



I. Survey Methodology

The Elon University Poll is conducted using a stratified random sample of households with telephones in the population of interest – in this case, citizens in North and South Carolina. The sample of telephone numbers for the survey is obtained from Survey Sampling International, LLC.

Selection of Households

To equalize the probability of telephone selection, sample telephone numbers are systematically stratified according to subpopulation strata (e.g., a zip code, a county, a state, 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 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 systematically selected 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. Because exchanges and numbers are randomly selected by the computer, unlisted as well as listed telephone numbers are included in the sample. Thus, the sample of telephone numbers generated for the population of interest constitutes a random sample of telephone households of the population, stratified by exchange.

Procedures Used for Conducting the Poll

The survey was conducted Sunday, April 19th through Thursday, April 23rd of 2009. During this time calls were made from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm EST, Monday through Thursday, and from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm EST, on Sunday. The Elon University Poll uses CATI system software (computer assisted telephone interviewing) in the administration of surveys. For each working telephone number in the sample, several attempts were made to reach the household. Only individuals in households 18 years or older were interviewed; those reached at business or work numbers were not interviewed. Within each household, one adult is generally selected based on whether s/he is the oldest or youngest adult in the home. Interviews, which are conducted by live interviewers, are completed with adults from households in the target population as specified. Interviews for this survey were completed with 662 adults from households in North Carolina and South Carolina. For a sample size of 662, there is a 95 percent probability that our survey results are within plus or minus 3.9 percentage points (the margin of sampling error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. For sub-samples (a subgroup selected from the overall sample), the margin of error is higher depending on the size of the subsample. When we use a subsample, we identify these results as being from a subsample and provide the total number of respondents and margin of error for that subsample. Subsamples are used in this survey and are the states of North Carolina and South Carolina. When discussing results from these states independent of the overall sample, the subsample information is as follows: for North Carolina, interviews were completed with 356 adults from households in North Carolina, and, for this subsample, there is a 95 percent probability that our survey results are within plus or minus 5.3 percentage points (the margin of sampling error) of the actual population distribution for any given question; for South Carolina, interviews were completed with 305 adults from households in South Carolina, and, for this subsample, there is a 95 percent probability that our survey results are within plus or minus 5.7 percentage points (the margin of sampling error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. In reporting our results, we note any use of a subsample where applicable. Because our surveys are based on probability sampling, there are a variety of factors that prevent these results from being perfect, complete depictions of the population; the foremost example is that of margin of sampling error (as noted above). With all probability samples, there are theoretical and practical difficulties estimating population characteristics (or parameters). Thus, while efforts are made to reduce or lessen such threats, sampling error as well as other sources of error – while not all inclusive, examples of other error effects are non-response rates, question order effects, question wording effects, etc. – are present in surveys derived from probability samples.

Questions and Question Order

The Elon University Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which these questions are administered (to respondents). Conspicuous in reviewing some questions is the “bracketed” information. Information contained within brackets ([]) denotes response options as provided in the question; this bracketed information is rotated per question to ensure that respondents do not receive a set order of response options presented to them, which also maintains question construction integrity by avoiding respondent acquiescence based on question composition. Similarly, to protect against

question order effects (where specific questions may 'prime' or influence a respondent's answers to subsequent questions), question order is randomized during administration. For groups of questions in which a standard, set order of administration can influence responses to subsequent questions, questions are administered randomly during the survey; this technique protects against question order effects. Some questions used a probe maneuver to determine a respondent's intensity of perspective. Probe techniques used in this questionnaire mainly consist of asking a respondent if their response is more intense than initially provided. For example, upon indicating whether s/he is satisfied or dissatisfied, we asked the respondent "would you say you are very 'satisfied'/'dissatisfied'?" This technique is employed in some questions as opposed to specifying the full range of choices in the question. Though specifying the full range of options in questions is a commonly accepted practice in survey research, we sometimes prefer that the respondent determine whether their perspective is stronger or more intense for which the probe technique used. Another method for acquiring information from respondents is to ask an "open-ended" question. The open-ended question is a question for which no response options are provided, i.e., it is entirely up to the respondent to provide the response information.

