

An in-depth examination of North Carolina voter attitudes in  
important current issues

Registered Voters in North Carolina

September 17-30, 2017

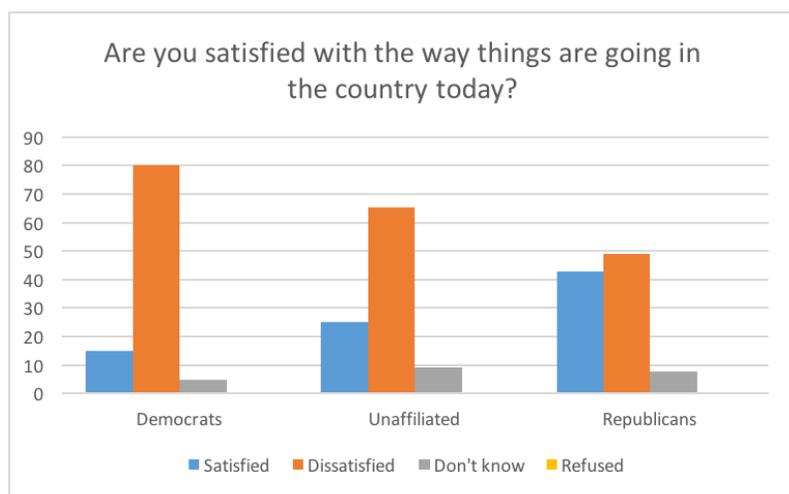
## Key Survey Insights

The Meredith College Poll conducted a combination poll consisting of 233 live caller respondents and 577 email respondents of registered North Carolina voters between September 17-30, 2017. The results reported have a margin of error of 3%.

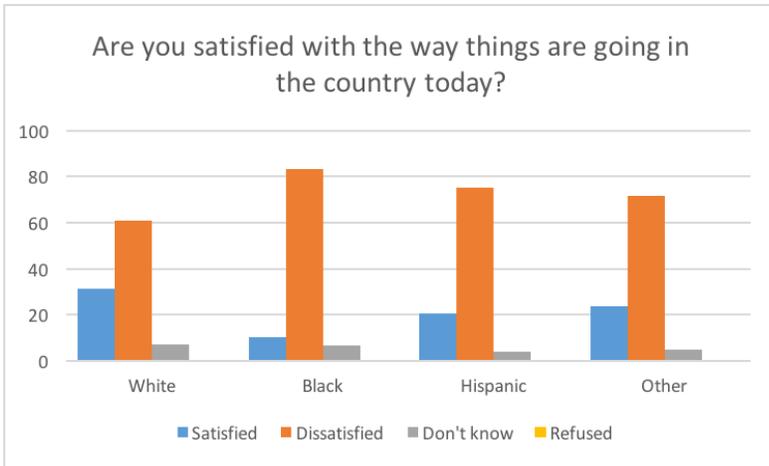
### *Direction of the country and key issues for citizens*

The partisan divided in North Carolina is reflected in the question about the direction of the country. Almost 80 percent of Democrats think the country is moving in the wrong direction, whereas Republicans are more evenly split between thinking the country is moving in the right direction v. the wrong direction.

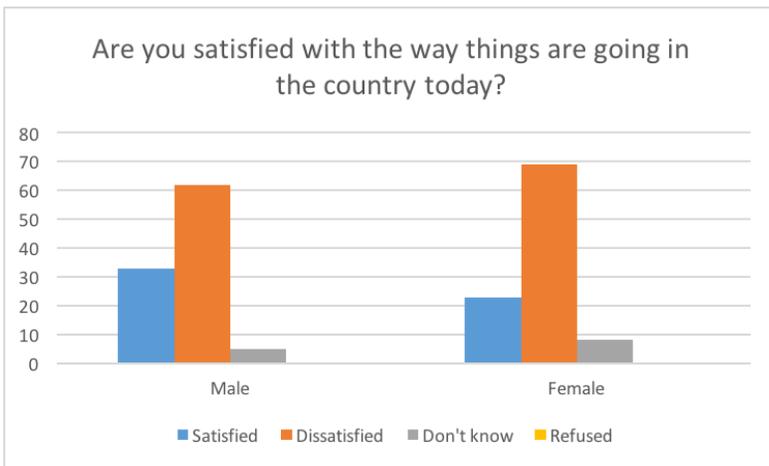
### *Direction of the Country*



Also, people of color in North Carolina are much more inclined to think the country is moving in the wrong direction with over 83 percent of African Americans and 75 percent of Hispanics being dissatisfied with the direction of the county, as compared to just over 60 percent of white voters.



Females, on average, are more dissatisfied with the direction of the country than are males with almost 70 percent of females indicating that they are unhappy with government and politics.



### Key Issues

In terms of issues that North Carolinians think are important, the economy and North Korea are, by far, the most significant issues for citizens. These issues are identified as the top issues by Democrats, Republicans, and Unaffiliated voters as top issues, but after those two, people in North Carolina diverge in significant ways. Nearly 1-in-5 Republican voters identify taxes as their top issue, whereas only about 5 percent of Democrats do so. On the other hand, nearly 1-in-5 Democratic voters identify health care as a top issue, while relatively few Republicans do the same.

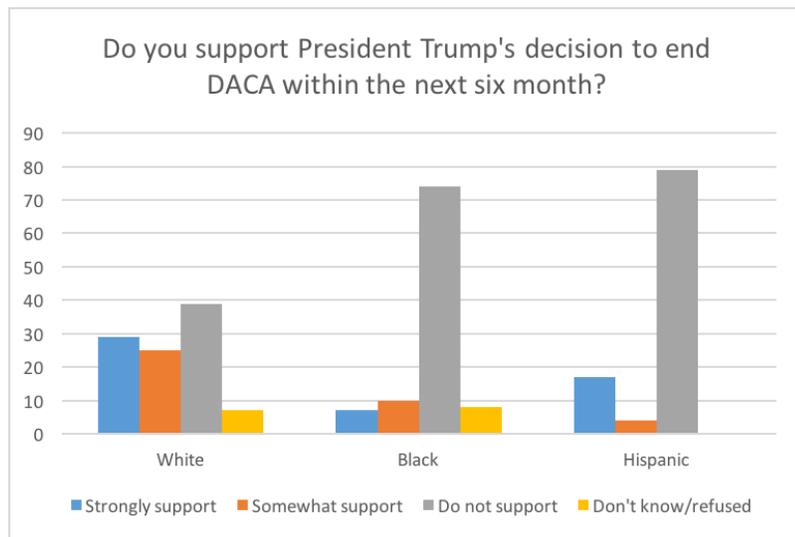
One interesting finding is that millennial voters, those 36 years of age and younger—are the group to identify the economy as the most important issue, with over one-third of this group indicating that policy changes need to take place to improve the economy.

### DACA, North Korea, Confederate Statues, and Climate Change

#### DACA

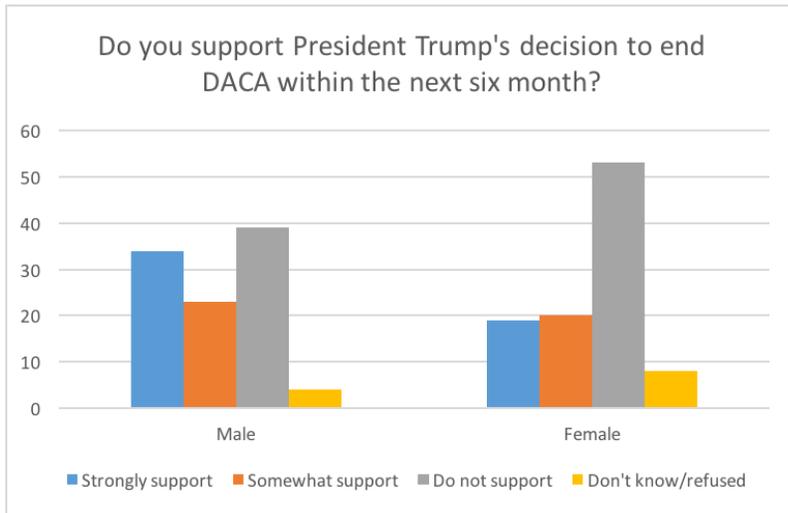
The Deferred Action for Children Arrivals Program, also known as DACA, is a program begun by President Barack Obama’s executive action in 2012. On September 5, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the Trump Administration’s decision to rescind the Obama administration’s action establishing the program and setting an end date of March 2018 for the program unless Congress passes a law that President Trump would sign. The Trump administration’s actions affect almost 800,000 people in the country and over 24,000 in North Carolina.

This decision splits North Carolinians along many demographic lines. African Americans and Hispanics in the state strongly disagree with the president’s decision to end the program with more than 3-in-4 minority voters being against the decision, whereas white voters are more evenly divided with slightly more voters in this category supporting the decision (43%) than opposing the decision (39%).

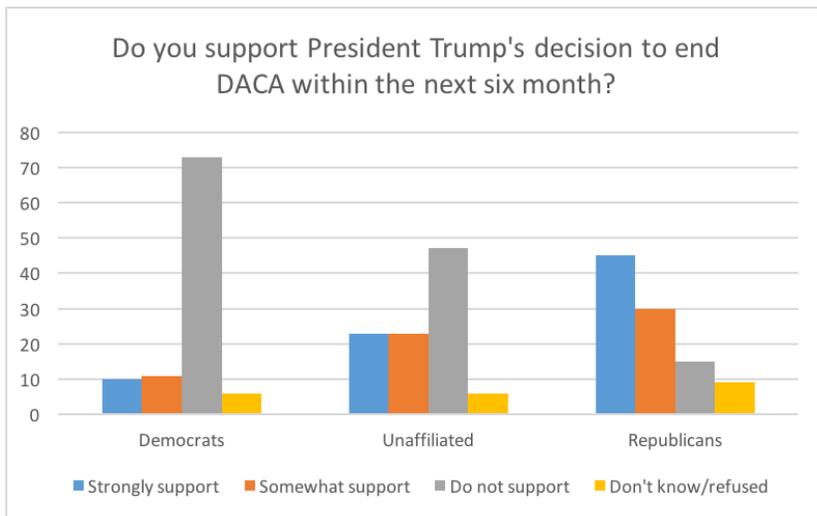


Similarly, a majority of women (53%) oppose President Trump’s DACA decision, while a majority of men (57%) support the presidential action. Also, of the different age categories, the youngest voters—the Millennials—are the only group to oppose the DACA decision with 60 percent in

this age category opposing the repeal of the program, while people in other age groups show modest support for the repeal.

