SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE SURVEY CENTER
FEBRUARY 2019 POLL
SUMMARY OF VOTER ATTITUDES ON THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

These results are from the Saint Anselm College Survey Center poll based on interviews with 600 randomly-selected registered voters in the state of New Hampshire. Interviews were conducted by landline and cellular phone between February 6th and February 9th. The overall survey has a margin of sampling error of 4.0% with a confidence interval of 95%; the margin of sampling error on questions specific to the 1st and 2nd Congressional Districts is 5.8% and 5.6% respectively. Respondent data are weighted against demographic characteristics of the universe of New Hampshire registered voters.

258 respondents indicated their intention to vote in the Democratic Presidential Primary, 242 in the Republican Presidential Primary, and 98 were unsure or not planning to vote.

New Hampshire Institute of Politics Executive Director Neil Levesque summarized the results, saying, "As the New Hampshire Primary season kicks off, a clear picture is beginning to emerge of what is motivating voters as they consider visiting candidates. The electorate is polarized, with Democrats nearly unanimous in their view that the country is on the wrong track, at 94%, and in their opposition to President Trump, with 96% having an unfavorable impression and disapproving of his job performance. Undeclared voters tend to agree with Democrats, with only 32% saying the country is on the right track, 59% having an unfavorable view of Trump, and 56% disapproving of his job performance. As has been the case since our first poll a year ago, the Republicans are more fractured: 70% think the country is on the right track, 81% have a favorable view of Trump, and 83% approve of the job he is doing."

Levesque continued, "The dynamic in the Democratic Primary is driven by the confidence that Democratic voters have that Trump will be defeated, with 84% believing it unlikely that he will be re-elected. They are therefore most likely to support a candidate that reflects their policy priorities (48%), over one that will take the fight to Trump (30%) or have the best chance of winning the general election (20%). They are most supportive of candidates that endorse the Green New Deal (89% more likely), followed by Medicare for All (83%), regulating big banks and Wall Street (83%), a tax on ultra-wealthy (77%), and free tuition for higher education (58%). It is no accident that the popular candidates in this race have embraced emerging progressive themes; that's where the voters are and that's what they want to send against Trump."

Levesque continued, "On the Republican side, 71% of Republicans overall believe Trump will be re-elected. There is some concern about Trump as reflected in 51% of Republican primary voters' willingness to consider a primary challenger. However, only 26% of those voters primary actually have a specific potential challenger in mind. Only 19% believe that Trump would hurt other Republican candidates running for office, and only 9% disapprove of his handling of the border wall funding dispute. Perhaps most telling of his support within the party, only 17% would discourage him from running, and 77% would encourage him. As of today, Trump doesn't seem to be in much danger from an insurgency within the party."

Levesque concluded, "Overall, this is shaping up to be a very interesting election cycle, with a lot at stake, a lot of voter interest, and talented candidates from a lot of different backgrounds."

HIGHLIGHTS OF SURVEY:

Direction of the Country (All Voters)

Would you say that things in our country are heading in the right direction, or have things gotten off on the wrong track?

All Voters		Feb 2019	Oct 2018	Apr 2018	Feb 2018
	Right Track	35.6	37.1	33.7	31.2
	Wrong Track	56.8	55.6	57.7	59.2
	No Opinion	7.6	7.3	8.6	9.6
Democrat					
	Right Track	3.9	1.4	4.3	1.5
	Wrong Track	93.8	94.2	93.5	94.7
	No Opinion	2.2	4.3	2.2	3.8
Republican					
	Right Track	70.4	75.2	63.0	66.1
	Wrong Track	18.3	17.2	24.9	21.0
	No Opinion	11.3	7.6	12.2	12.9
Undeclared					
	Right Track	32.2	33.9	33.2	28.8
	Wrong Track	58.9	56.7	56.3	59.4
	No Opinion	8.9	9.4	10.5	11.8

Impression of President Trump (All Voters)

	Favorable	**Unfavorable**	**No Opinion**
Democrat	3.9	95.5	0.6
Republican	81.1	17.8	1.1
Undeclared	37.7	58.9	3.4
All	41.0	57.0	1.9

Trend:

	Feb 2019	**Oct 2018**	**Apr 2018**	**Feb 2018**
Favorable	41.0	40.6	39.8	35.8
Unfavorable	57.0	56.6	58.1	61.5
No Opinion	1.9	2.8	2.0	2.7

Job Approval of President Trump (All Voters):

	Approve	**Disapprove**	**No Opinion**
Democrat	3.9	95.5	0.6
Republican	82.7	16.2	1.1
Undeclared	40.7	55.9	3.4
All	42.7	55.4	1.8

	Feb 2019	**Oct 2018**	**Apr 2018**	**Feb 2018**
Approve	42.7	42.6	40.9	36.3
Disapprove	55.4	54.2	57.5	60.9
No Opinion	1.8	3.1	1.6	2.8

Likelihood of Trump Impeachment (All Voters):

"Do you believe that it is likely or unlikely that President Trump will be impeached by the House of Representatives before the next election?"

	Likely	**Unlikely**	**No Opinion**
Democrat	34.8	53.9	11.2
Republican	6.5	90.8	2.7
Undeclared	17.7	70.9	11.4
All	19.3	72.0	8.7

Likelihood of Trump Reelection (All Voters):

"Do you believe that it is likely or unlikely that President Trump will be re-elected?"

	Likely	**Unlikely**	**No Opinion**
Democrat	6.2	84.3	9.6
Republican	71.4	20.0	8.6
Undeclared	36.6	49.4	14.0
All	38.3	50.7	11.0

Third Party or Independent Challenger (All Voters):

"Of the following three statements, which would best describe your willingness to consider a third-party or independent candidate for President?

