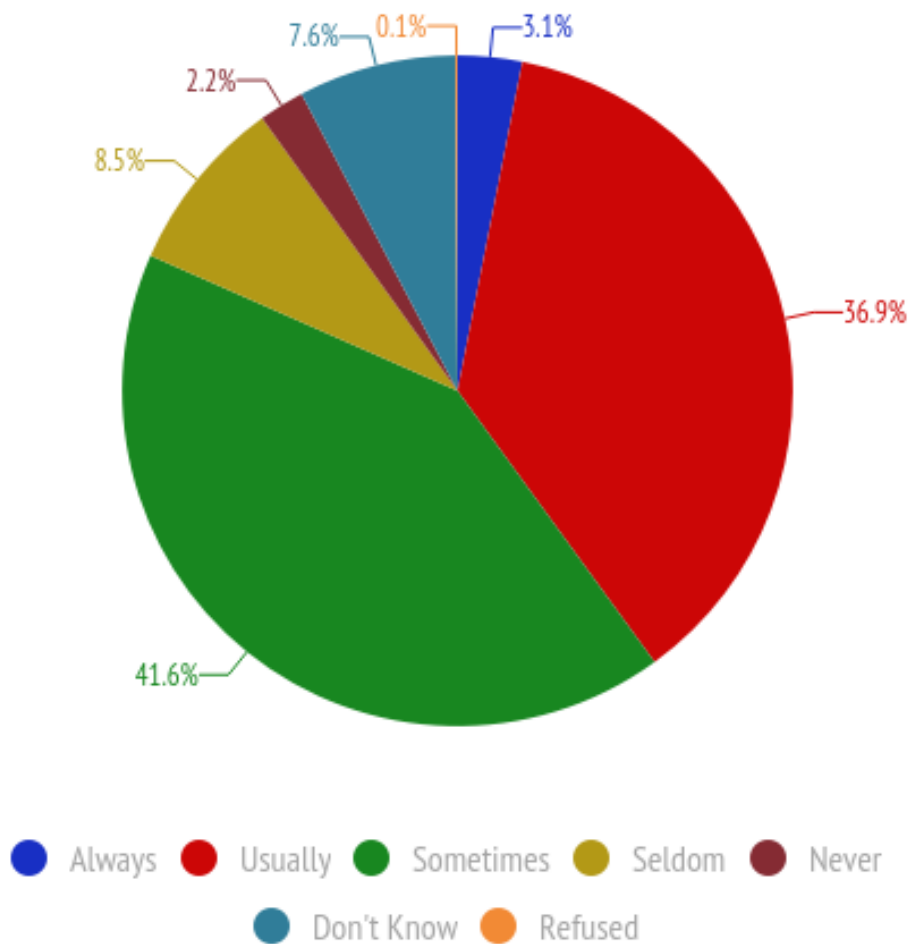


State Courts

October 29 - November 2, 2015

How often do people receive fair outcomes when they deal with the courts?



Oct. 29 - Nov. 2, 2015 - 1234 Adult Residents in North Carolina +/- 2.79%

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Executive Summary

The Elon University Poll conducted a live-caller, dual frame (landline and cell phone) survey of 1,330 residents of North Carolina between October 29 and November 2, 2015. Of these respondents, 1234 answered our weighting questions (age, gender, race, phone use). The survey reported here presents has a margin of error of +/- 2.79 percentage points for the weighted sample of 1234 adults. The tables below report both the weighted and unweighted frequencies.

Confidence in Institutions

Respondents were asked about the level of confidence they have in 6 different institutions: federal government, the media, the U.S. Supreme Court, North Carolina state courts, local public schools, and their local police or sheriff. The public in North Carolina are generally quite confident in their local police or sheriff. Eighty-one percent of those surveyed said they were somewhat or very confident in this local institution. No other institution had nearly as high level of confidence. North Carolina State Courts had nearly 66% of respondents stating they were somewhat or very confident in this state institution. This was followed closely by Local public schools with 65.8 percent, followed by the U.S. Supreme Court with 65 percent. Confidence in the federal government and the media was the lowest among the 6 groups, with 37 percent and 36 percent respectively.

Institution	% Somewhat or Very Confident
Local Police/Sheriff	81.0
NC State Courts	65.9
Local Public Schools	65.8
US Supreme Court	65.0
Federal Government	37.2
The Media	35.6

Levels of confidence in the police differ greatly among Democrats and Republicans, as well as white and black respondents. Over half of Republicans (51%) said they were very confident in their local police, compared to 29 percent of Democrats. Forty-four percent of whites said they were very confident in the police compared to only 22 percent of blacks.

The media had the lowest level of confidence, especially among Republicans. Only one percent of Republicans said they were very confident in the media, compared to 10 percent of Democrats. Similarly, only one percent of Republicans were very confident of the federal government, compared to 9 percent of Democrats.

Fair Treatment by the Courts

Forty percent of respondents felt that people usually or always receive a fair outcome with dealing with the courts. However, when asked how the courts treat various groups respondents providing very different opinions.

Group	% Saying Group is Treated (Somewhat or Far) Worse
People without a Lawyer	76.2
Low-income People	63.8
Non-English Speaking People	53.4
African Americans	46.2
Hispanics	45.6
Middle Class/Working Class People	16.9
White People	4.1
Wealthy People	1.6

Approximately 76 percent of respondents believe people without legal representation are treated worse by the courts. Low-income people were also seen as likely to receive unfair treatment (64%). Over half of those surveyed (53%) said Non-English speaking individuals were generally treated worse by courts. Forty-six percent of respondents believe African Americans are treated worse; however 67 percent of African Americans said their group is treated worse by the courts.

Very few respondents believe that whites (4.1%) or wealthy individuals (1.6%) are treated worse by the courts. In fact, most respondent (51 percent) said the wealthy receive far better treatment in the courts. Eight percent of white respondents said whites are treated far better by the courts and 32 percent said whites receive somewhat better treatment.

Topline Results

Introduction: Now I would like to ask you some questions about the North Carolina Court System. This system includes the State Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Superior Courts, and District Courts.

Confidence in Institutions

First, I'd like to know how much confidence you have in the following public institutions, using the scale of very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident. In general, how would you rate your confidence in...? [Institutions rotated randomly]

Federal Government in Washington

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Very Confident	59	4.8%	54	4.1%
Somewhat Confident	400	32.4%	410	30.8%
Not Very Confident	392	31.8%	424	31.9%
Not at all Confident	338	27.4%	385	28.9%
Don't Know	39	3.2%	46	3.5%
Refused	5	0.4%	11	0.8%
N=	1233	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Your local police or sheriff

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Very Confident	472	38.3%	525	39.5%
Somewhat Confident	527	42.7%	556	41.8%
Not Very Confident	113	9.1%	121	9.1%
Not at all Confident	87	7.0%	82	6.2%
Don't Know	31	2.5%	38	2.9%
Refused	4	0.3%	8	0.6%
N=	1234	99.9%	1330	100.0%

The North Carolina State Court

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Very Confident	155	12.5%	166	12.5%
Somewhat Confident	659	53.4%	693	52.1%
Not Very Confident	192	15.6%	200	15.0%
Not at all Confident	93	7.5%	98	7.4%
Don't Know	131	10.6%	163	12.3%
Refused	4	0.4%	10	0.8%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Your local public schools

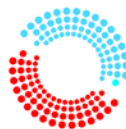
	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Very Confident	241	19.5%	255	19.2%
Somewhat Confident	571	46.3%	603	45.3%
Not Very Confident	247	20.1%	257	19.3%
Not at all Confident	104	8.4%	114	8.6%
Don't Know	69	5.6%	90	6.8%
Refused	2	0.1%	11	0.8%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

The U.S. Supreme Court

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Very Confident	226	18.3%	226	17.0%
Somewhat Confident	576	46.7%	601	45.2%
Not Very Confident	243	19.7%	268	20.2%
Not at all Confident	132	10.7%	155	11.7%
Don't Know	52	4.2%	66	5.0%
Refused	5	0.4%	14	1.1%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

The media

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Very Confident	73	5.9%	80	6.0%
Somewhat Confident	367	29.7%	389	29.2%
Not Very Confident	364	29.5%	374	28.1%
Not at all Confident	388	31.5%	428	32.2%
Don't Know	40	3.2%	50	3.8%
Refused	3	0.2%	9	0.7%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%



Knowledge of Courts

How much would you say you know about the courts in North Carolina? A lot; Some; A little or Nothing at all

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
A lot	156	12.6%	156	11.7%
Some	557	45.1%	581	43.7%
A little	398	32.2%	440	33.1%
Nothing at all	114	9.2%	133	10.0%
Don't Know	8	0.7%	10	0.8%
Refused	1	0.1%	10	0.8%
N=	1234	99.9%	1330	100.0%

Experience with Courts

I'd like to ask you some questions about your personal experiences with the North Carolina state court system. **[Jury question is the first question. Defendant and Testify rotated randomly]**

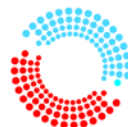
Have you ever served on a jury?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	375	30.4%	458	34.4%
No	856	69.4%	859	64.6%
Don't Know	2	0.1%	2	0.2%
Refused	1	0.1%	11	0.8%
N=	1234		1330	100.0%

Defendant/Plaintiff

Have you ever been a defendant or a plaintiff in a court case?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	346	28.0%	330	24.8%
No	881	71.4%	980	73.7%
Don't Know	6	0.5%	9	0.7%
Refused	1	0.1%	11	0.8%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%



Testify

Have you ever testified as a witness in a court proceeding?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	294	23.8%	326	24.5%
No	931	75.4%	983	73.9%
Don't Know	8	0.7%	10	0.8%
Refused	1	0.1%	11	0.8%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Fairness of Courts

How often do people receive fair outcomes when they deal with the courts? Always, usually, sometimes, seldom, or never?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Always	38	3.1%	41	3.1%
Usually	456	36.9%	491	36.9%
Sometimes	514	41.6%	529	39.8%
Seldom	105	8.5%	103	7.7%
Never	27	2.2%	32	2.4%
Don't Know	94	7.6%	122	9.2%
Refused	1	0.1%	12	0.9%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Treatment of Different Groups

I would like to read you a short list of groups of people. For each, please tell me if you think the group receives far better, somewhat better, the same, somewhat worse, or far worse treatment in the state courts. [Groups rotated randomly]

Low-income people

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Far Better	11	0.9%	12	0.9%
Somewhat Better	69	5.6%	75	5.6%
The Same	269	21.8%	291	21.9%
Somewhat Worse	503	40.8%	528	39.7%
Far Worse	284	23.0%	291	21.9%
Don't Know	90	7.3%	111	8.3%
Refused	8	0.6%	22	1.7%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Middle class/working class people

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Far Better	18	1.5%	19	1.4%
Somewhat Better	296	23.9%	317	23.8%
The Same	608	49.3%	638	48.0%
Somewhat Worse	162	13.2%	171	12.9%
Far Worse	46	3.7%	48	3.6%
Don't Know	92	7.5%	111	8.3%
Refused	12	1.0%	26	2.0%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Wealthy people

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Far Better	626	50.7%	654	49.2%
Somewhat Better	377	30.6%	399	30.0%
The Same	132	10.7%	142	10.7%
Somewhat Worse	15	1.2%	17	1.3%
Far Worse	5	0.4%	5	0.4%
Don't Know	70	5.7%	89	6.7%
Refused	9	0.7%	24	1.8%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

People who have no lawyer representing them

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Far Better	4	0.3%	5	0.4%
Somewhat Better	47	3.8%	56	4.2%
The Same	130	10.6%	144	10.8%
Somewhat Worse	432	35.0%	453	34.1%
Far Worse	508	41.2%	518	38.9%
Don't Know	107	8.6%	132	9.9%
Refused	6	0.5%	22	1.7%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Non-English speaking people

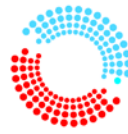
	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Far Better	16	1.3%	18	1.4%
Somewhat Better	112	9.0%	127	9.5%
The Same	280	22.7%	304	22.9%
Somewhat Worse	418	33.8%	426	32.0%
Far Worse	241	19.6%	244	18.3%
Don't Know	156	12.6%	185	13.9%
Refused	12	1.0%	26	2.0%
N=	1235	100.0%	1330	100.0%

White people

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Far Better	167	13.6%	167	12.6%
Somewhat Better	424	34.3%	445	33.5%
The Same	490	39.7%	519	39.0%
Somewhat Worse	36	2.9%	44	3.3%
Far Worse	15	1.2%	15	1.1%
Don't Know	92	7.5%	114	8.6%
Refused	11	0.9%	26	2.0%
N=	1235	100.0%	1330	100.0%

African Americans

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Far Better	23	1.9%	28	2.1%
Somewhat Better	130	10.5%	139	10.5%
The Same	399	32.4%	424	31.9%
Somewhat Worse	365	29.6%	388	29.2%
Far Worse	205	16.6%	202	15.2%
Don't Know	103	8.4%	125	9.4%
Refused	8	0.7%	24	1.8%
N=	1233	100.1%	1330	100.0%



Hispanics

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Far Better	33	2.6%	36	2.7%
Somewhat Better	114	9.3%	126	9.5%
The Same	347	28.1%	368	27.7%
Somewhat Worse	414	33.5%	435	32.7%
Far Worse	149	12.1%	146	11.0%
Don't Know	168	13.6%	194	14.6%
Refused	9	0.8%	25	1.9%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Political Influence on Courts

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements.....?
[Statements rotated randomly]

Influence

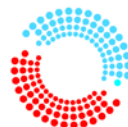
North Carolina courts are free from political influences?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Strongly Agree	34	2.8%	34	2.6%
Agree	177	14.3%	189	14.2%
Disagree	552	44.7%	599	45.0%
Strongly Disagree	383	31.0%	382	28.7%
Don't Know	87	7.1%	109	8.2%
Refuse	1	0.1%	17	1.3%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Parties

Judges' decisions are influenced by political parties

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Strongly Agree	299	24.2%	303	22.8%
Agree	637	51.7%	690	51.9%
Disagree	202	16.3%	203	15.3%
Strongly Disagree	31	2.5%	32	2.4%
Don't Know	63	5.1%	83	6.2%
Refuse	3	0.2%	19	1.4%
N=	1235	100.0%	1330	100.0%



Run4election

Judges' decisions are influenced by the fact they must run for election

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Strongly Agree	291	23.6%	297	22.3%
Agree	639	51.8%	685	51.5%
Disagree	200	16.2%	205	15.4%
Strongly Disagree	22	1.8%	22	1.7%
Don't Know	76	6.2%	97	7.3%
Refuse	6	0.5%	24	1.8%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Demographics

Race

For statistical purposes only, could you please tell me your race or ethnic background?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
White	889	72.0%	973	73.2%
Black	258	20.9%	237	17.8%
Other	87	7.1%	75	5.6%
Don't Know			6	0.5%
Refused			39	2.9%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Party ID

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Democrat	447	36.3%	475	35.7%
Independent - Leaning Democrat	132	10.7%	131	9.8%
Independent	107	8.7%	113	8.5%
Independent - Leaning Republican	174	14.1%	199	15.0%
Republican	323	26.2%	355	26.7%
Don't Know	49	3.9%	50	3.8%
Refused	2	0.2%	7	0.5%
N=	1234	100.0%	1330	100.

Ideology

When it comes to politics, do you usually think of yourself as liberal, moderate, conservative, or haven't you thought much about this?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Extremely Liberal	65	5.3%	69	5.2%
Liberal	157	12.8%	163	12.3%
Slightly Liberal	174	14.1%	171	12.9%
Moderate	161	13.0%	154	11.6%
Slightly Conservative	200	16.2%	217	16.3%
Conservative	261	21.2%	286	21.5%
Extremely Conservative	126	10.2%	142	10.7%
Don't Know	78	6.3%	90	6.8%
Refused	12	1.0%	38	2.9%
N=	1234		1330	100.0%

Education

How much school have you completed?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Less than HS	43	3.5%	50	3.8%
High School / GED	242	19.6%	253	19.0%
Some College/ AA / Technical	371	30.0%	391	29.4%
College Graduate	368	29.8%	373	28.0%
Graduate School	202	16.4%	228	17.1%
Don't Know	2	0.1%	5	0.4%
Refused	6	0.5%	30	2.3%
N=	1234	99.9%	1330	100.0%

Income

Is your annual household income more or less than \$50,000? (If = Under \$50,000) Is it more or less than \$25,000? (If = Over \$50,000) Is it more or less than \$75,000?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Less than \$25,000	196	15.9%	193	14.5%
\$25,000 to \$50,000	278	22.5%	291	21.9%
\$50,000 to \$75,000	222	18.0%	231	17.4%
More than \$75,000	451	36.6%	468	35.2%
Don't Know	41	3.3%	48	3.6%
Refused	45	3.7%	99	7.4%
N=	1233	100.0%	1330	100.0%

Age

Do you mind if I ask how old you are? [Continuous variable recoded for presentation]

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
18-30	203	16.5%	158	12.4%
31-40	195	15.8%	151	11.9%
41-50	217	17.6%	177	13.9%
51-65	412	33.4%	426	33.4%
65+	206	16.7%	362	28.4%
N=	1233	100.0%	1274	100.0%

Landline/Cellphone

Do you have a land line phone? Do you have a cell phone?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
Landline only	95	7.7%	94	7.3%
Dual Use	703	57.0%	826	63.7%
Cell only	436	35.3%	376	29.0%
N=	1234	100.0%	1296	100.0%

Gender

Was the respondent male or female?

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	No.	%	No.	%
female				
Male	592	48.0%	651	49.4%
Female	642	52.0%	668	50.6%
N=	1234	100.0%	1319	100.0%

Cross Tabulations

Cross tabulations are for registered voters. Sample sizes and additional cross-tabs are available from kfernandez@elon.edu and jhusser@elon.edu on request from journalists or academic researchers. Tables below are based on weighted results.

Confidence in Institutions

Local Police or Sheriff

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	29	46	12	9	4	1	100
Independents	38	44	8	7	2	0	100
Republicans	51	39	6	3	1	0	100
Total	38	43	9	7	2	0	100

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	44	41	7	5	2	0	100
Black	22	45	16	13	3	1	100
Other	24	49	13	10	4	0	100
Total	38	43	9	7	3	0	100

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	37	44	10	7	1	1	100
Female	40	41	8	7	4	0	100
Total	38	43	9	7	3	0	100

The North Carolina State Courts

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	12	51	19	8	9	1	100
Independents	13	55	16	7	9	0	100
Republicans	12	58	10	7	14	0	100
Total	12	54	15	7	10	0	100

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	12	55	14	6	12	0	100
Black	12	51	21	12	4	0	100
Other	15	40	17	10	17	0	100
Total	13	53	16	8	11	0	100

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	13	55	16	7	8	1	100
Female	12	52	15	8	13	0	100
Total	13	53	16	8	11	0	100

Your local public schools

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	24	43	20	8	5	0	100
Independents	18	48	20	9	5	0	100
Republicans	15	48	22	9	6	0	100
Total	19	46	20	9	5	0	100

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	20	47	19	8	6	0	100
Black	18	46	22	9	4	0	100
Other	17	44	27	7	5	0	100
Total	20	46	20	8	6	0	100

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	20	49	18	8	5	0	100
Female	19	44	22	9	6	0	100
Total	20	46	20	8	6	0	100

The federal government in Washington

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	9	46	26	15	3	0	100
Independents	3	30	34	31	2	0	100
Republicans	1	19	37	40	2	0	100
Total	5	33	32	27	3	0	100
race	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	3	28	35	31	3	1	100
Black	11	49	23	15	2	0	100
Other	8	33	24	28	6	0	100
Total	5	32	32	27	3	0	100
female	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	4	31	31	30	3	1	100
Female	5	34	32	25	3	0	100
Total	5	32	32	27	3	0	100

The media

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	10	41	30	16	3	0	100
Independents	5	26	26	39	3	0	100
Republicans	1	20	35	42	2	0	100
Total	6	30	30	31	3	0	100

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	4	28	30	34	3	0	100
Black	10	38	27	23	2	0	100
Other	8	25	28	33	7	0	100
Total	6	30	29	31	3	0	100

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	7	26	26	37	3	0	100
Female	5	33	32	26	3	0	100
Total	6	30	29	31	3	0	100

The U.S. Supreme Court

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	25	49	16	6	4	1	100
Independents	18	46	21	12	3	0	100
Republicans	10	45	24	16	5	0	100
Total	18	47	20	11	4	0	100

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	19	46	20	11	4	0	100
Black	16	51	18	10	3	1	100
Other	14	44	23	10	9	0	100
Total	18	47	20	11	4	0	100

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at all Confident	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	19	46	19	13	3	1	100
Female	18	48	20	9	5	0	100
Total	18	47	20	11	4	0	100

Knowledge of the Courts

How much would you say you know about the courts in North Carolina?

	A lot	Some	A little	Nothing at all	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	13	46	32	9	1	0	100
Independents	13	44	31	10	1	0	100
Republicans	10	48	33	9	0	0	100
Total	12	46	32	9	1	0	100

	A lot	Some	A little	Nothing at all	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	11	46	33	10	1	0	100
Black	19	45	28	8	0	0	100
Other	9	38	42	10	0	0	100
Total	13	45	32	9	1	0	100

	A lot	Some	A little	Nothing at all	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	14	46	32	8	1	0	100
Female	12	44	33	11	1	0	100
Total	13	45	32	9	1	0	100

Experience with the Courts

I'd like to ask you some questions about your personal experiences with the North Carolina state court system. **[Jury question is the first question. Defendant and Testify rotated randomly]**

Have you ever served on a jury?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	30	70	0	0	100
Independents	28	71	0	0	100
Republicans	34	66	1	0	100
Total	30	69	0	0	100

race	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
White	32	68	0	0	100
Black	27	72	0	0	100
Other	22	78	0	0	100
Total	30	69	0	0	100

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Male	31	69	0	0	100
Female	30	70	0	0	100
Total	30	69	0	0	100

Have you ever been a defendant or a plaintiff in a court case?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	28	71	1	0	100
Independents	26	74	0	0	100
Republicans	28	71	1	0	100
Total	27	72	1	0	100

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
White	28	72	0	0	100
Black	34	65	0	0	100
Other	13	85	2	0	100
Total	28	71	1	0	100

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Male	31	68	1	0	100
Female	25	75	0	0	100
Total	28	71	1	0	100

Have you ever testified as a witness in a court proceeding?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	23	76	0	0	100
Independents	23	76	0	0	100
Republicans	25	74	1	0	100
Total	24	75	1	0	100

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
White	26	73	1	0	100
Black	19	81	0	0	100
Other	15	85	0	0	100
Total	24	75	1	0	100

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Male	24	75	1	0	100
Female	24	76	1	0	100
Total	24	75	1	0	100

Fair Outcomes

How often do people receive fair outcomes when they deal with the courts? Always, usually, sometimes, seldom, or never?

	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	4	30	48	9	2	7	0	100
Independents	2	40	39	9	2	8	0	100
Republicans	2	46	36	7	1	8	0	100
Total	3	37	42	8	2	8	0	100

	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	2	44	38	7	1	8	0	100
Black	6	17	53	13	4	6	0	100
Other	6	20	48	14	4	8	0	100
Total	3	37	42	8	2	8	0	100

	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	4	41	38	9	2	6	0	100
Female	3	33	45	8	2	9	0	100
Total	3	37	42	8	2	8	0	100

Group Treatment in the Courts

I would like to read you a short list of groups of people. For each, please tell me if you think the group receives far better, somewhat better, the same, somewhat worse, or far worse treatment in the state courts.

Low-income people

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	0	6	12	42	34	5	1	100
Independents	2	5	25	41	20	7	0	100
Republicans	1	6	31	40	11	9	1	100
Total	1	6	22	41	23	7	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	1	5	26	43	17	8	1	100
Black	1	7	7	36	45	5	0	100
Other	0	8	21	38	25	7	2	100
Total	1	6	22	41	23	7	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	1	7	23	40	23	6	0	100
Female	1	5	21	41	23	9	1	100
Total	1	6	22	41	23	7	1	100

Middle class/working class people

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	2	29	43	15	5	6	1	100
Independents	2	21	56	12	3	6	0	100
Republicans	1	23	52	12	3	9	1	100
Total	1	24	50	13	4	7	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	1	21	54	11	3	8	1	100
Black	3	33	33	19	6	5	1	100
Other	1	25	45	15	5	7	2	100
Total	1	24	49	13	4	7	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	2	23	52	11	4	6	1	100
Female	1	25	46	15	3	9	1	100
Total	1	24	49	13	4	7	1	100

Wealthy people

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	60	25	7	1	1	4	1	100
Independents	50	33	10	1	0	5	0	100
Republicans	37	36	17	1	0	7	1	100
Total	51	31	11	1	0	5	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	46	35	12	1	0	6	1	100
Black	68	16	7	2	1	5	1	100
Other	47	32	8	4	0	6	2	100
Total	51	31	11	1	0	6	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	48	32	12	1	1	5	0	100
Female	53	29	10	1	0	6	1	100
Total	51	31	11	1	0	6	1	100

People who have no lawyer representing them

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	0	5	5	34	48	7	1	100
Independents	1	3	11	35	40	9	0	100
Republicans	0	2	17	37	33	10	0	100
Total	0	4	11	35	41	9	0	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	0	3	12	37	38	10	0	100
Black	0	7	5	30	51	6	1	100
Other	0	5	13	32	43	5	2	100
Total	0	4	11	35	41	9	0	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	0	4	13	35	40	7	0	100
Female	0	3	9	35	42	10	0	100
Total	0	4	11	35	41	9	0	100

Non-English speaking people

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	1	9	15	36	28	10	1	100
Independents	1	9	24	36	18	12	1	100
Republicans	2	9	31	32	9	16	1	100
Total	1	9	23	35	19	12	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	2	8	26	34	16	13	1	100
Black	1	13	13	32	30	11	1	100
Other	0	5	17	38	23	14	2	100
Total	1	9	23	34	20	13	1	100

female	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	1	10	26	33	18	11	1	100
Female	1	8	20	34	21	14	1	100
Total	1	9	23	34	20	13	1	100

White people

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	22	43	28	1	1	5	1	100
Independents	11	35	44	2	0	7	1	100
Republicans	5	25	51	6	2	10	1	100
Total	13	35	40	3	1	7	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	8	32	46	4	1	8	1	100
Black	31	40	20	1	1	7	1	100
Other	17	42	30	0	2	8	2	100
Total	14	34	40	3	1	7	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	14	34	41	3	1	6	1	100
Female	13	34	38	3	1	9	1	100
Total	14	34	40	3	1	7	1	100

African Americans

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	0	10	21	34	28	6	1	100
Independents	2	10	34	31	14	8	1	100
Republicans	4	12	46	24	4	10	0	100
Total	2	11	32	30	16	8	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	2	10	38	29	11	9	0	100
Black	0	10	16	33	34	6	1	100
Other	1	15	27	24	22	8	2	100
Total	2	11	32	30	17	8	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	2	13	35	28	16	6	1	100
Female	2	8	30	31	18	11	1	100
Total	2	11	32	30	17	8	1	100

Hispanics

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	2	10	19	41	16	11	1	100
Independents	2	9	29	34	12	12	1	100
Republicans	4	8	40	25	5	17	1	100
Total	3	9	28	34	12	13	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	3	9	33	32	9	14	1	100
Black	3	11	15	38	20	13	0	100
Other	3	11	23	32	15	15	2	100
Total	3	9	28	34	12	14	1	100

	Far Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Far Worse	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	3	12	32	30	13	10	1	100
Female	3	7	24	37	11	17	1	100
Total	3	9	28	34	12	14	1	100

Political Influence on the Courts

North Carolina courts are free from political influences?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	3	15	43	34	5	0	100
Independents	3	10	47	33	7	0	100
Republicans	2	19	45	25	8	0	100
Total	3	14	45	31	7	0	100

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	2	14	47	30	7	0	100
Black	4	14	40	35	7	0	100
Other	6	23	30	32	9	0	100
Total	3	14	45	31	7	0	100

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	3	16	44	30	6	0	100
Female	3	13	45	32	8	0	100
Total	3	14	45	31	7	0	100

Judges' decisions are influenced by political parties

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	23	55	15	2	5	0	100
Independents	24	51	18	2	5	0	100
Republicans	26	50	18	2	4	0	100
Total	24	52	17	2	5	0	100

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	23	52	18	2	5	0	100
Black	27	55	10	4	4	0	100
Other	32	39	21	2	7	0	100
Total	24	52	16	3	5	0	100

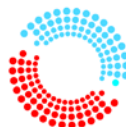
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	24	54	16	2	4	0	100
Female	25	50	16	3	6	0	100
Total	24	52	16	3	5	0	100

Judges' decisions are influenced by the fact they must run for election

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	25	51	16	2	5	1	100
Independents	24	52	16	2	5	1	100
Republicans	20	53	19	2	7	0	100
Total	23	52	17	2	6	1	100

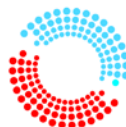
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	22	53	17	2	7	0	100
Black	29	49	14	2	5	1	100
Other	23	48	18	3	6	2	100
Total	24	52	16	2	6	1	100

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	23	54	15	2	5	1	100
Female	24	50	18	1	7	0	100
Total	24	52	16	2	6	1	100



Question Ordering

- Introduction
 - intro..... Introductory screen / Household Randomizer
 - regist Registered to Voter
 - ncrez..... Resident of NC Registered to Vote
- Approval
 - approvpres..... President Approval
- Partisanship
 - partyid..... Party Identification
 - partyidind..... Party ID Branch IND
- 2016 Primary Questions
 - vote Plan to vote
 - primary..... which primary
 - goplist Who will you vote for
 - gopsecond if favorite candidate drops out
 - demlist..... Who will you vote for
 - hypothetical_intro Hypothetical match-ups
 - bushclinton..... Who would you vote for in 2016 - Bush or Clinton
 - rubioclinton..... Who would you vote for in 2016 - Rubio or Clinton
 - fiorinaclinton..... Who would you vote for in 2016 - Fiorina or Clinton
 - trumpclinton..... Who would you vote for in 2016 - Trump or Clinton
 - carsonclinton..... Who would you vote for in 2016 - Carson or Clinton
 - mccorycooper..... Who would you vote for governor in 2016
- **North Carolina State Courts [This report presents the findings for these questions]**
 - courtintro..... introstatement
 - trustintro..... introconfidencequestion
 - police..... confidence in police
 - fedtrust federal government
 - ncourts..... confidence in NC courts
 - schools confidence in local schools
 - supremecourt..... confidence in U.S. supreme court
 - media..... confidence in media
 - jury ever served on jury
 - defendant..... ever been a defendant or plaintiff
 - testify ever testify in court



- fair..... receive fair outcome in court
- fairly..... intro to fair treatment question
- lowincome..... treated better or worse in court
- middleclass..... treated better or worse in court
- wealthy..... treated better or worse in court
- nolawyer..... treated better or worse in court
- noenglish..... treated better or worse in court
- whitepeople..... treated better or worse in court
- blackpeople..... treated better or worse in court
- hispanics..... treated better or worse in court
- statements.....intro to agree/disagree statements
- influence.....political influence on courts
- parties..... courts influenced by parties
- run4electionelections influence judges
- Debate
 - debate..... did you watch either of the GOP debates
- Ideology
 - ideo Ideology
 - ideocon..... Ideology Branch CON
 - ideolib Ideology Branch LIB
 - ideomod Ideology Branch MOD
 - ideodk Ideology Branch DK
- Demographics
 - married..... Married, Single, Divorced, Widowed
 - educ..... Education
 - inc Income
 - inc_high Income High Probe
 - inc_low..... Income Low Probe
 - age..... Age
 - race..... Race
 - landline..... own landline phone [cell phone #s only]
 - cellphone.....own cell phone [landline #s only]
- Post-interview
 - sex..... Gender

Methodological Information

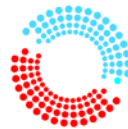
Mode:	Live Interviewer RDD Telephone Interviews (Dual Frame: Cell Phone and Landlines)
Population & Sample Area	North Carolina Residents; Adults (English Speakers)
Dates in the field:	October 29 - November 2, 2015
Sample Size	1234 Adult Residents of North Carolina
Margin of Error	+/- 2.79%
Confidence Level	95%
Weighting Variables	Age , Race, Gender, & Phone Ownership

The Elon University Poll uses a stratified random sample of households with telephones and wireless (cell) telephone numbers. Please direct questions about the Elon University Poll's methodology to the Director of the Elon University Poll, Dr. Kenneth Fernandez at 336-278-6438 or kfernandez@elon.edu.

Procedures Used for Conducting the Poll

The Elon University Poll uses CATI system software (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) for the administration of surveys. We attempt to reach each working telephone number in the sample up to five times. We only interview residents of North Carolina who are over 18. The Elon University Poll conducted the survey in English. Live interviewers called from 4:30 pm to 9:30 pm Thursday 10/29 and Monday 11/2; 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Friday 10/30; and 11:00 am to 7:00 pm on Saturday 10/31 and Sunday 11/1.





Additional Methodological Decisions

Branching Questions

For many questions with multiple response options, we program our surveys to branch into a secondary probing question.

“Don’t Know” & “Refused” Response Options

All questions include an option for respondents to volunteer “don’t know” or to refuse. In the vast majority of questions, interviewers do not prompt “don’t know” responses.

Weighting and Design Effects

We typically weight results from the Elon University Poll on multiple demographic characteristics: race, gender, phone use/type and age. Weighting rarely leads to substantial changes in results. We use iterative raking, adjusting one dimension at a time. The standard error of an estimate for a simple random sample is different from the standard error of an estimate based on a weighted sample. This is referred to as a design effect. For example the overall design effect for the final weights for the sample of *Registered Voters in North Carolina* was 1.14. So an adjusted margin of error for that sample that takes into account the design effect of a survey would be +/- 3.18 instead of +/- 2.79. In this report we also present unweighted frequencies.

Within Household Randomization

For landlines, we use the common “oldest-youngest” technique to ensure within household randomization. We assume cellphones belong to an individual rather than a household. Thus, we do not conduct within-household randomization within our cellphone sample.

Completion Criteria

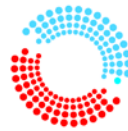
An interview is a complete only if a respondent progresses through the entire survey. Respondents who hang up before completing the last question or who refuse to more than 10 % of the questions are incompletes.

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.

Question Construction and Question Order

In releasing survey results, the Elon University Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which respondents receive these questions. In some cases question ordering rotates to avoid biases. In an effort to provide neutral, non-biased questions, we attempt to observe conventional question wording and question order protocols in all of our polls. In order to avoid recency or primacy effects, we randomize candidate names and directional response options (e.g.



support / oppose) within the text of each question. We pretest every questionnaire multiple times before entering the field.

Sampling

Survey Sampling International, LLC, provide samples of telephone numbers. To equalize the probability of telephone selection, sample telephone numbers are systematically stratified according to subpopulation strata (e.g., a zip code, a county, etc.), which yields a sample from telephone exchanges in proportion to each exchange's share of telephone households in the population of interest. Estimates of telephone households in the population of interest are generally obtained from several databases. Samples of household telephone numbers are distributed across all eligible blocks of numbers in proportion to the density of listed households assigned in the population of interest according to a specified subpopulation stratum. Upon determining the projected (or preferred) sample size, a sampling interval is calculated by summing the number of listed residential numbers in each eligible block within the population of interest and dividing that sum by the number of sampling points assigned to the population. From a random start between zero and the sampling interval, blocks are selected systematically in proportion to the density of listed household "working blocks."

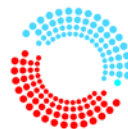
A block (also known as a bank) is a set of contiguous numbers identified by the first two digits of the last four digits of a telephone number. A working block contains three or more working telephone numbers. Exchanges are assigned to a population on the basis of all eligible blocks in proportion to the density of working telephone households. Once each population's proportion of telephone households is determined, then a sampling interval, based on that proportion, is calculated and specific exchanges and numbers are randomly selected.

The wireless component of the study sample starts with determining which area code-exchange combinations in North Carolina are included in the wireless or shared Telcordia types. Similar to the process for selecting household telephone numbers, wireless numbers involve a multi-step process in which blocks of numbers are determined for each area code-exchange combination in the Telcordia types. From a random start within the first sampling interval, a systematic nth selection of each block of numbers is performed and a two-digit random number between 00 and 99 is appended to each selected nth block stem. The intent is to provide a stratification that will yield a sample that is representative both geographically and by large and small carrier. From these, a random sample is generated.

Because exchanges and numbers are randomly selected, unlisted as well as listed numbers are included in the sample. Thus, the sample of numbers generated for the population of interest constitutes a random sample of telephone households and wireless numbers of the population.

Frequently Asked Questions about our Methodology

1. *Who pays for the Elon University Poll?*
Elon University fully funds the Elon University Poll.
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. *Where do you get your numbers?*

We obtain samples of randomized phone numbers from Survey Sample International.

4. *How many times do you call a number before giving up?*

We will attempt to call each working number up to five times before removing it from the sample.

5. *Do you call both cell phones and land lines?*

Yes. We use a mixed sample of both cell phones and landlines. We weight on phone ownership to adjust for the higher probability of selection of those who own both cell phones and landline phones.

6. *Do you report non-response rates?*

Yes. We report non-response rates based on AAPOR guidelines. The response rate for the October 2015 poll was 15.7% which is generally higher than the national average response rate of other high quality survey organizations. The response rate is calculated using the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) formula RR4.

7. *Do you weight the data?*

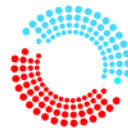
Yes. We apply weights to the data. An iterative proportional fitting algorithm generates weights based on Census and CDC population parameters of residents in North Carolina. Registered voter screens sometimes cause final weighted variables to not match those parameters exactly- which is intended.

8. *Do you randomize response options?*

Yes. We rotate the order of candidate names in all applicable questions. We also rotate order of text for other questions, such as those that include response options such as “more” and “less.” Furthermore, we rotate the order of some questions themselves if we suspect the order of a question could bias results.

9. *Do you conduct within-household randomization?*

Yes. For landlines, we use the common “oldest-youngest” rotation to ensure within household randomization. We assume cellphones belong to an individual rather than a household. Thus, we do not conduct within-household randomization within our cellphone sample.



The Elon University Poll Team

- Dr. Kenneth Fernandez is the Director of the Elon University Poll. Dr. Fernandez holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from University of California – Riverside. Dr. Fernandez is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Elon University. He has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed social science journals.
- Dr. Jason Husser is the Assistant director. Dr. Husser is also Assistant Professor of Political Science at Elon University and Faculty Fellow for Civic Engagement. Dr. Husser holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Vanderbilt University.
- Daniel Anderson is Vice President of Elon University Communications. Eric Townsend is Director of the Elon University News Bureau. Both work very closely with the directors in communicating results of the poll.



Fernandez



Husser

Faculty members in the Department of Political Science are also involved in advising the directors. The poll operates under the auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences at Elon University, led by Interim Dean Gabie Smith.

The Elon University administration, led by Dr. Leo Lambert, president of the university, fully supports the Elon University Poll as part of its service commitment to state, regional, and national constituents. Elon University fully funds the Elon University Poll. 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.

Elon University students administer the survey as part of the University's commitment to civic engagement and experiential learning where "students learn through doing." Student interviewers receive extensive training prior to engaging in interviewing. A team of student supervisors assists the directors with quality control and monitoring.

For more information on the Elon University Poll and this survey, visit
<http://www.elon.edu/elonpoll>

or

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