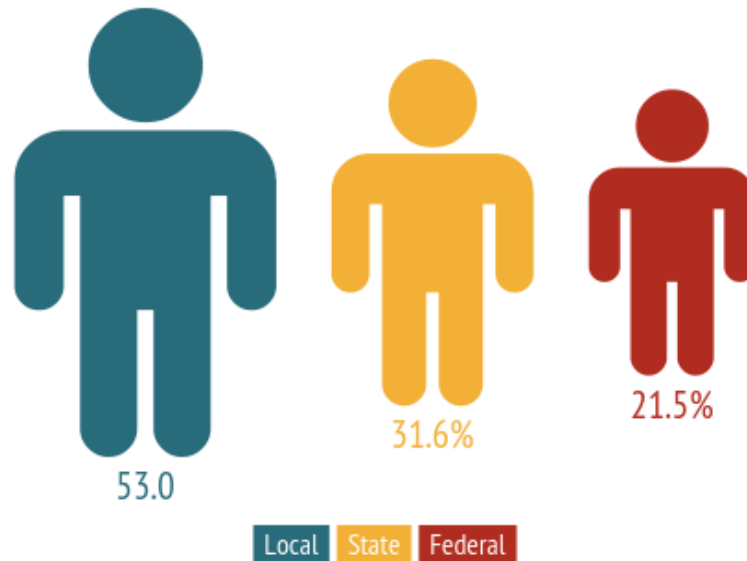


OPEN GOVERNMENT SURVEY

February 16-20, 2015

Do NC Residents Trust Government?



% saying they trust this level of government most of the time or just about always.

Source: Elon Poll, Feb. 16-20, 2015. 867 NC Residents. ± 3.33

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Executive Summary

The Elon University Poll has periodically asked questions regarding issues related to "Open Government," including transparency of government, access to government information and trust in government. This is the fourth *Open Government Survey* conducted by the Elon University Poll. The survey was conducted using live callers and a dual frame sampling design (landline and cell phone). The data was collected on February 16-20, 2015. A total of 867 adult residents of North Carolina completed the survey giving the survey a margin of error of +/- 3.33 percentage points. The first Elon Poll survey to ask questions regarding *Open Government* occurred in [March of 2009](#), the second *Open Government Survey* was conducted in [February of 2011](#), and the third *Open Government Survey* was implemented in [November of 2013](#).

Trust in Government

Respondents clearly trust their local government more than they do the state or federal government. 53.1% of respondents said that they trusted their local governments to do what is right 'just about always' or 'most of the time,' compared to 31.5% for state government and 21.5% for federal government. Although trust in the federal government is low, it has increased since 2013 when only 14% of respondents said that they trusted the governments 'just about always' or 'most of the time.' Democrats had the greatest trust for the federal government with 28% of respondents saying they trusted them to do the right thing 'just about always' or 'most of the time,' compared to 17% of Republicans and 19% of independents. Younger respondents are generally more trustful of the federal government than their older counterparts. When looking at state level trust, Republicans (41%) are much more likely to say they trust the state government than Democrats (24%) or Independents (34%). Trust in local government was generally bipartisan with 51% of Democrats, 53% of Independents, and 55% of Republicans believing their local government would do the right "just about always" or "most of the time." Overall, African American respondents (31%) trusted the federal government more than white respondents (19%), while the reverse was true for trust in state and local governments.

Corruptions in Government

Respondents were asked the following question: "Compared to 100 years ago, would you say the there is more corruption in state government today or less?" Nearly 69% said there was more corruption today than 100 years ago. Given that many historians on this subject might argue there is less corruption today than in 1915, this finding suggests there is a high level of

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pessimism and distrust among the general public. This pessimism seems to be bipartisan in nature with 68% of Democrats, 70% of Independents, and 73% of Republicans believing there is more corruption today. African American respondents, as well as women, and younger respondents (age 18 to 30) were all more likely to say there is more corruption today. More educated respondents (those with graduate degrees) were less likely to believe there is more corruption today than 100 years ago (48%).