- *'I think it is important to have an alternative to the major parties, and would definitely consider a third-party or independent candidate.'*
- *'I wouldn't rule out a third-party or independent candidate, but will likely support a major party candidate.'*
- *"I will only consider a major party candidate.'"*

	Definitely Consider	**Likely Major Party**	**Only Major Party**	**No Opinion**
Democrat	12.9	43.3	42.7	1.1
Republican	27.0	41.1	29.2	2.7
Undeclared	37.1	40.5	20.7	1.7
All	26.8	41.5	29.8	1.8

Issues (All Voters):

"I'm going to read a list of issues that some people in New Hampshire have said are important to them. Please listen carefully and then let me know which one issue you would like your elected officials to focus on.

RANDOMIZED

- *Making higher education more affordable;*
- *Addressing immigration and border security concerns;*
- *Strengthening the economy;*
- *Addressing environmental concerns, including climate change;*
- *Dealing with campaign finance and government ethics;*
- *Reducing the federal deficit;*
- *Addressing substance abuse;*
- *Making health care more affordable."*

	All Voters	Democrat	Republican	Undeclared
Immigration/Border	28.5	4.5	54.1	26.6
Health Care	25.2	44.9	13.0	19.8
Environment	13.8	21.3	2.2	17.3
Economy	8.8	5.1	11.9	9.3
Campaign Finance/Ethics	6.3	11.2	1.1	6.8
Federal Deficit	6.2	4.5	8.1	5.9
Higher Education	6.0	5.1	4.9	7.6
Substance Abuse	3.8	1.7	4.3	5.1
Other	1.3	1.7	0.5	1.7

What Democratic Primary Voters Seek in a Candidate (Dem Primary Voters Only):

"Which of the following three statements best describes what is most important to you in a presidential candidate:

- *'I will support the candidate that best represents my policy priorities on issues that are important to me.'*
- *'I will support the candidate that I believe has the best chance of winning the general election.'*
- *'I will support the candidate that will best take the fight to Donald Trump.'"*

	Policy Priorities	Best Chance to Win	Take Fight to Trump	No Opinion
Dem Primary Voters	47.9	19.8	30.1	2.2

Democratic Primary Voter Policy Preferences (Dem Primary Voters Only):

"I'm going to read a list of policy proposals that have been suggested or endorsed by presidential candidates. After each one, please tell me if you would be more likely or less likely to support a candidate based on their support for this proposal:

RANDOMIZED
- *A Green New Deal to reorient our economy to mitigate climate change;*
- *A tax on ultra-wealthy individuals to help pay for social programs;*
- *Medicare for All to give everyone access to affordable quality health care;*
- *Free tuition for higher education;*
- *Reestablish regulations on big banks and Wall Street."*

	More Likely	**Less Likely**	**No Difference**	**No Opinion**
Green New Deal	88.6	3.7	3.7	4.1
Medicare for All	83.4	8.1	1.3	7.2
Regulate Banks, Wall St	82.6	4.2	7.6	5.6
Tax on Ultra-Wealthy	77.1	9.9	6.9	6.0
Free Higher Ed Tuition	58.3	23.3	10.8	7.6

Support for Primary Challenge to Trump (GOP Primary Voters Only):

"Would you support a primary challenge to President Trump?"

	Yes	**No**	**Unsure**
GOP Primary Voters	51.3	45.1	3.6

Support for Specific Potential Challenger (Voters Answering "Yes" to Above Only):

"Is there a potential candidate that you would support?"

	Yes	**No**
Voters Supporting Challenge	25.8	74.2

Mentions: John Kasich (7); Marco Rubio (4); Rand Paul, Mike Pence, Mitt Romney, and Howard Schultz (2); Jeb Bush, Tucker Carlson, Ted Cruz, Jeff Flake, Mike Huckabee, Ron Paul, Bernie Sanders, Jeanne Shaheen, and Ben Shapiro (1).

Impact of Trump on GOP Candidates (GOP Primary Voters Only):

"Do you believe that President Trump would help or hurt Republicans running for other offices below him on the ballot, or have no effect?"

	Helps	**Hurts**	**No Effect**
GOP Primary Voters	49.0	18.6	32.4

Should Trump Run for Re-election? (GOP Primary Voters Only):

"If you had the opportunity, would you encourage President Trump to run for re-election, or discourage him?"

	Encourage	**Discourage**	**No Opinion**
GOP Primary Voters	77.1	17.2	5.7

Trump Handling of Border Wall Funding Issue (GOP Primary Voters Only):

"Has the way in which President Trump has handled his dispute with Congress over funding for a border wall changed your opinion of his job performance for the better or the worse, or has it stayed the same?"

	Better	**Worse**	**Same**
GOP Primary Voters	40.1	8.6	51.3

Key Demographic Attributes

	Count	Percent
Female	306	51.0
Male	294	49.0
18-34	43	7.2
35-54	183	30.4
55-64	161	26.8
65+	213	35.6
High School or Less	75	12.5
Some College/Associates Degree	143	23.9
College Graduate	208	34.7
Graduate/Professional School	168	27.9
Congressional District 1	289	48.2
Congressional District 2	311	51.8
Registered Dem	178	29.7
Registered GOP	186	30.9
Undeclared	236	39.3
Dem ID	267	44.5
GOP ID	274	45.7
Swing Voter	59	9.9
Dem Primary Voter	258	43.1
GOP Primary Voter	242	40.4
Unsure/Won't Vote	98	16.5
North Country	14	2.3
Monadnock/Dartmouth	70	11.7
Lakes	46	7.7
Merrimack Valley	278	46.4
Seacoast	192	31.9

(Columns in the tables may not add to 100% due to rounding. Questions specific to the Congressional districts have fewer respondents due to study design.)