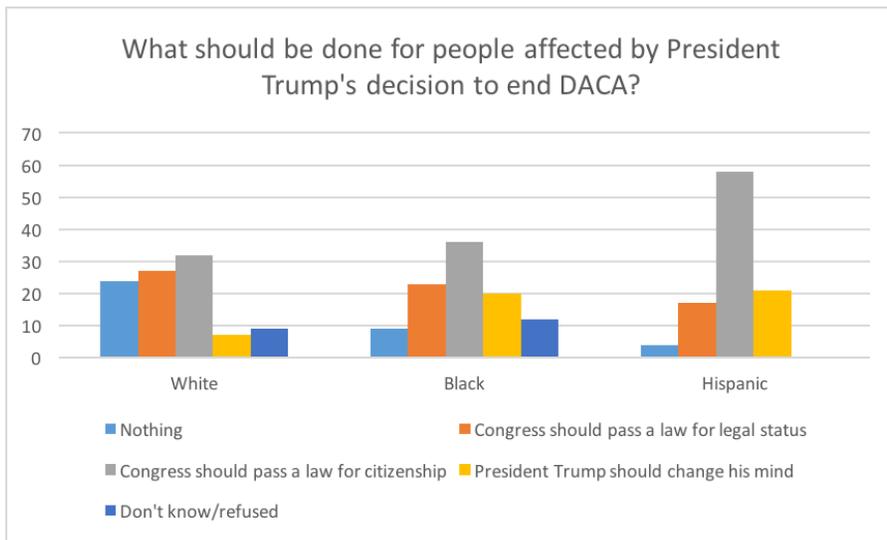


It is not surprise that Democrats comprise most of the opposition to President Trump’s DACA decision with almost three-quarters of Democrats (73%) opposing the repeal, while 75% of Republicans support President Trump’s decision. Unaffiliated voters are almost evenly split with 46% supporting the decision and 47% opposing it.

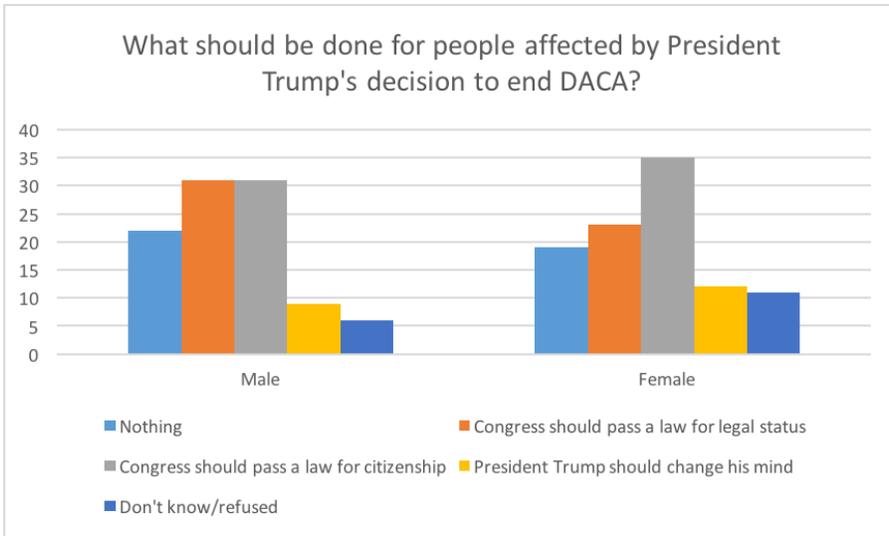


We asked people what should be done for the DACA beneficiaries, or Dreamers, after President Trump’s decision, giving them four choices—do nothing and let the Dreamers be deported, pass

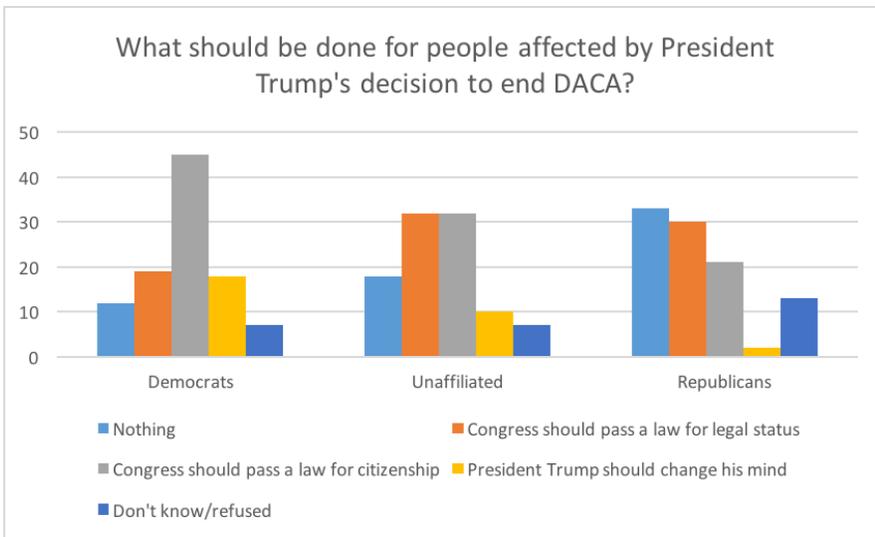
a law giving them some sort of permanent legal status, pass a law giving them a path to citizenship, or have President Trump reverse his decision. For the most part, North Carolinians are divided on next steps. With racial and ethnic groups, only a majority of Hispanics preferred one option—the one resulting in a pathway to citizenship—while a plurality of whites and African Americans preferred that option, there was only slightly less support for a pathway to legal status and, among whites, almost 1-in-5 preferred doing nothing and allowing the Dreamers to be deported.



Although women favored a pathway to citizenship more than other options, men and women in North Carolina were almost equally likely to prefer than Congress pass a law protecting Dreamers than the option of deportation.



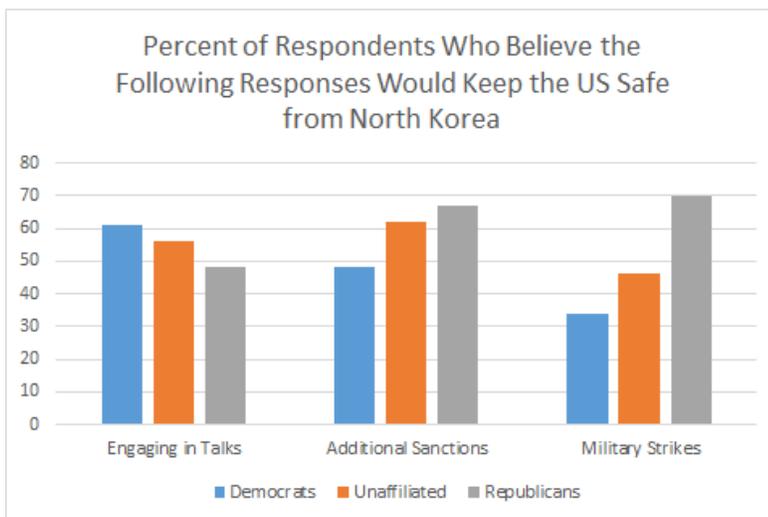
Partisanship divides North Carolinians on the DACA issue with Republicans favoring the option that would result in Dreamers being deported by at 3-to-1 margin over Democrats. Despite that difference, majorities of Democratic, Republican, and Unaffiliated voters in North Carolina favor some form of protection for Dreamers.



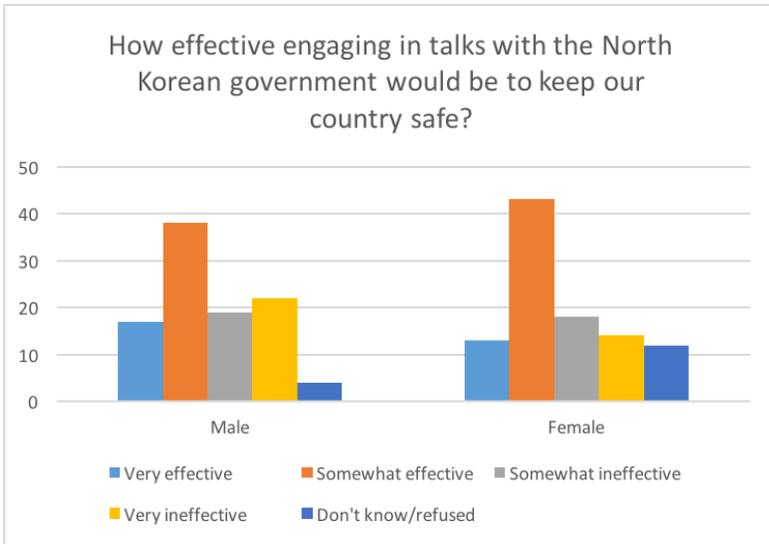
### North Korea

The issue of North Korea developing nuclear arms and threatening the safety of the United States and its allies vexes North Carolinians. As the question on the most important issue facing our nation indicated, North Carolinians perceive the North Korean threat to be significant, but citizens are split over the best course of action for the United States government to keep Americans safe.

There is strong support for engaging in diplomatic talks with North Korea and our allies, as well as for using further sanctions against North Korea and using the military to take out weapons productions and missile launch facilities.



