

# MEREDITH COLLEGE POLL

February 19-28, 2017

## Political Partisanship and Fake News

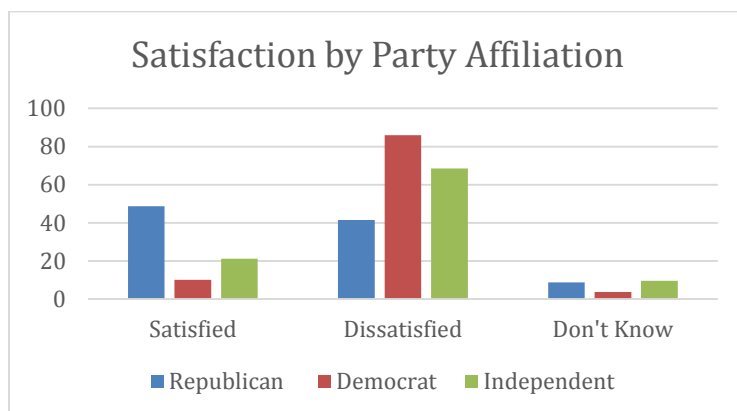
### Executive Summary

The Meredith College Poll asked questions about North Carolinians' views about political partisanship (e.g., conservative v. liberal, Democrat v. Republican), their media usage, and fake news. With this poll we used both an email survey and a live-caller, dual frame (landline and cell phone) survey of 876 **registered voters** of North Carolina between February 19-28, 2017. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points for registered voters. Details regarding the methodology of this survey can be found at the end of this report.

### Feelings about Direction of the Country and Perceptions of Partisanship

North Carolinians, like Americans across the country, still have significant doubts about the direction of the country, even more than three months after Election Day. Almost two-thirds of registered voters in the state are dissatisfied with just over a quarter of citizens (25.9%) saying they are satisfied with how things are going.

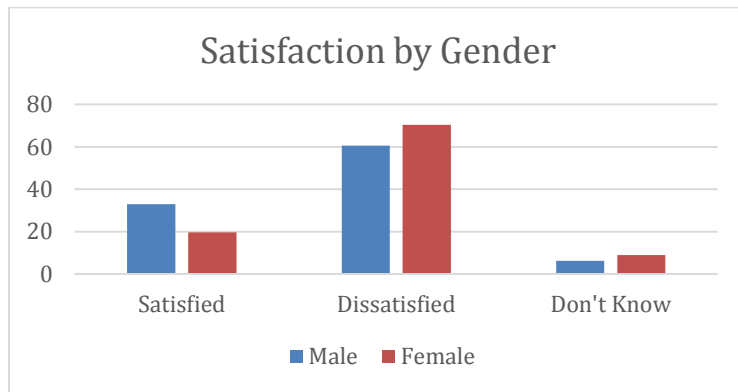
Further analyses of the poll results reveal some stark differences in how different groups perceive the direction of the country under the direction of the country's 45<sup>th</sup> president, Donald Trump. Republicans are significantly more satisfied with the direction of the country after the election of Donald Trump (48% v. 10% of Democrats and 20% of those who are unaffiliated).



When examining people's satisfaction with the direction of the country, men are more satisfied than women with the direction articulated by Trump with almost sixty percent of Republican men (57.9%) believing that the country is moving in the right direction. It is also significant that over half of the young Republicans—those under 30—believe that the country is moving in the right direction. At the same time, young Democrats are the most dissatisfied, with just one-in-ten (10.7%) saying they are satisfied with the direction of the country.

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Minorities are the least satisfied with the direction of the country with only ten percent of North Carolinian nonwhites indicating that they are satisfied with the direction of the country. Trump's statements during the presidential campaign and early in his presidential tenure appear to give racial and ethnic minorities in North Carolina little optimism about their futures.

## Political Polarization

A large majority of North Carolinians (86.7%) feel that the country is more divided today than in the past. There is general agreement by Democrats, Republicans, and unaffiliated voters that the country is highly polarized. However, when we asked citizens about whether the country will be more, less, or equally divided in five years, Republicans were decidedly more optimistic that the country would be less divided, with approximately one-third of these citizens (34.7%) stating that the country would be less divided, while only one-in-five Democrats and unaffiliated voters believing that the country will be less divided.

