



**Survey of Likely 2026 General Election Voters**

North Carolina Statewide

Conducted September 14 - 15, 2025

n=600 |  $\pm 3.98\%$

**Q1. Vote Method:** How do you plan to vote in the 2026 general election for U.S. Congress?

	Sep '25	Aug '25	Mar '25	Jan '25
<b><u>Vote in-person on Election Day</u></b>	<b><u>35.3%</u></b>	<b><u>36.0%</u></b>	<b><u>34.7%</u></b>	<b><u>31.1%</u></b>
Definitely vote in-person on Election Day	27.3%	20.4%	22.8%	20.0%
Probably vote in-person on Election Day	8.0%	15.6%	11.9%	11.0%
<b><u>Vote absentee by mail</u></b>	<b><u>6.7%</u></b>	<b><u>6.0%</u></b>	<b><u>3.8%</u></b>	<b><u>6.3%</u></b>
Definitely vote absentee by mail	2.9%	3.3%	1.4%	3.0%
Probably vote absentee by mail	3.8%	2.6%	2.3%	3.3%
<b><u>Vote early in-person</u></b>	<b><u>58.0%</u></b>	<b><u>58.0%</u></b>	<b><u>61.5%</u></b>	<b><u>62.6%</u></b>
Definitely vote early in-person	34.0%	31.2%	35.3%	32.3%
Probably vote early in-person	23.9%	26.8%	26.3%	30.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Q2. Top Issue:** Which issue will matter most in your vote for U.S. Senate in 2026?

	Freq.	%
Cost of living / inflation	175	29.1%
Political party of the candidate	107	17.9%
Immigration / Border security	62	10.3%
Jobs / Economy	61	10.2%
Health care	49	8.1%
Crime	29	4.9%
Education	21	3.5%
Abortion	15	2.6%
Energy / electric bills	4	0.6%
Other	51	8.4%
Unsure	26	4.4%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q3. Direction of Country:** Generally speaking, would you say things in the United States are headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track?

	Sep '25	Aug '25	Mar '25	Nov '24
<b><u>Right direction</u></b>	<b><u>42.3%</u></b>	<b><u>47.0%</u></b>	<b><u>47.6%</u></b>	<b><u>48.3%</u></b>
Definitely the right direction	18.8%	24.6%	30.9%	35.4%
Mostly the right direction	23.5%	22.3%	16.7%	12.9%
<b><u>Wrong track</u></b>	<b><u>53.7%</u></b>	<b><u>49.7%</u></b>	<b><u>47.4%</u></b>	<b><u>43.1%</u></b>
Mostly the wrong track	13.4%	12.7%	5.6%	7.7%
Definitely the wrong track	40.3%	36.9%	41.8%	35.3%
Unsure	4.0%	3.4%	5.0%	8.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Q4. Legislative Generic Ballot:** If the 2026 general elections were held today, and you had to make a choice, would you vote for the Republican or Democratic candidates for the North Carolina State Legislature?

	Sep '25	Aug '25	Oct '24	Sep '24
<b><u>Republican candidate</u></b>	<b><u>46.0%</u></b>	<b><u>45.2%</u></b>	<b><u>45.8%</u></b>	<b><u>46.0%</u></b>
Definitely the Republican candidate	36.8%	35.0%	40.7%	39.7%
Probably the Republican candidate	9.2%	10.3%	5.1%	6.3%
<b><u>Democratic candidate</u></b>	<b><u>44.4%</u></b>	<b><u>44.7%</u></b>	<b><u>46.6%</u></b>	<b><u>45.6%</u></b>



Probably the Democratic candidate	7.9%	8.4%	4.9%	6.7%
Definitely the Democratic candidate	36.5%	36.2%	41.7%	38.9%
Unsure	9.7%	10.1%	7.5%	8.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Q5. Senate Ballot:** If the 2026 midterm election for U.S. Senate was held today, and you had to make a choice, who would you vote for?

	Sep '25	Aug '25
<b><u>Michael Whatley, the Republican</u></b>	<b><u>41.9%</u></b>	<b><u>39.1%</u></b>
Definitely Michael Whatley, the Republican	29.4%	24.7%
Probably Michael Whatley, the Republican	12.5%	14.4%
<b><u>Roy Cooper, the Democrat</u></b>	<b><u>46.1%</u></b>	<b><u>47.3%</u></b>
Probably Roy Cooper, the Democrat	6.3%	7.3%
Definitely Roy Cooper, the Democrat	39.8%	40.0%
<b><u>Someone else</u></b>	<b><u>3.6%</u></b>	<b><u>3.9%</u></b>
Unsure	8.4%	9.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