Government Transparency/Sunshine Laws

When asked whether they were aware if North Carolina had Sunshine Laws, laws that promote the transparency of public records, 62% of respondents reported they were not aware (in the 2013 survey 65% said they were unaware). In regards to freedom of information and access to government documents most of respondents (67%) believe you should be able to get any document you want from the government. Furthermore, 76% believe the names of those who donate to political campaigns should be made public and 68% believe all government meetings should be open to the public. In addition, there was also 69% support for an amendment to the North Carolina constitution that makes the business of any government body in North Carolina open and available to the public (in 2013 approximately 70% supported such an amendment).

Police Surveillance Technology: Body Cameras and Drones

The vast majority of respondents were in support of on-duty police officers wearing body cameras with over 90% saying they were in favor of the idea. To a lesser extent, respondents also believed that these videos should be made available to the public (63%). Respondents were evenly split on the question of local police departments using drones for video surveillance with 47% in favor and 45% opposed. While there is no significant demographic split on the use of body cameras, the issue on whether the videos should be made public is where some group differences emerge. 70% of Democrats believe the videos should be made public while only 48% of Republicans believe the videos should be available to the public. The split is also evident down racial lines as well with 78% of African American respondents responding that the videos should be made available to the public compared to 58% of white respondents. The use of unmanned aerial drone for police surveillance was practically an even split with 47% in support and 45% opposed. There is a slight partisan difference with 56% of Republican respondents in support of the use of drones compared to 46% of Democrats.

Topline Results

Sunshine

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?

Aware.....	274.....	31.60%
Not Aware.....	536.....	61.80%
I don't know/Not sure.....	57.....	6.60%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Comparison

Compared to 100 years ago, would you say the there is more corruption in state government today or less? [rotated]

More corruption today	595.....	68.70%
Less corruption today.....	128.....	14.80%
About the same [volunteered].....	88.....	10.10%
Don't know	53.....	6.10%
Refused	3.....	0.30%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Costs for Government Documents

Should there be a fee for requesting a government document to help cover the costs involved in retrieving that record? [Yes, No, Don't Know, Refused] - No's coded a \$0.00

If it took a government employee an hour to obtain a record for you, what do you think would be a reasonable fee for that document? [Open-ended response]

\$0	409.....	47.2%
\$1-\$9	109.....	12.6%
\$10	73.....	8.40%
\$11-\$20	69.....	8.00%
>\$20	73.....	8.40%
Don't know/Refused.....	134.....	15.40%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Average Cost: \$8.10 Range: \$0.00 to \$300.00 Standard Deviation: 21.1 Median: \$0.00

*In November of 2013 the average cost mentioned by a respondent was \$5.61.

Agree/Disagree Questions

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

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Access

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

Agree.....	578.....	66.70%
Disagree	250.....	28.80%
Neither agree or disagree (volunteered).....	27.....	3.10%
Don't Know	11.....	1.30%
Refused	1.....	0.10%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Contributions

It is important to know who elected officials get their campaign contributions from

Agree.....	659.....	76.00%
Disagree	178.....	20.50%
Neither agree or disagree (volunteered).....	21.....	2.40%
Don't Know	8.....	1.00%
Refused	1.....	0.10%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Hearings

All government meetings should be open to the public

Agree.....	596.....	68.70%
Disagree	242.....	27.90%
Neither agree or disagree (volunteered).....	18.....	2.00%
Don't Know	10.....	1.20%
Refused	1.....	0.10%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Amendment

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.

Support.....	601.....	69.30%
Oppose	212.....	24.40%
Don't Know / No Opinion	53.....	6.10%
Refused	1.....	0.10%
N=	867.....	100.00%

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Body cameras

Do you favor or oppose on-duty police officers wearing video cameras which would record events and actions as they occur?

