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Contact:  
Rockefeller Center Associate Director & Senior Fellow Ronald G. Shaiko, Survey Director  
Ronald.G.Shaiko@Dartmouth.edu, (603) 646-9146  
Rockefeller Center Graduate Fellow Matthew H. Davis, Survey Administrator  
Matthew.Davis@Dartmouth.edu, (617) 529-5855 or (802) 967-8004

Rockefeller Center Completes 2nd Annual New Hampshire State of the State Poll on Politics, Economic Issues, and Social Policies

Sampled registered voters show limited support for the federal government’s economic policies and choose Rep. Hodes for U.S. Senate over Rep. Bass or Sen. Sununu by razor-thin margins

HANOVER, NH—The Rockefeller Center’s second annual State of the State poll of New Hampshire registered voters (N=403) indicates that only 4.2 percent of respondents find the stimulus package to be “very effective” while over half of the respondents find it to be “not very effective” (33.3 percent) or “not effective at all” (19.1 percent). In addition, Rep. Paul Hodes polls slightly better among respondents regarding the 2010 U.S. Senate race for retiring Sen. Judd Gregg’s seat than Republican challengers former Rep. Charlie Bass and former Sen. John Sununu, but it also within the margin of error.

State of the economy: U.S.  
In response to evaluative questions about the federal governments’ reaction to the economic downturn, respondents show limited support. A majority of respondents doubt the effectiveness of the economic stimulus package, or the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act; only 4.2 percent of respondents find the stimulus package to be “very effective” while over half of the respondents find it to be “not very effective” (33.3 percent) or “not effective at all” (19.1 percent). Less than one quarter of sampled registered voters supported the federal government’s assistance to the banking and automobile industries; 23.6 percent of respondents support the assistance to the banking industry and 20.6 percent support assistance to the automobile industry.

2010 U.S. Senate Race in New Hampshire
Students carrying out the poll queried the sampled registered voters regarding their vote choice if the U.S. Senate race were held today in two different candidate pairings—pitting 2nd District Representative Paul Hodes against former 2nd District Representative Charlie Bass and pitting
former Senator John Sununu against 2nd District Representative Paul Hodes. Respondents pick Rep. Hodes (31.1 percent) only slightly more than former Rep. Bass (30.1 percent), with the plurality unsure (38.8 percent). Respondents choose Rep. Hodes (37.9 percent) slightly more often than former Sen. Sununu (35.4 percent), with a smaller number of unsure voters (26.7 percent) than the first pairing.

**Poll Methods**
During the week of April 27-May 1, 2009, students from The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center at Dartmouth College conducted a telephone survey of registered voters in New Hampshire. Survey respondents were asked a wide range of questions relating to the current political, economic, and social state of affairs in New Hampshire and, to a lesser extent, the country as a whole. Calls were made between the hours of 6:30pm and 9:30pm Monday through Friday evenings. Additional call-backs were made during daytime hours on Friday and Saturday when specified by poll participants. Over the course of the week, callers made at least three attempts to contact each of the registered voters drawn in the sample. Callers made four attempts in the case of a small number of sampled voters who had been contacted by callers but were unable to complete the survey at the time of the initial contact. A total of 403 survey interviews were completed during the week, yielding an error rate of +/- 5.0 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval.

Located at a busy cross-roads of campus, the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center at Dartmouth College is a lively, intellectual gathering place for students and faculty. The Center is a catalyst for public policy research, teaching and deliberation and prepares students for lives of leadership and service in a diverse and globally interdependent world. Dedicated to providing an interdisciplinary perspective on policy-related topics, the Center fosters a commitment to the ideals of public service and informed public debate exemplified by Nelson A. Rockefeller, former governor of New York and vice president of the United States.