



ELON POLL

North Carolinians Concerned about Syria and North Korea

Registered Voters in North Carolina
April 18-21, 2017

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Key Survey Insights

Executive Summary

The Elon University Poll conducted a live-caller, dual frame survey of 506 registered North Carolina voters, between April 18 and April 21, 2017. The results reported below have a margin of error of +/- 4.36 percentage points.¹

North Carolinians Split about Conflict in Syria

On April 7, 2017, just over a week prior to our survey, President Trump launched a military strike in Syria. We asked North Carolina voters if they believe the United States should take any further military action in Syria, and found that North Carolinians are split on this issue: 42% said yes, 42% said no, 8% volunteered that it depends, and 6% said they weren't sure. However, more North Carolina voters believe the United States has a responsibility to do something about the fighting in Syria; 48% answered yes, 36% said no, 8% volunteered that it depends, and 7% weren't sure.

Republicans in North Carolina were more likely to support further action in Syria. While 41% of Democrats believe the United States has a responsibility to intervene in Syria, 58% of Republicans believe the U.S. has a responsibility. Similarly, among Democrats, 27% support further military action while 69% of Republicans supported additional action.

We measured a marked racial gap in beliefs about intervening in Syria; 51% of white respondents believe the U.S. has a responsibility to do something about the fighting in Syria, and 47% support further military action, while only 33% of black respondents believe the U.S. has this responsibility, and 25% support further action.

A related political debate has been whether the United States has the responsibility to accept refugees from Syria. North Carolina voters were split on this issue; 43% answered yes, 44% said no, 9% volunteered that it depends, and 3% weren't sure. These opinions fall along partisan lines; 65% of Democrats believe the U.S. has a responsibility to accept refugees, and 73% of Republicans believe the U.S. does not have this responsibility. And, there are race and gender gaps in beliefs about the responsibility to accept refugees. 47% of women said yes, while only 39% of men believe the U.S. has this responsibility, and 50% of black respondents said yes, while only 39% of whites believe the U.S. has this responsibility.

Opposition to Interfering in North Korea

North Korea attempted a missile launch on April 16th, just two days prior to our survey. Since then, tensions between the United States and North Korea have been escalating. We asked North Carolina voters whether they would support or oppose entering a war to remove nuclear weapons from the country; only 35% support entering such a conflict, while 50% oppose it, 7% volunteered that it depends on what happens, and 8% weren't sure. We also asked North Carolina voters whether they think the

¹ The margin of error for any of the differences between sub-groups in the sample, for example, Democrats and Republicans, men and women, whites and blacks, is higher.

United States will go to war with North Korea; 37% answered yes, 50% answered no, 5% volunteered another response, and 6% weren't sure.

Opinions about entering into war with North Korea, much like opinions about Syria, are also divided. Only 18% of Democrats support entering war, while 67% oppose it. However, 57% of Republicans support entering war, while 26% oppose it.

Perceptions of Global Engagement

In future Elon Polls, we plan to track North Carolinians' views of the global economy over time. In this survey, we tested a question about their perceptions of whether involvement in the global economy is a good or bad thing. When prompted, 62% answered that North Carolina's involvement in the global economy is good for the state, because it provides new markets and opportunities for growth. Only 25% answered that it was a bad thing, because it lowers wages and costs jobs in the state.

Beliefs about North Carolina and the global economy differ according to race and gender. 67% of whites believe participating in the global economy is providing new markets and opportunities for growth, while only 48% of black respondents held this view. 71% of men believe participating in the global economy is a good thing, while only 54% of women held this view.

Topline Results

Syria

syria_action

Do you think the United States should take further military action in Syria?

Yes	211.....	41.70%
No.....	214.....	42.30%
Other/it depends (volunteered)	41.....	8.20%
Don't know (volunteered).....	30.....	5.90%
Refused (volunteered).....	10.....	1.90%
N=	506.....	100.00%

syria_responsibility

Do you think the United States has a responsibility to do something about the fighting in Syria?

