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edits and questions to this one. thanks.

4 ELECTORAL VOTES

2004 – GOVERNOR CRAIG BENSON (R) UP

2004 – SENATOR JUDD GREGG (R) UP

NEW HAMPSHIRE BRIEFING

STATE ISSUES

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

New Hampshire's unemployment rate in July was 3.9 percent, down 1.0 percentage point below its peak of 4.9 percent in June 2002.¹ (**Note:** As of July 2004, the national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent.) Overall, jobs have been returning to New Hampshire since January 2004; the state has seen an increase of 14,900 jobs since then.

New Hampshire residents continue to be positive about the economy of the state and country; 52 percent of residents expect businesses in the United States will experience good times over the next 12 months.² Forty-nine percent of New Hampshire residents believe the economy will be positive over the next five years.

EDUCATION BUDGET

In June, the state's school funding system became law after Governor Craig Benson (R) decided not to veto the measure. Benson said he chose to let the bill become law without his signature because it does not address long-term state funding for schools. The new system calls for all towns to receive \$3,390 per pupil for a total of \$675 million. Many towns may also be able to share an additional \$127 million based on property wealth and number of underprivileged children.

Manchester Mayor Robert Baines (D) has threatened to sue the state, arguing the new law is unconstitutional because it eliminates extra money for special education pupils and children with limited proficiency in English. Manchester expected to get \$47 million from the state; however, under the new law, the city will get \$41 million.

STATE TAXES

On August 3, Governor Benson announced a proposed Senior Property Tax Cap, which would limit the amount homeowners over the age of 65 pay in property taxes to ten percent of their total household income. According to the New Hampshire Housing Authority, U.S. Census Bureau, and New Hampshire Office of State Planning, the average senior would see a yearly reduction in overall property taxes of \$375. It is estimated that the maximum yearly cost to the state for funding the program would be nine million dollars. The Governor also pledged to veto any capital gains tax.

NEW HAMPSHIRE BRIEFING

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

In May, Governor Benson vetoed a bill to raise the minimum execution age from 17 to 18 and pledged to seek capital punishment for anyone (regardless of age) who kills a police officer. The state's capital punishment statute is now limited to those over age 18 who kill a police officer, judge, or similar official. It also applies to those who murder someone during a kidnapping or rape, during certain drug crimes, or those who murder a prison guard or official while serving a life prison term without parole.

FEDERAL ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

New Hampshire's Democrats plan to make the assault weapons ban an issue in the upcoming election. Senator Judd Gregg (R) is the only Republican who favors extending the weapons ban; the other Republicans in the New Hampshire delegation favor letting it expire in September. Congress banned 19 types of military semi-automatic weapons in 1994 for a period of ten years.

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

In June, Governor Benson vetoed legislation to allow women to buy emergency contraception without a prescription, due to questions of safety, notification, and appropriateness of the legislation. However, the state medical and pharmacy associations supported the measure.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration overruled its independent scientific experts and rejected an application to make one of the emergency contraception pills, Plan B, available nationwide without a prescription. Washington state was first to make access to these pills legal without a prescription. Five others have followed since, including New York and Maine.

Last year, Benson signed a law requiring a girl under age 18 to notify a parent before an abortion. A Federal judge ruled the legislation unconstitutional a week before it was to take effect.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

In March, in a 16 to seven vote, the State Senate approved a Republican-sponsored bill to prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages. The bill's primary sponsor, State Senator Russell Prescott (R), believes the bill is needed to close a loophole in state law that could force the state to honor same-sex marriages performed outside

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its borders. The bill's language is almost identical to the Federal Defense of Marriage Act. On May 15, Governor Benson signed the legislation into law, and it took effect immediately.

Senator John Sununu (R) was one of five Republicans in the U.S. Senate to vote against cloture on the Federal amendment banning gay marriage.

REDISTRICTING

On June 22, in a victory for state Republicans, the State Supreme Court allowed a Republican redistricting plan to set dates for candidates to file for districts previously in question. The central issue of the case questioned whether the Legislature violated the State Constitution when it passed a redistricting plan in May. The State Constitution states the Legislature should redistrict once ten years. Democrats argued that ten years had not expired since the last redistricting and that the Court had acted in place of the Legislature. Republicans argued the 2002 redistricting in question was done to correct an error in two Nashua Senate seats that had occurred when redrawn in 2001.

HIGHWAY BILL

In June, the New Hampshire House and Senate voted to override Governor Benson's veto of the state's ten-year highway plan. Benson had vetoed the plan because he believed it required too much money. The House voted 312 to 31 to override the veto, and the Senate voted 23 to one.

JOB CORPS

Governor Benson has appointed a panel charged with bringing Job Corps, the Federal job training program for disadvantaged teenagers and young adults, to New Hampshire. The Governor filmed television commercials to promote the program. New Hampshire and Wyoming are the only two states in the Nation without Job Corps.

ILLEGAL ALIENS

On July 16, Senators Judd Gregg and John Sununu asked the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to investigate why Federal immigration officials did not act on New Ipswich Police Chief Garrett Chamberlain's report of the discovery of illegal immigrants from Ecuador. Chamberlain claims he contacted DHS's Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau when a speeding stop led to the discovery of nine illegal immigrants. The aliens had paid \$10,000 each to be smuggled into the United States.

