



ELON POLL

Election Confidence in North Carolina

Produced in partnership with
The Charlotte Observer, The Durham Herald-Sun & The Raleigh News & Observer

Survey of N.C. Registered Voters
October 22-24, 2020

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About This Survey

The Elon University Poll conducted a representative online survey of 1,259 registered voters in North Carolina from October 22-24, 2020.

The results have a credibility interval of +/- 3 percentage points. Unless otherwise noted, results reported below are percentages (%) and sample sizes (N).

This survey's questionnaire explored attitudes related to the upcoming 2020 presidential election.

We repeated several questions about election integrity that we asked in our [February 2020](#) survey of North Carolina residents. Where appropriate, we include the results from this past survey as a point of comparison in the topline report below.

For highlights and interpretation of the key findings from this survey, please see the press release associated with this report.

Topline Results

Confidence in Election Process

How confident are you that each of the following statements will be true about the 2020 election?

“The election process overall will be fair.”

	%	N	Feb 2020
Very confident	24	304	18
Somewhat confident	45	562	34
Only a little confident	22	281	23
Not at all confident	9	110	25
Total	100	1258	100

“Votes will be counted properly.”

	%	N	Feb 2020
Very confident	24	303	22
Somewhat confident	43	542	35
Only a little confident	23	287	23
Not at all confident	10	124	20
Total	100	1257	100

“Only legally eligible voters will be able to vote.”

	%	N	Feb 2020
Very confident	39	486	32
Somewhat confident	32	403	31
Only a little confident	17	209	15
Not at all confident	13	160	22
Total	100	1257	100



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“Legally eligible voters will be able to vote without running into any problems.”

	%	N	Feb 2020
Very confident	32	400	31
Somewhat confident	45	564	37
Only a little confident	16	204	16
Not at all confident	7	86	15
Total	100	1254	100

“Foreign governments won’t be able to affect the election’s outcome.”

	%	N	Feb 2020
Very confident	20	248	20
Somewhat confident	37	469	25
Only a little confident	27	335	21
Not at all confident	16	204	33
Total	100	1256	100

“Most Americans will accept the results of this year’s presidential election.”

	%	N
Very confident	19	240
Somewhat confident	37	460
Only a little confident	27	342
Not at all confident	17	217
Total	100	1259

“President Trump will accept the results of the election as valid.”

	%	N
Very confident	18	226
Somewhat confident	25	313
Only a little confident	21	264
Not at all confident	36	456
Total	100	1259

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“Vice President Biden will accept the results of the election as valid.”

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Very confident	36	450
Somewhat confident	31	394
Only a little confident	19	240
Not at all confident	14	172
Total	100	1256

Concerns About the Election

“How concerned are you about mail-in voting leading to election fraud?”

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Very concerned	33	420
Somewhat concerned	30	371
Only a little concerned	18	222
Not at all concerned	20	245
Total	100	1258

“How concerned are you about mail-in ballots getting rejected?”

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Very concerned	29	365
Somewhat concerned	41	510
Only a little concerned	21	260
Not at all concerned	10	123
Total	100	1258

“How concerned are you about voters being intimidated or harassed when going to vote?”

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Very concerned	21	268
Somewhat concerned	31	385
Only a little concerned	25	311
Not at all concerned	23	293
Total	100	1257



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“How concerned are you about the spread of COVID-19 from in-person voting?”

	%	N
Very concerned	24	301
Somewhat concerned	31	384
Only a little concerned	25	313
Not at all concerned	21	260
Total	100	1257

“How concerned are you about violence breaking out after the election?”

	%	N
Very concerned	38	483
Somewhat concerned	36	457
Only a little concerned	17	219
Not at all concerned	8	99
Total	100	1257

Other Election Integrity Issues

“Will you personally accept the results of the presidential election as valid, regardless of who wins and who loses?”

	%	N	Oct 2016
Yes	63	795	83
No	4	48	9
It depends	33	412	8 (volunteered)
Total	100	1255	100

“When do you expect to know who won the presidential election?”

