



**February 26, 2016**

**To: Interested Parties**

**Fr: Anzalone Liszt Grove Research**

**Normington Petts**

**Re: Results of Statewide Survey in New Hampshire**

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A statewide survey among likely general election voters in New Hampshire finds 2:1 support for President Obama and the U.S. Senate to take action to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court. The majority view Senators who have vowed to block a Presidential appointee as advancing their party's agenda, rather than doing what is right.

Voters view reducing the influence of special interest money in politics as one of the most important views that the next Supreme Court justice should hold, rating ahead of protecting a woman's right to choose and protecting the Second Amendment.

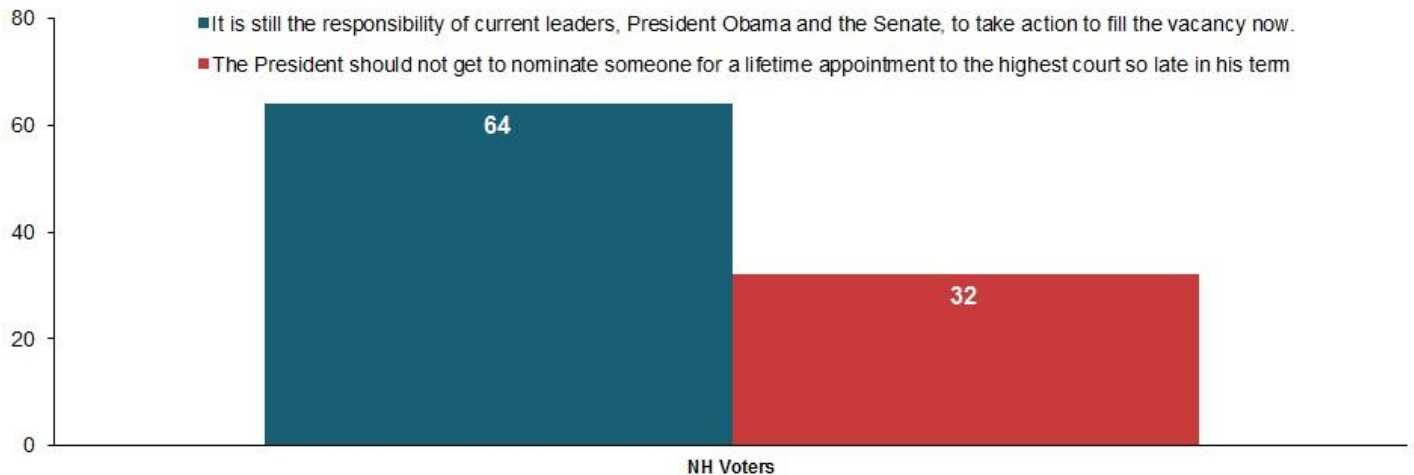
New Hampshire voters are also more likely to support Governor Maggie Hassan for Senate upon hearing her statement that the Senate should put politics aside and fill the vacancy. They are less likely to vote for Senator Kelly Ayotte upon learning that she does not believe the Senate should move forward until a new President is elected.

The following are key findings from a survey conducted by Anzalone Liszt Grove Research and Normington Petts. The survey was conducted February 22-24, 2016 among N=500 likely general election voters and was conducted on both land lines and mobile phones. The results are subject to a margin of error of 4.4 percentage points.

## New Hampshire voters support President Obama and the U.S. Senate confirming a new Justice to the Supreme Court

- Two-thirds of voters believe that following the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, *It is still the responsibility of current leaders, President Obama and the Senate to take action to fill the vacancy now (64%), and just 32% believe the President should not get to nominate someone for a lifetime appointment to the highest court so late in his term.*

