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NEW HAMPSHIRE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

A SURVEY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE VOTER ATTITUDES

AUGUST 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 1042 New Hampshire registered voters expressing an interest in this fall's elections for President, Governor, and Congress. Surveys were collected between August 15 and 17, 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 for each of the favorability, job approval, and name recognition series were presented in random order. The survey has an overall margin of sampling error of +/- 3.0% with a confidence interval of 95%; the margins of sampling error for questions specific to congressional districts or primary candidates are indicated in the marginal tables. 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 previous Center polling, 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, "The political environment has remained remarkably stable through this summer, with the popularity and job approval of New Hampshire's elected officials remaining steady and the primary elections to determine challengers beginning to come into focus. Joe Biden's popularity (49% favorable/50% unfavorable) is inching up close to even, while President Donald Trump (41% favorable/58% unfavorable) remains steadily unpopular. The selection of Kamala Harris was greeted favorably by Biden voters, with 76% reporting more confidence in his election chances with her on the ticket, while 70% of Trump voters believe Harris weakens Biden's chances. The net result is a small bump for Biden in voter preference, which he now leads 51%-43%, up from 49%-42% in June. Despite Biden's lead, a slight plurality of voters (44.4%-43.6%) believe that Trump will prevail in November.
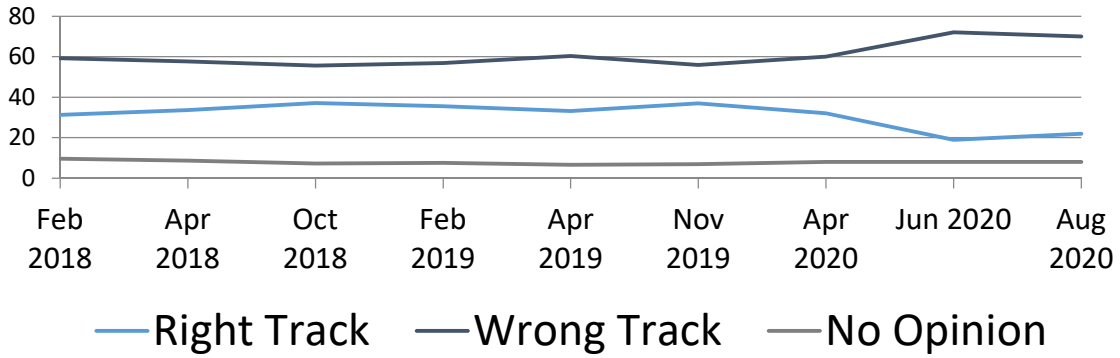
"Interest in the fall elections remains very high, with 88% of all voters "extremely interested", including 95% of Democrat voters and 85% of Republican voters. This may presage a turnout advantage for Democrats, and is a possible indication that the highly polarized environment may be damaging Trump's re-election chances.

"Governor Chris Sununu remains very popular (67% favorable/31% unfavorable) and continues to earn high job approval through the COVID-19 crisis (73% approve/26% disapprove). Voters approve of the job Senators Jeanne Shaheen (53% approve/38% disapprove) and Maggie Hassan (50% approve/39% disapprove) are doing, while both Congressman Chris Pappas (43%-33%) and Congresswoman Annie Kuster (47%-38%) are under 50% approval.
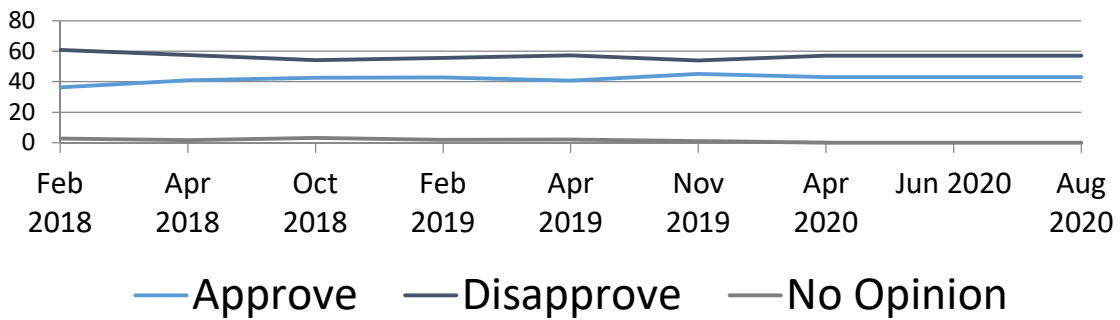
"With the primary election just over two weeks away, challengers for the general election are likely to be determined by how familiar they are to voters. In this regard, only previous nominee Steve Negron (44% favorable/5% unfavorable) has a clear name recognition advantage over his opponent, translating into a 37%-15% voter preference lead over Lynne Blankenbeker in the 2nd CD Republican Congressional primary. First-time candidate Matt Mowers (29% favorable/7% unfavorable) is building recognition, and currently enjoys a 23%-12% lead over Matt Mayberry in the 1st CD Republican Congressional primary. Both the Democratic Gubernatorial primary and the Republican Senate primary are currently close contests that will come down to who can connect with voters in these final days."

