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McCrory tops Perdue by 14, Cooper by only 8

Raleigh, N.C. – North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue continues to slide with the public as she tangles with the Republican legislature. Her deficit to 2008 and likely 2012 opponent Pat McCrory is yet a bit larger than in PPP's previous poll of the state in mid-February. Fortunately for her but unfortunately for the Democratic Party, which has held the governor's mansion since 1993, only one other possible nominee would do significantly better against McCrory, Attorney General Roy Cooper, but he still lags.

Perdue's job performance rating has taken another hit over the last month. Still with 30% approval, the same as last month, 52% of North Carolinians now disapprove, versus 48% a month ago. Only half of her partymates can say they like what she has been doing, with 30% disapproving (up from 45-28 in February). At the same time, though, she has not unexpectedly regressed with Republicans (to 77% disapproval from 69%) and independents, who give her a 21-53 mark, versus 30-52 in the previous poll.

McCrory is still pretty popular, if not very well known, with a 34-22 favorability margin. Republicans have boosted their opinions of him, from 43% to 52% positive in a month. He now has a majority against Perdue, 50-36, up a hair from 49-37 last time. Perdue can still only get 61% of her party's support, with McCrory attracting almost a quarter (23%) of Perdue's base, which comprises 45% of the electorate. McCrory locks up the GOP (38% of voters), and independents side with him by the same 15-point margin as last month. Perdue can take a little solace in that more Democrats and independents are undecided than Republicans, but she has to get her base in line to win re-election.

A Democratic primary battle is unlikely, but if Perdue were to not run again, Cooper would start out trailing McCrory, 43-35. State Senator Dan Blue and Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton lag by similar 48-28 and 47-27 margins. These major statewide figures have even lower profiles than McCrory. Cooper is a non-entity to 56% of voters, Blue to 67%, and Dalton to 69%.

"Bev Perdue starts at a disadvantage for reelection but so would any other Democrat," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "It's looking like this office will be a very tough hold for the party next year."

PPP surveyed 584 North Carolina voters from March 17th to 20th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.1%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



North Carolina Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Bev Perdue's job performance?

Approve..... 30% Not sure 18%
Disapprove..... 52%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dan Blue?

Favorable..... 13%
Unfavorable 20%
Not sure 67%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Roy Cooper?

Favorable..... 27%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure 56%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Walter Dalton?

Favorable..... 13%
Unfavorable 19%
Not sure 69%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Pat McCrory?

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 44%

Q6 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Bev Perdue and Republican Pat McCrory, who would you vote for?

Bev Perdue..... 36%
Pat McCrory..... 50%
Undecided..... 14%

Q7 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Dan Blue and Republican Pat McCrory, who would you vote for?

Dan Blue..... 28%
Pat McCrory..... 48%
Undecided..... 24%

Q8 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Roy Cooper and Republican Pat McCrory, who would you vote for?

Roy Cooper..... 35%
Pat McCrory..... 43%
Undecided..... 22%

Q9 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Walter Dalton and Republican Pat McCrory, who would you vote for?

Walter Dalton..... 27%
Pat McCrory..... 47%
Undecided..... 26%

Q10 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 9%
Somewhat liberal 16%
Moderate..... 28%
Somewhat conservative..... 23%
Very conservative 24%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%





Q12 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i>	45%
<i>Republican</i>	38%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	17%

Q13 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	75%
<i>African-American</i>	21%
<i>Other</i>	4%

Q14 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i>	16%
<i>30 to 45</i>	26%
<i>46 to 65</i>	38%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%

