I. Survey Methodology

The Elon University Poll is conducted using a stratified random sample of households with telephones in the population of interest – in this case, citizens in North Carolina. The sample of telephone numbers for the survey is obtained from Survey Sampling International, LLC.

Selection of Households

To equalize the probability of telephone selection, sample telephone numbers are systematically stratified according to subpopulation strata (e.g., a zip code, a county, a state, etc.), which yields a sample from telephone exchanges in proportion to each exchange's share of telephone households in the population of interest. Estimates of telephone households in the population of interest are generally obtained from several databases. Samples of telephone numbers are distributed across all eligible blocks of numbers in proportion to the density of listed households assigned in the population of interest according to a specified subpopulation stratum. Upon determining the projected (or preferred) sample size, a sampling interval is calculated by summing the number of listed residential numbers in each eligible block within the population of interest and dividing that sum by the number of sampling points assigned to the population. From a random start between zero and the sampling interval, blocks are systematically selected in proportion to the density of listed household "working blocks." A *block* (also known as a *bank*) is a set of contiguous numbers identified by the first two digits of the last four digits of a telephone number. A working block contains three or more working telephone numbers. Exchanges are assigned to a population on the basis of all eligible blocks in proportion to the density of working telephone households. Once each population's proportion of telephone households is determined, then a sampling interval, based on that proportion, is calculated and specific exchanges and numbers are randomly selected. Because exchanges and numbers are randomly selected by the computer, unlisted as well as listed telephone numbers are included in the sample. Thus, the sample of telephone numbers generated for the population of interest constitutes a random sample of telephone households of the population, stratified by exchange.

Procedures Used for Conducting the Poll

The survey was conducted Sunday, March 15th through Thursday, March 19th of 2009. During this time calls were made from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm EST, Monday through Thursday, and from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm EST, on Sunday. The Elon University Poll uses CATI system software (computer assisted telephone interviewing) in the administration of surveys. For each working telephone number in the sample, several attempts were made to reach the household. Only individuals in households 18 years or older were interviewed; those reached at business or work numbers were not interviewed. Within each household, one adult is generally selected based on whether s/he is the oldest or youngest adult in the home. Interviews, which are conducted by live interviewers, are completed with adults from households in the target population as specified. Interviews for this survey were completed with 620 adults from households in North Carolina. For a sample size of 620, there is a 95 percent probability that our survey results are within plus or minus 4.0 percentage points (the margin of sampling error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. For sub-samples (a subgroup selected from the overall sample), the margin of error is higher depending on the size of the subsample. When we use a subsample, we identify these results as being from a subsample and provide the total number of respondents and margin of error for that subsample. In reporting our results, we note any use of a subsample where applicable. Because our surveys are based on probability sampling, there are a variety of factors that prevent these results from being perfect, complete depictions of the population; the foremost example is that of margin of sampling error (as noted above). With all probability samples, there are theoretical and practical difficulties estimating population characteristics (or parameters). Thus, while efforts are made to reduce or lessen such threats, sampling error as well as other sources of error – while not all inclusive, examples of other error effects are non-response rates, question order effects, question wording effects, etc. – are present in surveys derived from probability samples.

Questions and Question Order

The Elon University Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which these questions are administered (to respondents). Conspicuous in reviewing some questions is the "bracketed" information. Information contained within brackets ([ ]) denotes response options as provided in the question; this bracketed information is rotated per question to ensure that respondents do not receive a set order of response options presented to them, which also maintains question construction integrity by avoiding respondent acquiescence based on question composition. Similarly, to protect against question order effects (where specific questions may 'prime' or influence a respondent's answers to subsequent questions), question order is randomized during administration. For groups of questions in which a standard, set order of administration can influence responses to subsequent questions, questions are administered randomly during the survey;   this technique protects against question order effects. Some questions used a probe maneuver to determine a respondent's intensity of perspective. Probe techniques used in this questionnaire mainly consist of asking a respondent if their response is more intense than initially provided. For example, upon indicating whether s/he is satisfied or dissatisfied, we asked the respondent "would you say you are very 'satisfied'/ 'dissatisfied'?" This

technique is employed in some questions as opposed to specifying the full range of choices in the question. Though specifying the full range of options in questions is a commonly accepted practice in survey research, we sometimes prefer that the respondent determine whether their perspective is stronger or more intense for which the probe technique used. Another method for acquiring information from respondents is to ask an "open-ended" question. The open-ended question is a question for which no response options are provided, i.e., it is entirely up to the respondent to provide the response information.

The Elon University Poll

The Elon University Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Center for Public Opinion Polling (Hunter Bacot, Director & Mileah Kromer, Assistant Director), which is a constituent part of the Institute for Politics and Public Affairs (George Taylor, Director); both these organizations are housed in the department of political science at Elon University. These academic units are part of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences at Elon University, which is under the direction of Dr. Steven House (Dean). The Elon University administration, led by Dr. Leo Lambert, President of the university, fully support the Elon University Poll as part of its service commitment to state, regional, and national constituents. Dr. Hunter Bacot, a professor in the department of political science, directs the Elon University Poll. Elon University students administer the survey as part of the University's commitment to experiential learning where "students learn through doing."

