



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

Registered Voters in North Carolina

Date 4/27-4/28, 2020

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Key Insights

The Meredith College Poll conducted an online survey of 604 registered North Carolina voters from April 27-28, 2020. The survey's margin of error is +/-4%.

Re-opening North Carolina

In the six weeks since Governor Cooper's emergency declaration and stay-at-home order, a public debate has begun about restrictions on the state's citizens. On one hand, many medical professionals support the executive orders designed to protect public safety. Others, like ReOpenNC, argue that the governor should rescind or dramatically change the order restricting people to their homes and allowing only essential businesses to stay open to get the economy moving.

We surveyed North Carolinians April 27-28 on a variety of subjects surrounding this debate and found that most citizens are very cautious about resuming pre-COVID-19 pandemic behaviors. Specifically:

1. A majority of North Carolinians (76.3%) support the decision to extend Governor Cooper's extension of the stay-at-home order until May 8. This includes majorities of partisans (87.9% of Democrats, 68.6% of Republicans, and 72.9% of independents); all age groups, those from urban and rural North Carolina, and low income and high-income earners.
2. An equally high percentage of North Carolinians (77.8%) support the governor's decision to close North Carolina public schools until May 15 and almost three-quarters (72.2%) do not think schools should reopen after that date. Of those with school age children, almost twice as many (24% v. 13.1%) would not send their children back to reopened schools. Again, support for the governor's actions cut across all demographic groups.
3. Citizens are equally cautious about resuming common activities. Only 28.3 percent say they would go to a dine-in restaurant if the executive order were rescinded today. Likewise, only 9.1 percent would go to a bar, 14.2 percent would exercise at a gym, 11.9 percent would take their children to a park, and 16.9 percent would go to a movie theater. Respondents state that even more popular activities, such as getting a haircut (34.6%) or going to the beach (34.6%), are too risky at this point.

When asked about who they trusted to make decisions to reopen the North Carolina economy—President Trump or Governor Cooper—almost two-thirds of respondents (63.3%) favored Governor Cooper over President Trump (26.5%). There were partisan differences here, however. A majority of Republicans (54.8%) favored President Trump to handle the reopening of the economy, but large majorities of Democrats (87.4%) and independents (67.1%) favored Governor Cooper's decision-making.

Voting by Mail

Related to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been discussion about using mail-in ballots for the November General Election. A majority of respondents (62.6%) supported the idea of voting by mail with less than a third (31.3%) opposing the idea. There were strong partisan differences

about this issue with 70.8 percent of Democrats favoring the idea, but only 44.8% of Republicans.

We also asked whether North Carolinians would trust the integrity of an election conducted entirely by mail. Just over half of all respondents (51.9) said they were confident in the integrity of such a system, with over a quarter of the respondents (25.7%) stating they had no confidence in this type of voting system. The respondents were very divided by party affiliation with a majority of Democrats (64.5%) expressing confidence in voting by mail, while most Republicans (58.6%) lack confidence in this approach.

Presidential, Senatorial, and Gubernatorial Approvals

Since the last Meredith Poll in February, the approval ratings of two key political figures—President Donald Trump and Governor Roy Cooper—have dramatically changed.

President Trump

President Trump's approval rating in North Carolina has fallen to 41.2 percent with 53.3 percent disapproving of how he handles his job. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, Trump's approval had risen to 45.5 percent with a disapproval rate of 47.7 percent. His current net negative approval of -12.1 is the highest it has been since he started the presidency. Our survey was in the field immediately after the number of national deaths from COVID-19 topped 50,000 and the president held a very controversial pandemic briefing in which he recommended common disinfectants as cures for the virus.

As in previous polls, political party affiliation and racial group affect the perceptions of the president's job performance. A great majority of Republicans (82.9%) approve of how Trump handles the presidency, while only 11.7 percent of Democrats think he is doing a good job. This approval gap of over 70 percentage points is high, but down slightly from the February Meredith Poll when the gap was 74.2 points. African Americans (76.1%) in North Carolina strongly disapprove of the president's job performance.

Good news for the president in North Carolina is that there is less of a gender gap than he experiences in other states or nationally. The gap is less than one point with 41.5 percent of males approving of Trump's job as president and 40.8 percent of women in the state doing the same.

Senator Thom Tillis

Senator Thom Tillis continues to have low approval ratings from North Carolinians. In this survey, 32.8 percent of the respondents approved of his job performance, while 41.1 percent disapproved. Over a quarter of respondents had no opinion, a challenging situation for an incumbent running for reelection in November.

As expected, Tillis' strongest support comes from Republicans, although just over half—54.8 percent—approve of his performance in the US Senate. Like President Trump, Tillis has a large

approval deficit with African American voters in the state (26.1% approve; 53.4% disapprove), but unlike Trump, Tillis' gender gap is significant with only 28.8 percent of women approving the job that he is doing, as compared to 36.7 percent of men.

Governor Roy Cooper

As has been the case since his election as governor, Roy Cooper has the highest approval rating among major political figures. His approval in our survey is 63.3 percent, a significant increase since our February poll. Cooper's approval ratings are strong among all groups—even a plurality of Republicans (48.6% approval v. 42.4% disapproval) say he is doing a good job.

Cooper's performance managing the COVID-19 pandemic contributes to the rise in his approval ratings. He has worked with public health officials and has communicated clearly and concisely throughout the crisis.