Favor	787.....	90.80%
Oppose	60.....	6.90%
Don't know	18.....	2.00%
Refuse	2.....	0.20%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Body camera video access

Should all videos recorded by police body cameras be available to the public upon request or should the police be able to restrict access to these recordings?

All videos publicly available.....	543.....	62.60%
Police can restrict access.....	253.....	29.20%
Don't know	69.....	8.00%
Refuse	2.....	0.20%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Drones

Do you [suppose or favor] local police departments using unmanned aerial vehicles, sometimes referred to as drones, for surveillance?

Favor	407.....	46.90%
Oppose	391.....	45.10%
Don't know	66.....	7.60%
Refuse	3.....	0.30%
N=	867.....	100.00%

National crime

Is there more crime in the U.S. than there was a year ago, or less?

More	490.....	56.50%
Less	183.....	21.10%
About the Same [volunteered]	85.....	9.80%
Don't know	109.....	12.60%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Trust in the Federal Government

How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right-- just about always, most of the time or only some of the time?

Just about always	17.....	2.00%
Most of the time	169.....	19.50%
Some of the time	578.....	66.60%
None of the time [don't read]	91.....	10.50%
Don't know	12.....	1.40%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Trust in the State Government

How much of the time do you think you can trust the state government in Raleigh to do what is right-- just about always, most of the time or only some of the time?

Just about always	22.....	2.60%
Most of the time	251.....	29.00%
Some of the time	526.....	60.70%
None of the time [don't read]	42.....	4.90%
Don't know	24.....	2.70%
Refused	2.....	0.20%
N=	867.....	100.10%

Trust in Local Government

How much of the time do you think you can trust the local government in your community to do what is right-- just about always, most of the time or only some of the time?

Just about always	96.....	11.10%
Most of the time	364.....	41.90%
Some of the time	345.....	39.80%
None of the time [don't read]	42.....	4.90%
Don't know	19.....	2.20%
Refused	1.....	0.10%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Demographics

PartyID

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

Democrats	271.....	31.30%
Independents	356.....	41.00%
Republicans.....	212.....	24.50%
Don't Know / Refused.....	28.....	3.20%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Ideology

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

Extremely Liberal	38.....	4.40%
Liberal	112.....	13.00%
Slightly Liberal	150.....	17.20%
Moderate	98.....	11.30%
Slightly Conservative.....	148.....	17.10%
Conservative	173.....	20.00%
Extremely Conservative.....	78.....	8.90%
Don't Know	57.....	6.50%
Refused	13.....	1.50%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Education

How much school have you completed?

Less than HS	37.....	4.30%
High School / GED	161.....	18.50%
Some College/ AA / Technical	279.....	32.20%
College Graduate	246.....	28.40%
Graduate School.....	139.....	16.00%
Don't Know	4.....	0.40%
Refused	1.....	0.10%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Sex/Gender

Was the person male or female? [Interviewer is asked this question]

Male	416.....	48.00%
Female.....	451.....	52.00%
N=	867.....	100.00%

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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?

Less than \$25,000	129.....	14.90%
\$25,000 to \$50,000	175.....	20.20%
\$50,000 to \$75,000	140.....	16.20%
More than \$75,000	316.....	36.50%
Don't Know	54.....	6.20%
Refused	53.....	6.10%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Race

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

White	625.....	72.10%
Black	181.....	20.90%
Other	61.....	7.10%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Age

How old are you? [Continuous variable - placed into categories]

18-30	199.....	22.90%
31-40	156.....	18.00%
41-50	140.....	16.10%
51-65	230.....	26.60%
65+	142.....	16.40%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Church Attendance

Lots of things come up that keep people from attending religious services even if they want to. Thinking about your life these days, do you ever attend religious services, apart from occasional weddings, baptisms or funerals? [If Attend = YES] Do you go to religious services every week, almost every week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, or never?