II. Survey Instrument and Percent Distributions by Question

Interviews were completed with 620 adults from households in the North Carolina. For a sample size of 620, there is a 95 percent probability that our survey results are within plus or minus 4.0 percentage points (the margin of sampling error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. Questions are presented by topic, not in the order as administered; data are weighted to reflect the adult population in terms of race.

About the Codes appearing in Questions and Responses	
Response Options not offered	Response options are <u>not</u> offered to the person taking the survey (respondent), but are included in the question as asked (and usually denoted by brackets, [ ]). Response options are generally offered only for demographic questions (background characteristic, e.g., age, education, income, etc.).
v = volunteered response	Respondents volunteer response option. As response options are <u>not</u> offered to those taking the survey, some respondents offer or volunteer response options. Though not all volunteered options can be anticipated, the more common options are noted.
p = probed response	Respondents self-place in this option or category. A probe maneuver is used in questions to allow the respondent to indicate whether her/his response is more intense than initially provided for in the choices appearing in the question. For example, on probe questions the interviewer, upon a respondent indicating that she/he is satisfied (or dissatisfied), is instructed to ask him/her "Would you say you are "very satisfied"?"

First, I would like to know what you think is the most important issue facing the state of North Carolina?

		Percent
	ECONOMY	44.4
	JOBS & UNEMPLOYMENT	26.3
	ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION	9.0
	HEALTH CARE	2.6
	TAXES	2.1
	CRIME & DRUGS	1.3
	IMMIGRATION	1.1
	FAMILY VALUES & MORALS	1.0
	UNIVERSITY SYSTEM	0.4
	OTHER	9.4
	DON T KNOW	2.6
	REFUSED	.1
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

Now, thinking about things in the country, do you feel things in this country [have gotten off on the wrong track, or are going in the right direction]?

		Percent
	STRONGLY GOTTEN OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK (p)	26.3
	GOTTEN OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK	26.2
	GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION	30.5
	STRONGLY GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION (p)	8.8
	DON T KNOW (v)	7.8
	REFUSED (v)	.5
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

President Obama Approval

Now I m going to ask you some questions about the President . . Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

		Percent
	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE (p)	15.7
	DISAPPROVE	13.0
	APPROVE	31.0
	STRONGLY APPROVE (p)	30.3
	DON T KNOW (v)	9.6
	REFUSED (v)	.4

		Percent
	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE (p)	15.7
	DISAPPROVE	13.0
	APPROVE	31.0
	STRONGLY APPROVE (p)	30.3
	DON T KNOW (v)	9.6
	REFUSED (v)	.4
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way President Obama is handling the economy?

		Percent
	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE (p)	18.2
	DISAPPROVE	16.3
	APPROVE	36.5
	STRONGLY APPROVE (p)	21.2
	DON T KNOW (v)	7.4
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

<u>Iraq War</u>

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way President Obama is handling the war in Iraq?

		Percent
	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE (p)	7.4
	DISAPPROVE	13.0
	APPROVE	43.7
	STRONGLY APPROVE (p)	21.2
	DON T KNOW (v)	14.3
	REFUSED (v)	.5
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

Do you think the United States is now [less at risk or more at risk] of future terrorist attacks?

		Percent
	LESS AT RISK	27.2
	ABOUT THE SAME RISK	19.9
	MORE AT RISK	43.6
	DON T KNOW (v)	8.8
	REFUSED (v)	.5
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

Do you [support or oppose] President Obama's plan to withdraw most U.S. troops from Iraq?

		Percent
	STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)	9.6
	OPPOSE	12.9
	SUPPORT	33.1
	STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)	35.0
	STAY UNTIL JOB IS DONE (v)	2.3
	DON'T KNOW (v)	7.0
	REFUSED (v)	.1
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

Do you think the war with Iraq was worth fighting or not?

		Percent
	NOT WORTH IT	53.6
	WORTH IT	39.4
	DON T KNOW (v)	5.9
	REFUSED (v)	1.1
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

On a scale of 1 to 10, with [1 being extremely dishonest and 10 being extremely honest], how would you rate the United States Congress?

		Percent
	EXTREMELY DISHONEST	12.0
	2	5.2
	3	9.8
	4	9.7
	MIDDLE CATEGORY	22.7
	6	9.7
	7	13.4
	8	8.1
	9	2.3
	EXTREMELY HONEST	2.6
	DON T KNOW (v)	4.4
	REFUSED (v)	.1
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

On a scale of 1 to 10, with [1 being extremely dishonest and 10 being extremely honest], how would you rate the North Carolina General Assembly?

