

Views on Gubernatorial and Presidential Candidates, Sports Betting, and Abortion

Survey of North Carolina Registered Voters June 5-7, 2023

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About This Survey

The Elon University Poll conducted a representative online survey of 1,268 registered voters in North Carolina from June 5-7, 2023.

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

In this survey, we asked (self-reported) NC registered voters about gubernatorial and GOP presidential candidates as well as questions about their attitudes on COVID-19, sports betting, and abortion. The question order is reflected in the order of the results reported in the Toplines. Several of these questions were repeated from prior Elon poll surveys, and where possible, we have included relevant points of comparison in grey shaded columns in the tables below.

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



Toplines

NC Governor Candidates

Familiarity

The following is a list of candidates for Governor of North Carolina. We are interested in how well known each candidate is among people North Carolina. How <u>familiar</u> are you with each of the candidates? (order of names randomly rotated)

Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson (Republican)

Very Familiar	24%	297
Somewhat Familiar	40%	502
Not Familiar	37%	465
Total	100%	1264
State Treasurer Dale Folwell (Republican)		
Very Familiar	10%	123
Somewhat Familiar	29%	368
Not Familiar	61%	764
Total	100%	1256
Former U.S. Representative Mark Walker (Republican)		
Very Familiar	11%	143
Somewhat Familiar	35%	435
Not Familiar	54%	682
Total	100%	1259
Attorney General Josh Stein (Democrat)		
Very Familiar	19%	239
Somewhat Familiar	39%	491
Not Familiar	42%	530
Total	100%	1261



Favorability

The following is a list of candidates for Governor of North Carolina. We are interested in how popular each candidate is among people North Carolina. How <u>favorable</u> are you towards each of the candidates? [order of names randomly rotated]

Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson (Republican)

Very Favorable	22%	272
Somewhat Favorable	38%	480
Not Favorable	40%	506
Total	100%	1258
State Treasurer Dale Folwell (Republican)		
Very Favorable	12%	152
Somewhat Favorable	48%	594
Not Favorable	40%	505
Total	100%	1252
Former U.S. Representative Mark Walker (Republican)		
Very Favorable	15%	183
Somewhat Favorable	44%	548
Not Favorable	42%	523
Total	100%	1253
Attorney General Josh Stein (Democrat)		
Very Favorable	21%	264
Somewhat Favorable	41%	512
Not Favorable	38%	484
Total	100%	1260



Favorability and Familiarity Combined

Values for favorability are substituted as not familiar if respondents indicated not being familiar with candidate in a prior question.

Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson (Republican)		
Very Favorable	20%	249
Somewhat Favorable	25%	315
Not Favorable	18%	232
Not Familiar	37%	465
Total	100%	1262
State Treasurer Dale Folwell (Republican)		
Very Favorable	9%	119
Somewhat Favorable	22%	275
Not Favorable	8%	104
Not Familiar	61%	764
Total	100%	1262
Former U.S. Representative Mark Walker (Republican)		
Very Favorable	12%	157
Somewhat Favorable	23%	285
Not Favorable	11%	142
Not Familiar	54%	680
Total	100%	1264
Attorney General Josh Stein (Democrat)		
Very Favorable	19%	237
Somewhat Favorable	25%	310
Not Favorable	15%	187
Not Familiar	42%	529
Total	100%	1264
		1201



GOP Presidential Candidates

We are interested in your impression of candidates for the Republican nomination for President of the United States. We are interested in your opinion regardless of how you typically vote.

Below is a list of candidates and potential candidates who are often in the news.

