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Perdue popularity vaults upward post-Irene

Raleigh, N.C. – North Carolinians give Gov. Bev Perdue extraordinary marks for her handling of Hurricane Irene, which recently hit the state. 64% approve, including a 43% plurality of Republicans, and only 20% disapprove. As a consequence, her overall job performance numbers have jumped seven points on the margin from last month, which was already one of the best months of her term. 40% approve and 44% disapprove, her best net margin since April 2009, three months into her governorship. That was the last time she was in positive territory as well. Perdue is still low with her own party, at 57-26. All of the improvement has come with Republicans (from 7-77 last month to 16-67 now) and independents (38-51 to 42-44).

Perdue is also now closer to her likely 2012 rival Pat McCrory than she has ever been, trailing him only 45-41, half her deficit from last month (47-39) and a huge improvement from a low of 50-36 in March. While Democrats remain stubborn on their assessment of Perdue's job performance, they are starting to flock toward her re-election bid, a sign she is addressing her main weakness. Her partymates, who make up 44% of the electorate, now give her 70% of their vote and McCrory only 14%, versus 66-21 last month. That is still down from the 88-9 reported by 2008 exit polls, when she slipped past McCrory by just over three points. Republicans side 82-8 and independents 56-31 for McCrory, both similar to 2008.

We also tested Perdue against a pair of other potential opponents in the instance that McCrory was somehow denied the nomination.. She would top state Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, 42-37, and freshman Rep. Renee Ellmers, 45-35.

“Hurricane Irene was a big test for Bev Perdue and she passed it with flying colors,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “These are by far the best poll numbers we’ve seen for her in more than two years. Now she just has to find a way to keep that momentum going.”

PPP surveyed 520 North Carolina voters from September 1st to 4th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.3%. 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 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Bev Perdue's job performance?

Approve..... 40% Not sure 16%
Disapprove..... 44%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of how Governor Perdue handled Hurricane Irene?

Approve..... 64% Not sure 16%
Disapprove..... 20%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Renee Ellmers?

Favorable..... 11%
Unfavorable 21%
Not sure 68%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Pat McCrory?

Favorable..... 32%
Unfavorable 25%
Not sure 43%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Steve Troxler?

Favorable..... 15%
Unfavorable 17%
Not sure 68%

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

Bev Perdue..... 45%
Renee Ellmers 35%
Undecided..... 20%

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

Bev Perdue..... 41%
Pat McCrory..... 45%
Undecided..... 14%

Q8 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Bev Perdue and Republican Steve Troxler, who would you vote for?

Bev Perdue..... 42%
Steve Troxler..... 37%
Undecided..... 22%

Q9 Do you have more faith in Governor Perdue or Legislative Republicans to lead the state?

Governor Perdue 42%
Legislative Republicans 40%
Not sure 18%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 47%
Barack Obama..... 48%
Someone else/Don't remember 5%

Q11 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 11%
Somewhat liberal 16%
Moderate..... 28%
Somewhat conservative..... 22%
Very conservative 22%

Q12 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 54%
Man..... 46%





Q13 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 46%
Republican..... 34%
Independent/Other..... 19%

Q14 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 75%
African-American 21%
Other..... 4%

