

Survey Instrument, February 2011*

Q: ISSU_ST

First, what do you think is the most important issue facing the state of North Carolina?

Open ended

Q: GOVJOB

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Beverly Perdue is handling her job as governor?

1. STRONGLY DISAPPROVE (p)
2. DISAPPROVE
3. APPROVE
4. STRONGLY APPROVE (p)

Q: GOVFAV

Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of Governor Perdue?

1. STRONGLY UNFAVORABLE (p)
2. UNFAVORABLE
3. FAVORABLE
4. STRONGLY FAVORABLE (p)

Q: ST_DIR

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

1. STRONGLY GOTTEN OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK
2. GOTTEN OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK
3. GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
4. STRONGLY GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Q: GENECON2

Now, I'd like to change topics and ask you about the economy . . . Do you expect the state economy [to get better, stay about the same, or get worse] by the end of this year?

1. GET WORSE
2. STAY ABOUT THE SAME
3. GET BETTER

Q: PERSFIN1

By the end of this year, do you expect your personal financial situation [to get better, stay about the same, or get worse]?

1. GET WORSE

2. STAY ABOUT THE SAME
3. GET BETTER

Q: ABCINTRO

Now, I'm going to change topics and ask you some questions about alcohol beverage management, distribution, and sales in the state in North Carolina, as you are likely aware, these responsibilities fall under the state government's Alcohol Beverage Control, or ABC system . . .

So, with this in mind and based on your understanding of this system, do you think [we need to change the current system, that the system is fine the way it is, or] are you not familiar enough with it to comment?

1. THE SYSTEM IS FINE THE WAY IT IS
2. CHANGE THE CURRENT SYSTEM
3. NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION TO COMMENT

Q: ABC_CONTROL

Given a choice, would you prefer that liquor sales be under the control of: [state government, local governments, or private companies]?

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
2. STATE GOVERNMENT
3. PRIVATE COMPANIES

Q: ABC_PVT

Would you [support or oppose] making the entire ABC system the complete responsibility of the the private sector?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: VIDPOKR1

Now, I'm going to ask you about video poker. Do you [support or oppose] video poker being available for play throughout North Carolina?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: VIDPOKR2

Do you believe video poker should be [illegal or legal] in North Carolina?

1. ILLEGAL (NOT ALLOWED)
2. LEGAL (ALLOWED)

Q: VIDSWEEP1

Now, I'm going to ask you about video sweepstakes gaming in North Carolina . . . Just so we're talking about the same thing, video sweepstakes refers to games of chance played on specially equipped computer terminals in a commercial location . . . With this in mind, do you [support or oppose] video sweepstakes being available for play throughout North Carolina?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: VIDSWEEP2

Do you believe video sweepstakes games should be [legal or illegal] in North Carolina?

1. ILLEGAL (NOT ALLOWED)
2. LEGAL (ALLOWED)

Q: VIDSWEEP3

Would you [support or oppose] the state government making it legal for private businesses to operate video sweepstakes and poker establishments if these were controlled and regulated by a North Carolina state agency?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: TRUSTGOV

Now, I'd like to know how you feel about government . . . How much of the time - [none, very little, some, most, or all of the time] - do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is in the public's interest?

1. NONE OF THE TIME
2. VERY LITTLE OF THE TIME
3. SOME OF THE TIME
4. MOST OF THE TIME
5. ALL OF THE TIME

Q: TRUSTGOV1

Overall, how much of the time do you think you can trust government in general. . . do you think you can trust government [none of the time, very little, some of the time, most of the time, or all of the time]?

1. NONE OF THE TIME
2. VERY LITTLE OF THE TIME
3. SOME OF THE TIME
4. MOST OF THE TIME
5. ALL OF THE TIME

Q: OPEN1

Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about the accessibility and availability of public documents. . .Most states have laws called "Sunshine Laws" that make public documents, records, information, and meetings available and accessible to citizens. . . . are you [aware or not aware] if North Carolina has these laws?

1. NOT AWARE
2. AWARE

Q: OPEN2

In general, how [important or unimportant] is it for citizens to have access to public documents, records, information, and meetings? Would you say it is [not at all important, somewhat important, or very important]?

1. NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
2. SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT
3. VERY IMPORTANT

Q: OPEN3

Do you believe that citizen access to public documents, records, information, and meetings [does influence or does not influence] government operations?

