 4-point improvement over August, when he held a 51%-43% lead.

“This poll was conducted shortly after the presidential debate and while the news of Trump’s COVID diagnosis was breaking. However, neither of these events seems to have damaged Trump politically: his image and job approval have remained steady throughout the year in the low 40’s. Trump’s current image is at 42%-58% favorable and his job approval is at 44%-56%, right in line with previous polls.

“What has changed is Biden’s image, which has improved from 49%-50% favorable in August to 53%-47% in this poll. With a net positive image in contrast to Trump’s net negative, Biden has begun to assemble enough support to move into a double-digit lead. Democratic and Republican support for their respective candidates has remained steady; Biden’s increased lead has come from swing voters, who have gone from supporting Trump 43%-31% to supporting him 44%-24% since August.

“This is the first real volatility we’ve seen in this race, and while it suggests that Biden has some momentum for now, swing voters can be prone to changing their minds. However, the challenge for Trump is that while Biden has virtually unanimous support among Democrats, only 87% of Republican voters are committed to their party’s nominee. This is a split that has held throughout our polling on this race. Trump will need to solidify his support among Republicans while bringing swing voters back if he is to close the gap over the coming weeks.

“Governor Sununu remains very popular, with a 65%-34% favorable image and a 68%-31% job approval. Challenger Dan Feltes is relatively unknown with a 33%-26% favorable image. Sununu received high marks in previous polling for his COVID leadership, and now has a comfortable 23-point margin in voter preference over Feltes.

“Senator Jeanne Shaheen is also quite popular, with a 56%-39% favorable image and a 56%-37% job approval. She currently enjoys a preference margin over challenger Corky Messner of 15 points at 53%-38%. Freshman Congressman Chris Pappas has improved his image somewhat since August but is still under 50% at 49%-37%, as is his job approval at 47%-37%. Newcomer Matt Mowers is within 8 points of Pappas at 49%-41% in voter preference. Veteran Congresswoman Annie Kuster has seen her popularity erode to a narrow 46%-43% favorable image and a 47%-37% job approval. She nonetheless enjoys a significant 14-point preference advantage, at 52%-38%, in her rematch with Steve Negron.

“Watch for these races to tighten over the next couple weeks,” concluded Levesque. “Support for challengers generally increases as their party’s voters become more familiar with them and the next couple weeks may see one or two of these races start to heat up.”

Weighted Marginals

October 1-4, 2020

n = 1147

New Hampshire Likely Voters

MoE +/- 2.9%

Interest in Election		
	Frequency	Percent
Extremely	1006	88
Very	110	10
Somewhat	31	3
Total	1147	100

Would you say that things in our country are heading in the right direction, or have things gotten off on the wrong track?		
	Frequency	Percent
Right Track	333	29
Wrong Track	742	65
Unsure	72	6
Total	1147	100

Donald Trump Image		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	380	33
Somewhat Favorable	103	9
Somewhat Unfavorable	36	3
Strongly Unfavorable	624	54
No Opinion	2	0
Never Heard Of	2	0
Favorable	483	42
Unfavorable	660	58
No Opinion	4	0
Total	1147	100

Chris Sununu Image		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	440	38
Somewhat Favorable	308	27
Somewhat Unfavorable	235	21
Strongly Unfavorable	152	13
No Opinion	11	1
Never Heard Of	1	0
Favorable	748	65
Unfavorable	387	34
No Opinion	12	1
Total	1147	100

Jeanne Shaheen Image		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	396	35
Somewhat Favorable	249	22
Somewhat Unfavorable	143	12
Strongly Unfavorable	306	27
No Opinion	53	5
Favorable	645	56
Unfavorable	449	39
No Opinion	53	5
Total	1147	100

Maggie Hassan Image		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	328	29
Somewhat Favorable	256	22
Somewhat Unfavorable	136	12
Strongly Unfavorable	328	29
No Opinion	98	9
Never Heard Of	1	0
Favorable	584	51
Unfavorable	464	40
No Opinion	99	9
Total	1147	100

Chris Pappas Image		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	156	26
Somewhat Favorable	136	23
Somewhat Unfavorable	59	10
Strongly Unfavorable	160	27
No Opinion	80	13
Never Heard Of	4	1
Favorable	292	49
Unfavorable	219	37
No Opinion	84	14
Total	595	100

Annie Kuster Image		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	153	28
Somewhat Favorable	103	19
Somewhat Unfavorable	52	9
Strongly Unfavorable	184	33
No Opinion	54	10
Never Heard Of	6	1
Favorable	256	46
Unfavorable	236	43
No Opinion	60	11
Total	552	100

Joe Biden Image		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	343	30
Somewhat Favorable	262	23
Somewhat Unfavorable	61	5
Strongly Unfavorable	473	41
No Opinion	8	1
Favorable	605	53
Unfavorable	534	47
No Opinion	8	1
Total	1147	100