Presidential, Senatorial, and Gubernatorial Election Matchups

Presidential Election Matchups

With Election Day over six months away, the presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden leads President Trump 47.4-40.4 percent. Six months ago—the last time the Meredith Poll matched up the two candidates—Trump and Biden were essentially tied. The president's recent problems managing the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic issues has led to Trump falling behind Biden in the most recent survey.

Biden runs very strongly with minority voters, those in urban areas, and young voters—no real surprise, since they have made up the Democratic base for many election cycles. In addition, he polls well against the president with both men and women. In 2016 Trump won a large majority of men in the state and without a similar response by men in 2020, Trump's election chances in the state are weak.

Trump, however, does well among affluent and older voters in the state. He has surprising strength in suburban counties (48.4% Trump v. 39.9% Biden), an area that has become the battleground in North Carolina in recent elections.

In 2016, Trump trailed Hillary Clinton at this point in the race. Although the electoral conditions are much different from in 2016, given Donald Trump's incumbency status and huge fundraising advantage over Biden, the expectation is that North Carolina will again have a very competitive presidential race in 2020.

US Senate Race

Incumbent Thom Tillis is in a difficult spot six months from Election Day. The top of the ticket—President Trump—does not appear to be helping Thom Tillis in his reelection bid. In addition, Tillis's approval ratings are significantly lower than Trump's, meaning he has a lot of ground to make up against Cunningham, who currently leads by over nine points (43.5% Cunningham v. 34.3% Tillis).

Cunningham polls well with the same groups as Biden, but he performs better than Biden among wealthier voters and slightly stronger than Biden among those with a college degree or graduate degree.

Tillis does well with older voters and those from suburban and rural counties, but not without the margins necessary to overcome some of his other challenges.

It should be noted that Tillis was behind at this point in 2014 in his race against Kay Hagan and that, if President Trump improves his position relative to Joe Biden, then Tillis should find himself in a very competitive race against Cal Cunningham.

Gubernatorial Race

Incumbent Governor Roy Cooper has an almost 20-point lead (52% Cooper v. 32.1% Forest) over Dan Forest in our survey. Cooper leads with every demographic group—other than Republican voters. Cooper runs stronger than Forest across age categories, income groups, and education levels. In comparison to fellow Democrats Joe Biden and Cal Cunningham, Roy Cooper runs well in urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state.

There is little question that Cooper's visibility and confident leadership during the COVID-19 crisis has benefitted his chances at reelection. The best news for Dan Forest may be that Election Day is over six months away and he may be able to gain more of the public's attention if the pandemic's grip on the state's citizens lessens.

Satisfaction with the direction of the country and state

United States

Given the dramatic circumstances with the nation's health and economy, there is no surprise that a majority of North Carolinians (58.3%) are dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States. Republicans in our survey—63.8%--continue to say they are satisfied with the direction of the country. Fewer than one-in-five Democrats (18.4%) and only slightly more independents (21.3%) are satisfied. Among other demographic groups, there is a great deal of consistency in people's dissatisfaction.

North Carolina

As with every Meredith Poll survey for the last five years, North Carolinians are more satisfied with the direction of the state than the nation. A plurality of respondents (46.7%) are satisfied with how things are going in the state. A slight majority of Democrats (50.7%) and Republicans (52.4%) are satisfied with the direction of the state. Among other groups, younger North Carolinians are more satisfied with the direction of the state than are older North Carolinians and those living in urban areas are slightly more satisfied than those living in rural areas.

Topline Results

Satisfaction with the way things are going in the United States today

All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States?

Response	Number	Percentage
Satisfied	213	35.3
Dissatisfied	352	58.3
Don't know/No answer	39	6.7

N= 604

Satisfaction with the way things are going in the North Carolina today

All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in North Carolina?

Response	Number	Percentage
Satisfied	282	46.7
Dissatisfied	264	43.7
Don't know/No answer	58	9.6

N= 604

Now we are going to ask you some questions about specific political leaders and how they are handling Covid-19, the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Presidential Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

Response	Number	Percentage
Approve	249	41.2
Disapprove	322	53.3
Don't know	33	5.5

N= 604

Do you think that Hillary Clinton would be doing a better job, if she had been elected president?

Response	Number	Percentage
Definitely yes	163	27
Probably yes	96	15.9
Might or might not	74	12.3
Probably not	73	12.1
Definitely not	198	32.8

N=604

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Senate Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Thom Tillis is handling his job as US Senator?

Response	Number	Percentage
Approve	198	32.8
Disapprove	248	41.1
Don't know	158	26.2

N=604

Gubernatorial Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Roy Cooper is doing his job as governor?

Response	Number	Percentage
Approve	370	61.3
Disapprove	155	25.7
Don't know	79	13.1

N=604

Opening the State: Who do you trust more?

Who do you trust more to decide when to reopen the state: President Trump or Governor Cooper?

Response	Number	Percentage
President Trump	160	26.5
Governor Cooper	382	63.3
Don't know	62	10.3

N=604

Extension of Stay at Home Order

As you might have heard, Governor Cooper extended the stay-at-home order to May 8. Do you approve or disapprove of this extension?

