



New England  
College

## Media Release

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# NEC POLL: REPUBLICANS TO BLAME FOR SHUTDOWN

*Also: 1<sup>st</sup> NH Congressional District Race Battle a Dead Heat*

**Henniker, NH** – If you ask voters in New Hampshire who is to blame for the current government shutdown in Washington, a clear majority believe the Republicans in Congress are responsible. In a poll of 1063 registered voters last week, the results show 49% blame the GOP and 30% blame the President for the ongoing gridlock. 16% of those who responded blamed both sides equally. NEC polled voters in a telephone survey October 7-9.

When asked about their opinion regarding the work of the Tea Party, 49% disapproved of the group, while 40% said they approve of the group, for an overall -9% rating. The President's approval rating was 55% to 42% in support of the job he is doing, for an overall +13%. "We have long known that people are frustrated with what is going on in Washington, but our numbers show where that frustration is aimed," explains Director of the NEC Poll, Dr. Ben Tafoya. **"The NEC poll shows voters lay blame at the feet of Republicans. As we transition into an election year, there has yet to be any sign of a Republican wave of support for the mid-terms."**

The NEC Poll reports 58% of Granite Staters support the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. 38% of those polled said they disapprove of the program, 5% said they were unsure. The margin of error is 3%.

"It is early, and there is plenty of time for shifts in voter opinion, but right now, the momentum rests with one party," explains Dr. Wayne Lesperance, Director of the Center of Civic Engagement at NEC. "Republicans may need to regroup and redefine their mission going forward, as they work to present a clear alternative to the President and fellow democrats."

NEC also took a snapshot of voter opinion in races for US Senate and both New Hampshire district races for Congress:

Former Massachusetts Scott Brown remains the top pick for likely GOP voters in 2014, with 47% support. Former New Hampshire Congressman Charlie Bass earned 21%, meanwhile, the only formally announced candidate, Jim Rubens, picked up 5%, and conservative activist Karen Testerman received 4% support. 23% of voters admitted they were unsure.

In a head to head match-up, Senator Jeanne Shaheen received 51% and Charlie Bass earned 32% support, with 17% of registered voters saying they were unsure. Senator Shaheen's approval rating is 56% approve to 33% disapprove, for an overall +23%.

In the first Congressional district, Republican Frank Guinta is the clear front-runner in his primary race, but the general election match-ups show a dead heat. Among republicans, Guinta earns 54% of support, radio host Jeff Chidester received 7% and newly announced candidate Dan Innis picked up 6%. 33% of voters say they are unsure.

#### **In a head-to-head contest:**

In the first Congressional District, incumbent Carol Shea-Porter received 43%, challenger Frank Guinta received 42%, and 15% said they were unsure. This race represents what could be the third time these two candidates meet on a ballot in New Hampshire. Shea-Porter carries a +3% overall approval rating among voters. Men narrowly favor Guinta and women narrowly favor Shea-Porter. Independent voters narrowly favor Congresswoman Shea-Porter.

In the second Congressional District, incumbent Annie Kuster received 46%, GOP challenger Gary Lambert received 26%, and 28% said they were unsure. Congresswoman Kuster received an overall +14% approval rating from voters.

In a hypothetical match-up in the Governor's race, incumbent Maggie Hassan (53%) leads Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas (25%), with 22% of voters saying they are unsure. The Governor's overall approval rating is +33%, the strongest rating in this poll.

#### ***About New England College:***

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NEC Poll, October 7 - 9, 2013  
Registered Voters of NH

We want your opinion as to who bears the responsibility for the US government shutdown that began on October 1. If you think President Obama bears the greatest responsibility for the shutdown please press 1, if you believe Republicans in Congress bear the greatest responsibility please press 2, if you believe Democrats in Congress bear the greatest responsibility please press 3, if you believe all three are equally to blame please press 4, if you are unsure or have no opinion please press 5. Margin of Error = 3%

#### Government Shutdown Blame

	Frequency	Percent
All Equally	167	16
Democrats in Congress	43	4
President Obama	321	30
Republicans in Congress	517	49
Unsure or No Opinion	15	1
Total	1063	100

We want to ask your opinion on the current political group known as the Tea Party . If you strongly approve of the Tea Party please press 1, if you somewhat approve please press 2, if you are unsure or have no opinion please press 3, if you somewhat disapprove of the Tea Party please press 4, if you strongly disapprove please press 5. Margin of Error = 3%

#### Tea Party Approval

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	191	18
Somewhat Approve	233	22
Unsure	119	11
Somewhat Disapprove	63	6
Strongly Disapprove	457	43
Total	1063	100