Never	236.....	27.30%
A few times a year	94.....	10.80%
Once or twice a month	145.....	16.70%
Almost every week	122.....	14.10%
Every week.....	264.....	30.40%
Don't Know	4.....	0.50%
Refused	2.....	0.20%
N=	867.....	100.00%

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Accent

Did the person have a Southern accent?

Strong Southern Accent	222.....	25.60%
Slight Southern Accent	337.....	38.90%
No Southern Accent	308.....	35.60%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Origin

Are you originally from North Carolina? [if growup != 1] Are you originally from the South?

Non-Southern Native	259.....	29.90%
NC Native	488.....	56.30%
Southern Native	120.....	13.80%
N=	867.....	100.00%

Landline/Cellphone

Do you have a land line phone? [asked to cell phones only]

Do you have a cell phone? [asked to land line phones only]

Landline only	67.....	7.70%
Dual Use.....	494.....	57.00%
Cell only.....	306.....	35.30%
N=	867.....	100.00%

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.

Sunshine Law

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?

	Aware	Not Aware	Don't Know	Total
	%	%	%	%
Democrats	32	59	8	100
Independents	31	64	5	100
Republicans	33	60	7	100
Total	32	62	7	100
	Aware	Not Aware	Don't Know	Total
	%	%	%	%
White	31	62	7	100
Black	35	60	5	100
Other	31	63	6	100
Total	32	62	7	100
	Aware	Not Aware	Don't Know	Total
	%	%	%	%
18-30	27	71	3	100
31-40	31	66	4	100
41-50	35	58	7	100
51-65	36	57	7	100
65+	30	57	13	100
Total	32	62	7	100
	Aware	Not Aware	Don't Know	Total
	%	%	%	%
Male	34	60	6	100
Female	30	63	7	100
Total	32	62	7	100

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Comparison

Compared to 100 years ago, would you say there is more corruption in state government today or less? [rotated]

	More corruption	Less corruption	About the same	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	67	20	8	5	0	100
Independents	68	13	12	6	0	100
Republicans	72	13	9	6	1	100
Total	69	15	10	6	0	100
	More corruption	Less corruption	About the same	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	66	15	11	7	0	100
Black	74	14	7	5	0	100
Other	77	10	8	5	0	100
Total	69	15	10	6	0	100
	More corruption	Less corruption	About the same	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
18-30	72	15	9	4	0	100
31-40	71	14	11	4	0	100
41-50	71	9	14	6	0	100
51-65	66	18	9	7	0	100
65+	63	16	9	10	2	100
Total	69	15	10	6	0	100
	More corruption	Less corruption	About the same	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	64	18	12	7	0	100
Female	73	12	8	5	1	100
Total	69	15	10	6	0	100

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Access

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

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	72	24	2	2	0	100
Independents	67	28	4	0	0	100
Republicans	60	36	2	2	0	100
Total	67	29	3	1	0	100

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	66	29	4	2	0	100
Black	69	27	3	1	0	100
Other	69	31	0	0	0	100
Total	67	29	3	1	0	100

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
18-30	67	30	3	0	0	100
31-40	71	24	2	2	1	100
41-50	70	27	1	3	0	100
51-65	63	33	4	0	0	100
65+	63	28	6	3	0	100
Total	67	29	3	1	0	100

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	68	29	3	1	0	100
Female	66	29	4	2	0	100
Total	67	29	3	1	0	100

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Contributions

It is important to know who elected officials get their campaign contributions from

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	77	21	2	1	0	100
Independents	78	19	3	1	0	100
Republicans	72	24	2	1	0	100
Total	76	21	2	1	0	100

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	81	17	2	1	0	100
Black	65	30	3	2	0	100
Other	62	31	7	0	0	100
Total	76	21	2	1	0	100

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
18-30	68	28	3	1	0	100
31-40	73	25	2	0	0	100
41-50	77	19	2	1	1	100
51-65	81	17	1	1	0	100
65+	81	13	3	2	0	100
Total	76	21	2	1	0	100

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	76	19	4	1	0	100
Female	76	22	1	1	0	100
Total	76	21	2	1	0	100