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Immigration has long been a contentious issue in New Hampshire, and the Congressional delegation has taken a vocal stand on the need to have stronger enforcement of immigration laws. Representatives Charles Bass (R) and Jeb Bradley (R) have called your undocumented worker proposal a step in the right direction.

PHONE JAMMING

Former Republican State Committee Executive Director Chuck McGee pleaded guilty to charges of plotting to jam Democrat phone banks on Election Day 2002. He pled guilty to hiring a Virginia firm to make repeated hang-up calls to six phone banks on November 5, 2002. The incoming calls prevented the Democrats from making outgoing calls to their supporters on Election Day. He is charged with “intent to annoy or harass” the recipients, which carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Allen Raymond, former president of GOP Marketplace, pled guilty on June 30 to hiring another firm, Milo Enterprises of Idaho, to make the calls.

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STATISTICS

2000 General Election Results: **(Presidential):**

	Total	Win %
Bush	273,559	48%
Gore	266,348	47%
Nader	22,188	4%
Others	5,700	1%

1996 General Election Results **(Presidential):**

	Total	Win %
Clinton	246,166	49%
Dole	196,486	39%
Perot	48,387	10%
Others	8,014	2%

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

U.S. SENATE

- Senator Judd Gregg (R), 2nd term, re-elected in 1998 with 68%
- Senator John Sununu (R), 1st term, elected in 2002 with 51%

U.S. HOUSE: 2 total (2R)

- Jeb Bradley (R-01), 1st term, elected with 58%
- Charlie Bass (R-02), 5th term, re-elected with 57%

STATE GOVERNMENT

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Governor Craig Benson (R), 1st term, elected in 2002 with 59%

Secretary of State William Gardner (D), 14th term, re-elected by Legislature in 2002

Attorney General Kelly Ayotte (R), 1st term, appointed in 2004 by Governor Benson

Treasurer Michael Ablowich (D), 1st term, elected by the State Legislature in 2002

State House: 400 (269R, 118D, 13Vacancies)

Speaker: Gene Chandler (R)

Majority Leader: David Hess (R)

Minority Leader: Peter Burling (D)

State Senate: 24 (18R, 6D)

President: Tom Eaton (R)

Majority Leader: Robert Clegg (R)

Minority Leader: Sylvia Larsen (D)

STATE PARTY

State Chairman: Jayne Millerick

National Committeeman: Tom Rath

National Committeewoman: Nancy Merrill

STATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Estimated Population 2000:

New Hampshire: 1,235,786, an increase of 11.4% since 1990

National: 281,421,906, an increase of 13.1% since 1990

Race/Ethnicity:

New Hampshire: 95.1% White; 1.7% Hispanic; 1.3% Asian; 0.7% African-American

National: 69.1% White; 12.5% Hispanic; 12.3% African-American; 3.6% Asian; 0.9% Native American

Median Age:

New Hampshire: 37.1 years (12% are 65 years and older)

National: 35.3 years (12.4% are 65 years and older)

College Educated:

New Hampshire: 28.7%

National: 24.4%

Median Income:

New Hampshire: \$49,467

National: \$41,994

*Drafted by: Matthew Hunter, Office of Political Affairs
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NEW HAMPSHIRE BRIEFING**Households:**

New Hampshire: 68.2% family households; 55.3% married couple families

National: 68.1% family households; 51.7% married couple families

*(Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau)***YOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL**

Event	Date	City
Bush-Cheney '04 Picnic	August 6, 2004	Stratham
Discussion on Job Training and the Economy	March 25, 2004	Nashua
Conversation on the Economy at Fidelity Investments	January 29, 2004	Merrimack
Remarks to the New Hampshire Air National Guard	October 9, 2003	Portsmouth
Remarks to the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire	October 9, 2003	Manchester
New Hampshire Welcome	November 1, 2002	Portsmouth
New Hampshire Welcome and John Sununu for Senate Reception	October 5, 2002	Manchester
Remarks on the Signing of the Education Reform Bill Friends of Bush for President Reception	January 8, 2002	Durham

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PREVIOUS TRAVEL

Event	Date	City
Bush-Cheney '04 Tour and Remarks at Diamond Casting	May 10, 2004	Hollis
Bush-Cheney '04 Fundraiser	September 22, 2003	Manchester
GOP State Committee Finance Event	February 21, 2003	Greenland
Tour and Remarks at General Electric with Jeb Bradley	October 31, 2002	Hooksett
NH Republican Party Fundraising Reception in Manchester and at NH GOP Kamen Fundraiser	June 20, 2002	Manchester Bedford

¹ Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics² WMUR Granite State Poll, conducted July 2004, surveyed 509 residents, margin of error +/- 4.3 percent³ University of New Hampshire poll, conducted July 6 – 20, surveyed 509 adults, margin of error +/- 4.3 percent.⁴ Becker Institute poll, conducted June 18 – 20, surveyed 401 registered New Hampshire voters, margin of error +/-

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5 percent.

⁵ University of New Hampshire poll, conducted July 6 – 20, surveyed 509 adults, margin of error +/- 4.3 percent.

⁶ Boston Herald Reporter's poll of likely New Hampshire voters, conducted April 25, 2004, margin of error +/- 4.5 percent.

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⁷ A University of New Hampshire Poll, conducted July 7 - 21 for WMUR-TV, surveyed 269 adults, margin of error +/- 6 percent.

⁸ A University of New Hampshire Poll, conducted July 7 - 21 for WMUR-TV, surveyed 240 adults, margin of error +/- 6 percent.