



For Immediate Release

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The Political Library Presents “Red, Blue and...Independent: Demographic Change and Political Realignment in New Hampshire”: UNH’s Andy Smith will examine the changing face of New Hampshire’s political landscape

CONCORD, NH: The Political Library presents “Red, Blue and...Independent: Demographic Change and Political Realignment in New Hampshire.” Respected political scientist Andy Smith will speak on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Pierce Manse in Concord. This program is the third in a year long series focused on New Hampshire political traditions and history.

New Hampshire, birthplace of the Republican Party, was once the most solidly Republican state in the solidly Republican region of New England. But in recent elections, New Hampshire has elected Democrats for President and Governor, and in 2006, Democrats won majorities in the New Hampshire House and Senate. What has led to this change? Professor Smith will explore the shifting demographics in New Hampshire and the historical context in which this is occurring.

Andy Smith is the director of the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. A native of Ohio, Smith earned his PhD in Political Science at the University of Cincinnati. He has been at the University of New Hampshire since 1999 and lives in Durham with his wife Julie, and two active boys.

The University of New Hampshire Survey Center is a nonpartisan, academic public opinion research center for governments, not for profits, and faculty researchers. Smith is also an associate professor in the UNH department of political science. His research has focused on survey methodology, elections, and public policy. The Survey Center is nationally known for its election polling. It has consistently conducted the most accurate polling in New Hampshire elections. In recent years, the Survey Center has conducted polls for CNN, Fox News, WCVB in Boston, WMUR in Manchester, KYW in Philadelphia, USA Today, the Boston Globe, and the Philadelphia Inquirer.

“New Hampshire’s political traditions run deep,” said Michael Chaney, President and CEO of the Political Library. “The most recent demographic shifts in the state are having an impact on the political landscape. Andy’s work at The Survey Center and years of experience in New Hampshire politics will help voters and candidates alike understand this most recent political realignment.”

This event is free and open to the public. To view the complete 2009 program calendar, please visit the Political Library website at www.politicallibrary.org.

About The Political Library

The Political Library is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to increase civic engagement in the democratic process by promoting and preserving the state's unique political traditions and ensuring these traditions are passed on to future generations. The Political Library offers onsite educational programs and tours for students and the public at the Pierce Manse and administers Kids Voting New Hampshire programs in communities across the Granite State.

The Political Library also maintains the only comprehensive collection of election campaign papers and memorabilia from over half a century and provides forums for voters and community leaders to meet Presidential candidates. To see the Political Library's online collection or for more information, visit www.politicallibrary.org.

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