Do you support or oppose the health care reform efforts known as Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act? If you strongly support Obamacare please press 1, if you somewhat support Obamacare please press 2, if you have no opinion or are unsure please press 3, if you somewhat oppose Obamacare please press 4, if you strongly oppose Obamacare please press 5. Margin of Error = 3%

#### Health Care Reform

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Support	441	42
Somewhat Support	167	16
Unsure	49	5
Somewhat Oppose	52	5
Strongly Oppose	354	33
Total	1063	100

We want to ask your opinion on the job performance of President Barack Obama. If you strongly approve of Barack Obama's job performance please press 1, if you somewhat approve please press 2, if you are unsure or have no opinion please press 3, if you somewhat disapprove of Barack Obama's job performance please press 4, if you strongly disapprove please press 5. Margin of Error = 3%

#### Obama Approval

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	293	28
Somewhat Approve	287	27
Unsure	30	3
Somewhat Disapprove	79	7
Strongly Disapprove	374	35
Total	1063	100

We want to ask your opinion on the job performance of US Senator Jeanne Shaheen. If you strongly approve of her job performance please press 1, if you somewhat approve please press 2, if you are unsure or have no opinion please press 3, if you somewhat disapprove of Jeanne Shaheen's job performance please press 4, if you strongly disapprove please press 5. Margin of Error = 3%

#### Shaheen Approval

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	366	34
Somewhat Approve	231	22
Unsure	121	11
Somewhat Disapprove	159	15
Strongly Disapprove	186	18
Total	1063	100

We will read you two names for the potential 2014 race for US Senate in New Hampshire and ask you who you would vote for if the election were held today?:  
 For Jeanne Shaheen, press 1  
 For Charlie Bass, press 2  
 If you are unsure or have no opinion, please press 3 Margin of Error

#### General Election US Senate

	Frequency	Percent
Bass	336	32
Shaheen	544	51
Unsure	183	17
Total	1063	100

We will read you four names for the Republican nomination for US Senate and ask your preferred candidate against incumbent US Senator Jeanne Shaheen:  
 For Charlie Bass, press 1  
 For Scott Brown, press 2  
 For Jim Rubens, press 3  
 For Karen Testerman, press 4  
 If you are unsure or have no opinion, please press 5 Margin of Error = 4.56%

#### Republican Primary US Senate

	Frequency	Percent
Bass	89	21
Brown	198	47
Rubens	22	5
Testerman	16	4
Unsure	99	23
Total	424	

We want to ask your opinion on the job performance of NH Governor Maggie Hassan. If you strongly approve of her job performance please press 1, if you somewhat approve please press 2, if you are unsure or have no opinion please press 3, if you somewhat disapprove of Maggie Hassan's job performance please press 4, if you strongly disapprove please press 5. Margin of Error = 3%

#### Hassan Approval

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	340	32
Somewhat Approve	281	26
Unsure	181	17
Somewhat Disapprove	141	14
Strongly Disapprove	120	11
Total	1063	100

We will read you two names for the potential 2014 race for Governor in New Hampshire and ask you who you would vote for if the election were held today?:

For Maggie Hassan, please press 1

For Ted Gatsas, please press 2

If you are unsure or have no opinion, please press 3. Margin of Error = 3%

#### General Election Governor

	Frequency	Percent
Gatsas	265	25
Hassan	562	53
Unsure	236	22
Total	1063	100

We want to ask your opinion on the job performance of Representative Ann McLane Kuster. If you strongly approve of her job performance please press 1, if you somewhat approve please press 2, if you are unsure or have no opinion please press 3, if you somewhat disapprove of Ann McLean Kuster's job performance please press 4, if you strongly disapprove please press 5. Margin of Error 4.13%

#### Kuster Approval

	Frequency	Percent
Somewhat Approve	123	22
Strongly Approve	143	25
Unsure	118	21
Somewhat Disapprove	65	11
Strongly Disapprove	120	21
Total	569	100

We will read you two names for potential 2014 race for Congress in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and ask you who you would vote for if the election were held today?:

For Ann McLane Kuster, press 1

For Gary Lambert, press 2

If you are unsure or have no opinion, please press 3. . Margin of Error 4.13%

#### General Election NH CD2

	Frequency	Percent
Kuster	261	46
Lambert	147	26
Unsure	161	28
Total	569	100

We will read you names of three candidates for the Republican nomination for the First Congressional District and ask your preferred candidate against Rep Carol Shea-Porter:

For Jeff Chidester, please press 1

For Frank Guinta, press 2

For Dan Innis, press 3

If you are unsure or have no opinion, please press 4 Margin of Error = 4.8%

#### Republican CD1 Primary

	Frequency	Percent
Chidester	27	7
Guinta	221	54
Innis	26	6
Unsure	135	33
Total	409	100

