

 **ELON** POLL**North Carolina Opinions about Trump Impeachment and Approval of Biden and Cooper**

Produced in partnership with
The Charlotte Observer, The Durham Herald-Sun & The Raleigh News & Observer

Survey of North Carolina Adults
January 29-31, 2021

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About This Survey

The Elon University Poll conducted a representative online survey of 1,455 in North Carolina from Jan 29-31, 2021.

The overall results have a credibility interval of +/- 2.7 percentage points. Unless otherwise noted, results reported below are percentages (%) and sample sizes (N).

This survey's questionnaire explored attitudes related to marijuana legalization, impeachment and COVID-19 vaccination. This report is focused on impeachment and approval rating questions from that survey.

For highlights and interpretation of the key findings from this survey, please see the press release associated with this report.

Topline Results

Impeachment and Approval Ratings

Biden Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Joe Biden is doing as President?

	%	N
Approve	49	716
Disapprove	33	476
Don't Know	18	263
Total	100	1455

Cooper Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Roy Cooper is doing as Governor?

	%	N
Approve	52	750
Disapprove	31	452
Don't Know	17	253
Total	100	1454

Trump Responsibility

How responsible do you think former President Trump is for the violence at the Capitol Building on January 6th?

	%	N
Very responsible	42	615
Somewhat responsible	17	241
Only a little responsible	14	197
Not at all responsible	28	399
Total	100	1453

 **ELON** POLL*Impeachment*

Do you support or oppose the impeachment proceedings against former President Trump?

	%	N
Support	47	678
Oppose	43	630
Don't Know	10	143
Total	100	1451

2024 Ban

If convicted by the U.S. Senate, Donald Trump could be banned from running for president again in 2024. Do you support or oppose the Senate prohibiting Donald Trump from running in the future?

	%	N
Support	51	738
Oppose	40	583
Don't Know	9	132
Total	100	1453

Demographics¹

Gender

	%	N
Male	48	698
Female	52	757
Total	100	1455

Age

	%	N
18 to 24	13	183
25 to 44	34	492
45 to 64	34	496
65+	20	284
Total	100	1455

¹ Some demographic response options were collapsed for reporting and display purposes.

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Education

	%	N
Less than Bachelors	70	1018
Bachelors or Higher	30	437
Total	100	1455

Race

	%	N
White	67	975
Black	21	306
Other	12	175
Total	100	1455

Party Identification²

	%	N
Republican	30	437
Neither	35	509
Democrat	35	509
Total	100	1455

County Density³

	%	N
Rural	39	573
Suburban	25	365
Urban	36	517
Total	100	1455

² Self-identified.

³ County type was determined according to classifications created by the [NC Rural Center](#).

Question Order

[Results for this survey are contained in three separate reports]

1. Have you already taken a COVID-19 vaccine?
2. Do you plan to take a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you?
3. How worried are you about side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine?
4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state government in North Carolina has handled COVID-19 vaccine distribution
5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the federal government in Washington has handled COVID-19 vaccine distribution
6. Have you attempted to get a COVID-19 vaccine?
7. Why were you unable to get the COVID-19 vaccine?
8. How easy or difficult was your experience of getting the COVID-19 vaccine?
9. What is the most important reason why you said "{piped text}" about intending to take a COVID-19 vaccine?
10. Do you oppose or support the legalization of marijuana, for medical purposes</u>, in North Carolina?
11. Do you oppose or support the legalization of marijuana, for recreational use</u>, in North Carolina?
12. Would you support or oppose reducing penalties for marijuana in North Carolina? This could involve treating marijuana possession as a civil offense such as a minor traffic violation rather than a criminal punishment.
13. Is marijuana as a “gateway drug” that leads to the use of “hard drugs” like heroin or cocaine?
14. Would legalizing marijuana help or hurt the economy in North Carolina?
15. Would vehicle accidents increase or decrease if marijuana was legalized?
16. Is it morally wrong to use marijuana?
17. Would crime increase or decrease if marijuana was legalized?
18. Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Joe Biden is doing as President?
19. Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Roy Cooper is doing as Governor?
20. How responsible do you think former President Trump is for the violence at the Capitol Building on January 6th?
21. Do you support or oppose the impeachment proceedings against former President Trump?
22. If convicted by the U.S. Senate, Donald Trump could be banned from running for president again in 2024. Do you support or oppose the Senate prohibiting Donald Trump from running in the future?