Democrats favor diplomacy over sanctions and the use of military, while Republicans are more supportive on hard power options such as tough sanctions and the use of military. Unaffiliated voters in the state also prefer sanctions and the using the military to make keep the United States safe from the North Korean threat.

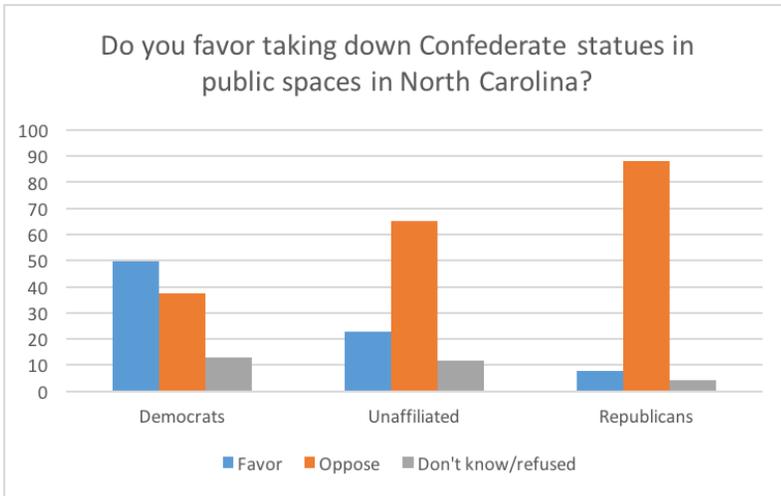


Although there were slight differences between men and women in terms of a strategy toward North Korea, the most significant demographic characteristic in terms of preferences was age with millennial voters having relatively little support for sanctions (42%) and the use of the military (32%) as compared to older voters in North Carolina.

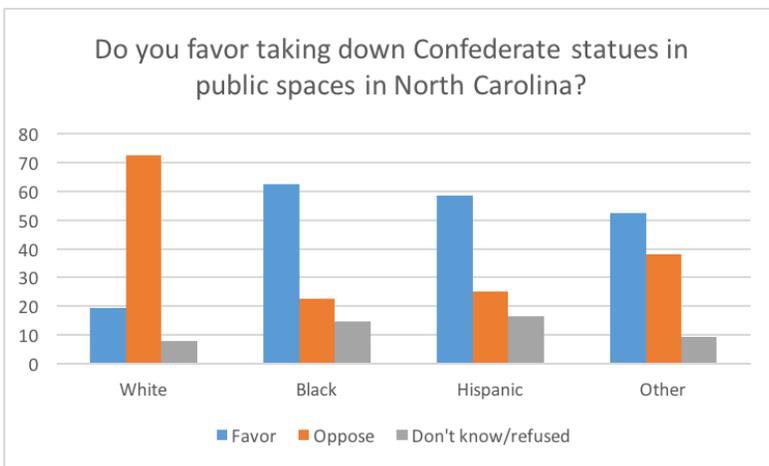
### *Confederate Statues*

The issue of what to do with Confederate statues on public grounds has ignited protests around the country and state. On college and university campuses, such as UNC-Chapel Hill, there has been a great deal of discussion about what to do with these monuments. Recently, Governor Cooper announced that he wanted the Historic Preservation Commission to support removing three Confederate statues from the old State Capitol Building to the Bentonville battleground site in Johnston County. Republican leadership in the General Assembly does not support such a removal.

Overall, less than 30 percent of North Carolinians favor removing Confederate statues from public grounds with just under 50% of Democrats favoring their removal and large majorities of Republican and Unaffiliated voters desiring to relocate these statues.

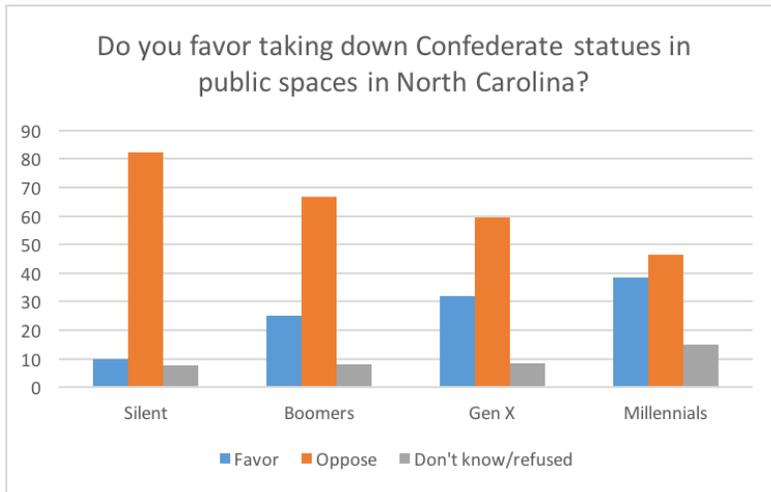


In terms of ethnic and racial groups, majorities of African American and Hispanic voters favored the removal of these statues, while a significant majority of white voters prefer keeping them on public lands.

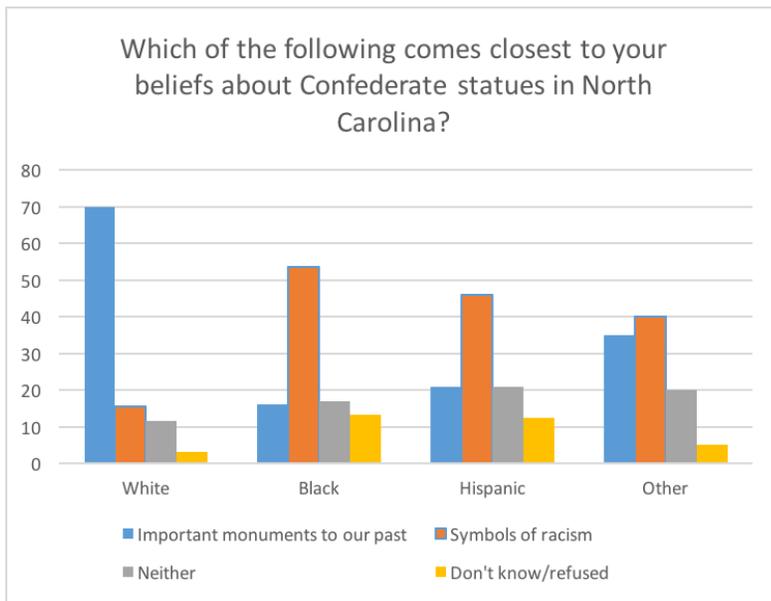


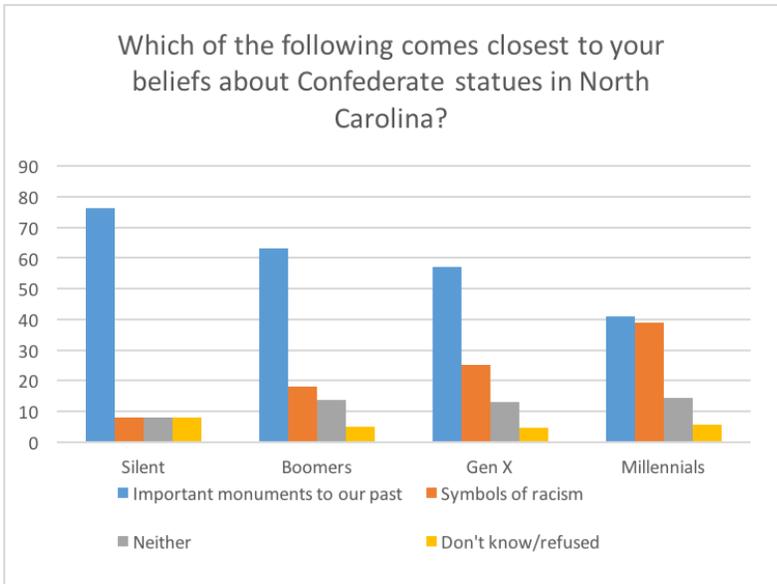
There is a generational divide among North Carolinians about what to do with Confederate statues. Older North Carolinians strongly favor keeping the monuments on public lands, while young voters favor it less. However, even among Millennial voters, slightly less than 40 percent

of this age group favors removing the statues, while just over 43 percent oppose removing the statues from state lands.

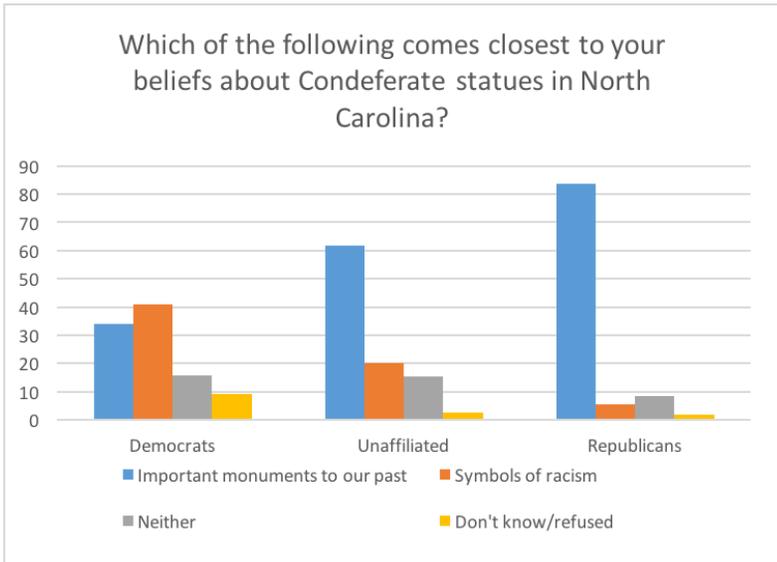


We asked how North Carolinians perceive the Confederate statues—either as important monuments to North Carolina’s past or as symbols of racism. By a large margin (57%-27%), North Carolinians considered the Confederate statues to be important monuments to the state’s past. Almost 70 percent of white voters concurred with this view, but a majority of African Americans say these statues as racist symbols and a plurality of Hispanics felt the same.