1. DOES NOT INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
2. INFLUENCES GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Q: OPEN4

Now I want to read you some statements about the availability and accessibility of public documents, records, information, and meetings, related to how government operates. Please tell me whether you: [agree or disagree] with each statement . . .

1. STRONGLY DISAGREE
2. DISAGREE
3. AGREE
4. STRONGLY AGREE

A-It's important to be able to get any document you want from government

B-Citizens have a right to know about everything government does

C-Citizen requests for government documents are just a big distraction for government workers

D-Every citizen should have complete access to information about their government

E-Sometimes it is better not to know too much about what is going on in government

F-Government records belong to the people, not to the government

G-It is nobody's business who gives what to a campaign

H-Transparency is the key to fighting government corruption

I-Public hearings are essential for good government

J-Public access to records is crucial to the functioning of good government

K-Governments naturally like to keep secrets from citizens

Q: OPEN5

When it comes to actions and activities of state and local governments, would you say you have . . . [a lot of interest, some interest, little interest, or no interest at all]?

1. NO INTEREST
2. LITTLE INTEREST
3. SOME INTEREST
4. A LOT OF INTEREST

Q: OPEN6

When it comes to actions and activities of the federal government, would you say you have [a lot of interest, some interest, little interest, or no interest at all]?

1. NO INTEREST
2. LITTLE INTEREST
3. SOME INTEREST
4. A LOT OF INTEREST

Q: OPEN6A

As you may know, there is a state law that requires nearly all government bodies in North Carolina to conduct their affairs in public and make most information available to the public . . . [some argue that this law is too weak, while others argue that it is strong enough]. . . so, with this in mind, would you [support or oppose] an amendment to the North Carolina constitution that makes all public business of any government body in North Carolina open and available to the public.

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT

4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: OPEN7

When thinking about the accessibility and availability of North Carolina state and local governments, would you say they are [always accessible & available, somewhat accessible & available, or not at all accessible & available]?

1. NOT AT ALL ACCESSIBLE & AVAILABLE
2. SOMEWHAT ACCESSIBLE & AVAILABLE
3. ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE & AVAILABLE

Q: OPEN8

When thinking about the accessibility and availability of the federal [always accessible & available, somewhat accessible & available, or not at all accessible & available]?
government, would you say it is

1. NOT AT ALL ACCESSIBLE & AVAILABLE
2. SOMEWHAT ACCESSIBLE & AVAILABLE
3. ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE & AVAILABLE

Q: OPEN9

Have you ever tried to get any public documents, records, and information?

1. NO
2. YES

IF NO SKIP TO OPEN09AA
IF YES SKIP TO SKP OPEN09A
IF DON'T KNOW SKIP TO OPEN09AA
IF REFUSED SKIP TO OPEN09AA

Q: OPEN09A

Now I'm going to read a list of items and I would like for you to tell me if you have ever tried to access this information.

1. NO
2. YES

A-Police reports of crimes committed in your community.

B-The names and addresses of registered sex offenders.

C-Records of government officials' expense accounts.

D-Government records that identify the type, amount, and location of hazardous chemicals.

E-The annual salaries of public employees.

F-Records detailing someone's criminal past.

G-Public utility records

H-Government employees work e-mail.

I-Property tax records, including the value of a person's home and how much was paid in property taxes.

J-Driver's license records, which include a person's name, address, height, and weight.

K-Divorce court files, which may include family assets and allegations between spouses.

L-Government budgets or financial statements

Q: OPEN10

Were you generally successful in getting the documents, records, or information that you tried to?

1. NO
2. YES

Q: OPEN11

Overall, how was your experience in getting these documents, records, or information . . . was it [very easy, easy, difficult, or very difficult]?

1. VERY DIFFICULT
2. DIFFICULT
3. EASY
4. VERY EASY

SKIP TO HEALTH2

Q: OPEN09AA

Now I'm going to read a list of items and I would like for you to tell me if you believe ordinary citizens [should or should not] have access to this information.

1. DEFINITELY SHOULD NOT
2. SHOULD NOT
3. SHOULD

4. DEFINITELY SHOULD

A-Police reports of crimes committed in your community.

B-The names and addresses of registered sex offenders.

C-Records of government officials' expense accounts.

