

CIVITAS INSTITUTE DECISION/MAKER POLL

August 2008 Statewide Poll

August 27, 2008

1. How likely are you to vote in the November election for president and other state offices:

Definitely voting	82
Very likely	14
Somewhat likely	4

2. Will you cast your vote during early voting or on Election day?

Election day	58
Early voting	32
Not sure	9

3. Do you feel things in North Carolina are generally headed in the right direction or have gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	32
Wrong track	50
Not sure	18

4. What specific issue in North Carolina needs the most attention from state government?

Lower healthcare costs	20
Improve public education	22
Create jobs/improve economy	34
Hold down taxes	16
Improve roads/highways	4
Not sure	4

5. Do you think there are major differences between North Carolina Democrats and Republicans on the issue you most care about?

Yes	67
No	20
Not sure	14

6. If the election for state legislature were held today, would you be voting:

Democratic	42
Republican	40
Neither	3
Not sure	14

7. If the election for president were held today, would you be voting for:

Democrat Barack Obama	40
Republican John McCain	46
Libertarian Bob Barr	2
Not sure	12

8. If the election for U.S. Senate were held today, would you be voting for:

Democrat Kay Hagan	41
Republican Elizabeth Dole	44
Libertarian Chris Cole	4
Not sure	11

9. If the election for governor were held today, would you be voting for:

Democrat Bev Perdue	43
Republican Pat McCrory	41
Libertarian Michael Munger	3
Not sure	13

10. If the election for North Carolina Supreme Court were held today, would you be voting for:

Robert (Bob) Edmunds	12
Suzanne Reynolds	14
Not sure	74

11. Which political party, Republican or Democrat, controls the office of lieutenant governor?

Democrat	48
Republican	10
Not sure	42

12. Who is the lieutenant governor of North Carolina?

Beverly Perdue	28
Someone else	4
Not sure	68

13. The maximum sentence for a person convicted of molesting a child is 2 years in prison. Is this sentence too long, too short, or just about right?

Too long	1
Too short	93
About right	3
Not sure	2

14. Do you support the death penalty for first-degree murder in North Carolina?

Yes	64
No	24
Not sure	12

15. Do you think state and local government has too much control or influence over your life?

Yes	48
No	46
Not sure	6

16. When you think about your friends, neighbors or people you know, do you think they consider themselves liberal, moderate or conservative in their political beliefs?

Very liberal	4
Somewhat liberal	9
Somewhat conservative	29
Very conservative	17
Moderate	25
Not sure	16

17. Is the best way to improve public education in North Carolina, more government spending on the current system or allowing parents more choice over which school to attend?

More on current system	29
More parental choice	55
Not sure	15

18. Which of the following is the best way to stimulate the economy in North Carolina:

Cut the gasoline tax	17
Cut income taxes	30
Cash incentives/businesses	14
State spending/projects	3
Raise the minimum wage	26
Not sure	10

19. Should gas tax revenue be used exclusively for road construction and maintenance or should a portion of it be used for bicycle paths, airports and ferries?

Roads only	58
Paths/airports/ferries	34
Not sure	8

20. Currently, there is a \$4,000 limit on the amount of money any individual can give to a political campaign. Do you think this limit is too high, too low or just about right?

Too high	21
Too low	5
About right	64
Not sure	10

21. Would you support raising or eliminating the contribution limit if politicians were required to immediately disclose every contribution they receive?

Yes	55
No	30
Not sure	15

22. Should car insurance be more expensive for drivers with poor driving records or should all drivers be asked to pay just a little bit more to make insurance more affordable for everyone?

More expensive/poor drivers	85
All drivers pay more	12
Not sure	2

23. Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who supports allowing illegal immigrants to enroll in North Carolina's Community Colleges?

More	18
Less	71
No difference	7
Not sure	4

24. What amount would you say is the right amount to pay public school teachers:

\$25,000-\$40,000	11
\$40,000-\$50,000	38
\$50,000-\$60,000	28
\$60,000-\$70,000	6
Over \$70,000	7
Not sure	10

25. If the average compensation for a public school teacher were approximately \$48,000 per year plus health benefits, would you say that is too high, too low or just about right?

Too high	7
Too low	25
About right	63
Not sure	5

26. Should some government benefits like health insurance or college scholarships be totally free of charge or should each recipient have to pay some amount, no matter how small, in order to receive the benefit?

Free	28
Pay some amount	63
Not sure	9

27. Should children in families making up to \$63,000 be able to attend community college free of charge?

Yes	38
No	54
Not sure	7

28. Should North Carolina adopt stricter vehicle emission standards, like those of California, which reduced air pollution but resulted in decreased fuel mileage for cars?

Yes	38
No	51
Not sure	12

29. Age group

18-25	5
26-40	15
41-55	33
56-65	22
66+	25

30. Political philosophy

Very liberal	6
Somewhat liberal	10
Somewhat conservative	22
Very conservative	23
Moderate	36
Not sure	3

31. Regardless of your party registration, do you:

Always vote Democrat	15
Vote Dem. more than Rep.	25
Vote Rep. more than Dem.	31
Always vote Republican	7
Both equally/split ticket	18
Not sure	4

32. Education

Less than HS graduate	5
High school graduate	23
2-yr. college/technical	26
4-yr. college graduate	29
Post graduate	16
Not sure	1

33. In your current employment status, are you:

Self-employed	11
Working for a private co.	32
Work for government	13
Spouse (housewife)	7
Retired	32
Unemployed	5
Not sure	1

34. National heritage

Caucasian	79
African-American	18
Hispanic	0
Native American	1
Asian	0
Other	2
Refused	2

35. Affiliation

Democrat	46
Republican	35
Unaffiliated	19

36. Gender

Male	47
Female	53

37. Geographic area

Charlotte	21
Western	14
Piedmont triad	20
Triangle	20
Northeast	11
Southeast	14

38. Voting history

New	11
One of three	20
Two of three	22
Three of three	47

METHODOLOGY: The study of 600 registered voters was conducted August 14-17 by Tel Opinion Research of Alexandria, Virginia. All respondents were part of a fully representative sample of registered voters in North Carolina. For purposes of this study, voters interviewed had to have voted in either the 2002, 2004 or 2006 general election or have registered since 2006. The voters were interviewed using live callers.

The confidence interval associated with a sample of this size is such that: 95% of the time, results from 600 interviews (registered voters) will be within $\pm 4.2\%$ of the "True Values." "True Values" refer to the results obtained if it were possible to interview every person in North Carolina who had voted in either the 2002, 2004 or 2006 general elections or were newly registered voters since 2006.