ELON POLL

North Carolina Attitudes after the Ninth District Election Decision

Survey of North Carolina Registered Voters

February 25th -27th, 2019

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Topline Results[1]

Familiarity with Scandal

"As you may know the North Carolina Board of Elections recently ordered a new election in the 9th Congressional district. The decision came after allegations of election fraud due to improper handling of absentee ballots by a campaign worker. How closely have you followed this story in the news?"

Not at all	124	13.20%
Only a little closely	262	27.80%
Somewhat closely	382	40.50%
Very closely	175	18.60%
N=	943	100.00%

Is Fraud a Problem?

"Do you think election fraud in North Carolina is a major problem, a minor problem, or not much of a problem at all?"

Not much of a problem at all	78	8.30%
Minor problem	386	40.90%
Major problem	479	50.80%
N=	943	100.00%

Confidence in Future Elections

"How confident are you that future elections in North Carolina will be fair?"

Not at all confident	207	21.90%
Somewhat confident	565	59.90%
Very confident	171	18.20%
N=	943	100.00%

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[1] These results are presented in the same order the questions were presented to respondents. Due to rounding, percents do not always sum to 100%

Should Harris Run?[2]

"Mark Harris is the candidate who hired the political operative at the center of the fraud investigation in the 9th district. Should Mark Harris run again in the new primary or should he stay out of the new election altogether?"

Run	183	22.70%
Stay out	486	60.10%
Don't Know	140	17.30%
N=	809	100.00%

Trust in Government

"On a scale from 0 to 100, what percent of the time do you think you can trust the state government in Raleigh?"

Mean response	56%
N=	943

Demographics

Age

"How old are you?"

18-29	170	18.00%
30-44	226	24.00%
45-64	311	33.00%
65 or older	236	25.00%
N=	943	100.00%

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[2] This question was asked of those who followed the news around this story at least a little closely. Harris announced he would not run in the election while the poll was in the field, on February 26th. Of the 809 responses to this question, 456 were collected on February 25th. Those results varied less than 2.5% from the total results presented above. It is unknowable whether those minor differences are due to sample differences or changes in attitudes.

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Race[3]

"What is your race?"

White	653	69.3%
Black	210	22.3%
Other	78	8.4%
N=	943	100%

Party Identification

"Are you a Democrat, Republican, Independent or something else?"

Democrat	335	35.50%
Republican	287	30.40%
Independent	294	31.20%
Something Else	27	2.90%
N=	943	100.00%

Education

"What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?"

Less than Bachelor	632	67%
Bachelor or Higher	311	33%
N=	943	100%

Income[4]

"Is your total household annual income above or below $48,256?"

Above $48,256	487	51.60%
Below $48,256	456	48.40%
N=	943	100.00%

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[3] The "other" category is collapsed; respondents were presented with many options.
[4] This is the median household income in North Carolina.

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Gender

"What is your gender?"

Male	437	46.30%
Female	506	53.70%
N=	943	100.00%

Registered Voter[5]

"Are you currently registered to vote in North Carolina?"

Yes	943	100.00%

Registered Party ID

"Are you registered to vote in North Carolina as a Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or Unaffiliated (Independent)?"

Republican	283	30.00%
Democrat	349	37.00%
Unaffiliated / Other	311	33.00%
N=	943	100.00%

County Density[6]

Rural	371.4477	39.4%
Suburban	236.5987	35.1%
Urban	334.9536	35.5%
N=	943	100.0%

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[5] Respondents who said they were not registered to vote were excluded from this report.

[6] Coded from ZIP code; see method section for further details.

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Crosstabulations

Familiarity with Scandal

"As you may know the North Carolina Board of Elections recently ordered a new election in the 9th Congressional district. The decision came after allegations of election fraud due to improper handling of absentee ballots by a campaign worker. How closely have you followed this story in the news?"

	Not at all	Only a little closely	Somewhat closely	Very closely	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican	10	33	42	15	100
Democrat	11	26	39	24	100
Other	18	25	41	16	100
White	12	29	42	17	100
Black	14	26	38	22	100
Other	19	23	33	25	100
Male	8	25	43	24	100
Female	17	30	39	13	100
Total	13	28	40	19	100

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Is Fraud a Problem?

"Do you think election fraud in North Carolina is a major problem, a minor problem, or not much of a problem at all?"

	Not much of a problem	Minor problem	Major problem	Total
	%	%	%	%
Republican	12	44	44	100
Democrat	6	33	61	100
Other	7	47	46	100
White	10	46	45	100
Black	6	30	64	100
Other	4	31	65	100
Following the story				
Not at all	22	41	37	100
Only a little closely	9	47	44	100
Somewhat closely	6	40	55	100
Very closely	4	34	62	100
Male	9	43	48	100
Female	8	39	53	100
Total	8	41	51	100

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Confidence in Future Elections

"How confident are you that future elections in North Carolina will be fair?"

	Not at all confident	Somewhat confident	Very confident	Total
	%	%	%	%
Republican	17	57	26	100
Democrat	25	59	16	100
Other	22	64	13	100
White	21	59	21	100
Black	24	64	12	100
Following the story				
Not at all	26	61	13	100
Only a little closely	23	60	16	100
Somewhat closely	20	63	17	100
Very closely	20	52	28	100
Male	19	59	22	100
Female	25	60	15	100
Total	22	60	18	100

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Should Harris Run?

"Mark Harris is the candidate who hired the political operative at the center of the fraud investigation in the 9th district. Should Mark Harris run again in the new primary or should he stay out of the new election altogether?"