In the survey, we asked open-ended questions and had people give two or three word descriptions of "conservative," "liberal," "Republican," and "Democrat." The responses varied widely, but the language used by Democrats and Republicans to describe the other party and its associated ideology demonstrates the degree to which people are divided and the challenge that the country faces in the future for bridging that divide.

The most often-used word that Democrats used to describe conservatives and Republicans was "racist," with other terms such as "evil," "stupid," and "uncaring" coming up frequently. Republicans, on the other hand, most frequently referred to liberals or Democrats as "dishonest," with expressions like "whiny," "losers," and "evil" getting many mentions.

Unaffiliated voters had many negative terms for conservatives, liberal, Republicans, and Democrats. Words such as "liars" appeared frequently in descriptions of each ideology or party. Other words that frequently appeared on all lists were "hypocrites," "weak," and "out of touch."

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## Policy Issues and Knowledge of Party Positions

In addition to asking voters about their perceptions of different ideologies and parties, we asked them four questions about issues to determine if their policy positions aligned with their party affiliations. The issues we chose—sanctions on Cuba, restrictions on ammunition, reducing legal immigration, and estate taxes—were selected because they were in the national party platforms. We first asked voters whether they supported or opposed each of the policy issues. Then we asked voters which party supported the position stated in the question.

Our results demonstrate that Democratic and Republican voters generally understand the policy positions of the respective parties. On the issues of restricting ammunition, reducing legal immigration and taxes on estates, almost two-thirds of Democrats and Republicans correctly identified the policy positions of their party. Only on Cuba sanctions issue was there significant confusion about which party supports sanctions. Unaffiliated voters' knowledge of the parties' positions was significantly lower than that of the affiliated partisans.

## 2016 Voting Choices

Since polls in North Carolina, including the Meredith Poll, had challenges in demonstrating the support for Donald Trump in the state, we decided to ask North Carolinians who they voted for in 2016, focusing on the presidential and gubernatorial races. Although Donald Trump won North Carolina with 50.5 percent of the statewide vote, 43.3 percent of our respondents indicated that they voted for Trump. Likewise, although Hillary Clinton received 46.7 percent of the statewide vote, 40.9 percent of our respondents indicated that they voted for her. Over ten percent of our respondents refused to answer the question or indicated that they did not know who they voted for in November. These results indicate that, although Trump's margin of victory is reflected in how people said they voted, there may still be some voter remorse for both presidential candidates.

At the gubernatorial level, the closeness of the actual election results—Cooper receiving 49 percent of the vote and McCrory 48.9 percent—was not reflected in our responses. The voting gap for our respondents was almost ten percent—Cooper receiving 48.2 percent of the vote and McCrory getting 38.9 percent—suggesting that some North Carolinians may not want to think of themselves as supporting the losing major party candidate, Pat McCrory.

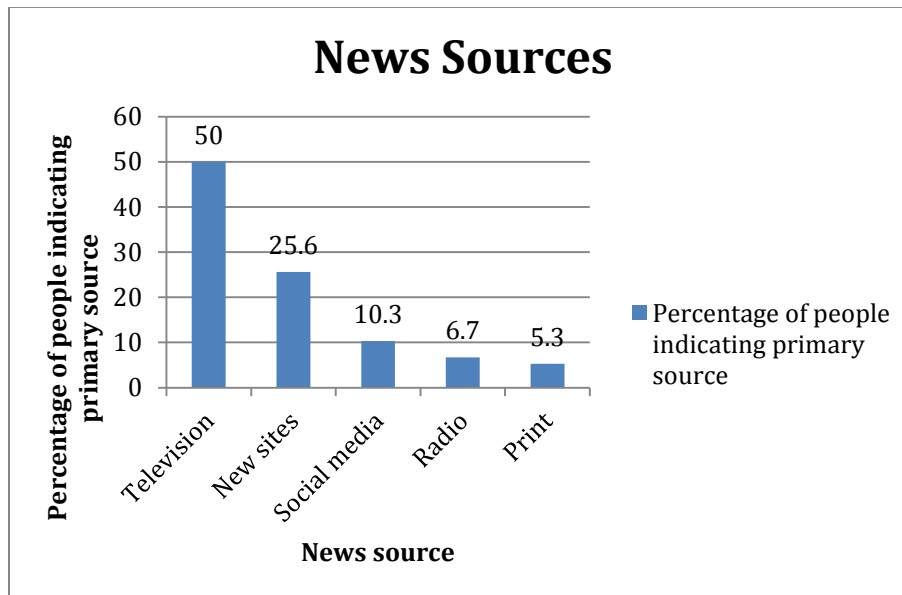
## Media Usage and Fake News

Television continues to be the primary source for political news of most North Carolinians. Half of the respondents (50%) indicated that television was where they got most of their political news, while news web sites were the second most popular choice

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(26.7%). Social media, radio, and print outlets were the primary news sources for about one-quarter of North Carolinians.



