



Views on Confederate Monuments in North Carolina

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

Survey of North Carolina Adults
March 30th – April 2nd, 2021

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 **ELON** POLL**About This Survey**

The Elon University Poll conducted a representative online survey of 1,395 in North Carolina from March 30th -April 2nd 2021.

The overall results have a credibility interval of +/- 2.8 percentage points. Unless otherwise noted, results reported below are percentages (%) and sample sizes (N).

Part I of this survey's questionnaire explored attitudes and experiences related to COVID-19 vaccination.

Part II of this survey explored views related to Confederate monuments. Many of these items were previously polled in November 2019. Where possible, the numbers for repeated items are included in the report below as a point of comparison, shaded in grey.

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

Toplines: Confederate Monuments

“Recently there has been some controversy about what to do with Confederate monuments on public, government-owned property (e.g. parks, city squares, court houses). Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?”

	2021		2019
	%	N	%
Should be removed from public spaces.	41.6	578	34.7
Should remain in public spaces.	58.4	814	65.3
Total	100	1392	100.0

“Do you think removing Confederate monuments from government property mostly helps or mostly hurts race relations, or does it not make much of a difference?”

	2021		2019
	%	N	%
Mostly helps	28.4	396	24.6
Mostly hurts	39.4	549	35.5
Not much difference	32.2	450	39.9
Total	100	1396	100.0

“Below you'll find a list of things that could be done with Confederate monuments on public, government-owned property (e.g. parks, city squares, court houses). For each one, indicate whether you think it is a good or bad idea:

Move them to history museums”

	2021		2019
	%	N	%
Good idea	62.6	867	65.2
Bad idea	20.4	283	22.6
No opinion	17.0	235	12.2
Total	100	1384	100.0



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“Move them to Confederate cemeteries or memorials”

	2021		2019
	%	N	%
Good idea	54.3	756	54.9
Bad idea	23.4	326	28.4
No opinion	22.2	310	16.7
Total	100	1392	100.0

“Install plaques beside them that provide historical context”

	2021		2019
	%	N	%
Good idea	64.3	895	72.7
Bad idea	16.5	230	15.8
No opinion	19.2	268	11.5
Total	100	1392	100.0

“Replace them with monuments to honor Southerners who fought to end slavery”

	2021		2019
	%	N	%
Good idea	36.5	506	37.1
Bad idea	32.1	445	35.0
No opinion	31.4	436	27.9
Total	100	1387	100.0

“Increase security around them to prevent them from being damaged”

	%	N
Good idea	43.9	609
Bad idea	29.4	407
No opinion	26.7	370
Total	100	1387



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“To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements about Confederate monuments:

They honor Confederate soldiers who passed away in the civil war.”

	2021		2019
	%	N	%
Strongly agree	39.0	543	48.0
Somewhat agree	28.4	395	27.6
Neither	20.6	287	14.7
Somewhat disagree	5.9	82	5.1
Strongly disagree	6.0	84	4.7
Total	100	1392	100.0

“They help people understand an important chapter in American history.”

	2021		2019
	%	N	%
Strongly agree	44.0	611	51.5
Somewhat agree	24.8	345	24.0
Neither	16.3	226	11.2
Somewhat disagree	7.7	107	7.7
Strongly disagree	7.3	102	5.7
Total	100	1390	100.0

“They glorify what the Confederacy fought for.”

	2021		2019
	%	N	%
Strongly agree	27.3	377	29.7
Somewhat agree	21.4	296	19.0
Neither	26.2	362	22.4
Somewhat disagree	12.8	177	16.9
Strongly disagree	12.3	170	12.0
Total	100	1382	100.0



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“What is your impression of the main cause of the Civil War?”

	2021		2019
	%	N	%
Mainly about slavery	48.9	635	44.4
Mainly about states’ rights	51.1	662	48.9
Other	n/a		6.7
Total	100	1297	100.0

“How much do you think the legacy of slavery affects the position of Black people in American society today?”

	2021		2019
	%	N	%
Not at all	13.2	183	14.1
Not much	21.1	294	22.5
A fair amount	29.9	416	34.9
A great deal	35.8	498	28.5
Total	100	1392	100.0

“Did the killing of George Floyd and other events in 2020 make you more or less in favor of removing Confederate monuments or did it not make much difference?”

	%	N
More in favor	31.5	439
Less in favor	16.7	232
No difference	51.8	722
Total	100	1393

Demographics

Gender

	%	N
Male	48.0	670
Female	52.0	726
Total	100	1396

Age

	%	N
18 to 24	12.6	176
25 to 44	33.8	472
45 to 64	34.1	476
65+	19.5	272
Total	100	1396

Race

	%	N
White (non-Hispanic)	67.0	935
Black	21.0	293
Other	12.0	168
Total	100	1396

Party Identification¹

	%	N
Republican	30.0	419
Neither	35.0	489
Democrat	35.0	489
Total	100	1396

County Density²

	%	N
Rural	39.4	550
Suburban	25.1	350
Urban	35.5	496
Total	100	1396

¹ Self-identified.

² County type was determined according to classifications created by the [NC Rural Center](#).

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.

Monuments

“Recently there has been some controversy about what to do with Confederate monuments on public, government-owned property (e.g. parks, city squares, court houses). Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?”

	Should Remain	Should be Removed	Total
	%	%	%
Less than Bachelors	63	37	100
Bachelors or Higher	48	52	100
18 to 24	47	53	100
25 to 44	51	49	100
45 to 64	64	36	100
65+	69	31	100
Republican	84	16	100
Neither	62	38	100
Democrat	33	67	100
White	70	30	100
Black	25	75	100
Other	51	49	100
Rural	68	32	100
Suburban	60	40	100
Urban	47	53	100
Total	58	42	100

Impact of 2020

“Did the killing of George Floyd and other events in 2020 make you more or less in favor of removing Confederate monuments or did it not make much difference?”