Please indicate whether you are generally favorable or unfavorable toward the candidate or if you are not familiar enough to say. [order of names randomly rotated]

Doug Burgum Favorable Unfavorable Not Familiar Total	9% 17% 74% 100%	109 217 931 1258
<u>Chris Christie</u> Favorable Unfavorable Not Familiar Total	21% 49% 30% 100%	263 615 383 1261
<u>Ron DeSantis</u> Favorable Unfavorable Not Familiar Total	36% 44% 20% 100%	450 557 249 1256
<u>Larry Elder</u> Favorable Unfavorable Not Familiar Total	15% 22% 63% 100%	194 277 784 1255
<u>Nikki Haley</u> Favorable Unfavorable Not Familiar Total	32% 34% 34% 100%	406 425 428 1258
<u>Asa Hutchinson</u> Favorable Unfavorable Not Familiar Total	12% 22% 66% 100%	149 279 829 1257



Mike Pence		
Favorable	39%	497
Unfavorable	51%	641
Not Familiar	10%	123
Total	100%	1261
Vivek Ramaswamy		
Favorable	16%	196
Unfavorable	20%	249
Not Familiar	64%	807
Total	100%	1252
Tim South		
<u>Tim Scott</u> Favorable	28%	355
Unfavorable Not Familiar	25% 46%	318
		581
Total	100%	1254
Donald Trump		
Favorable	45%	571
Unfavorable	52%	660
Not Familiar	3%	33
Total	100%	1264

Sports Betting

Support/Oppose

With a few exceptions, betting on sports is currently illegal in North Carolina. The North Carolina government is currently considering legalizing betting in North Carolina.

Do you support or oppose legalizing sports betting in North Carolina?

Support	66%	839
Oppose	34%	427
Total	100%	1266

Open-ended

In one sentence or less, why do you [support/oppose] legalizing sports betting in North Carolina? *Responses not yet categorized.*



Statements about Sports Betting

The following are a series of statements for and against legalizing sports betting. For each, please indicate whether you agree or disagree.

Legalizing sports betting would create a financial burden on poor people.

Agree	39%	497
Disagree	61%	769
Total	100%	1266

Legalizing sports betting would reduce illegal bookmaking.

Agree	70%	881
Disagree	30%	382
Total	100%	1263

Legalizing sports betting would generate useful tax revenues.

Agree	77%	975
Disagree	23%	293
Total	100%	1268

Legalizing sports betting would be endorsing something that is morally wrong.

Agree	33%	419
Disagree	67%	849
Total	100%	1268

COVID-19

We have a few questions about your thoughts regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Biden Grade

What letter grade would you give President Joe Biden for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States?

Α	17%	213
В	21%	269
С	18%	222
D	12%	153
F	32%	411
Total	100%	1268



Presidential Pandemic Grades in Past Elon Polls	October 2021 (Biden	October 2020 (Trump	June 2020 (Trump)
Α	15	21	16
В	23	15	20
С	19	13	13
D	11	9	12
F	32	43	39
Total	100	100	100

Cooper Grade

What letter grade would you give Governor Roy Cooper for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in North Carolina?

А	24%	307
В	24%	305
С	25%	317
D	12%	155
F	14%	182
Total	100%	1267

Cooper Pandemic Grades in Past Elon Polls	October 2021	October 2020	June 2020
Α	17	18	18
В	26	25	33
С	27	28	25
D	13	14	12
F	17	16	13
Total	100	100	100

Vaccinated

Have you already taken a COVID-19 vaccine?		
Yes	72%	905
No	29%	360
Total	100%	1265

Vaccine Intention

Do you plan to take a COVID-19 vaccine within the next three months?

Yes	2%	9
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Not Sure	15%	51
No	83%	293
Total	100%	353

Vaccine Retrospective

Overall, are you glad you took the vaccine or do you wish you had not taken it?

Glad I took the vaccine	82%	740
Wish I had not taken it	18%	163
Total	100%	903

"Glad I took the vaccine" in past Elon Polls	
October 2021 – 92%	June 2021 – 92%

Abortion

These next few questions have to do with your views on abortion.

How closely have you been following the news about new or changing abortion restrictions in North Carolina?

Very closely	25%	310
Fairly closely	42%	536
Not too closely	27%	338
Not at all closely	7%	83
Total	100%	1266

Overall, do you support of oppose recent changes to abortion laws in North Carolina?

Strongly oppose	29%	366
Somewhat oppose	16%	198
Neither support nor oppose	33%	414
Somewhat support	14%	171
Strongly support	9%	115
Total	100%	1265

With some exceptions, North Carolina reduced the maximum weeks of pregnancy in which abortions are allowed from 20 weeks to 12 weeks. Do you support or oppose this change?