In terms of specific television networks, CNN was most frequently mentioned with Democrats and unaffiliated voters identifying the cable network as their primary source of political news, while Republicans identified Fox News as their most-watched network. Native North Carolinians identified local affiliates (e.g., WRAL, WSOC) as almost as popular as CNN and Fox News as their primary television sources of political news, but those who stated that they were born outside of the state rarely mentioned local affiliates as a primary source of news (less than 10% of those born outside of NC).

North Carolinians that identified news web sites as their primary source of political news followed a similar pattern as above. CNN's site was mentioned most frequently with Democrats and unaffiliated voters identifying that site by a three-to-one margin over the second most mentioned site, the New York Times site. Republicans identified the Fox News site as their most popular news site by a two-to-one margin over CNN.

Younger North Carolinians (under 30) often mentioned social media sites (31 percent of this group) as their primary places to get political news. Facebook was significantly more popular for all demographic groups—men, women, Democrats, Republicans, and unaffiliated voters by at least a four-to-one margin over Twitter or YouTube.

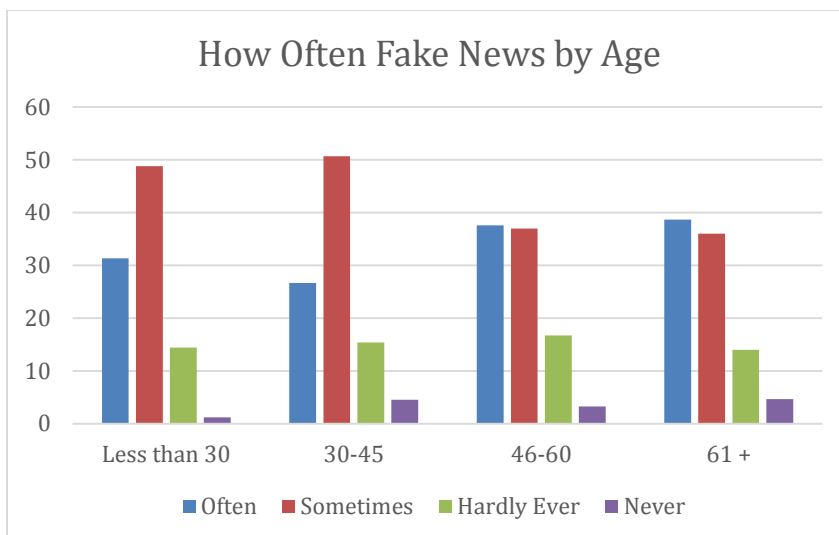
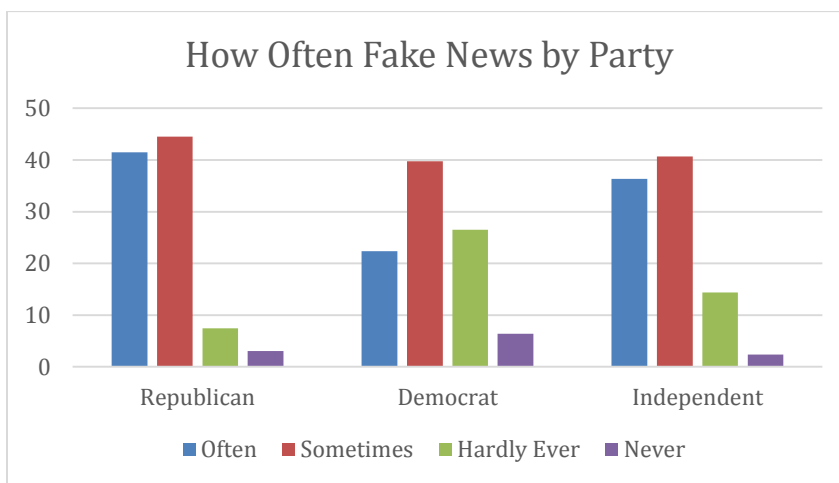
Radio and print were the primary political news sources for a small segment of North Carolinians. The top choice for radio listeners was NPR, especially for urban respondents, while rural respondents preferred local AM talk radio. Readers of newspapers were almost evenly split between local daily papers (e.g., *News and Observer*) and national papers (e.g., *New York Times*).

