Poll Coverage
March 2014
Suffolk University New Hampshire Poll
March 6, 2014
Forces beyond N.H. may hold Shaheen's fate

Brown run would bring deluge of outside spending

By Jim O'Sullivan and Joshua Miller
Globe Staff

GOFFSTOWN, N.H. — Jeanne Shaheen stood in a college auditorium Tuesday, her political pedigree staring down from the walls around her: An oversized snapshot of Shaheen and her husband with Jimmy Carter; Shaheen sitting next to presidential hopeful Gary Hart.

The photographs offered black and white evidence of her enduring place atop the Granite State's politics, proof of a life, from operative to governor to US senator, spent in power.

But now that position is threatened from the outside. National winds are blowing against Democrats, and Shaheen faces a potential challenge from former Massachusetts senator Scott Brown, who has already pulled off one now-legendary upset.

Brown, who announced an exploratory committee last Friday, has pounced on Shaheen's vote in favor of the Affordable Care Act, tried to frame her as an "Obama Democrat," and said she is disconnected from the concerns of her constituents.

"Shaneen, Page A8"

Shaheen and her Democratic allies believe that her decades-long foundation in New Hampshire will help insulate her from Republican attacks and the potentially nasty political climate forecasters say the Democrats are likely to face in November.

"I've been frenetically going around New Hampshire for the last 5½ years, working on the issues that matter to the people of this state, and I don't intend to change that," Shaheen told reporters after talking with the students at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at St. Anselm College.

But that hard work and Shaheen's stature may not be enough if Brown, a seasoned candidate familiar with the spotlight of two nationally watched campaigns, makes his bid official, as both Democrats and Republicans expect him to do.

His foray has already heartened members of the GOP, eager to wrest control of the Senate from Democrats. Republicans reason that a Brown candidacy would, at least, force Democrats to spend heavily there, drawing resources from other races.

Brown's strategy, people close to him say, centers on trying to depict Shaheen as disconnected from workaday New Hampshire residents and shackling her not only to the most unpopular elements of Obama's record, including the health care law, but to the president himself.

After Obama praised Shaheen in a televised NECN interview Wednesday, Brown hit back.

"President Obama and Jeanne Shaheen are joined at the hip," Brown said in a statement Thursday. "If it wasn't for Jeanne Shaheen, Obamacare would not have become the law of the land."

The troubled implementation of the Affordable Care Act is just one part of a darkening electoral picture for Democrats.

"The national environment is not helpful at this time," said former US senator Bob Graham, a Florida Democrat. "The president's approval levels, the consternation about Obamacare, all of the uncertainties around the world are challenges."

Nonetheless, Shaheen would still enter the general election with several advantages, if Brown wins the GOP primary against a field that includes former US senator Bob Smith, former state senator Jim Rubens, and conservative activist Karen Testerman.

Shaheen is a popular member of one of the state's most prominent political families, her husband a decades-long powerbroker in state politics. She has won statewide campaigns four times, with just one loss: the 2002 US Senate race won by Republican John E. Sununu.

A Suffolk University poll released earlier this month showed that Brown, who lost in Massachusetts two years ago despite strong favorability ratings, would enter the race with a more Granite Staters viewing him negatively than positively. That poll gave Shaheen a lead of 52 percent to 39 percent in a hypothetical matchup.

Democrats have already begun to paint Brown as a political opportunist, an office-shopper eager to trade on the celebrity he earned in 2010 by winning the Massachusetts seat opened by Senator Edward M. Kennedy's death, and as someone more concerned with his career than with serving constituents.

"You've got Jeanne Shaheen, who has fought long and hard for the people of New Hampshire, and you've got Scott Brown, who has flirted with every office imaginable," said Ty Matsdorf, an adviser to Senate Majority PAC, a political action committee that supports Democratic candidates.

In turn, Brown has tried to jiu-jitsu that line of attack. On Tuesday, he called the carpet-
bagger label derogatory and insulting to many New Hampshire residents who have moved from other states.

Both Shaheen and Brown may soon be buffeted by factors beyond their control. Brown’s refusal to sign a pact limiting outside spending virtually ensures that the state will be deluged by millions of dollars in advertising paid for by groups not directly affiliated with either campaign.

A number of national Democratic strategists acknowledge that a Shaheen-Brown race would be competitive and that Shaheen could be dragged down by the president’s low approval ratings.

But these strategists argued that her long tenure in the state — as a former state lawmaker and, in particular, as governor for six years — will help insulate her from a national environment that currently favors Republicans. They were bullish she will be victorious come November.

“In a state like New Hampshire, where someone like Jeanne Shaheen has been so deeply involved for so long, the environment doesn’t affect her as much,” said Democratic pollster Mark Mellman. “People know her well, know what she’s been doing.”

Brown strategists, though, note that the voter enrollment numbers that doomed him in Massachusetts against Elizabeth Warren in 2012 are more favorable for him north of the border.

In New Hampshire, Republicans hold a 3-point edge over Democrats in registered voters. In Massachusetts in 2012, registered Democrats outnumbered Republicans by more than 3 to 1. Unenrolled voters account for the largest bloc in both states.

The New Hampshire enrollment figures mean that Brown could lose independents, draw no Democratic support, and still win. That’s a stark difference from Massachusetts two years ago, when he needed to win unenrolled voters and pick off a chunk of Democrats.

Both Shaheen’s effort to curb outside spending, and Brown’s resistance, are strategic. Nationally, outside groups supporting Republicans are expected to outspend Democrats heavily in this election cycle. That represents a political mislocation, as state borders blur and national influences in statewide races grow.

The chance the race will be shaped by broader forces is increased by the election’s spot on the calendar. New Hampshire, as it does every four years by dint of its status hosting the first presidential primary, will again become a focus of presidential campaign interest, with candidates from both parties ramping up visits to the state.

Perhaps more than in past years, White House hopefuls will find a state already being shaped by the political zeitgeist beyond its borders.

“There are very few places that buck national trends anymore,” said Republican pollster Whit Ayres. “Almost all politics is national now. New Hampshire will not escape the national mood.”

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The New Hampshire Republican Party is going up with a new web video that links Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen to President Barack Obama and to the federal health care law.

The Monday release of the video comes on the same day that Shaheen's campaign went up with a radio ad critical of former Sen. Scott Brown of neighboring Massachusetts, who's now taken a key step towards challenging Shaheen.

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The video by the New Hampshire GOP questions whether Shaheen, who's up for re-election this year, will ask the President to campaign with her. It uses a clip of the senator saying "we don't know if he'll come here or not," after being asked if she would like Obama to join her in the Granite State. And it also claims that "Shaheen votes with Obama 99 percent of the time."

Last week, in an interview with New England Cable News, the President praised Shaheen, who could face a tough race this year if Brown formally jumps into the New Hampshire race and wins the GOP Senate nomination. Brown, who moved north to the Granite State last year, recently announced an exploratory committee, an important step towards launching a bid.

The New Hampshire GOP's release of the video comes one day before Vice President Joe Biden visits the state, for an event on workforce development and job training. The Vice President will be joined by Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez at NH Works, an on-the-job training program that works with 170 businesses statewide.

A Shaheen aide tells CNN that some votes on Ukraine and a hearing of the appropriations subcommittee, which she chairs, will keep the senator in Washington Tuesday as the Vice President heads to New Hampshire.

Republicans are trying to tie Shaheen to Obama.

"With Vice President Biden in town tomorrow, I'm looking forward to Senator Shaheen explaining to the people of New Hampshire she has voted for the Obama-Biden agenda 99 percent of the time, and invite her to bring both Biden and President Obama back many, many more times between now and November," said NH GOP chair Jennifer Horn, in a statement.

Then-Sen. Obama won New Hampshire, which is considered a battleground state, by nine percentage points in his 2008 presidential election, and carried the state by six points in his 2012 re-election. The President made five campaign stops in the Granite State during the 2012 election cycle, according to an unofficial count by CNN. But the President's current approval rating in the state stood at 40% in a recent Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll and at 31% in an American Research Group survey.

If Brown ends up winning the party's September primary, it could expand the map for Republicans. Democrats hold a 55-45 majority in the Senate (53 Democrats and two independents who caucus with the party), but are defending 21 of the 36 seats up in November, with half of those Democratic-held seats in red or purple states, like New Hampshire.

But the Suffolk University and ARG polls indicate Shaheen has a double digit lead over Brown in a general election showdown. According to the ARG survey, 50% of Granite State registered voters say they would support Shaheen, with 38% backing Brown and 12% undecided. And Shaheen had a 52%-39% lead among New Hampshire voters in the Suffolk
New Shaheen radio ad spotlights pledge

As the state GOP was putting out their video, Shaheen's campaign was launching a radio ad that attacks Brown for not signing a pledge to keep outside money out of the Senate race.

"Scott Brown's changed more than his address," says the announcer in the spot, which then uses a clip of then-Sen. Brown of Massachusetts touting a pledge he signed with Democratic challenger Elizabeth Warren in his 2012 campaign. Brown ended up losing his bid for re-election in the Bay State.

Democrats are now criticizing Brown for refusing to sign a similar pledge.

"Not long ago, Scott Brown said he was 'really disgusted' with SuperPAC ads. Now Scott Brown won't sign his own pledge to stop them. Maybe it's because Big Oil and Wall Street want to buy him a Senate seat."

A Democratic source with knowledge of the radio commercial describes the ad buy as significant.

Brown quickly reacted to the new Shaheen spot, saying: "It's disappointing that Senator Shaheen's first ad of the campaign is a negative ad attacking me."