"New Hampshire voters traditionally start focusing on the general election soon after Labor Day," concluded Levesque. "Although there is a high degree of voter interest already, the races will come into sharper focus once the parties have chosen their nominees in a couple weeks. As stable as the political environment has been for incumbents so far, the races have yet to begin in earnest."

Right Track/Wrong Track
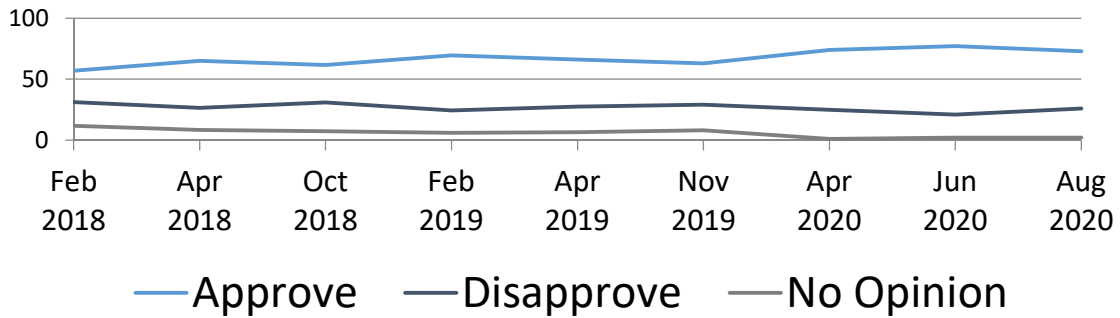
Right Track — Wrong Track — No Opinion

Trump Job Approval

Approve — Disapprove — No Opinion

Sununu Job Approval

Approve — Disapprove — No Opinion

Shaheen Job Approval

Approve — Disapprove — No Opinion

Hassan Job Approval

Approve — Disapprove — No Opinion

X-axis: Feb 2018, Apr 2018, Oct 2018, Feb 2019, Apr 2019, Nov 2019, Apr 2020, Jun 2020, Aug 2020

Y-axis: 0, 20, 40, 60

Pappas Job Approval

Approve — Disapprove — No Opinion

X-axis: Feb 2019, Apr 2019, Apr 2020, Jun 2020, Aug 2020

Y-axis: 0, 20, 40, 60

Kuster Job Approval

Approve — Disapprove — No Opinion

X-axis: Feb 2018, Apr 2018, Oct 2018, Feb 2019, Apr 2019, Apr 2020, Jun 2020, Aug 2020