The Elon University Poll

The Elon University Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Center for Public Opinion Polling (Hunter Bacot, Director & Mileah Kromer, Assistant Director), which is a constituent part of the Institute for Politics and Public Affairs (George Taylor, Director); both these organizations are housed in the department of political science at Elon University. These academic units are part of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences at Elon University, which is under the direction of Dr. Steven House (Dean). The Elon University administration, led by Dr. Leo Lambert, President of the university, fully support the Elon University Poll as part of its service commitment to state, regional, and national constituents. Dr. Hunter Bacot, a professor in the department of political science, directs the Elon University Poll. Elon University students administer the survey as part of the University's commitment to experiential learning where "students learn through doing."

II. Survey Instrument and Percent Distributions by Question

Interviews were completed with 662 adults from households in the North and South Carolina. For a sample size of 662, there is a 95 percent probability that our survey results are within plus or minus 3.9 percentage points (the margin of sampling error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. For each state, the sample size and margin of sampling error are: North Carolina-356, +/-5.3; South Carolina-305, +/-5.7. Questions are presented by topic, not in the order as administered; data are weighted to reflect the adult population in terms of gender.

About the Codes appearing in Questions and Responses	
Response Options not offered	Response options are <u>not</u> offered to the person taking the survey (respondent), but are included in the question as asked (and usually denoted by brackets, []). Response options are generally offered only for demographic questions (background characteristic, e.g., age, education, income, etc.).
v = volunteered response	Respondents volunteer response option. As response options are <u>not</u> offered to those taking the survey, some respondents offer or volunteer response options. Though not all volunteered options can be anticipated, the more common options are noted.
p = probed response	Respondents self-place in this option or category. A probe maneuver is used in questions to allow the respondent to indicate whether her/his response is more intense than initially provided for in the choices appearing in the question. For example, on probe questions the interviewer, upon a respondent indicating that she/he is satisfied (or dissatisfied), is instructed to ask him/her “Would you say you are “very satisfied”?”

First, I would like to know what you think is the most important issue facing your state?

		BOTH STATES	NC	SC
	ECONOMY	37.4	39.3	35.4
	JOB S & UNEMPLOYMENT	29.4	30.6	27.9
	ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION	10.4	6.7	14.8
	HEALTH CARE	2.6	3.1	2.0
	TAXES	2.9	4.5	1.0
	CRIME & DRUGS	0.4	0.6	0.3
	IMMIGRATION	1.0	1.1	0.7
	FAMILY VALUES & MORALS	0.9	1.4	0.7
	UNIVERSITY SYSTEM	0.6	0.3	1.0
	TRAFFIC & ROAD CONSTRUCTION	0.9	1.4	0.3
	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE/MEDICAID OR MEDICARE	0.4	0.0	1.0
	OTHER	9.8	8.5	10.6
	DON T KNOW	3.1	2.2	4.3
	REFUSED	0.2	0.3	0.0
	Total	100.0 N=662 +/- 3.9%	100.0 N=356 +/- 5.3%	100.0 N=305 +/- 5.7%

Now, thinking about things in the country, do you feel things in this country [have gotten off on the wrong track, or are going in the right direction]?