Yes, has a responsibility	243.....	47.90%
No, does not have a responsibility	181.....	35.90%
Other/it depends (volunteered)	40.....	7.80%
Don't know (volunteered).....	35.....	6.90%
Refused (volunteered).....	7.....	1.50%
N=	506.....	100.00%

syria_refugee

Do you think the United States has a responsibility to accept refugees from Syria into the country?

Yes, has a responsibility	219.....	43.40%
No, does not have a responsibility	225.....	44.40%
Other/it depends (volunteered)	44.....	8.60%
Don't know (volunteered).....	14.....	2.80%
Refused (volunteered).....	4.....	0.80%
N=	506.....	100.00%

North Korea

northkorea_nuclear

Do you [support] or [oppose] the United States entering a war to remove nuclear weapons from North Korea?

Support.....	177.....	35.00%
Oppose	251.....	49.60%
Other/it depends (volunteered)	36.....	7.10%
Don't know (volunteered).....	38.....	7.60%
Refused (volunteered).....	4.....	0.80%
N=	506.....	100.00%

northkorea_war

Just your best guess, do you think the United States will go to war with North Korea?

Yes	187.....	37.00%
No.....	253.....	50.10%
Other/it depends (volunteered)	26.....	5.20%
Don't know (volunteered).....	31.....	6.20%
Refused (volunteered).....	8.....	1.60%
N=	506.....	100.00%

global

Which statement comes closer to your view about North Carolina's involvement in the global economy—even if neither is exactly right? It is a good thing because it provides the state with new markets and opportunities for growth. It is a bad thing because it lowers wages and costs jobs in the state.

Good thing	314.....	62.00%
Bad thing.....	127.....	25.10%
Neither/Other (volunteered).....	17.....	3.30%
Don't Know (volunteered)	43.....	8.50%
Refused (volunteered).....	5.....	1.10%
N=	506.....	100.00%

Sample Characteristics

partyid

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

Democrats	147.....	29.50%
Independents	214.....	43.00%
Republicans.....	136.....	27.50%
N=	497.....	100.00%

Registered Party ID (from Voter File)

Democrats	198.....	39.10%
Unaffiliated	154.....	30.50%
Republicans.....	154.....	30.40%
N=	506.....	100.00%

ideology

When it comes to politics, do you usually think of yourself as liberal, moderate, conservative, or haven't you thought much about this?

Conservative	180.....	35.50%
Moderate	187.....	36.90%
Liberal	103.....	20.40%
Don't Know	30.....	5.90%
Refused	6.....	1.30%
N=	506.....	100.00%

education

How much school have you completed?

Less than HS	5.....	1.00%
High School / GED	56.....	11.00%
Some College/ AA / Technical	149.....	29.40%
College Graduate	191.....	37.80%
Graduate School.....	99.....	19.60%
Don't Know	3.....	0.50%
Refused	3.....	0.70%
N=	506.....	100.00%

age

How old are you?

Millennial (Born 1981 & after).....	155	30.60%
Gen X (Born 1965 - 1980).....	136	26.80%
Boomer (Born 1945-1964)	156	30.80%
Silent+ (Born 1944 & earlier).....	60.....	11.80%
N=.....	506	100.00%

income

Is your annual household income more or less than \$50,000?

(If inc==1) Is it more or less than \$75,000?

(If inc==2) Is it more or less than \$25,000?

Less than \$25,000	47.....	9.40%
\$25,000 to \$50,000	85.....	16.90%
\$50,000 to \$75,000	103.....	20.40%
More than \$75,000	217.....	43.00%
Don't Know	21.....	4.10%
Refused	32.....	6.30%
N=	506.....	100.00%

Race

(from voter file)

White.....	363.....	71.80%
Black.....	110.....	21.70%
Other.....	33.....	6.50%
N=.....	506.....	100.00%

Sex

(from voter file)

Male.....	233.....	46.00%
Female.....	273.....	54.00%
N=.....	506.....	100.00%

Cross Tabulations

Military Action in Syria

Do you think the United States should take further military action in Syria?