Y-axis: 0, 20, 40, 60
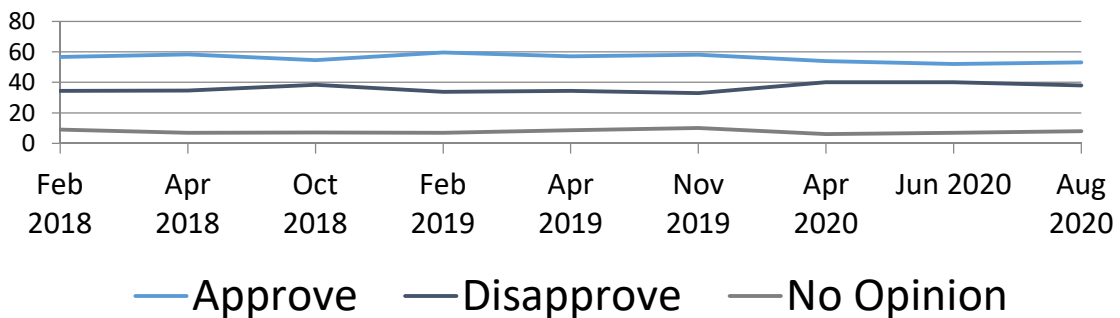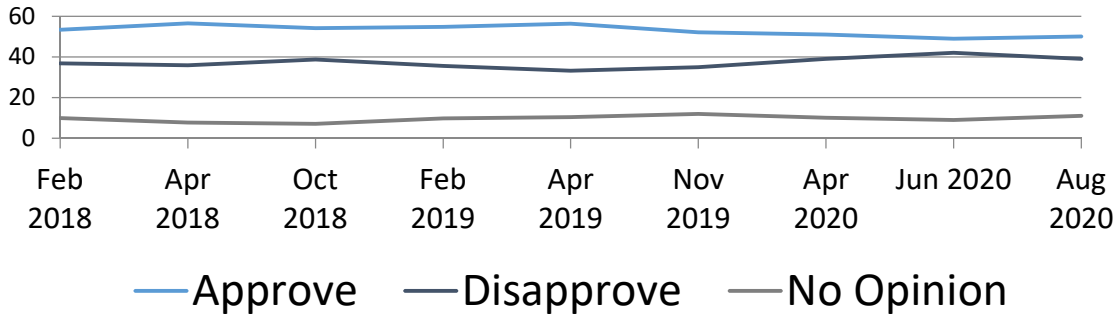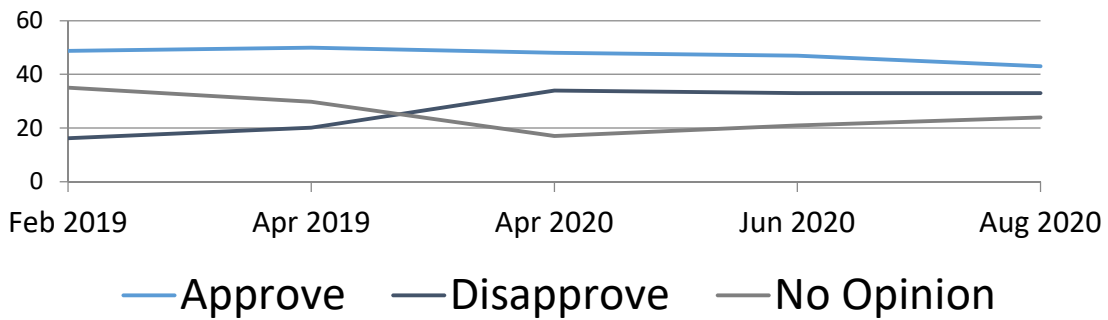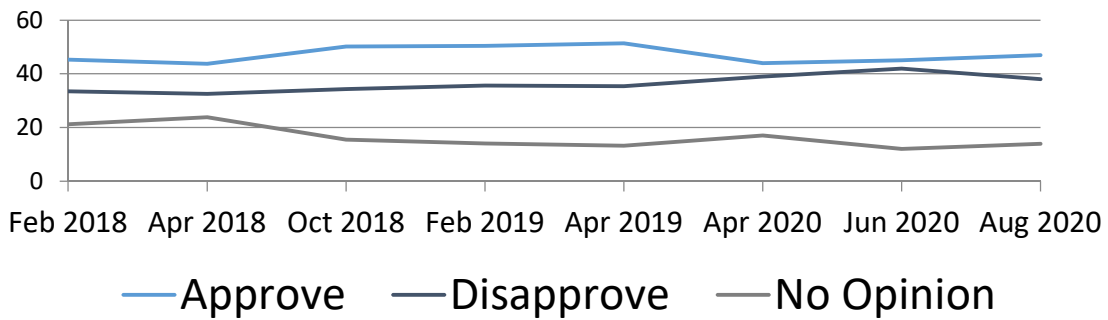
Weighted Marginals
August 15-17, 2020
n = 1042
New Hampshire Registered Voters
MoE +/- 3.0%