	%	N
On Election Day itself	33	419
Several days after	41	511
More than a week after	19	237
More than a month after	7	89
Total	100	1256

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“How confident are you in the ability of public opinion polls to predict the outcome of the 2020 presidential election?”

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Very confident	12	154
Somewhat confident	32	404
Only a little confident	30	370
Not at all confident	26	327
Total	100	1255

“If a dispute about the 2020 election goes to the United States Supreme Court, how much do you trust the court to determine the outcome?”

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
A great deal	25	315
Somewhat	41	513
Only a little	20	254
Not at all	13	166
Total	100	1249

“Compared with the 2016 election, are you paying more or less attention to news about the 2020 election?”

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
More attention in 2020	65	814
Less attention in 2020	11	143
About the same amount	24	296
Total	100	1253

“If you could choose, would you prefer if the United States elected the president based on a national popular vote or based on the current Electoral College system?”

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
National popular vote	51	647
Electoral College	29	369
It depends	19	242
Total	100	1258

Vote Method

Note: Respondents were asked a series of questions in order to create this variable, for the crosstabulations later in this report.

	%	N
One-stop early voting	32	400
Voted using mail-in ballot	11	133
Not yet voted	58	725
Total	100	1259

[if already voted]

“How satisfied were you by your experience with the voting process this year?”

	%	N
Extremely satisfied	68	445
Somewhat satisfied	22	143
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	49
Somewhat dissatisfied	2	13
Extremely dissatisfied	1	3
Total	100	653

Demographics¹

County Density²

	%	N
Rural	39	486
Suburban	25	316
Urban	36	457
Total	100	1259

Age

	%	N
18 to 24	11	138
25 to 44	33	415
45 to 64	33	415
65+	23	290
Total	100	1259

¹ Some demographic response options were collapsed for reporting and display purposes.

² County type was determined according to classifications created by the [NC Rural Center](#).

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Gender

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Male	46	578
Female	54	681
Total	100	1259

Race

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
White (non-Hispanic)	64	806
Black	21	259
Other	15	194
Total	100	1259

Education

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Less than Bachelor's	62	781
Bachelor's or higher	38	478
Total	100	1259

Party Identification

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Republican	30	380
Neither	34	429
Democrat	36	449
Total	100	1259

Note: This is self-reported party identification.

Crosstabulations

Note: In this section of the report, the numbers reported are row percentages, and comparisons can be made within columns. Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Caution is warranted when interpreting differences in the crosstabulations. Sub-group sample sizes are smaller, and therefore the credibility intervals for these estimates are wider.

Confidence in Election Process

“The election process overall will be fair.”

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Only a little confident	Not at all confident
18 to 24	11	38	34	16
25 to 44	28	43	22	7
45 to 64	25	45	22	9
65+	25	49	18	8
Republican	29	44	18	9
Neither	18	42	28	12
Democrat	26	48	20	5
White	25	45	22	7
Black	21	45	22	13
Other	25	43	23	9
Rural	21	43	27	9
Suburban	30	42	18	10
Urban	23	48	21	8
Male	33	44	16	7
Female	17	45	28	10
One-Stop voter	25	47	22	6
Mail-in voter	43	40	13	5
Not yet voted	20	44	24	11
Total	24	45	22	9



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“Votes will be counted properly.”

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Only a little confident	Not at all confident
18 to 24	14	31	37	19
25 to 44	27	42	23	8
45 to 64	24	46	20	9
65+	25	46	20	10
Republican	26	42	20	11
Neither	19	38	30	14
Democrat	28	49	19	5
White	24	43	24	9
Black	23	46	20	12
Other	25	39	24	13
Rural	20	43	26	10
Suburban	30	42	18	11
Urban	25	44	23	9
Male	31	42	19	7
Female	18	44	26	12
One-Stop voter	26	45	21	8
Mail-in voter	42	40	13	4
Not yet voted	20	42	25	12
Total	24	43	23	10



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“Only legally eligible voters will be able to vote.”