Brown won't sign the new pledge, saying it comes too late because outside groups have already spent big bucks on the race.

Filed under: 2014 • Jeanne Shaheen • New Hampshire • President Obama • Scott Brown

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1. wendel
democrats just get out and vote

March 24, 2014 11:46 am at 11:46 am |

rs

2. Lets play choice.
You can vote for the party that supports the ACA, a program that has enrolled more than 5 million Americans an is well on its way to top 6 million. Such enrollees now have affordable health insurance, that cannot drop them, limit their coverage or bar pre-existing conditions- many for the first time in their lives.

Or, you can vote for the other party, the party of carpetbaggers like Scott (or Ms. Cheney), whose solution to rapidly rising health care costs and rising numbers of Americans without health care insurance is to strip away state Medicaid programs (throwing more millions of Americans out of our health care system, and prescribing "die fast" as a solution.

Who would you pick?

March 24, 2014 11:52 am at 11:52 am |

rs

3. Rick McDaniel
All Dems have been coerced into supporting everything Obama does.

And members of the TEA Party can't go to the bathroom without permission from the Koch brothers. Really? The ideological "purity party" is loaded with free men and free thinkers? That's a laugh.

March 24, 2014 11:54 am at 11:54 am |

The Republican Party Is Dead To Me

4. Republicans, have politicized everything to the point that people are afraid to talk to each other. If they see or hear of any person having any kind of conversation, or social intercourse they go ballistic. It's sickening to watch and even more despicable to have it flaunted back and forth in the media, day in and day out.

March 24, 2014 12:29 pm at 12:29 pm |

Downhill We Go

5. For the sake of the country, the Senate/House needs to be controlled by the GOP. It worked well under Clinton, as he shifted to the center. The country cannot be ran under progressive/liberal ideology, nor can it be ran under full conservative ideology. I'm conservative...but I understand in today's America, we are getting nowhere, and we all suffer (well, maybe not the politicians). So, common logic to shift to the center. Clinton was pulling us hard left and failing...then shifted to the center (had to) and we self-corrected.

This is where we operate and function the best. It's been proven. Obama has failed miserably trying to make this country progressive and he has failed miserably at negotiating,
WHAT WOULD SCOTT BROWN DO?

The age of speculation has given rise to a new breed of candidate: The Superhypothetical.

In case you weren't keeping track — don't worry, that was a joke! — Scott Brown, the short-time Massachusetts senator and shorter-time political celebrity, has relocated to New Hampshire, where he might run for the Senate again. This speculation has been especially rampant among media types who have been tracking such nitty-gritty as: 1) Brown's tweeting about his performance with the band Cheap Trick last month; 2) the former Cosmopolitan centerfold's appearing at a midwinter polar-plunge-type event and having his bare torso reimmortalized, this time on the front page of The New Hampshire Union Leader; and 3) his planning to make a trip to Iowa next month, which would be his third in a year.

On March 14, Brown announced his intention to form an exploratory committee in regard to that Senate seat from New Hampshire, animating his latest period of speculation. Ten days earlier, a Politico story led with a classic time capsule for our present news environment: "Scott Brown on Tuesday night denied a Fox News anchor's tweet that he has decided to run for Senate in New Hampshire."

In that tweet, Greta Van Susteren said she was "certain" that Brown was running. This prompted Brown, who worked for Fox News until last week, to email Politico with a semiclarification.

"I am not sure who she talked to, but it was not me." He signed off with the standing caveat of our time: "It is all just speculation."

Like so many of today's prospective great leaders, Brown is keeping his options open, not ruling anything out, taking nothing off the table. He will never say never. And that is the central credo of a modern political breed known as the Superhypothetical — those professional noncandidates whose franchises depend largely on people speculating about what they might run for and their own willingness to engage in public indecision about it (all while assuring us, of course, that they are flattered and humbled by our interest). Sarah Palin and Donald Trump are the prototypes — evergreens of guesswork despite the implausibility that either will ever be elected to anything. BuzzFeed recently published a profile of Trump in which McKay Coppins perfectly captured the perennial maybe-candidate's diminuendo.

Mark Leibovich, author of "This Town," is the magazine's chief national correspondent.
ished relevance in a mere 6,176 words. This led "Reliable Sources," CNN’s weekly media round table, to declare that "the Donald’s 15 minutes may be up" before talking about him for 8 minutes 40 seconds.

Superhypotheticals understand that there is a benefit to appearing continually upward-bound, at least in an aspirational sense. From the outset of his vice presidency, Joe Biden has been diligent about not ruling out a run for president in 2016, no matter how far-fetched "Reliable Sources," CNN’s Superhypothetical from the beginning. In the midst of this, there would be the special election for governor of Massachusetts, and now a potential challenge to incumbent Massachusetts governor and now a potential challenge to incumbent Massachusetts governor. In the midst of this, the new administration promised to put American workers first. In 2010, the governor after the former Republican state senator improbably won Ted Kennedy’s seat, John Kerry’s seat, he was asked by a reporter in Boston what might be his most natural habitat: A television greenroom. He was waiting to appear on Fox News Sunday. Brown’s move across the border from Wrentham, Mass., to his vacation home in Rye, N.Y., in December also reflects a larger understanding of our politics. The short drive is of little practical consequence. (Much of southern New Hampshire is populated by commuters avoiding Massachusetts’ heavier tax burden.)

More important, politics now are largely transacted in the nongeographic netherworlds of the media. I met Brown by chance last summer in Washington. We chatted for a short time and then followed up with a few emails. When I asked him this month about his Senate plans, he had little to add. "I certainly understand the interest in my decisions," he said, and he anticipated making one soon.

Brown said he had just returned from Taiwan, where he gave a speech, and was headed back to Washington for another Fox News appearance and a bunch of meetings. Soon he would be off to Iowa again. "I have never felt jet-lagged like this before," he told me. He added that he was dictating the email while driving and apologized for typos.

Superhypothetical standing can be delicate; Hamlet acts can wear thin. After Brown took a polar plunge in a Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll on March 6, which showed him losing by 13 percentage points in a (hypothetical) matchup against Shaheen, he took to Fox News. "I will make an announcement sooner rather than later," he promised, "and I'll certainly let everyone know." The next day, Van Susteren had Palin on her show and asked the former half-term governor the dutiful question about her possible presidential plans for 2016. Palin replied with her trademark self-assurance and conviction. "I'll never say never," she vowed.
N.H. GOP sees Brown leaning toward a run

By PRIYANKA DAYAL McCluskey

Republican Scott Brown is sending more signals that he plans to challenge incumbent Sen. Jeanne Shaheen in New Hampshire this fall and could launch an exploratory committee as soon as today — ending at least some of the speculation about his political future.

“It’s time for him to make a decision one way or another, and I think he’s very close to making a decision in a positive direction. A lot of people are urging him to do that,” said Fran Wendelboe, a New Hampshire GOP official and former state representative. “He is making phone calls. He is taking it to the next step.”

The former Massachusetts senator has been coy about his intentions, though Shaheen and the Democratic Party have been capitalizing heavily on the threat of a Brown run in fundraising letters for months, with $360,000 spent on TV ads targeting Brown.

Granite State Republicans, many of whom have been regularly in touch with Brown, have been anxiously awaiting an end to the uncertainty.

“In fairness to the other candidates, he does need to give an indication of whether he’s moving toward the candidacy or whether he’s not going to run,” said Fergus Cullen, former chairman of the state’s Republican Party. “People have been very patient and giving him lots of time because he’s got a lot of demand for his candidacy. He’s had the luxury of not having to be rushed.”

GOP State Sen. Jeb Bradley said, “I hope he is going to enter the race. I think it would bring a bolt of energy.”

Brown, who trounced Attorney General Martha Coakley to become Bay State senator in a 2010 special election but lost re-election to Sen. Elizabeth Warren in 2012, is one of the high-profile speakers scheduled to take the stage at a big gathering of Republicans today in Nashua.

“Staunch Republicans are very excited about a Scott Brown campaign because they feel he could beat Jeanne Shaheen,” Wendelboe said, though a recent Suffolk University/Herald poll shows Shaheen beating Brown.

Setting up an exploratory committee would allow Brown to start fundraising for a run, noted GOP
strategist and former New Hampshire attorney general Tom Rath. "The No. 1 challenge immediately is going to be raising some money," Rath said. "Sen. Shaheen is a well-entrenched figure in the state. He's got some catching up to do."

Brown faces an uphill battle with the Granite State's hard right voters, who will likely choose a more conservative candidate in the primary, said Jerry DeLemus, a Tea Party activist.

"What we don't want is a spoiler to come in as a moderate or a liberal and end up taking the nomination," DeLemus said. "I'd rather he'd not run."

Herald wire services contributed to this report.

— priyanka.mccluskey@bostonherald.com

ON THE FENCE: New Hampshire Republicans are anxiously awaiting word from Scott Brown on whether he will challenge Jean Shaheen.
Brown resets sights on Senate
Will pursue US seat in New Hampshire

Top opponent would be Jeanne Shaheen

By Michael Levenson
GLOBE STAFF
and Dan Adams
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

NASHUA — Scott Brown, whose star rose fast and set quickly in Massachusetts, began charting what he hopes will be a course to redemption in a new state, declaring on Friday that he will begin building a campaign for the US Senate in New Hampshire.

His announcement at the Northeast Republican Leadership Conference marked a turning point in a months-long political flirtation that had begun to grate on New Hampshire Republicans, who were eager for Brown to declare his intentions.