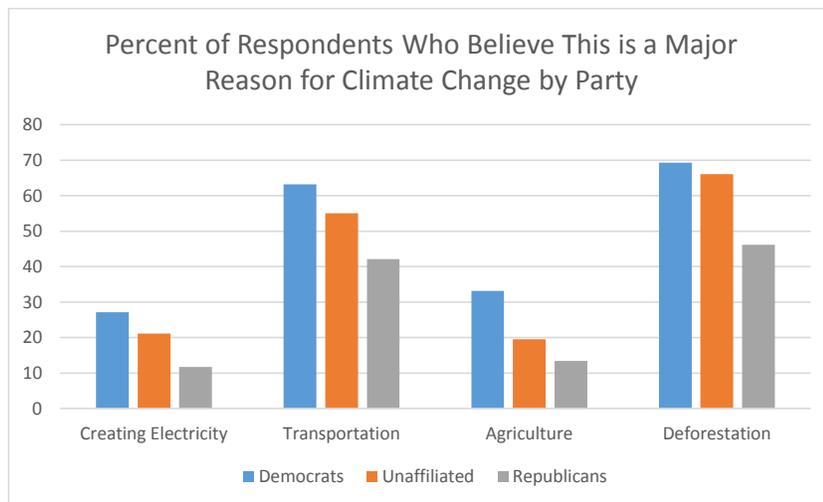
People’s political affiliation affected the responses. Over 80 percent of Republicans responded that Confederate statues are important historical symbols, while more Democrats stated that they were racist symbols (43%) than important historical markers (37%). On this issue, Unaffiliated voters had attitudes more similar to Republicans than Democrats.



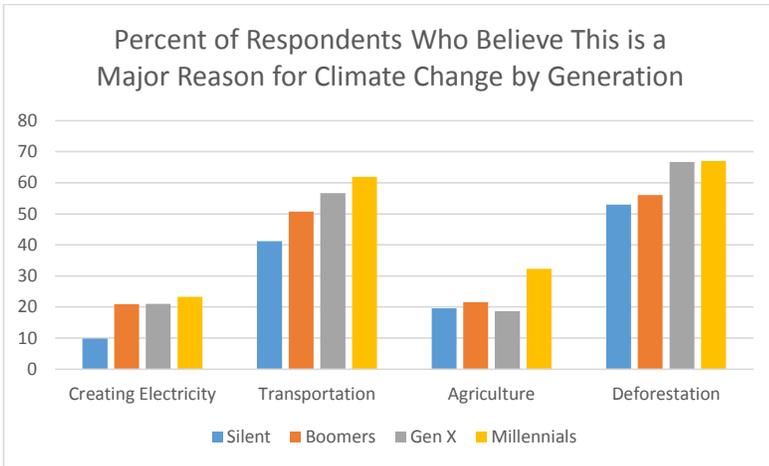
## Climate Change

For the last decade, no issue outside of hot button issues like abortion, has polarized the country and state like climate change. Despite almost overwhelming evidence in the scientific community, the divide over climate change is deep and persistent. Instead of asking a single question about whether citizens believe that human activity is related to climate change, we decided to ask a series of questions about how people feel about four of the major causes of climate change, as identified in the scientific community.

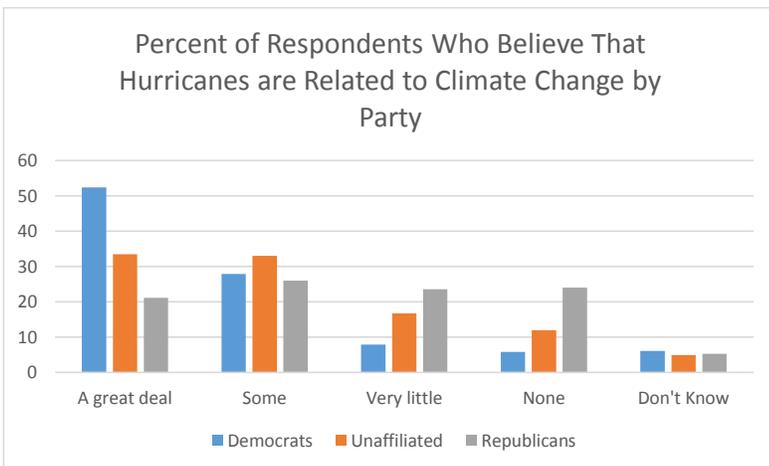
Although there were varying degrees of support for each reason, the pattern of responses is revealing. Democratic voters consistently thought that each reason was a major cause of climate change, in comparison to Unaffiliated and Republican voters. In terms of the four reasons, even Republicans generally believe that transportation and deforestation were major contributors to climate change, but not much at all about the generation of electricity and agriculture.



Although political party affiliation strongly predicts how people feel about the cause of climate change, the age variable is equally strong. The younger the voter, the more likely the person to support the idea that various human activities cause climate change. Millennial voters, as indicated below, strongly support the idea that transportation and deforestation contribute to climate change, much more so than the oldest group of voters, the Silent Generation.



As another test of people’s perceptions of climate change, we asked about whether people thought climate change contributed to the number and intensity of hurricanes. We surveyed soon after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma (Hurricane Maria also affected US territories as we were surveying). A large majority of Democrats—just over 80%—felt that climate change affected the number and intensity of hurricanes, while about 65% of Unaffiliated voters did the same. Just under half (47.1%) of Republicans felt that climate change affected the number and strength of hurricanes.

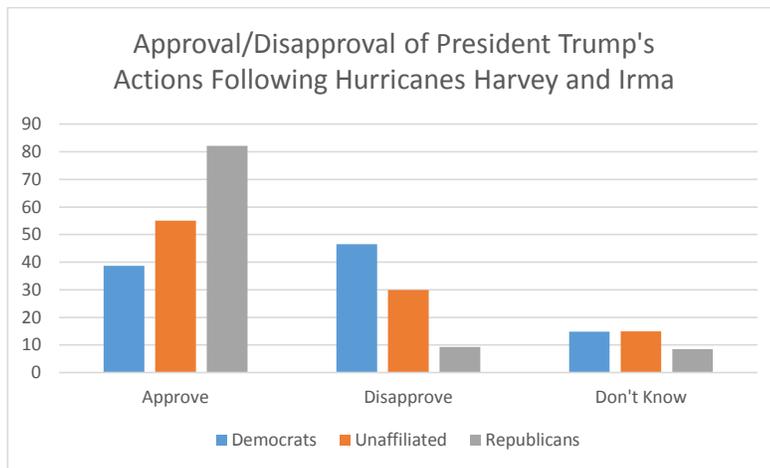


## Presidential Response to hurricanes and Political Polarization

### *Presidential Response to Hurricanes*

Since presidents are often judged by how they respond to natural disasters, like hurricanes, we asked North Carolinians to evaluate President Trump's responses to Hurricane's Harvey and Irma. Although most respondents completed their surveys before Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico and President Trump got embroiled in a well-publicized back-and-forth with the San Juan mayor, our results may reflect some perceptions created by that disaster.

In general, a majority (56.2%) of North Carolinians support how President Trump handled the hurricane damage from Harvey and Irma. There was, however, a noticeable partisan divide with less than 40 percent of Democrats saying the president effectively handled the hurricane responses, but 80 percent of Republicans believing that he handled them well.



Outside of party affiliation, age was the most important factor affecting people's perceptions of how President Trump handled the hurricane responses. Just under 40 percent of the Millennials said President Trump handled the hurricane responses well, while every other age group was over 50 percent, including the Silent Generation (73 years of age and older), where 71 percent felt that the president did a good job on the responses.

### *How much are you following politics since the election of Donald Trump?*

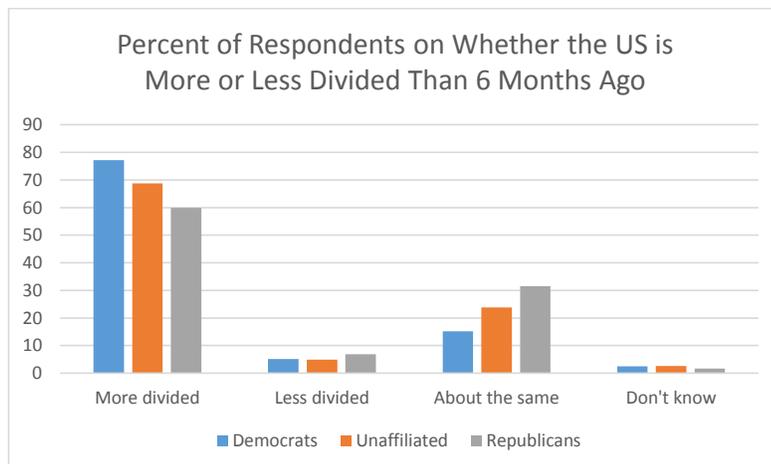
We asked North Carolinians if they were following politics more, less, or about the same since the election of Donald Trump as president. Over half of the respondents said they were following politics more since the president was elected. Only 8 percent of North Carolinians said they were following politics less.

Of the different groups surveyed, there were some interesting results. A large majority of Hispanics—70 percent—indicated that they were following politics more. Even Millennials, often thought to be more disengaged from politics than their older counterparts, reported being more engaged than before with over 51 percent of the group stating they followed politics more than they did before President Trump’s election.