	Run	Stay Out	Don't Know	Total
	%	%	%	%
Republican	33	46	21	100
Democrat	17	70	13	100
Other	19	62	19	100
White	25	57	17	100
Black	16	69	15	100
Following the story				
Not at all	NA	NA	NA	NA
Only a little closely	20	48	33	100
Somewhat closely	25	63	12	100
Very closely	22	73	5	100
Male	26	60	14	100
Female	20	60	20	100
Total	23	60	17	100

Methodological Information

Mode: Online
Population: North Carolina Registered Voters
Dates in the field: February 24-27, 2019
Sample Size: 943
Weighting Variables: Race, Gender, Age, Education, Rural/Urban/Suburban,
                         Registered Party
Credibility Interval   +/- 3.4%

Procedure
For this survey, the Elon University Poll used an online opt-in sample provided by Lucid, LLC. Respondents were recruited for this sample from many sample providers in the Lucid marketplace. Respondents received small amounts of compensation in exchange for their opinions. More information about the Lucid marketplace and quality tests are available here.

For the administration of the survey, the Elon University Poll used Qualtrics. We only included interviews in the final data if respondents spent a minimum length of time on the interview. A survey was considered complete only if a respondent progressed through the entire survey. Respondents were recruited to survey with generic description about issues in North Carolina.

Reported results are limited to respondents who self-identified as North Carolina registered voters. Quotas on race, sex and age were applied prior to survey commencement. Cases for this brief survey were deleted if respondent completed the survey in less than 1 minute, more than 20 minutes or with open-ended answers that clearly implied interviews were invalid.

Credibility Interval
Unlike a traditional random digit-dial telephone survey, online opt-in surveys do not have traditional margin of errors because they do not adhere to assumptions of random selection. To account for uncertainty inherent in any sample-based research design, we provide a credibility interval. More information about this technique can be found here. The credibility interval was calculated by inflating traditional confidence intervals by design effects. For the registered voter sample this means: $(1.055* 3.19) = 3.4$.

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.

Weighting Information

Weights for registered voters were calculated based on demographics calculated by Elon Poll staff from the NCSBE individual voter file or a large sample thereof.

Weights were generated in Stata using a technique known as iterative proportional fitting, also known as raking. The weight variable was calculated based on NCSBE data for age, race, sex, state region, county density and registered party id. NCSBE data does not provide estimates for education. As a result, we determined these parameters based on the all resident weighted values restricted to self-described registered voters.

County density is determined by translating self-report zip code into county using Census concordance files. We then label counties as rural, suburban or urban based on this map from the NC Rural Center.

		Population	Unweighted	Weighted
Sex	Male	46%	46.7%	46%
	Female	54%	53.3%	54%
County Density	Urban	39%	47.0%	39%
	Suburban	25%	25.5%	25%
	Rural	36%	27.5%	36%
Education	Less than BA's	67%	61.8%	67%
	BA's or higher	33%	38.2%	33%
Race	White	69.3%	69.7%	69.3%
	African American	22.3%	20.3%	22.3%
	Other	8.4%	10.0%	8.4%
Age	18-29	18%	19.0%	18%
	30-44	24%	30.0%	24%
	45-64	33%	32.1%	33%
	65+	25%	18.9%	25%
Party Registration	Republican	30%	32.2%	30%
	Democrat	38%	37.8%	38%
	Other	32%	30.0%	32%

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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. Connie Ledoux Book, 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. **Did you weight the data?**

   Yes. We apply weights to the data. For this survey, we generated results using raking based on NCSBE voter registration data.

4. **What did respondents know about the survey before agreeing to take the survey?**

   During survey recruitment, respondents saw a title that the survey was about higher education. In the introductory screen, respondents read, "We are hoping to understand what aspects of the college experience matter most for life outcomes."
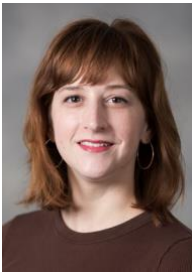
5. **What are the advantages and disadvantages of online opt-in surveys over traditional random-digital dial surveys?**

   Traditional telephone surveys have a clear advantage over online surveys such as this in that assumptions of equal probability of selection are more appropriate. Furthermore, online surveys do not capture opinions of respondents who lack internet access. However, our opinion is that declining telephone response rates and the growth in online sample pool sizes have narrowed quality differences between the two modes. In the case of this survey, we hoped to capture opinions related to a breaking news item. Our on-campus call center was engaged in another project preventing timely response using our typical telephone method. Additional information about opt-in surveys in general is available from AAPOR and the Pew Research Center.

The Elon University Poll Team

Dr. Jason Husser is Director of the Elon University Poll and Associate Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University. Dr. Husser holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Vanderbilt University. He researches American political behavior and survey methodology.

Dr. Kaye Usry is Assistant Director of the Elon University Poll and Assistant Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University. In 2017, she completed her doctoral research and in 2018, she received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research interests are in American politics and political psychology.

Owen Covington is Director of the Elon University News Bureau. A native North Carolinian, Owen Covington joined the staff of Elon University in 2016 after spending 17 years in the field of journalism as a reporter and editor for daily and weekly news outlets in North Carolina and Kentucky. As director of the Elon University News Bureau, Covington oversees the promotion of Elon and its students, faculty and staff both through stories told across Elon's media channels as well as through interactions with state, national and international media. He is involved in media relations, including responding to requests from print, digital and broadcast media outlets, and works to promote content generated by a variety of Elon news sources.

For more information on the Elon University Poll visit elon.edu/elonpoll or contact:
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