Strongly oppose	30%	375
Somewhat oppose	15%	185



Neither support nor oppose	20%	252
Somewhat support	19%	236
Strongly support	17%	218
Total	100%	1265

North Carolina now requires additional steps and visits before a doctor can prescribe medicine to end a pregnancy. Do you support or oppose this change?

Strongly oppose	26%	332
Somewhat oppose	13%	169
Neither support nor oppose	20%	246
Somewhat support	19%	245
Strongly support	21%	271
Total	100%	1263

Which type of abortion do you think is the most commonly performed in the United States? If you're not sure, it's okay to take your best guess.

At-home medication, prescribed by a doctor	43%	542
In-office procedures, performed by a doctor	57%	720
Total	100%	1262

Do you think most abortions are performed in the first, second, or third trimester of pregnancy? If you're not sure, it's okay to take your best guess.

First trimester	66%	831
Second trimester	31%	392
Third trimester	3%	43
Total	100%	1266

On average, do you think childbirth or abortion is associated with a higher risk of medical complications? If you're not sure, it's okay to take your best guess.

Abortion	44%	561
Childbirth	56%	702
Total	100%	1263

October 2021 Abortion Knowledge Results				
"Which type of abortion do you thin At home medication, prescribed by	lk is the mos	st commonly performed	l in the United States?"	
At-home medication, prescribed by a doctor	(correct)	32%	383	
In-office procedures, performed by a	a doctor	69%	832	



"Do you think most abortions are performed in the first, second, or third trimester of				
	pregnancy	?"		
First trimester	(correct)	72%	877	
Second trimester		26%	316	
Third trimester		2%	25	
"On average, do you think childbirth or abortion is associated with a higher risk of medical complications?"				
Abortion		44%	877	
Childbirth	(correct)	56%	316	

In general, who do you trust more when it comes to abortion policy in North Carolina-Governor Roy Cooper or the current North Carolina General Assembly?

Governor Roy Cooper Current General Assembly Total	54% 46% 100%	678 583 1261
Demographics		
Education		
Less than Bachelors Bachelors or Higher Total Party Identification ¹	64% 36% 100%	806 462 1268
Republican Neither Democrat Total	40% 18% 42% 100%	507 232 529 1268
Party Registration ²		
Democrat Republican Unaffiliated/Other Total	34% 30% 36% 100%	427 380 460 1268

² Self-reported.

¹ Self-identified, with independent leaners grouped with partisans.

ELON POLL

Age

18 to 24 25 to 44 45 to 64 65+ Total	11% 33% 33% 23% 100%	139 418 418 292 1268
Hispanic or Latino Yes No Total	4% 96% 100%	46 1222 1268
Race White Black Other Total	65% 20% 15% 100%	825 257 185 1268
Gender Male Female Total	46% 54% 100%	583 685 1268
County Density ³ Rural Suburban Urban Total	39% 25% 36% 100%	495 317 456 1268
Household Income		
<49k 50k+ Total	46% 54% 100%	582 686 1268

³ County type was determined according to classifications created by the <u>NC Rural Center</u>.



Crosstabulations

Guide for Interpretation

In this section of the report, the numbers in each table reported are row percentages, and comparisons can be made within columns. Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. In general, 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. Party self-identification (not registration) is displayed.

Gubernatorial Candidates Familiarity and Favorability

"The following is a list of candidates for Governor of North Carolina. We are interested in how popular each candidate is among people North Carolina. How <u>favorable</u> are you towards each of the candidates?"

Values for favorability are substituted as not familiar if respondents indicated not being familiar with candidate in a prior question.

Continued on separate page for each candidate.