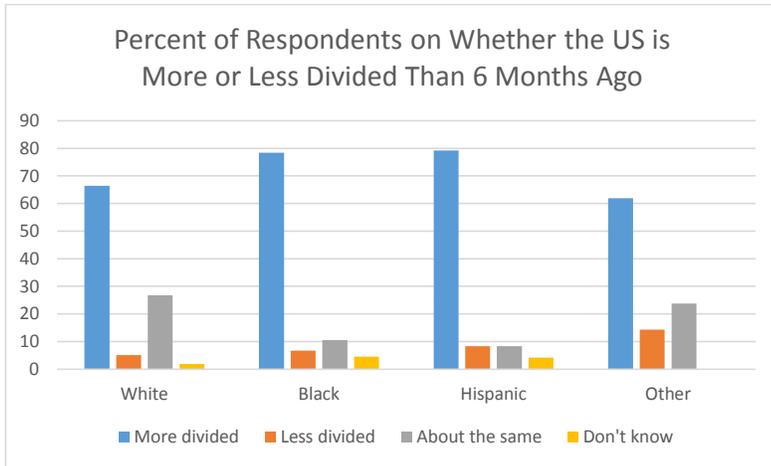
### *How Divided is the Country?*

As indicated above and with many other surveys, North Carolinians are very polarized. We wanted to ask citizens if they believed political polarization had gotten worse since the election of Donald Trump as president.

A large majority of North Carolinians think polarization has gotten worse in the last six months. A majority of every group surveyed supported the idea that polarization was worse. Even with political affiliation, while it would be expected that a large majority of Democrats—just under 80 percent—think polarization is worse now than it was six months ago, Unaffiliated voters (58.6%) and Republican voters (55.5%) concur.



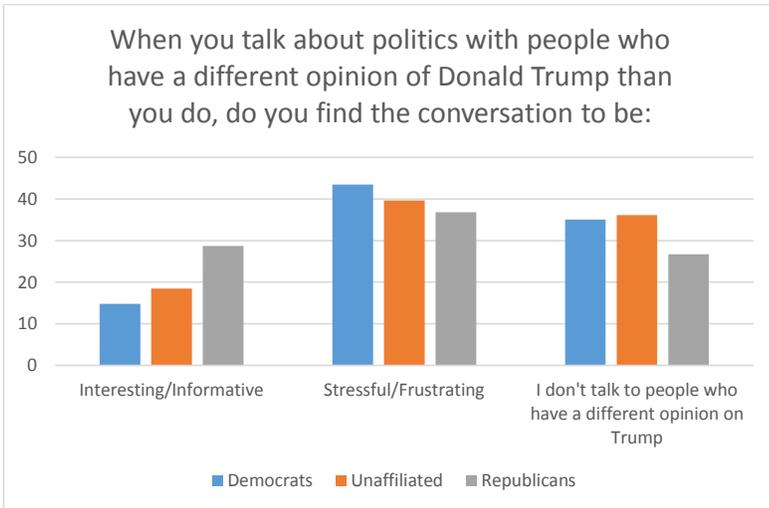
Again, every group had a majority of its respondents indicating that polarization had gotten worse. It is worth noting, however, that almost 80 percent of African Americans and Hispanics indicated that polarization is worse. Obviously, situation like the Charlottesville protests, along with President Trump’s response, and the repeal of DACA could make people of color feel that polarization has gotten worse.



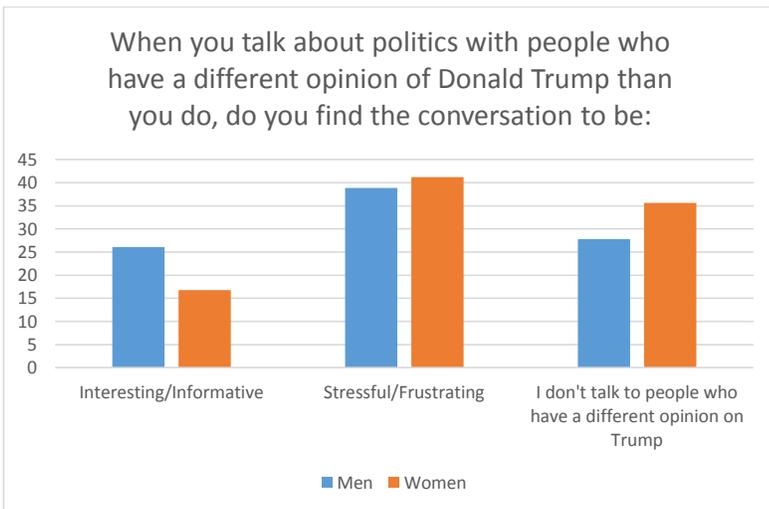
*How does the Political Divide Affect People's Relationship with Others?*

In addition to asking people their perceptions of polarization, we wanted to ask them about how it impacted them. We asked them about engaging in political conversations with people different from themselves (on their support of President Trump).

We found that a majority of North Carolinians do not find talking about politics to people with different attitudes about the president to be positive. Only 1-in-5 citizens (20%) found talking politics with someone who differs in their views of President Trump would be "interesting and informative," while over 30 percent of all citizens say they would simply not talk to people with different views.



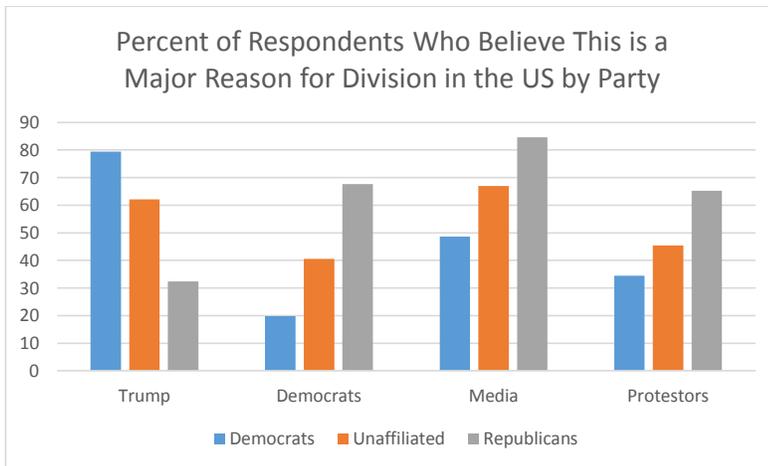
Women, in particular, find political conversations with people holding different beliefs about President Trump to be off-putting.



***Causes of Political Polarization***

Since people were well aware of the increased polarization in our political culture, we wanted to know what people thought were the causes of this divide. We allowed the respondents to state whether President Trump, Democrats, the Media, and Protestors were major reasons, minor reasons, or no reasons for the political divide in our country and states.

President Trump and the media were identified by most North Carolinians as the major reasons for our polarized nation. Of course, Democrats and Republicans had very different views of major reasons with almost 80 of Democrats identifying President Trump as a major reason for the divide and 82 percent of Republicans identifying the media as a major cause of divide in the country.



On these issues, Millennials and the Silent Generation were very different. Almost 70 percent of Millennials identified President Trump as a major reason for the heightened partisanship, but less than 40 percent of this group blamed protestors. On the other hand, 42 percent of the Silent Generation said that President Trump was a major reason why there was increased polarization, but 54 percent stated that protestors were a major cause.

Sample characteristics

**Topline Results**

**Direction of the country and most important issue**

**All in all, are you satisfied with the way things are going in the country today?**

Satisfied	214	26.5%
Dissatisfied	538	66.5%
Don't know	55	6.8%
Refused	2	0.2%

**What is the most important issue facing the country?**

Economy	193	25.6%
Taxes	72	9.6%
North Korea	203	27%
Racism	102	13.5%
Health care	106	14.1%
Education	26	3.5%
Political Polarization	31	4.1%
Other	18	2.4%
Don't know/refused	2	.2%
N	753	

### DACA

President Trump has decided to end the Deferred Action for Children Arrivals Program, also known as DACA, within the next six months, possibly causing up to 800,000 people in the United States to be deported.

#### Do you support President Trump's decision?

Strongly support	198	24.5%
Somewhat support	165	20.4%
Do not support	389	48.2%
Don't know/refused	55	6.8%
N	807	

#### What do you think should be done for the approximately 800,000 people affected by President Trump's decision to end the DACA Program?

Nothing, since they were in the country illegally.	163	20.2%
Congress should pass a law giving the people affected by President Trump's decision a pathway to legal status (e.g., work visa, student visa, etc.), but not a pathway to citizenship.	211	26.2%
Congress should pass a law giving people affected by President Trump's decision a pathway to citizenship.	273	33.9%
President Trump should change his mind and go back to the DACA Program the way it was.	86	10.7%
Don't know/refused	72	8.9%

N

805

**North Korea**

The issue of North Korea developing nuclear weapons and potentially using those weapons to attack the United States has been in the news recently. How effective do you think the following potential responses would be in terms of keeping the United States safe?

**Engaging in talks with the North Korean government, as well as other countries in the region like China, Japan, and South Korea.**

Very effective	115	14.3%
Somewhat effective	333	41.3%
Somewhat ineffective	148	18.3%
Very ineffective	135	16.7%
Don't know/refused	76	9.4%

N

807

**Putting additional sanctions on the North Korean government, such as cutting off their access to oil or limiting their access to funds.**

Very effective	205	25.5%
Somewhat effective	260	32.3%
Somewhat ineffective	158	19.6%
Very ineffective	107	13.3%
Don't know/refused	75	9.3%

N

805

**Using the US military to strike North Korean weapons production and launch facilities.**

Very effective	221	27.5%
Somewhat effective	169	21%
Somewhat ineffective	96	11.9%
Very ineffective	198	25%
Don't know/refused	121	15%

N

805

**Confederate statues**

The issue of removing or taking down Confederate statues in public places has been in the news. Do you favor taking down Confederate statues in public spaces in North Carolina?

Favor removing the statues from public spaces in North Carolina	235	29.1%
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Favor removing the statues from public spaces in North Carolina	235	29.1%
Oppose removing the statues from public spaces in North Carolina	493	61.1%
Don't know/refused	79	1%

N 807

**Which of the following comes closest to your beliefs about Confederate statues in North Carolina?**

They are important monuments to North Carolina's past	461	57.1%
They are symbols of racism	196	24.3%
Neither	109	13.5%
Don't know/Refused	42	5.2%

N 807

**Climate Change**

Scientists give a number of reasons for climate change. I am going to list several of these reasons and want you to indicate whether each is a major reason, a minor reasons, or no reason that the climate is changing.