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Hearings

All government meetings should be open to the public

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	70	27	2	2	0	100
Independents	71	25	3	1	0	100
Republicans	63	34	1	1	0	100
Total	69	28	2	1	0	100

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	66	31	2	2	0	100
Black	75	22	2	0	0	100
Other	81	17	2	0	0	100
Total	69	28	2	1	0	100

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
18-30	77	21	1	1	0	100
31-40	66	29	4	0	1	100
41-50	68	28	2	1	0	100
51-65	66	31	2	1	0	100
65+	64	30	3	3	0	100
Total	69	28	2	1	0	100

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	69	28	2	0	0	100
Female	68	28	2	2	0	100
Total	69	28	2	1	0	100

ELON UNIVERSITY POLL

Amendment

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.

	Support	Oppose	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	74	23	4	0	100
Independents	73	22	5	0	100
Republicans	62	29	9	0	100
Don't Know / Refused	44	37	19	0	100
Total	69	24	6	0	100
	Support	Oppose	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
White	69	24	7	0	100
Black	72	25	3	0	100
Other	67	29	4	0	100
Total	69	24	6	0	100
	Support	Oppose	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
18-30	68	28	4	0	100
31-40	65	26	7	1	100
41-50	65	29	6	0	100
51-65	75	20	5	0	100
65+	71	20	8	0	100
Total	69	24	6	0	100
	Support	Oppose	Don't Know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Male	71	23	5	0	100
Female	67	26	7	0	100
Total	69	24	6	0	100

ELON UNIVERSITY POLL

Body Cameras

Do you favor or oppose on-duty police officers wearing video cameras which would record events and actions as they occur?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	90	8	1	1	100
Independents	91	7	2	0	100
Republicans	93	5	2	0	100
Total	91	7	2	0	100
	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
White	91	6	3	0	100
Black	88	11	0	0	100
Other	98	2	0	0	100
Total	91	7	2	0	100
	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
18-30	93	6	1	0	100
31-40	91	6	3	0	100
41-50	85	12	3	0	100
51-65	92	6	2	0	100
65+	91	6	2	1	100
Total	91	7	2	0	100
	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Male	90	7	2	0	100
Female	91	7	2	0	100
Total	91	7	2	0	100

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Body Camera Video Access

Should all videos recorded by police body cameras be available to the public upon request or should the police be able to restrict access to these recordings?

	All videos publicly available	Police can restrict access	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	68	26	6	1	100
Independents	66	24	9	0	100
Republicans	51	40	8	0	100
Total	63	29	8	0	100
	All videos publicly available	Police can restrict access	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
White	58	33	9	0	100
Black	78	15	6	0	100
Other	67	28	5	0	100
Total	63	29	8	0	100
	All videos publicly available	Police can restrict access	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
18-30	68	25	7	0	100
31-40	66	28	6	0	100
41-50	57	36	8	0	100
51-65	65	27	8	0	100
65+	53	34	12	1	100
Total	63	29	8	0	100
	All videos publicly available	Police can restrict access	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Male	62	32	6	0	100
Female	63	27	10	0	100
Total	63	29	8	0	100

ELON UNIVERSITY POLL

Aerial Drones

Do you [suppose or favor] local police departments using unmanned aerial vehicles, sometimes referred to as drones, for surveillance?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	44	48	7	0	100
Independents	43	51	6	0	100
Republicans	58	33	8	1	100
Don't Know / Refused	34	40	26	0	100
Total	47	45	8	0	100

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
White	48	43	8	0	100
Black	42	52	6	0	100
Other	47	44	9	0	100
Total	47	45	8	0	100

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
18-30	38	56	6	0	100
31-40	45	45	10	0	100
41-50	52	43	5	0	100
51-65	50	43	6	0	100
65+	51	34	14	1	100
Total	47	45	8	0	100

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refuse	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Male	48	47	5	0	100
Female	46	44	10	1	100
Total	47	45	8	0	100

ELON UNIVERSITY POLL

Trust in Federal Government

How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right-- just about always, most of the time or only some of the time?

