

 **ELON** POLL**North Carolina Opinions about Trump Impeachment and Approval of Biden and Cooper**

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

Survey of North Carolina Adults
January 29-31, 2021

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About This Survey

The Elon University Poll conducted a representative online survey of 1,455 in North Carolina from Jan 29-31, 2021.

The overall results have a credibility interval of +/- 2.7 percentage points. Unless otherwise noted, results reported below are percentages (%) and sample sizes (N).

This survey's questionnaire explored attitudes related to marijuana legalization, impeachment and COVID-19 vaccination. This report is focused on impeachment and approval rating questions from that survey.

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

Topline Results

Impeachment and Approval Ratings

Biden Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Joe Biden is doing as President?

| | % | N |
|-------------------|-----|------|
| Approve | 49 | 716 |
| Disapprove | 33 | 476 |
| Don't Know | 18 | 263 |
| Total | 100 | 1455 |

Cooper Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Roy Cooper is doing as Governor?

| | % | N |
|-------------------|-----|------|
| Approve | 52 | 750 |
| Disapprove | 31 | 452 |
| Don't Know | 17 | 253 |
| Total | 100 | 1454 |

Trump Responsibility

How responsible do you think former President Trump is for the violence at the Capitol Building on January 6th?

| | % | N |
|----------------------------------|-----|------|
| Very responsible | 42 | 615 |
| Somewhat responsible | 17 | 241 |
| Only a little responsible | 14 | 197 |
| Not at all responsible | 28 | 399 |
| Total | 100 | 1453 |

 **ELON** POLL*Impeachment*

Do you support or oppose the impeachment proceedings against former President Trump?

| | % | N |
|-------------------|-----|------|
| Support | 47 | 678 |
| Oppose | 43 | 630 |
| Don't Know | 10 | 143 |
| Total | 100 | 1451 |

2024 Ban

If convicted by the U.S. Senate, Donald Trump could be banned from running for president again in 2024. Do you support or oppose the Senate prohibiting Donald Trump from running in the future?

| | % | N |
|-------------------|-----|------|
| Support | 51 | 738 |
| Oppose | 40 | 583 |
| Don't Know | 9 | 132 |
| Total | 100 | 1453 |

Demographics¹

Gender

| | % | N |
|---------------|-----|------|
| Male | 48 | 698 |
| Female | 52 | 757 |
| Total | 100 | 1455 |

Age

| | % | N |
|-----------------|-----|------|
| 18 to 24 | 13 | 183 |
| 25 to 44 | 34 | 492 |
| 45 to 64 | 34 | 496 |
| 65+ | 20 | 284 |
| Total | 100 | 1455 |

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

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Education

| | % | N |
|----------------------------|-----|------|
| Less than Bachelors | 70 | 1018 |
| Bachelors or Higher | 30 | 437 |
| Total | 100 | 1455 |

Race

| | % | N |
|--------------|-----|------|
| White | 67 | 975 |
| Black | 21 | 306 |
| Other | 12 | 175 |
| Total | 100 | 1455 |

Party Identification²

| | % | N |
|-------------------|-----|------|
| Republican | 30 | 437 |
| Neither | 35 | 509 |
| Democrat | 35 | 509 |
| Total | 100 | 1455 |

County Density³

| | % | N |
|-----------------|-----|------|
| Rural | 39 | 573 |
| Suburban | 25 | 365 |
| Urban | 36 | 517 |
| Total | 100 | 1455 |

² Self-identified.

³ County type was determined according to classifications created by the [NC Rural Center](#).