	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Party ID (self-reported)</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	27	58	5	8	2	100
Independents	36	48	8	7	1	100
Republicans	69	18	10	1	1	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Race</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	47	35	9	6	2	100
Black	25	62	8	4	2	100
Other	37	54	0	9	0	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Sex</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	45	42	7	5	1	100
Female	39	43	9	7	2	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Generation</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Millennial	40	50	4	4	2	100
Gen X	46	39	7	5	2	100
Boomer	39	40	12	7	1	100
Silent+	42	35	10	9	4	100
Total	42	42	8	6	2	100

US Responsibility

Do you think the United States has a responsibility to do something about the fighting in Syria?

	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Party ID (self-reported)</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	41	42	5	11	1	100
Independents	48	35	10	5	1	100
Republicans	58	30	7	4	2	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Race</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	51	32	10	6	2	100
Black	33	55	4	7	2	100
Other	59	18	0	22	0	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Sex</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	48	40	8	4	1	100
Female	48	33	8	10	2	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Generation</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Millennial	41	45	7	6	1	100
Gen X	51	36	8	5	1	100
Boomer	51	33	7	8	1	100
Silent+	51	21	12	11	5	100
Total	48	36	8	7	2	100

Syrian Refugees

Do you think the United States has a responsibility to accept refugees from Syria into the country?

	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Party ID (self-reported)</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	65	22	8	4	1	100
Independents	47	43	8	2	0	100
Republicans	15	73	10	2	1	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Race</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	39	50	8	2	1	100
Black	50	33	9	6	2	100
Other	63	22	11	5	0	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Sex</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	39	49	9	2	0	100
Female	47	40	8	4	1	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Generation</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Millennial	41	43	13	2	0	100
Gen X	45	46	6	3	1	100
Boomer	45	43	7	4	1	100
Silent+	42	47	8	0	4	100
Total	43	44	9	3	1	100

War over North Korean Nuclear Weapons

Do you [support] or [oppose] the United States entering a war to remove nuclear weapons from North Korea?

	Support	Oppose	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Party ID (self-reported)</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	18	67	2	13	1	100
Independents	33	53	10	4	0	100
Republicans	57	26	9	8	1	100
	Support	Oppose	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Race</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	37	45	8	9	1	100
Black	29	65	1	4	2	100
Other	29	54	13	5	0	100
	Support	Oppose	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Sex</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	39	48	8	5	0	100
Female	32	51	7	10	1	100
	Support	Oppose	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Generation</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Millennial	35	59	2	4	0	100
Gen X	42	47	4	6	1	100
Boomer	32	51	9	8	1	100
Silent+	29	30	20	18	4	100
Total	35	50	7	8	1	100

Chances of War

Just your best guess, do you think the United States will go to war with North Korea?

	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Party ID (self-reported)</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	45	41	5	8	1	100
Independents	37	51	7	3	1	100
Republicans	28	59	4	8	1	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Race</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	30	56	6	6	2	100
Black	53	37	5	3	2	100
Other	57	26	0	16	0	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Sex</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	31	57	7	3	1	100
Female	42	44	3	9	2	100
	Yes	No	Other/it depends	Don't know	Refused	Total
<u>Generation</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Millennial	48	43	6	2	1	100
Gen X	34	53	5	8	1	100
Boomer	32	54	5	8	1	100
Silent+	27	53	5	10	5	100
Total	37	50	5	6	2	100

Global Economy

Which statement comes closer to your view about North Carolina’s involvement in the global economy—even if neither is exactly right? It is a good thing because it provides the state with new markets and opportunities for growth. It is a bad thing because it lowers wages and costs jobs in the state.

