

## 'D' lowdown on Lynch

Lynch surely won't add the Cato Institute to the many New Hampshire ratings the three-term incumbent can now recite in his sleep.

The Libertarian think tank gave Lynch a "D" on fiscal policy, lumping him in with nine other Democrats, including Massachusetts' Deval Patrick and Iowa's Chet Culver, along with Arizona GOP Gov. Jan Brewer.

Cato handed out seven "F" grades to six other Democrats and Connecticut GOP Gov. Jodi Rell, who isn't seeking re-election.

"With regard to spending, Lynch has pursued some restraint in recent years, but not as much as in most other states," Cato concludes.

The think tank gives credit to Lynch for repealing the LLC tax he had championed and opposition to income and sales taxes, but knocks him for raising taxes on cigarettes, room and meals and motor vehicle fees.

It won't go away

Hodes hasn't left the Financial Resources Mortgage scandal as a weapon against former Attorney General Ayotte.

The Hodes camp pounced when Stephen said "everyone" in key government posts at the time, including Ayotte and Lynch, bore some responsibility for the state being asleep at the switch.

Meanwhile, the New Hampshire AFL-CIO mailed two slick anti-Ayotte and FRM brochures to all union households, following them up with phone calls.

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