

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 13, 2010**

**INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Oil Drilling, Tea Party Not Very Popular in N.C.**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Support for oil drilling off the North Carolina coast among the state’s voters has decreased significantly following the events in the Gulf of Mexico, while President Obama’s approval rating has drawn almost even with his disapproval.

In April, 61% of North Carolinians said they support drilling for oil off the state’s coastline, with 26% opposed. That has taken a sharp dive to 47-38 in one month. The largest drops come with moderates (36-45 now, 58-29 in April), independents (48-41 from 65-23), and Democrats (36-47 from 52-33). Disapproval among liberals went from 46% to 65%.

50% of the state’s voters say the Gulf oil spill makes them less likely to support drilling in NC. Across the ideological and partisan spectrum, more say it makes them less likely to support it than say it makes them more likely; among liberals, moderates, and Democrats, the margin is 3:1 or more, and among independents, 5:2.

Despite a lot of vocal activism and media coverage, few more support the goals of the Tea Party movement than oppose them, 40% to 36%. Naturally, Republicans and conservatives approve, 75-6 and 69-7, respectively. Overall, only 15% say they are members of the movement, to 66% who say no. Even 49% of Republicans and 45% of conservatives do not identify with the movement, to 32% and 31%, respectively, who do.

Obama now sits at 47-48 approval to disapproval after posting a 46-50 in April. On his job performance, independents moved from 33-63 to 45-49.

“It is rare to see such rapid change in public opinion on an issue like offshore drilling,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The recent spill in the Gulf clearly has North Carolinians thinking twice about whether something like that could happen off of our coastline.”

PPP surveyed 631 North Carolina voters from May 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

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



## North Carolina Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Approve* ..... 47%  
*Disapprove*..... 48%  
*Not Sure*..... 5%

**Q2** Do you support or oppose President Obama's health care plan, or do you not have an opinion? If you support it, press 1. If you oppose it, press 2. If you don't have an opinion, press 3.

*Support* ..... 43%  
*Oppose* ..... 49%  
*No Opinion*..... 8%

**Q3** Do you support or oppose drilling for oil off the coast of North Carolina?

*Support* ..... 47% *Not Sure*..... 15%  
*Oppose* ..... 38%

**Q4** Does the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico make you more or less likely to support further oil drilling off the North Carolina coast, or does it not make a difference to you?

*More likely*..... 22%  
*Less likely* ..... 50%  
*Makes no difference* ..... 28%

**Q5** If there was an election for Congress today, would you vote Democratic or Republican?

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

**Q6** How excited are you about casting your vote in the general election this fall?

*Very excited*..... 52%  
*Somewhat excited* ..... 27%  
*Not very excited*..... 16%  
*Not sure*..... 4%

**Q7** Generally speaking do you prefer to vote for female candidates or male candidates, or does it not make any difference to you?

*Female candidates*..... 4%  
*Male candidates*..... 9%  
*Makes no difference* ..... 86%

**Q8** Do you support or oppose the goals of the 'Tea Party' movement?

*Support* ..... 40%  
*Oppose* ..... 36%  
*Not Sure*..... 24%

**Q9** Do you personally identify as a member of the 'Tea Party' movement?

*Yes* ..... 15%  
*No*..... 66%  
*Not Sure*..... 19%

**Q10** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 16%  
*Moderate*..... 41%  
*Conservative*..... 43%





**Q11** Would you describe the community you live in as urban, suburban, rural, or a small town? If urban, press 1. If suburban, press 2. If rural, press 3. If a small town, press 4.

