

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **North Carolina Voters Favor Public Funding**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – The North Carolina Judicial Campaign Reform Act, which was passed in 2002 and created the nation’s first full public funding system for state Supreme Court and Court of Appeals candidates, is still highly favored by the voters of North Carolina, Public Policy Polling finds.

60% of respondents say that they favor the law, with 24% having an unfavorable opinion. Of those who do favor it, 24% are strongly for it, whereas only 6% are strongly opposed.

When asked if judicial candidates who accept funds from private interests such as lawyers and law firms can do so without creating a conflict of interest, 71% of respondents said no. However, 48% said that they are still unsure whether the law has helped to curb corruption in the judicial system, as opposed to only 28% who say it has, and 24% who say it hasn’t.

“North Carolina’s voters are clearly against judicial candidates funding their campaigns with money from entities that create conflicts of interest in the courtroom” said Jonathan Crook of Public Policy Polling. “The public funding law that is in place is there to stop that from happening, so the citizens are understandably in favor of it.”

PPP also found that 48% of respondents would be in favor of expanding a public finance program to candidates running for all Council of State positions, in addition to State Auditor, Insurance Commissioner, and Superintendent of Public Instruction elections, which already have such systems in place. 31% said that they do not favor expansion.

PPP surveyed 510 North Carolina voters from May 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.3%. 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).

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Jonathan Crook at 252-206-6192



## North Carolina Survey Results

**Q1** North Carolina currently has a law that gives statewide judicial candidates the option of accepting public campaign funding if they agree to spending limits and refuse money from Political Action Committees. It also makes judicial elections nonpartisan and provides voter guides to explain judicial candidates' qualifications. What is your position on this program? If you strongly favor it, press 1. If you somewhat favor it, press 2. If you somewhat oppose it, press 3. If you strongly oppose it, press 4. If you're not sure, press 5.

*Strongly Favor* ..... 24%  
*Somewhat Favor*..... 36%  
*Somewhat Oppose* ..... 18%  
*Strongly Oppose*..... 6%  
*Not Sure*..... 16%

**Q2** Were you aware of this law prior to this survey? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

*Yes*..... 48% *No* ..... 52%

**Q3** Were you aware of the availability of voter guides for North Carolina's judicial elections prior to this survey? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

*Yes* ..... 55%  
*No*..... 45%

**Q4** Last year a program was created for publicly financed elections for State Auditor, Insurance Commissioner, and Superintendent of Public Instruction. What would your position be on expanding this program to the rest of the Council of State positions? If you strongly favor expansion, press 1. If you somewhat favor it, press 2. If you somewhat oppose it, press 3. If you strongly oppose it, press 4. If you're not sure, press 5.

*Strongly Favor*..... 19% *Strongly Oppose* ... 10%  
*Somewhat Favor*... 29% *Not Sure*..... 21%  
*Somewhat Oppose* 21%

**Q5** Do you feel like the enactment of the public financing laws for North Carolina's Supreme Court elections has curbed corruption in the judicial system? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* ..... 28%  
*No*..... 24%  
*Not Sure*..... 48%

**Q6** Do you feel like judicial candidates are able to accept campaign financing from private entities like lawyers and law firms without creating a conflict of interests? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* ..... 11% *Not Sure*..... 18%  
*No*..... 71%

**Q7** In general, what is your opinion of judicial candidates in North Carolina who choose to opt out of the public funding program? If you have a favorable opinion, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*..... 30% *Not Sure*..... 41%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 29%