Brown said he would launch an exploratory committee, a step that allows him to begin raising money and hiring staff in hopes of challenging Senator Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat.

Before Brown can challenge Shaheen in November, he must face three Republicans in a September primary: former US senator Bob Smith, former state senator Jim Rubens, and conservative activist Karen Testerman. But Brown is expected to be the most formidable candidate in that field.

Early polls suggested that a Brown-Shaheen race could be a toss-up, but more recent surveys indicate she has a sizable lead. A Suffolk University poll released last week found Brown would pose a strong challenge to Shaheen, but still trails her 52 percent to 39 percent, with 9 percent undecided.

In his speech Friday, Brown, 54, sought to establish his ties to New Hampshire and sketch the themes of his campaign.

He began on familiar turf by pointing proudly to the truck he drove across Massachusetts in a 2010 special election held after the death of Democrat Edward M. Kennedy, who had held the seat for 47 years. The truck, he said, now has 300,000 miles on it, and its Massachusetts license plate has been replaced by one from New Hampshire.

He fondly recalled that his parents lived in Portsmouth when he was born and that he spent summers with his grandparents exploring the rocky coast in Rye and visiting Hampton Beach.

“So much of my life played out in Massachusetts . . . but a big part of it was always right here in New Hampshire,” he said.

He also blasted the federal Affordable Care Act, seizing on an issue that helped catapult him into the Senate in 2010, when he used the issue to help stir up grass-roots support from Republicans and Tea Party activists. Polls show the law is unpopular in New Hampshire, and Republicans believe it will be a major liability for Shaheen, who voted for it.

Brown indicated that his desire to repeal the law would be a driving force behind his campaign.

“A big political wave is about to break in America and the Obamacare Democrats are on the wrong side of that wave,” Brown said. He argued that the health care system was “very good” before President Obama and his fellow Democrats pushed the federal overhaul.

Fergus Cullen, a former chairman of the New Hampshire GOP, said he felt that Brown’s speech “made a great first impression.” He was among those who had been urging Brown to make his plans clear.

“I think there’s a tremendous relief among establishment Republicans,” Cullen said. “They are very excited by the
prospect of a Brown candidacy. Of course, there are going to be some on the far right who are not excited about this, but they're in the minority. For every detractor, there are 10 enthusiasts as of today."

Some conference attendees, however, cautioned Friday that his name recognition would only take him so far in a state where voters are accustomed to being courted face-to-face by presidential candidates.

"I need more substantive conversations," said James McConaha, an independent voter who traveled from Concord to hear Brown speak. "Today was kind of a pep rally, 'rah-rah-rah' thing."

Matt Mowers, executive director of the New Hampshire GOP, argued that Brown would not be an automatic favorite in the Republican primary.

"New Hampshire is a traditional retail politics state," he said. "The voters here want to hear you talk two or three times, not just once. People are much more interested in where you stand on issues and how you'll help them."

A national political star after he scored an improbable victory over Democrat Martha Coakley in 2010, Brown's fortunes plummeted in 2012, when he was ousted by Democrat Elizabeth Warren. He moved to his summer home in Rye late last summer and registered to vote there in December.

Democrats on Friday wasted no time labeling him a carpetbagger. The New Hampshire Democratic Party released a video showing footage of Brown from his past campaigns boasting that he was a "Massachusetts Republican" who had grown up in the state and planned to remain there.

"Like other New Hampshire tourists we hope he feels welcome up here and spends some money, but he should know that New Hampshire's North Country is Jeanne Shaheen country," the party said in a statement.

The Shaheen campaign blasted out an e-mail seeking donations, saying, "It's the only chance we have to defend the Senate against the avalanche of Big Oil, Big Bank, and other secret corporate cash headed our way."

Warren sent her own e-mail Friday asking her supporters to donate to Shaheen and rally behind her colleague from New Hampshire as they did for her two years ago.

"Scott Brown may have moved to the Granite State, but we're not going anywhere," Warren wrote.

In a sign of how fluid Brown's plans were until Friday, he began the day by canceling a planned trip to Iowa next month. That visit was widely seen as a sign that Brown harbored ambitions to run for the White House in 2016.

"He texted me this morning by 6 a.m., saying he's going to run for the United States Senate in New Hampshire and won't be able to come to Iowa," said Tracee Knapp, a GOP activist in Ringgold County who had invited Brown to speak to a party gathering there on April 3.

"We're pretty disappointed," she said. "We're trying to scramble to get someone else to speak."

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For midterm elections, Republicans now have more possible routes to win a majority in the U.S. Senate.

Brown might be another worry for Democrats

After months of stoking will-he-or-won’t-he speculation in New Hampshire, Republican Scott Brown announced Friday that he will explore a bid for the U.S. Senate.

It's the latest in a series of positive developments for Senate Republicans, who have expanded the landscape of competitive races in recent months as credible candidates have joined — or in Brown's case, moved much closer toward officially joining — contests that were once seen as out of reach for the GOP. Eight months before the midterms, Republicans must pick up six seats to win back the majority. Brown's decision eases that task.

Here's where things stand in the battle for the Senate. The Republicans' best pickup opportunities are in two open-seat races and one where a recently appointed senator is running: West Virginia, South Dakota and Montana. Republicans are favored to win all three. From there, their four best remaining chances are in states where 2012 GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney won and Democratic incumbents are running for reelection: Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina and Alaska.

But Republicans are playing defense, too. Democrats have recruited strong candidates in Kentucky and Georgia. If they pick up even one of those seats, Republicans would have to run the table in the seven races above to win the majority, provided nothing else flips. If Democrats win both, Republicans must win those seven plus one from their next two best pickup opportunities: Michigan and Iowa.

Each scenario would be a tall task that would leave the GOP with no margin for error.

This is where Brown comes in. He's now part of a group of Republican candidates that includes Cory Gardner and, to a lesser extent, Ed Gillespie. New Hampshire instantly becomes more competitive by virtue of Brown's decision. Up until now, no other Republican with a prayer of defeating Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) had entered the race. Brown's name recognition and his ability to raise big money make him a potentially formidable foe.

Something similar happened in Colorado when Gardner, a member of the U.S. House, announced last month that he would take on Sen. Mark Udall (D). And while Sen. Mark R. Warner (D) is still a substantial front-runner in Virginia, Gillespie, a former Republican National Committee chairman who announced his run in January, gives the GOP a glimmer of hope in Virginia that did not exist before he decided to run.

In short, Republicans now have more possible routes to the majority. Even if Brown, Gillespie and Gardner each lose but wage competitive campaigns, they will force Democratic groups to spend money they wouldn't otherwise have had to spend in these races. That's money that could go to such races as Arkansas or North Carolina.

Brown is no shoo-in. If he decides to turn his exploratory committee into a full-fledged campaign, he will face obstacles in a primary. His stance on guns — which is a big issue for Republican voters in New Hampshire — most notably his support for an assault weapons ban, could be a problem for him. So could his pro-abortion rights posture. Finally, the primary is not until September, giving his
opponents — and Democrats — time to try to bloody him up. Brown lost his 2012 Senate reelection campaign in Massachusetts to Democrat Elizabeth Warren.

Even if Brown makes it to the general election, he is probably an underdog to Shaheen. A recent Suffolk University poll showed him down 52 percent to 39 percent. Candidates don’t suddenly announce a run for the Senate in a vacuum. The decisions of Brown, Gardner and Gillespie reflect a political climate that has increasingly given Democrats reason to worry. Polls show President Obama is unpopular; the health-care law remains a potential albatross for Democrats on the campaign trail; and Democrats just lost a winnable Florida special election to a Republican former lobbyist who struggled to raise money.

Republicans increasingly feel like they are poised to go on offense this year.

— Sean Sullivan

Scott Brown, who is exploring a run for the U.S. Senate, could face obstacles in a Republican primary. But his potential bid is another example of an expanding landscape of competitive races for the GOP.
Brown to Seek Senate Seat

BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

Former Republican Sen. Scott Brown of Massachusetts said Friday he was preparing to run for a seat in neighboring New Hampshire, likely forcing Democrats to devote money to an additional state as they try to retain their majority in the Senate this fall.

Mr. Brown ended months of speculation Friday by announcing he had launched an exploratory committee to challenge Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen. The move allows Mr. Brown to raise money and hire staff as he gears up for what promises to be one of the year’s marquee contests.

“I am going to stop complaining and get involved,” Mr. Brown told an audience in Nashua, N.H., in a speech criticizing President Barack Obama and Democrats who voted for the 2010 health-insurance overhaul.

“A big political wave is about to break in America, and the Obamacare Democrats are on the wrong side of it,” he said.

Democrats and rival Republicans immediately branded Mr. Brown, 54 years old, a political opportunist for running in New Hampshire a little more than a year after he lost a re-election bid in Massachusetts. “It takes time to know a state like this,” said former state Sen. Jim Rubens, who will face Mr. Brown in the September GOP primary. “You can’t respectably serve a state like this without having roots, deep roots, and recent knowledge.”

Regan Page, a spokeswoman for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, said Mr. Brown would “have a tough time convincing New Hampshire voters that he cares about anyone other than himself.”

Mr. Brown became a fast-rising Republican star after his surprise Senate win in a 2010 special election in traditionally Democratic Massachusetts, following the death of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. He has proved he can raise large sums, drawing more than $28 million for his failed re-election in 2012, according to Federal Election Commission records. Party leaders in Washington had urged him to run in New Hampshire.