Question Order

[Results for this survey are contained in three separate reports]

1. Have you already taken a COVID-19 vaccine?
2. Do you plan to take a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you?
3. How worried are you about side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine?
4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state government in North Carolina has handled COVID-19 vaccine distribution
5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the federal government in Washington has handled COVID-19 vaccine distribution
6. Have you attempted to get a COVID-19 vaccine?
7. Why were you unable to get the COVID-19 vaccine?
8. How easy or difficult was your experience of getting the COVID-19 vaccine?
9. What is the most important reason why you said "{piped text}" about intending to take a COVID-19 vaccine?
10. Do you oppose or support the legalization of marijuana, for medical purposes, in North Carolina?
11. Do you oppose or support the legalization of marijuana, for recreational use, in North Carolina?
12. Would you support or oppose reducing penalties for marijuana in North Carolina? This could involve treating marijuana possession as a civil offense such as a minor traffic violation rather than a criminal punishment.
13. Is marijuana as a “gateway drug” that leads to the use of “hard drugs” like heroin or cocaine?
14. Would legalizing marijuana help or hurt the economy in North Carolina?
15. Would vehicle accidents increase or decrease if marijuana was legalized?
16. Is it morally wrong to use marijuana?
17. Would crime increase or decrease if marijuana was legalized?
18. Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Joe Biden is doing as President?
19. Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Roy Cooper is doing as Governor?
20. How responsible do you think former President Trump is for the violence at the Capitol Building on January 6th?
21. Do you support or oppose the impeachment proceedings against former President Trump?
22. If convicted by the U.S. Senate, Donald Trump could be banned from running for president again in 2024. Do you support or oppose the Senate prohibiting Donald Trump from running in the future?

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.

Biden Approval

“Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Joe Biden is doing as President?”

| | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | % | % | % | % |
| Less than Bachelors | 45 | 35 | 20 | 100 |
| Bachelors or Higher | 60 | 27 | 13 | 100 |
| 18 to 24 | 54 | 24 | 22 | 100 |
| 25 to 44 | 51 | 29 | 20 | 100 |
| 45 to 64 | 45 | 35 | 20 | 100 |
| 65+ | 50 | 41 | 9 | 100 |
| Republican | 14 | 70 | 16 | 100 |
| Neither | 42 | 29 | 29 | 100 |
| Democrat | 87 | 5 | 9 | 100 |
| White | 40 | 42 | 18 | 100 |
| Black | 73 | 11 | 16 | 100 |
| Other | 58 | 21 | 21 | 100 |
| Registered Voter | 50 | 33 | 16 | 100 |
| Male | 48 | 35 | 17 | 100 |
| Female | 50 | 31 | 19 | 100 |
| Overall | 49 | 33 | 18 | 100 |

Cooper Approval

“Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Roy Cooper is doing as Governor?”

| | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | % | % | % | % |
| Less than Bachelors | 46 | 33 | 21 | 100 |
| Bachelors or Higher | 64 | 28 | 9 | 100 |
| 18 to 24 | 40 | 24 | 35 | 100 |
| 25 to 44 | 52 | 30 | 19 | 100 |
| 45 to 64 | 53 | 34 | 13 | 100 |
| 65+ | 56 | 32 | 12 | 100 |
| Republican | 29 | 60 | 11 | 100 |
| Neither | 46 | 30 | 25 | 100 |
| Democrat | 77 | 7 | 16 | 100 |
| White | 47 | 38 | 15 | 100 |
| Black | 64 | 14 | 22 | 100 |
| Other | 55 | 21 | 24 | 100 |
| Registered Voter | 54 | 32 | 15 | 100 |
| Male | 51 | 35 | 14 | 100 |
| Female | 52 | 27 | 21 | 100 |
| Overall | 52 | 31 | 17 | 100 |



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January 6 Responsibility

“How responsible do you think former President Trump is for the violence at the Capitol Building on January 6th?”