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Given the partisan nature of news consumption by North Carolinians and the attention given to the issue of fake news by the Trump administration, there is little surprise that a large majority of North Carolinians (88.4%) feel that fake news confuses Americans about politics and government. This belief in the existence and power of fake news to affect the American political culture affected all groups of North Carolinians equally as there were no significant differences based on party affiliation, age, racial or ethnic group, or where a person is from.

Similarly, a large percentage of North Carolinians (75.2%) report that they come across fake news stories frequently or occasionally. Again, few differences exist between groups in terms of reporting their exposure to fake news stories.



Finally, a large majority of voters (81.9%) feel very confident or somewhat confident in their ability to spot fake news. Democrats and Republicans felt equally confident in their ability to spot fake news stories, as did North Carolinians of all age group. The only

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difference that existed in the ability was between men (86.9%) and women (78%), although the difference was marginally significant.

It is likely, however, that the highly partisan nature of politics in the state and nation has caused North Carolinians to label any political news they disagree with as “fake news.” Although there is evidence of fake news stories that have been spread through social media, the perceived impact of these stories is greater than their actual significance.

## Topline Results

### Are you satisfied with the direction of the country?

All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

Satisfied	25.9%
Dissatisfied	65.6%
Don't Know	7.7%
Refused	.8%

### What do you think about conservatives?

What comes to mind when you hear the word "conservative?" Just the first 2-3 things you think of:

When asked to give words or phrases that describe “conservative,” the top choices were:

1. Republican
2. Old-fashioned
3. Trump
4. Values
5. Christian
6. White

A word cloud of the responses is below:

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What do you think about liberals?

What comes to mind when you hear the word "liberal?" Just the first 2-3 things you think of:

When asked to give words or phrases that describe "liberal," the top choices were:

1. Open-minded
2. Democrats
3. Progressive
4. Pro-choice
5. Equality
6. Big government

A word cloud of the responses is below:

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What do you think about Republicans?

What comes to mind when you hear the word "Republican?" Just the first 2-3 things you think of:

When asked to give words or phrases that describe "Republican," the top choices were:

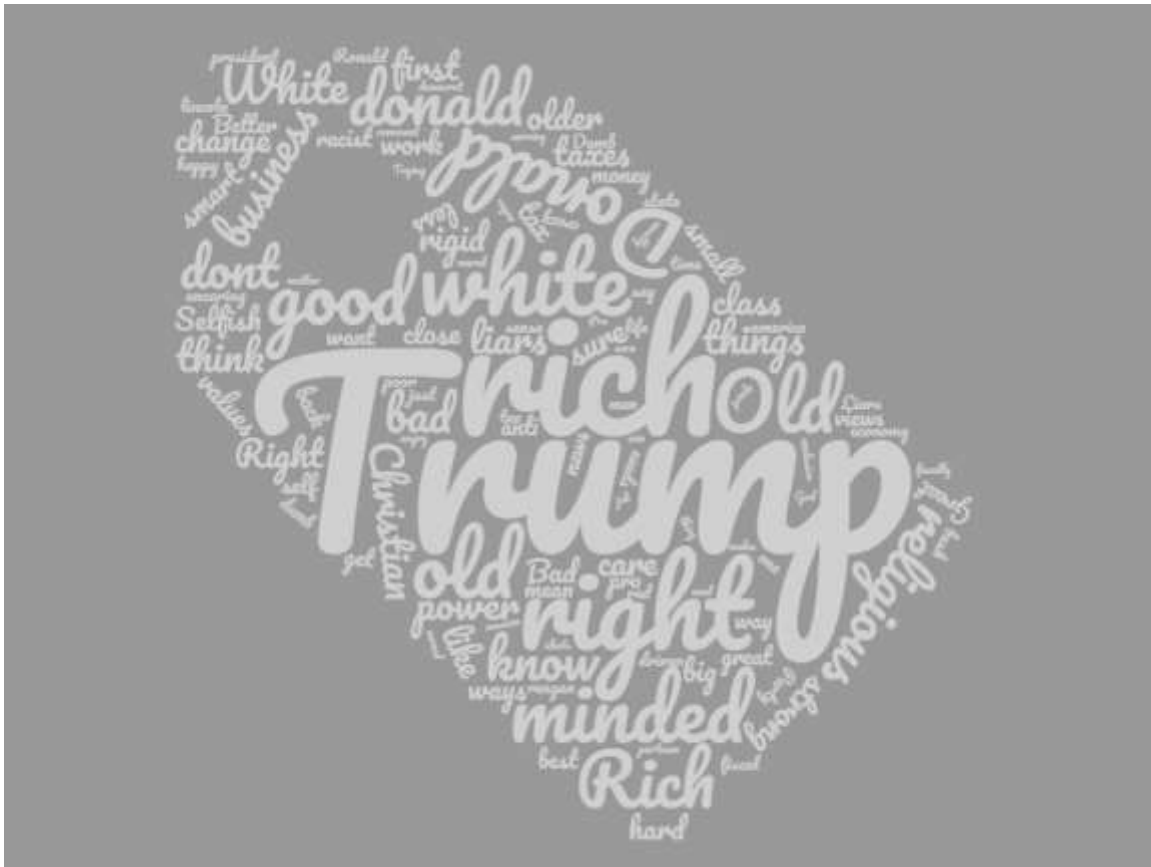
1. Trump
2. White
3. Rich
4. Right
5. Old
6. Religious

