

INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312**IF YOU HAVE BASIC METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL information@publicpolicypolling.com, OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

NC opposes GOP cuts, wants vote on unemployment benefits

Raleigh, N.C. – As North Carolina’s Republican leaders propose budget cut after cut, there has been a six-point shift in two months on the 2012 generic legislative ballot. In March, Republicans were on top 45-41 over the Democrats in the statewide popular vote for the General Assembly. Last month, that became a 45-45 tie. Now, the Democratic candidates still get 45% of the state’s votes, but the Republicans have dropped to 43%. Every month last year, the GOP was down at worst one point, and was most often up by a healthy margin in PPP polls. They ultimately took control of both houses of the G.A. by winning the statewide vote by double digits, including by about 20 with independents. Now, they are up only 37-33 with independents.

Despite her own unpopularity, what Bev Perdue can take to the bank is that if voters are made more aware of the GOP’s agenda and feel its negative consequences, they will turn even more against them and give her more Democrats to work with in the legislature. Perdue vetoed a bill that would have extended unemployment benefits while tying her hands in budget negotiations. 55% of North Carolinians believe Republicans should allow Democrats’ stand-alone unemployment benefit extension bill to come to the floor for an up or down vote. Democrats, Republicans, and independents are united with Perdue and the Democratic legislators on this issue.

Similarly, 55% believe it is more important to limit cuts to education spending than to end the one-cent sales tax increase, which is favored by only 32%. Republicans have proposed significant cuts to public education, and instead of boosting revenue, are planning to actually cut it despite the budget deficit. 57% of Democrats, 60% of independents, and a 49% plurality of Republicans side with Perdue.

“With each passing month voters are turning more back toward wanting a Democratic legislative majority,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Pretty much everything the Republicans are doing is proving to be unpopular.”

PPP surveyed 835 North Carolina voters from May 12th to 15th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.4%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



North Carolina Survey Results

Q1 If there was an election for the state legislature today, would you vote Democratic or Republican?

Democratic..... 45%
Republican..... 43%
Undecided..... 12%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Democrats in the North Carolina Legislature?

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 42%
Not sure..... 21%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Republicans in the North Carolina Legislature?

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 42%
Not sure 22%

Q4 Do you have more faith in Governor Perdue or Legislative Republicans to lead the state?

Governor Perdue 40%
Legislative Republicans 41%
Not sure 19%

Q5 Do you think the General Assembly should or should not have an up-or-down vote on extending unemployment benefits to 37,000 North Carolinians?

Should have an up-or-down vote 55%
Should not..... 20%
Not sure..... 25%

Q6 What do you think is more important: ending the temporary one cent sales tax increase or minimizing cuts to education spending?

Ending the temporary one cent sales tax increase is more important..... 32%
Minimizing cuts to education spending is..... 55%
Not sure..... 13%

Q7 Do you support or oppose reducing the length of the early voting period by a week?

Support 35%
Oppose 44%
Not sure..... 21%

Q8 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 10%
Somewhat liberal 15%
Moderate..... 31%
Somewhat conservative..... 26%
Very conservative 18%

Q9 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q10 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 48%
Republican..... 36%
Independent/Other..... 16%

Q11 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 73%
African-American 23%
Other..... 4%





Q12 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.

