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North Carolinians Think McCrory Lost, Should Concede

Raleigh, N.C. – The North Carolina Governor's race may have been close but voters in the state aren't too divided on what the result mean: Roy Cooper got more votes, he was the rightful winner of the election, and it's time for Pat McCrory to concede.

54% of voters in the state think that Cooper received more votes, to only 38% who think McCrory was the bigger vote winner. Similarly, 53% of voters think that Cooper was the rightful winner of the election, to only 39% who think McCrory actually won. And following from those two findings, 51% of voters think it's time for McCrory to concede the election, to only 39% who think he should keep on fighting it.

“North Carolinians are sending a pretty clear message,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “It might have been close but the Governor’s race is over, Roy Cooper won, and it’s time for Pat McCrory to bow out.”

Predictably Democrats think that Cooper won and McCrory should give it up, while Republicans think that McCrory won and he should continue to contest the results. What makes the difference is that independent voters- often closely divided or GOP leaning in North Carolina- emphatically think that it's time for this to be over. 59% of them think Cooper received more votes to only 31% for McCrory. 58% of them think Cooper was the rightful winner to 30% for McCrory. And 58% of them think McCrory should concede to just 33% who think he should keep going.

Voters are especially emphatic in their feeling that the General Assembly should not get involved with the results of the Governor's election. Only 27% think they should pick the winner, to 51% who think they should keep out of it. Even Republicans only narrowly (38/36) think the legislature should get involved and independents (16/57) and Democrats (23/60) are both overwhelmingly opposed to their doing so.

The way he's dragging this out could hurt Pat McCrory's ability to make a comeback further down the line. 39% of voters say his refusal to concede makes them less likely to vote for him in the future, to only 33% who say it makes them more likely to vote for him again sometime later.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 1,238 North Carolina voters on November 22nd and 23rd. The margin of error is +/-2.8%. 80% of participants, selected through a list based sample, responded via the phone, while 20% of respondents who did not have landlines conducted the survey over the internet through an opt-in internet panel.



North Carolina Survey Results

Q1 Who do you think received more votes in the race for Governor: Roy Cooper or Pat McCrory?

Roy Cooper..... 54%
Pat McCrory..... 38%
Not sure 8%

Q2 Who do you think was the rightful winner of the election for Governor: Roy Cooper or Pat McCrory?

Roy Cooper..... 53%
Pat McCrory..... 39%
Not sure 7%

Q3 Do you think Pat McCrory should concede defeat in the Gubernatorial election, or not?

Pat McCrory should concede defeat..... 51%
Pat McCrory should not concede defeat..... 39%
Not sure 10%

Q4 If Pat McCrory refuses to concede defeat in the Gubernatorial election, would that make you more or less likely to vote for him in future elections, or would it not make a difference?

More likely..... 33%
Less likely 39%
Wouldn't make a difference..... 25%
Not sure 3%

Q5 Would you support or oppose the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race?

Support the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race..... 27%
Oppose the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race..... 51%
Not sure 22%

Q6 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q7 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 44%
Republican..... 35%
Independent / Other party..... 21%

Q8 If you are white, press 1. If African American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 71%
African American..... 21%
Other..... 8%

Q9 If you are 18-29 years old, press 1. If 30-45, press 2. If 46-65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 13%
30 to 45..... 23%
46 to 65..... 42%
Older than 65..... 23%