Q15 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%

Q16

252..... 10%
 336..... 19%
 704..... 19%
 828..... 12%
 910..... 15%
 919..... 23%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Perdue Approval				
Approve	40%	18%	63%	29%
Disapprove	44%	68%	20%	50%
Not sure	16%	14%	18%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Perdue Hurricane Handling				
Approve	64%	49%	82%	37%
Disapprove	20%	28%	12%	29%
Not sure	16%	23%	7%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Elmers Favorability				
Favorable	11%	17%	5%	4%
Unfavorable	21%	12%	29%	31%
Not sure	68%	71%	66%	64%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McCrory Favorability				
Favorable	32%	50%	14%	35%
Unfavorable	25%	9%	41%	23%
Not sure	43%	42%	45%	42%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Troxler Favorability				
Favorable	15%	22%	9%	17%
Unfavorable	17%	8%	26%	13%
Not sure	68%	70%	66%	71%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Perdue/Elmers				
Bev Perdue	45%	13%	78%	37%
Renee Elmers	35%	66%	6%	29%
Undecided	20%	22%	16%	33%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Perdue/McCrory				
Bev Perdue	41%	8%	75%	26%
Pat McCrory	45%	80%	11%	55%
Undecided	14%	12%	14%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Perdue/Troxler				
Bev Perdue	42%	8%	76%	23%
Steve Troxler	37%	69%	6%	27%
Undecided	22%	23%	18%	50%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?				
Governor Perdue	42%	8%	77%	21%
Legislative Republicans	40%	73%	8%	40%
Not sure	18%	18%	16%	39%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perdue Approval						
Approve	40%	59%	64%	56%	22%	11%
Disapprove	44%	23%	22%	28%	56%	78%
Not sure	16%	19%	14%	16%	22%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perdue Hurricane Handling						
Approve	64%	80%	75%	77%	56%	40%
Disapprove	20%	18%	14%	13%	25%	31%
Not sure	16%	3%	11%	10%	19%	30%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Elmers Favorability						
Favorable	11%	7%	3%	11%	14%	16%
Unfavorable	21%	31%	33%	24%	11%	14%
Not sure	68%	62%	64%	65%	75%	71%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCrory Favorability						
Favorable	32%	12%	15%	25%	38%	56%
Unfavorable	25%	35%	45%	30%	15%	9%
Not sure	43%	53%	40%	44%	48%	35%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Troxler Favorability						
Favorable	15%	13%	7%	12%	20%	23%
Unfavorable	17%	24%	25%	19%	10%	10%
Not sure	68%	63%	68%	69%	70%	67%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perdue/Elmers						
Bev Perdue	45%	71%	73%	63%	25%	10%
Renee Elmers	35%	12%	13%	19%	48%	71%
Undecided	20%	17%	15%	18%	27%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perdue/McCrory						
Bev Perdue	41%	76%	71%	55%	18%	7%
Pat McCrory	45%	13%	18%	27%	63%	86%
Undecided	14%	11%	10%	18%	19%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perdue/Troxler						
Bev Perdue	42%	78%	71%	57%	17%	6%
Steve Troxler	37%	13%	14%	17%	54%	74%
Undecided	22%	10%	15%	26%	29%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?						
Governor Perdue	42%	76%	69%	59%	21%	5%
Legislative Republicans	40%	6%	11%	22%	59%	83%
Not sure	18%	18%	20%	19%	20%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perdue Approval			
Approve	40%	42%	38%
Disapprove	44%	37%	51%
Not sure	16%	21%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perdue Hurricane Handling			
Approve	64%	70%	57%
Disapprove	20%	16%	25%
Not sure	16%	14%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Elmers Favorability			
Favorable	11%	10%	12%
Unfavorable	21%	18%	25%
Not sure	68%	73%	63%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCrory Favorability			
Favorable	32%	23%	42%
Unfavorable	25%	25%	25%
Not sure	43%	52%	33%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Troxler Favorability			
Favorable	15%	14%	17%
Unfavorable	17%	13%	22%
Not sure	68%	73%	61%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perdue/Elmers			
Bev Perdue	45%	47%	43%
Renee Elmers	35%	30%	41%
Undecided	20%	22%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perdue/McCrory			
Bev Perdue	41%	47%	35%
Pat McCrory	45%	37%	55%
Undecided	14%	16%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perdue/Troxler			
Bev Perdue	42%	44%	39%
Steve Troxler	37%	31%	44%
Undecided	22%	25%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?			
Governor Perdue	42%	45%	38%
Legislative Republicans	40%	34%	47%
Not sure	18%	21%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perdue Approval				
Approve	40%	57%	16%	42%
Disapprove	44%	26%	67%	44%
Not sure	16%	17%	16%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perdue Hurricane Handling				
Approve	64%	80%	43%	65%
Disapprove	20%	11%	36%	15%
Not sure	16%	9%	21%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Elmers Favorability				
Favorable	11%	6%	17%	11%
Unfavorable	21%	26%	16%	19%
Not sure	68%	69%	67%	70%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCrory Favorability				
Favorable	32%	16%	46%	45%
Unfavorable	25%	35%	17%	15%
Not sure	43%	49%	37%	40%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Troxler Favorability				
Favorable	15%	10%	24%	13%
Unfavorable	17%	22%	15%	8%
Not sure	68%	68%	61%	79%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perdue/Elmers				
Bev Perdue	45%	74%	10%	40%
Renee Elmers	35%	11%	68%	36%
Undecided	20%	16%	22%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perdue/McCrory				
Bev Perdue	41%	70%	8%	31%
Pat McCrory	45%	14%	82%	56%
Undecided	14%	15%	11%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perdue/Troxler				
Bev Perdue	42%	72%	5%	34%
Steve Troxler	37%	10%	72%	37%
Undecided	22%	18%	22%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?				
Governor Perdue	42%	71%	6%	36%
Legislative Republicans	40%	10%	75%	49%
Not sure	18%	19%	18%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perdue Approval				
Approve	40%	37%	57%	20%
Disapprove	44%	47%	27%	68%
Not sure	16%	16%	17%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perdue Hurricane Handling				
Approve	64%	64%	69%	43%
Disapprove	20%	20%	21%	25%
Not sure	16%	16%	10%	32%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Elmers Favorability				
Favorable	11%	11%	8%	23%
Unfavorable	21%	19%	28%	21%
Not sure	68%	70%	63%	57%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McCrory Favorability				
Favorable	32%	36%	12%	50%
Unfavorable	25%	21%	41%	16%
Not sure	43%	43%	48%	34%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Troxler Favorability				
Favorable	15%	17%	10%	21%
Unfavorable	17%	14%	26%	11%
Not sure	68%	69%	64%	68%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perdue/Elmers				
Bev Perdue	45%	36%	81%	32%
Renee Elmers	35%	40%	13%	55%
Undecided	20%	24%	7%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perdue/McCrory				
Bev Perdue	41%	32%	75%	32%
Pat McCrory	45%	54%	13%	55%
Undecided	14%	14%	11%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perdue/Troxler				
Bev Perdue	42%	33%	75%	32%
Steve Troxler	37%	42%	13%	57%
Undecided	22%	25%	12%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?				
Governor Perdue	42%	35%	70%	23%
Legislative Republicans	40%	47%	13%	50%
Not sure	18%	18%	17%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perdue Approval					
Approve	40%	44%	45%	38%	35%
Disapprove	44%	37%	44%	45%	43%
Not sure	16%	19%	11%	17%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perdue Hurricane Handling					
Approve	64%	63%	58%	69%	64%
Disapprove	20%	30%	25%	16%	17%
Not sure	16%	7%	17%	15%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Elmers Favorability					
Favorable	11%	19%	6%	12%	13%
Unfavorable	21%	30%	23%	19%	20%
Not sure	68%	52%	72%	70%	68%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCrorry Favorability					
Favorable	32%	22%	27%	34%	38%
Unfavorable	25%	22%	27%	27%	20%
Not sure	43%	56%	46%	39%	42%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Troxler Favorability					
Favorable	15%	11%	11%	19%	15%
Unfavorable	17%	22%	18%	15%	15%
Not sure	68%	67%	70%	65%	70%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perdue/Elmers					
Bev Perdue	45%	67%	44%	45%	37%
Renee Elmers	35%	15%	35%	37%	41%
Undecided	20%	19%	21%	18%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perdue/McCrorry					
Bev Perdue	41%	56%	39%	43%	33%
Pat McCrorry	45%	26%	45%	46%	54%
Undecided	14%	19%	15%	11%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perdue/Troxler					
Bev Perdue	42%	56%	44%	41%	33%
Steve Troxler	37%	11%	38%	40%	42%
Undecided	22%	33%	18%	19%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?					
Governor Perdue	42%	52%	41%	45%	32%
Legislative Republicans	40%	19%	39%	42%	47%
Not sure	18%	30%	20%	13%	21%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Perdue Approval							
Approve	40%	41%	33%	42%	46%	41%	40%
Disapprove	44%	32%	53%	46%	37%	32%	50%
Not sure	16%	27%	14%	12%	17%	27%	10%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Perdue Hurricane Handling							
Approve	64%	72%	62%	63%	62%	66%	64%
Disapprove	20%	21%	19%	17%	17%	22%	25%
Not sure	16%	7%	20%	20%	21%	13%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Elmers Favorability							
Favorable	11%	13%	6%	2%	2%	11%	25%
Unfavorable	21%	18%	16%	14%	11%	17%	39%
Not sure	68%	69%	77%	83%	87%	72%	36%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
McCroy Favorability							
Favorable	32%	23%	28%	54%	19%	17%	36%
Unfavorable	25%	18%	21%	30%	28%	25%	26%
Not sure	43%	60%	51%	16%	52%	58%	38%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Troxler Favorability							
Favorable	15%	10%	25%	3%	6%	11%	28%
Unfavorable	17%	14%	17%	18%	18%	15%	17%
Not sure	68%	76%	58%	79%	76%	75%	55%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Perdue/Elmers							
Bev Perdue	45%	51%	45%	50%	41%	42%	43%
Renee Elmers	35%	24%	41%	33%	28%	31%	43%
Undecided	20%	25%	14%	17%	32%	27%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Perdue/McCrory							
Bev Perdue	41%	42%	43%	40%	40%	38%	44%
Pat McCrory	45%	34%	47%	57%	36%	41%	47%
Undecided	14%	24%	10%	3%	24%	21%	9%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Perdue/Troxler							
Bev Perdue	42%	48%	37%	49%	39%	35%	43%
Steve Troxler	37%	29%	42%	31%	30%	36%	44%
Undecided	22%	23%	22%	20%	31%	28%	13%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?							
Governor Perdue	42%	48%	43%	42%	42%	32%	45%
Legislative Republicans	40%	28%	45%	41%	36%	44%	41%
Not sure	18%	24%	13%	17%	22%	25%	14%