18 to 29.....	12%
30 to 45.....	30%
46 to 65.....	38%
Older than 65.....	20%

Q13

252.....	12%
336.....	23%
704.....	15%
828.....	13%
910.....	14%
919.....	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Generic Leg. Ballot						
Democratic	45%	77%	79%	59%	21%	10%
Republican	43%	10%	12%	28%	67%	83%
Undecided	12%	12%	10%	14%	13%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Leg. Dem Favorability						
Favorable	37%	69%	69%	45%	17%	4%
Unfavorable	42%	13%	13%	28%	61%	84%
Not sure	21%	18%	18%	27%	22%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Leg. GOP Favorability						
Favorable	36%	22%	13%	22%	55%	63%
Unfavorable	42%	59%	70%	51%	23%	18%
Not sure	22%	19%	17%	26%	22%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?						
Governor Perdue	40%	68%	74%	49%	21%	8%
Legislative Republicans	41%	12%	14%	27%	59%	77%
Not sure	19%	20%	12%	24%	20%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Should GA Vote Separately on Unemployment Benefits?						
Should have an up-or-down vote	55%	73%	45%	55%	54%	54%
Should not	20%	15%	17%	17%	26%	21%
Not sure	25%	13%	38%	28%	20%	24%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Ending 1c Sales Tax Increase or Minimizing Edu. Cuts More Important?						
Ending the temporary one cent sales tax increase is more important	32%	40%	20%	27%	33%	45%
Minimizing cuts to education spending is	55%	49%	65%	62%	53%	38%
Not sure	13%	11%	15%	10%	14%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Support/Oppose Reducing Length of Early Voting						
Support	35%	36%	28%	27%	37%	49%
Oppose	44%	49%	56%	49%	38%	30%
Not sure	21%	15%	16%	23%	25%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Leg. Ballot			
Democratic	45%	49%	41%
Republican	43%	40%	46%
Undecided	12%	11%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Leg. Dem Favorability			
Favorable	37%	38%	35%
Unfavorable	42%	36%	49%
Not sure	21%	25%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Leg. GOP Favorability			
Favorable	36%	32%	41%
Unfavorable	42%	42%	42%
Not sure	22%	26%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?			
Governor Perdue	40%	43%	38%
Legislative Republicans	41%	35%	46%
Not sure	19%	22%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should GA Vote Separately on Unemployment Benefits?			
Should have an up-or-down vote	55%	52%	59%
Should not	20%	18%	23%
Not sure	25%	31%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ending 1c Sales Tax Increase or Minimizing Edu. Cuts More Important?			
Ending the temporary one cent sales tax increase is more important	32%	29%	35%
Minimizing cuts to education spending is	55%	54%	55%
Not sure	13%	17%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Support/Oppose Reducing Length of Early Voting			
Support	35%	33%	37%
Oppose	44%	41%	48%
Not sure	21%	27%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democratic	45%	79%	6%	33%
Republican	43%	12%	87%	37%
Undecided	12%	9%	6%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Leg. Dem Favorability				
Favorable	37%	62%	6%	30%
Unfavorable	42%	16%	77%	42%
Not sure	21%	22%	16%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Leg. GOP Favorability				
Favorable	36%	15%	67%	31%
Unfavorable	42%	62%	16%	42%
Not sure	22%	23%	17%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?				
Governor Perdue	40%	65%	10%	36%
Legislative Republicans	41%	14%	76%	39%
Not sure	19%	20%	14%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Should GA Vote Separately on Unemployment Benefits?				
Should have an up-or-down vote	55%	56%	54%	53%
Should not	20%	17%	22%	23%
Not sure	25%	26%	24%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
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Ending the temporary one cent sales tax increase is more important	32%	30%	37%	26%
Minimizing cuts to education spending is	55%	57%	49%	60%
Not sure	13%	13%	14%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Support/Oppose Reducing Length of Early Voting				
Support	35%	29%	45%	28%
Oppose	44%	49%	37%	46%
Not sure	21%	22%	18%	25%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democratic	45%	33%	84%	54%
Republican	43%	54%	12%	24%
Undecided	12%	13%	4%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Leg. Dem Favorability				
Favorable	37%	26%	70%	46%
Unfavorable	42%	52%	16%	25%
Not sure	21%	22%	14%	29%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Leg. GOP Favorability				
Favorable	36%	44%	12%	34%
Unfavorable	42%	33%	70%	52%
Not sure	22%	23%	18%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?				
Governor Perdue	40%	32%	65%	48%
Legislative Republicans	41%	49%	16%	28%
Not sure	19%	19%	19%	25%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Should GA Vote Separately on Unemployment Benefits?				
Should have an up-or-down vote	55%	53%	58%	61%
Should not	20%	21%	19%	12%
Not sure	25%	26%	23%	27%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
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Ending the temporary one cent sales tax increase is more important	32%	31%	37%	20%
Minimizing cuts to education spending is	55%	54%	54%	70%
Not sure	13%	15%	9%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Support/Oppose Reducing Length of Early Voting				
Support	35%	36%	31%	33%
Oppose	44%	42%	52%	47%
Not sure	21%	23%	17%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Leg. Ballot					
Democratic	45%	56%	48%	47%	32%
Republican	43%	36%	38%	43%	55%
Undecided	12%	8%	14%	10%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Leg. Dem Favorability					
Favorable	37%	50%	36%	40%	24%
Unfavorable	42%	36%	41%	40%	54%
Not sure	21%	14%	23%	20%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Leg. GOP Favorability					
Favorable	36%	40%	32%	34%	46%
Unfavorable	42%	42%	46%	45%	30%
Not sure	22%	18%	22%	21%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?					
Governor Perdue	40%	44%	40%	43%	34%
Legislative Republicans	41%	34%	39%	39%	50%
Not sure	19%	22%	21%	18%	16%





Crosstabs

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Should have an up-or-down vote	55%	56%	57%	54%	53%
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Not sure	25%	24%	24%	26%	25%

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Not sure	13%	12%	12%	12%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Support/Oppose Reducing Length of Early Voting					
Support	35%	46%	33%	29%	41%
Oppose	44%	36%	45%	49%	38%
Not sure	21%	18%	22%	22%	21%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Generic Leg. Ballot							
Democratic	45%	58%	36%	47%	39%	39%	53%
Republican	43%	34%	46%	45%	50%	51%	35%
Undecided	12%	8%	18%	7%	11%	10%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Leg. Dem Favorability							
Favorable	37%	55%	28%	37%	31%	29%	44%
Unfavorable	42%	29%	50%	40%	46%	48%	39%
Not sure	21%	16%	22%	23%	24%	24%	17%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Leg. GOP Favorability							
Favorable	36%	31%	40%	42%	33%	42%	31%
Unfavorable	42%	45%	37%	39%	42%	34%	52%
Not sure	22%	24%	23%	19%	25%	24%	18%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?							
Governor Perdue	40%	46%	36%	36%	40%	34%	49%
Legislative Republicans	41%	33%	46%	45%	37%	50%	33%
Not sure	19%	21%	18%	18%	22%	16%	19%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Should GA Vote Separately on Unemployment Benefits?							
Should have an up-or-down vote	55%	48%	60%	54%	53%	55%	55%
Should not	20%	24%	23%	18%	19%	18%	18%
Not sure	25%	28%	17%	29%	28%	27%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
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Not sure	13%	17%	10%	15%	17%	16%	11%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Support/Oppose Reducing Length of Early Voting							
Support	35%	41%	35%	39%	29%	31%	33%
Oppose	44%	41%	45%	42%	43%	40%	50%
Not sure	21%	18%	20%	19%	28%	29%	17%