How interested are you in this fall's elections for President, Governor, and Congress?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Extremely	916	88
2 Very	100	10
3 Somewhat	26	3
Total	1042	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
1 Right Track	234	22
2 Wrong Track	727	70
3 Unsure	81	8
Total	1042	100

If the election for Congress were held today, for which candidate would you likely vote?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Democratic	512	49
2 Republican	460	44
3 Other	23	2
4 Unsure	46	4
Total	1042	100

Donald Trump Favorability

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	291	28
	2 Somewhat Favorable	141	13
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	38	4
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	566	54
	5 No Opinion	5	0
	6 Never Heard Of	2	0
Combined	1 Favorable	432	41
	2 Unfavorable	603	58
	3 No Opinion	5	0
	4 Never Heard Of	2	0
	Total	1042	100

Joe Biden Favorability

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	290	28
	2 Somewhat Favorable	225	22
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	73	7
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	451	43
	5 No Opinion	3	0
Combined	1 Favorable	515	49
	2 Unfavorable	524	50
	3 No Opinion	3	0
	Total	1042	100

Mike Pence Favorability

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	287	28
	2 Somewhat Favorable	152	15
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	73	7
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	505	49
	5 No Opinion	26	2
Combined	1 Favorable	438	42
	2 Unfavorable	578	55
	3 No Opinion	26	2
	Total	1042	100

Kamala Harris Favorability

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	337	32
	2 Somewhat Favorable	181	17
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	62	6
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	429	41
	5 No Opinion	28	3
	6 Never Heard Of	5	0
Combined	1 Favorable	518	50
	2 Unfavorable	490	47
	3 No Opinion	28	3
	4 Never Heard Of	5	0
	Total	1042	100

Chris Sununu Favorability

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	358	34
	2 Somewhat Favorable	344	33
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	230	22
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	88	8
	5 No Opinion	21	2
	6 Never Heard Of	1	0
Combined	1 Favorable	702	67
	2 Unfavorable	319	31
	3 No Opinion	21	2
	4 Never Heard Of	1	0
	Total	1042	100

Jeanne Shaheen Favorability

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	323	31
	2 Somewhat Favorable	231	22
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	176	17
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	262	25
	5 No Opinion	49	5
	6 Never Heard Of	1	0
Combined	1 Favorable	554	53
	2 Unfavorable	438	42
	3 No Opinion	49	5
	4 Never Heard Of	1	0
	Total	1042	100

Maggie Hassan Favorability

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	270	26
	2 Somewhat Favorable	254	24
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	136	13
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	290	28
	5 No Opinion	84	8
	6 Never Heard Of	8	1
Combined	1 Favorable	524	50
	2 Unfavorable	426	41
	3 No Opinion	84	8
	4 Never Heard Of	8	1
	Total	1042	100

Chris Pappas Favorability (CD1 Only - MoE +/- 4.2%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	106	19
	2 Somewhat Favorable	136	25
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	73	13
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	125	23
	5 No Opinion	98	18
	6 Never Heard Of	8	1
Combined	1 Favorable	242	44
	2 Unfavorable	198	36
	3 No Opinion	98	18
	4 Never Heard Of	8	1
	Total	546	100