Dan Feltes Image		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	115	10
Somewhat Favorable	269	23
Somewhat Unfavorable	95	8
Strongly Unfavorable	205	18
No Opinion	315	27
Never Heard Of	150	13
Favorable	384	33
Unfavorable	300	26
No Opinion	464	40
Total	1147	100

Corky Messner Image		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	180	16
Somewhat Favorable	217	19
Somewhat Unfavorable	94	8
Strongly Unfavorable	318	28
No Opinion	239	21
Never Heard Of	99	9
Favorable	397	35
Unfavorable	412	36
No Opinion	338	29
Total	1147	100

Matt Mowers Image		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	103	17
Somewhat Favorable	87	15
Somewhat Unfavorable	54	9
Strongly Unfavorable	105	18
No Opinion	149	25
Never Heard Of	97	16
Favorable	190	32
Unfavorable	159	27
No Opinion	246	41
Total	595	100

Steve Negron Image		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	44	8
Somewhat Favorable	92	17
Somewhat Unfavorable	50	9
Strongly Unfavorable	75	14
No Opinion	183	33
Never Heard Of	109	20
Favorable	136	25
Unfavorable	125	23
No Opinion	291	53
Total	552	100

President Donald Trump Job Approval		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	378	33
Somewhat Approve	124	11
Somewhat Disapprove	30	3
Strongly Disapprove	610	53
No Opinion	3	0
Never Heard Of	2	0
Approve	503	44
Disapprove	640	56
No Opinion	4	0
Total	1147	100

Governor Chris Sununu Job Approval		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	468	41
Somewhat Approve	308	27
Somewhat Disapprove	226	20
Strongly Disapprove	128	11
No Opinion	16	1
Never Heard Of	1	0
Approve	776	68
Disapprove	354	31
No Opinion	17	1
Total	1147	100

Senator Jeanne Shaheen Job Approval		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	394	34
Somewhat Approve	252	22
Somewhat Disapprove	120	10
Strongly Disapprove	303	26
No Opinion	78	8
Approve	646	56
Disapprove	423	37
No Opinion	78	7
Total	1147	100

Senator Maggie Hassan Job Approval		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	316	28
Somewhat Approve	263	23
Somewhat Disapprove	150	13
Strongly Disapprove	304	27
No Opinion	113	10
Never Heard Of	1	0
Approve	579	50
Disapprove	454	40
No Opinion	114	10
Total	1147	100

Congressman Chris Pappas Job Approval		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	138	23
Somewhat Approve	140	24
Somewhat Disapprove	60	10
Strongly Disapprove	160	27
No Opinion	93	16
Never Heard Of	4	0
Approve	278	47
Disapprove	220	37
No Opinion	97	16
Total	595	100

Congresswoman Annie Kuster Job Approval		
	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	162	29
Somewhat Approve	97	18
Somewhat Disapprove	42	8
Strongly Disapprove	162	29
No Opinion	83	15
Never Heard Of	6	1
Approve	259	47
Disapprove	204	37
No Opinion	89	16
Total	552	100

Based on what you have seen, read, or heard about this candidate in the last couple of weeks, would you be more inclined or less inclined to vote for him/her?

Donald Trump		
	Frequency	Percent
Much More Inclined	363	32
Somewhat More Inclined	62	5
Somewhat Less Inclined	32	3
Much Less Inclined	522	45
No Difference	168	15
More Inclined	425	37
Less Inclined	554	48
No Difference	168	15
Total	1147	100

Joe Biden		
	Frequency	Percent
Much More Inclined	407	35
Somewhat More Inclined	123	11
Somewhat Less Inclined	30	3
Much Less Inclined	427	37
No Difference	160	14
More Inclined	530	46
Less Inclined	457	40
No Difference	160	14
Total	1147	100

Chris Sununu		
	Frequency	Percent
Much More Inclined	372	32
Somewhat More Inclined	180	16
Somewhat Less Inclined	158	14
Much Less Inclined	213	19
No Difference	224	20
More Inclined	552	48
Less Inclined	371	32
No Difference	224	20
Total	1147	100

Dan Feltes		
	Frequency	Percent
Much More Inclined	145	13
Somewhat More Inclined	180	16
Somewhat Less Inclined	82	7
Much Less Inclined	241	21
No Difference	499	43
More Inclined	325	28
Less Inclined	323	28
No Difference	499	43
Total	1147	100

Jeanne Shaheen		
	Frequency	Percent
Much More Inclined	306	27
Somewhat More Inclined	160	14
Somewhat Less Inclined	90	8
Much Less Inclined	285	25
No Difference	306	27
More Inclined	466	41
Less Inclined	375	33
No Difference	306	27
Total	1147	100

Corky Messner		
	Frequency	Percent
Much More Inclined	173	15
Somewhat More Inclined	196	17
Somewhat Less Inclined	67	6
Much Less Inclined	327	29
No Difference	383	33
More Inclined	369	32
Less Inclined	394	34
No Difference	383	33
Total	1147	100