A word cloud of the responses is below:



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What do you think about Democrats?

What comes to mind when you hear the word "Democrat?" Just the first 2-3 things you think of:

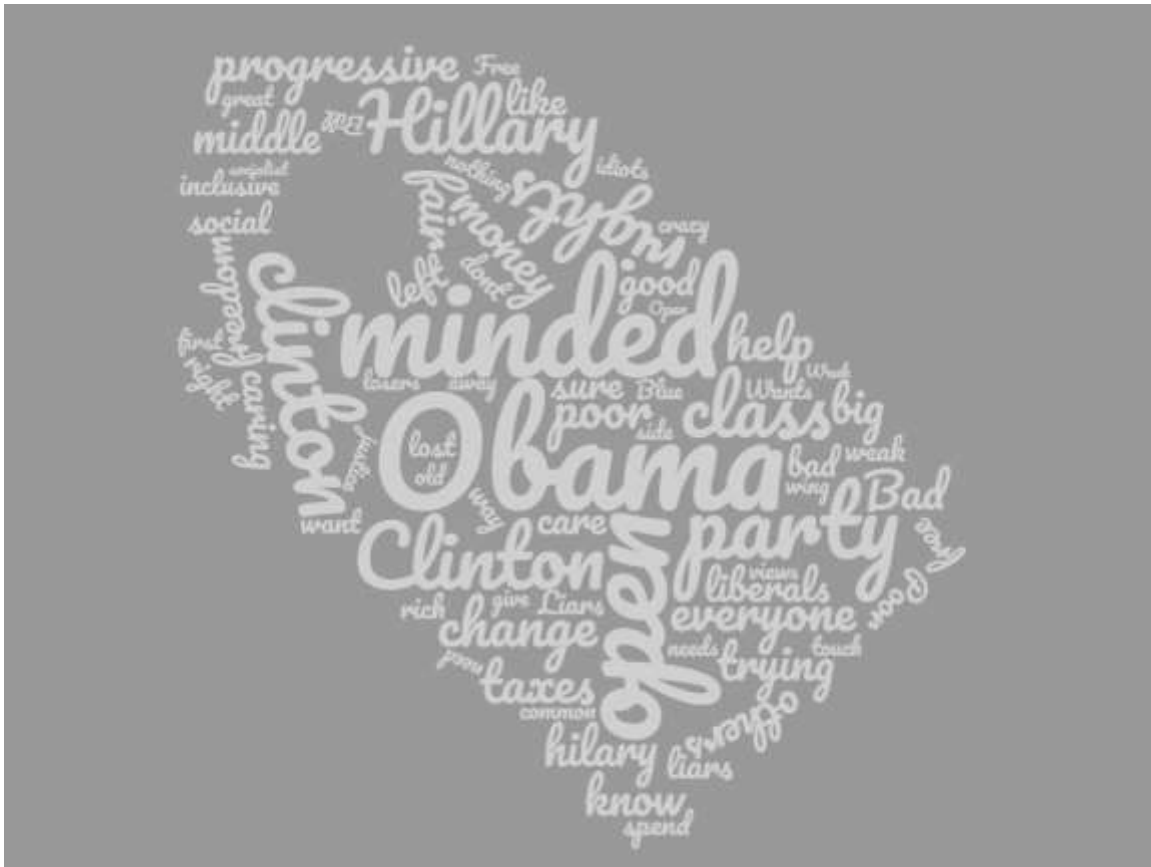
When asked to give words or phrases that describe "Democrat," the top choices were:

1. Obama
2. Clinton
3. Open-minded
4. Progressive
5. Taxes
6. Change

A word cloud of the responses is below:

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## More or less politically divided?