Still, he faces the prospect of a Republican primary in which he will be forced to defend his support for abortion rights and restrictions on gun ownership. And a recent poll showed Ms. Shaheen with a sizable lead in a potential matchup with Mr. Brown, while holding higher favorability ratings.

“Scott Brown’s entry makes the race more competitive,” said Nathan Gonzales, who analyzes congressional races for the nonpartisan Rothenberg Political Report. “It helps the Republicans expand the battlefield for the Senate, but I don’t think Sen. Shaheen is in imminent danger.”

For months, Mr. Brown had been dangling the prospect of a Senate bid, selling his house in Massachusetts and canvassing New Hampshire to address Republican voters. He donated $10,000 to the state GOP.

His announcement expands the number of competitive 2014 Senate contests and gives the GOP an additional path to netting the six seats it needs to gain a Senate majority. Democrats who have focused on defending seats in conservative states such as Arkansas and Alaska now find themselves also having to spend money to hold seats in states that Mr. Obama won in 2012, among them Colorado, Michigan and now New Hampshire.

Republicans are fielding credible candidates in at least a dozen states while defending seats of their own in just two, Kentucky and Georgia. Mr. Brown’s announcement comes of the heels of Republican Rep. Cory Gardner’s decision to challenge Democratic Sen. Mark Udall in Colorado, another state where GOP prospects rose with the arrival of a formidable candidate.

Groups aligned with either party have already run millions of dollars’ worth of television ads in New Hampshire attacking Mr. Brown and Ms. Shaheen. After running neck-and-neck in a pair of public-opinion surveys earlier this year, a Suffolk University-Boston Herald poll released in early March showed Ms. Shaheen with a 13-percentage-point lead over Mr. Brown, who lost by eight percentage points to Democrat Elizabeth Warren when he ran for re-election in 2012.

Jim Merrill, a Republican operative based in New Hampshire who advised 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney, said that if nothing else, a close race in his state would force Democrats to devote resources to defending Ms. Shaheen.

Added Jamie Burnett, a Republican strategist who advised former Sen. John Sununu: “Even if he doesn’t win the race, he will make it competitive.”

—REBECCA BALLHAUS contributed to this article.
Scott Brown May Seek Office Again, but in New Hampshire

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE  MARCH 13, 2014

BOSTON — After a year of mulling his political future, Scott Brown, the former senator from Massachusetts, has told people on Capitol Hill that he intends to open an exploratory committee and run this year for the Senate from New Hampshire, according to people with firsthand knowledge of those discussions.

National Republicans have been urging Mr. Brown to get into the race, believing he would pose a formidable challenge to Senator Jeanne Shaheen, a freshman Democrat who is seeking re-election, and would help the party in its quest to capture control of the Senate.

Mr. Brown has told associates that he intends to announce soon that he is forming an exploratory committee for his candidacy, said people close to him, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak for him. Forming such a committee would allow him to raise money and organize a campaign staff, but it could also force him to terminate his contract with Fox News, where he is a commentator.

He is scheduled to speak on Friday at a state Republican event in Nashua, N.H., and could use that occasion for an announcement.

Mr. Brown has flirted openly with the idea of challenging Ms. Shaheen, and has tested the patience of some New Hampshire Republicans as he has stalled on making a decision. But in recent days he has taken several steps that indicate he is edging closer to entering the race. He has been calling elected officials and grass-roots activists around the state to gauge their interest in his candidacy. While he has not actually hired any potential staff members, his allies have been seeking résumés.

And on Thursday, he donated $29,000 to the state Republican Party and various county Republican committees around New Hampshire, according to the newspaper The Union Leader. This follows an earlier donation of $15,000 to the state party.

This year he moved his official residence from Massachusetts to New Hampshire, where he has long owned a second home.

If Mr. Brown enters the race, polls have indicated that he would be the strongest Republican to challenge Ms. Shaheen, but the most recent poll, by Suffolk University, found him trailing by 13 percentage points.

Even if he did not win, he would force the Democrats to spend a lot more time and attention in New Hampshire than they had been prepared for. With his national name recognition and the importance of the race, Mr. Brown — who represented Massachusetts for three years — would be expected to raise a serious amount of money. Ms. Shaheen is perceived as vulnerable because of her strong support for President Obama’s health care law, which polls show is deeply unpopular in New Hampshire.

Conservative activists — including the group Americans for Prosperity founded by the wealthy Koch brothers — have already spent $700,000 on television ads against Ms. Shaheen. And in a sign of how much they would like to discourage Mr. Brown from entering the race, Democrats have taken the unusual step of spending about $350,000 on ads attacking him.

New Hampshire Democrats issued a statement late Thursday suggesting themes they would be using if a campaign materialized.

“Scott Brown is for Scott Brown and the powerful interests that back him, not New Hampshire,” the statement said. “New Hampshire isn’t going to let Scott Brown and his big oil buddies like the Koch brothers buy themselves a Senate seat.”
Carpetbagger?

On March 14, Scott Brown announced he had moved to New Hampshire and was establishing an “exploratory committee” to determine whether he should run for the Republican nomination to unseat U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen.

According to an American Research poll released Monday, Shaheen leads Brown by 12 points. And a Suffolk University poll released last week gave Shaheen a 13 point lead, with 9 percent undecided. Before the former senator from Massachusetts can face off against Shaheen in November, he must first defeat three other Republicans in September: former U.S. senator Bob Smith, former state senator Jim Rubens, and conservative activist Karen Testerman.

“Brown, 51, reminded Republicans during his announcement that his parents lived in Portsmouth, where he was born, and that he spent summers with his grandparents in Rye, where he now lives in his former summer home.

You can bet that despite his ties to New Hampshire, all of his opponents will be rolling out carpetbagger attacks against him soon. Shortly after Brown’s announcement, the New Hampshire Democratic Party quickly released a video of clips of his past campaigns boasting that he was a “Massachusetts Republican” who had grown up in the state and planned to remain there.

In 2010, Brown defeated Martha Coakley, former Attorney General of Massachusetts, in the runoff to replace Teddie Kennedy, who mate, and Republicans need to pick up just six seats to take back the powers in Washington and the establishment here in New Hampshire to run against three people who have been on the ground here for decades is really pretty bizarre.”

Brown, 51, reminded Republicans during his announcement that his parents lived in Portsmouth, where he was born, and that he spent summers with his grandparents in Rye, where he now lives in his former summer home.

You can bet that despite his ties to New Hampshire, all of his opponents will be rolling out carpetbagger attacks against him soon. Shortly after Brown’s announcement, the New Hampshire Democratic Party quickly released a video of clips of his past campaigns boasting that he was a “Massachusetts Republican” who had grown up in the state and planned to remain there.

In 2010, Brown defeated Martha Coakley, former Attorney General of Massachusetts, in the runoff to replace Teddie Kennedy, who died with two years left on his term in the Senate. But two years later, he was ousted by Elizabeth Warren, who waged a populist campaign that heartened progressives around the country.

Brown has been quick to jump on the anti-Affordable Care Act bandwagon that big-money donors such as the Koch Brothers hope to use to his advantage. And though Brown would seem to enjoy espousing their Neanderthal vision of a woman’s place in the world. And though Brown would seem to be a little more reasonable than others in his party, we would be remiss if we did not remind Granite Staters of his record in Massachusetts.

In November 2010, Brown voted against the Paycheck Fairness Act. By supporting a GOP budget proposal in 2011, he voted to defund Planned Parenthood and other critical services for women (fortunately, that budget proposal failed 56 to 44). Brown co-sponsored the Blunt amendment, which would have allowed employers to deny health care coverage for any moral or religious objection.

He also voted against an amendment that would have allowed privately funded abortions on military bases.

“In addition, Brown co-sponsored the Women’s Rights to Know Act, which would require women to wait 24 hours before having an abortion and to review pictures and information detailing the development of their fetus,” stated the Boston Globe in 2012. “Brown also occasionally sided with antiabortion activists when he was in the state Legislature. In 2005, he sought to allow doctors and nurses to opt out of offering emergency contraception to rape victims if the health care workers had religious objections. Brown later voted for the bill without his changes, meaning doctors and nurses would be required to offer emergency contraception, regardless of their beliefs.”

We would urge the good citizens of New Hampshire to think twice about replacing a woman who has lived in New Hampshire for 40 years with a man whose main commitment seems to only be to his own political career. Shaheen has shown a long-term commitment to the Granite State and served effectively as its governor for six years and as a state senator for two terms before that.

Don’t be swayed by the attack ads and the slick, charisma of the carpetbagger from across the border.
Ex-senator considers another run
Brown may enter New Hampshire race

By SCOTT MALONE

Nashua, N.H. — Former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown, a moderate Republican who moved to New Hampshire last year, said Friday that he had begun exploring a run for Senate in his new home state that could help his party gain a seat in the chamber now controlled by Democrats.

"I have formed an exploratory committee to prepare a campaign for the U.S. Senate in New Hampshire," Brown told the Northeast Republican Leadership Conference.

Brown’s flirtation with a run for a seat now held by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen had worried the first-term Democrat enough that her campaign had sent out fundraising emails weeks ago mentioning him as a potential rival.

Brown’s speech largely targeted Democratic President Barack Obama’s signature health care reform law, which he described as flawed and needing to be repealed. "A big political wave is about to break in America and the Obamacare Democrats are on the wrong side of that wave," Brown said.

Fox News, where Brown has served as a contributor since leaving office, canceled its contract with the former senator after he notified the cable network of his plans, said Bill Shine, executive vice president of programming.