		BOTH STATES	NC	SC
	STRONGLY GOTTEN OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK (p)	32.7	28.7	37.6
	GOTTEN OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK	27.8	24.7	29.1
	GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION	25.3	28.1	21.9
	STRONGLY GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION (p)	8.9	11.2	6.2
	DON T KNOW (v)	6.2	7.3	4.9
	REFUSED (v)	.1	.3	.2
	Total	100.0 N=662 +/- 3.9%	100.0 N=356 +/- 5.3%	100.0 N=305 +/- 5.7%

Now I m going to ask you some questions about the President . . Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

		BOTH STATES	NC	SC
	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE (p)	24.7	19.9	30.4
	DISAPPROVE	13.0	13.2	12.7
	APPROVE	29.7	30.5	28.8
	STRONGLY APPROVE (p)	22.6	25.8	18.6
	DON T KNOW (v)	9.6	10.1	8.8
	REFUSED (v)	.5	.6	.7
	Total	100.0 N=662 +/- 3.9%	100.0 N=356 +/- 5.3%	100.0 N=305 +/- 5.7%

Now, I'd like to know how you think President Obama is handling some issues . . .I'm going to read you a list and first I want you to tell me if you [approve or disapprove]of how he is handling each issue. Then tell me if you think the President is paying [too little, about the right amount, or too much] attention to it.

	BOTH STATES				
	DISAPPROVE	APPROVE	TOO LITTLE	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MUCH
EDUCATION	25.6	49.5	38.9	54.7	6.4
IMMIGRATION	43.9	33.7	49.2	44.5	6.3
HEALTH CARE	44.6	43.7	40.4	44.1	15.5
ECONOMY	49.5	45.4	25.0	56.9	18.1
MORTGAGE CRISIS	46.4	43.2	31.4	50.3	18.2
IRAQ WAR	34.1	57.2	34.0	60.7	5.2
TAXES	45.5	43.3	30.5	53.0	16.5
AFGHANISTAN	29.7	54.8	32.0	59.5	8.5
BUDGET DEFICIT	55.0	35.1	40.2	44.8	15.0
AUTO INDUSTRY	54.6	37.3	19.9	42.3	37.8
FINANCIAL CRISIS	48.6	44.2	29.4	53.1	17.5
Total (N=662; +/- 3.9%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Excludes "Don't Know"

	NORTH CAROLINA				
	DISAPPROVE	APPROVE	TOO LITTLE	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MUCH
EDUCATION	23.8	52.7	39.0	55.3	5.6
IMMIGRATION	41.6	37.9	47.3	45.7	7.0
HEALTH CARE	39.6	46.6	40.4	46.3	13.2
ECONOMY	44.4	50.6	22.8	61.2	16.0
MORTGAGE CRISIS	43.0	44.9	31.9	51.5	16.5
IRAQ WAR	33.7	58.7	32.2	61.9	5.9
TAXES	41.3	46.1	31.1	55.5	13.4
AFGHANISTAN	28.4	56.5	29.5	61.8	8.7
BUDGET DEFICIT	52.4	37.0	41.9	46.1	12.1
AUTO INDUSTRY	51.0	40.3	19.0	44.8	36.1
FINANCIAL CRISIS	47.2	46.1	28	54.3	17.6
Total (N=356; +/- 5.3%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	SOUTH CAROLINA				
	DISAPPROVE	APPROVE	TOO LITTLE	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MUCH
EDUCATION	27.8	45.8	38.6	53.9	7.5
IMMIGRATION	46.6	28.85	51.5	43.0	5.6
HEALTH CARE	48.5	40.3	40.3	41.3	18.4
ECONOMY	55.2	39.5	27.5	52.1	20.3
MORTGAGE CRISIS	50.3	41.2	30.8	48.9	20.3
IRAQ WAR	34.4	55.4	36.1	59.3	4.6
TAXES	50.7	39.9	29.8	50.2	20.0
AFGHANISTAN	31.1	52.8	35.0	56.9	8.2
BUDGET DEFICIT	57.8	33.0	38.4	43.3	18.4
AUTO INDUSTRY	58.7	33.8	21.0	39.3	39.7
FINANCIAL CRISIS	50.2	42.0	31.1	51.5	17.4
Total (N=305; +/- 5.7%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way President Obama is handling the economy?