**Q6. Trump Job Approval:** Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?

	Sep '25	Aug '25	Mar '25	Nov '24
<b><u>Approve</u></b>	<b><u>49.4%</u></b>	<b><u>47.8%</u></b>	<b><u>49.5%</u></b>	<b><u>47.2%</u></b>
Strongly approve	36.2%	36.8%	37.6%	42.3%
Somewhat approve	13.2%	11.0%	11.9%	4.9%
<b><u>Disapprove</u></b>	<b><u>49.0%</u></b>	<b><u>50.3%</u></b>	<b><u>48.7%</u></b>	<b><u>44.5%</u></b>
Somewhat disapprove	3.6%	5.8%	4.1%	3.4%
Strongly disapprove	45.4%	44.6%	44.6%	41.1%
<b><u>Neither approve nor disapprove</u></b>				<b><u>5.5%</u></b>
Unsure	1.6%	1.8%	1.8%	2.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Q7. Stein Job Approval:** Do you approve or disapprove of the job Josh Stein is doing as Governor?

	Sep '25	Aug '25	Mar '25	Nov '24
<b><u>Approve</u></b>	<b><u>50.5%</u></b>	<b><u>50.5%</u></b>	<b><u>55.6%</u></b>	<b><u>53.2%</u></b>
Strongly approve	25.0%	22.6%	26.9%	36.5%
Somewhat approve	25.6%	27.9%	28.6%	16.7%
<b><u>Disapprove</u></b>	<b><u>31.1%</u></b>	<b><u>30.1%</u></b>	<b><u>20.4%</u></b>	<b><u>24.9%</u></b>
Somewhat disapprove	14.4%	16.1%	10.2%	10.1%
Strongly disapprove	16.7%	14.1%	10.2%	14.8%
<b><u>Neither approve nor disapprove</u></b>				<b><u>13.7%</u></b>
Unsure	18.3%	19.4%	24.0%	8.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



**Q8. Economy Responsibility:** Who do you think is more responsible for the current state of the U.S. economy?

	Freq.	%
Donald Trump	312	52.0%
Joe Biden	174	28.9%
Neither	62	10.4%
Unsure	52	8.6%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q9. Partial Budget Priorities:** The North Carolina General Assembly adjourned this summer without approving a new state budget. If only a partial ("mini-budget") advances this fall, which TWO areas should be the top priority for increased funding?

	Freq.	%
K-12 public schools	327	54.4%
Medicaid/health care	268	44.6%
Public safety	210	35.0%
Economic development incentives	107	17.9%
Something else (please specify)	48	8.0%
Transportation	38	6.3%
Savings reserve (Rainy Day Fund)	36	6.0%
Opportunity Scholarships/ESAs	20	3.3%
Unsure	18	3.0%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q10. ACA Cost Shifts Opinion:** If Congress reduces the federal government's share of funding for the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion, which provides health coverage to low-income adults who would not otherwise qualify, and shifts significant costs onto the state government, what should North Carolina do?

	Freq.	%
Add work requirements	196	32.7%
Raises taxes to pay for Medicaid expansion	103	17.2%
Cut other state programs for Medicaid expansion	64	10.6%
Add premiums or co-pays	54	9.0%
End expansion	46	7.7%
Unsure	137	22.8%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q11. Medicaid Requirements Opinion:** Do you support or oppose work or education requirements for able-bodied, childless adults to receive Medicaid benefits (with exemptions for disability, caregiving, or pregnancy)?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Support</u></b>	<b><u>431</u></b>	<b><u>71.9%</u></b>
Strongly support	295	49.2%
Somewhat support	136	22.7%
<b><u>Neither support nor oppose</u></b>	<b><u>47</u></b>	<b><u>7.8%</u></b>
<b><u>Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>92</u></b>	<b><u>15.4%</u></b>
Somewhat oppose	46	7.7%
Strongly oppose	46	7.7%



Unsure	30	5.0%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q12. NC Energy Future Opinion:** Thinking about North Carolina's energy future, which should be the top priority?

	Freq.	%
Keeping prices affordable	265	44.1%
Expanding renewable energy (solar, wind, etc.)	144	24.0%
Ensuring reliable electricity (avoiding outages)	142	23.6%
Reducing carbon emissions	26	4.3%
Unsure	24	4.0%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q13. Public Transit Safety Opinion:** How confident are you that public transit in your area is safe from crime?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Confident</u></b>	<b><u>235</u></b>	<b><u>39.1%</u></b>
Very confident	73	12.1%
Somewhat confident	162	27.0%
<b><u>Not confident</u></b>	<b><u>226</u></b>	<b><u>37.7%</u></b>
Not very confident	100	16.6%
Not at all confident	126	21.1%
Unsure	139	23.2%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q14. NC Prevent Violent Crime Opinion:** How much confidence do you have that North Carolina is effective in preventing violent criminals from harming the public?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Confidence</u></b>	<b><u>291</u></b>	<b><u>48.5%</u></b>
A great deal of confidence	48	8.0%
A fair amount of confidence	243	40.5%
<b><u>No confidence</u></b>	<b><u>268</u></b>	<b><u>44.7%</u></b>
Not very much confidence	161	26.8%
No confidence at all	108	17.9%
Unsure	41	6.8%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q15. Cause of Violent Crime Opinion:** In your opinion, what is the main cause of violent crime in North Carolina?