In 2010, Brown was a little-known state senator who stunned the Massachusetts Democratic establishment by beating state Attorney General Martha Coakley in an off-cycle Senate election for the seat made available by the death of liberal icon Edward Kennedy.

In November 2012, Democrat Elizabeth Warren defeated him in his re-election bid. A few months later, Brown began to consider publicly the idea of running for office in New Hampshire, where he was born and had maintained a second home before returning.

Brown got mixed reviews from the crowd of a few hundred Republican activists in the room.

"I’m a big supporter of his. I helped out with his campaign in Massachusetts," said Paul Schibbelhute, 58, of Nashua. "I know people will say he’s a carpetbagger, but I don’t believe that. He has roots here."

He said he liked Brown’s message: "He is a voice against Obamacare and if he gets back in the Senate he will be able to help fix it."

Others raised concerns that Brown would not be a conservative enough choice.

"Scott Brown was elected in Massachusetts with the help of the tea party, but then he got elected and he was a Massachusetts Republican," said Karen Thoman, 56, also of Nashua.

Republican voters in New Hampshire are traditionally more conservative than in liberal-leaning Massachusetts, where Republicans usually adopt more moderate views to persuade some Democrats to vote for them.
A surge of interest following Brown’s move to the state caused him to show well in polls early this year. But the incumbent has gained momentum. A Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll of 800 likely voters released this month showed 52% of voters favoring Shaheen to 39% for Brown.

Brown had the leading position among likely Republican rivals, with 33% of voters supporting him, triple the support of his nearest rival, Bob Smith, who is seeking to reclaim a seat that he held from 1990 to 2003.

Almost half of voters remained undecided with six months to go until the September primary.
Brown trails Shaheen by 13 points in NH

• Would-be candidate Scott Brown (R) would trail New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D) by double-digits, according to a new poll.

The former Massachusetts senator who moved his primary residence to New Hampshire late last year lags the Democratic incumbent by 13 points in a hypothetical November matchup, a Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll found. Shaheen takes 52 percent to Brown’s 39 percent.

Brown has been flirting with a run in the Granite State for months, but has said he is still mulling whether to jump in. Local Republicans expect an April announcement one way or the other.
Scott Brown's prospects for a U.S. Senate win are poor

Another View

Kathy Sullivan

THE IDEA of Scott Brown running for the U.S. Senate from New Hampshire never made sense, and it has not improved with age. Brown's very public vacillation about the race has set a new standard for indecisiveness. He has been unable to articulate a reason for running. Recently, Brown said that negative ads that have been run against him may prompt him to get into the race. A candidacy based on pique is better suited for student council president than federal office.

Now, Brown's poll numbers are falling so quickly that one wonders why Republicans were ever in such a tizzy about his possible candidacy. A January UNH Survey Center poll had Sen. Jeanne Shaheen beating Brown by 10 points, while Brown was viewed favorably by only 38 percent. Suffolk University released a poll last week that had Shaheen defeating the former Massachusetts senator 52 percent to 39 percent. Only 38 percent of those polled viewed Brown favorably, compared to 52 percent for Shaheen. Shaheen's numbers have strengthened despite hundreds of thousands of dollars in anti-Shaheen ads run in recent months. Instead of softening up the Granite State's senior senator, the ads have boomeranged. Her supporters have responded by donating to a significant war chest for the campaign.

Brown's not-quite-a-campaign has other problems. A Boston Herald story quoted unnamed Republican sources saying that Brown was "likely to snub" Mitt Romney's campaign team in building a New Hampshire campaign structure. One anonymous "top GOP" state official asked why Brown would use a campaign team that had lost by seven points. All these local consultants salivating over a potential Brown campaign cash cow shouldn't be so quick to criticize their colleagues: after all, there has been only one successful statewide Republican campaign in the last 10 years. Besides, this inside baseball sniping has put Brown in the position of having to smooth the ruffled feathers of local Romney-ites before he has even decided to run.

Then there was the story that Brown was reaching out to former GOP chairman Jack Kimball. Pundits believe Brown can appeal to voters by running as the sort of moderate/conservative Republican who used to be elected here. genuflecting to Jack Kimball, the most Tea Party of Tea Partiers, ruins that hoped-for image. Kimball's latest venture, for example, is promoting "Operation American Spring," a plan to bring 10 million people to Washington, D.C., to demand that the elected leadership of the United States, both Democrats and Republicans, resign en masse. Kimball calls it an aggressive effort; I call it an attempted coup to oust our duly elected President and Congress. Brown's appeal for Kimball's support is both a little embarrassing and a little desperate.

But here is the really bad news for Brown: his poll numbers are falling before the Shaheen campaign has brought out its heavy artillery: Scott Brown's own record. He especially is vulnerable in his support for large energy companies. While in the Senate, he voted against a motion to allow a vote on a bill to close about $21 billion in tax loopholes for oil companies. In 2012, he voted to stop another bill from reaching the Senate floor that would have closed $24 billion in energy company tax loopholes. We can expect to hear a lot about Brown's financial support from the oil and gas industries, which have donated more than $450,000 to his campaigns. This record was a major factor in Brown's 2012 loss in Massachusetts.

Brown's positions on women's issues also are a problem for him in New Hampshire, a state where the votes of moderate female voters can win — or lose — elections. He co-sponsored the Blunt Amendment, which would have allowed employers to decide what medical care a company's health insurance plan would provide. Not only could an employer have denied contraceptive coverage, a company could have denied HIV screenings and other services on religious grounds. He also voted against the Paycheck Fair-
ness Act, which would have required employers to prove that discrepancies between pay to male and female employees were job-based, not gender-based. Positions such as these would drag him down among women voters, especially in a race against Jeanne Shaheen, who is popular with women voters.

All Brown has going for him right now is the prospect of significant help from the energy interests and Wall Street donors who have supported him previously. However, those supporters can easily shift course and send their money to more fertile ground in other states unless he can reverse his declining poll numbers. With the filing period just three months away, Brown has little time to prove that he has a political future in his newly adopted state.

Kathy Sullivan is a Manchester attorney and a member of the Democratic National Committee. She was chairman of the state Democratic Party from 1999-2007.
WHDH-BOS (NBC) - Boston, MA
7News at 5 PM

Local Market Viewership: 60,282
Local Publicity Value:
$2,461.65 per 30s

WHDH 3/14/2014 5:01:18 PM: ...and he has to raise quite a bit of ney. reporting live from nashua, new hampshire, air sheryl thianadaca 7 news . >> it a% he will have an uphill crime against the democratic incumbent. the latest poll on a suffolk university shows jea that sheen holding able lead over brown right now 52% to 39%. >> we are also following some breaking news out of boston right now. 7 news has learned the mbta driver at the center of this green line crash has been fired. officials say human error led to monday's crash near the fenway stop. adam harding is at that stop with more on today's developments. adam? >> we have been working our sources on this one all day to bring you the very latest. we can confirm that this morning we understand from our sources that this t driver fired off the job five days after a crash right here that injured four. >> sources confirmed to 7 news the 48-year-old t driver found at fault for this nasty wreck monday is offer the job. fired for the crash. >> you do what you have to do. >> are you surprised? >> no. >> not surprised. >> no, i'm not. no, i'm not . >> yes. >> right decision? i think so. >> crash investigators today officially ruled out any problems with the trolley, the track or the switches. they are calling this one all human error. >> are we literally going to walk in this tunnel? this is crazy! what is happening right now? >> four suffered minor injuries monday and 7 news has learned this isn't the first time this t driver has had a few hicups. in fact he was fired three years ago for not reporting an accident. we got our hands on that report. it shows a woman had come into contact with a moving trolley. the driver wasn't at fault but sources say he didn't follow the rules. his job though was saved after a union battle . >> it's a big worry, you know? it's scary . >> monday's wreck still fresh on the minds of t riders today and the mbta says it will spark change . >> tonight our sources are lling us some of those change including the protocol for which drivers will be offered the job and that will include three or more moving violations in the same calendar year. remember we have been reporting all week records show he has about 20 on his record but that dates back several decades. only five years on the job here on the green line off the job tonight. live in boston's fenway neighborhood, adam harding, 7 news . >> also on 7, you can feel it? a slow thaw is on here in boston and bea i don't temperatures ...
First on CNN: Battle over pledge in Brown-Shaheen Senate fight

March 17th, 2014
12:34 PM ET

First on CNN: Battle over pledge in Brown-Shaheen Senate fight

Posted by CNN Political Editor Paul Steinhauser

(CNN) - A war of words is erupting in New Hampshire over a pledge from Massachusetts.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Monday criticized former Sen. Scott Brown of Massachusetts, who's now taking steps to launch a Republican challenge against Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of neighboring New Hampshire, for not signing a pledge to keep outside money out of the race.

"Scott Brown needs to explain to New Hampshire voters why he chose to honor the People's Pledge in Massachusetts but doesn't think New Hampshire voters deserve the same respect," DSCC Executive Director Guy Cecil said in a statement.

"Brown should follow Shaheen's lead because the decision of who will be the next Senator doesn't belong in the hands of the Koch Brothers who are pushing an agenda that's good for billionaires and bad for New Hampshire. The DSCC will abide by the rules of the People's Pledge if the third party groups supporting Scott Brown do the same," Cecil added.

On Saturday, one day after Brown announced he formed an exploratory committee, an important move which allows Brown to begin raising money and putting together a campaign team in advance of a formal Senate run in New Hampshire, Shaheen sent him a letter concerning the pledge, similar to the one that then-Sen. Brown of Massachusetts signed with Democratic challenger Elizabeth Warren. Brown ended up losing his 2012 bid for re-election.