**Creating electricity**

Major reason	167	20.7%
Minor reason	312	38.7%
No reason	232	28.7%
Don't know/refused	94	11.6%

N 807

**Transportation (cars, buses, planes, etc.)**

Major reason	438	54.3%
Minor reason	244	30.2%
No reason	93	11.5%
Don't know/refused	38	4.7%

N 807

**Agriculture**

Major reason	186	23.2%
Minor reason	319	39.7%
No reason	243	30.3%
Don't know/refused	55	6.8%

N 803

**Deforestation (cutting down trees in the forests and jungles)**

Major reason	186	23.2%
Minor reason	319	39.7%
No reason	243	30.3%
Don't know/refused	55	6.8%
Major reason	494	61.4%
Minor reason	185	23%
No reason	86	10.7%
Don't know/refused	40	5%
N	800	

**How much do you believe climate change contributes to the frequency and intensity of major hurricanes like Harvey or Irma?**

A great deal	301	37.6%
Some	230	28.6%
Very little	121	15.1%
None	106	13.3%
Refused/don't know	42	5.3%
N	800	

**President Trump**

**Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Trump is handling the damages caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana and Hurricane Irma in Florida?**

Strongly approve	245	30.5%
Somewhat approve	210	26.2%
Somewhat disapprove	104	13%
Strongly disapprove	138	17.2%
Don't know/refused	105	13.1%
N	803	

Since Donald Trump's election as president, would you say you are paying more attention, less attention, or about the same amount of attention to politics as you used to:

More attention	415	51.6%
Less attention	64	8%
About the same amount of attention	313	39%
Don't know/refused	11	1.4%
N	803	

When you talk about politics who have a different opinion of Donald Trump that you do, do you find the conversation to be:

Interesting and informative	162	20.2%
Stressful and frustrating	324	40.3%

Interesting and informative	162	20.2%
I don't talk to people about politics who have a different opinion of Donald Trump than I do	264	32.9%
Don't know/refused	53	6.6%

N 803

### Division in the country

Compared to six months ago, would you say the country is more politically divided, less politically divided, or equally divided?

More divided	560	69.7%
Less divided	44	5.5%
About the same	181	22.5%
Don't know/refused	19	2.4%

N 804

A number of reasons have been given for the political divide that affects the country. For each of the following reasons, I want you to indicate whether each is a major reason, a minor reason, or no reason for the political divide.

### Donald Trump

Major reason	483	60.2%
Minor reason	196	24.4%
No reason	100	12.5%
Don't know/refused	23	2.9%

N 802

### Democrats

Major reason	323	40.3%
Minor reason	287	35.8%
No reason	142	17.7%
Don't know/refused	50	6.2%

N 802

### The media

Major reason	521	65%
Minor reason	184	22.9%
No reason	68	8.5%
Don't know/refused	29	3.6%

N 802

### Protestors

Major reason	378	47.1%
Minor reason	279	34.8%
No reason	113	14.1%
Don't know/refused	34	4.2%
N	802	

### Sample Characteristics

#### Registered Party (from Voter File)

Democrats	333	41.3%
Republicans	247	30.6%
Unaffiliated	226	28.1%
Libertarian	2	0%
N=	808	

#### Age (from Voter File)

Millennial (Born 1981 & after, ages 18-36)	194	23.9%
Gen X (Born 1965-80, ages 37-52)	213	26.2%
Boomer (Born 1945-64, ages 53-72)	352	43%
Silent+ (Born 1944 & earlier, ages 73+)	50	6.2%
N=	809	

#### Gender (from Voter File)

Female	522	64.4%
Male	288	35.6%
N=	810	

#### Marital Status

Married	471	64.5%
Single	172	35.5%
N=	713	

#### Race (from Voter File)

White	597	77.7%
Black	135	17.8%
Hispanic	24	3.1%
Other	12	1.6%
N=	809	

#### Location (from Voter File)



	Economy	Taxes	North Korea	Racism	Health care	Education	Political Polarization	Other	DK/Ref
White	22.9%	10.3%	27.5%	13.9%	11.7%	3.3%	4.3%	3.1	.2%
Black	34.4%	3.9%	22.7%	11%	13.3%	3.1%	5.5%	.8%	.8%
Hispanic	37.5%	20.8%	8.3%	20.8%	12.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Female	24.5%	9%	27.8%	11.4%	14.9%	4.5%	2.7%	2.4%	.2%
Male	25.5%	9.9%	23%	16.4%	11.3%	1.5%	6.6%	2.6%	.4%
Millennial	34.5%	12.4%	18.6%	11.9%	18.6%	4.1%	0%	0%	0%
Gen X	27.3%	5.4%	25.4%	18.1%	10.7%	3.9%	4.9%	2.9%	0%
Boomer	19.4%	9.2%	30.4%	11.6%	13.1%	3.3%	5.7%	2.4%	.3%
Silent +	14%	14%	30%	8%	10%	6%	10%	2%	0%
Rural	26.9%	9.8%	30%	8.4%	12.8%	4.4%	1%	1.4%	.3%
Urban	23.6%	9%	23.8%	16%	14.1%	2.9%	5.9%	3.1%	.2%

#### DACA

President Trump has decided to end the Deferred Action for Children Arrivals Program, also known as DACA, within the next six months, possibly causing up to 800,000 people in the United States to be deported.

Do you support President Trump's decision?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Do not support	Don't know/refused
Democrat	10%	11%	73%	6%
Republican	45%	30%	15%	9%
Unaffiliated	23%	23%	47%	6%
White	29%	25%	39%	7%
Black	7%	10%	74%	8%
Hispanic	17%	4%	79%	0%
Female	19%	20%	53%	8%
Male	34%	23%	39%	4%
Millennial	10%	19%	60%	11%
Gen X	24%	26%	44%	7%
Boomer	31%	18%	47%	5%
Silent +	41%	27%	27%	4%

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Do not support	Don't know/refused
Rural	25.6%	23.3%	44.9%	6.2%
Urban	21.3%	25.1%	48.6%	5%

What do you think should be done for the approximately 800,000 people affected by President Trump's decision to end the DACA Program?

	Nothing, since they were in the country illegally	Congress should pass a law giving them pathway to legal status; not citizenship	Congress should pass a law giving them pathway to citizenship	President Trump should change his mind and go back to the previous system	Don't know/refused
Democrat	12%	19%	45%	18%	7%
Republican	33%	30%	21%	2%	13%
Unaffiliated	18%	32%	32%	10%	7%
White	24%	27%	32%	7%	9%
Black	9%	23%	36%	20%	12%
Hispanic	4%	17%	58%	21%	0%
Female	19%	23%	35%	12%	11%
Male	22%	31%	31%	9%	6%
Millennial	14%	22%	40%	9%	9%
Gen X	22%	37%	23%	8%	8%
Boomer	20%	23%	37%	10%	10%
Silent +	33%	20%	31%	8%	8%
Rural	25.2%	24.5%	30.2%	5.9%	9.2%
Urban	21.3%	29.3%	31.2%	10.8%	7.4%

### North Korea

The issue of North Korea developing nuclear weapons and potentially using those weapons to attack the United States has been in the news recently. How effective do you think the following potential responses would be in terms of keeping the United States safe?

Engaging in talks with the North Korean government, as well as other countries in the region like China, Japan, and South Korea.

	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Somewhat ineffective	Very ineffective	Don't know/refused
Democrat	16.9%	44.3%	12.7%	13%	13.3%
Republican	13.4%	34.6%	23.2%	22.4%	6.5%
Unaffiliated	11.9%	43.6%	21.6%	21.6%	6.2%
White	12.9%	41.8%	20.1%	17.8%	7.3%
Black	20.6%	36%	9.6%	16.2%	17.7%
Hispanic	16.7%	41.7%	25%	4.2%	12.5%
Female	12.9%	43.2%	18.1%	13.9%	11.9%
Male	17%	37.5%	19.1%	22.2%	4.2%
Millennial	13.5%	45.6%	18.1%	14%	8.8%
Gen X	17.1%	38.6%	16.2%	19.5%	8.6%
Boomer	13%	41.9%	18.7%	17.6%	8.8%
Silent +	15.7%	29.4%	27.5%	11.8%	15.7%
Rural	14%	38.5%	21%	18.5%	8%
Urban	14.6%	42.8%	16.8%	15.8%	9.9%

Putting additional sanctions on the North Korean government, such as cutting off their access to oil or limiting their access to funds.

	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Somewhat ineffective	Very ineffective	Don't know/refused
Democrat	21.1%	27.2%	23%	15.7%	13%
Republican	30%	36.8%	18.2%	9.7%	5.3%
Unaffiliated	26.9%	35.2%	16.3%	14.1%	7.5%
White	26.8%	34.5%	20.9%	11.2%	9.9%
Black	20.9%	23.1%	19.4%	18.7%	17.9%
Hispanic	25%	20.8%	12.5%	20.8%	20.8%
Female	21.6%	33.7%	19.8%	13.1%	11.8%
Male	32.6%	29.9%	19.4%	13.9%	4.2%
Millennial	11.8%	29.4%	25.8%	17.5%	15.5%
Gen X	28.2%	32.1%	17.7%	12.4%	9.6%

	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Somewhat ineffective	Very ineffective	Don't know/refused
Boomer	29.7%	34.3%	18.1%	12.5%	5.4%
Silent +	37.3%	31.4%	15.7%	7.8%	7.8%
Rural	24.6%	34.2%	21.7%	11.8%	7.6%
Urban	26.1%	31.2%	18.4%	14.4%	9.9%

Using the US military to strike North Korean weapons production and missile launch facilities.