We will read you two names for the potential 2014 race for Congress in New Hampshire's First Congressional District and ask you who you would vote for if the election were held today?:

For Carol Shea Porter, press 1

For Frank Guinta, press 2

If you are unsure or have no opinion, please press 3 Margin of Error = 3.29%

#### General Election CD 1

	Frequency	Percent
Guinta	368	42
Shea Porter	377	43
Unsure	137	15
Total	882	100

We want to ask your opinion on the job performance of Representative Carol Shea Porter. If you strongly approve of her job performance please press 1, if you somewhat approve please press 2, if you are unsure or have no opinion please press 3, if you somewhat disapprove of Carol Shea Porter's job performance please press 4, if you strongly disapprove please press 5. Margin of Error = 3.22%

#### Shea Porter Approval

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Approve	207	22
Somewhat Approve	188	20
Unsure	132	14
Somewhat Disapprove	110	12
Strongly Disapprove	253	27
Total	923	100





We will read you two names for potential 2014 race for Congress in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and ask you who you would vote for if the election were held today?:

For Ann McLane Kuster, press 1  
 For Gary Lambert, press 2  
 If you are unsure or have no opinion, please press 3

GeneralElectionCd2 \* PartyId \* Gender Crosstabulation

Count		PartyId			Total
Gender		Democrat	Republican	Unenrolled	
Man	GeneralElectionCd2				
	Kuster	59	12	33	104
	Lambert	6	38	41	87
	Unsure	9	23	33	67
	Total	74	73	107	258
Woman	GeneralElectionCd2				
	Kuster	95	7	54	157
	Lambert	3	30	26	60
	Unsure	12	28	50	94
	Total	110	65	130	311
Total	GeneralElectionCd2				
	Kuster	154	19	87	261
	Lambert	9	68	67	147
	Unsure	21	51	83	161
	Total	184	138	237	569

Percent  
Gender

Gender			PartyId			Total
			Democrat	Republican	Unenrolled	
Man	GeneralElectionCd2	Kuster	80	16	31	40
		Lambert	8	52	38	34
		Unsure	12	32	31	26
		Total				
	Woman	GeneralElectionCd2				
		Kuster	86	11	42	50
		Lambert	3	46	20	19
		Unsure	11	43	38	30
		Total				
	Total	GeneralElectionCd2				
		Kuster	84	14	37	46
		Lambert	5	49	28	26
		Unsure	11	37	35	28
		Total				

We will read you two names for the potential 2014 race for Congress in New Hampshire's First Congressional District and ask you who you would vote for if the election were held today?:

For Carol Shea Porter, press 1  
 For Frank Guinta, press 2  
 If you are unsure or have no opinion, please press 3

GeneralElectionCd1 \* party\_code \* Gender Crosstabulation

Count		party_code			Total
Gender		Democrat	Unenrolled	Republican	
Man	GeneralElectionCd1				
	Guinta	15	55	134	204
	Shea Porter	99	63	13	175
	Unsure	10	22	17	49
	Total	124	140	164	428

GeneralElectionCd1 \* party\_code \* Gender Crosstabulation

Percent		party_code			Total
Gender		Democrat	Unenrolled	Republican	
Man	GeneralElectionCd1				
	Guinta	12	39	82	48
	Shea Porter	80	45	8	41
	Unsure	8	16	10	11
	Total				

Woman	GeneralElectionCd1					Woman	GeneralElectionCd1				
	Guinta	9	49	106	164		Guinta	6	38	63	36
	Shea Porter	126	55	21	202		Shea Porter	81	42	13	44
	Unsure	21	26	41	88		Unsure	13	20	24	19
Total	Total	156	130	168	454	Total	Total				
	Guinta	24	104	240	368		Guinta	9	39	72	42
	Shea Porter	225	118	34	377		Shea Porter	80	44	10	43
	Unsure	31	48	58	137		Unsure	11	18	17	16
Total		280	270	332	882	Total					

We will read you names of three candidates for the Republican nomination for the First Congressional District and ask your preferred candidate against Rep Carol Shea-Porter:  
For Jeff Chidester, please press 1      For Frank Guinta, press 2      For Dan Innis, press 3  
If you are unsure or have no opinion, please press 4

RepublicanCd1Primary \* Gender Crosstabulation

Count	Gender		Total	
	Man	Woman		
RepublicanCd1P Chidester	15	10	25	
Guinta	126	84	210	
Innis	12	13	25	
Unsure	49	79	128	
Total	202	186	388	

RepublicanCd1Primary \* Gender Crosstabulation

Percentage	Gender		Total	
	Man	Woman		
RepublicanCd1P Chidester	8	5	7	
Guinta	62	45	54	
Innis	6	7	6	
Unsure	24	42	33	
Total	100	100	100	