

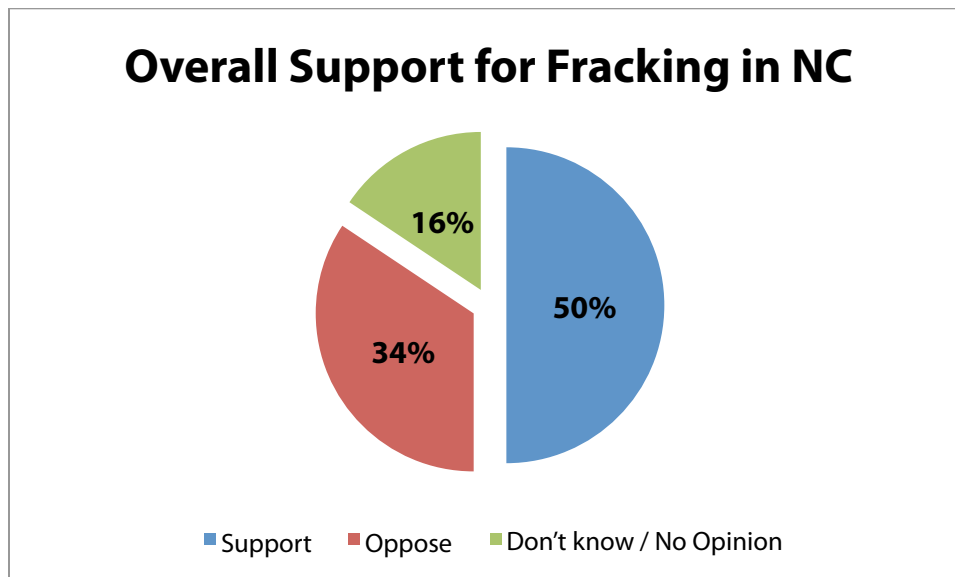
Citizen Perspectives on Energy and the Environment

Elon University Poll

February 24-28, 2013

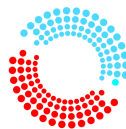
North Carolina Residents Support Off-Shore Drilling and Fracking

Although 63 percent of those surveyed in the February 2013 Elon University Poll believe scientists are in agreement that the Earth is getting warmer due to human activity, most residents support off-shore drilling and fracking. Fracking is a technique used to extract natural gas from underground rock formations. The poll found that 39 percent of respondents said they had heard a lot about the technique, 41 percent reported having heard a little, and 20 percent said they had not heard or read anything about fracking. Only respondents who had heard at least a little about fracking were asked whether they supported its use in North Carolina. The survey found just under half of respondents support the use of fracking in North Carolina, 34 percent oppose it, and almost 16 percent were not sure or had no opinion.



Not in My Back Yard (or Well)

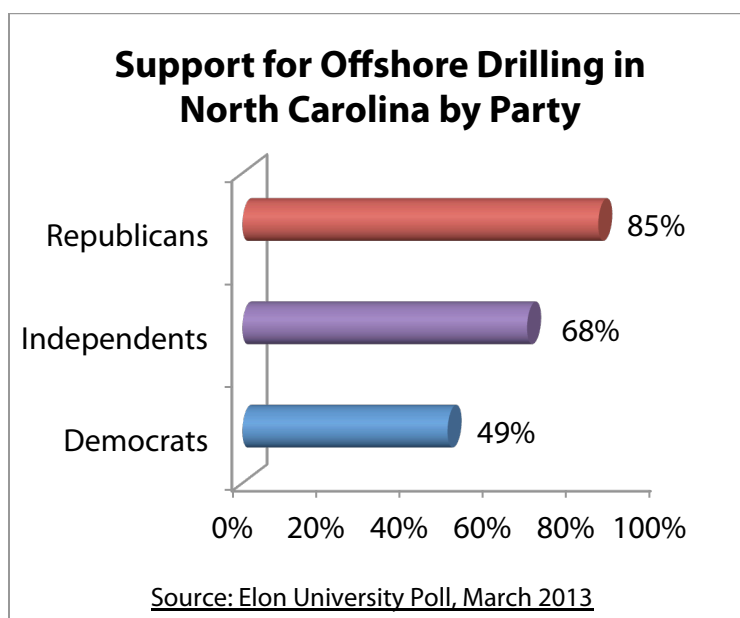
Support for off-shore drilling was much higher than support for Fracking. More than 66 percent of those surveyed said they believe the state should allow drilling off the coast of North Carolina. The stronger support for off-shore drilling (more than 66 percent) compared to fracking (just under 50 percent) could be due to the current debate over whether the runoff from fracking has the potential to contaminate wells, groundwater and other water



supplies. For those residents that do not live near the coast, off-shore drilling may seem to impose less of a risk or burden to their immediate environment. Add to that the fact that fracking is still a relatively new concept to many residents in North Carolina and experts are still debating on whether it can be done safely.