*Urban*..... 14%  
*Suburban*..... 30%  
*Rural*..... 27%  
*Small Town*..... 29%

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

*Democrat* ..... 48%  
*Republican*..... 35%  
*Independent/Other*..... 16%

**Q14** If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 74%  
*African-American* ..... 22%  
*Other*..... 4%

**Q15** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 10%  
*30 to 45*..... 22%  
*46 to 65*..... 44%  
*Older than 65*..... 24%

**Q16**

252..... 12%  
336..... 18%  
704..... 21%  
828..... 14%  
910..... 13%  
919..... 22%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>47%</b>	85%	67%	14%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>48%</b>	13%	27%	80%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>5%</b>	2%	6%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	<b>43%</b>	82%	61%	10%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>49%</b>	11%	30%	83%
<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>8%</b>	7%	10%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Oil Drilling</b>				
<b>Support</b>	<b>47%</b>	31%	36%	64%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>38%</b>	65%	45%	21%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>15%</b>	4%	18%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion</b>				
<b>More likely</b>	<b>22%</b>	20%	18%	26%
<b>Less likely</b>	<b>50%</b>	62%	63%	33%
<b>Makes no difference</b>	<b>28%</b>	17%	19%	41%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Generic Congressional Ballot</b>				
<b>Democratic</b>	43%	84%	60%	13%
<b>Republican</b>	45%	10%	24%	78%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	7%	16%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>				
<b>Very excited</b>	52%	49%	45%	60%
<b>Somewhat excited</b>	27%	29%	33%	21%
<b>Not very excited</b>	16%	18%	18%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	3%	4%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Female or Male Candidates</b>				
<b>Female candidates</b>	4%	14%	4%	1%
<b>Male candidates</b>	9%	6%	7%	12%
<b>Makes no difference</b>	86%	80%	89%	87%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Tea Party Support</b>				
<b>Support</b>	40%	10%	20%	69%
<b>Oppose</b>	36%	71%	53%	7%
<b>Not Sure</b>	24%	19%	26%	25%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Tea Party ID</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	15%	5%	3%	31%
<b>No</b>	66%	82%	82%	45%
<b>Not Sure</b>	19%	13%	15%	24%

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	47%	64%	49%	40%	44%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	33%	46%	55%	50%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	3%	4%	5%	6%

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Health Care</b>					
<b>Support</b>	43%	60%	45%	35%	39%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	34%	48%	56%	52%
<b>No Opinion</b>	8%	6%	6%	9%	10%

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Oil Drilling</b>					
<b>Support</b>	47%	40%	45%	57%	45%
<b>Oppose</b>	38%	51%	40%	30%	37%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	9%	15%	14%	18%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion</b>					
<b>More likely</b>	22%	26%	17%	26%	21%
<b>Less likely</b>	50%	51%	53%	44%	52%
<b>Makes no difference</b>	28%	23%	30%	30%	27%

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Generic Congressional Ballot</b>					
<b>Democratic</b>	43%	61%	40%	39%	44%
<b>Republican</b>	45%	32%	43%	51%	48%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	7%	17%	11%	9%

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>					
<b>Very excited</b>	52%	57%	52%	50%	52%
<b>Somewhat excited</b>	27%	25%	30%	28%	26%
<b>Not very excited</b>	16%	16%	15%	18%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	2%	4%	5%	5%

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Female or Male Candidates</b>					
<b>Female candidates</b>	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%
<b>Male candidates</b>	9%	9%	6%	14%	8%
<b>Makes no difference</b>	86%	86%	90%	81%	88%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Tea Party Support</b>					
<b>Support</b>	40%	31%	39%	45%	39%
<b>Oppose</b>	36%	50%	41%	25%	35%
<b>Not Sure</b>	24%	19%	20%	30%	26%

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Tea Party ID</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	15%	10%	15%	15%	18%
<b>No</b>	66%	74%	73%	61%	60%
<b>Not Sure</b>	19%	15%	12%	24%	22%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	47%	48%	46%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	45%	51%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	7%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Health Care</b>			
<b>Support</b>	43%	42%	43%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	48%	51%
<b>No Opinion</b>	8%	10%	5%







**Crosstabs**

		Gender		
		Base	Woman	Man
<b>Oil Drilling</b>				
	<b>Support</b>	47%	42%	54%
	<b>Oppose</b>	38%	38%	38%
	<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	20%	8%

		Gender		
		Base	Woman	Man
<b>Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion</b>				
	<b>More likely</b>	22%	22%	22%
	<b>Less likely</b>	50%	52%	47%
	<b>Makes no difference</b>	28%	26%	31%

		Gender		
		Base	Woman	Man
<b>Generic Congressional Ballot</b>				
	<b>Democratic</b>	43%	47%	39%
	<b>Republican</b>	45%	42%	48%
	<b>Undecided</b>	12%	11%	13%

		Gender		
		Base	Woman	Man
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>				
	<b>Very excited</b>	52%	49%	56%
	<b>Somewhat excited</b>	27%	31%	23%
	<b>Not very excited</b>	16%	16%	16%
	<b>Not sure</b>	4%	5%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Female or Male Candidates</b>			
Female candidates	4%	6%	2%
Male candidates	9%	8%	10%
Makes no difference	86%	86%	87%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Tea Party Support</b>			
Support	40%	34%	47%
Oppose	36%	36%	36%
Not Sure	24%	30%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Tea Party ID</b>			
Yes	15%	14%	17%
No	66%	65%	67%
Not Sure	19%	21%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
Approve	47%	78%	6%	45%
Disapprove	48%	17%	90%	49%
Not Sure	5%	5%	4%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	43%	72%	4%	39%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	19%	90%	50%
<b>No Opinion</b>	8%	9%	5%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Oil Drilling</b>				
<b>Support</b>	47%	36%	62%	48%
<b>Oppose</b>	38%	47%	25%	41%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	17%	13%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion</b>				
<b>More likely</b>	22%	20%	26%	19%
<b>Less likely</b>	50%	59%	39%	48%
<b>Makes no difference</b>	28%	21%	36%	33%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Generic Congressional Ballot</b>				
<b>Democratic</b>	43%	78%	2%	28%
<b>Republican</b>	45%	13%	92%	38%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	8%	6%	34%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>				
<b>Very excited</b>	52%	48%	61%	46%
<b>Somewhat excited</b>	28%	32%	23%	24%
<b>Not very excited</b>	16%	16%	13%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	4%	3%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Female or Male Candidates</b>				
<b>Female candidates</b>	4%	6%	2%	3%
<b>Male candidates</b>	9%	6%	16%	4%
<b>Makes no difference</b>	86%	87%	82%	93%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Tea Party Support</b>				
<b>Support</b>	40%	13%	75%	43%
<b>Oppose</b>	36%	58%	6%	37%
<b>Not Sure</b>	24%	29%	20%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Tea Party ID</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	15%	3%	32%	17%
<b>No</b>	66%	77%	49%	69%
<b>Not Sure</b>	19%	20%	19%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	47%	33%	93%	63%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	62%	3%	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	5%	4%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	43%	30%	82%	68%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	63%	6%	26%
<b>No Opinion</b>	8%	7%	12%	6%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Oil Drilling</b>				
<b>Support</b>	47%	51%	37%	36%
<b>Oppose</b>	38%	38%	36%	54%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	11%	28%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion</b>				
<b>More likely</b>	22%	21%	24%	25%
<b>Less likely</b>	50%	49%	51%	59%
<b>Makes no difference</b>	28%	30%	25%	16%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Generic Congressional Ballot</b>				
<b>Democratic</b>	43%	31%	82%	65%
<b>Republican</b>	45%	58%	7%	17%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	11%	12%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>				
<b>Very excited</b>	52%	52%	50%	64%
<b>Somewhat excited</b>	27%	25%	35%	23%
<b>Not very excited</b>	16%	18%	12%	-
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	4%	3%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Female or Male Candidates</b>				
<b>Female candidates</b>	4%	4%	4%	3%
<b>Male candidates</b>	9%	10%	7%	8%
<b>Makes no difference</b>	86%	85%	89%	89%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Tea Party Support</b>				
<b>Support</b>	40%	50%	7%	28%
<b>Oppose</b>	36%	29%	57%	58%
<b>Not Sure</b>	24%	21%	36%	15%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Tea Party ID</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	15%	19%	4%	9%
<b>No</b>	66%	63%	75%	68%
<b>Not Sure</b>	19%	18%	21%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	47%	50%	57%	45%	42%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	38%	40%	52%	52%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	12%	3%	4%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Health Care</b>					
<b>Support</b>	43%	44%	52%	41%	36%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	41%	44%	52%	53%
<b>No Opinion</b>	8%	15%	4%	7%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Oil Drilling</b>					
<b>Support</b>	47%	29%	48%	50%	50%
<b>Oppose</b>	38%	53%	38%	37%	34%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	18%	14%	13%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion</b>					
<b>More likely</b>	22%	12%	17%	22%	31%
<b>Less likely</b>	50%	59%	49%	52%	43%
<b>Makes no difference</b>	28%	29%	35%	26%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Generic Congressional Ballot</b>					
<b>Democratic</b>	43%	50%	45%	43%	41%
<b>Republican</b>	45%	32%	40%	48%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	18%	15%	9%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>					
<b>Very excited</b>	52%	47%	49%	55%	51%
<b>Somewhat excited</b>	27%	21%	29%	25%	33%
<b>Not very excited</b>	16%	24%	17%	16%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	9%	5%	4%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Female or Male Candidates</b>					
<b>Female candidates</b>	4%	9%	5%	4%	2%
<b>Male candidates</b>	9%	12%	8%	7%	13%
<b>Makes no difference</b>	86%	79%	87%	89%	84%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Tea Party Support</b>					
<b>Support</b>	40%	38%	31%	42%	43%
<b>Oppose</b>	36%	26%	44%	36%	33%
<b>Not Sure</b>	24%	35%	25%	22%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Tea Party ID</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	15%	15%	4%	20%	17%
<b>No</b>	66%	56%	80%	65%	60%
<b>Not Sure</b>	19%	29%	16%	15%	23%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Obama Approval</b>							
<b>Approve</b>	47%	48%	40%	47%	42%	50%	54%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	43%	54%	49%	54%	47%	41%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	9%	6%	4%	4%	3%	4%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Health Care</b>							
<b>Support</b>	43%	45%	39%	43%	37%	39%	49%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	46%	57%	50%	54%	45%	45%
<b>No Opinion</b>	8%	9%	4%	7%	9%	16%	6%





**Crosstabs**

		Area Code						
		Base	252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Oil Drilling</b>								
	<b>Support</b>	47%	51%	47%	47%	53%	53%	39%
	<b>Oppose</b>	38%	28%	35%	40%	41%	30%	48%
	<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	21%	18%	13%	7%	18%	13%

		Area Code						
		Base	252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion</b>								
	<b>More likely</b>	22%	23%	19%	26%	29%	17%	18%
	<b>Less likely</b>	50%	40%	51%	45%	51%	45%	62%
	<b>Makes no difference</b>	28%	37%	30%	30%	20%	38%	20%

		Area Code						
		Base	252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Generic Congressional Ballot</b>								
	<b>Democratic</b>	43%	46%	41%	42%	42%	42%	48%
	<b>Republican</b>	45%	43%	48%	47%	44%	47%	41%
	<b>Undecided</b>	12%	12%	12%	11%	14%	11%	11%

		Area Code						
		Base	252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>								
	<b>Very excited</b>	52%	41%	52%	63%	53%	60%	43%
	<b>Somewhat excited</b>	27%	33%	26%	25%	32%	14%	33%
	<b>Not very excited</b>	16%	19%	16%	11%	12%	17%	22%
	<b>Not sure</b>	4%	7%	7%	1%	3%	9%	2%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Female or Male Candidates</b>							
Female candidates	4%	2%	4%	9%	2%	2%	4%
Male candidates	9%	10%	11%	8%	7%	13%	7%
Makes no difference	86%	87%	85%	83%	90%	85%	89%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Tea Party Support</b>							
Support	40%	38%	41%	39%	48%	42%	33%
Oppose	36%	29%	35%	40%	32%	32%	42%
Not Sure	24%	33%	23%	21%	20%	26%	25%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Tea Party ID</b>							
Yes	15%	14%	18%	16%	13%	19%	14%
No	66%	54%	62%	67%	75%	63%	72%
Not Sure	19%	32%	21%	17%	13%	19%	14%

