

SHAHEEN JOB APPROVAL REMAINS STEADY

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DURHAM, NH -- Governor Jeanne Shaheen currently receives moderate job approval ratings from Granite Staters. Her approval ratings have remained unchanged since October.

These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll**, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. The Granite State Poll is sponsored by the University of New Hampshire. Five-hundred forty (540) adults were interviewed between January 25 and February 5, 2002. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.2 percent. (For more detailed results, visit the Survey Center web site at www.unh.edu/survey-center and click on Press Releases.)

GUBERNATORIAL APPROVAL

In the midst of a tough Senate campaign and facing a struggling New Hampshire economy, Governor Jeanne Shaheen's approval rating among New Hampshire residents remains moderate. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 55 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the job Shaheen is doing as governor, 35 percent disapprove, and 10 percent are neutral. Governor Shaheen's approval ratings have changed little since the October 2001 Granite State Poll when 55 percent of New Hampshire adults approved of her performance as governor, 32 percent disapproved, and 13 percent were neutral. Typically, an approval rating of 60 percent or more is considered high. Ratings in the 40s are considered to spell trouble.

When the opinions of registered voters are examined, Shaheen's approval ratings have decreased significantly since her last term in office, an indication that her job approval has been hurt by the flagging New Hampshire economy. During New Hampshire's economic boom in September 1999, 66 percent of Granite State voters said they approved of her job performance. In the most recent Granite State Poll, only 55 percent of registered voters said they approved of her job performance. "Governor Shaheen is in a difficult political position," said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. "The economy has gone south and many people have lost their jobs. Fairly or unfairly, governors typically get credit when the economy is doing well and take the blame when the economy is doing poorly. The state of the economy over the next nine months will have considerable impact on perceptions of Shaheen's job performance."

Shaheen's personal favorability rating has also remained steady. Currently, 58 percent of New Hampshire adults say they have a favorable opinion of Shaheen, 30 percent have an unfavorable opinion of her, 8 percent are neutral, and 4 percent say they don't know enough about her to say. In October, 58 percent of New Hampshire adults said they had a favorable opinion of Shaheen, 29 percent had an unfavorable opinion, 9 percent were neutral, and 4 percent said they don't know enough about her to say. Governor Shaheen's net favorability rating, the percentage having a favorable opinion minus the percentage having an unfavorable opinion, is +28, essentially unchanged from October when it stood at +29.

SUB-GROUP ANALYSIS

Shaheen gets her highest job approval ratings from Democrats, liberals, union households, and people with higher levels of income and higher levels of education. Republicans and conservatives give her the lowest job approval ratings. There is a significant gender gap in approval of the job Shaheen is doing as Governor with 63 percent of women approving of her job performance and 44 percent of men disapproving.

Gubernatorial Approval (NH Adults)

	<u>Oct. 2001</u>	<u>Feb. 2002</u>
Approve	55%	55%
Neutral, don't know	13	10
Disapprove	32	35
	(N=681)	(N=540)

Gubernatorial Approval (NH Registered Voters)

	<u>May 1999</u>	<u>Sept. 1999</u>	<u>Oct. 2001</u>	<u>Feb. 2002</u>
Approve	64%	66%	56%	55%
Neutral, don't know	6	7	10	7
Disapprove	31	27	34	38
	(N=669)	(N=674)	(N=508)	(N=410)

Favorability Rating - Governor Jeanne Shaheen (NH Adults)

	<u>Oct. 2001</u>	<u>Feb. 2002</u>
Favorable	58%	58%
Neutral	9	8
Unfavorable	29	30
Don't know enough to say	4	4
	(N=680)	(N=537)

Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the most recent Granite State Poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center from January 25 to February 5, 2002. A random sample of 540 New Hampshire adults was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 4.2 percent. Results reported for other subgroups have potential for somewhat larger variation than those for the entire population.

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.

Respondents to the Granite State Poll were asked:

- “GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Jeanne Shaheen is handling her job as governor?” (IF APPROVE): “Would you say that you STRONGLY approve of the way she is handling her job as governor, or that you approve only SOMEWHAT?” (IF DISAPPROVE): “Would you say that you STRONGLY disapprove of the way she is handling her job as governor, or that you disapprove only SOMEWHAT?” (IF NEITHER, NOT SURE, DK): “Would you say that you lean a little more toward APPROVING or DISAPPROVING of the way she is handling her job as governor?”
- "Next, I'd like to get your overall opinion of some people in the news. As I read each name, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person - or if you have never heard of him or her. Governor Jeanne Shaheen."

Governor Jeanne Shaheen Approval Rating

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 55%	<u>Neutral</u> 10%	<u>Disapprove</u> 35%	<u>(N)</u> 540
Registered Democrat	70	8	22	100
Undeclared	55	9	36	195
Registered Republican	43	2	55	114
Not registered	56	20	24	125
Democrat	71	8	21	210
Independent	44	19	37	106
Republican	47	5	48	201
Liberal	63	11	26	105
Moderate	59	9	31	247
Conservative	46	9	45	141
Union household	70	3	27	74
Non-union	53	11	36	460
2 years or less in NH	43	49	8	35
3 to 5 years	54	14	31	36
6 to 10 years	62	8	30	47
11 to 20 years	52	7	41	125
More than 20 years	58	7	36	290
18 to 29	51	16	34	88
30 to 39	58	13	29	106
40 to 49	54	8	38	121
50 to 59	59	4	37	102
60 to 69	57	8	35	52
70 and over	59	13	28	55
Male	47	9	44	260
Female	63	12	26	279
High school or less	48	14	38	166
Some college	51	9	40	122
College graduate	61	7	32	166
Post-graduate	63	11	26	84
Less than \$30K	55	16	29	71
\$30K to \$60K	60	8	32	171
\$60K to \$75K	63	7	30	55
\$75K to \$100K	56	10	34	67
More than \$100K	64	9	27	60
Married	57	8	34	353
Divorced/separated	56	12	32	86
Never married	48	16	36	93
Protestant	57	7	35	205
Catholic	58	7	35	187
Other	53	18	29	132
Attend 1 or more/week	55	9	35	129
1-2 times a month	54	11	35	63
Less often	55	10	35	186
Never	58	10	31	153

Northern NH	58	9	33	76
Western NH	59	12	30	55
Central/Lakes	45	5	51	71
Hillsborough County	55	12	33	176
Seacoast	58	11	31	162
1st District	52	12	36	275
2nd District	58	8	33	264