	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Somewhat ineffective	Very ineffective	Don't know/refused
Democrat	17.4%	16.8%	11.7%	36%	18%
Republican	41.7%	27.9%	8.9%	8.5%	13%
Unaffiliated	27.3%	18.9%	15.9%	25.1%	12.8%
White	31.2%	23.3%	10.9%	21.9%	12.7%
Black	18.4%	15.4%	12.5%	27.9%	25.7%
Hispanic	12.5%	12.5%	33.3%	37.5%	4.2%
Female	21.1%	23.2%	12.1%	26.1%	17.5%
Male	39.2%	16.7%	11.8%	21.9%	10.4%
Millennial	10.8%	22.2%	18%	33.5%	15.5%
Gen X	30%	22.4%	11.9%	21.4%	14.8%
Boomer	33.9%	20.6%	9.9%	22%	13.6%
Silent +	37.3%	11.8%	3.9%	23.5%	23.5%
Rural	29.5%	21.6%	13.3%	21.6%	12.8%
Urban	26.3%	20.4%	11.1%	26.5%	15.6%

### Confederate statues

The issue of removing or taking down Confederate statues in public places has been in the news. Do you favor taking down Confederate statues in public spaces in North Carolina?

	Favor removing statues from public spaces in NC	Oppose removing statues from public spaces in NC	Don't know/refused
Democrat	49.6%	37.5%	12.9%

	Favor removing statues from public spaces in NC	Oppose removing statues from public spaces in NC	Don't know/refused
Republican	7.7%	88.3%	4%
Unaffiliated	22.9%	65.2%	11.9%
White	19.4%	72.5%	8%
Black	62.5%	23%	14.7%
Hispanic	58.3%	25%	16.7%
Female	30.7%	57.6%	11.7%
Male	26.4%	67%	6.6%
Millennial	38.7%	43.4%	15%
Gen X	31.9%	59.5%	8.6%
Boomer	25.1%	66.7%	8.2%
Silent +	9.8%	82.6%	7.8%
Rural	23.5%	66%	10.5%
Urban	32.8%	57.7%	9.5%

Which of the following comes closest to your beliefs about Confederate statues in North Carolina?

	They are important monuments to NC's past.	They are symbols of racism.	Neither	Don't know/refused
Democrat	34%	41%	15.7%	9.3%
Republican	83.8%	5.7%	8.5%	2%
Unaffiliated	61.7%	20.3%	15.4%	2.6%
White	69.9%	15.6%	11.6%	3%
Black	16.2%	53.7%	17%	13.2%
Hispanic	20.8%	45.8%	20.8%	12.5%
Female	54.6%	26.2%	13.3%	6%
Male	61.8%	20.8%	13.5%	3.8%
Millennial	40.9%	38.9%	14.5%	5.7%

	They are important monuments to NC's past.	They are symbols of racism.	Neither	Don't know/refused
Gen X	57.1%	25.2%	12.9%	4.8%
Boomer	63.3%	18.1%	13.8%	4.7%
Silent +	76.5%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%
Rural	65.4%	17.8%	11.8%	5.1%
Urban	51.9%	28.4%	14.4%	5.3%

### Climate Change

Scientists give a number of reasons for climate change. I am going to list several of these reasons and want you to indicate whether each is a major reason, a minor reason, or no reason that the climate is changing.

Creating electricity

	Major reason	Minor reason	No reason	Don't know/refused
Democrat	27.2%	37.2%	20.8%	14.8%
Republican	11.7%	39.7%	40.5%	8.1%
Unaffiliated	21.1%	39.2%	28.2%	11.5%
White	19%	37.9%	32.9%	10.2%
Black	21.3%	41.2%	20.6%	16.9%
Hispanic	45.8%	20.8%	12.5%	20.8%
Female	21.4%	38%	26.6%	14.1%
Male	19.7%	39.6%	33%	7.6%
Millennial	23.3%	49.2%	15.5%	11.9%
Gen X	21.1%	40.7%	26.3%	12%
Boomer	20.9%	32.5%	35.6%	11%
Silent +	9.8%	31.4%	43.1%	15.7%
Rural	20%	37.1%	32.1%	10.8%
Urban	21.3%	39.4%	26.8%	12.4%

Transportation

	Major reason	Minor reason	No reason	Don't know/refused
Democrat	63.2%	25.3%	6.3%	5.1%
Republican	42.1%	34.8%	19.8%	3.2%
Unaffiliated	55.1%	31.7%	11%	3.2%
White	51.1%	32.5%	13.4%	3%
Black	61.5%	23.7%	7.4%	7.4%
Hispanic	66.7%	16.6%	8.3%	8.3%
Female	57.3%	29.6%	9.2%	3.9%
Male	49%	31.3%	16.3%	3.5%
Millennial	61.9%	24.7%	9.3%	4.1%
Gen X	56.7%	30.5%	8.6%	3.8%
Boomer	50.7%	32.9%	12.8%	3.7%
Silent +	41.2%	31.4%	25.5%	2%
Rural	52.1%	26.7%	16%	5.2%
Urban	58.1%	28.1%	14.5%	4.3%

#### Agriculture

	Major reason	Minor reason	No reason	Don't know/refused
Democrat	33.1%	40.7%	17.5%	8.7%
Republican	13.4%	35.7%	45.5%	5.3%
Unaffiliated	19.6%	42.7%	32.4%	5.3%
White	20%	40.5%	33.6%	5.9%
Black	30.4%	36.3%	22.2%	11.1%
Hispanic	39.1%	39.1%	8.7%	13%
Female	25.2%	39.5%	27.6%	7.7%
Male	19.6%	40.2%	35.3%	4.9%
Millennial	32.3%	41.1%	17.7%	8.9%
Gen X	18.6%	45.5%	28.7%	7.2%
Boomer	21.5%	37.1%	36.3%	5.1%
Silent +	19.6%	29.4%	43.1%	7.8%
Rural	16.9%	43%	34.1%	6.1%

	Major reason	Minor reason	No reason	Don't know/refused
Urban	27.3%	37.7%	27.9%	7.1%

Deforestation (cutting down trees in the forests and jungles)

	Major reason	Minor reason	No reason	Don't know/refused
Democrat	69.3%	17.2%	6.9%	6.6%
Republican	46.2%	30.8%	18.2%	4.9%
Unaffiliated	66.1%	24.5%	8.8%	2.6%
White	58.8%	24.5%	12.4%	4.4%
Black	67.4%	17%	6.7%	8.9%
Hispanic	50%	29.2%	12.5%	6.3%
Female	65.8%	20.4%	8.9%	5%
Male	53.1%	27.4%	14.6%	4.9%
Millennial	67%	20.6%	6.7%	5.7%
Gen X	66.7%	20.6%	8.1%	5.7%
Boomer	56.1%	27.2%	12.5%	4.3%
Silent +	52.9%	15.7%	27.5%	3.9%
Rural	60.3%	24.1%	10.5%	5.1%
Urban	61.9%	22.1%	11.2%	4.9%

How much do you believe that climate change contributes to the frequency and intensity of hurricanes like Harvey or Irma?

	A great deal	Some	Very little	None	Don't know/refused
Democrat	52.4%	27.9%	7.9%	5.8%	6%
Republican	21.1%	26%	23.6%	24%	5.3%
Unaffiliated	33.5%	33%	16.7%	11.9%	4.9%
White	31.1%	30%	17.3%	16.1%	5.6%
Black	54.1%	26%	8.9%	4.4%	6.7%
Hispanic	60.9%	21.7%	4.3%	4.3%	8.7%
Female	40%	30.1%	14.7%	9.8%	5.45
Male	32.8%	26.1%	16.4%	19.2%	5.6%

	A great deal	Some	Very little	None	Don't know/refused
Millennial	48.5%	28.3%	11.3%	5.2%	6.7%
Gen X	40%	31.9%	12.9%	9.5%	6.2%
Boomer	31.6%	28.8%	16.8%	18.2%	4.6%
Silent +	26%	16%	30%	24%	4%
Rural	35%	28.7%	13.7%	16.6%	6.1%
Urban	38.9%	28.7%	16.3%	11%	5.1%

### President Trump

Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Trump is handling the damages caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana and Hurricane Irma in Florida?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know/refused
Democrat	12.1%	26.6%	17.2%	29.3%	14.8%
Republican	54.1%	27.9%	5.3%	4.1%	8.5%
Unaffiliated	31.3%	23.8%	15.9%	14.1%	15%
White	38%	26.7%	12.1%	11.3%	11.9%
Black	5.2%	25%	15.4%	36%	5.7%
Hispanic	16.6%	20.8%	0%	45.8%	16.6%
Female	24%	27.5%	13.9%	20.2%	14.4%
Male	42.2%	23.7%	11.9%	11.9%	10.5%
Millennial	12.4%	27.3%	18%	22.2%	20.1%
Gen X	30%	26.7%	15.2%	15.7%	12.4%
Boomer	37.9%	25.7%	10.5%	16.7%	9.3%
Silent +	51%	22.5%	4.1%	8.2%	14.3%
Rural	34.9%	27.6%	12.4%	13.7%	11.4%
Urban	27.6%	25.2%	13.6%	19.5%	14%

Since Donald Trump's election as president, would you say you are paying more attention, less attention, or about the same amount of attention to politics as you used to.