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time [don't read]	Don't know	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	4	24	66	4	2	100
Independents	1	18	66	14	1	100
Republicans	2	15	69	13	1	100
Don't Know / Refused	0	28	57	8	8	100
Total	2	19	67	10	1	100

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time [don't read]	Don't know	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	2	17	68	12	1	100
Black	4	27	63	5	1	100
Other	0	25	62	9	3	100
Total	2	19	67	10	1	100

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time [don't read]	Don't know	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
18-30	1	29	58	11	1	100
31-40	1	17	67	12	3	100
41-50	3	16	68	12	1	100
51-65	3	14	72	9	1	100
65+	1	21	67	9	2	100
Total	2	19	67	10	1	100

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time [don't read]	Don't know	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	2	16	69	12	2	100
Female	2	23	64	9	1	100
Total	2	19	67	10	1	100

ELON UNIVERSITY POLL

Trust in State Government

How much of the time do you think you can trust the state government in Raleigh to do what is right-- just about always, most of the time or only some of the time?

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	4	20	68	6	2	0	100
Independents	2	32	59	5	3	0	100
Republicans	3	38	52	3	3	0	100
Don't Know / Refused	2	21	67	0	11	0	100
Total	3	29	61	5	3	0	100

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	2	31	59	5	3	0	100
Black	4	20	69	5	2	0	100
Other	3	35	53	4	5	0	100
Total	3	29	61	5	3	0	100

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
18-30	2	38	55	3	3	0	100
31-40	2	25	65	5	2	1	100
41-50	3	27	62	5	3	0	100
51-65	3	25	65	6	1	0	100
65+	4	29	56	4	7	0	100
Total	3	29	61	5	3	0	100

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	2	31	60	5	2	0	100
Female	3	27	62	4	4	0	100
Total	3	29	61	5	3	0	100

ELON UNIVERSITY POLL

Trust in Local Government

How much of the time do you think you can trust the local government in your community to do what is right-- just about always, most of the time or only some of the time?

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	8	43	44	4	1	0	100
Independents	12	42	39	4	3	0	100
Republicans	13	42	36	7	1	0	100
Don't Know / Refused	10	31	38	4	17	0	100
Total	11	42	40	5	2	0	100

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	12	44	37	5	3	0	100
Black	7	35	52	4	1	0	100
Other	17	36	36	10	2	0	100
Total	11	42	40	5	2	0	100

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
18-30	14	44	35	5	2	0	100
31-40	11	34	46	6	2	1	100
41-50	14	43	36	6	2	0	100
51-65	8	44	42	5	0	0	100
65+	9	44	40	2	5	0	100
Total	11	42	40	5	2	0	100

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time	Don't know	Refused	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	12	42	38	6	2	0	100
Female	11	42	42	4	2	0	100
Total	11	42	40	5	2	0	100

Question Ordering

- Introduction
 - intro..... Introductory screen / Household Randomizer
 - regist Registered to Voter
 - ncrez..... Resident of NC Registered to Vote
- Approval
 - approvpres..... President Approval
 - approvcong..... Congress Approval
 - approvgov Governor approval
 - approvlegis..... General Assembly approval
 - approvtillis Senator Tillis
 - approvburr..... Senator Burr
- Nation/State/Evaluations
 - statedirection..... State right or wrong direction
 - issue Most important issue in State
- Policy Issues
 - immigration1..... Benefit or burden
 - imigration2..... Burden or benefit (rotated)
 - vaccine1 Should parents be required
 - vaccine2Should parents be required (rotate)
 - abortion Abortion
 - obamacare/ACA..... Obamacare/ACA
 - gaymarriage Gay Marriage
 - fracking1Fracking Knowledge
 - fracking2 Fracking support
- 2016 Election Questions
 - nominee..... Who would you like to see run for president in 2016?
 - bushclinton..... Who would your vote for in 2016 - Bush or Clinton
- Open Government Survey [RESULTS IN SEPARATE REPORT - elon.edu/elonpoll]
 - openintro
 - trust Trust federal government [near end of survey]
 - trust2 Trust state government [near end of survey]
 - trust3 Trust local government [near end of survey]
 - sunshine Aware of sunshine law in NC