		Percent
	EXTREMELY DISHONEST	4.1
	2	2.2
	3	4.0
	4	5.7
	MIDDLE CATEGORY	26.3
	6	14.7
	7	13.3
	8	9.9
	9	1.2
	EXTREMELY HONEST	2.1
	DON T KNOW (v)	15.7
	REFUSED (v)	.7
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

Now, I'd like to ask you about the job your state legislators are doing . . . Please tell me if you [approve or disapprove] of the job each of the following are doing?

	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DISAPPROVE	APPROVE	STRONGLY APPROVE	DON'T KNOW (v)
Do you [approve or disapprove] of the job the Democratic members of the General Assembly are doing?	5.7	20.1	48.8	4.3	21.1
Do you [approve or disapprove] of the job the Republican members of the General Assembly are doing?	5.7	31.1	38.3	2.5	22.4
Do you [approve or disapprove] of the job the Leadership of the House is doing?	4.1	19.2	46.4	3.3	27.0
Do you [approve or disapprove] of the job the Leadership of the Senate is doing?	4.8	19.9	47.3	2.4	25.6
Do you [approve or disapprove] of the job your Representative in the State House is doing?	3.6	15.9	50.9	6.6	23.0
Do you [approve or disapprove] of the job your Senator in the State Senate is doing?	2.9	14.7	52.1	5.3	25.0
Do you [approve or disapprove] of the job The North Carolina General Assembly as a whole is doing?	4.2	18.4	51.4	4.5	21.5

Note: Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)

Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about the accessibility and availability of public documents. . . Most states have laws called "Sunshine Laws" that make public documents, records, information, and meetings available and accessible to citizens. . . . are you [aware or not aware] if North Carolina has these laws?

		Percent
	Not aware	62.5
	Aware	35.2
	Don't Know (v)	2.3
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

In general, how [important or unimportant] is it for citizens to have access to public documents, records, information, and meetings? Would you say it is [not at all important, somewhat important, or very important]?

		Percent
	Not at all important	2.7
	Somewhat important	26.9
	Very important	68.1
	Don't Know (v)	2.3
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

Do you believe that citizen access to public documents, records, information, and meetings [does influence or does not influence] government operations?

		Percent
	Does not influence government operations	16.1
	Influences government operations	75.9
	Don't Know (v)	7.9
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

Now I want to read you some statements about the availability and accessibility of public documents, records, information, and meetings, in connection with how government operates. Please tell me whether you [strongly disagree, disagree, agree, or strongly agree] with each statement . . .

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	DON'T KNOW (v)
Open records and meetings keep government operations honest	1.7	8.3	59.4	29.0	1.6
Closed records and meetings allow government to get things done	14.2	55.1	21.2	3.2	6.2
Government needs to be able to keep records and meetings secret if necessary	14.1	36.2	41.1	3.8	4.8
Democracy is best when government operates openly	1.0	2.4	61.6	31.5	3.4
Some public records and meetings should be kept secret if it helps the war on terrorism	3.7	14.9	59.0	18.2	4.2

Note: Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)

When it comes to actions and activities of state and local governments, would you say you have [a lot of interest, some interest, little interest, or no interest at all]?

		Percent
	No interest	1.2
	Little interest	10.9
	Some interest	47.8
	A lot of interest	39.6
	Don't Know (v)	.5
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

When it comes to actions and activities of the federal government, would you say you have [a lot of interest, some interest, little interest, or no interest at all]?

		Percent
	No interest	1.3
	Little interest	3.2
	Some interest	34.2
	A lot of interest	60.8
	Don't Know (v)	.5
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

When thinking about the accessibility and availability of your state and local governments, would you say they are [always accessible and available, somewhat accessible and available, or not at all accessible and available]?

		Percent
	Not at all accessible and available	7.0
	Somewhat accessible and available	74.0
	Always accessible and available	7.8
	Don't Know (v)	10.7
	Refused (v)	.5
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

When thinking about the accessibility and availability of the federal government, would you say it is [always accessible and available, somewhat accessible and available, or not at all accessible and available]?

		Percent
	Not at all accessible and available	18.4
	Somewhat accessible and available	70.6
	Always accessible and available	4.9
	Don't Know (v)	5.4
	Refused (v)	.8
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

Have you ever tried to get any public documents, records, and information?

		Percent
	No	47.2
	Yes	52.1
	Don't Know (v)	.7
	Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0

(If yes, continue to next question, if no, skips to other state issue questions)

Were you successful in getting these documents, records, or information?

		Percent
	No	14.9
	Yes	82.8
	Don't Know (v)	2.2
	Total (N=323; +/-5.6%)	100.0

How was your experience in getting these documents, records, or information . . . was it [very easy, easy, difficult, or very difficult]?

		Percent
	Very difficult	12.4
	Difficult	40.0
	Easy	35.5
	Very easy	9.8
	Don't recall or remember (v)	1.5
	Don't Know (v)	.8

	Total (N=323; +/- 5.6%)	100.0