| | <u>Very responsible</u> % | <u>Somewhat responsible</u> % | <u>Only a little responsible</u> % | <u>Not at all responsible</u> % | <u>Total</u> % |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Less than Bachelors | 39 | 16 | 14 | 30 | 100 |
| Bachelors or Higher | 49 | 18 | 12 | 21 | 100 |
| 18 to 24 | 40 | 26 | 17 | 17 | 100 |
| 25 to 44 | 40 | 21 | 13 | 26 | 100 |
| 45 to 64 | 43 | 13 | 13 | 32 | 100 |
| 65+ | 46 | 9 | 15 | 30 | 100 |
| Republican | 9 | 14 | 21 | 55 | 100 |
| Neither | 39 | 23 | 14 | 24 | 100 |
| Democrat | 74 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 100 |
| White | 35 | 16 | 15 | 34 | 100 |
| Black | 66 | 14 | 9 | 12 | 100 |
| Other | 44 | 24 | 13 | 19 | 100 |
| Registered Voter | 43 | 16 | 14 | 27 | 100 |
| Male | 42 | 17 | 15 | 27 | 100 |
| Female | 43 | 16 | 12 | 28 | 100 |
| Overall | 42 | 17 | 14 | 27 | 100 |



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Impeachment

“Do you support or oppose the impeachment proceedings against former President Trump?”

| | <u>Support</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | % | % | % | % |
| Less than Bachelors | 44 | 45 | 11 | 100 |
| Bachelors or Higher | 54 | 40 | 6 | 100 |
| 18 to 24 | 51 | 31 | 18 | 100 |
| 25 to 44 | 47 | 40 | 14 | 100 |
| 45 to 64 | 45 | 48 | 7 | 100 |
| 65+ | 47 | 50 | 3 | 100 |
| Republican | 11 | 84 | 5 | 100 |
| Neither | 45 | 39 | 16 | 100 |
| Democrat | 79 | 13 | 8 | 100 |
| White | 38 | 54 | 8 | 100 |
| Black | 71 | 17 | 12 | 100 |
| Other | 54 | 31 | 15 | 100 |
| Registered Voter | 47 | 44 | 9 | 100 |
| Male | 44 | 47 | 9 | 100 |
| Female | 49 | 40 | 10 | 100 |
| Overall | 47 | 43 | 10 | 100 |

Methodological Information

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Mode: | Online |
| Population: | North Carolina Adult Residents |
| Dates in the field: | December 4-6, 2021 |
| Sample Size: | 1,455 |
| Credibility Interval | +/- 2.7% |
| Weighting Variables (NC): | Education, Party Identification, Age, Sex, Race, County Density |

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 ten cases that were invalid. Respondents were recruited to the survey with a generic description about issues in North Carolina

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: $(1.042 * 2.57 = 2.676)$. 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. *Party identification population parameters are an estimate.

| | Population % | Unweighted % | Weighted % |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 18-24 | 13 | 12 | 13 |
| 25-44 | 34 | 37 | 34 |
| 45-64 | 34 | 35 | 34 |
| 65+ | 20 | 16 | 20 |
| Male | 48 | 45 | 48 |
| Female | 52 | 55 | 52 |
| White | 67 | 67 | 67 |
| Black | 21 | 19 | 21 |
| Other | 12 | 14 | 12 |
| Hispanic | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| Not Hispanic | 91 | 92 | 91 |
| < Bachelor's | 70 | 60 | 70 |
| Bachelor's or more | 30 | 40 | 30 |
| Rural County | 39 | 38 | 39 |
| Suburban | 25 | 28 | 25 |
| Urban | 36 | 34 | 36 |
| Republican | 30 | 28 | 30 |
| Neither | 35 | 37 | 35 |
| Democrat | 35 | 35 | 35 |

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. For more details, see the Weighting Information above.

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of online 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. 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.

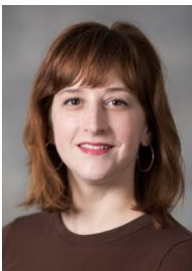
Additional information about opt-in surveys in general is available from AAPOR and the [Pew Research Center](#).

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.



[Kaye Usry](#) is Assistant Director of the Elon University Poll and Assistant Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University. 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

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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