Annie Kuster Favorability (CD2 Only - MoE +/- 4.4%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	121	24
	2 Somewhat Favorable	120	24
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	64	13
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	139	28
	5 No Opinion	45	9
	6 Never Heard Of	8	2
Combined	1 Favorable	241	48
	2 Unfavorable	203	41
	3 No Opinion	45	9
	4 Never Heard Of	8	2
	Total	497	100

President Donald Trump Job Approval

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Approve	315	30
	2 Somewhat Approve	128	12
	3 Somewhat Disapprove	43	4
	4 Strongly Disapprove	549	53
	5 No Opinion	4	0
	6 Never Heard Of	3	0
Combined	1 Approve	443	43
	2 Disapprove	591	57
	3 No Opinion	4	0
	4 Never Heard Of	3	0
	Total	1042	100

Governor Chris Sununu Job Approval

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Approve	379	36
	2 Somewhat Approve	377	36
	3 Somewhat Disapprove	180	17
	4 Strongly Disapprove	87	8
	5 No Opinion	19	2
	6 Never Heard Of	1	0
Combined	1 Approve	756	73
	2 Disapprove	266	26
	3 No Opinion	19	2
	4 Never Heard Of	1	0
	Total	1042	100

Senator Jeanne Shaheen Job Approval

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Approve	323	31
	2 Somewhat Approve	234	22
	3 Somewhat Disapprove	154	15
	4 Strongly Disapprove	247	24
	5 No Opinion	81	8
	6 Never Heard Of	3	0
Combined	1 Approve	557	53
	2 Disapprove	401	38
	3 No Opinion	81	8
	4 Never Heard Of	3	0
	Total	1042	100

Senator Maggie Hassan Job Approval

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Approve	269	26
	2 Somewhat Approve	254	24
	3 Somewhat Disapprove	149	14
	4 Strongly Disapprove	258	25
	5 No Opinion	105	10
	6 Never Heard Of	7	1
Combined	1 Approve	523	50
	2 Disapprove	406	39
	3 No Opinion	105	10
	4 Never Heard Of	7	1
	Total	1042	100

Congressman Chris Pappas Job Approval (CD1 Only - MoE +/- 4.2%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Approve	110	20
	2 Somewhat Approve	126	23
	3 Somewhat Disapprove	64	12
	4 Strongly Disapprove	118	22
	5 No Opinion	124	23
	6 Never Heard Of	3	1
Combined	1 Approve	236	43
	2 Disapprove	182	33
	3 No Opinion	124	23
	4 Never Heard Of	3	1
	Total	545	100

Congresswoman Annie Kuster Job Approval (CD2 Only - MoE +/- 4.4%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Approve	117	23
	2 Somewhat Approve	118	24
	3 Somewhat Disapprove	62	12
	4 Strongly Disapprove	129	26
	5 No Opinion	65	13
	6 Never Heard Of	7	1
	Total	497	100
Combined	1 Approve	235	47
	2 Disapprove	191	38
	3 No Opinion	65	13
	4 Never Heard Of	7	1
	Total	497	100

Dan Feltes Name Recognition (DEM ID Only - MoE +/-4.4%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	46	9
	2 Somewhat Favorable	110	22
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	13	3
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	9	2
	5 No Opinion	154	31
	6 Never Heard Of	166	33
Combined	1 Favorable	156	31
	2 Unfavorable	22	5
	3 No Opinion	154	31
	4 Never Heard Of	166	33
	Total	498	100

Andru Volinsky Name Recognition (DEM ID Only - MoE +/-4.4%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	58	12
	2 Somewhat Favorable	93	19
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	16	3
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	11	2
	5 No Opinion	143	29
	6 Never Heard Of	177	36
	Total	498	100
Combined	1 Favorable	151	30
	2 Unfavorable	27	5
	3 No Opinion	143	29
	4 Never Heard Of	177	36
	Total	498	100

Don Bolduc Name Recognition (GOP ID Only - MoE +/- 4.5%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	95	20
	2 Somewhat Favorable	84	18
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	12	2
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	9	2
	5 No Opinion	155	33
	6 Never Heard Of	121	25
Combined	1 Favorable	179	38
	2 Unfavorable	20	4
	3 No Opinion	155	33
	4 Never Heard Of	121	25
	Total	475	100

