

2024 New Hampshire Civic Health Report

What is Civic Health?



Behaviors



Beliefs



Action

...that are related to civic engagement

Civic Health Can Include

- Voting
- Volunteering and community service
- Helping out neighbors
- Attending public meetings
- Staying informed and talking about issues
- People believing they matter and can make an impact
- Feeling trust in institutions and community
- Belonging



Civic Health can occur at multiple levels including

- National
- State
- Local counties, cities, and towns
- Within micro communities, such as a university, school, or apartment building



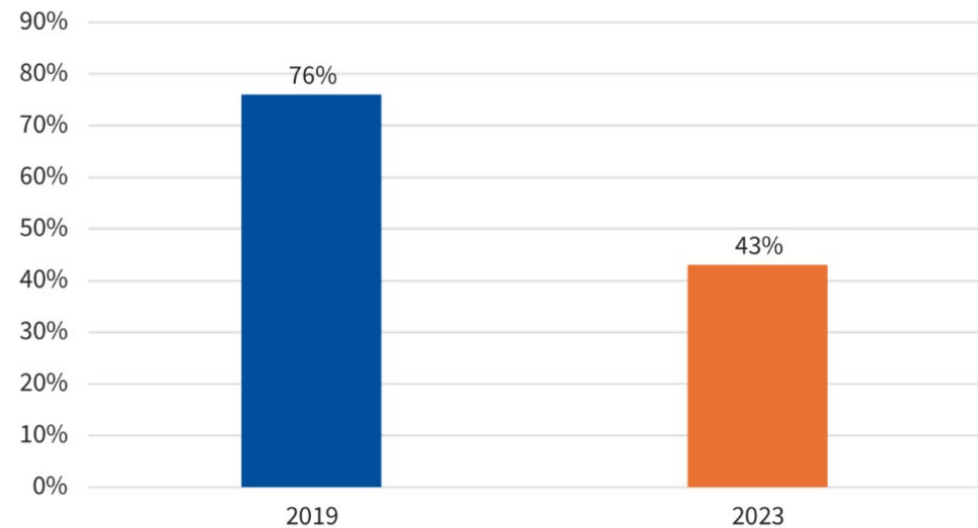
Key Findings



NH Residents Feel They Matter Less.

- Mattering fell 30 percentage points from 2019 to 2023
- Mattering was different by age and region

Figure 2. Percent of New Hampshire Adults Who Felt They Mattered in Their Community, 2019 and 2023 Comparison



Source: Carsey School of Public Policy analysis of Granite State Poll, 2019 & 2023

We're Connecting Less With Others.

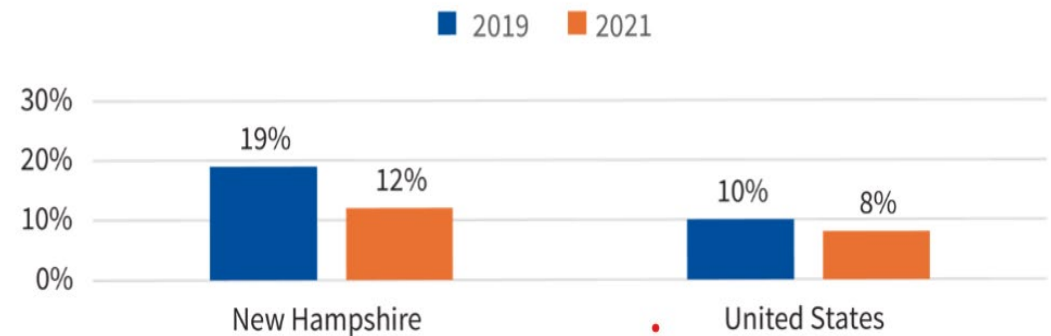
(2019 to 2021)

- NH residents who do favors for their neighbors fell from 11% to 5%
- Granite Staters hear from or spend time with friends and family less – from 85% to 81%
- People are working less with neighbors to do positive things for the community, from 27% to 21%.

NH Residents Attend Public Meetings Less.

- From 2019 to 2021, NH residents' public meeting attendance dropped from 19 to 12%.
- We are still above national averages.

Figure 1. Percent of New Hampshire Adults Who Attended a Public Meeting in the Past 12 Months



Source: Carsey School of Public Policy analysis of Current Population Survey, 2019 & 2021 September Volunteering and Civic Engagement Supplement

Over Half of NH Residents Engage Across Race, Ethnicity, or Culture.

- 53% engaged frequently with people of a different racial, ethnic, or cultural background than their own

Older people are doing this less.

- People ages 35-49 engaged across differences at 63% compared with 30% of those 65 or older.

Voting Has Some Highs and Lows.

- NH residents voted at higher rates than the rest of the nation in national elections (2020, 2022)

Urban residents voted less than suburban or rural residents in national elections in 2020

- 76 % of rural people voted in the 2020 election compared with 57% of urban residents

Trust in National and Local Government Dropped Since 2001 and Has Stayed Low.

- Trust in **national government** has fallen dramatically since 2001, from 31% to 17%.
- Only 1% of NH residents trust the national government all of the time.
- 49% almost never trust the national government.
- Trust in national government was about the same in 2019 as it is in 2024.
- Trust in **local government** has also fallen from 2001, from 53% to 36% in 2024.
- Trust in local government was about the same from 2019 to 2024.