State Treasurer Dale Folwell (Republican)

	Very	Somewhat	Not		
	Favorable	Favorable	Favorable	Not Familiar	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	9	22	8	61	100
Male	12	25	9	54	100
Female	8	19	7	66	100
remate	0	19	1	00	100
18 to 24	10	29	9	52	100
25 to 34	19	20	13	48	100
35 to 44	11	22	7	60	100
45 to 64	9	20	8	64	100
65+	3	22	б	69	100
White	10	22	8	61	100
Black	8	22	12	57	100
Other	10	22	4	64	100
Less than					
Bachelors	7	22	9	62	100
Bachelors or	,		,	02	100
Higher	13	22	8	57	100
<49k	8	19	7	65	100
50k+	10	24	9	56	100
Republican	13	27	2	57	100
Neither	5	25	11	59	100
Democrat	8	15	13	64	100



Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson (Republican)

	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Not Favorable	Not Familiar	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	20	25	18	37	100
Male	22	28	20	30	100
Female	18	22	17	43	100
18 to 24	18	25	15	42	100
25 to 34	23	25	13	39	100
35 to 44	22	21	16	41	100
45 to 64	19	28	18	35	100
65+	18	23	26	33	100
White	22	25	18	34	100
Black	14	21	23	43	100
Other	17	30	12	42	100
Less than					
Bachelors Bachelors or	18	27	14	42	100
Higher	23	22	27	28	100
<49k	16	24	16	43	100
50k+	23	26	20	31	100
Republican	37	30	4	29	100
Neither	9	35	16	40	100
Democrat	8	16	33	43	100



Attorney General Josh Stein (Democrat)

	Very	Somewhat	Not		T (1
	Favorable	Favorable	Favorable	Not Familiar	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	19	25	15	42	100
	20	20	10	22	100
Male	20	29	19	33	100
Female	18	21	12	50	100
18 to 24	17	35	8	41	100
25 to 34	20	28	8	43	100
35 to 44	18	27	13	42	100
45 to 64	16	21	20	44	100
65+	24	21	17	39	100
White	17	21	18	44	100
Black	29	31	5	35	100
Other	12	31	15	42	100
Less than					
Bachelors	15	24	14	46	100
Bachelors or	10	21	11	10	100
Higher	26	25	16	34	100
<49k	17	23	12	48	100
50k+	20	26	17	37	100
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Republican	5	16	28	51	100
Neither	9	29	15	47	100
Democrat	36	31	2	31	100



Former U.S. Representative Mark Walker (Republican)

	Very	Somewhat	Not		
	Favorable	Favorable	Favorable	Not Familiar	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	12	23	11	54	100
Male	15	24	13	47	100
Female	10	21	9	59	100
18 to 24	16	23	14	47	100
25 to 34	23	18	14	44	100
35 to 44	15	22	7	56	100
45 to 64	9	24	10	58	100
65+	7	24	13	57	100
White	13	23	11	53	100
Black	11	19	13	56	100
Other	12	27	9	53	100
Less than					
Bachelors Bachelors or	11	24	10	56	100
Higher	16	21	13	51	100
<49k	11	20	11	59	100
50k+	14	25	12	50	100
Republican	20	29	3	48	100
Neither	8	25	10	57	100
Democrat	7	15	19	58	100



Sports Betting

With a few exceptions, betting on sports is currently illegal in North Carolina. The North Carolina government is currently considering legalizing betting in North Carolina.

Do you support or oppose legalizing sports betting in North Carolina?

	Support	Oppose	Total
	%	%	%
Total	66	34	100
Male	76	24	100
Female	58	42	100
18 to 24	72	28	100
25 to 34	78	22	100
35 to 44	75	25	100
45 to 64	63	37	100
65+	53	47	100
White	64	36	100
Black	77	23	100
Other	61	39	100
Less than Bachelors	67	33	100
Bachelors or Higher	66	34	100
<49k	63	37	100
50k+	69	31	100
Republican	62	38	100
Neither	65	35	100
Democrat	71	29	100
Church Attendance			
Once each week or more	52	48	100
Once each month	64	36	100
A few times a year	71	29	100
Once each year or less	70	30	100



Abortion

With some exceptions, North Carolina reduced the maximum weeks of pregnancy in which abortions are allowed from 20 weeks to 12 weeks. Do you support or oppose this change?