**Q8** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 15%  
*Moderate*..... 44%  
*Conservative*..... 40%

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

*Democrat* ..... 46%  
*Republican*..... 30%  
*Independent/Other*..... 23%

**Q11** If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

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

**Q12** 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*..... 11%  
*30 to 45*..... 23%  
*46 to 65*..... 46%  
*Older than 65*..... 20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>NC Judicial Public Finance Program</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>24%</b>	32%	27%	17%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>36%</b>	39%	36%	34%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>18%</b>	12%	18%	21%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>6%</b>	4%	3%	10%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>16%</b>	12%	16%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Law Awareness</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>48%</b>	48%	53%	42%
<b>No</b>	<b>52%</b>	52%	47%	58%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Voter Guide Awareness</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>55%</b>	63%	59%	47%
<b>No</b>	<b>45%</b>	37%	41%	53%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Expansion of Public Finance Programs</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>19%</b>	33%	21%	12%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>29%</b>	35%	27%	29%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>21%</b>	10%	22%	24%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>10%</b>	3%	8%	15%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>21%</b>	20%	21%	20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Law Effectiveness on Corruption</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>28%</b>	32%	28%	26%
<b>No</b>	<b>24%</b>	16%	23%	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>48%</b>	52%	50%	45%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Conflict of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>11%</b>	15%	11%	10%
<b>No</b>	<b>71%</b>	60%	73%	73%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	25%	16%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Candidates who Opt Out Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>30%</b>	25%	25%	37%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>29%</b>	28%	34%	24%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>41%</b>	47%	42%	39%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>NC Judicial Public Finance Program</b>			
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>24%</b>	21%	28%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>36%</b>	38%	34%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>18%</b>	13%	24%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>6%</b>	6%	5%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>16%</b>	23%	9%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Law Awareness</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	48%	40%	57%
<b>No</b>	52%	60%	43%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Voter Guide Awareness</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	55%	51%	59%
<b>No</b>	45%	49%	41%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Expansion of Public Finance Programs</b>			
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	19%	14%	24%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	29%	31%	27%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	21%	21%	22%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	10%	7%	14%
<b>Not Sure</b>	21%	28%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Law Effectiveness on Corruption</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	28%	25%	30%
<b>No</b>	24%	19%	31%
<b>Not Sure</b>	48%	56%	39%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Conflict of Interests</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	11%	10%	12%
<b>No</b>	71%	68%	74%
<b>Not Sure</b>	18%	22%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Candidates who Opt Out Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	30%	28%	32%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	29%	21%	37%
<b>Not Sure</b>	41%	51%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>NC Judicial Public Finance Program</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	24%	30%	18%	20%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	36%	38%	35%	34%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	18%	15%	19%	22%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	6%	1%	10%	11%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	16%	19%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Law Awareness</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	48%	48%	41%	58%
<b>No</b>	52%	52%	59%	42%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Voter Guide Awareness</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	55%	58%	47%	58%
<b>No</b>	45%	42%	53%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Expansion of Public Finance Programs</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	19%	27%	12%	14%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	29%	34%	23%	27%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	21%	16%	26%	25%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	10%	4%	15%	16%
<b>Not Sure</b>	21%	18%	25%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Law Effectiveness on Corruption</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	28%	31%	26%	23%
<b>No</b>	24%	17%	28%	35%
<b>Not Sure</b>	48%	52%	46%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Conflict of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	11%	10%	9%	16%
<b>No</b>	71%	70%	77%	65%
<b>Not Sure</b>	18%	20%	14%	19%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Candidates who Opt Out Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	30%	25%	40%	27%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	29%	31%	23%	31%
<b>Not Sure</b>	41%	44%	37%	41%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>NC Judicial Public Finance Program</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	24%	26%	19%	20%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	36%	34%	41%	40%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	18%	19%	13%	24%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	6%	6%	5%	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	15%	21%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Law Awareness</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	48%	47%	55%	37%
<b>No</b>	52%	53%	45%	63%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Voter Guide Awareness</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	55%	54%	58%	40%
<b>No</b>	45%	46%	42%	60%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Expansion of Public Finance Programs</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	19%	16%	26%	33%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	29%	29%	33%	5%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	21%	24%	12%	25%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	10%	12%	6%	-
<b>Not Sure</b>	21%	19%	23%	36%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Law Effectiveness on Corruption</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	28%	27%	30%	34%
<b>No</b>	24%	25%	23%	13%
<b>Not Sure</b>	48%	48%	47%	54%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Conflict of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	11%	12%	10%	5%
<b>No</b>	71%	71%	68%	87%
<b>Not Sure</b>	18%	17%	22%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Candidates who Opt Out Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	30%	30%	33%	18%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	29%	29%	27%	24%
<b>Not Sure</b>	41%	41%	40%	58%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>NC Judicial Public Finance Program</b>					
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	24%	25%	23%	26%	20%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	36%	41%	31%	36%	38%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	18%	16%	21%	18%	15%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	6%	9%	6%	5%	6%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	9%	20%	14%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Law Awareness</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	48%	50%	52%	49%	41%
<b>No</b>	52%	50%	48%	51%	59%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Voter Guide Awareness</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	55%	50%	64%	56%	45%
<b>No</b>	45%	50%	36%	44%	55%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Expansion of Public Finance Programs</b>					
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	19%	25%	14%	22%	15%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	29%	22%	29%	32%	28%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	21%	19%	20%	22%	23%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	10%	16%	13%	8%	9%
<b>Not Sure</b>	21%	19%	25%	17%	25%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Law Effectiveness on Corruption</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	<b>28%</b>	26%	21%	32%	26%
<b>No</b>	<b>24%</b>	26%	23%	25%	23%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>48%</b>	48%	56%	43%	50%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Conflict of Interests</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	<b>11%</b>	16%	14%	8%	13%
<b>No</b>	<b>71%</b>	66%	66%	77%	67%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	19%	21%	15%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Candidates who Opt Out Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>30%</b>	16%	25%	34%	35%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>29%</b>	25%	34%	28%	26%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>41%</b>	59%	40%	38%	40%