D-Government records that identify the type, amount, and location of hazardous chemicals.

E-The annual salaries of public employees.

F-Records detailing someone's criminal past.

G-Public utility records

H-Government employees work e-mail.

I-Property tax records, including the value of a person's home and how much was paid in property taxes.

J-Driver's license records, which include a person's name, address, height, and weight.

K-Divorce court files, which may include family assets and allegations between spouses.

L-Government budgets or financial statements

Q: HEALTH2

Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about health care . . . Do you [support or oppose] the national health insurance plan passed by Congress last year, or have you not given it much thought?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)
5. HAVE NOT GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT

Q: HEALTH3

Do you [agree or disagree] with the decision of the North Carolina legislature to challenge the national government's requirement for citizens to have health insurance, or have you not given it much thought?

1. STRONGLY DISAGREE (p)
2. DISAGREE

3. AGREE
4. STRONGLY AGREE (p)
5. HAVE NOT GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT

Q: HEALTH31

Do you [STATEMENTS ROTATED]

support the health care law as it is,
support repeal of the entire health care law,
support the repeal of only certain parts of the health care law,
support waiting to see how the new health care law works before deciding, or

have you not given it much thought?

1. SUPPORT REPEAL OF THE ENTIRE HEALTH CARE LAW
2. SUPPORT REPEAL OF ONLY CERTAIN PARTS OF THE HEALTH CARE LAW
3. SUPPORT WAITING TO SEE HOW THE NEW LAW WORKS BEFORE DECIDING
4. SUPPORT THE HEALTH CARE LAW AS IT IS
5. HAVEN'T GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT

Q: HEALTH32

Now I'm going to read a list of items that are part of the new health care reform law passed last year by Congress . . . As I read each one, please tell me whether you [agree or disagree] with it. . . .

1. STRONGLY DISAGREE
2. DISAGREE
3. AGREE
4. STRONGLY AGREE

A Providing a bonus to physicians who provide primary care services to people on Medicare

B Establishing a national, voluntary insurance program in which working adults can purchase insurance to help pay for long-term care services they might need in the future

C Increasing the Medicare premiums for coverage of prescription drugs & doctor visits for people with higher incomes

D With the exception of small businesses, fining employers if they don't offer health insurance to their employees

E Expanding the existing Medicaid program to cover low-income, uninsured adults regardless of whether they have children

F Providing financial help to low and moderate income Americans who don't get insurance through their jobs to help them purchase coverage

G Requiring nearly all Americans who do not have health insurance to pay a fine

Q: SAMESEX1

Now, switching topics, I'd like to ask you about same sex marriages. . . I'm going to read you three statements, and, after I read all three, I'd like for you to tell me which statement comes closest to your position on this issue [STATEMENTS ROTATED]

- (#1) I oppose any legal recognition for same sex couples,
- (#2) I support civil unions or partnerships for same sex couples, but not full marriage rights, or
- (#3) I support full marriage rights for same sex couples.

1. #1 OPPOSE ANY LEGAL RECOGNITION FOR SAME SEX COUPLES
2. #2 SUPPORT CIVIL UNIONS OR PARTNERSHIPS FOR SAME SEX COUPLES, BUT NOT FULL RIGHTS
3. #3 FULL MARRIAGE RIGHTS FOR SAME SEX COUPLES

Q: SAMESEX2

Would you [support or oppose] an amendment to the North Carolina constitution that would prevent any same sex marriages?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: SAMESEX3

As you may know, there is a state law that recognizes marriage to be by the consent of a male and female and makes it illegal for two individuals of the same sex to be married or have their marriage recognized by the state of North Carolina . . . Knowing that there is already a law that prevents same sex marriages in North Carolina, would you [support or oppose] an amendment to the North Carolina constitution that would prevent same sex marriages?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: CHARTER1

Changing topics, I'd like to ask you a few questions about charter schools in North Carolina. . . Just to make sure we are talking about the same thing, charter schools are Kindergarten to 12th grade schools that are independently owned and operated, but are government funded and must meet state testing requirements . . . With this in mind, do you [support or oppose] charter schools being able to operate in North Carolina?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT

4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: CHARTER2

As you may be aware, there is currently a cap or limit on the number of charter schools permitted in the state. The limit on charter schools was originally put in place to keep the system from expanding too quickly and making sure these schools followed state requirements . . . some people now feel that charter schools should be available for more students throughout the state. In your opinion, should we [adjust, keep, or eliminate] the current cap?