	More in favor %	Less in favor %	No difference %	Total %
Less than Bachelors	29	18	53	100
Bachelors or Higher	38	13	49	100
18 to 24	50	24	26	100
25 to 44	37	18	45	100
45 to 64	26	14	60	100
65+	19	16	65	100
Republican	13	28	60	100
Neither	23	13	64	100
Democrat	56	11	33	100
White	21	18	61	100
Black	60	11	29	100
Other	39	21	40	100
Rural	24	17	59	100
Suburban	31	16	52	100
Urban	40	16	44	100
Total	32	17	52	100

Question Order

1. Have you already taken a COVID-19 vaccine?
2. Are you currently eligible to take a COVID-19 vaccine?
3. Do you plan to take a COVID-19 vaccine?
4. Have you attempted to get a COVID-19 vaccine?
5. Why were you unable to get a COVID-19 vaccine?
6. If you were to take a COVID-19 vaccine, how worried would you be about the side effects?
7. What is the most important reason why you said “piped text” about intending to take a COVID-19 vaccine?
8. Which of the vaccines did you take?
9. Have you already taken your second vaccine dose?
10. Has it been two weeks or more since you received your last dose?
11. Overall, are you glad you took the vaccine or do you wish you hadn’t taken it?
12. Overall, how easy or difficult was your experience of getting the COVID-19 vaccine-- from making the appointment to taking the vaccine itself?
13. Did you experience any negative side effects from the vaccine?
14. Did any of the negative side effects cause you more than a minor disruption?
15. Since taking the vaccine, have you felt more relaxed around other people, less relaxed, or has it not made much of a difference for you?
16. What is something you have done since being vaccinated, or that you are looking forward to doing, that you weren't able to do in the past year?
17. Which of these statements is closest to your view about how COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in North Carolina?
18. By July 4th of this year, how do you think life in North Carolina will be in terms of the pandemic?
19. This next set of questions have to do with Confederate monuments.
20. Recently there has been some controversy about what to do with Confederate monuments on public, government-owned property (e.g. parks, city squares, court houses). Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?
21. Do you think removing Confederate monuments from government property mostly helps or mostly hurts race relations, or does it not make much of a difference?
22. Below you'll find a list of things that could be done with Confederate monuments on public, government-owned property (e.g. parks, city squares, court houses). For each one, indicate whether you think it is a good or bad idea:
 - a. Move them to history museums
 - b. Move them to Confederate cemeteries or memorials
 - c. Install plaques beside them that provide historical context
 - d. Replace them with monuments to honor Southerners who fought to end slavery
 - e. Increase security around them to prevent them from being damaged
23. To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements about Confederate monuments:
 - a. They honor Confederate soldiers who passed away in the Civil War.
 - b. They help people understand an important chapter in American history.
 - c. They glorify what the Confederacy fought for.

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24. What is your impression of the main cause of the Civil War?
25. How much do you think the legacy of slavery affects the position of Black people in American society today?
26. Did the killing of George Floyd and other events in 2020 make you more or less in favor of removing Confederate monuments or did it not make much difference?
27. In which North Carolina county do you reside?
28. What is your zip code?
29. How old are you?
30. What is your gender
31. What is your race? Select all that apply.
32. Are you Hispanic or Latino?
33. What is your annual household income?
34. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
35. With what religious tradition do you most closely identify?
36. Would you describe yourself as a Born-Again or Evangelical Christian?
37. Lots of things come up that keep people from attending religious services even if they want to. Thinking about your life these days, how often do you attend religious services outside of weddings and funerals?
38. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent or something else?
39. Do you lean more towards the Democratic party or the Republican party?
40. Would you consider yourself a strong Democrat?
41. Would you consider yourself a strong Republican?
42. Are you registered to vote in North Carolina?
43. How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right?

Methodological Information

Mode:	Online
Population:	North Carolina Adult Residents
Dates in the field:	March 30-April 2, 2021
Sample Size:	1,395
Credibility Interval	+/- 2.8%
Weighting Variables (NC):	Education, Party Identification, Age, Sex, Race, County Density, Vaccination Rate

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 thirty 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: $(1.038 * 2.62 = 2.723)$. 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 estimates. Covid-19 one-dose vaccination rate was obtained from NC DHHS dashboard on 4/4/21.

	Population %	Unweighted %	Weighted %
18-24	13	10	13
25-44	34	35	34
45-64	34	35	34
65+	20	20	20
Male	48	47	48
Female	52	53	52
White	67	66	67
Black	21	20	21
Other	12	14	12
Hispanic	9	7	9
Not Hispanic	91	93	91
< Bachelor's	70	62	70
Bachelor's or more	30	38	30
Rural County	39	41	39
Suburban	25	24	25
Urban	36	35	36
Republican	30	30	30
Neither	35	35	35
Democrat	35	35	35
At least one dose of vaccine	38	44	38

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.

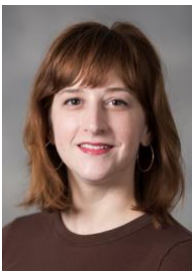
Additional information about opt-in surveys in general is available from AAPOR and the [Pew Research Center](#).

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.



[Jason Husser](#) is Director of the Elon University Poll and Associate Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University. Dr. Husser holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Vanderbilt University. He researches American political behavior and survey methodology.



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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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