	Freq.	%
Judges giving light sentences and releasing repeat criminal offenders	155	25.8%
Economic hardship or poverty	94	15.6%
Mental illness and lack of treatment	93	15.5%
Poor parenting and family breakdown	68	11.3%
Drug and substance abuse	66	11.0%



Prosecutors not prosecuting criminals for the crimes they commit	47	7.8%
Gangs and organized crime	25	4.2%
Lack of police presence	12	1.9%
Homelessness	4	0.6%
Unsure	37	6.1%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q16. Hold Judges Responsible Opinion:** Do you support or oppose holding judges responsible when they release repeat criminal offenders who go on to commit violent crimes such as murder?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Support</u></b>	<b><u>442</u></b>	<b><u>73.7%</u></b>
Strongly support	303	50.5%
Somewhat support	140	23.3%
<b><u>Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>117</u></b>	<b><u>19.4%</u></b>
Somewhat oppose	65	10.9%
Strongly oppose	51	8.6%
Unsure	41	6.9%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q17. Longterm Pandemic Impact Concern:** North Carolina's public school student test scores mostly improved during the last academic year, but average scores remain below those recorded before the COVID-19 pandemic. How concerned are you about the long-term impact of the pandemic on student achievement?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Concerned</u></b>	<b><u>515</u></b>	<b><u>85.8%</u></b>
Very concerned	326	54.3%
Somewhat concerned	189	31.5%
<b><u>Not concerned</u></b>	<b><u>70</u></b>	<b><u>11.7%</u></b>
Not very concerned	46	7.7%
Not concerned at all	24	4.0%
Unsure	15	2.4%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q18. Political Violence Concern:** How concerned are you with the rise of political violence in the United States?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Concerned</u></b>	<b><u>570</u></b>	<b><u>94.9%</u></b>
Very concerned	493	82.2%
Somewhat concerned	77	12.8%
<b><u>Not concerned</u></b>	<b><u>23</u></b>	<b><u>3.8%</u></b>
Not very concerned	18	2.9%
Not concerned at all	5	0.8%
Unsure	8	1.3%
Total	600	100.0%



**Q19. Violence Acceptability:** Do you believe it is ever acceptable to use violence or assassination attempts against political leaders or public figures you strongly disagree with?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>23</u></b>	<b><u>3.8%</u></b>
Yes, it is always acceptable	5	0.8%
Yes, it is sometimes acceptable	18	3.0%
<b><u>No, it is never acceptable</u></b>	<b><u>560</u></b>	<b><u>93.4%</u></b>
Unsure	17	2.8%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q20. Harassing Public Figures Opinion:** Do you think it is acceptable to harass or confront elected officials or public figures you disagree with when you see them in their personal life, such as eating at a restaurant or shopping?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>122</u></b>	<b><u>20.3%</u></b>
Yes, it is always acceptable	23	3.9%
Yes, it is sometimes acceptable	99	16.4%
<b><u>No, it is never acceptable</u></b>	<b><u>449</u></b>	<b><u>74.9%</u></b>
Unsure	29	4.8%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q21. Political Violence Blame:** When it comes to the rise in political violence in the United States, who do you think deserves the most blame?

	Freq.	%
Politicians and elected officials	209	34.8%
The media	161	26.8%
Activist groups and protest movements	96	16.0%
Social media companies	85	14.1%
Unsure	49	8.2%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q22. Gender**

	Freq.	%
Female	328	54.7%
Male	272	45.3%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q23. Age Range**

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Under 50</u></b>	<b><u>223</u></b>	<b><u>37.2%</u></b>
18 - 34	96	16.0%
35 - 49	128	21.3%
<b><u>50+</u></b>	<b><u>377</u></b>	<b><u>62.8%</u></b>
50 - 64	189	31.4%
65 or older	188	31.3%
Total	600	100.0%



**Q24. Party**

	Freq.	%
Republican	207	34.6%
Democrat	199	33.2%
Independent	157	26.1%
Other	22	3.6%
Unsure	15	2.5%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q25. Ideology**