Crosstabulations

Note: In this section of the report, the numbers reported are row percentages, and comparisons can be made within columns. Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Caution is warranted when interpreting differences in the crosstabulations. Sub-group sample sizes are smaller, and therefore the credibility intervals for these estimates are wider.

Biden Approval

“Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Joe Biden is doing as President?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
Less than Bachelors	45	35	20	100
Bachelors or Higher	60	27	13	100
18 to 24	54	24	22	100
25 to 44	51	29	20	100
45 to 64	45	35	20	100
65+	50	41	9	100
Republican	14	70	16	100
Neither	42	29	29	100
Democrat	87	5	9	100
White	40	42	18	100
Black	73	11	16	100
Other	58	21	21	100
Registered Voter	50	33	16	100
Male	48	35	17	100
Female	50	31	19	100
Overall	49	33	18	100

Cooper Approval

“Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Roy Cooper is doing as Governor?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
Less than Bachelors	46	33	21	100
Bachelors or Higher	64	28	9	100
18 to 24	40	24	35	100
25 to 44	52	30	19	100
45 to 64	53	34	13	100
65+	56	32	12	100
Republican	29	60	11	100
Neither	46	30	25	100
Democrat	77	7	16	100
White	47	38	15	100
Black	64	14	22	100
Other	55	21	24	100
Registered Voter	54	32	15	100
Male	51	35	14	100
Female	52	27	21	100
Overall	52	31	17	100



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January 6 Responsibility

“How responsible do you think former President Trump is for the violence at the Capitol Building on January 6th?”

	<u>Very responsible</u> %	<u>Somewhat responsible</u> %	<u>Only a little responsible</u> %	<u>Not at all responsible</u> %	<u>Total</u> %
Less than Bachelors	39	16	14	30	100
Bachelors or Higher	49	18	12	21	100
18 to 24	40	26	17	17	100
25 to 44	40	21	13	26	100
45 to 64	43	13	13	32	100
65+	46	9	15	30	100
Republican	9	14	21	55	100
Neither	39	23	14	24	100
Democrat	74	13	7	7	100
White	35	16	15	34	100
Black	66	14	9	12	100
Other	44	24	13	19	100
Registered Voter	43	16	14	27	100
Male	42	17	15	27	100
Female	43	16	12	28	100
Overall	42	17	14	27	100



Impeachment

“Do you support or oppose the impeachment proceedings against former President Trump?”

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>
	%	%	%	%
Less than Bachelors	44	45	11	100
Bachelors or Higher	54	40	6	100
18 to 24	51	31	18	100
25 to 44	47	40	14	100
45 to 64	45	48	7	100
65+	47	50	3	100
Republican	11	84	5	100
Neither	45	39	16	100
Democrat	79	13	8	100
White	38	54	8	100
Black	71	17	12	100
Other	54	31	15	100
Registered Voter	47	44	9	100
Male	44	47	9	100
Female	49	40	10	100
Overall	47	43	10	100

Methodological Information

Mode:	Online
Population:	North Carolina Adult Residents
Dates in the field:	January 29-31, 2021
Sample Size:	1,455
Credibility Interval	+/- 2.7%
Weighting Variables (NC):	Education, Party Identification, Age, Sex, Race, County Density

Procedure

The Elon University Poll used an online sample provided by Lucid, LLC. Respondents were recruited for this sample from many sample providers in the Lucid marketplace and received small amounts of compensation in exchange for their opinions. The survey was not an open-linked posted on social media, but rather was by direct invitation to a very large national pool of people who agree to take online surveys. More information about the Lucid marketplace and quality tests are available [here](#). Quotas on race, Hispanic ethnicity, sex, and age were applied prior to online survey commencement.