Q15

252.....	15%
336.....	20%
704.....	17%
828.....	17%
910.....	11%
919.....	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perdue Approval						
Approve	30%	51%	53%	40%	13%	11%
Disapprove	52%	35%	21%	38%	68%	78%
Not sure	18%	14%	26%	21%	18%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Blue Favorability						
Favorable	13%	8%	23%	13%	8%	12%
Unfavorable	20%	29%	18%	20%	24%	16%
Not sure	67%	63%	60%	67%	68%	72%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cooper Favorability						
Favorable	27%	31%	45%	21%	29%	19%
Unfavorable	18%	24%	14%	16%	11%	26%
Not sure	56%	45%	41%	63%	60%	55%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dalton Favorability						
Favorable	13%	12%	14%	15%	12%	11%
Unfavorable	19%	34%	19%	16%	13%	21%
Not sure	69%	55%	67%	69%	75%	68%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCrory Favorability						
Favorable	34%	16%	18%	26%	44%	51%
Unfavorable	22%	40%	37%	25%	16%	8%
Not sure	44%	43%	45%	49%	40%	41%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perdue/McCrory						
Bev Perdue	36%	70%	68%	49%	14%	9%
Pat McCrory	50%	20%	15%	30%	72%	85%
Undecided	14%	10%	17%	21%	14%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Blue/McCrory						
Dan Blue	28%	59%	60%	34%	6%	10%
Pat McCrory	48%	12%	20%	30%	73%	77%
Undecided	24%	29%	20%	36%	21%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cooper/McCrory						
Roy Cooper	35%	65%	66%	43%	18%	10%
Pat McCrory	43%	13%	12%	25%	61%	77%
Undecided	22%	21%	22%	32%	21%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dalton/McCrory						
Walter Dalton	27%	62%	56%	32%	7%	10%
Pat McCrory	47%	10%	17%	27%	69%	79%
Undecided	26%	28%	27%	40%	24%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perdue Approval			
Approve	30%	32%	28%
Disapprove	52%	48%	56%
Not sure	18%	20%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Blue Favorability			
Favorable	13%	13%	12%
Unfavorable	20%	19%	22%
Not sure	67%	68%	67%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cooper Favorability			
Favorable	27%	24%	30%
Unfavorable	18%	17%	18%
Not sure	56%	59%	51%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dalton Favorability			
Favorable	13%	12%	13%
Unfavorable	19%	20%	17%
Not sure	69%	68%	69%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCrary Favorability			
Favorable	34%	33%	35%
Unfavorable	22%	20%	25%
Not sure	44%	48%	40%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perdue/McCrary			
Bev Perdue	36%	37%	35%
Pat McCrary	50%	48%	52%
Undecided	14%	15%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Blue/McCrary			
Dan Blue	28%	30%	25%
Pat McCrary	48%	46%	51%
Undecided	24%	24%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cooper/McCrory			
Roy Cooper	35%	36%	33%
Pat McCrory	43%	38%	49%
Undecided	22%	26%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dalton/McCrory			
Walter Dalton	27%	30%	24%
Pat McCrory	47%	41%	53%
Undecided	26%	29%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perdue Approval				
Approve	30%	50%	10%	21%
Disapprove	52%	30%	77%	53%
Not sure	18%	20%	12%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Blue Favorability				
Favorable	13%	16%	10%	10%
Unfavorable	20%	20%	19%	25%
Not sure	67%	64%	72%	65%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cooper Favorability				
Favorable	27%	32%	26%	16%
Unfavorable	18%	17%	18%	19%
Not sure	56%	52%	56%	64%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dalton Favorability				
Favorable	13%	15%	13%	7%
Unfavorable	19%	22%	15%	17%
Not sure	69%	63%	72%	76%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCrory Favorability				
Favorable	34%	19%	52%	30%
Unfavorable	22%	33%	10%	18%
Not sure	44%	47%	37%	51%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perdue/McCrory				
Bev Perdue	36%	61%	8%	31%
Pat McCrory	50%	23%	83%	46%
Undecided	14%	15%	9%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Blue/McCrory				
Dan Blue	28%	51%	5%	18%
Pat McCrory	48%	21%	82%	47%
Undecided	24%	28%	14%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cooper/McCrory				
Roy Cooper	35%	61%	12%	18%
Pat McCrory	43%	16%	75%	41%
Undecided	22%	23%	13%	41%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dalton/McCrory				
Walter Dalton	27%	51%	6%	13%
Pat McCrory	47%	17%	81%	46%
Undecided	26%	32%	13%	41%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perdue Approval				
Approve	30%	24%	47%	48%
Disapprove	52%	58%	32%	36%