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Conservative</u></b>	<b><u>265</u></b>	<b><u>44.1%</u></b>
Very conservative	151	25.2%
Somewhat conservative	113	18.9%
 <b><u>Moderate</u></b>	 <b><u>161</u></b>	 <b><u>26.9%</u></b>
 <b><u>Liberal</u></b>	 <b><u>163</u></b>	 <b><u>27.1%</u></b>
Somewhat liberal	91	15.1%
Very liberal	72	12.0%
 Unsure	 12	 1.9%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q26. Urbanicity**

	Freq.	%
Rural	258	43.0%
Suburban	263	43.9%
Urban	79	13.1%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q27. Income**

	Freq.	%
Less than \$40,000	81	13.4%
\$40,000 - \$69,999	117	19.6%
\$70,000 - \$99,999	118	19.7%
\$100,000 or more	226	37.7%
Unsure	58	9.6%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q28. Race/Ethnicity**

	Freq.	%
White or Caucasian	434	72.3%
Asian or Pacific Islander	3	0.5%
Black or African American	107	17.8%
Hispanic or Latino	11	1.8%
Other	26	4.3%
Unsure	20	3.3%
Total	600	100.0%





**Q29. 2024 Retro Ballot**

	Freq.	%
Donald Trump, the Republican	290	48.3%
Kamala Harris, the Democrat	270	45.0%
Another candidate	11	1.8%
Did not vote in 2024	12	2.1%
Unsure	17	2.8%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q30. Education Level**

	Freq.	%
<b><u>No College</u></b>	<b><u>320</u></b>	<b><u>53.3%</u></b>
Some high school	9	1.5%
High school diploma/GED	60	10.0%
Technical Certification	37	6.2%
Some college or Associate's Degree	213	35.5%
 <b><u>At least College</u></b>	 <b><u>276</u></b>	 <b><u>46.0%</u></b>
Four-year undergraduate or Bachelor's	153	25.6%
Graduate degree or further	123	20.4%
 Unsure	 5	 0.8%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q31. General Election X of 4**

	Freq.	%
0 of 4	11	1.8%
1 of 4	61	10.1%
2 of 4	84	14.1%
3 of 4	117	19.6%
4 of 4	327	54.5%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q32. Geo - DMA**

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Charlotte/West</u></b>	<b><u>216</u></b>	<b><u>36.0%</u></b>
Charlotte	162	27.0%
Greenville-Spart-Asheville-And	51	8.5%
Chattanooga	3	0.5%
 <b><u>Central</u></b>	 <b><u>108</u></b>	 <b><u>18.0%</u></b>
Greensboro-H.Point-W.Salem	103	17.1%
Myrtle Beach-Florence	5	0.9%
 <b><u>Raleigh-Durham (Fayetteville)</u></b>	 <b><u>188</u></b>	 <b><u>31.3%</u></b>
 <b><u>Coastal</u></b>	 <b><u>88</u></b>	 <b><u>14.7%</u></b>
Greenville-N.Bern-Washngtn	41	6.8%
Wilmington	37	6.1%
Norfolk-Portsmouth-Newport News	11	1.8%
Total	600	100.0%



**Q33. Geo - CD**

	Freq.	%
1	40	6.6%
2	45	7.5%
3	39	6.5%
4	48	7.9%
5	43	7.2%
6	40	6.7%
7	47	7.8%
8	44	7.4%
9	40	6.7%
10	44	7.3%
11	50	8.4%
12	34	5.7%
13	45	7.4%
14	41	6.9%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q34. Gender + Age**

	Freq.	%
F 18 - 34	53	8.9%
F 35 - 49	70	11.6%
F 50 - 64	102	17.0%
F 65+	103	17.2%
M 18 - 34	42	7.1%
M 35 - 49	58	9.7%
M 50 - 64	87	14.4%
M 65+	85	14.2%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q35. Race + Gender**

	Freq.	%
White Female	239	39.9%
White Male	195	32.4%
Asian Female	1	0.2%
Asian Male	2	0.3%
Black Female	63	10.5%
Black Male	44	7.3%
Hispanic Female	5	0.8%
Hispanic Male	6	1.0%
Other Female	9	1.5%
Other Male	17	2.8%
Unsure	20	3.3%
Total	600	100.0%

**Q36. Gender + Education**

	Freq.	%
Female At least College	152	25.3%
Female No degree	175	29.1%
Male At least College	124	20.7%
Male No degree	145	24.1%
Unsure	5	0.8%
Total	600	100.0%



## METHODOLOGY

The sample size is 600 likely voters in the 2026 general election in North Carolina Statewide. The margin of error is  $\pm 3.98\%$  at a confidence interval of 95%. The demography of the survey sample is balanced to accurately represent the geography's likely-voting population. The data was collected September 14 – 15, 2025 and respondent interviews were conducted via live phones and SMS-to-online. The total percentages of response may not equal 100% due to rounding.

