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## **North Carolinians dislike Edwards but not sold on charges**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – At one time, John Edwards was the least popular person on which PPP had ever polled. That was in January 2010, when 15% of North Carolinians had a favorable impression of him, and 72% an unfavorable one. In the wake of Edwards' indictment on campaign finance charges, that has fallen to a 9-81 margin. Rod Blagojevich polled at 83% unfavorability in Illinois last year, in the midst of his own legal troubles. But it is safe to say Edwards is still among the least liked public figures in America right now, perhaps more than ever before.

Despite their distaste for him, however, North Carolinians are not entirely convinced the charges against him are true. 52% do believe him to be guilty, and only 16% innocent, but 32% are not sure, and that 52% is a steep drop from the 81% who do not like him as a person. Respondents were not told the nature of the charges, so much of guilty sentiment could be related to his marital infidelity and other personal matters.

By almost a 2:1 margin, the state's voters are against the Paul Ryan Medicare proposal. Without Ryan's name or party mentioned, 47% of voters are opposed to seniors receiving a voucher for private insurance, with only 24% in support. At 17-61, Democrats are starkly against the plan, as are independents (22-40), but even Republicans fall only 35-33 in support. Seniors are the most opposed, with only 18% supporting and 56% opposing the Ryan plan. But the youngest voters, those who would be affected by the plan in 25 years or so, are also very much against it, 24-52.

North Carolinians are not evidently worried, however, about the prospect of a U.S. default on its debt and the ensuing economic calamity. Only 31% support raising the debt ceiling, while 49% oppose it. Democrats support raising it by only a 46-31 margin, while independents mirror the overall results, and Republicans, who have been clamoring against raising it, side 11-72 in opposition to raising the ceiling.

PPP surveyed 563 North Carolina voters from June 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.1%. 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** A proposal has been made which would change Medicare into a program which would provide seniors with vouchers that pay a fixed amount of the cost of private insurance. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

*Support* ..... 24%  
*Oppose* ..... 47%  
*Not sure* ..... 28%

**Q2** In the current debate over raising the debt ceiling, proponents of raising the ceiling argue that not raising the ceiling could lead to default on government debt and cause economic disruption while opponents argue that raising the ceiling could result in a greater accumulation of debt. Do you support or oppose raising the debt ceiling?

*Support* ..... 31%  
*Oppose* ..... 49%  
*Not sure* ..... 20%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Edwards?

*Favorable* ..... 9%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 81%  
*Not sure* ..... 10%

**Q4** Do you think John Edwards is guilty or innocent of the crimes he was charged with last week?

*Guilty* ..... 52%  
*Innocent* ..... 16%  
*Not sure* ..... 32%

**Q5** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

*Very liberal* ..... 9%  
*Somewhat liberal* ..... 17%  
*Moderate* ..... 31%  
*Somewhat conservative* ..... 27%  
*Very conservative* ..... 17%

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

*Woman* ..... 54%  
*Man* ..... 46%

**Q7** 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* ..... 47%  
*Republican* ..... 36%  
*Independent/Other* ..... 16%

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

*White* ..... 71%  
*African-American* ..... 23%  
*Other* ..... 6%

**Q9** 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* ..... 10%  
*30 to 45* ..... 28%  
*46 to 65* ..... 42%  
*Older than 65* ..... 20%



**Q10**

252.....	11%
336.....	19%
704.....	19%
828.....	16%
910.....	16%
919.....	19%



**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Support/Oppose Medicare Voucher Proposal</b>						
<b>Support</b>	24%	23%	11%	20%	31%	37%
<b>Oppose</b>	47%	65%	72%	53%	35%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	28%	12%	17%	28%	34%	39%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Support/Oppose Raising Debt Ceiling</b>						
<b>Support</b>	31%	56%	53%	39%	16%	6%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	34%	27%	35%	64%	80%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	11%	20%	25%	20%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Edwards Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	9%	16%	19%	11%	3%	1%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	81%	72%	72%	72%	91%	95%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	11%	9%	17%	6%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Edwards Guilty or Innocent?</b>						
<b>Guilty</b>	52%	52%	35%	40%	63%	74%
<b>Innocent</b>	16%	25%	25%	15%	13%	8%
<b>Not sure</b>	32%	23%	40%	45%	24%	18%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Support/Oppose Medicare Voucher Proposal</b>			
<b>Support</b>	24%	22%	27%
<b>Oppose</b>	47%	45%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	28%	33%	22%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Support/Oppose Raising Debt Ceiling</b>			
<b>Support</b>	31%	25%	38%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	49%	49%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	26%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Edwards Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	9%	7%	11%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	81%	79%	83%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	14%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Edwards Guilty or Innocent?</b>			
<b>Guilty</b>	52%	53%	50%
<b>Innocent</b>	16%	11%	21%
<b>Not sure</b>	32%	36%	28%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Support/Oppose Medicare Voucher Proposal</b>				
<b>Support</b>	24%	17%	35%	22%
<b>Oppose</b>	47%	61%	33%	40%
<b>Not sure</b>	28%	22%	32%	38%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Support/Oppose Raising Debt Ceiling</b>				
<b>Support</b>	31%	46%	11%	32%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	31%	72%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	22%	17%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Edwards Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	9%	13%	5%	7%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	81%	73%	90%	85%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	14%	6%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Edwards Guilty or Innocent?</b>				
<b>Guilty</b>	52%	47%	63%	44%
<b>Innocent</b>	16%	20%	12%	12%
<b>Not sure</b>	32%	34%	26%	44%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Support/Oppose Medicare Voucher Proposal</b>				
<b>Support</b>	<b>24%</b>	25%	23%	29%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>47%</b>	47%	51%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>28%</b>	29%	27%	26%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Support/Oppose Raising Debt Ceiling</b>				
<b>Support</b>	<b>31%</b>	27%	41%	41%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>49%</b>	56%	35%	28%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>20%</b>	17%	25%	31%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Edwards Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>9%</b>	8%	13%	4%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>81%</b>	85%	66%	87%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	6%	21%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Edwards Guilty or Innocent?</b>				
<b>Guilty</b>	<b>52%</b>	54%	46%	58%
<b>Innocent</b>	<b>16%</b>	16%	16%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>32%</b>	31%	38%	29%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Support/Oppose Medicare Voucher Proposal</b>					
<b>Support</b>	<b>24%</b>	24%	29%	25%	18%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>47%</b>	52%	42%	46%	56%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>28%</b>	24%	30%	29%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Support/Oppose Raising Debt Ceiling</b>					
<b>Support</b>	<b>31%</b>	29%	32%	31%	31%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>49%</b>	38%	45%	53%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>20%</b>	33%	22%	16%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Edwards Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>9%</b>	14%	9%	8%	9%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>81%</b>	62%	84%	83%	81%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	24%	6%	9%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Edwards Guilty or Innocent?</b>					
<b>Guilty</b>	<b>52%</b>	48%	43%	57%	57%
<b>Innocent</b>	<b>16%</b>	10%	21%	13%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>32%</b>	43%	36%	30%	26%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Support/Oppose Medicare Voucher Proposal</b>							
<b>Support</b>	24%	25%	27%	24%	13%	24%	31%
<b>Oppose</b>	47%	49%	40%	49%	58%	46%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	28%	26%	33%	26%	29%	30%	24%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Support/Oppose Raising Debt Ceiling</b>							
<b>Support</b>	31%	24%	27%	31%	41%	32%	31%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	41%	49%	49%	48%	46%	57%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	34%	24%	20%	11%	22%	12%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Edwards Favorability</b>							
<b>Favorable</b>	9%	4%	12%	7%	8%	11%	11%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	81%	77%	76%	83%	88%	76%	84%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	18%	12%	10%	5%	13%	5%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Edwards Guilty or Innocent?</b>							
<b>Guilty</b>	52%	50%	66%	44%	49%	48%	53%
<b>Innocent</b>	16%	10%	8%	20%	18%	14%	21%
<b>Not sure</b>	32%	41%	26%	36%	34%	37%	26%