Not sure	18%	18%	21%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Blue Favorability				
Favorable	13%	11%	20%	16%
Unfavorable	20%	19%	22%	36%
Not sure	67%	70%	59%	48%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Cooper Favorability				
Favorable	27%	28%	24%	22%
Unfavorable	18%	15%	22%	36%
Not sure	56%	57%	54%	42%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Dalton Favorability				
Favorable	13%	11%	18%	18%
Unfavorable	19%	16%	27%	30%
Not sure	69%	73%	55%	52%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McCrory Favorability				
Favorable	34%	38%	22%	14%
Unfavorable	22%	18%	35%	41%
Not sure	44%	44%	43%	45%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perdue/McCrory				
Bev Perdue	36%	29%	58%	54%
Pat McCrory	50%	59%	23%	16%
Undecided	14%	12%	19%	30%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Blue/McCrory				
Dan Blue	28%	20%	57%	28%
Pat McCrory	48%	58%	18%	34%
Undecided	24%	22%	26%	38%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Cooper/McCrory				
Roy Cooper	35%	28%	58%	44%
Pat McCrory	43%	52%	12%	34%
Undecided	22%	20%	30%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Dalton/McCrory				
Walter Dalton	27%	20%	54%	18%
Pat McCrory	47%	57%	13%	34%
Undecided	26%	23%	33%	48%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perdue Approval					
Approve	30%	28%	33%	29%	29%
Disapprove	52%	50%	46%	56%	52%
Not sure	18%	22%	21%	14%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Blue Favorability					
Favorable	13%	17%	7%	14%	14%
Unfavorable	20%	17%	17%	23%	21%
Not sure	67%	65%	76%	63%	65%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cooper Favorability					
Favorable	27%	24%	21%	32%	26%
Unfavorable	18%	11%	11%	22%	23%
Not sure	56%	65%	68%	45%	51%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dalton Favorability					
Favorable	13%	24%	8%	12%	12%
Unfavorable	19%	15%	17%	21%	18%
Not sure	69%	61%	75%	67%	69%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCrorry Favorability					
Favorable	34%	26%	29%	39%	37%
Unfavorable	22%	24%	22%	24%	17%
Not sure	44%	50%	49%	38%	45%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perdue/McCrorry					
Bev Perdue	36%	37%	39%	37%	29%
Pat McCrorry	50%	46%	41%	54%	58%
Undecided	14%	17%	20%	10%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Blue/McCrorry					
Dan Blue	28%	39%	25%	29%	20%
Pat McCrorry	48%	33%	45%	53%	56%
Undecided	24%	28%	30%	18%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cooper/McCrorry					
Roy Cooper	35%	43%	33%	37%	26%
Pat McCrorry	43%	33%	34%	47%	55%
Undecided	22%	24%	33%	15%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dalton/McCrory					
Walter Dalton	27%	37%	25%	29%	19%
Pat McCrory	47%	35%	41%	51%	55%
Undecided	26%	28%	34%	20%	26%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Perdue Approval							
Approve	30%	33%	21%	25%	27%	33%	41%
Disapprove	52%	46%	60%	58%	53%	49%	42%
Not sure	18%	21%	18%	16%	20%	19%	16%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Blue Favorability							
Favorable	13%	20%	12%	6%	6%	14%	18%
Unfavorable	20%	24%	18%	27%	15%	14%	22%
Not sure	67%	56%	70%	67%	79%	72%	60%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Cooper Favorability							
Favorable	27%	33%	30%	17%	18%	24%	36%
Unfavorable	18%	16%	20%	18%	14%	21%	18%
Not sure	56%	51%	50%	65%	68%	55%	46%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Dalton Favorability							
Favorable	13%	23%	12%	13%	16%	3%	8%
Unfavorable	19%	18%	19%	20%	12%	22%	21%
Not sure	69%	58%	70%	67%	72%	75%	71%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
McCrorry Favorability							
Favorable	34%	26%	26%	60%	31%	25%	32%
Unfavorable	22%	21%	25%	21%	23%	22%	21%
Not sure	44%	53%	50%	19%	46%	54%	47%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Perdue/McCrory							
Bev Perdue	36%	39%	33%	30%	35%	43%	40%
Pat McCrory	50%	44%	55%	55%	50%	49%	45%
Undecided	14%	17%	12%	15%	16%	8%	15%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Blue/McCrory							
Dan Blue	28%	33%	27%	15%	29%	40%	29%
Pat McCrory	48%	40%	50%	65%	46%	43%	43%
Undecided	24%	27%	23%	20%	25%	17%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Cooper/McCrory							
Roy Cooper	35%	51%	32%	23%	35%	38%	35%
Pat McCrory	43%	24%	45%	59%	46%	43%	39%
Undecided	22%	26%	23%	19%	19%	19%	26%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Dalton/McCrory							
Walter Dalton	27%	39%	18%	17%	33%	29%	29%
Pat McCrory	47%	30%	53%	61%	47%	44%	41%
Undecided	26%	31%	29%	21%	20%	27%	30%