Differences in opinion

There are few differences in support for fracking and off-shore drilling between the young and old, but there are some differences in opinion when looking at race, education level and partisanship. It is not surprising that more educated respondents are more likely to have heard of fracking, but support does not vary dramatically across different levels of education. The one exception is that those respondents that have a graduate degree (e.g., MA, law degree, PhD) are more likely to oppose fracking. This is not the case for off-shore drilling, where college graduates and respondents with graduate degrees generally support off-shore drilling (along with all other educational levels). Residents without a high school degree were the most supportive of drilling off the coast of North Carolina (82 percent).



More Democrats (49 percent) support off-shore drilling than oppose it, but at a much lower level than Republicans (85 percent). The most distinct difference between the two parties is in their support for fracking. A majority of Democrats oppose fracking (54 percent), while more than 71 percent of Republicans support fracking.

Both blacks and whites support off-shore drilling and fracking, but at different levels. Fifty-eight percent of African Americans support off-shore drilling compared to 70 percent of whites, and 45 percent of blacks support fracking compared to 52 percent of whites.

How much, if anything, have you heard about a drilling method called fracking that is used to extract natural gas from underground rock formations? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all?

	No.	%
A lot.....	346.....	38.8%
A little	365.....	40.9%
None	175.....	19.6%
Don't know	5	0.6%
N=	891	100.0%

From what you've read and heard, do you [support or oppose] fracking in North Carolina?

	No.	%
Support.....	369.....	49.9%
Oppose.....	253.....	34.3%
Don't know / No Opinion	116.....	15.6%
Refused	1	0.1%
N=	739.....	100.0%

Do you [oppose or support] off-shore drilling for oil and natural gas off the coast of North Carolina?

	No.	%
Support.....	592.....	66.4%
Oppose.....	242.....	27.1%
Don't know / No Opinion	55	6.1%
Refused	3	0.3%
N=	891	100.0%

From what you've heard or read, do scientists generally agree that the Earth is getting warmer because of human activity, or do they not generally agree?

	No.	%
Scientists agree	562	63.1%
Scientists DO NOT agree	238	26.7%
Don't Know	91	10.2%
N=	891	100.0%

Table 1: Fracking Opinion by Party ID

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know / No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
Democrats	31	55	15	100
Independents	49	36	14	100
Republicans	71	12	17	100
Don't Know / Refused	51	31	18	100
Total	50	34	15	100

Table 2: Fracking Opinion by Gender

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know / No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
Male	56	31	13	100
Female	43	39	19	100
Total	50	34	16	100

Table 3: Fracking Opinion by Age

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know / No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
18-30	52	35	13	100
31-40	53	34	13	100
41-50	52	31	17	100
51-65	46	40	14	100
65+	49	30	21	100
Total	50	34	16	100

Table 4: Fracking Opinion by Race

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know / No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
White	52	32	16	100
Black	45	40	15	100
Other	41	48	11	100
Total	50	34	16	100

Table 5: Fracking Opinion by Income

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know / No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
Less than \$25,000	46	36	18	100
\$25,000 to \$50,000	52	32	15	100
\$50,000 to \$75,000	53	31	16	100
More than \$75,000	51	36	13	100
Total	51	34	15	100

Table 6: Fracking Opinion by Climate Change Knowledge

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know / No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
Scientists agree	44	41	15	100
Scientists DO NOT agree	62	25	13	100
Don't Know	56	14	31	100
Total	50	34	16	100

Table 7: Offshore Drilling Opinion by Party ID

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know / No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
Democrats	49	40	11	100
Independents	68	28	4	100
Republicans	85	11	3	100
Don't Know / Refused	67	28	6	100
Total	67	27	6	100

Table 8: Offshore Drilling Opinion by Gender

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know / No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
Male	72	25	2	100
Female	61	29	10	100
Total	67	27	6	100

Table 9: Offshore Drilling Opinion by Age

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know / No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
18-30	66	30	4	100
31-40	67	27	6	100
41-50	67	29	4	100
51-65	68	25	7	100
65+	67	24	10	100
Total	67	27	6	100

Table 10: Offshore Drilling Opinion by Race

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know / No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
White	70	26	4	100
Black	58	29	13	100
Other	61	33	5	100
Total	67	27	6	100

Table 11: Offshore Drilling Opinion by Income

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know / No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
Less than \$25,000	68	27	5	100
\$25,000 to \$50,000	68	25	6	100
\$50,000 to \$75,000	74	22	4	100
More than \$75,000	67	28	6	100
Total	69	26	5	100

Table 12: Offshore Drilling Opinion by Climate Change Knowledge

	Support	Oppose	Don't know / No Opinion	Total
	%	%	%	%
Scientists agree	62	32	7	100
Scientists DO NOT agree	76	21	3	100
Don't Know	74	16	9	100
Total	67	27	6	100

Basic Methodological Information

Mode:	Live Interviewer RDD Telephone Interviews (Dual Frame: Cell Phone and Landlines)
Sample Area:	North Carolina
Dates in the field:	February 24 – February 28, 2013
Sample Size	891
Margin of Error	±3.28
Confidence Level	95%
Weighting Variables	Age , Race, Gender, and Phone Ownership

For more information on the Elon University Poll, visit www.elon.edu/elonpoll

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