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Only a little confident	Not at all confident
18 to 24	39	31	16	14
25 to 44	46	33	16	5
45 to 64	38	31	17	14
65+	28	33	17	21
Republican	28	31	23	18
Neither	31	31	21	18
Democrat	55	34	8	4
White	34	33	18	15
Black	52	32	10	6
Other	39	29	20	13
Rural	33	33	19	15
Suburban	39	34	15	12
Urban	45	29	15	10
Male	41	31	13	15
Female	37	33	19	10
One-Stop voter	38	32	16	15
Mail-in voter	58	27	9	6
Not yet voted	36	33	18	13
Total	39	32	17	13



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“Legally eligible voters will be able to vote without running into any problems.”

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Only a little confident	Not at all confident
18 to 24	22	36	28	14
25 to 44	33	45	16	6
45 to 64	29	51	14	6
65+	40	41	13	6
Republican	37	47	10	7
Neither	27	45	21	7
Democrat	33	44	17	7
White	34	46	15	6
Black	28	44	20	8
Other	30	43	18	10
Rural	30	46	18	6
Suburban	32	46	16	6
Urban	33	43	15	8
Male	37	43	15	5
Female	28	47	17	8
One-Stop voter	36	45	13	6
Mail-in voter	42	40	12	5
Not yet voted	28	46	19	7
Total	32	45	16	7



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“Foreign governments won’t be able to affect the election’s outcome.”

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Only a little confident	Not at all confident
18 to 24	15	32	28	24
25 to 44	23	37	27	12
45 to 64	17	39	28	16
65+	20	38	23	18
Republican	27	42	21	11
Neither	16	37	27	20
Democrat	18	34	31	17
White	20	39	27	14
Black	15	37	26	22
Other	24	32	27	17
Rural	21	37	22	20
Suburban	19	41	27	13
Urban	19	35	31	15
Male	26	39	21	15
Female	15	36	31	18
One-Stop voter	20	35	28	17
Mail-in voter	29	28	27	16
Not yet voted	18	40	26	16
Total	20	37	27	16



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“Most Americans will accept the results of this year’s presidential election.”

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Only a little confident	Not at all confident
18 to 24	13	21	33	33
25 to 44	22	36	25	17
45 to 64	17	40	27	17
65+	21	40	27	11
Republican	22	37	24	16
Neither	13	33	32	22
Democrat	22	40	25	14
White	19	35	29	17
Black	20	41	23	16
Other	19	36	26	19
Rural	21	32	27	20
Suburban	15	40	31	14
Urban	19	39	25	16
Male	25	37	24	14
Female	14	36	30	20
One-Stop voter	21	35	29	15
Mail-in voter	29	40	20	10
Not yet voted	16	37	27	20
Total	19	37	27	17



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“President Trump will accept the results of the election as valid.”

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Only a little confident	Not at all confident
18 to 24	11	16	20	53
25 to 44	18	24	20	38
45 to 64	18	24	23	35
65+	20	31	21	28
Republican	33	43	15	9
Neither	16	22	20	42
Democrat	7	13	26	54
White	20	31	21	27
Black	7	13	23	56
Other	23	13	17	47
Rural	22	29	17	32
Suburban	19	26	22	33
Urban	13	20	24	43
Male	24	26	19	31
Female	13	24	23	40
One-Stop voter	18	27	19	36
Mail-in voter	18	21	23	37
Not yet voted	18	25	22	36
Total	18	25	21	36



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“Vice President Biden will accept the results of the election as valid.”

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Only a little confident	Not at all confident
18 to 24	37	29	25	9
25 to 44	34	35	19	11
45 to 64	35	33	18	14
65+	38	25	18	18
Republican	18	36	24	22
Neither	29	28	25	18
Democrat	57	30	9	3
White	32	31	19	17
Black	46	35	11	7
Other	36	27	28	10
Rural	30	33	21	16
Suburban	38	31	17	15
Urban	40	30	19	11
Male	38	31	15	16
Female	34	32	22	12
One-Stop voter	39	30	18	13
Mail-in voter	53	26	12	9
Not yet voted	31	33	21	15
Total	36	31	19	14

Concerns About the Election

“How concerned are you about mail-in voting leading to election fraud?”