	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither/Other	Don't Know	Refused	Total
<u>Party ID (self-reported)</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	62	26	2	8	2	100
Independents	66	22	4	8	0	100
Republicans	58	30	4	8	0	100
	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither/Other	Don't Know	Refused	Total
<u>Race</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	67	21	3	8	1	100
Black	48	38	3	10	2	100
Other	54	31	8	7	0	100
	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither/Other	Don't Know	Refused	Total
<u>Sex</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	71	22	3	4	0	100
Female	54	28	4	12	2	100
	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither/Other	Don't Know	Refused	Total
<u>Generation</u>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Millennial	62	26	1	10	0	100
Gen X	64	27	4	5	1	100
Boomer	66	25	3	5	1	100
Silent+	48	19	8	20	5	100
Total	62	25	3	9	1	100

Question Ordering

- Introduction
 - introIntroductory screen
 - consent18 or older and consent
- Approval
 - approve_trumpTrump job approval
 - approve_cooperCooper job approval
 - approve_tillisTillis job approval
 - approve_burrBurr job approval
 - approve_congressCongress job approval
 - approve_ncgaNCGA job approval
- Politicians
 - coopervsmccroryCooper vs. McCrory better job
 - trumpvsobamaTrump vs. Obama better job
 - trumpconsistencyHas Trump kept campaign promises
 - trumpmediaenemyIs media the enemy of Americans
 - trumptwitterTrump using Twitter appropriately
 - bannonFavor Bannon
 - ivankaFavor Ivanka
 - kushnerFavor Kushner
 - spicerFavor Spicer
- Issues
 - borderwallSupport border wall
 - healthcareBelieve ACA helping NC
 - repealreplaceRepeal and Replace
 - beerCraft beer distribution
 - smokeageRaising the smoking age
 - criminalageRaising age tried as an adult
 - hb2HB2 harmed national reputation
 - weed_medSupport medical marijuana
 - weed_recSupport recreational marijuana
 - gun_privateAllow concealed carry on private property
 - gun_campusAllow concealed carry on college campuses
 - coastWill climate change harm NC coast
- Foreign Affairs
 - syria_actionU.S. should take further action in Syria
 - syria_responsibilityU.S. has responsibility to intervene
 - syria_refugeesU.S. has responsibility to take in refugees
 - northkorea_nuclearSupport U.S. going to war with North Korea
 - northkorea_warWill U.S. go to war with North Korea
- Perceptions of Government
 - trust_fedTrust in federal government
 - trust_stateTrust in state government
 - trust_localTrust in local government

- townhall.....Important for reps to hold town halls
- value_trad.....Importance of traditional values
- value_scope.....Proper role for government
- global.....Views of global economy and NC
- Demographics
 - partyidParty Identification
 - partyidindParty ID Branch IND
 - ideo.....Ideology
 - educ.....Education
 - age.....Age
 - inc.....Income
 - inc_high.....Income High Probe
 - inc_low.....Income Low Probe
 - race.....Race
- Post-Interview Questions
 - sexInterviewer-assessed gender
 - accentHas southern accent

Methodological Information

Mode:Live Interviewer, Cell Phone and Landline
 PopulationRegistered Voters, North Carolina
 Sample:Voter Registration List, North Carolina
 Dates in the field:April 18-21,2016
 Sample Size:.....506
 Margin of Error:+/- 4.4%
 Confidence Level:95%
 Weighting Variables:Age, Race, and Sex, Registered Party Identification

Procedure

The Elon University Poll uses a random sample of North Carolina voters with telephones and wireless (cell) telephone numbers.

For the administration of surveys, the Elon University Poll uses CATI system software (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing). We attempt to reach each working telephone number in the sample up to three times. We only interview residents of North Carolina who are over 18. In compliance with FCC rules, each phone number was dialed manually by a human interviewer. An interview is complete only if a respondent progresses through the entire survey.

The Elon University Poll conducted the survey in English. Live interviewers called from 5:20 pm to 9:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, 4/18-4/20 and 4:10 pm to 8:10 pm on Friday 4/21.

Weighting

Weights were generated using a technique known as iterative proportional fitting, also known as raking. We typically weight results from the Elon University Poll on multiple demographic characteristics. In the case of this survey, our target population was registered voters in North Carolina.

The weight variables were race, gender, age and registered party identification. Each variable was weighted to match relative proportions of registered voters in North Carolina (active and inactive). These proportions were calculated from the NC SOBE voter file accessed on 4/17/17. Note that registered party differs significantly from self-identified party identification, which is more of a psychological attachment than a stable demographic.