ELON UNIVERSITY POLL

- comparison..... Compared to 100 years ago, more or less corrupt
- cost1..... Should there be a fee charged for each request
- cost2..... What would be a fair charge/fee
- access..... It's important to be able to get any document
- contributions..... nobody's business who gives what to a campaign
- hearings..... All government meetings should be open to the public
- amendment..... Amend state constitution
- bodycam..... police body cameras
- bodycam2..... video should be public
- drone1..... police use drones
- natcrime..... more or less crime in U.S.
- Partisanship
 - partyid..... Party Identification
 - partyidrep..... Party ID Branch GOP
 - partyiddem..... Party ID Branch DEM
 - partyidind..... Party ID Branch IND
 - partychange..... What would you change about your party
- 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
 - attend..... Church Attendance
 - attendfreq..... Church Attendance Probe
 - relig..... Religion
 - christian..... Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Something else
 - growup..... Did you grow up in NC?
 - growup2..... Did you grow up in the South?
 - age..... Age
 - inc..... Income

ELON UNIVERSITY POLL

- inc_high Income High Probe
- inc_low.....Income Low Probe
- hhsize Household Size
- race..... Race
- qzipcode zipcode
- landline..... own landline phone [cell phone #s only]
- cellphone.....own cell phone [landline #s only]
- Internet..... Internet Access
- Post-interview
 - sex Gender
 - accentSouthern accent

Methodological Information

Mode:	Live Interviewer RDD Telephone Interviews (Dual Frame: Cell Phone and Landlines)
Population & Sample Area	North Carolina; Adults (English Speakers)
Dates in the field:	February 16-20, 2015
Adult Residents Sample Size	867
Adult Residents Margin of Error	±3.33
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 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday 2/16 Through Thursday 2/19; and 3:00 to 8:00 on Friday 2/20.



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

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 *Adult Residents of North Carolina* was 1.16. So an adjusted margin of error for that sample would be +/- 3.56 instead of +/- 3.33.

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.

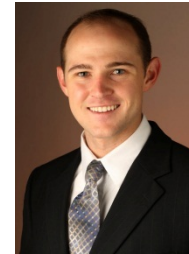
3. *Where do you get your numbers?*
We obtain samples of randomized phone numbers from Survey Sample International.
4. *How many times do you call a number before giving up?*
We will attempt to call each working number up to five times before removing it from the sample.
5. *Do you call both cell phones 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. *Does the Elon University Poll do IVR surveys or automated “robopolls”?*
No. Well-trained students at Elon University conduct all our interviewers.
7. *Do you report response rates?*
Yes. We report response rates based on AAPOR guidelines. The response rate for the February 2015 poll was 11.1% which approximates the national average response rates of other high quality survey organizations. The response rate is calculated using the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) formula RR4.
8. *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.
9. *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.
10. *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

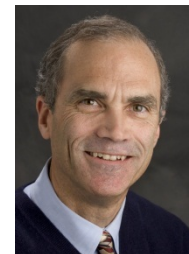
- Dr. Kenneth Fernandez is the Director of the Elon University Poll. Dr. Fernandez holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from University of California – Riverside. Dr. Fernandez is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Elon University. He has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed social science 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.
- John Robinson serves as Director of Communications for the Poll. He is a former newspaper editor, veteran journalist, and North Carolina native.
- 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



Robinson

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 (led by Matt Albers '15 and Mary Young '15) assists the directors with quality control and monitoring. Matt Albers also assisted in writing this report.

ELON UNIVERSITY POLL

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

or

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