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Only a little concerned	Not at all concerned
18 to 24	28	32	26	14
25 to 44	32	35	20	13
45 to 64	33	29	15	23
65+	38	21	15	27
Republican	48	34	12	7
Neither	29	28	21	22
Democrat	26	27	20	28
White	35	29	16	19
Black	31	28	18	23
Other	30	32	24	15
Rural	37	31	17	16
Suburban	30	30	17	24
Urban	32	28	19	21
Male	34	29	14	23
Female	33	30	21	16
One-Stop voter	34	27	15	23
Mail-in voter	22	21	21	36
Not yet voted	35	32	18	14
Total	33	29	18	19



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“How concerned are you about mail-in ballots getting rejected?”

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Only a little concerned	Not at all concerned
18 to 24	32	40	19	9
25 to 44	25	42	23	11
45 to 64	31	40	20	10
65+	32	40	19	9
Republican	32	40	19	9
Neither	25	42	23	11
Democrat	31	40	20	10
White	27	40	23	10
Black	34	42	16	8
Other	30	41	18	11
Rural	31	39	20	10
Suburban	27	43	19	10
Urban	28	40	22	9
Male	27	40	22	12
Female	31	41	19	8
One-Stop voter	31	42	19	7
Mail-in voter	26	32	28	14
Not yet voted	28	41	20	10
Total	29	41	21	10



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“How concerned are you about voters being intimidated or harassed when going to vote?”

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Only a little concerned	Not at all concerned
18 to 24	41	39	11	9
25 to 44	26	35	19	20
45 to 64	16	30	29	24
65+	11	23	32	34
Republican	20	25	26	29
Neither	18	31	24	26
Democrat	25	35	25	15
White	17	30	27	27
Black	28	35	20	17
Other	31	30	22	18
Rural	20	29	26	26
Suburban	23	34	24	19
Urban	22	30	24	23
Male	19	29	26	26
Female	23	32	23	21
One-Stop voter	19	29	28	25
Mail-in voter	28	28	24	19
Not yet voted	22	32	23	23
Total	21	31	25	23



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“How concerned are you about the spread of COVID-19 from in-person voting?”

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Only a little concerned	Not at all concerned
18 to 24	32	37	18	13
25 to 44	33	34	21	13
45 to 64	21	29	26	25
65+	12	26	33	30
Republican	18	25	29	28
Neither	19	28	25	28
Democrat	33	38	21	8
White	20	30	26	24
Black	36	33	22	9
Other	26	28	24	21
Rural	24	29	23	24
Suburban	22	33	27	18
Urban	26	31	25	19
Male	22	29	22	27
Female	25	32	28	16
One-Stop voter	17	29	27	28
Mail-in voter	38	36	16	10
Not yet voted	25	31	26	18
Total	24	31	25	21



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“How concerned are you about violence breaking out after the election?”

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Only a little concerned	Not at all concerned
18 to 24	52	35	9	5
25 to 44	39	36	16	8
45 to 64	36	36	19	8
65+	34	37	21	9
Republican	40	38	17	5
Neither	38	38	16	9
Democrat	38	34	19	9
White	38	38	17	7
Black	36	34	17	13
Other	44	31	20	5
Rural	40	35	16	9
Suburban	34	37	22	7
Urban	40	37	16	7
Male	34	37	19	10
Female	42	35	16	6
One-Stop voter	39	38	17	6
Mail-in voter	35	38	18	9
Not yet voted	39	35	18	9
Total	38	36	17	8

Other Election Integrity Issues

“Will you personally accept the results of the presidential election as valid?”

	Yes	No	It depends
18 to 24	58	8	34
25 to 44	68	6	25
45 to 64	60	2	38
65+	64	1	36
Republican	65	4	30
Neither	58	4	38
Democrat	67	3	30
White	64	3	33
Black	61	4	35
Other	64	6	30
Rural	67	4	29
Suburban	64	3	33
Urban	59	4	37
Male	66	3	31
Female	61	5	34
One-Stop voter	63	2	34
Mail-in voter	70	3	27
Not yet voted	62	5	33
Total	63	4	33



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“When do you expect to know who won the presidential election?”