What's your view- do you think the country is more politically divided these days than in the past, or not?

More politically divided	84.6%
Less politically divided	2.9%
About the same	11%
Don't know/refused	1.5%

## More or less divided in five years?

And thinking about five years from now, do you think the country will be:

More politically divided	38.3%
Less politically divided	25%
About the same	22.9%
Don't know/refused	13.8%

Thinking about political parties, please tell me if each of the phrases I read below best describes the Democratic Party and its leaders, the Republican Party and its leaders, both, or neither.

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## More extreme in its positions

Is more extreme in its positions?

Democratic Party	32.3%
Republican Party	40.2%
Both	22.5%
Neither	3.1%
Don't know/refused	4.1%

## Can better manage the federal government

Can better manage the federal government?

Democratic Party	30%
Republican Party	36.1%
Both	6.3%
Neither	22%
Don't know/refused	5.5%

## More concerned with needs of people

Is more concerned with the needs of people like me?

Democratic Party	40.8%
Republican Party	33.3%
Both	4.1%
Neither	19.5%
Don't know/refused	2.3%

## Is honest and ethical

Governs in an honest and ethical way?

Democratic Party	29%
Republican Party	27.3%
Both	3.6%
Neither	36.5%
Don't know/Refused	3.5%

Switching gears, I'm going to ask you about a few policies that have been in the news lately.

## Sanctions on Cuba

In general, do you support or oppose sanctions on Cuba?

Support	28.6%
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Oppose	38.9%
Don't know/Refused	32.8%

## Party that supports sanctions on Cuba

Which political party do you think supports the sanctions on Cuba?

Democratic Party	10.1%
Republican Party	52.7%
Both	9.1%
Neither	2.7%
Don't know/Refused	25.5%

## Limit ammunition that a gun can hold

In general, do you support or oppose laws limiting how much ammunition a gun can hold?

Support	50.8%
Oppose	38.1%
Don't know/Refused	11.1%

## Party that supports limiting ammunition

Which political party do you think supports limiting how much ammunition a gun can hold?

Democratic Party	72.7%
Republican Party	9.5%
Both	6.7%
Neither	2.1%
Don't know/Refused	8.9%

## Decreasing legal immigrants

In general, do you support or oppose laws decreasing the number of legal immigrants that are allowed into the country each year?

Support	46.2%
Oppose	43.6%
Don't know/refused	10.7%

## Party that supports decreasing legal immigrants

Which political party do you think supports decreasing the number of legal immigrants allowed into the country each year?

Democratic Party	5%
Republican Party	76.6%

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Both	5.4%
Neither	7.6%
Don't know/refused	5.4%

## Estate taxes

In general, do you support or oppose laws that tax estates larger than \$1 million after the last owner passes away?

Support	36%
Oppose	38.6%
Don't Know/Refused	25.4%

## Party that supports taxes on estates

Which political party do you think supports taxes on estates larger than \$1 million after the last owner passes away?

Democratic Party	50.6%
Republican Party	15.7%
Both	8.6%
Neither	3.6%
Don't know/Refused	21.5%

## 2016 Presidential Election

In the 2016 presidential election, which of the following candidates did you vote for?

Democrat Hillary Clinton	40.9%
Republican Donald Trump	43.3%
Libertarian Gary Johnson	3.8%
Someone else	3.9%
Did not vote	6.1%
Don't know/Refused	2.1%

## 2016 Governor's Race

In the 2016 election for North Carolina governor, which of the following candidates did you vote for?

Democrat Roy Cooper	48.2%
Republican Pat McCrory	38.9%
Libertarian Lon Cecil	3.8%
Someone else	6.1%
Did not vote	7.2%
Don't know/Refused	2.5%

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## Main news source

If you follow political news, where do you go to get most of your news?