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat support	Strongly support
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	30	15	20	19	17
Male	23	15	24	21	17
Female	36	14	16	17	17
18 to 24	32	14	21	18	15
25 to 34	25	15	24	15	20
35 to 44	28	15	23	18	16
45 to 64	29	14	21	20	16
65+	33	15	12	20	19
White	30	14	16	21	19
Black	29	17	28	14	12
Other	28	16	24	15	18
Less than Bachelors	27	14	23	19	17
Bachelors or Higher	34	15	15	18	18
<49k	30	14	24	18	16
50k+	30	15	17	19	19
Republican	15	14	15	27	29
Neither	28	15	33	13	10
Democrat	45	15	19	13	9
Church Attendance					
Once each week or more	22	15	16	21	26
Once each month	20	17	21	28	14
A few times a year	30	13	20	19	17
Once each year or less	31	14	19	19	16



NC Registered Republicans Only – GOP Presidential Candidates

N varies among names between 446 to 451

Sorted by Favorability

Candidate	Favorable	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Not Familiar</u>	<u>Net Favorable</u>
Trump	80%	19%	1%	61%
DeSantis	63%	21%	16%	41%
Pence	55%	36%	9%	19%
Haley	43%	20%	36%	23%
Scott	37%	14%	50%	23%
Christie	22%	44%	34%	-23%
Elder	21%	19%	60%	2%
Ramaswamy	20%	17%	63%	3%
Hutchinson	10%	19%	71%	-10%
Burgum	8%	16%	77%	-8%

Sorted Alphabetically

Candidate	Favorable	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Not Familiar</u>	<u>Net Favorable</u>
Burgum	8%	16%	77%	-8%
Christie	22%	44%	34%	-23%
DeSantis	63%	21%	16%	41%
Elder	21%	19%	60%	2%
Haley	43%	20%	36%	23%
Hutchinson	10%	19%	71%	-10%
Pence	55%	36%	9%	19%
Ramaswamy	20%	17%	63%	3%
Scott	37%	14%	50%	23%
Trump	80%	19%	1%	61%



Methodological Information

Mode:	Online
Population:	North Carolina Registered Voters
Dates in the field:	June 5-7, 2023
Sample Size:	1,268
Credibility Interval	+/- 3
Weighting Variables:	Party Registration, Race, Hispanic Ethnicity, Sex, Age,
	Education, County Density, 2020 Voting

Procedure

The Elon University Poll used an online sample provided by Lucid (Cint Group). 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 <u>here</u>. 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, if the respondent self-reported being a registered voter, and if a respondent progressed through the entire survey. Open-ended online responses were individually inspected by the poll directors, who then deleted about thirty 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 <u>here</u>. 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: (1.082 * 2.75= 2.98). 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 parameters for education among NC registered voters were estimated from national 2020 U.S. Census data. Population parameters for sex, race, and party registration were drawn from NC State Board of Elections data, downloaded on October 30th, 2022 (age and election <u>results</u> / <u>turnout</u> from NCSBE in 2020). NC Counties were categorized according to <u>this map</u> from NC Rural Center.

	Population %	Unweighted %	Weighted %
18-24	11	9	11
25-44	33	35	33
45-64	33	36	33
65+	23	19	23
Male	46	46	46
Female	54	55	54
White	65	70	65
Black	20	20	20
Other	15	10	15
Not Hispanic	96	95	96
Hispanic	4	5	4
Republican	30	32	30
Democrat	34	37	34
Unaffiliated or Other	36	31	36
< Bachelor's	64	58	64
Bachelor's or more	36	42	36
Rural County	39	41	39
Suburban County	25	25	25
Urban County	36	34	36
Trump 2020 Voter		42.7	37.7
Biden 2020 Voter		39.5	36.6
Other / Non-voter 2020		17.9	25.7



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 and NC State Board of Elections data. For more details, see the Weighting Information above.

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of online surveys over traditional randomdigital dial surveys?

Traditional telephone surveys have traditionally had an 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 <u>declining telephone response rates</u> and the growth in online sample pool sizes have narrowed quality differences between the two modes. Additional information about opt-in surveys in general is available from AAPOR and the <u>Pew Research Center</u>.



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. He has worked at the Elon Poll since 2012. Dr. Husser holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Vanderbilt University. He researches American political behavior and survey methodology.



<u>Kaye Usry</u> 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 Assistant Vice President for Strategic Communications and Media Relations. 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).