"I very much admired the People's Pledge that you and Elizabeth Warren signed in your 2012 Massachusetts Senate race. I believe it limited the influence of outside groups and allowed the people's voices to be heard," Shaheen wrote.

"I have signed and attached two copies of an agreement with the exact same terms for the New Hampshire 2014 Senate race. I hope you will join me in once again committing to the same People's Pledge you signed in Massachusetts and limiting the influence of outside groups in New Hampshire this year."

While not commenting on whether he would sign the pledge, Brown responded later Saturday, calling Shaheen's move "self-serving and hypocritical."

"Before I even thought of becoming a candidate, Jeanne Shaheen's allies in Washington were running negative ads against me for months. And right now, while I'm meeting with the people of New Hampshire, she is on the West Coast raising money so third-party groups in DC will have money to run even more outside negative ads against me. It's hard to view Jeanne Shaheen's actions as anything other than hypocritical and self-serving," Brown wrote.

And New Hampshire Republican State Committee Chairman Jennifer Horn wrote that Shaheen's "stunt today represents D.C. politics at its very worst. New Hampshire voters are smart enough to see through Jeanne Shaheen's hypocrisy and double standards."

Shaheen meets with voters across New Hampshire starting Tuesday for three straight days. She spent the weekend fundraising in Washington State and California.

New polls give Shaheen double-digit lead

Brown joins three other Republicans who are running for their party's Senate nomination in New Hampshire; former U.S. Sen. Bob Smith, former state Sen. Jim Rubens, and conservative activist Karen Testerman.
If Brown ends up winning the party's September primary, it could expand the map for Republicans. Democrats hold a 55-45 majority in the Senate (53 Democrats and two independents who caucus with the party), but are defending 21 of the 36 seats in November, with half of those Democratic-held seats in red or purple states, like New Hampshire.

But a second straight public opinion poll indicates Shaheen has a double digit lead over Brown. According to an American Research Group survey released Monday, 50% of Granite State registered voters say they would support Shaheen, with 38% backing Brown and 12% undecided. The survey indicates Shaheen has a 49%-34% advantage among independent voters.

The poll is similar to a recent Suffolk University/Boston Herald survey that indicated Shaheen has a 52%-39% lead among New Hampshire voters.

From state house to Senate

In January 2010, the then little-known Republican state senator in Massachusetts pulled an upset in a special election to serve the final three years of the late Democratic Sen. Ted Kennedy's term. But Brown's time in the Senate was cut short when Warren defeated him in 2012.

Last year, Scott passed on running in a special election in Massachusetts to fill the term of John Kerry, who left the Senate to become secretary of state. And at the time, Brown also announced that he wouldn't make a 2014 bid for an open governor's seat in the Bay State.

Brown last year made a number of speaking appearances at GOP events in the Granite State, where he spent much of his childhood and where he owned a vacation home. Last fall, in another hint about a possible run, he dropped the 'MA' from his Twitter handle.

A few months later, he sold his home in Massachusetts and moved his residency north to New Hampshire.

Filed under: 2014 • Jeanne Shaheen • Massachusetts • New Hampshire • Scott Brown • Senate

soundoff(42 Responses)

1. **Fair is Fair**
   Dem "retirements" in ND and IA. So long.
   GOP House and GOP Senate? Hillary doesn't run. Bank on it.
   March 17, 2014 12:45 pm at 12:45 pm | **Dean**
   A hypocritical liberal...no way!
   March 17, 2014 01:01 pm at 1:01 pm | **just asking**
   what a bunch of nonsense from the democrats. funny they had no problem when hundreds of millions of union money was flowing into the democrat campaigns and none was going into the republican campaigns even though many union members support republicans. where is the fairness there?
   stop whining shaheen and justify your vote for obamacare. tell all of rh how you'd do it all again. enough with the bs smoke and mirror campaign balony. seems that is all the democrats got these days.
   March 17, 2014 01:06 pm at 1:06 pm | **truth hurts but reality bites**
   What we have heya is desperation. Every now and then people do get desperate and when they get desperate they do desperate things. Shaheen is clearly getting desperate and wants to change the topic from her support of Obamcare to anything else, even if she has to manufacture that topic.
   March 17, 2014 01:09 pm at 1:09 pm | **salty dog**
   Scott Brown came to Washington to promote his cause, Scott Brown.
   March 17, 2014 01:12 pm at 1:12 pm | **much thunder...little rain**
   she sounds like she scared...
N.H. DEMOCRATS AVOID OBAMACARE BACKLASH

By JOE BATTENFELD and HILLARY CHABOT

Obamacare has turned politically toxic in the key battleground state of New Hampshire, but the side effects aren't spreading to the Democratic incumbents who backed the president's signature health care law, a new Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll shows.

While more than half of Granite State voters say the Affordable Care Act has been bad for New Hampshire, a majority continues to back the Democrat who cast the deciding vote for the law, U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, according to the Suffolk/Herald poll.

The mixed results could raise doubts about Republican hopes of using the issue to weaken Democratic incumbents and capture control of the U.S. Senate.

The GOP is counting on ousting Shaheen and other Democrats who parroted President Obama's now broken vow that Americans would be able to keep their health plans under Obamcare. The poll shows the president himself is clearly suffering because of the botched rollout of his health law, with 51 percent of New Hampshire voters expressing disapproval of his job performance.

But Shaheen's popularity remains high and the Republican widely viewed as the best hope of defeating her, former Bay State Sen. Scott Brown, trails her by a surprising 52 to 39 percent, according to the poll of 800 likely New Hampshire voters.

Even New Hampshire's liberal Democratic governor, Maggie Hassan, another enthusiastic Obamcare backer, is leading her potential GOP opponents by comfortable margins.

Despite those results, Republicans say they are confident the Affordable Care Act will eventually take a toll on Democratic incumbents in New Hampshire and nationwide.

"I think Obamcare will play a pivotal role in the election," said Republican Gene Chandler,
former New Hampshire House speaker.

Chandler predicted the 52 percent of voters who say Obamacare has been bad for the Granite State “will probably go higher in my opinion” and make Shaheen vulnerable in November. “There hasn’t been a huge wave of ads yet detailing her role in the bill,” he said.

Kathy Sullivan, former New Hampshire Democratic Party chairwoman, acknowledged Democrats haven’t done a good job of emphasizing the “positive aspects” of the health care law but predicted Obamacare wouldn’t be a slam dunk for Republicans.

“It’s just one issue, and I don’t think it’s been an entirely great issue for Republicans,” she said.

Brown’s surprising Granite State slide, meanwhile, is causing concern among Republicans and ratcheting up pressure on him to end the will-he-or-won’t-he suspense over a possible U.S. Senate run.

“The guy is going to have to make up his mind,” said one potential Brown rival, former U.S. Sen. Bob Smith (R-N.H.). “How long can you be indecisive? People get aggravated by it.”

Brown, who recently moved across the border to Rye, declined to comment on the poll results.

The poll shows just one in three Granite State voters has a favorable impression of Brown while 42 percent have a negative opinion of him.

The poll also reveals that the 2016 race for president in the first-in-the-nation primary state is a toss-up right now.

Rand Paul, the Kentucky senator and Tea Party favorite, is getting 12 percent of the vote in a crowded field.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who once led the pack in New Hampshire, is also getting just 12 percent.

Presidential race open

It’s never too early for presidential politics in New Hampshire. Here’s where the Republican field stands, according to the latest Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll:

President

OBAMA 46%

Hillary

CLINTON 51%

On the Democratic side, the poll took a pulse of voters’ impressions of the president and the former secretary of state.
GOP PRIMARY:

(First choice for president)

Rand Paul
12%

Chris Christie
12%

Jeb Bush
9%
Rounding out the rest

Paul Ryan
9%

Mike Huckabee
5.40%

Ted Cruz
4.93%

Jon Huntsman
8.22%

Scott Brown
4.69%

Scott Walker
6.57%

Bobby Jindal
4.23%

Marco Rubio
5.63%

Rick Santorum
2.35%
Brown wounded by pre-emptive strikes

The moonbats in New Hampshire have hit Scott Brown with everything but the kitchen sink over the last few weeks and he's still down only 52-39.

According to the Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll, he has an unfavorability rating of 42 percent, which is not bad, considering. After the media barrage he's endured, probably a quarter of the New Hampshire electorate thinks he's the third Koch brother.

We don't watch Channel 9 in Manchester much down here. We don't get the pop-ups that are running on websites up there. If you live up there, you can be forgiven for thinking that Scott Brown used to be the skipper of the Exxon Valdez. Which was before he got into shooting polar bears from the BP corporate helicopter with Sarah Palin — that is, when he wasn't helping Dick Cheney club cuddly baby seals to death.

In other words, Jeanne Shaheen's surrogates are running the standard Democrat scorched-earth campaign against Scott Brown.

There's a reason Shaheen and her crew of deranged PACs are going after Brown so hard, so early: Obamacare.

It's going to be the Alcatraz around her neck, as Mumbles would say.

This is Shaheen on Obamacare in 2009: "You can keep your insurance if you like it. It will increase choices for families. It will promote competition. We need to move past the rhetoric and the myths."

You know, myths like, "You can keep your insurance if you like it."

This is Shaheen in 2010: "We've made health care more affordable for those who need it most and made it easier for small businesses to provide coverage for their employees."

Riiiiight. That's why the employer mandate isn't taking effect until after the election, because it's going to be so popular and successful.