Corky Messner Name Recognition (GOP ID Only - MoE +/- 4.5%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	72	15
	2 Somewhat Favorable	125	26
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	21	4
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	19	4
	5 No Opinion	156	33
	6 Never Heard Of	81	17
Combined	1 Favorable	198	42
	2 Unfavorable	41	9
	3 No Opinion	156	33
	4 Never Heard Of	81	17
	Total	475	100

Karen Testerman Name Recognition (GOP ID Only - MoE +/- 4.5%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	26	5
	2 Somewhat Favorable	28	6
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	17	4
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	19	4
	5 No Opinion	156	33
	6 Never Heard Of	230	48
Combined	1 Favorable	54	11
	2 Unfavorable	36	7
	3 No Opinion	156	33
	4 Never Heard Of	230	48
	Total	475	100

Matt Mayberry Name Recognition (CD1 GOP ID Only - MoE +/- 6.1%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	25	9
	2 Somewhat Favorable	32	12
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	3	1
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	4	1
	5 No Opinion	98	38
	6 Never Heard Of	99	38
Combined	1 Favorable	57	22
	2 Unfavorable	6	2
	3 No Opinion	98	38
	4 Never Heard Of	99	38
	Total	261	100

Matt Mowers Name Recognition (CD1 GOP ID Only - MoE +/- 6.1%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	33	13
	2 Somewhat Favorable	44	17
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	11	4
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	8	3
	5 No Opinion	81	31
	6 Never Heard Of	85	33
Combined	1 Favorable	77	29
	2 Unfavorable	18	7
	3 No Opinion	81	31
	4 Never Heard Of	85	33
	Total	261	100

Lynne Blankenbeker Name Recognition (CD2 GOP ID Only - MoE +/- 6.7%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	21	10
	2 Somewhat Favorable	34	16
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	7	3
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	3	1
	5 No Opinion	81	38
	6 Never Heard Of	69	32
Combined	1 Favorable	55	26
	2 Unfavorable	9	4
	3 No Opinion	81	38
	4 Never Heard Of	69	32
	Total	214	100

Steve Negron Name Recognition (CD2 GOP ID Only - MoE +/- 6.7%)

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Strongly Favorable	44	21
	2 Somewhat Favorable	49	23
	3 Somewhat Unfavorable	6	3
	4 Strongly Unfavorable	4	2
	5 No Opinion	64	30
	6 Never Heard Of	46	22
Combined	1 Favorable	93	44
	2 Unfavorable	10	5
	3 No Opinion	64	30
	4 Never Heard Of	46	22
	Total	214	100

Dem Gubernatorial Preference (DEM ID Only - MoE +/-4.4%)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Dan Feltes	112	22
2 Andru Volinsky	93	19
3 Someone Else	66	13
4 Unsure	228	46
Total	498	100

GOP Gubernatorial Preference (GOP ID Only - MoE +/- 4.5%)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Chris Sununu	389	82
2 Karen Testerman	35	7
3 Someone Else	15	3
4 Unsure	36	8
Total	745	100

GOP Senate Preference (GOP ID Only - MoE +/- 4.5%)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Don Bolduc	139	29
2 Corky Messner	145	31
3 Someone Else	18	4
4 Unsure	173	37
Total	475	100

GOP Congressional Preference (CD1 GOP ID Only - MoE +/- 6.1%)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Matt Mayberry	31	12
2 Matt Mowers	59	23
3 Someone Else	21	8
4 Unsure	149	57
Total	261	100

GOP Congressional Preference (CD2 GOP ID Only - MoE +/- 6.7%)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Lynne Blankenbeker	33	15
2 Steve Negron	80	37
3 Someone Else	9	4
4 Unsure	94	44
Total	216	100

If the election for President were held today, for whom would you vote?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Donald Trump	444	43
2 Joe Biden	535	51
3 Someone Else	42	4
4 Unsure	22	2
Total	1042	100