Chris Pappas			
		Frequency	Percent
	Much More Inclined	98	16
	Somewhat More Inclined	103	17
	Somewhat Less Inclined	44	7
	Much Less Inclined	147	25
	No Difference	203	34
	Total	595	100
	More Inclined	201	34
	Less Inclined	191	32
	No Difference	203	34
	Total	595	100

Matt Mowers			
		Frequency	Percent
	Much More Inclined	96	16
	Somewhat More Inclined	82	14
	Somewhat Less Inclined	27	5
	Much Less Inclined	123	21
	No Difference	267	45
	More Inclined	178	30
	Less Inclined	150	25
	No Difference	267	45
	Total	595	100

Annie Kuster		
	Frequency	Percent
Much More Inclined	117	21
Somewhat More Inclined	78	14
Somewhat Less Inclined	39	7
Much Less Inclined	140	25
No Difference	178	32
More Inclined	195	35
Less Inclined	179	32
No Difference	178	32
Total	552	100

Steve Negron		
	Frequency	Percent
Much More Inclined	60	11
Somewhat More Inclined	48	9
Somewhat Less Inclined	52	9
Much Less Inclined	83	15
No Difference	309	56
More Inclined	108	20
Less Inclined	135	24
No Difference	309	56
Total	552	100

Did you vote in the recent September primary election for Governor and Congress?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	810	71
No	327	29
Don't Recall	10	1
Total	1147	100

Did you cast your vote in person or by mail?		
	Frequency	Percent
In Person	780	68
By Mail	181	16
Don't Recall	187	16
Total	1147	100

Do you plan to vote in person or by mail (including ballot drop-off) in the upcoming election?		
	Frequency	Percent
In Person	870	76
By Mail	251	22
Unsure	27	2
Total	1147	100

Have you requested a mail-in ballot? (Mail/drop-off voters only)		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	237	95
No	13	5
Total	251	100

Have you received your ballot? (Ballot requesters only)			
		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	156	66
	No	81	34
	Total	237	100

Have you completed and returned your ballot? (Ballot receivers only)			
		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	66	42
	No	90	58
	Total	156	100

Are you confident that your ballot will be recorded properly? (Ballot returners only)			
		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	62	93
	No	5	7
	Total	66	100

Are you confident or worried about the integrity of the upcoming election?			
		Frequency	Percent
	Confident	407	35
	Worried	636	55
	Unsure	105	9
	Total	1147	100

Are you likely or unlikely to accept the legitimacy of the presidential election if your preferred candidate loses?

	Frequency	Percent
Likely	539	47
Unlikely	206	18
Unsure	402	35
Total	1147	100

Presidential Preference

	Frequency	Percent
Biden	604	53
Trump	474	41
Someone Else	50	4
Unsure	19	2
Total	1147	100

Gubernatorial Preference

	Frequency	Percent
Sununu	662	58
Feltes	407	35
Perry	17	2
Someone Else	6	1
Unsure	54	5
Total	1147	100

Senate Preference		
	Frequency	Percent
Shaheen	610	53
Messner	441	38
O'Donnell	38	3
Someone Else	14	1
Unsure	43	4
Total	1147	100

Congressional District 1 Preference		
	Frequency	Percent
Pappas	290	49
Mowers	245	41
Dumont	12	2
Someone Else	6	1
Unsure	42	7
Total	595	100

Congressional District 2 Preference		
	Frequency	Percent
Kuster	286	52
Negron	207	38
Olding	23	4
Someone Else	9	2
Unsure	27	5
Total	552	100

Do you think the current Supreme Court vacancy should be filled as soon as possible, or should it wait until after the next presidential inauguration?

	Frequency	Percent
As soon as possible	512	45
After the inauguration	608	53
Unsure	27	2
Total	1147	100

What is your view of Supreme Court nominee Judge Amy Coney Barrett?

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Favorable	391	34
Somewhat Favorable	109	10
Somewhat Unfavorable	144	13
Strongly Unfavorable	370	32
No Opinion	98	9
Never Heard Of	34	3
Favorable	500	44
Unfavorable	514	45
No Opinion	133	12
Total	1147	100

Which of the following is the most important factor to you in choosing for whom to vote for President?

	Frequency	Percent
Defeat Trump	430	37
Rebuilding Economy	212	19
Restoring Law and Order	172	15
Defeat Biden	92	8
Managing COVID	90	8
Supreme Court	47	4
Ending Racism	23	2
Other	82	7
Total	1147	100

Other Frequencies: Values: 19; Unite Country: 14; Environment: 8; Abortion: 7; Term Limits: 5; 2nd Amendment: 4; Immigration: 4; Healthcare: 4; Women's Rights: 2; Marijuana Legalization: 1; Voting Rights: 1; Third Party: 1

In your opinion, who had a better debate?

	Frequency	Percent
Biden	457	40
Both Awful	354	31
Trump	253	22
Both Great	1	0
Didn't Watch	81	7
Total	1147	100

Regardless of for whom you plan on voting, who do you think will win the presidential election?

	Frequency	Percent
Biden	469	41
Trump	450	39
Unsure	228	20
Total	1147	100