This fight was never going to be a coronation for Brown. Shaheen served three terms as governor, would have taken out Bob Smith in 2002 and just barely lost to John (“Who Knew?”) Sununu, whom she defeated in their 2008 rematch.

Of course it's time Brown stops pussyfooting. He has to put up or shut up, but it's pretty clear that he's going to put up. The New Hampshire primary is six months from Sunday.

Meanwhile, the GOP presidential primary looks up for grabs. Apparently the voters have realized that Chris Christie's bridge "scandal" snarled less traffic in New York than Obama's massive money-grab gridlock in Boston on Wednesday night.

As for Rand Paul's 12 percent, that's a tribute to his father's enduring strength in the weed wing of the New Hampshire GOP. Potheads for Paul, Rand's Reefer Madness.

Brown, meanwhile, was on Fox News yesterday, and Neil Cavuto asked him if he was now a resident of New Hampshire.

"I've been a resident," Brown said, "for a couple of months."

You're going to need to sharpen that answer a little, Scott.

Go to howiecarrshow.com to order tickets to Howie's "Night of Crime" on March 9 at Florian Hall.
There are a couple of messages in the Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll that Scott Brown should take to heart. The first is: Don’t play Hamlet about running for office for too long. The second: It’s probably not a great idea to be seen as office-shopping, especially when it crosses neighboring state lines.

The poll suggests that to many voters, the “to be or not to be” routine is annoying enough — and even worse when one is performing it in one’s adopted state. Especially a state like New Hampshire, which, after all, has more than its share of former Massachusetts residents who left because of our taxes and politicians in the first place.

Scott Brown is, or at least was, a hero to conservatives. He’s been with them on most of their core issues. And don’t forget, for one brief shining moment, he got to star in a Republican “Camelot” that captured national headlines when he beat Democrat Martha Coakley and snagged none other than the legendary late Ted Kennedy’s U.S. Senate seat.

In 2010, the thought of Massachusetts actually sending a Republican to Washington was a dream conservatives never thought would come true. And though they couldn’t cast a ballot for him, conservative Granite State voters probably comprised Brown’s largest long-distance cheering section in that race.

Even in Brown’s 2012 loss to Elizabeth Warren, the tough campaign he ran — hammering away at her Native American heritage and dismissingly calling her Professor Warren — was probably music to the ears of many New Hampshire conservatives. To them, he was pushing all the right buttons at the right time.

So what gives now? Scott Brown with an unfavorable rating that’s 10 points higher than his favorable numbers? What did he do to deserve such a precipitous fall from grace with New Hampshire voters?

When voters were asked for the first phrase that comes to mind about Scott Brown, some had comments that were well short of flattering, with 11 saying he was a “carpetbagger” or “interloper.” Other comments that showed up in this category were “untrustworthy,” “flip-flops,” and so forth, although in fairness, a few similar comments showed up for the Democratic incumbent, U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen. Apparently these Granite Staters are a tough crowd to please and not terribly trusting of politicians. Too many presidential
primaries, perhaps.

Brown's woes may very well rest on his coyness about whether he will actually run. Many New Hampshire voters who jumped on the Brown bandwagon weeks or months ago may very well have soured on the thought of his candidacy. They could even be in other camps by now.

But in the end, Scott Brown's Achilles' heel in New Hampshire might be, horror of horrors, that he's from what voters there view as a bastion of out-of-touch liberalism: Massachusetts.

Brown may yet decide to give it a shot in New Hampshire, and he might even succeed. But at the moment, he's trailing Shaheen by 13 points, which means he'll be starting in a big hole. And he can probably thank his home state for that.
You’d think Scott Brown would have all the makings for an inevitable Republican Senate victory this fall in New Hampshire, according to the latest Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll of 800 likely voters:

- President Obama is polling upside down with just a 40 percent job approval and a 51 percent disapproval;
- 52 percent of likely voters see Obamacare as generally bad for the Granite State;
- Nearly two-thirds of our northern neighbors view their local economy as staying the same or getting worse; and
- New Hampshire, unlike Massachusetts, boasts more registered Republicans than Democrats.

However, the bottom line looks grim for Brown, and his dream of a political rebirth in his adopted state may not be worth the risk. Yes, he leads the potential Republican primary field of five for U.S. senator quite comfortably, but he trails incumbent Democratic U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen by a whopping 13 points, 52 percent to 39 percent, with just 9 percent undecided.

What’s worse for Brown is that his favorability ratings are in the red in New Hampshire. Just 33 percent of voters view him favorably, while a considerably high 42 percent see him unfavorably.

Anticipating his jump into the Senate race, the Democratic Senate Majority PAC pounced on Brown in January by launching a Manchester-based TV ad campaign that sought to link him to Wall Street’s interests during his brief tenure as a Massachusetts senator. It looks like that campaign worked, at least in the short term.

In an open-ended question asking all likely voters the first word or phrase that they think about when they hear the name Scott Brown, 11 percent said “carpetbagger,” 7 percent said “Massachusetts” and 7 percent said “dishonest/untrustworthy.”

So much for good first impressions.

Brown’s problems are not all the doing of Democratic attack ads. The poll also tells us among those who voted for his four possible GOP opponents (Andy Martin, Jim Rubens, Bob Smith and Karen Testerman), Brown had an unfavorability of 43 percent. Even more daunting, among these same GOP voters, 32 percent of those Republicans would cast a ballot for Shaheen over Brown if he were their party’s nominee in the general election.

Talk about intraparty jealousy.

Shaheen in the meantime was ahead in every region, including the state’s two largest counties, and was beating Brown among women by 20 points, 55 percent to 35 percent. The matchup seems quite similar to the Brown-Elizabeth Warren battle in 2012, with the only difference being that far fewer young voters are motivated to bolster Democratic candidates this fall.

Both Brown and Shaheen are very well known statewide, the poll shows, especially considering Brown hasn’t even announced that he’s running. More than 95 percent of likely voters have already heard of both. With the undecided count in single digits, Brown would have to win not only all of those voters, he would also have to pry away 2 or 3 percent from Shaheen’s 52 percent majority.

That means going negative, which Brown wasn’t afraid to do against Warren. But that strategy has its limits — and its consequences too.
The possible showdown in the Granite State between U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Scott Brown is off to a rocky start for the former Bay State pol. A Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll shows:

**BROWN**

39% **HEAD-TO-HEAD**

33% **FAVORABLE**

42% **UNFAVORABLE**

**SHAHEEN**

52% **HEAD-TO-HEAD**

53% **FAVORABLE**

37% **UNFAVORABLE**

**IMPRESSIONS**

11.5% "like him"

10.88% "carpetbagger"

6.75% "Massachusetts"

3.56% "Wishy-washy"

8.25% "positive"

9% "dislike"

1.63% "a follower"

1.3% "taxes"
TUNE IN FOR POLL

Tune into Boston Herald Radio today at 9 a.m. for the latest Suffolk University/Boston Herald political poll. Suffolk pollster David Paleologos will share the poll results on Herald Radio’s “Morning Meeting.” The survey of New Hampshire voters will preview possible 2016 presidential race matches, President Obama’s approval rating, and who’s ahead in a potential showdown between U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and former U.S. Sen. Scott Brown. Look for the full story and poll breakdown on bostonherald.com soon after and complete analysis in tomorrow’s Herald.
Poll: Scott Brown down against Jeanne Shaheen
By: Tal Kopan
March 6, 2014 10:27 AM EDT

If former Sen. Scott Brown jumps into the New Hampshire Senate race, he’ll be a 13-point underdog, according to a new poll.

The former Massachusetts Republican trails Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen 52 percent to 39 percent, according to a Suffolk University-Boston Herald poll released Thursday.

Brown is underwater in favorability, according to the poll, while Shaheen is in positive territory. Likely New Hampshire voters view Shaheen favorably, 52 percent to 37 percent, the Herald tweeted, while Brown is viewed 32 percent favorably to 42 percent unfavorably.

(Also on POLITICO: Brown: Attacks prodding me to run)


Suffolk surveyed 800 likely New Hampshire voters for the poll, which has an error margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

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Jeanne Shaheen leads Scott Brown by double digits in N.H. poll

By Catalina Camia  March 6, 2014 5:44 pm ET  Follow @ccamia

Scott Brown isn’t officially in or out of the New Hampshire Senate race, but the former senator is trailing Sen. Jeanne Shaheen in a new poll released Thursday.

Shaheen, a Democrat who is seeking a second term in the Senate, is leading Brown 52% to 39% among New Hampshire voters in the Suffolk University/Boston Herald Poll.

Brown, a Republican who shot to fame with his 2010 special election victory in Massachusetts, recently moved his primary residence from the Bay State to the Granite State. His new address apparently irks some New Hampshire voters. Asked to name the first word or phrase that comes to mind about Brown, about 11% said “carpetbagger/interloper” and 7% said “Massachusetts.”

Brown has already been the subject of negative TV ads. The former senator, who lost his 2012 re-election bid, told Politico earlier this week the Democratic attacks are making him think hard about a race against Shaheen.

“They keep running these negative ads and crushing my integrity and distorting my votes and the like — almost antagonizing me, challenging me to get in,” Brown is quoted as saying. “Had they left me alone, I may feel a bit different. But they didn’t.”
New Hampshire: Brown, Not in Race, Behind in Poll

The latest polling in New Hampshire shows that Scott Brown, the former senator from Massachusetts, would lose to Senator Jeanne Shaheen by 13 percentage points if the election were held today. The poll, by Suffolk University in Boston, had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus four percentage points. Mr. Brown, a Republican who represented Massachusetts in the Senate for three years, has been toying with challenging Ms. Shaheen but, despite increasing pressure from Republicans, has not indicated whether he will jump in. He has owned a home in New Hampshire for several years, recently moved there full time and must decide by June 13 whether to enter the race.

KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
Would-be candidate Scott Brown would trail New Hampshire US Senator Jeanne Shaheen by double-digits, according to a new poll released today.

The former Massachusetts senator who moved his primary residence to New Hampshire late last year lags the Democratic incumbent by 13 points in a hypothetical November matchup, a Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll found.

Shaheen takes 52 percent to Brown’s 39 percent among the 800 likely New Hampshire voters polled from Feb. 27 through March 5.

Brown has been flirting with a run in the Granite State for months, but has said he is still mulling whether to jump in. Local Republicans expect an April announcement one way or the other.

Forty-two percent of those polled have a unfavorable opinion of Brown, a Republican, while one-third have a favorable opinion of him. Thirty-seven percent have an unfavorable view of Shaheen, a Democrat, while 53 percent have a favorable view of her.

Today’s poll, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent, follows two polls taken in January that found the New Hampshire US Senate race very close, with Brown within the margin of error in head-to-head matchups with the incumbent.
Brown, a lawyer and state legislator who won an upset US Senate victory in 2010, was unseated in 2012 by Elizabeth Warren. Shaheen, a former New Hampshire governor, won her first US Senate term in 2008.

Joshua Miller can be reached at joshua.miller@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @jm_bos.
... new hampshire senator james dean widening her lead and a potential november matchup against former massachusetts senator republican scott brown suffolk university poll of likely voters shows shaheen with a fifty two to thirty nine percent lead over brown brown has not yet said whether he will run the current operator of the mbta commuter ...

... hampshire voters. the poll was done by suffolk university. for the upcoming u-s senate race... 46 percent say they’re still undecided about ...
Suffolk University on New England Cable News - Boston, MA
03/06/2014 17:05:55
News @5PM (News)

... the [boston herald-suffolk university poll](#) of 800 likely new hampshire voters shows brown trailing shaheen, 52 percent to 39 ...

Suffolk University on New England Cable News - Boston, MA
03/06/2014 18:09:01
Broadsie With Jim Braude (News)

... paleologos, director of the [suffolk university](#) political research center. he has some brand new numbers from new hampshire... ...

Suffolk University on WFXT-BOS (FOX) - Boston, MA
03/06/2014 18:22:26
FOX 25 News at 6 (News)

... they should be. let's take look at that poll. new [suffolk university](#) those that may not be familiar with it had brown trailing senator gene shaheen 2252 to 39 percent. that is at margin. ...

Suffolk University on New England Cable News - Boston, MA
03/06/2014 19:08:48
News @ 7 (News)

... a new [boston herald-suffolk university poll](#) shows what's on the minds of new hampshire voters. for this fall's u-s ...

Suffolk University on MSNBC - U.S. Cable
03/06/2014 19:16:04
Hardball With Chris Matthews (News)

... scoreboard. of course a new [suffolk university poll](#), brown trails democratic incumbent jeanne shaheen badly. shaheen up to 52. that's a reelect number. ...
Suffolk University on New England Cable News - Boston, MA
03/06/2014 21:34:44
The Only News @ 9 (News)

... a new boston herald-suffolk university poll shows what's on the minds of new hampshire voters. for this fall's u-s ...

Suffolk University on WFXT-BOS (FOX) - Boston, MA
03/06/2014 22:12:24
FOX 25 News at 10 (News)

... everyone know. >> at this time, a suffolk university boston herald poll shows the republican as the underdog in a potential new hampshire senate race, trailing current democratic ...

Suffolk University on WMUR-MAN (ABC) - Manchester, NH
03/06/2014 23:10:56
News 9 Tonight (News)

... news. a new poll from suffolk university finds that shaheen is leading former massachusetts senator scott brown by 13 points in a potential, and i say potential head to head matchup. ...

Suffolk University on WFXT-BOS (FOX) - Boston, MA
03/06/2014 23:11:01
FOX 25 News at 11 (News)

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Suffolk University on WFXT-BOS (FOX) - Boston, MA
03/07/2014 01:12:08
FOX 25 News at 10 (News)

... everyone know. >> at this time, a suffolk university boston herald poll shows the republican as the underdog in a potential new hampshire senate race, trailing current democratic ...
... scoreboard. of course a new Suffolk University poll, brown trails democratic incumbent Jeanne Shaheen badly. Shaheen up to 52. that's a reelect number. ...

... just 32%. 42% view him unfavorably. Suffolk University surveyed 800 likely New Hampshire voters for this poll. >> Robel Filippos tells a federal magistrate he can no ...

... Sen Scott Brown Brown comes closest he trails Shaheen 52 percent of 39 percent in the Suffolk University poll Brown's unfavorable waiting for it to percentage higher than his fame Robles 33 percent from whistling move to New Hampshire and he's been the target of negative Radio and TV ...

... later and i will let everyone know. >> a new Suffolk University "Boston Herald" poll shows that Brown is the underdog trailing Shaheen by 13 points. >> >> a host of republicans ...

... Scott Brown Brown comes causes he trails 15 52 percent to 39 percent in Suffolk University poll brass unfavorable rating Forty-two percent is higher than estate Robles 33 percent Brown we saw we moved to New Hampshire and is the target of negative Radio and TV Yes even though ...
... rather than later and I will let everyone know. >> Suffolk University Boston Herald poll shows he is trailing Jeanne Shaheen by 13 points. You could see Mark Ockerbloom full interview about the poll on ...

... later and I will certainly let everyone know. >> New Suffolk University Boston Herald poll shows Brown as underdog and potential New Hampshire Senate race trailing Jeanne Shaheen by 13 points and ...
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outlet Name</th>
<th>Outlet City</th>
<th>Outlet State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria Daily Town Talk - Online</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>AllVoices - (press release)</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>CA</td>
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<td>American Conservative</td>
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<td>Arlington</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>DC</td>
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<td>Home</td>
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Chicago Tribune Collections
Chillicothe Gazette - Online
Christian Science Monitor - Online
Clarion-Ledger - Online
CNN Political Ticker
Courier-Post - Online
Daily Journal - Online
Daily Journal - Online, The
DAILY KOS
Daily News Journal - Online, The
Daily Press - Online, The
Daily Record - Online, The
Daily Times - Online, The
Detroit Free Press - Online
Eyewitness News at 7 AM - WNAC-TV
Eyewitness News at 8 AM - WNAC-TV
Fix, The
Fort Collins Coloradoan - Online, The
Foster's Daily Democrat - Online
Fox 25 Morning News - WFXT-TV
Fox 25 News at 10 PM Weekend - WFXT-TV
Fox 25 News at 11 PM - WFXT-TV
Fox 25 News at 6 PM - WFXT-TV
Fremont News Messenger - Online
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Chillicothe OH
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Franklin IN
Vineland NJ
Emeryville CA
Murfreesboro TN
Newport VA
Parsippany NJ
Salisbury MD
Detroit MI
East Providence RI
Washington DC
Fort Collins CO
Dover NH
Dedham MA
Dedham MA
Dedham MA
Fremont OH
Great Falls Tribune - Online Great Falls MT
Green Bay Press-Gazette - Online Green Bay WI
Guam Pacific Daily News
Hardball with Chris Matthews - MSNBC Washington DC
Hartford Courant - Online Hartford CT
Hattiesburg American - Online Hattiesburg MS
Herald Times Reporter - Online Manitowoc WI
Hill - Online, The Washington DC
Huffington Post, The New York NY
Iowa City Press-Citizen - Online Iowa City IA
iStockAnalyst Salem OR
Jackson Sun - Online Jackson TN
jobsanger
Journal & Courier - Online, The Lafayette IN
Kaiser Health News Washington DC
KCCI-TV - Online Des Moines IA
KDAL-AM - Online Duluth MN
KESQ-TV - Online CA
KETV-TV - Online Omaha NE
KEYT-TV - Online CA
KFGO-AM - Online Fargo ND
KHBS-TV - Online Fort Smith AR
KIFI-TV - Online ID
KITV-TV - Online HI
KMBC-TV - Online MO
KMIZ-TV - Online Columbia MO
KOAT-TV - Online NM
KOCO-TV - Online Oklahoma OK
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Mother Jones - Online
MSNBC.com New York NY
National Journal Washington DC
National Memo, The
NECN Today at 4 PM - New England
Cable News (NECN) Newton MA
New England Cable News (NECN) Newton MA
New England Cable News (NECN) - Online Newton MA
New England This Evening - New England Cable News (NECN) Newton MA
Newark Advocate - Online Newark OH
News 9 Tonight - WMUR-TV Manchester NH
News at 7 - New England Cable News (NECN) Newton MA
News Leader - Online, The Staunton VA
NewsCenter 5 Eye Opener - WCVB-TV Needham MA
News-Herald - Online Port Clinton OH
News-Medical.Net
News-Star - Online, The Monroe LA
Only News at Nine - New England Cable News (NECN), The Newton MA
Oshkosh Northwestern - Online Oshkosh WI
Palladium-Item - Online Richmond IN
Pensacola News Journal - Online Pensacola FL
Politicaldog101.com - Politics And Commentary On Other Things.
Port Huron Times Herald - Online Port Huron MI
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WXII-TV - Online       NC
WYFF-TV - Online       SC
Yahoo! Maktoob
Yahoo! News           Sunnyvale   CA
Zanesville Times Recorder - Online  Zanesville  OH