Because the sample was from the voter registration list rather than a random digit dial, we did not weight on phone usage (as is our practice with RDD surveys), largely because CDC parameters of phone usage are reflective of the general population rather than registered voters alone. However, phone usage (reported in the topline) is roughly approximate CDC estimates for all North Carolina Residents.

Design Effects

The standard error of an estimate for a simple random sample is different from the standard error of an estimate based on a weighted sample. This is referred to as a design effect. For example the overall design effect for the final weights for the sample of *Registered Voters in North Carolina* was 1.094. So an adjusted margin of error for that sample that takes into account the design effect of a survey would be +/- 4.77 instead of +/- 4.36.

Support for Transparency

The Elon University Poll supports transparency in survey research and is a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative, which is a program promoting openness and transparency about survey research methods and operations among survey research professionals and the industry. All information about the Elon University Poll that we released to the public conforms to reporting conventions recommended by the American Association for Public Opinion Research and the National Council on Public Polls.

Question Construction and Question Order

In releasing survey results, the Elon University Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which respondents receive these questions. In some cases question ordering rotates to avoid biases. In an effort to provide neutral, non-biased questions, we attempt to observe conventional question wording and question order protocols in all of our polls. In order to avoid recency or primacy effects, we randomize candidate names and directional response options (e.g. support / oppose) within the text of each question. We pretest every questionnaire multiple times before entering the field.

Branching Questions

For questions with multiple response options, we often program our surveys to branch into a secondary probing question.

“Don’t Know” & “Refused” Response Options

All questions include an option for respondents to volunteer “Don’t Know” or to refuse. Unless otherwise noted, interviewers do not prompt “don’t know” responses.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Who pays for the Elon University Poll?**

Elon University fully funds the Elon University Poll. The poll operates under the auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences at Elon University, led by Dean Gabie Smith. The Elon University administration, led by Dr. Leo Lambert, president of the university, fully supports the Elon University Poll as part of its service to the community. Because of this generous support, the Elon University poll does not engage in any contract work. This permits the Elon University Poll to operate as a neutral, non-biased, non-partisan resource.

2. **Does the Elon University Poll favor a certain party?**

The Elon University Poll is an academic, non-partisan survey. We do not engage or work with any political candidates or parties. We employ best practices to ensure the results are not biased.

3. **Where do you get your numbers?**

We obtain a random sample of the North Carolina registered voter list from Survey Sample International (SSI). SSI enhances this list to provide up-to-date phone numbers for voters. In order to adjust for differing probabilities of completion by age, the sample was adjusted prior to making phone calls based on the likelihood of respondents of an age group to complete a survey.

4. **How many times do you call a number before giving up?**

We will attempt to call each working number up to three times before removing it from the sample.

5. **Do you call both cell phones and land lines?**

Yes. We use a mixed sample of both cell phones and landlines. In the case of this poll, our sample consisted of 56% cell phones and 44% landline phones.

6. **Do you report non-response rates?**

Yes. We report non-response rates based on AAPOR guidelines. The response rate for the April 18-21, 2017 poll was 8.3%. The response rate is calculated using the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) formula RR4.

7. **Do you weight the data?**

Yes. We apply weights to the data. An iterative proportional fitting algorithm generates weights based on North Carolina State Board of Election statistics.

8. **Do you randomize response options?**

Yes. We rotate the order of candidate names in all applicable questions. We also rotate order of text for other questions, such as those that include response options such as “more” and “less.” Furthermore, we rotate the order of some questions themselves if we suspect the order of a question could bias results.

9. **How are students involved in the Elon University Poll?**

Elon University students are involved with the survey as part of the University’s commitment to civic engagement and experiential learning where “students learn through doing.” Student interviewers receive training prior to engaging in interviewing. A team of student polling associates assists the directors with data collection.

The Elon University Poll Team



Dr. Jason Husser is Director of the Elon University Poll and Assistant Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University. Dr. Husser holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Vanderbilt University.



Kaye Usry is Interim Assistant Director of the Elon University Poll, Instructor in Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University, and a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Daniel Anderson is Vice President of Elon University Communications.



Owen Covington is Director of the Elon University News Bureau.

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