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DATA SNAPSHOT

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"Trump Towns" Swung Democratic in New Hampshire Midterms

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New Hampshire municipalities with fewer college-educated residents, which generally offered strong support for Donald Trump two years ago, swung toward the opposing party in the 2018 midterms. Compared to the 2016 presidential contest, these municipalities shifted more sharply toward Democratic congressional candidates than towns and cities with more college-educated residents. This Democratic shift remains evident even when one compares New Hampshire's 2018 House elections to its 2016 House elections, although in this context the stronger Democratic swing occurred in municipalities with relatively more college graduates.

The midterm results raise questions about the strength of the bond between the Republican Party and Granite State voters without a college degree. In 2016, Hillary Clinton carried just 37 percent of New Hampshire voters with only a high school degree, 11 percentage points lower than Barack Obama's support in 2012, according to exit polls. In the figure below, the swing toward the Democratic Party is measured by subtracting Hillary Clinton's percentage of the two-party vote in a given municipality in 2016 from the Democratic congressional candidate's percentage of the two-party vote in that municipality in 2018. Democrats retained both of New Hampshire's seats in the House of Representatives.
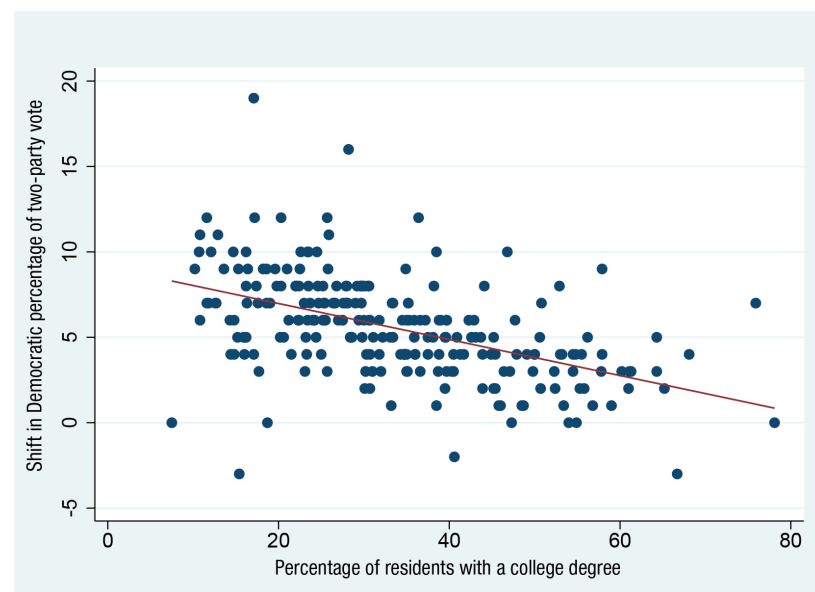
New Hampshire municipalities with relatively fewer college graduates generally offered strong support for Donald Trump in 2016—but not for Republicans in 2018.

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▶ *First in the Nation (January 2016)*

▶ *Changes in New Hampshire's Republican Party: Evolving Footprint in Presidential Politics, 1960–2008 (December 2011)*

About the Author

Dante J. Scala is professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire, a Carsey Faculty Fellow, and Master in Public Policy Faculty. He has studied the changing political demographics of New Hampshire for two decades, and his expertise is recognized locally and nationally.

DEMOCRATIC GAINS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPALITIES