



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 20, 2007**

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## **Coach Smith popular, but not enough to overtake Dole**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Public Policy Polling’s latest survey of likely North Carolina voters finds that former UNC basketball coach and Democrat Dean Smith would present a formidable challenge to Senator Elizabeth Dole. If a Senate election were held today between them voters would choose Dole over Smith 41% to 35%. Dean Smith fares better than any other Democrat we have tested other than Governor Mike Easley.

In a more likely scenario, PPP tested State Representative Grier Martin against Elizabeth Dole in two different fashions. First was a question with no description other than their elective office. Dole beat Martin, 45% to 30%. Later in the survey the respondents were given an extensive biography of Rep. Martin. After the description Martin topped Dole 47% to 40%.

“We wanted an exercise to show how an informed vote question can influence the results,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “It also shows the incredible potential of a Grier Martin candidacy.”

Also according to the survey, 45% of voters approve of the job Dole is doing as Senator, while 40% disapprove.

A majority, 58%, of North Carolina voters disapprove of the way President Bush is handling the War in Iraq, while only 38% approve. Forty-nine percent say that Congress should set a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq, whereas 41% say Congress should follow the President and stay in Iraq until the job is finished.

PPP surveyed 662 likely general election voters on September 18. The survey has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.75\%$ . Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com). Results include crosstabs breaking down the results by gender, party affiliation, race, age and region. For more discussion of the poll visit the Public Policy Polling blog at <http://publicpolicypolling.blogspot.com>.

If you have questions about this release or would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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## NC Survey Results

- Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling his job as President? If you approve, press 1 on your keypad now. If you disapprove, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.  
*Approve* .....40% *Not sure* ..... 6%  
*Disapprove*.....54%
- Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Senator Elizabeth Dole is handling her job as Senator? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.  
*Approve* .....45% *Not sure* .....15%  
*Disapprove*.....40%
- Q3** In 2008 Elizabeth Dole will be running for a second term as U.S. Senator. No Democrat has announced they will run against her. If State Representative Grier Martin were to challenge her, who would you vote for? If you would vote for Elizabeth Dole, press 1. If for Grier Martin, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.  
*Dole* .....45% *Undecided*.....25%  
*Martin*.....30%
- Q4** What if former North Carolina Basketball Coach Dean Smith challenged Senator Elizabeth Dole, who would you vote for? If you would vote for Elizabeth Dole, press 1. If for Dean Smith, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.  
*Dole* .....41% *Undecided*.....24%  
*Smith*.....35%
- Q5** When it comes to the situation in Iraq, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling the war? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.  
*Approve*..... 38% *Not sure* ..... 5%  
*Disapprove*..... 58%
- Q6** Should Congress set a timetable for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq within the next year, or should Congress follow the President and keep troops in Iraq until the job is finished. If Congress should set a timetable for withdrawal, press 1. If they should follow the President and stay in Iraq, press 2. If you don't know, press 3.  
*Set a timetable* ..... 49% *Don't know* ..... 10%  
*Follow the President*..... 41%
- Q7** Now I'm going to read you some information about Grier Martin, a possible Democratic candidate for U.S. Senator. Grier Martin is a two-term state legislator who lives in Raleigh with his wife and daughter. He is a lawyer, Sunday School teacher, and serves in the U.S. Army Reserves. After the terrorist attacks of September 11th, Martin volunteered for active duty and served in Afghanistan. In the state house, Martin has worked to make government more ethical by co-sponsoring lobbying reform legislation. Based on what you just heard for whom would you vote for US Senate, the Republican Elizabeth Dole, or the Democrat, Grier Martin? If for Elizabeth Dole, press 1. If for Grier Martin, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.  
*Dole*..... 40% *Not sure* ..... 13%  
*Martin*..... 47%
- Q8** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.  
*Women* .....53% *Men*.....47%
- Q9** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.  
*Democrat*.....44% *Other*.....17%  
*Republican*.....39%
- Q10** If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If Hispanic, press 3. If other, press  
*White* .....79% *Other*..... 4%  
*Black*.....17%





**Q11** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

18-29.....	8%	46-65.....	45%
30-45.....	21%	Older Than 65.....	26%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>President Bush's Approval</b>			
Approve	41%	36%	46%
Disapprove	54%	57%	50%
Not sure	6%	8%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Elizabeth Dole job approval</b>			
Approve	45%	43%	47%
Disapprove	39%	40%	39%
Not sure	15%	17%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Dole v Martin</b>			
Dole	45%	41%	50%
Martin	30%	27%	33%
Undecided	25%	32%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Dole v Smith</b>			
Dole	41%	37%	45%
Smith	35%	32%	38%
Undecided	24%	31%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Approve of Bush on Iraq</b>			
Approve	38%	35%	42%
Disapprove	57%	58%	56%
Not sure	5%	7%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Timetable for withdrawal</b>			
Set a timetable	50%	54%	44%
Follow the President	41%	36%	47%
Don't know	9%	10%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Dole v. Martin with description</b>			
Dole	40%	36%	45%
Martin	47%	47%	48%
Not sure	13%	17%	7%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>President Bush's Approval</b>				
Approve	40%	15%	73%	33%
Disapprove	54%	81%	22%	59%
Not sure	6%	4%	6%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Elizabeth Dole job approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	45%	24%	68%	47%
<b>Disapprove</b>	40%	56%	20%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	20%	13%	10%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Dole v Martin</b>				
<b>Dole</b>	45%	22%	74%	40%
<b>Martin</b>	30%	46%	12%	26%
<b>Undecided</b>	25%	32%	14%	34%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Dole v Smith</b>				
<b>Dole</b>	41%	21%	67%	34%
<b>Smith</b>	35%	49%	19%	34%
<b>Undecided</b>	24%	30%	14%	32%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Approve of Bush on Iraq</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	38%	12%	70%	30%
<b>Disapprove</b>	58%	85%	24%	63%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	3%	6%	7%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Timetable for withdrawal</b>				
<b>Set a timetable</b>	49%	70%	24%	54%
<b>Follow the President</b>	41%	19%	70%	31%
<b>Don't know</b>	10%	11%	6%	15%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Dole v. Martin with description</b>				
<b>Dole</b>	40%	16%	72%	30%
<b>Martin</b>	47%	73%	19%	46%
<b>Not sure</b>	13%	12%	9%	24%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>President Bush's Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	40%	45%	21%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	54%	49%	75%	53%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	6%	4%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Elizabeth Dole job approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	45%	48%	33%	40%
<b>Disapprove</b>	40%	39%	43%	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	14%	24%	13%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Dole v Martin</b>				
Dole	45%	50%	25%	37%
Martin	30%	28%	37%	27%
Undecided	25%	22%	38%	37%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Dole v Smith</b>				
Dole	41%	46%	21%	37%
Smith	35%	33%	46%	23%
Undecided	24%	21%	33%	40%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Approve of Bush on Iraq</b>				
Approve	38%	42%	19%	30%
Disapprove	58%	53%	79%	67%
Not sure	5%	5%	2%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Timetable for withdrawal</b>				
Set a timetable	49%	48%	58%	40%
Follow the President	41%	44%	29%	37%
Don't know	10%	8%	13%	23%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Dole v. Martin with description</b>				
Dole	40%	44%	21%	37%
Martin	47%	43%	67%	47%
Not sure	13%	13%	12%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>President Bush's Approval</b>					
Approve	40%	36%	45%	39%	40%
Disapprove	54%	58%	51%	57%	50%
Not sure	6%	6%	4%	3%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Elizabeth Dole job approval</b>					
Approve	45%	46%	49%	43%	45%
Disapprove	40%	32%	37%	43%	40%
Not sure	15%	23%	14%	14%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Dole v Martin</b>					
Dole	45%	35%	50%	45%	45%
Martin	30%	23%	24%	32%	31%
Undecided	25%	42%	26%	23%	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Dole v Smith</b>					
<b>Dole</b>	41%	30%	48%	39%	42%
<b>Smith</b>	35%	36%	30%	37%	34%
<b>Undecided</b>	24%	34%	22%	24%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Approve of Bush on Iraq</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	38%	31%	42%	37%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	58%	64%	55%	60%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	5%	3%	3%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Timetable for withdrawal</b>					
<b>Set a timetable</b>	49%	63%	43%	52%	45%
<b>Follow the President</b>	41%	31%	50%	39%	41%
<b>Don't know</b>	10%	6%	7%	9%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Dole v. Martin with description</b>					
<b>Dole</b>	40%	31%	44%	38%	42%
<b>Martin</b>	47%	47%	42%	50%	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	13%	22%	13%	12%	11%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>President Bush's Approval</b>							
<b>Approve</b>	40%	52%	42%	42%	39%	37%	33%
<b>Disapprove</b>	54%	44%	49%	51%	57%	58%	65%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	4%	9%	7%	4%	5%	2%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Elizabeth Dole job approval</b>							
<b>Approve</b>	45%	54%	45%	46%	45%	42%	40%
<b>Disapprove</b>	40%	33%	37%	42%	40%	37%	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	13%	18%	12%	15%	21%	13%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Dole v Martin</b>							
<b>Dole</b>	45%	53%	46%	44%	46%	45%	41%
<b>Martin</b>	30%	28%	26%	27%	37%	28%	32%
<b>Undecided</b>	25%	19%	28%	29%	17%	27%	27%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Dole v Smith</b>							
<b>Dole</b>	41%	51%	39%	38%	42%	38%	42%
<b>Smith</b>	35%	31%	34%	33%	38%	36%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	24%	18%	27%	29%	20%	26%	21%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Approve of Bush on Iraq</b>							
<b>Approve</b>	<b>38%</b>	48%	40%	38%	35%	37%	32%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>58%</b>	48%	55%	55%	62%	58%	65%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>5%</b>	4%	5%	7%	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Timetable for withdrawal</b>							
<b>Set a timetable</b>	<b>49%</b>	48%	45%	49%	56%	45%	54%
<b>Follow the President</b>	<b>41%</b>	48%	44%	39%	38%	44%	36%
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>10%</b>	4%	11%	12%	6%	12%	10%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Dole v. Martin with description</b>							
<b>Dole</b>	<b>40%</b>	49%	43%	38%	37%	34%	41%
<b>Martin</b>	<b>47%</b>	36%	41%	49%	56%	49%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>13%</b>	15%	16%	14%	7%	16%	9%

