I. Survey Methodology

The Elon University Poll is conducted using a stratified random sample of households with telephones and wireless telephone numbers 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 household 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.   The methodology for the wireless component of this study starts with the determining which area code-exchange combinations in North Carolina are included in the wireless or shared Telcordia types.   Similar to the process for selecting household telephone numbers, wireless numbers involve a multi-step process in which blocks of numbers are determined for each area code-exchange combination in the Telcordia types. From a random start within the first sampling interval, a systematic *n*th selection of each block of numbers is performed and a two-digit random number between 00 and 99 is appended to each selected *n*th block stem. The intent is to provide a stratification that will yield a sample that is representative both geographically and by large and small carrier. From these, a random sample is generated.   Because exchanges and numbers are randomly selected by the computer, unlisted as well as listed household 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 and wireless numbers of the population.

Procedures Used for Conducting the Poll

The survey was conducted Monday, November 16th, through Thursday, November 19th, of 2009.   During this time calls were made from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm EST.   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 each number.   Only individuals 18 years or older were interviewed; those reached at business or work numbers were not interviewed.   For each number reached, one adult is generally selected based on whether s/he is the oldest or youngest adult.   Interviews, which are conducted by live interviewers, are completed with adults from the target population as specified. Interviews for this survey were completed with 563 adults from North Carolina.   For a sample size of 563, there is a 95 percent probability that our survey results are within plus or minus 4.2 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.   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.   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 563 adults from households in North Carolina. For a sample size of 563, there is a 95 percent probability that our survey results are within plus or minus 4.2 percentage points (the margin of sampling error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. Due to rounding, column totals may not equal 100 percent. Data are weighted to reflect the adult population in terms of age and 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"?"

Now, I'd like to know what you think about government in general. For the next few questions, I'm going to read you a statement and I'd like to know if you [agree or disagree] with it.

Here's the first statement:

"Even though I don't always agree with what the government in Washington is doing, I still support it."

	Percent
STRONGLY DISAGREE (p)	17.5
DISAGREE	15.7
AGREE	44.7
STRONGLY AGREE (p)	19.8
DON T KNOW (v)	1.6
REFUSED (v)	.7
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0

"All in all, I think we have the best form of government in the world."

	Percent
STRONGLY DISAGREE (p)	6.3
DISAGREE	16.2
AGREE	38.5
STRONGLY AGREE (p)	35.7
DON T KNOW (v)	3.2
REFUSED (v)	.1
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0

"I think that I am as well-informed about politics and government as most people."

	Percent
STRONGLY DISAGREE (p)	2.1
DISAGREE	16.7
AGREE	48.6
STRONGLY AGREE (p)	30.5
DON T KNOW (v)	2.1
REFUSED (v)	.1
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0

"I consider myself well-qualified to participate in politics."

	Percent
STRONGLY DISAGREE (p)	4.5
DISAGREE	25.7
AGREE	43.1
STRONGLY AGREE (p)	25.2
DON T KNOW (v)	1.5
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0

Now, changing topics to the United States Congress and the North Carolina legislature, I'd like to know how you would rate their work. . . so on a scale of 1 to 10, with [one (1) being extremely dishonest and ten (10) being extremely honest], how would you rate the North Carolina General Assembly?

	Percent
1. EXTREMELY DISHONEST	7.7
2.	5.7
3.	10.1
4.	8.2
5.	24.7
6.	11.7
7.	9.9
8.	10.2
9.	.5
10. EXTREMELY HONEST	2.0
DON T KNOW (v)	9.2
REFUSED (v)	.1
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0

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

	Percent
1. EXTREMELY DISHONEST	14.7
2.	9.3
3.	13.5
4.	9.9
5.	22.1
6.	8.4
7.	7.9
8.	7.8
9.	1.2
10. EXTREMELY HONEST	3.2
DON T KNOW (v)	1.9
REFUSED (v)	0.1
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	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)
The Democratic members of the General Assembly?	13.2	22.7	40.3	6.8	17.1
The Republican members of the General Assembly?	9.9	30.5	39.5	4.2	15.9
The Leadership of the House?	9.7	26.8	40.8	3.9	18.7
The Leadership of the Senate?	11.6	24.9	41.5	4.0	17.9
Your Representative in the State House?	6.1	18.0	50.3	8.6	17.1
Your Senator in the State Senate?	6.2	18.1	52.7	8.6	14.4

The NC General Assembly as a whole?	5.1	26.2	50.6	3.9	14.3

Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)

Now, I'd like to know how you feel about government in general. . .

How much of the time - [none, very little, some, or all of the time] - do you think you can trust the government in Raleigh to do what is in the public's interest?

	Percent
NONE OF THE TIME	8.9
VERY LITTLE OF THE TIME	15.4
SOME OF THE TIME	69.6
ALL OF THE TIME	3.5
DON T KNOW (v)	2.7
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0

Would you say that campaign contributions to elected officials at the state level influence their activities [not at all, not much, some, or a lot]?

	Percent
NOT AT ALL	3.7
NOT MUCH	6.9
SOME	32.0
A LOT	55.3
DON T KNOW (v)	2.1
REFUSED (v)	0.1
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0

Since we're talking about elected officials, I'd like to ask you a few questions about their service while in office . . .

Do you think corruption is [common or uncommon] among elected officials?

	Percent
UNCOMMON	16.4
COMMON	73.1
SOME ARE BAD, BUT NOT ALL (v)	5.6
DON T KNOW (v)	3.3
REFUSED (v)	1.6
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0

In general, do you think elected officials in North Carolina look out more for [the public interest or more for their own interests]?

	Percent
THEIR OWN INTERESTS	65.2
THE PUBLIC INTEREST	27.3
NEITHER (v)	3.7
DON T KNOW (v)	3.5
REFUSED (v)	0.3
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0

At which level of government, if any, do you feel corruption is most present: [the federal, state, or local level]?

	Percent
LOCAL LEVEL	13.8
STATE LEVEL	17.3
FEDERAL LEVEL	50.7
EVERY LEVEL (v)	12.4
DON T KNOW (v)	5.2
REFUSED (v)	0.5
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0

In thinking about North Carolina government and politics, do you feel that corruption in government is [more or less] widespread now than it was 10 years ago?

	Percent
LESS WIDESPREAD	18.4
MORE WIDESPREAD	60.7
NEITHER (v)	12.1
DON T KNOW (v)	8.7
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0

Do you think corrupt behavior among public officials [is unusual and extreme, or is becoming more common] in North Carolina?

	Percent
IS UNUSUAL AND EXTREME	16.1
BECOMING MORE COMMON	66.8
NEITHER (v)	10.0

DON T KNOW (v)	6.7
REFUSED (v)	0.3
Total (N=563, +/-4.2%)	100.0