Television	50%
Radio	6.7%
Print	5.3%
News sites or apps	25.6%
Social media	10.4%
Don't know/refused	2%

## Television outlet

Which television network or program do you turn to most often for your political news?

Fox News	33.9%
CNN	33.7%
Local affiliates	14.6%
NBC	11.2%
ABC	10.6%
CBS	8.4%
MSNBC	4.5%

## Radio outlet

Which radio network or program do you turn to most often for your political news?

NPR	54.5%
Local AM or FM talk stations	31.8%
Rush Limbaugh	11.3%
Satellite radio news stations	9.1%

## Print outlet

Which newspaper or magazine do you turn to most often for your political news?

Daily NC newspapers	42.9%
New York Times	17.1%
USA Today	14.2%
Wall Street Journal	11.4%
Washington Post	8.6%
Time (magazine)	5.7%
Economist (magazine)	2.8%

## News sites or apps

Which news websites or apps do you turn to most often for your political news?  
(Top 10 only)

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CNN	26.5%
Fox News	17.9%
New York Times	6.2%
Washington Post	5.5%
Yahoo	5.5%
NPR	4.9%
Huffington Post	4.3%
Reddit	4.3%
Network news sites (ABC, CBS, NBC)	3.0%
WRAL	3.0%

## Social media

Which social media platform do you turn to most often for your political news?

Facebook	60.5%
Twitter	11.4%
YouTube	5.3%
Instagram	1.8%

## How often do you come across fake news?

How often do you come across a political news story that you think is mostly or completely made up or fake?

Often	33.5%
Sometimes	41.7%
Hardly ever	16%
Never	4%
Don't know/refused	4.8%

## Ability to recognize fake news

How confident are you in your ability to recognize a news story that is made up?

Very confident	32%
Somewhat confident	49.9%
Not very confident	11.9%
Not at all confident	3.2%
Don't know/refused	2%

## How influential is fake news?

How much do you think these fake news stories leave Americans confused about the basic facts of political issues and events?

A great deal	64.2%
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			than 30			
	D	R	I	D	R	I
Satisfied	10.5%	50.0%	22.2%	9.1%	46.3%	11.5%
Dissatisfied	89.5%	41.7%	74.1%	86.4%	44.4%	75.4%
Don't Know	0.0%	8.3%	3.7%	4.5%	9.3%	13.1%
		46-60			61+	
	D	R	I	D	R	I
Satisfied	8.2%	46%	25.6%	14.8%	58.8%	29.4%
Dissatisfied	88.2%	41%	65.1%	79.6%	41.2%	61.8%
Don't Know	3.5%	13%	9.3%	5.6%	0.0%	8.8%

## Is the country more divided than in the past?

	More divided	Less divided	About the same
Republican	82.6%	1.7%	15.2%
Democrat	87.2%	2.7%	7.8%
Independent	84.1%	4.3%	9.6%

## Will the country be as divided in five years?

	More divided	Less divided	About the same
Republican	31.4%	34.1%	23.6%
Democrat	44.5%	19.7%	20.6%
Independent	39.2%	20.6%	24.4%

## Which presidential candidate did you vote for in 2016?

			women	--		----	men	---	----
	<30	30-45	46-60	61+		<30	30-45	46-60	61+
Clinton	49.5%	46.3%	45.2%	46.3%		30.2%	40%	36.1%	27.9%
Trump	27.2%	37.2%	44%	36.6%		38.1%	43%	52.7%	55.9%
Johnson	1.9%	5.0%	1.2%	3.7%		6.3%	5%	4.1%	5.9%
Someone Else	3.9%	6.6%	3.0%	1.2%		7.9%	5%	3.6%	2.9%
I didn't vote	14.6%	5.0%	3.6%	4.9%		15.9%	6%	2.4%	4.4%
Don't know	2.9%	0.0%	3.0%	7.3%		1.6%	1%	1.2%	2.9%

## Which political party supports sanction on Cuba?

	Democrats	Republicans	Independent
Support	12.2%	49.8%	27.1%

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Oppose	53.4%	21.8%	43.8%
Don't know	34.4%	28.4%	29.0%

Which political party supports limiting the amount of ammunition a gun can hold?

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Support	71.0%	34.6%	51.4%
Oppose	17.6%	55.7%	38.6%
Don't know	11.3%	9.6%	10.0%

Which political party supports the reduction of limits on legal immigration?