	More attention	Less attention	About the same amount of attention	Don't know/refused
Democrat	53.8%	9.7%	34.4%	2.1%
Republican	50.6%	4.9%	43.3%	1.2%
Unaffiliated	49.3%	9.3%	40.5%	.9%
White	52.2%	5.7%	40.9%	1.2%
Black	47.4%	15.6%	33.3%	3.7%
Hispanic	70.8%	8.3%	20.8%	0%
Female	52.8%	8.5%	37%	1.7%
Male	49%	7.6%	42.4%	1%
Millennial	51%	13.4%	33%	2.6%
Gen X	45.5%	8.6%	44.5%	1.1%
Boomer	54.8%	5.7%	38.4%	1.1%
Silent +	54%	4%	425	0%
Rural	54.6%	6.4%	38.1%	1%
Urban	49.4%	9.4%	39.4%	1.8%

When you talk about politics with people who have a different opinion of Donald Trump than you do, do you find the conversation to be:

	Interesting and informative	Stressful and frustrating	I don't talk to people about politics who have a different opinion of Donald Trump than I do	Don't know/refused
Democrat	14.8%	43.5%	35.1%	6.7%
Republican	28.7%	36.84%	26.7%	7.7%
Unaffiliated	18.5%	39.7%	36.1%	5.7%
White	21.6%	40.4%	32.1%	5.9%
Black	14.1%	34.8%	41.5%	9.6%
Hispanic	25%	41.7%	20.8%	12.5%
Female	16.8%	41.2%	35.7%	6.45
Male	26%	38.9%	27.8%	7.3%

	Interesting and informative	Stressful and frustrating	I don't talk to people about politics who have a different opinion of Donald Trump than I do	Don't know/refused
Millennial	16%	45.9%	27.8%	10.3%
Gen X	23.9%	41.2%	27.8%	7.2%
Boomer	21.5%	38.1%	36.4%	4%
Silent +	10%	32%	48%	10%
Rural	19.7%	38.1%	35.2%	7%
Urban	20.3%	41.9%	31.3%	6.5%

#### Division in country

Compared to six months ago, would you say the country is more politically divided, less politically divided, or equally divided?

	More divided	Less divided	About the same	Don't know/refused
Democrat	77.2%	5.2%	15.2%	2.4%
Republican	59.9%	6.9%	31.6%	1.6%
Unaffiliated	68.7%	4.9%	23.8%	2.6%
White	66.4%	5%	26.7%	1.9%
Black	78.4%	6.7%	10.5%	4.5%
Hispanic	79.2%	8.3%	8.3%	4.2%
Female	71.8%	5.8%	20.3%	2.2%
Male	65.5%	5.2%	26.8%	2.45
Millennial	70.6%	10.3%	14.4%	4.6%
Gen X	70.3%	2.9%	25.8%	1%
Boomer	70.2%	4.6%	23.9%	1.4%
Silent +	58%	6%	32%	4%
Rural	68.8%	6.1%	24.2%	1.3%
Urban	70.3%	5.3%	21.6%	2.6%

A number of reasons have been given for the political divide that affects the country. For each of the following reasons, I want you to indicate whether each is a major reason, a minor reason, or no reason for the political divide.

President Trump

	Major reason	Minor reason	No reason	Don't know/refused
Democrat	79.4%	10.9%	6.7%	3%
Republican	32.4%	44.9%	20.2%	2.4%
Unaffiliated	62.1%	21.6%	12.8%	3.5%
White	52.7%	29.9%	15.1%	2.4%
Black	82.8%	4.5%	6.7%	6%
Hispanic	91.7%	8.3%	0%	0%
Female	63.9%	21.8%	11%	3.3%
Male	53.1%	29.2%	15.3%	2.4%
Millennial	68%	20.1%	6.7%	5.2%
Gen X	62.2%	23%	12%	2.9%
Boomer	56.9%	27.2%	14.2%	1.7%
Silent +	42%	28%	26%	4%
Rural	56.2%	28.6%	12.7%	2.5%
Urban	62.5%	21.8%	12.4%	3.3%

Democrats

	Major reason	Minor reason	No reason	Don't know/refused
Democrat	19.8%	43.2%	30.1%	7%
Republican	67.6%	24.3%	4.5%	3.6%
Unaffiliated	40.5%	37.4%	14.1%	7.9%
White	46.9%	34.8%	13.1%	5.2%
Black	17%	38.5%	34.8%	9.6%
Hispanic	21.7%	43.5%	21.7%	13%
Female	33.8%	39.5%	19.3%	7.4%
Male	51.7%	29.1%	14.9%	4.2%

	Major reason	Minor reason	No reason	Don't know/refused
Millennial	27.5%	42%	20.7%	9.8%
Gen X	41.6%	36.4%	17.7%	4.3%
Boomer	43.1%	34%	17.6%	5.4%
Silent +	64%	22%	8%	6%
Rural	43.5%	33.2%	15.7%	7.7%
Urban	38.2%	37.4%	19.1%	5.3%

#### The media

	Major reason	Minor reason	No reason	Don't know/refused
Democrat	48.6%	33.7%	12.7%	5.2%
Republican	84.6%	10.9%	2.8%	1.6%
Unaffiliated	67%	20.7%	8.8%	3.5%
White	70.1%	21.3%	6%	2.5%
Black	43.6%	30.8%	17.3%	8.3%
Hispanic	50%	25%	20.8%	4.2%
Female	61.7%	25.9%	7.7%	4.6%
Male	70.5%	17.7%	10.1%	1.7%
Millennial	63.9%	26.3%	6.2%	3.6%
Gen X	64.4%	22.6%	10.6%	2.4%
Boomer	63.5%	23.8%	9.1%	3.7%
Silent +	80%	6%	6%	6%
Rural	71.4%	20%	5.71%	2.9%
Urban	60.6%	24.9%	10.4%	4.1%

#### Protestors

	Major reason	Minor reason	No reason	Don't know/refused
Democrat	34.4%	40.8%	19.3%	5.4%
Republican	65.2%	25.1%	7.3%	2.4%
Unaffiliated	45.4%	35.7%	14.1%	4.9%

	Major reason	Minor reason	No reason	Don't know/refused
White	51.7%	34.1%	11.1%	3.2%
Black	29.6%	37%	22.2%	11.1%
Hispanic	41.7%	41.7%	16.7%	0%
Female	47.8%	33.1%	13.5%	5.6%
Male	45.1%	37.2%	15.9%	2.4%
Millennial	38.7%	39.2%	17%	5.2%
Gen X	45.5%	35.4%	15.3%	3.8%
Boomer	51.1%	32.2%	12.4%	4.2%
Silent +	54%	30%	10%	6%
Rural	56.2%	29.5%	9.8%	4.4%
Urban	40.9%	37.8%	16.9%	4.5%

## Poll Methodology

Mode:	Live Interviewer Telephone Interview from randomized sample (Dual Frame: Cell Phone and Landlines) Email Surveys (SSI Panels)
Population & Sample Area	North Carolina registered voters (Board of Elections lists)
Dates in the field:	September 17-30, 2017
Registered Voter Sample Size	810
Registered Voter Margin of Error	±3%
Confidence Level	95%
Weighting Variables	Gender and Location (Rural v. Urban)

### Procedures Used for Conducting the Poll

The Meredith College Poll uses a sample of North Carolina registered voters with telephones and wireless (cell) telephone numbers. We also included randomly selected North Carolina voters to contact by email. Please direct questions about the Meredith College Poll's methodology to David McLennan (919-760-2287 or dbmclennan@meredith.edu).

The Meredith College Poll uses CATI system software (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) for the administration of telephone 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 Meredith College Poll conducted the survey in English with students who are fluent in Spanish. Live interviewers called from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday.

We use Qualtrics for the administration of email surveys.

### **Additional Methodological Decisions**

#### “Don’t Know” and “Refused” Options

All questions include an option for respondents to volunteer “don’t know” or to refuse. In most questions, callers do not prompt these possible responses.

#### 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 refuse to more than 10 percent of the questions are incompletes. Email surveys are only counted with less than 10 percent of the questions are incomplete.

### **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." We use SSI because they produce valid samples for many polling organizations, including the Meredith College Poll.

For the email survey, we used a convenience sample of internet users from North Carolina that are part of SSI's over 11.5 million worldwide panelists that are screened and verified by the company. They administer the survey by sending requests to their North Carolina panelists, who opt-in or volunteer for the survey. We ask an additional screening question about whether panelists are registered voters in North Carolina. If they answer “no,” their responses are not used. Although using a sample such as this makes it difficult to compute or report a margin of sampling error, we examine the demographic characteristics of those completing the internet surveys to compare our sample to the North Carolina population. (Also see

the American Association for Public Opinion Research's (AAPOR) [Non-Probability Sampling Task Force Report](#) and the AAPOR report on [Opt-In Surveys and Margin of Error.](#))

Because we used dual mode (telephone and internet) surveying, we compared the results from both sets of respondents. The average age of the internet respondents was 41, while the average age of the telephone respondents was 57. Otherwise, the differences in gender, party affiliation, and other factors was negligible.

Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting at each of these stages. The margin of sampling error at the 95% confidence level is plus or minus 3.0 percentage points for results based on the full sample (n=810). If the internet respondents are excluded, the margin of sampling error is 5.38 percentage points. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

### **The Meredith College Poll Team**

- Dr. David McLennan is Director of the Meredith Poll and Professor of Political Science at Meredith College. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.
- Dr. Whitney Ross Manzo is the Assistant Director of the Meredith Poll and an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Meredith College. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Dallas.

Faculty members in the History/Political Science program supported the poll and helped recruit students to work as callers. Dr. Greg Virtarbo is chair of the department and has provided a great deal of support for this project. The poll operates under the auspices of the School of Arts and Humanities, led by Dean Sarah Roth, Ph.D.

The Meredith College administration, led by Dr. Jo Allen, president of the College, and Dr. Matthew Poslusny, Provost of the College, fully support the Meredith College Poll as part of its service commitment to state, regional, and national constituents. Meredith College fully funds the Meredith College Poll. This permits the Meredith College Poll to operate as a neutral, non-biased, non-partisan resource.

Meredith College students administer the survey as part of the College's commitment to civic engagement and producing strong women.

**For more information on the Meredith College Poll and this survey, visit**

<http://www.meredith.edu/>

**or**

**Contact:**

**David B. McLennan, Ph.D.**

919-760-2287 (Office)

|919-345-7334 (Cell)

[dbmclennan@meredith.edu](mailto:dbmclennan@meredith.edu)

@davidbmclennan