	On Election Day	Several days after	More than a week after	More than a month after
18 to 24	41	39	16	4
25 to 44	41	40	14	5
45 to 64	31	40	20	9
65+	22	42	26	10
Republican	33	36	21	10
Neither	28	44	20	8
Democrat	39	41	16	4
White	28	42	21	9
Black	46	41	10	3
Other	38	37	21	4
Rural	35	41	16	8
Suburban	34	40	21	6
Urban	31	41	20	7
Male	32	39	20	8
Female	34	42	18	6
One-Stop voter	29	44	19	8
Mail-in voter	30	39	27	4
Not yet voted	36	39	17	7
Total	33	41	19	7



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“How confident are you in the ability of public opinion polls to predict the outcome of the 2020 presidential election?”

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Only a little confident	Not at all confident
18 to 24	18	31	33	18
25 to 44	20	40	26	14
45 to 64	10	32	29	29
65+	2	22	34	42
Republican	16	25	23	36
Neither	6	25	37	31
Democrat	15	45	28	12
White	11	30	30	30
Black	17	36	29	17
Other	13	36	29	22
Rural	13	29	29	29
Suburban	11	36	26	27
Urban	12	33	33	22
Male	15	29	25	31
Female	10	35	33	21
One-Stop voter	12	27	30	31
Mail-in voter	20	36	29	15
Not yet voted	11	34	29	25
Total	12	32	29	26



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“If a dispute about the 2020 election goes to the United States Supreme Court, how much do you trust the court to determine the outcome?”

	A great deal	Somewhat	Only a little	Not at all
18 to 24	18	42	25	15
25 to 44	24	47	19	10
45 to 64	24	41	21	14
65+	33	32	19	16
Republican	40	44	14	3
Neither	20	41	24	15
Democrat	18	39	22	20
White	27	42	20	11
Black	17	40	22	21
Other	27	40	19	14
Rural	27	41	21	11
Suburban	23	45	21	10
Urban	24	39	19	18
Male	33	39	15	14
Female	19	43	25	13
One-Stop voter	28	39	19	14
Mail-in voter	24	40	18	18
Not yet voted	24	43	21	12
Total	25	41	20	13



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“Compared with the 2016 election, are you paying more or less attention to news about the 2020 election?”

	More attention	Less attention	About the same
18 to 24	60	19	21
25 to 44	69	13	18
45 to 64	61	10	28
65+	66	7	27
Republican	63	12	25
Neither	56	11	33
Democrat	76	11	13
White	64	10	26
Black	73	11	16
Other	58	17	24
Rural	61	13	26
Suburban	68	11	21
Urban	67	10	23
Male	65	9	26
Female	65	13	22
One-Stop voter	68	9	24
Mail-in voter	67	9	23
Not yet voted	63	13	24
Total	65	11	24



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“If you could choose, would you prefer if the United States elected the president based on a national popular vote or based on the current Electoral College system?”

	National popular vote	Electoral College	It depends
18 to 24	46	25	29
25 to 44	56	19	24
45 to 64	51	33	17
65+	48	41	11
Republican	32	48	20
Neither	44	31	25
Democrat	75	12	13
White	49	34	17
Black	62	14	24
Other	47	31	22
Rural	47	32	21
Suburban	50	30	19
Urban	57	26	17
Male	50	38	12
Female	53	22	25
One-Stop voter	51	34	15
Mail-in voter	67	19	14
Not yet voted	49	28	23
Total	51	29	19

 **ELON** POLL**Vote Method**

	One-Stop	Mail-in	Not yet voted
18 to 24	28	10	62
25 to 44	20	9	71
45 to 64	34	10	56
65+	46	14	40
Republican	34	8	57
Neither	30	8	62
Democrat	32	15	53
White	32	10	58
Black	35	10	54
Other	27	12	62
Rural	33	10	57
Suburban	31	11	59
Urban	32	11	57
Male	34	12	54
Female	30	9	61
Total	32	11	58



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[if already voted]

“How satisfied were you by your experience with the voting process this year?”