	Democrat	Republicans	Independents
Support	25.8%	67.7%	47.4%
Oppose	62.0%	25.3%	41.1%
Don't know	12.2%	7.0%	11.5%

Which political party supports taxes on estates of larger than \$1 million?

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Support	46.8%	27.5%	33.5%
Oppose	26.8%	55.0%	41.6%
Don't know	26.4%	17.5%	24.9%

How often do you come across fake news?

	Often	Sometimes	Hardly Ever	Never
Republican	41.5%	44.5%	7.4%	3.1%
Democrat	22.4%	39.7%	26.5%	6.4%
Independent	36.4%	40.7%	14.4%	2.4%
Less than 30	31.3%	48.8%	14.5%	1.2%
30-45	26.7%	50.7%	15.4%	4.5%
46-60	37.6%	37.0%	16.7%	3.3%
61 +	38.7%	36.0%	14.0%	4.7%
Rural	35.2%	44%	13.5%	2.1%
Urban	32.7%	41.4%	17.1%	4.6%

How confident are you that you can spot fake news?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very confident	Not at all confident
Republican	31.9%	49.3%	12.7%	3.9%

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Democrat	35.2%	45.7%	11.4%	4.6%
Independent	32.2%	53.8%	10.6%	1.9%
Less than 30	33.9%	46.1%	15.2%	1.2%
30-45	28.5%	57.0%	9.5%	2.3%
46-60	32.8%	49.0%	11.3%	4.5%
61 +	33.3%	46.0%	13.3%	4.0%
Male	38.8%	48.1%	8.5%	2.3%
Female	26.2%	51.8%	14.5%	4.1%
Rural	32.4%	49.7%	12.2%	2.6%
Urban	31.8%	50.1%	11.8%	3.7%

## Ability to spot fake news by gender and party

	women			men		
	D	R	I	D	R	I
Very confident	33.8%	22.4%	24.2%	38.0%	40.2%	39.1%
Somewhat confident	47.9%	52.3%	56.6%	40.5%	46.7%	50.9%
Not very confident	12.7%	16.8%	15.2%	10.1%	9.0%	7.3%
Not at all confident	3.5%	5.6%	3.0%	6.3%	2.5%	0.9%

## How much does fake news confuse Americans?

	A great deal	Somewhat	Not much	Not at all
Republican	70.3%	22.7%	5.7%	0.9%
Democrat	59.8%	25.6%	10.5%	1.4%
Independent	62.2%	24.4%	7.2%	2.9%
Male	66.5%	22.8%	6.3%	2.0%
Female	65.0%	23.7%	7.9%	1.1%
Less than 30	66.9%	24.1%	4.8%	0.6%
30-45	64.3%	19.0%	12.2%	0.9%
46-60	66.0%	24.5%	5.7%	2.4%
61 +	66.7%	25.3%	5.3%	1.3%

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## **Demographics**

### **Party ID**

Democrats	33.3%
Libertarian	1%
Republicans	35.1%
Unaffiliated	30.6%

### **Sex/Gender**

Male	45.8%
Female	54.2%

### **Income**

Less than \$25,000	13%
\$25,000 to \$50,000	28%
\$50,000 to \$75,000	24%
More than \$75,000	21%
Unknown	14%

### **Race**

White	80%
Black	14.1%
Other	5.9%

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## Age

18-30	19%
31-45	25.2%
46-65	38.6%
65+	17.2%

## Location<sup>1</sup>

Rural	44.2%
Urban	55.8%

## Contact Type

Landline	16%
Cell	15%
Email	69%

## Cross Tabulations

## Methodological Information

Mode:	Live Interviewer RDD Telephone Interview (Dual Frame: Cell Phone and Landlines)
	Email Surveys (SSI Panels)
Population & Sample Area registered	North Carolina; Adults (Primarily English speaking voters with some Spanish speaking voters)
Dates in the field:	February 10-28, 2017
Registered Voter Sample Size	876
Registered Voter Margin of Error	±3%
Confidence Level	95%
Weighting Variables	Age, Race, Gender

## Procedures Used for Conducting the Poll

The Meredith College Poll uses a stratified random sample of households with telephones and wireless (cell) telephone numbers. For the first time, we also included randomly

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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 two 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.

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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=876). 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 a Visiting 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 Vitarbo 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 Garry Walton, 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.

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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**

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References