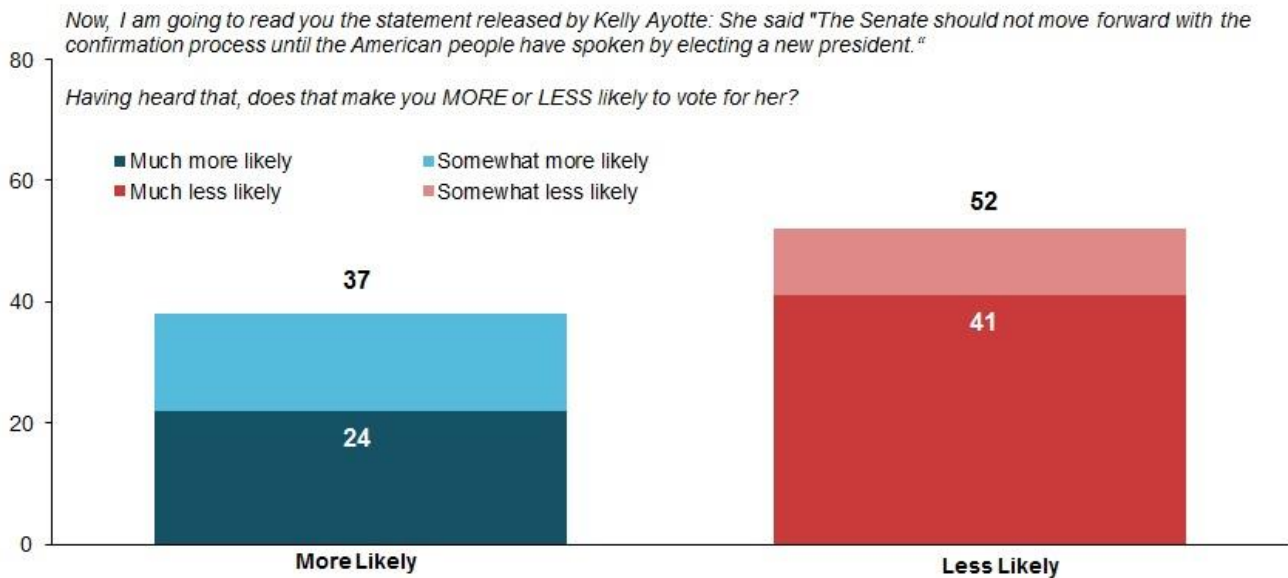
*As you may know, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia passed away. Justice Scalia's death has sparked a debate over how to fill the vacancy on the nation's highest court. Taking into consideration that it is an election year, which of the following comes closest to your view:*



- A majority of voters (55%) believe that *U.S. Senators who have vowed to block anyone the President appoints to the Supreme Court are trying to advance their party's agenda rather than do what is right for the country.* Just 39% believe that these Senators *are trying to protect the rights of the American people to have a say in the next Supreme Court justice.*

**Learning where the two New Hampshire U.S. Senate candidates are on this issue can impact support for them**

- A majority of voters (52%) are less likely to vote for Senator Kelly Ayotte upon learning that she said, “The Senate should not move forward with the confirmation process until the American people have spoken by electing a new president.” Just 37% of voters are more likely to support her based on this.



- Likewise, a majority (51%) of voters are more likely to vote for Governor Maggie Hassan upon learning that she said, “The Senate needs to put politics aside and fulfill its constitutional duty by taking up a Supreme Court nomination in a timely fashion. It would be completely unacceptable, and a clear sign of Washington's dysfunction, for the Supreme Court to be without a justice for a full year because of partisan politics.”

**Voters believe that reducing the influence of special interest money in elections is among the most important views the next Supreme Court justice should hold**

- The overwhelming majority of voters (88%) believe that appointing a Justice who will *reduce the influence of special interest money in government and elections* is an important view for a justice to hold. This rates slightly above any other issue tested, including *will reform our immigration system* (85%), *will protect a woman’s right to choose* (82%), and *will protect the Second Amendment* (80%).

**Arguments connecting Ayotte’s support for blocking the appointment of a new justice make voters less likely to vote for her**

- Three different arguments centered on Ayotte’s refusal to confirm a new justice in an election year make voters less likely to support her, including the statement that ties her to the wealthy and corporations who benefit from the law that allows them to spending millions in elections, from which Ayotte’s campaign is benefiting. For a full list of the arguments tested, see Appendix A.

**Appendix A: Arguments on Ayotte Blocking an Appointment**

	<b>% Much Less Likely to Vote for Ayotte</b>
Ayotte is blocking a nominee to fill the vacancy at the Supreme Court because a new Supreme Court could prevent corporate special interests and billionaires from spending an unlimited amount of money in political campaigns. Some of those same special interests have already spent over one point six million dollars to help her campaign	38%
Ayotte is part of the partisan gridlock problem in Washington. Republicans are not willing to do their job to fill the vacancy on Supreme Court because they do not want President Obama to get to pick a nominee	37%
Ayotte is blocking a nominee to fill the vacancy at the Supreme Court and right now the country is facing big questions on too many issues like immigration, a woman's right to choose, the environment and marriage equality to have a Supreme Court without a key justice	36%