Public Policy Polling

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **April 8, 2011**

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QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

Dems win NH generic leg. ballot, NH supports gay marriage

Raleigh, N.C. – Republicans made huge gains in the New Hampshire last fall, picking up a whopping 124 State House seats and 9 Senate seats to wrest control of both houses of the legislature from the Democrats. But if voters could go to the polls now, they would flip a lot of those seats, if not the majority, right back. Statewide, 49% of New Hampshire voters would select the Democratic candidate in their district, with 41% preferring the Republican. Democrats and Republicans unsurprisingly stick mostly with their respective parties, but the huge plurality of the electorate that identifies with neither party (36%) decide the issue, siding with Democrats 46-34. Last fall, independents swung heavily the GOP's way, but in many states, they are moving back toward Democrats now, according to recent PPP polls.

New Hampshire is one of the only states in the union to have full same-sex marriage. A 44% plurality currently believe gay couples should have full marriage rights, as they do now, with another 35% supporting the previous status quo, civil unions. Only 19% are against any legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship. Two-thirds of Democrats and 47% of independents are for full marriage rights, but a 47% plurality of Republicans also supports civil unions.

In a sign of how big of a shift there was in turnout toward the GOP last fall, senior Senator Jeanne Shaheen's approval rating has drastically improved from a 41-46 spread in late October to 50-36 now. The independents who turned out in November were particularly conservative and in an anti-Democratic mood. They disapproved 42-44 of Shaheen then, but the independents in this electorate approve 50-31.

Newly elected Kelly Ayotte starts out with a bit of a honeymoon, but is not as popular as her predecessor, Judd Gregg. Gregg's net +23 approval margin just before last fall's election is almost twice Ayotte's +12 (46-34) now. Only 57% of Democrats disapprove of her performance. Independents also give her the benefit of the doubt, 41-29.

Frank Guinta defeated Carol Shea-Porter for the 1st Congressional seat by 12 points last year, but his district's voters now have an unfavorable opinion of him by a 34-41 margin. Similarly, Charlie Bass retook his seat narrowly, but he posts only a 31-49 spread.

PPP surveyed 769 New Hampshire voters from March 31st to April 3rd. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.5%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

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New Hampshire Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jeanne Shaheen's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve	50%
Disapprove	36%
Not Sure	14%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Kelly Ayotte's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve	46%
Disapprove	34%
Not Sure	20%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Charlie Bass? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable	30%
Unfavorable	45%
Not Sure	25%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Frank Guinta? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable	25%
Unfavorable	42%
Not Sure	33%

Q5 If there was an election today for the state legislature would you be more likely to vote for Democratic or Republican candidates? If Democrats, press 1. If Republicans, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Democrats	49%
Republicans	41%
Not Sure	11%

Q6 Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship. If you think gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, press 1. If you think gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, press 2. If you think there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship, press 3. If you're not sure, press 4.

Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	44%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	35%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	19%
Not Sure	2%

Q7 Who did you vote for President in 2008? If John McCain, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If someone else or you don't remember, press 3.

McCain	42%
Obama	51%
Someone Else/Don't Remember	8%

Q8 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal	9%
Somewhat liberal	21%
Moderate	32%
Somewhat conservative	23%
Very conservative	15%

Q9 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman	53%
Man	47%

March 31-April 3, 2011
Survey of 769 New Hampshire voters

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Q10 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat	35%
Republican	29%
Independent/Other	36%

Q11 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White	95%
Other	5%

Q12 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29	8%
30 to 45	26%
46 to 65	44%
Older than 65	22%

Q13 Congressional District

1st	41%
2nd	59%

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Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Shaheen Approval				
Approve	**50%**	21%	78%	27%
Disapprove	**36%**	65%	10%	43%
Not Sure	**14%**	14%	11%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Ayotte Approval				
Approve	**46%**	74%	22%	44%
Disapprove	**34%**	11%	55%	18%
Not Sure	**20%**	15%	23%	38%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Bass Favorability				
Favorable	**30%**	51%	13%	27%
Unfavorable	**45%**	18%	67%	38%
Not Sure	**25%**	30%	20%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Guinta Favorability				
Favorable	**25%**	49%	6%	18%
Unfavorable	**42%**	17%	65%	31%
Not Sure	**33%**	34%	29%	51%

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Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Generic Legislative Ballot				
Democrats	49%	12%	82%	24%
Republicans	41%	80%	6%	50%
Not Sure	11%	8%	11%	26%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Gay Marriage				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	44%	17%	67%	42%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	35%	49%	26%	24%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	19%	33%	7%	24%
Not Sure	2%	1%	1%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Shaheen Approval						
Approve	50%	70%	77%	67%	25%	5%
Disapprove	36%	14%	12%	19%	58%	85%
Not Sure	14%	16%	11%	15%	17%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Ayotte Approval						
Approve	46%	18%	25%	33%	74%	77%
Disapprove	34%	62%	54%	41%	11%	10%
Not Sure	20%	20%	21%	27%	15%	13%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bass Favorability						
Favorable	**30%**	10%	15%	23%	50%	49%
Unfavorable	**45%**	71%	65%	55%	13%	24%
Not Sure	**25%**	19%	20%	22%	37%	28%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Guinta Favorability						
Favorable	**25%**	7%	6%	11%	47%	57%
Unfavorable	**42%**	74%	62%	52%	16%	13%
Not Sure	**33%**	19%	31%	36%	37%	30%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Generic Legislative Ballot						
Democrats	**49%**	89%	83%	61%	12%	5%
Republicans	**41%**	7%	9%	22%	76%	92%
Not Sure	**11%**	4%	9%	18%	12%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gay Marriage						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	**44%**	86%	67%	55%	14%	9%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	**35%**	7%	24%	35%	55%	40%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	**19%**	5%	7%	8%	29%	51%
Not Sure	**2%**	2%	2%	2%	2%	-