Response	Number	Percentage
Approve	461	76.3
Disapprove	98	16.2
Don't know	45	7.5

N=604

Closing Schools

A different executive order from the governor closed all North Carolina schools until May 15. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

Response	Number	Percentage
Approve	470	77.8
Disapprove	87	14.4
Don't know	47	7.8

N=604

Reopening Schools

Do you think schools should reopen on May 18, or should they be closed for the remainder of the school year?

Response	Number	Percentage
Reopen May 18	109	18.1
Closed for the remainder of the year	436	72.2
Don't know	59	9.8

N=604

Sending children to reopened schools

If the schools are reopened on May 18, would you send your children?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	79	13.1
No	145	24
Don't know	45	7.5
I don't have school aged children	335	55.5

N=604

What behaviors would you do if the state reopened?

If the state were to reopen tomorrow, which of the following would you do, or think about doing? Check all that apply.

Response	Number	Percentage
Eat at a dine-in restaurant	173	28.6
Go to a bar	55	9.1
Get a haircut	183	30.3
Take my kids to a playground	72	11.9
Go to an outdoor area, like a park or the beach	209	34.6

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Exercise at a gym	86	14.2
Go to a movie theater	102	16.9
I would keep waiting before doing any of these.	269	44.5

N=604

Vote by Mail

Though it is many months away, we are interested in your thoughts on the 2020 elections.

Because of the epidemic, some have suggested voting by mail. Do you support this idea?

Response	Number	Percentage
Strongly support	217	35.9
Somewhat support	161	26.7
Somewhat oppose	59	9.8
Strongly oppose	130	21.5
Don't know	37	6.1

N=604

Vote by Mail Integrity

If the election was done entirely by mail, how confident would you be in the results?

Response	Number	Percentage
Very confident	135	22.4
Somewhat confident	178	29.5
Somewhat unconfident	96	15.9
Strongly unconfident	155	25.7
Don't know	40	6.6

N=604

Election Matchups

Presidential

If the election for President was held today, would you vote for:

Response	Number	Percentage
Republican Donald Trump	244	40.4
Democrat Joe Biden	286	47.4
Someone else	30	5
Don't know	44	7.3

N= 604

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US Senate

If the election for US Senator was held today, would you vote for:

Response	Number	Percentage
Republican Thom Tillis	207	34.3
Democrat Cal Cunningham	263	43.5
Someone else	23	3.8
Don't know	111	18.4

N=604

Governor

If the election for Governor of North Carolina was held today, would you vote for:

Response	Number	Percentage
Republican Dan Forest	194	32.1
Democrat Roy Cooper	314	52
Someone else	18	3
Don't know	78	12.9

N=604

Party Affiliation

Last question: in terms of your political party affiliation, would you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

Response	Number	Percentage
Democrat	223	36.9
Republican	210	34.8
Independent	155	25.6
Something else	7	1.2
Don't know	9	1.5

N= 604

Sample Characteristics

Registered Party (through respondent report)

Democrats	36.9%
Republicans	34.8%
Unaffiliated	25.7%
Other/Refused	2.7%

N= 604

Age (supplied by Dynata)

Generation Z (Born 1997-2002)	10.6%
Millennial (Born 1981-96 ages 24-39)	29.7%
Gen X (Born 1965-80, ages 40-55)	28.3%
Boomer (Born 1945-64, ages 56-75)	28.2%
Silent+ (Born 1944 & earlier, ages 76+)	3.2%

N= 586

Gender (supplied by Dynata)

Female	51.1%
Male	48.8%

N= 604

Race (supplied by Dynata)

White	70.9%
Black	14.8%
Other	14.3%

N= 594

Income (from Dyanata)

Less than \$50,000	39.1%
\$40,000-99,999	37.5%

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\$100,000-199,999	18.3%
More than \$200,000	5.1
N=	570

Education (from Dynata)

High school diploma or less	41.4%
Some college to College degree	40.5%
Graduate or professional degree	18.1%

N=	597
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Location (supplied by Dynata)

Rural	20.3%
Suburban	31.3%
Urban	48.3%

N=	600
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Cross-tabulations

Direction of the Country

All in all, are you satisfied with the way things are going in the United States?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Don't Know	No answer/Refused
Democrat	18.4	78.0	3.6	0.0
Republican	63.8	28.6	7.6	0.0
Independent	21.3	72.3	6.5	0.0
Something Else	57.1	28.6	14.3	0.0
Don't know	11.1	44.4	44.4	0.0
White	35.9	57.7	6.4	0.0
Black	27.3	63.6	9.1	0.0
Other	38.8	56.5	4.7	0.0
Male	38.1	58.2	3.7	0.0
Female	32.7	58.6	8.7	0.0
Gen Z	38.7	56.5	4.8	0.0
Millennial	38.5	54.6	6.9	0.0
Gen X	35.5	54.8	9.6	0.0
Boomer	29.3	67.1	3.6	0.0
Silent +	52.9	47.1	0.0	0.0
\$0-49,999	30.5	60.1	9.4	0.0
\$50-99,999	42.5	52.3	5.1	0.0
\$100,000-\$199,999	26.0	71.2	2.9	0.0
Over \$200,000	48.3	48.3	3.5	0.0
Rural	38.5	51.6	9.8	0.0
Suburban	37.8	55.3	6.9	0.0
Urban	32.1	63.1	4.8	0.0
HS diploma or less	38.1	53.4	8.5	0.0
Some College- Bachelor's Degree	29.8	64.1	6.2	0.0
Graduate or Professional Degree	38.9	58.3	2.8	0.0

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Direction of the state

All in all, are you satisfied with the way things are going in this North Carolina?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Don't Know	No answer/Refused
Democrat	50.7	40.8	8.5	0.0
Republican	52.4	40.5	7.1	0.0
Independent	36.1	52.9	11.0	0.0
Something Else	28.6	42.9	28.6	0.0
Don't know	11.11	33.3	55.6	0.0
White	45.4	45.6	9.0	0.0
Black	48.9	39.8	11.4	0.0
Other	50.6	38.8	10.6	0.0
Male	47.3	46.3	6.5	0.0
Female	46.3	41.1	12.6	0.0
Gen Z	53.2	40.3	6.5	0.0
Millennial	54.6	34.5	10.9	0.0
Gen X	43.4	44.0	12.7	0.0
Boomer	41.3	50.3	8.4	0.0
Silent +	29.4	70.6	0.0	0.0
\$0-\$50,000	44.00	44.4	11.7	0.0
\$50-99,999	48.6	44.0	7.5	0.0
\$100,000-\$199,999	49.0	44.2	6.7	0.0
Over \$200,000	41.4	51.7	6.9	0.0
Rural	43.4	44.3	12.3	0.0
Suburban	43.1	47.3	9.6	0.0
Urban	50.3	41.0	8.6	0.0
HS diploma or less	42.1	47.8	10.1	0.0
Some College- College Degree	49.6	40.1	10.3	0.0
Graduate or Professional Degree	48.2	45.4	6.5	0.0

THE MEREDITH POLL, REOPENING NORTH CAROLINA

Now we are going to ask you some questions about specific political leaders and how they are handling Covid-19, the novel coronavirus.

Presidential approval

Do you approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
Democrat	11.7	84.8	3.6
Republican	82.9	13.8	3.3
Independent	29.0	63.2	7.7
Something Else	57.1	14.3	28.6
Don't know/No answer	0.0	55.6	44.4
White	47.0	48.2	4.8
Black	19.3	76.1	4.6
Other	35.3	54.1	10.6
Male	41.5	53.1	5.4
Female	40.8	53.7	5.5
Gen Z	32.3	59.7	8.1
Millennial	39.1	54.6	6.3
Gen X	42.8	50.6	6.6
Boomer	43.7	53.3	3.0
Silent +	52.9	47.1	0.0
\$0-\$50,999	37.2	55.2	7.6
\$50-99,999	45.3	50.0	4.7
\$100,000-\$199,999	55.2	44.8	0.0
Over \$200,000	41.1	53.5	5.4
Rural	43.4	46.7	9.8
Suburban	47.3	48.9	3.7
Urban	36.6	58.6	4.8
HS diploma or less	47.4	47.4	5.3
Some College - College Degree	37.6	55.4	7.0
Graduate or Professional Degree	37.0	60.2	2.8

THE MEREDITH POLL, REOPENING NORTH CAROLINA

Do you think that Hillary Clinton would be doing a better job, if she had been elected president?

	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Might or Might Not	Probably not	Definitely not
Democrat	52.5	26.5	12.6	4.9	3.6
Republican	6.7	5.2	3.3	20.5	64.3
Independent	20.7	14.2	23.2	11.0	31.0
Something Else	0.0	28.6	0.0	14.3	57.1
Don't know/No answer	0.0	2.2	33.3	11.1	33.3
White	21.1	13.8	10.7	12.4	42.0
Black	50.0	20.5	15.9	6.8	6.8
Other	31.8	22.4	17.7	16.5	11.8
Male	28.2	16.3	11.2	10.5	33.7
Female	25.9	15.5	13.0	13.6	32.0
Gen Z	27.4	27.4	16.1	17.7	11.3
Millennial	31.0	17.2	12.6	14.5	24.7
Gen X	24.7	15.1	12.7	11.5	36.1
Boomer	24.6	13.2	10.8	9.0	42.5
Silent +	23.5	0.0	5.9	5.9	64.7
\$0-\$49,999	29.2	16.1	13.5	10.8	30.5
\$50-\$99,999	24.3	13.6	11.7	13.1	37.4
\$100,000-\$199,999	31.7	19.2	11.5	15.4	22.1
Over \$200,000	20.7	20.7	3.5	6.9	48.3
Rural	20.5	14.8	15.6	12.3	36.9
Suburban	20.2	13.3	10.1	13.3	43.1
Urban	33.5	18.3	12.4	11.4	24.5
HS diploma or less	23.1	14.6	14.2	12.2	36.0
Some College-College Degree	25.2	14.5	12.4	14.9	33.1
Graduate or Professional Degree	37.0	21.3	8.3	6.5	26.9

THE MEREDITH POLL, REOPENING NORTH CAROLINA

Senator Approval

Do you approve of the way Thom Tillis is handling his job as US senator?

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
Democrat	22.0	57.0	21.1
Republican	54.8	18.6	26.7
Independent	19.4	50.3	30.3
Something Else	42.9	28.6	28.6
Don't know/No answer	11.1	22.2	66.7
White	33.5	39.7	26.8
Black	26.1	53.4	20.5
Other	36.5	34.1	29.4
Male	36.7	46.9	16.3
Female	28.8	35.6	35.6
Gen Z	41.9	29.0	29.0
Millennial	33.3	37.9	28.7
Gen X	30.1	37.4	32.5
Boomer	28.7	52.7	18.6
Silent +	52.9	35.3	11.8
\$0-\$50,000	31.8	39.9	28.3
\$50-99,999	36.5	39.7	23.8
\$100,000-\$199,999	25.0	51.0	24.0
Over \$200,000	37.9	34.5	27.6
Rural	43.4	31.2	25.4
Suburban	34.0	38.8	27.1
Urban	26.9	46.9	26.2
HS diploma or less	37.3	35.6	27.1
Some College-College Degree	28.5	41.7	29.8
Graduate or Professional Degree	31.5	51.9	16.7

THE MEREDITH POLL, REOPENING NORTH CAROLINA

Gubernatorial Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Roy Cooper is doing his job as governor?

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
Democrat	76.7	12.1	11.2
Republican	48.6	42.4	9.1
Independent	59.4	23.2	17.4
Something Else	28.6	28.6	42.9
Don't know/No answer	33.3	11.1	55.6
White	58.9	29.2	11.9
Black	67.1	18.2	14.8
Other	68.2	12.9	18.8
Male	64.0	28.6	7.5
Female	58.9	23.0	18.1
Gen Z	67.7	21.0	11.3
Millennial	64.9	19.0	16.1
Gen X	55.4	30.1	14.5
Boomer	61.1	29.3	9.6
Silent +	47.1	41.2	11.8
\$0-\$49,999	59.2	25.6	15.3
\$50-99,999	61.2	28.0	10.8
\$100,000-199,999	68.3	20.2	11.5
Over \$200,000	51.7	34.5	13.8
Rural	52.5	26.2	21.3
Suburban	60.1	30.9	9.0
Urban	65.5	22.1	12.4
HS diploma or less	60.3	25.5	14.2
Some College-College Degree	60.7	26.0	13.2

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Graduate or Professional Degree	63.9	25.9	10.2
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Who do you trust more to reopen the economy?

Who do you trust more to decide when to reopen the state: President Trump or Governor Cooper?

	President Trump	Governor Cooper	Don't know
Democrat	5.8	87.4	6.7
Republican	54.8	36.2	9.1
Independent	19.4	67.1	13.6
Something Else	28.6	42.9	28.6
Don't know/No answer	0.0	44.4	55.6
White	31.8	58.7	9.5
Black	9.1	79.6	11.4
Other	18.8	68.2	12.9
Male	26.2	62.6	11.2
Female	26.9	63.8	9.4
Gen Z	16.1	72.6	11.3
Millennial	31.0	57.5	11.5
Gen X	26.5	62.1	11.5
Boomer	25.8	67.1	7.2
Silent +	35.3	64.7	0.0
\$0-\$49,999	25.6	63.2	11.2
\$50-\$99,999	31.3	59.8	8.9
\$100,000-\$199,999	26.0	66.4	7.7
Over \$200,000	13.8	65.5	20.7
Rural	27.1	59.0	13.9
Suburban	27.1	62.2	10.6
Urban	25.9	65.9	8.3
HS diploma or less	32.4	57.1	10.5
Some College-College Degree	22.3	68.2	9.5
Graduate or Professional Degree	23.2	64.8	12.0

Approval of Extension of Stay at Home Order

As you might have heard, Governor Cooper extended the stay-at-home order to May 8. Do you approve or disapprove of this extension?

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
Democrat	87.9	6.7	5.4
Republican	68.6	21.9	9.5
Independent	72.9	21.3	5.8
Something Else	57.1	42.9	0.0
Don't know/No answer	44.4	11.1	44.4
White	75.3	18.8	5.9
Black	79.6	9.1	11.4
Other	80.0	9.4	10.6
Male	73.8	21.1	5.1
Female	78.6	11.7	9.7
Gen Z	77.4	11.3	11.3
Millennial	77.0	14.4	8.6
Gen X	70.5	21.1	8.4
Boomer	80.8	15.6	3.6
Silent +	70.6	17.7	11.8
Less than \$49,999	77.1	14.8	8.1
\$50-\$99,999	77.1	17.3	5.6
\$100,000-\$199,999	75.0	17.3	7.7
More than \$200,000	65.5	24.1	10.3
Rural	80.3	10.7	9.0
Suburban	75.0	20.2	4.8
Urban	75.9	15.9	8.3
HS diploma or less	74.5	17.8	7.7

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Some College- College Degree	78.1	13.2	8.7
Graduate or Professional Degree	75.0	20.4	4.6

Approval of Closing the Schools

A different executive order from the governor closed all North Carolina schools until May 15. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
Democrat	83.0	11.7	5.4
Republican	74.3	17.1	8.6
Independent	77.4	14.4	7.8
Something Else	76.2	17.0	6.8
Don't know/No answer	79.3	12.0	8.7
White	80.8	12.1	7.1
Black	67.1	21.6	11.4
Other	76.5	16.5	7.1
Male	76.2	17.0	6.8
Female	79.3	12.0	8.7
Gen Z	64.5	27.4	8.1
Millennial	74.1	15.5	10.3
Gen X	80.1	10.8	9.0
Boomer	83.8	12.0	4.2
Silent +	70.6	17.7	11.8
Less than \$50,000	78.0	13.9	8.1
\$50-99,999	77.1	15.0	7.9
\$100,000- 199,999	76.0	16.4	7.7
More than \$200,000	79.3	17.2	3.5
Rural	76.2	13.9	9.8
Suburban	81.9	12.2	5.9
Urban	75.5	16.2	8.3

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HS diploma or less	74.5	16.6	8.9
Some College-College degree	81.8	11.6	6.6
Graduate or Professional Degree	76.9	14.8	8.3

Should Schools Reopen?

Do you think schools should reopen on May 18, or should they be closed for the remainder of the school year?

	Reopen May 18	Closed for the remainder of the year	Don't know
Democrat	10.8	79.4	9.9
Republican	26.2	67.1	6.7
Independent	18.7	69.0	12.3
Something Else	14.3	85.7	0.0
Don't know/No answer	0.0	55.6	44.4
White	18.5	72.9	8.6
Black	12.5	69.3	18.2
Other	22.4	70.6	7.1
Male	21.4	68.7	9.9
Female	14.9	75.7	9.4
Gen Z	19.4	69.4	11.3
Millennial	23.6	66.1	10.3
Gen X	13.9	77.1	9.0
Boomer	16.2	74.9	9.0
Silent +	23.5	70.6	5.9
Less than \$50,000	16.6	73.1	10.3
\$40-99,999	20.1	72.9	7.0
\$100,000-199,000	16.4	72.1	11.5
More than \$200,000	31.0	58.6	10.3
Rural	14.8	71.3	13.9

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Suburban	16.5	76.6	6.9
Urban	20.3	69.7	10
HS diploma or less	20.7	69.6	9.7
Some College-College degree	13.6	76.9	9.5
Graduate or Professional Degree	20.4	69.4	10.2

Would you send your children to reopened schools?

If the schools are reopened on May 18, would you send your children?

	Yes	No	Don't know	I don't have school-aged children
Democrat	12.1	30.0	8.1	49.8
Republican	20.0	16.7	6.7	56.7
Independent	6.5	24.5	6.5	2.6
Something Else	0.0	14.3	0.0	85.7
Don't know/No answer	0.0	44.4	33.3	22.2
White	11.9	20.0	6.4	61.8
Black	14.8	35.2	6.8	43.2
Other	17.7	30.6	12.9	38.8
Female	14.6	23.0	9.1	53.4
Male	11.6	25.2	5.4	57.8
Gen Z	21.0	33.9	9.7	35.5
Millennial	19.5	28.2	8.6	43.7
Gen X	14.5	30.1	9.0	46.4
Boomer	4.2	12.6	3.6	79.6
Silent +	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Less than \$50,000	9.9	29.2	9.0	52.0
\$50-99,999	16.4	24.8	7.0	51.9
\$100,000-199,999	10.6	18.3	2.9	68.3
More than \$200,000	17.2	6.9	6.9	69.0

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Rural	9.0	22.1	18.0	50.8
Suburban	10.6	23.4	4.8	61.2
Urban	16.2	25.5	4.8	53.5
HS diploma or less	13.4	28.3	7.3	51.0
Some College- College degree	10.7	21.1	7.9	60.3
Graduate or Professional Degree	15.7	21.3	6.5	55.8

What would you do if the state reopened today?

If the state were to reopen tomorrow, which of the following would you do, or think about doing? Check all that apply.

	Eat at a dine-in restaurant	Got to a bar	Get a haircut	Take my kids to a playground	Go to an outdoor area, like a park or beach	Exercise at a gym	Go to a movie theater	I would keep waiting before doing any of these
Democrat	27.4	8.1	30	11.6	35.9	11.2	17	46.6
Republican	30.5	10	29.5	11.4	34.3	18.1	16.7	43.3
Independent	28.4	8.4	31.6	12.9	33.6	12.9	17.4	44.5
Something Else	42.9	28.6	42.9	14.3	28.6	14.3	0	28.6
Don't know/No answer	11.1	11.1	22.2	11.1	33.3	22.2	22.2	33.3
White	27.5	8.8	28.5	12.1	35.9	13.8	16.9	43.7
Black	28.4	6.8	33	12.5	33	11.4	15.9	48.9
Other	35.3	22.9	35.3	10.6	30.6	16.5	18.8	45.9
Female	31.1	11	29.6	12.6	35	16.5	17.8	42.7
Male	26.2	7.1	31.1	11.2	34.4	11.9	16	46.3
Gen Z	32.3	11.3	32.3	11.3	27.4	16.3	24.2	46.8

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Millennial	33.9	13.2	36.2	14.4	37.4	18.4	18.4	37.9
Gen X	26.5	4.8	30.1	9	38.6	13.3	12.7	42.8
Boomer	25.2	10.2	22.8	13.4	28.7	10.2	18	47.9
Silent +	11.8	0	17.7	0	29.4	5.9	5.9	52.1
Less than \$50,000	25.1	6.7		10.3	37.7	13.5	17	42.2
\$50,000-99,999	31.3	10.3		15	36.9	13.1	17.8	43.5
\$100,000-199,999	29.8	10.6		7.7	26	12.5	14.4	50
Above \$200,000	27.6	3.5		13.8	24.1	17.2	17.2	58.6
Urban	31.4	10.7		15.2	34.5	16.2	18.6	45.9
Suburban	23.9	9.6		9	33	10.1	12.2	44.7
Rural	28.7	4.9		9	37.7	16.4	19.7	41.8
HS diploma or less	28.7	8.5		12.6	36	13	17.4	39.7
Some College to Bachelors	27.7	10.7		10.7	31.8	13.6	14.9	47.9
Graduate degree	30.6	7.4		13.9	37	18.5	21.3	48.2

Though it is many months away, we are interested in your thoughts on the 2020 elections.

Vote by Mail

Because of the epidemic, some have suggested voting by mail. Do you support this idea?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
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Democrat	54.7	25.1	8.5	5.8	5.8
Republican	15.7	29.1	12.9	39.5	2.9
Independent	36.8	27.1	7.7	20	8.4
Something Else	28.6	14.3	0	42.9	14.3
Don't know/No answer	33.3	11.1	11.1	0	44.4
White	32.1	25.7	9.7	26.8	5.7
Black	47.7	25	11.4	6.8	9.1
Other	40	34.1	9.4	10.6	5.9
Female	36.9	27.8	10	17.5	7.8
Male	35	25.5	9.5	25.9	4.1
Gen Z	37.1	32.3	19.4	6.5	4.8
Millennial	37.9	34.5	9.8	12.1	5.8
Gen X	35.5	24.7	8.4	24.7	6.6
Boomer	35.9	18	9.6	32.3	4.2
Silent +	11.8	29.4	0	52.9	5.9
Less than \$40,000	36.3	30	8.1	17	8.5
\$40-99,999	34.6	23.8	10.3	27.1	4.2
\$100,000 or more	40.4	26	12.5	17.3	3.9
Urban	40.3	27.9	9	17.2	5.5
Suburban	35.1	24.5	9.6	26.1	4.8
Rural	25.1	27.9	12.3	24.6	9.8
HS diploma or less	31.2	25.9	11.3	24.3	7.3
Some College-Bachelors	36.4	26.9	9.5	21.1	6.2
Graduate or Professional Degree	43.5	28.7	7.4	17.6	2.8

Integrity of Voting by Mail

If the election was done entirely by mail, how confident would you be in the results?

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	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Somewhat unconfident	Very unconfident	Don't know
Democrat	34.5	30	15.7	11.7	8.1
Republican	10.5	28.1	16.7	41.9	2.9
Independent	22.6	31	14.8	24.5	7.1
Something Else	14.3	14.3	28.6	42.9	0
Don't know/No answer	0	33.3	11.1	0	55.6
White	18.8	29	15.7	30.9	5.7
Black	31.8	30.7	18.2	11.4	8
Other	28.2	30.6	15.3	15.3	10.6
Female	19.7	31.1	17.5	23	8.7
Male	25.2	27.9	14.3	28.6	4.1
Gen Z	21	43.6	12.9	14.5	8.1
Millennial	21.8	31.6	18.4	17.8	10.3
Gen X	21.7	25.3	18.1	29.5	5.4
Boomer	25.2	25.2	13.8	33.5	2.4
Silent +	11.8	35.3	0	52.9	0
Less than \$50,000	17.5	34.1	17.9	21.5	9
\$50-99,999	24.8	23.8	15.4	31.3	4.7
\$100,000-199,999	31.7	30.8	12.5	21.2	3.9
More than \$200,000	10.3	41.4	3.5	34.5	10.3
Urban	22.8	33.8	15.5	21.4	6.6
Suburban	23.4	23.9	17	30.9	4.8
Rural	18.9	28.7	14.8	27.9	9.8
HS diploma or less	18.2	27.9	18.2	27.5	8.1
Some College-Bachelors	24.4	27.7	15.7	26	6.2
Graduate or Professional Degree	24.1	37	12	22.2	4.6

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Elections

Presidential Election

If the election for President was held today, would you vote for:

	Republican Donald Trump	Democrat Joe Biden	Someone else	Don't know
Democrat	8.1	85.6	2.2	4
Republican	83.3	10.5	2.4	3.8
Independent	29.7	45.2	11	14.2
Something Else	57.1	14.3	14.3	14.3
Don't know/No answer	11.1	22.2	22.2	44.4
White	48.7	40.1	4.5	6.7
Black	11.4	73.9	4.6	5.9
Other	29.4	57.7	5.9	7.1
Female	39.2	46	6.5	8.4
Male	41.8	49	3.4	5.6
Gen Z	22.6	62.9	8.1	6.5
Millennial	39.1	45.4	8.1	7.5
Gen X	43.4	45.8	2.4	8.4
Boomer	43.7	45.5	4.2	6.7
Silent +	58.8	41.2	0	0
Less than \$50,000	33.6	49.8	5.8	10.8
\$50-99,999	47.7	41.6	4.2	6.5
\$100,000-199,999	33.7	56.7	5.8	3.9
More than \$200,000	55.2	44.8	0	0
Urban	34.1	54.5	5.5	5.9
Suburban	48.4	39.9	4.8	6.9
Rural	43.4	41.8	3.3	11.5
HS diploma or less	44.1	42.9	4.9	8.1

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Some College to college degree	38.8	48.8	5	7.4
Graduate or Professional Degree	37	52.8	4.6	5.6

Senate Election

If the election for US Senator was held today, would you vote for:

	Republican Thom Tillis	Democrat Cal Cunningham	Someone else	Don't know
Democrat	7.2	78.9	3.6	10.3
Republican	71.9	10.5	1.9	15.7
Independent	23.2	40.7	5.2	31
Something Else	42.9	0	28.6	28.6
Don't know/No answer	11.1	22.2	11.1	55.6
White	41.3	48.5	2.6	17.6
Black	11.4	67.1	5.7	15.9
Other	23.5	45.9	5.9	24.7
Female	30.1	41.1	3.9	24.9
Male	38.4	46.3	3.7	11.6
Gen Z	17.7	41.9	11.3	29
Millennial	35.6	42	4.6	17.8
Gen X	30.1	44	2.4	23.5
Boomer	39.5	45.5	2.4	12.6
Silent +	58.8	35.3	0	5.9
Less than \$50,000	32.7	42.6	4	20.6
\$50-99,999	37.4	42.1	3.7	16.8
\$100,000-199,999	28.9	51.9	3.9	15.3
More than \$200,000	41.4	41.4	0	17.2
Urban	26.9	51.4	5.2	16.6
Suburban	43.6	38.8	2.1	15.4
Rural	37.7	32	3.3	27.1

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HS diploma or less	38.9	37.3	5.3	18.6
Some College to college degree	30.2	46.3	2.5	21.1
Graduate or Professional Degree	33.3	50.9	3.7	12

Gubernatorial Election

If the election for Governor of North Carolina was held today, would you vote for:

	Republican Dan Forest	Democrat Roy Cooper	Someone else	Don't know
Democrat	6.7	83.4	2.7	7.2
Republican	71.9	16.2	1	11
Independent	16.8	56.8	5.8	20.7
Something Else	28.6	28.6	0	42.9
Don't know/No answer	0	44.4	11.1	44.4
White	39.9	46.1	2.1	11.9
Black	10.2	71.6	3.4	14.8
Other	17.7	62.4	4.7	15.3
Female	29.8	49.2	3.9	17.2
Male	34.7	55.1	2	8.2
Gen Z	19.4	56.5	4.8	19.4
Millennial	29.3	52.9	2.9	14.9
Gen X	34.9	49.4	3.6	12.1
Boomer	35.3	52.1	2.4	10.2
Silent +	47.1	47.1	0	5.9
Less than \$50,000	29.2	49.8	5.8	15.3
\$50-99,999	36.5	51.4	1.4	10.8
\$100,000-199,999	27.9	63.5	0	8.7
More than \$200,000	37.9	41.4	3.5	17.2

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Urban	27.9	58.3	3.5	10.3
Suburban	35.6	50	2.1	12.2
Rural	36.9	40.2	2.5	20.5
HS diploma or less	37.3	44.5	4.5	13.8
Some College to college degree	26	57	2.1	14.9
Graduate or Professional Degree	35.2	55.6	1.9	7.4

Poll Methodology

Mode:	Panel Responses (from Dynata panels)
Population & Sample Area	North Carolina registered voters (Board of Elections lists used by Dynata and verified through a screening question)
Dates in the field:	April 27-28, 2020
Registered Voter Sample Size	604
Registered Voter Margin of Error	±4%*
Confidence Level	95%

A non-probability sample—please see below.

Procedures Used for Conducting the Poll

The Meredith College Poll **typically** uses a sample of North Carolina registered voters with telephones and wireless (cell) telephone numbers, supplemented by an online (panel) sample of registered voters.. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we conducted this survey entirely online, using panel subjects. We do not have the capability of having students call people remotely. Please direct questions about the Meredith College Poll’s methodology to David McLennan (919-760-2287 or dbmclennan@meredith.edu).

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.

Completion Criteria

An interview is a “complete only” if a respondent progresses through the entire survey. Respondents who sign off before completing the last question or refuse to answer more than 10 percent of the questions are incompletes.

Sampling

For the panel survey, we used a panel sample of internet users from North Carolina that are part of Dynata’s over 2 million matched voters—nationally-- 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](#).)

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For this panel survey, Dynata used “census quotas” to ensure that our sample matched the North Carolina profile of registered voters. We examined the sample ourselves and determined that weighting was not necessary.

As with many surveys, we **normally** weight our sample to closely approximate what we believe the NC electorate will be on Election Day. For this survey, we did not weight any variables. As stated above, our sample on key demographic variables—political party affiliation, gender, etc.—was very close to the NC electorate. The one variable—race and ethnicity—that was not close (African American portion of the registered voters is 21.4% and our sample contained 14.7% African American voters), we chose not to weight because of our uncertainty in voter turnout this fall. We will weight our fall polls to reflect good polling practices and when we have some additional clarity in turnout.

Since this is a non-probability sample, we recognize that some registered voters in the state have **zero** chance of participating. This means that our results lack the generalizability of a probability sample. However, as AAPOR states in a recent report, sample matching (used by Dynata and other large companies) reduces the problems with bias (<https://www.aapor.org/Education-Resources/Reports/Non-Probability-Sampling.aspx>). AAPOR also concludes that non-probability samples can be of high quality if three conditions are met: 1. Large groups of people are not excluded, 2. there is not a high rate of volunteers or referrals, and 3. There are not a significant number of nonresponses. The first and third are met with the Dynata screened sample, but as with any panel survey, the second one is not. This is why the Pew Research Center, that uses panel samples, refers to this type of sampling as near-probability sampling.

As noted above, this is an unusual methodology for the Meredith Poll—relying exclusively on a panel sample—but using this approach was necessary at this time.

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

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

or

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