Does the selection of Kamala Harris as his running mate increase or decrease your confidence that Joe Biden will win the election? (Biden voters only)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Increase	409	76
2 Decrease	11	2
3 No Difference	115	22
Total	535	100

Does the selection of Kamala Harris as Joe Biden's running mate increase or decrease your confidence that Donald Trump will win the election? (Trump voters only)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Increase	309	70
2 Decrease	44	10
3 No Difference	90	20
Total	444	100

Does the selection of Kamala Harris as his running mate make it more likely or less likely that you would consider voting for Joe Biden? (Other/Undecided voters only)

	Frequency	Percent
1 More Likely	11	18
2 Less Likely	30	46
3 No Difference	23	36
Total	64	100

Regardless of for whom you would vote, who do you believe will win the upcoming Presidential election?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Donald Trump	462	44
2 Joe Biden	454	44
3 Someone Else	1	0
4 Unsure	125	12
Total	1042	100

New Hampshire has begun the process of lifting restrictions imposed to help prevent a surge of COVID-19 (coronavirus) cases. Do you think the timing on lifting restrictions is premature; overdue; or appropriate?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Premature	351	34
2 Overdue	197	19
3 Appropriate	493	47
Total	1042	100

Even if none are completely accurate, which of the following statements comes closest to your own view?
"I expect to resume my normal everyday routine quickly";
"I expect that it will take several weeks or even months to return to my normal everyday routine";
OR "I don't expect to return to my normal everyday routine."

	Frequency	Percent
1 Quickly	188	18
2 Weeks/Months	566	54
3 Never	288	28
Total	1042	100

How disappointed would you be if Joe Biden is elected President in November? (Trump voters only)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Extremely	356	80
2 Very	66	15
3 Somewhat	17	4
4 Not at All	5	1
Total	444	100

How disappointed would you be if Donald Trump is re-elected President in November? (Biden voters only)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Extremely	493	92
2 Very	36	7
3 Somewhat	1	0
4 Not at All	4	1
Total	535	100

Weighted Demographics

August 15-17, 2020
n = 1042
New Hampshire Registered Voters
MoE +/- 3.0%

Gender

	Frequency	Percent
1 Female	542	52
2 Male	500	48
Total	1042	100

Age

	Frequency	Percent
1 18-34	144	14
2 35-54	315	30
3 55-64	273	26
4 65+	311	30
Total	1042	100

Level of Education

	Frequency	Percent
1 High School or less	135	13
2 Some College/Associates Degree	333	32
3 College Graduate	313	30
4 Graduate/Professional School	260	25
Total	1042	100

Ideology

		Frequency	Percent
	1 Very Conservative	160	15
	2 Somewhat Conservative	324	31
	3 Somewhat Liberal	307	30
	4 Very Liberal	124	12
	5 Moderate	126	12
Combined	1 Conservative	485	47
	2 Liberal	431	41
	3 Moderate	126	12
	Total	1042	100

Party Registration

		Frequency	Percent
Statewide	1 Democratic	335	32
	2 Republican	353	34
	3 Undeclared	354	34
	Total	1042	100
CD 1	1 Democratic	169	31
	2 Republican	201	37
	3 Undeclared	175	32
	Total	545	100
CD 2	1 Democratic	165	33
	2 Republican	152	31
	3 Undeclared	179	36
	Total	496	100

Party Identification

		Frequency	Percent
Statewide	1 Democratic	498	48
	2 Republican	475	46
	3 Swing	69	7
	Total	1042	100
CD 1	1 Democratic	244	45
	2 Republican	261	48
	3 Swing	40	7
	Total	545	100
CD 2	1 Democratic	253	51
	2 Republican	214	43
	3 Swing	30	6
	Total	497	100

Congressional District

	Frequency	Percent
1	545	52
2	497	48
Total	1042	100

Region

	Frequency	Percent
1 North Country/Lakes	114	11
2 Monadnock/Dartmouth	100	10
3 Merrimack Valley	422	41
4 Seacoast/Border	406	39
Total	1042	100