		BOTH STATES	NC	SC
	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE (p)	30.8	26.1	36.2
	DISAPPROVE	16.9	16.8	17.1
	APPROVE	28.6	30.5	26.3
	STRONGLY APPROVE (p)	18.3	19.6	16.8
	DON T KNOW (v)	5.5	7.0	3.6
	Total	100.0 N=662 +/- 3.9%	100.0 N=356 +/- 5.3%	100.0 N=305 +/- 5.7%

Do you think President Obama has proposed spending [too much money, about the right amount of money, or not enough money] to address the economic situation?

		BOTH STATES	NC	SC
	NOT ENOUGH	8.2	7.3	9.2
	ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT	27.2	32.0	21.6
	TOO MUCH	55.7	51.7	60.3
	DON T KNOW (v)	8.4	8.4	8.5
	REFUSED (v)	.4	.6	.3
	Total	100.0 N=662 +/- 3.9%	100.0 N=356 +/- 5.3%	100.0 N=305 +/- 5.7%

Since taking office, have President Obama's economic policies made economic conditions [worse, better,] or have these not had an effect yet?

		BOTH STATES	NC	SC
	WORSE	18.8	19.7	17.7
	NOT HAD AN EFFECT YET	60.0	57.6	63.0
	BETTER	18.9	21.6	15.7
	DON T KNOW (v)	2.2	1.1	3.3
	REFUSED (v)	.1	0.0	.3
	Total	100.0 N=662 +/- 3.9%	100.0 N=356 +/- 5.3%	100.0 N=305 +/- 5.7%

So far, do you think President Obama is:
[-trying to address too many issues at once,
-focusing on too few issues, or
-focusing on the right number of issues]?

	BOTH STATES	NC	SC
FOCUSING ON TOO FEW ISSUES	6.5	5.6	7.5
FOCUSING ON THE RIGHT NUMBER OF ISSUES	38.7	43.4	33.1
TRYING TO ADDRESS TOO MANY ISSUES AT ONCE	50.4	46.5	54.8
DON'T KNOW (v)	4.1	3.9	4.3
REFUSED (v)	.4	.6	.3
Total	100.0 N=662 +/- 3.9%	100.0 N=356 +/- 5.3%	100.0 N=305 +/- 5.7%

Now, changing topics a bit, I'm going to ask you about the level of Confidence you have in people or institutions in charge of running things in the United States . . .

I'm going to read you a list, and I'd like for you to tell me if you have [a great deal of confidence, some confidence, or no confidence] in them.. .

