

Current Findings

December 2011 Winthrop Poll

Winthrop Poll Results Of SC Registered Voters

December 2011 Winthrop Poll Results

Among Those Likely to Vote in SC GOP Presidential Primary

Newt Gingrich Gets Nod Over Mitt Romney
38.4% to 21.5%

Rick Perry Comes in Distant Third With 9%

Among SC Democrats, Republicans and Independents Combined

**81.4% Disapprove of the Way Congress is
Doing its Job**

47.8% Feel Same Way About Obama But
Nearly 60% Say It's Very or Somewhat
Likely He'll Be Re-Elected

**Almost 50% Think Economic Conditions in
U.S. Getting Worse**

**And Over 65% Say the Country is Headed in
the Wrong Direction**

**One-in-Three Disapproves of the Occupy
Wall Street Movement**

Among SC Republicans

**More Than One-in-Four Think SC Headed in
Wrong Direction,**

**Almost 60% Say Personal Financial Situation
is Excellent or Good**

**83.3% Say They Are Not Part of Tea Party
Movement,**

But 61.4% Approve of the Tea Party

The results of the December 2011 Winthrop Poll taken between November 27-December 4, 2011 are in. The poll interviewed 1073 registered voters from South Carolina.

Results which use all respondents have a margin of error of +/- 2.99% at the 95% confidence level. Reported results using a subset of the entire sample will naturally have a higher margin of error.

Results for Likely SC Republican Presidential Primary Voters only have a margin of error of +/-5.38%.

Among the Winthrop Poll findings:

- . When asked about Barack Obama's job performance as president, 44.8% of all respondents approved, while 47.8% disapproved.**
- . Among likely Republican Presidential Primary voters, 38.4% said their first choice to be the Republican nominee was Newt Gingrich. This marks a dramatic jump from the September 2011 Winthrop Poll when Gingrich won just 5.3% of the**

vote. Mitt Romney came in second with 21.5%, while Rick Perry who placed first in the Winthrop Poll in mid-September, came in third with 9%.

- . It is clear that accusations of sexual harassment and an extra-marital affair had already taken a toll on Herman Cain in South Carolina before he suspended his campaign. Whereas in September's poll, 7.7% of likely primary voters chose him—and his star appeared on the rise from April's Winthrop Poll when he posted 2.1%--in this latest survey he dropped to 6.6%.**
- . 63.4% of all respondents said it is NOT possible to address national budget concerns without any tax increases on any groups.**
- . Affection for the Tea Party in South Carolina may be on the wane. Among Republicans, 83.3% said they did not consider themselves members of the Tea Party movement—a marked jump from**

the September Winthrop Poll, when 67.8% felt that way. Meanwhile, 61.4% say they approve of the Tea Party.

- Almost one-in-four Republicans said they were not familiar enough with the Tea Party movement to have an opinion of it.**

RESULTS FROM THE WINTHROP POLL:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nikki Haley is handling her job as governor of South Carolina?

	All	Only those with an opinion	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Approve	34.6%	44.6%	18.0%	52.5%	35.9%
Disapprove	43.0%	55.4%	64.5%	21.7%	40.9%
Not Sure	20.2%		15.5%	24.2%	20.6%
Refused	2.2%		1.9%	1.6%	2.6%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the South Carolina State Legislature is handling its job?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Approve	34.3%	27.9%	46.0%	30.5%
Disapprove	41.6%	53.3%	25.2%	44.7%
Not Sure	22.1%	16.6%	26.7%	23.2%
Refused	2.0%	2.2%	2.2%	1.6%

Whether you approve or disapprove of her overall performance, I'd like for you to think about your expectations for Nikki Haley's performance as governor of South Carolina. Since her inauguration as governor in early January of this year, would you say that her performance has exceeded your expectations, met your expectations, or failed to meet your expectations?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Greatly Exceeded Expectations	3.8%	3.3%	5.0%	3.2%
Somewhat Exceeded Expectations	4.3%	3.9%	5.6%	3.7%
Met Expectations	40.8%	24.7%	58.4%	42.1%
Somewhat Failed to Meet Expectations	23.2%	30.6%	18.4%	20.3%
Greatly Failed to Meet Expectations	18.6%	28.1%	5.6%	20.5%
Not Sure	8.7%	8.3%	6.6%	9.5%
Refused	.7%	1.1%	.3%	.8%