We Measured Belonging for the First Time. Here's What We Learned.

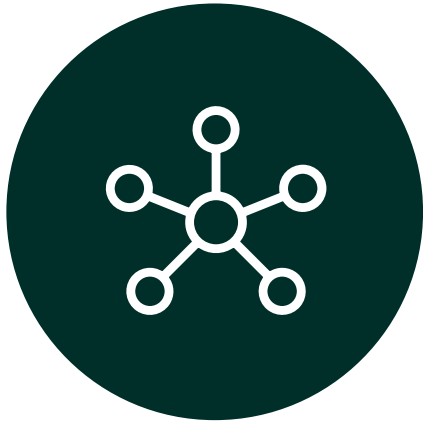
- 49% of NH residents feel they belong in their local community.
- 55% felt satisfied with their relationships with others in their local community.
- 59% felt comfortable expressing their opinions in their local community.
- 62% feel connected to their local community.

There Don't Seem to Be Impacts on Volunteering and Giving.

- There were no significant changes in volunteering and giving from 2019 to 2021.

Educational levels, age, and income all are associated with volunteering and giving.

THE CIVIC CONTINUUM



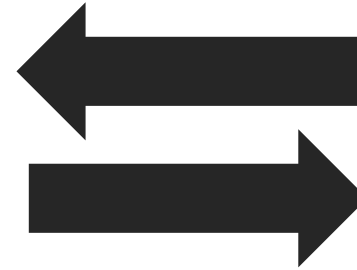
Civic Infrastructure

Systems, spaces, and networks that support civic life



Civic Health

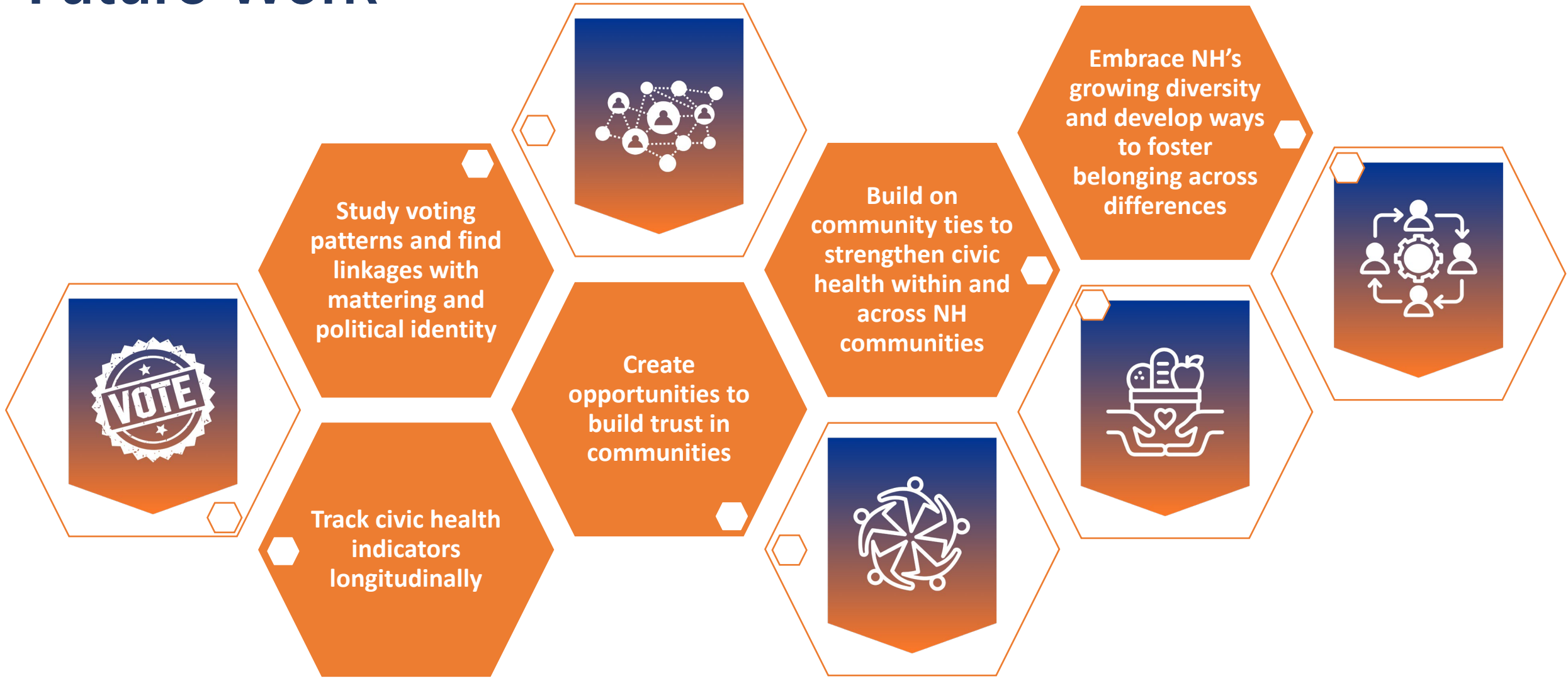
Behaviours, beliefs, and actions that contribute to strong or weak civic life



Civic Action

Interventions that strengthen civic health

Future Work





Keep in touch!



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