	Extremely satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither	Somewhat dis-satisfied	Extremely dis-satisfied
18 to 24	34	39	22	4	1
25 to 44	67	19	11	2	1
45 to 64	72	23	4	1	0
65+	75	18	4	2	0
Republican	68	25	5	2	0
Neither	70	15	10	4	1
Democrat	67	25	8	0	0
White	72	20	5	2	0
Black	65	22	11	1	0
Other	54	31	13	2	1
Rural	69	20	8	2	1
Suburban	66	23	8	3	0
Urban	68	23	7	1	0
Male	74	19	5	2	0
Female	62	25	10	2	1
One-Stop voter	74	19	5	2	0
Mail-in voter	62	25	10	2	1
Total	68	22	7	2	0

Methodological Information

Mode:	Online
Population:	N.C. Registered Voters
Dates in the field:	October 23-25, 2020
Sample Size:	1259
Credibility Interval	+/- 3 %
Weighting Variables (NC):	Age, Sex, Race, County Density, Education, Party Registration, and Vote Method

Procedure

The Elon University Poll used an online sample provided by Lucid, LLC. Respondents were recruited for this sample from many sample providers in the Lucid marketplace and received small amounts of compensation in exchange for their opinions. The survey was not an open-linked posted on social media, but rather was by direct invitation to a very large national pool of people who agree to take online surveys. More information about the Lucid marketplace and quality tests are available [here](#). Quotas on race, Hispanic ethnicity, sex, and age were applied prior to online survey commencement.

Online interviews were included in the final dataset if respondents spent a minimum length of time on the interview and particular sections, and if a respondent progressed through the entire survey. Open-ended online responses were individually inspected by the poll directors, who then deleted thirteen cases that were invalid. Respondents were recruited to the survey with a generic description about coronavirus.

Credibility Interval

Unlike a traditional random digit-dial telephone survey, online surveys do not have traditional margin of errors. Nonprobability quota samples like these 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 a design effect calculated using the squared sum of weights. For this North Carolina sample, this means: $(1.076 * 2.76 = 2.97)$. We round these values up for presentation of results. As with all surveys, total survey error often exceeds sampling error.

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 release 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 were generated in Stata using a technique known as iterative proportional fitting, also known as raking. The weight variable was calculated based on all of the variables in the table below.

Population values for age, sex, race and ethnicity, and county density were obtained from the North Carolina State Board of Elections full file of voters accessed on 10/24/2020. Vote method is based on returns as of 10/24/2020. Education was estimated from the U.S. Census.

	Population %	Unweighted %	Weighted %
18-24	11	10	11
25-44	33	36	33
45-64	33	37	33
65+	23	17	23
Male	46	46	46
Female	54	54	54
White (Non-Hispanic)	64	70	64
Black	21	19	21
Other	15	11	15
One-Stop	32	31	32
Mail-in	11	21	11
Not Yet Voted	58	48	58
< Bachelor's	68	59	68
Bachelor's or more	32	41	32
Rural County	39	42	39
Suburban	25	25	25
Urban	36	34	36
Republican	30	34	30
Neither	34	31	34
Democrat	36	35	36

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 research organization. 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 U.S. Census data and the N.C. State Board of Elections public voter file, accessed on October 24, 2020. For more details, see the Weighting Information above.

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of online surveys over traditional random-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. An online survey enabled us to quickly gather a large enough sample size to make inferences about the U.S. population. Additionally, like many college students, our student survey interviewers are not on campus at this time.

Additional information about opt-in surveys in general is available from AAPOR and the [Pew Research Center](#).

About The Elon University Poll

The Elon University Poll conducts statewide, regional, and national surveys on issues of importance to North Carolinians as well as other states. Information from these polls is shared with media, citizens and public officials to facilitate informed public policy making through the better understanding of citizens' opinions and attitudes.



[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.



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[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

If you have specific questions about this poll, you can reach the directors of the poll via email (jhusser at elon dot edu & kusry at elon dot edu).

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