	BOTH STATES			
	NO CONFIDENCE	SOME CONFIDENCE	A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE	DON'T KNOW
THE MILITARY	3.2	22.8	72.6	1.3
WALL STREET	59.4	32.9	2.9	4.8
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES	10.1	49.4	36.4	4.2
ORGANIZED RELIGION	18.8	41.4	29.8	10.0
TELEVISION NEWS	46.5	42.2	8.2	3.0
CONGRESS	51.2	41.0	4.7	3.1
BANKS	42.3	48.5	6.8	2.5
LAW FIRMS	37.8	49.1	6.0	8.0
UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT	15.2	54.1	27.2	3.6
LABOR UNIONS	51.0	33.9	7.4	7.6
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	21.3	54.6	22.1	2.1
MEDICAL DOCTORS	7.4	53.3	37.1	2.2
SMALL BUSINESSES	6.3	37.9	53.4	2.5
THE WHITE HOUSE	30.6	39.1	26.2	4.2
Total (N=620; +/- 4.0%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	NC			
	NO CONFIDENCE	SOME CONFIDENCE	A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE	DON'T KNOW
THE MILITARY	3.9	25.8	68.8	1.4
WALL STREET	60.4	33.1	2.8	3.7
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES	7.0	50.4	37.8	4.8
ORGANIZED RELIGION	18.8	40.7	29.8	10.7
TELEVISION NEWS	47.3	40.6	8.7	3.4
CONGRESS	47.2	44.1	5.1	3.7
BANKS	43.0	47.2	7.0	2.8
LAW FIRMS	36.0	50.8	4.2	9.0
UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT	12.4	55.3	27.8	4.5
LABOR UNIONS	45.8	39.0	7.9	7.3
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	18.2	55.5	24.1	2.2
MEDICAL DOCTORS	7.3	53.5	36.7	2.5
SMALL BUSINESSES	6.4	39.2	51.8	2.5
THE WHITE HOUSE	27.2	40.1	28.9	3.9
Total (N=356; +/- 5.3%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	SC			
	NO CONFIDENCE	SOME CONFIDENCE	A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE	DON'T KNOW
THE MILITARY	2.6	19.3	77.1	1.0
WALL STREET	58.4	32.5	3.0	6.2
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES	13.4	48.2	34.8	3.6
ORGANIZED RELIGION	18.6	42.5	29.7	9.2
TELEVISION NEWS	45.4	44.1	7.8	2.6
CONGRESS	55.9	37.5	4.3	2.3
BANKS	41.5	50.0	6.5	2.0
LAW FIRMS	38.0	47.2	7.9	6.9
UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT	18.3	52.6	26.5	2.6
LABOR UNIONS	57.2	28.1	6.9	7.8
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	24.9	53.4	19.7	2.0
MEDICAL DOCTORS	7.9	52.8	37.7	1.6
SMALL BUSINESSES	6.2	36.1	55.1	2.6
THE WHITE HOUSE	34.4	38.0	23.3	4.3
Total (N=305; +/- 5.7%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think the [Republican party or the Democratic party] is doing a better job of managing the economy?

		BOTH STATES	NC	SC
	DEMOCRATIC PARTY	36.7	39.0	34.0
	REPUBLICAN PARTY	19.0	18.5	19.6
	NOT DECIDED/UNSURE (v)	6.9	6.5	7.5
	NEITHER PARTY (v)	33.9	32.6	35.3
	DON T KNOW (v)	2.4	2.8	2.0
	REFUSED (v)	1.1	.6	1.6
	Total	100.0 N=662 +/- 3.9%	100.0 N=356 +/- 5.3%	100.0 N=305 +/- 5.7%

Do you expect the national economy to [get better, stay about the same, or get worse] by the end of this year?

	BOTH STATES	NC	SC
GET WORSE	29.0	28.9	29.2
STAY ABOUT THE SAME	27.4	26.7	28.2
GET BETTER	41.9	43.8	39.7
DON'T KNOW (v)	1.6	.6	3.0
Total	100.0 N=662 +/- 3.9%	100.0 N=356 +/- 5.3%	100.0 N=305 +/- 5.7%

Do you expect the state economy [to get better, stay about the same, or get worse] by the end of this year?

	BOTH STATES	NC	SC
GET WORSE	35.7	35.1	36.3
STAY ABOUT THE SAME	34.3	32.3	36.6
GET BETTER	27.9	31.1	25.5
DON'T KNOW (v)	2.1	2.5	1.6
Total	100.0 N=662 +/- 3.9%	100.0 N=356 +/- 5.3%	100.0 N=305 +/- 5.7%

Thinking about the economy overall, do you think that . . .
 [-it has started to improve,
 -that the worst is yet to come, or
 -that it has leveled-off but has not started to improve yet.]

	BOTH STATES	NC	SC
THE WORST IS YET TO COME	34.5	32.8	36.4
HAS LEVELED OFF, BUT HAS NOT STARTED TO IMPROVE YET	45.7	45.9	45.6
STARTED TO IMPROVE	17.1	19.0	15.1
DON'T KNOW (v)	2.5	2.2	3.0
REFUSED (v)	.1	0.0	.3
Total	100.0 N=662 +/- 3.9%	100.0 N=356 +/- 5.3%	100.0 N=305 +/- 5.7%