1. ELIMINATE THE CURRENT CAP
2. ADJUST THE CURRENT CAP
3. KEEP THE CURRENT CAP
4. NEITHER (v) DO NOT OFFER

Q: CHARTER3

Now, I'm going to read you some statements about charter schools . . . for each one, I want you to tell me whether you [agree or disagree] with it...

1. STRONGLY DISAGREE
2. DISAGREE
3. AGREE
4. STRONGLY AGREE

A-Charter Schools should be funded by Local school systems.

B-Charter schools should be governed by the NC Department of Public Instruction

C-Charter schools should be governed by their own independent statewide commission.

D-Charter schools should receive public funds for school construction and renovations.

E-Charter Schools should have to meet state testing requirements

Q: INCRREVU

Now, I'd like to ask you about the North Carolina state budget situation. . . As you may be aware, the state of North Carolina is facing a budget shortfall of around 3 billion dollars . . . about half of this shortfall is based on the expiration of some taxes, while the other half is based on stimulus funds not being available any more. . . .So, with this 3 billion dollar budget shortfall in mind, I'd like to ask you some questions about taking care of it . . . to take care of this budget shortfall, would you [support or oppose] creating new taxes to increase revenues?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: EXTNDSLTX

To take care of this budget shortfall, would you [support or oppose] making the temporary one percent increase in the sales tax permanent?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: EXTNDINCTX1

To take care of this budget shortfall, would you [support or oppose] making the temporary 2 percent tax surcharges permanent for individuals making more than \$60,000 dollars and couples making more than \$100,000 dollars a year?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: EXTNDINCTX2

To take care of this budget shortfall, would you [support or oppose] making the temporary 3 percent tax surcharges permanent for individuals making more than \$150,000 dollars and couples making more than \$250,000 dollars a year?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)
8. DON'T KNOW (v) DO NOT OFFER
9. REFUSED (v) DO NOT OFFER

Q: REDUCEQL

To take care of this budget shortfall, would you[support or oppose]reducing funding for all state programs equally?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: CUTSTJOB

To take care of this budget shortfall, would you [support or oppose] eliminating jobs for current state employees?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: INCSLSTX

To take care of this budget shortfall, would you[support or oppose] increasing the state sales tax by one cent?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: VOTERID1A

As you may know, the state legislature is considering a law requiring voters to show some sort of government approved photo identification before they are allowed to vote . . . do you [support or oppose] such a law?

1. STRONGLY OPPOSE (p)
2. OPPOSE
3. SUPPORT
4. STRONGLY SUPPORT (p)

Q: VOTERID2A

In your opinion, would a photo identification requirement [decrease, increase, or have no effect on] your ability to vote in North Carolina?

1. DECREASE
2. NO EFFECT
3. INCREASE

Q: ABORT01

As you may know, more than thirty five years ago, the courts established that women have a constitutional right to obtain legal abortions in this country. Thinking about abortion, would you describe yourself as being more [pro-life, pro-choice,] or are you not sure?

1. PRO-LIFE
2. PRO-CHOICE
3. NOT SURE

Q: ABORT02

Now, thinking more generally, do you think state laws in North Carolina should make access to an abortion [more difficult or less difficult]?

1. LESS DIFFICULT
2. MORE DIFFICULT

These three questions are randomly distributed to respondents

Q: ABORT03

Do you [agree or disagree] that a woman should be able to get an abortion if she decides she wants one, no matter the reason?

1. STRONGLY DISAGREE (p)
2. DISAGREE
3. AGREE
4. STRONGLY AGREE (p)

Q: ABORT04

Do you [agree or disagree] that an abortion should only be legal in certain circumstances, such as when a woman's health is endangered, or when the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest?

1. STRONGLY DISAGREE (p)
2. DISAGREE
3. AGREE
4. STRONGLY AGREE (p)

Q: ABORT05

Do you [agree or disagree] that an abortion should be illegal in all circumstances?

1. STRONGLY DISAGREE (p)
2. DISAGREE
3. AGREE
4. STRONGLY AGREE (p)

**questions are in order of administration and response options include only those offered respondents*