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Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Shaheen Approval			
Approve	**50%**	52%	48%
Disapprove	**36%**	31%	41%
Not Sure	**14%**	17%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ayotte Approval			
Approve	**46%**	43%	49%
Disapprove	**34%**	33%	36%
Not Sure	**20%**	25%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bass Favorability			
Favorable	**30%**	25%	35%
Unfavorable	**45%**	47%	42%
Not Sure	**25%**	28%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Guinta Favorability			
Favorable	**25%**	20%	30%
Unfavorable	**42%**	45%	39%
Not Sure	**33%**	35%	31%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Legislative Ballot			
Democrats	**49%**	51%	45%
Republicans	**41%**	37%	45%
Not Sure	**11%**	12%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	**44%**	49%	39%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	**35%**	32%	39%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	**19%**	17%	21%
Not Sure	**2%**	1%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Shaheen Approval				
Approve	**50%**	79%	17%	50%
Disapprove	**36%**	13%	68%	31%
Not Sure	**14%**	8%	15%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Ayotte Approval				
Approve	**46%**	26%	75%	41%
Disapprove	**34%**	57%	12%	29%
Not Sure	**20%**	16%	13%	30%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bass Favorability				
Favorable	**30%**	12%	53%	29%
Unfavorable	**45%**	68%	16%	46%
Not Sure	**25%**	20%	32%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Guinta Favorability				
Favorable	**25%**	10%	48%	20%
Unfavorable	**42%**	64%	17%	42%
Not Sure	**33%**	26%	35%	37%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Legislative Ballot				
Democrats	**49%**	86%	8%	46%
Republicans	**41%**	7%	88%	34%
Not Sure	**11%**	7%	4%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	**44%**	67%	14%	47%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	**35%**	25%	47%	36%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	**19%**	8%	38%	13%
Not Sure	**2%**	0%	1%	4%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Shaheen Approval			
Approve	**50%**	51%	48%
Disapprove	**36%**	35%	49%
Not Sure	**14%**	14%	2%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Ayotte Approval			
Approve	**46%**	46%	40%
Disapprove	**34%**	33%	51%
Not Sure	**20%**	21%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Bass Favorability			
Favorable	**30%**	30%	25%
Unfavorable	**45%**	44%	53%
Not Sure	**25%**	26%	22%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Guinta Favorability			
Favorable	**25%**	25%	33%
Unfavorable	**42%**	43%	36%
Not Sure	**33%**	33%	31%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Generic Legislative Ballot			
Democrats	**49%**	49%	48%
Republicans	**41%**	40%	42%
Not Sure	**11%**	11%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gay Marriage			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	**44%**	44%	50%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	**35%**	36%	23%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	**19%**	18%	27%
Not Sure	**2%**	2%	-

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Shaheen Approval					
Approve	**50%**	47%	50%	52%	50%
Disapprove	**36%**	35%	37%	35%	35%
Not Sure	**14%**	18%	14%	13%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ayotte Approval					
Approve	**46%**	35%	45%	47%	48%
Disapprove	**34%**	47%	36%	33%	30%
Not Sure	**20%**	18%	20%	20%	22%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bass Favorability					
Favorable	**30%**	21%	26%	30%	39%
Unfavorable	**45%**	64%	46%	43%	41%
Not Sure	**25%**	15%	29%	28%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Guinta Favorability					
Favorable	**25%**	24%	21%	27%	26%
Unfavorable	**42%**	47%	47%	40%	40%
Not Sure	**33%**	29%	33%	33%	34%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Legislative Ballot					
Democrats	**49%**	53%	49%	50%	44%
Republicans	**41%**	35%	39%	40%	45%
Not Sure	**11%**	12%	12%	10%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	**44%**	58%	44%	46%	38%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	**35%**	30%	33%	35%	39%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	**19%**	9%	21%	18%	22%
Not Sure	**2%**	3%	2%	1%	1%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Congressional District	
		1st	2nd
Shaheen Approval			
Approve	**50%**	47%	53%
Disapprove	**36%**	41%	32%
Not Sure	**14%**	12%	15%

	Base	Congressional District	
		1st	2nd
Ayotte Approval			
Approve	**46%**	48%	44%
Disapprove	**34%**	34%	34%
Not Sure	**20%**	18%	22%

	Base	Congressional District	
		1st	2nd
Bass Favorability			
Favorable	**30%**	29%	31%
Unfavorable	**45%**	39%	49%
Not Sure	**25%**	33%	20%

	Base	Congressional District	
		1st	2nd
Guinta Favorability			
Favorable	**25%**	34%	18%
Unfavorable	**42%**	41%	43%
Not Sure	**33%**	25%	38%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Congressional District	
		1st	2nd
Generic Legislative Ballot			
Democrats	**49%**	42%	53%
Republicans	**41%**	47%	36%
Not Sure	**11%**	11%	11%

	Base	Congressional District	
		1st	2nd
Gay Marriage			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	**44%**	43%	45%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	**35%**	35%	36%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	**19%**	20%	18%
Not Sure	**2%**	2%	1%

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