Online interviews were included in the final dataset if respondents spent a minimum length of time on the interview and particular sections, and if a respondent progressed through the entire survey. Open-ended online responses were individually inspected by the poll directors, who then deleted ten cases that were invalid. Respondents were recruited to the survey with a generic description about issues in North Carolina

Credibility Interval

Unlike a traditional random digit-dial telephone survey, online surveys do not have traditional margin of errors. Nonprobability quota samples like these do not adhere to assumptions of random selection. To account for uncertainty inherent in any sample-based research design, we provide a credibility interval. More information about this technique can be found [here](#). The credibility interval was calculated by inflating traditional confidence intervals by a design effect calculated using the squared sum of weights. For this North Carolina sample, this means: $(1.042 * 2.57 = 2.676)$. We round these values up for presentation of results. As with all surveys, total survey error often exceeds sampling error.

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 release to the public conforms to reporting conventions recommended by the American Association for Public Opinion Research and the National Council on Public Polls.

Weighting Information

Weights were generated in Stata using a technique known as iterative proportional fitting, also known as raking. The weight variable was calculated based on all of the variables in the table below. *Party identification population parameters are an estimate.

	Population %	Unweighted %	Weighted %
18-24	13	12	13
25-44	34	37	34
45-64	34	35	34
65+	20	16	20
Male	48	45	48
Female	52	55	52
White	67	67	67
Black	21	19	21
Other	12	14	12
Hispanic	9	8	9
Not Hispanic	91	92	91
< Bachelor's	70	60	70
Bachelor's or more	30	40	30
Rural County	39	38	39
Suburban	25	28	25
Urban	36	34	36
Republican	30	28	30
Neither	35	37	35
Democrat	35	35	35

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who pays for the Elon University Poll?

Elon University fully funds the Elon University Poll. The poll operates under the auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences at Elon University, led by Dean Gabie Smith. The Elon University administration, led by Dr. Connie Ledoux Book, president of the university, fully supports the Elon University Poll as part of its service to the community. 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.

2. Does the Elon University Poll favor a certain party?

The Elon University Poll is an academic, non-partisan survey research organization. We do not engage or work with any political candidates or parties. We employ best practices to ensure the results are not biased.

3. Did you weight the data?

Yes. We apply weights to the data. For this survey, we generated results using raking based on U.S. Census data. For more details, see the Weighting Information above.

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of online surveys over traditional random-dial surveys?

Traditional telephone surveys have a clear advantage over online surveys such as this in that assumptions of equal probability of selection are more appropriate. Furthermore, online surveys do not capture opinions of respondents who lack internet access.

However, our opinion is that [declining telephone response rates](#) and the growth in online sample pool sizes have narrowed quality differences between the two modes. In the case of this survey, we hoped to capture opinions related to a breaking news item. An online survey enabled us to quickly gather a large enough sample size to make inferences about the U.S. population. Additionally, like many college students, our student survey interviewers are not on campus at this time.

Additional information about opt-in surveys in general is available from AAPOR and the [Pew Research Center](#).

About the Elon University Poll

The Elon University Poll conducts statewide, regional, and national surveys on issues of importance to North Carolinians as well as other states. Information from these polls is shared with media, citizens and public officials to facilitate informed public policy making through the better understanding of citizens' opinions and attitudes.



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[Owen Covington](#) is Director of the Elon University News Bureau. A native North Carolinian, Owen Covington joined the staff of Elon University in 2016 after spending 17 years in the field of journalism as a reporter and editor for daily and weekly news outlets in North Carolina and Kentucky. As director of the Elon University News Bureau, Covington oversees the promotion of Elon and its students, faculty and staff both through stories told across Elon's media channels as well as through interactions with state, national and international media. He is involved in media relations, including responding to requests from print, digital and broadcast media outlets, and works to promote content generated by a variety of Elon news sources.

For more information on the Elon University Poll, visit elon.edu/elonpoll

If you have specific questions about this poll, you can reach the directors of the poll via email (jhusser at elon dot edu & kusry at elon dot edu).

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