Q10 Mode

Phone 80%
Internet 20%





	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
More Votes: Cooper or McCrory			
Roy Cooper	54%	54%	54%
Pat McCrory	38%	37%	40%
Not sure	8%	10%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Rightful Winner: Cooper or McCrory			
Roy Cooper	53%	54%	53%
Pat McCrory	39%	36%	43%
Not sure	7%	10%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
McCrory Concede Yes/No			
Pat McCrory should concede defeat	51%	51%	51%
Pat McCrory should not concede defeat	39%	38%	41%
Not sure	10%	11%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
McCrory Refuse to Concede More/Less Likely			
More likely	33%	33%	33%
Less likely	39%	37%	41%
Wouldn't make a difference	25%	26%	23%
Not sure	3%	4%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
General Assembly Choose Governor Support/Oppose			
Support the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race	27%	23%	31%
Oppose the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race	51%	48%	55%
Not sure	22%	29%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other ...
More Votes: Cooper or McCrory				
Roy Cooper	54%	75%	24%	59%
Pat McCrory	38%	18%	69%	31%
Not sure	8%	7%	7%	10%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other ...
Rightful Winner: Cooper or McCrory				
Roy Cooper	53%	76%	21%	58%
Pat McCrory	39%	19%	71%	30%
Not sure	7%	5%	8%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other ...
McCrory Concede Yes/No				
Pat McCrory should concede defeat	51%	66%	28%	58%
Pat McCrory should not concede defeat	39%	24%	62%	33%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other ...
McCrory Refuse to Concede More/Less Likely				
More likely	33%	23%	51%	25%
Less likely	39%	57%	17%	39%
Wouldn't make a difference	25%	17%	29%	33%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other ...
General Assembly Choose Governor Support/Oppose				
Support the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race	27%	23%	38%	16%
Oppose the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race	51%	60%	36%	57%
Not sure	22%	17%	26%	27%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American...	Other
More Votes: Cooper or McCrory				
Roy Cooper	54%	46%	77%	64%
Pat McCrory	38%	48%	11%	24%
Not sure	8%	6%	12%	12%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American...	Other
Rightful Winner: Cooper or McCrory				
Roy Cooper	53%	45%	77%	66%
Pat McCrory	39%	49%	15%	21%
Not sure	7%	7%	8%	13%





	Base	Race		
		White	African Americ...	Other
McCrory Concede Yes/No				
Pat McCrory should concede defeat	51%	47%	59%	64%
Pat McCrory should not concede defeat	39%	45%	25%	26%
Not sure	10%	7%	17%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African Americ...	Other
McCrory Refuse to Concede More/Less Likely				
More likely	33%	38%	22%	19%
Less likely	39%	33%	56%	48%
Wouldn't make a difference	25%	26%	17%	31%
Not sure	3%	3%	5%	1%

	Base	Race		
		White	African Americ...	Other
General Assembly Choose Governor Support/Oppose				
Support the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race	27%	29%	23%	20%
Oppose the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race	51%	47%	62%	54%
Not sure	22%	24%	15%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
More Votes: Cooper or McCrory					
Roy Cooper	54%	59%	55%	54%	51%
Pat McCrory	38%	29%	38%	39%	42%
Not sure	8%	11%	7%	7%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Rightful Winner: Cooper or McCrory					
Roy Cooper	53%	61%	48%	55%	52%
Pat McCrory	39%	28%	42%	40%	43%
Not sure	7%	12%	9%	6%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
McCrory Concede Yes/No					
Pat McCrory should concede defeat	51%	59%	43%	55%	47%
Pat McCrory should not concede defeat	39%	28%	41%	39%	45%
Not sure	10%	13%	16%	6%	8%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
McCrory Refuse to Concede More/Less Likely					
More likely	33%	27%	33%	31%	40%
Less likely	39%	32%	31%	45%	39%
Wouldn't make a difference	25%	31%	34%	21%	18%
Not sure	3%	10%	2%	2%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
General Assembly Choose Governor Support/Oppose					
Support the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race	27%	25%	28%	24%	32%
Oppose the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race	51%	55%	48%	55%	45%
Not sure	22%	20%	23%	22%	23%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
More Votes: Cooper or McCrory			
Roy Cooper	54%	50%	71%
Pat McCrory	38%	43%	20%
Not sure	8%	7%	10%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
Rightful Winner: Cooper or McCrory			
Roy Cooper	53%	52%	60%
Pat McCrory	39%	43%	24%
Not sure	7%	5%	16%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
McCrory Concede Yes/No			
Pat McCrory should concede defeat	51%	50%	57%
Pat McCrory should not concede defeat	39%	44%	21%
Not sure	10%	6%	22%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
McCrory Refuse to Concede More/Less Likely			
More likely	33%	38%	15%
Less likely	39%	40%	34%
Wouldn't make a difference	25%	20%	43%
Not sure	3%	2%	7%



	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
General Assembly Choose Governor Support/Oppose			
Support the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race	27%	27%	27%
Oppose the General Assembly choosing the winner of the Governor's race	51%	53%	45%
Not sure	22%	20%	29%