How would you describe the working relationship between Governor Haley and the state legislature this past year? Good? Bad? Or neither good nor bad?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Very Good	3.1%	2.8%	6.0%	1.0%
Somewhat Good	12.4%	11.8%	12.9%	12.6%
Neither Good nor Bad	47.1%	42.6%	47.3%	51.7%

Somewhat Bad	13.7%	17.6%	12.2%	11.3%
Very Bad	11.1%	14.3%	6.0%	12.3%
Don't Know	11.7%	9.8%	14.4%	10.5%
Refused	.9%	1.1%	1.3%	.5%

[NOTE: The following question was ONLY asked of those who said the relationship was “Somewhat Bad,” or “Very Bad.” This data has a margin of error of +/- 6.02%. This sub-sample is too small to further break the data down by party.

Who would you say is more to blame for the bad relationship between them? Governor Haley or

the State Legislature or Both Equally?

[ANSWERS ROTATED]

	All
Governor	36.0%
Legislature	8.2%
Both Equally	51.6%
Don't Know	3.0%
Refused	1.1%

[NOTE: this question was ONLY asked of those respondents who CURRENTLY receive Social Security or Medicare benefits]

Would you be willing to have your current Social Security or Medicare benefits reduced in order to address national budget concerns?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Yes	18.8%	16.4%	17.7%	22.4%
No	76.1%	78.4%	76.1%	72.4%
Not Sure	4.2%	3.4%	5.3%	4.3%
Refused	.9%	1.7%	.9%	.9%

[NOTE: This question was ONLY asked of those respondents who do NOT currently receive Social Security or Medicare benefits]

Would you be willing to have your future Social Security or Medicare benefits reduced in order to address national budget concerns?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Yes	28.2%	26.1%	28.4%	29.9%
No	64.8%	71.0%	62.0%	61.0%
Not Sure	6.4%	1.7%	9.1%	8.7%
Refused	.6%	1.2%	.5%	.4%

[NOTE: This question was ONLY asked of those respondents who do NOT currently receive Social Security or Medicare benefits]

Would you be willing to have the retirement age at which you can receive full Social Security or Medicare benefits raised to 70 years old in order to address national budget concerns?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Yes	30.6%	22.6%	33.2%	36.5%
No	66.1%	74.5%	64.4%	58.9%
Not Sure	3.2%	2.5%	2.4%	4.6%
Refused	.1%	.4%	0.0%	0.0%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Approve	44.8%	90.6%	6.5%	33.0%
Disapprove	47.8%	6.1%	89.8%	53.0%
Not Sure	6.4%	3.0%	2.5%	12.4%
Refused	1.0%	.3%	1.2%	1.6%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States Congress is handling its job?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Approve	12.1%	16.6%	9.0%	10.8%
Disapprove	81.4%	77.6%	83.6%	83.6%
Not Sure	5.9%	5.5%	6.2%	5.3%

Refused	.6%	.3%	1.2%	.3%
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Thinking about the current path that our nation is taking, do you think our country is on the right track or headed in the wrong direction?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Right Track	22.3%	42.4%	5.3%	17.7%
Wrong Direction	65.7%	39.4%	88.5%	72.2%
Not Sure	10.7%	17.1%	5.6%	8.5%
Refused	1.3%	1.1%	.6%	1.6%

Thinking about the current path that South Carolina is taking, do you think our state is on the right track or headed in the wrong direction?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Right Track	41.4%	27.8%	58.7%	40.2%
Wrong Direction	42.7%	56.5%	26.1%	43.6%
Not Sure	15.0%	14.6%	14.6%	14.9%
Refused	1.0%	1.1%	.6%	1.3%

[NOTE: the following two questions were open-ended. The interviewer coded the respondent's answer into one of dozens of possible categories]

What do you think is the most important problem facing the United States of America today? TOP THREE RESPONSES GIVEN.

All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Economy/ Economic- financial crisis 30.7%	Unemployment/ jobs 37.4%	Economy/ Economic- financial crisis 33.2%	Economy/ Economic- financial crisis 32.7%
Unemployment/ jobs 24.9%	Economy/ Economic- financial crisis 26.6%	Unemployment/ jobs 14.9%	Unemployment/ jobs 21.6%
Budget Deficit or Debt 8.7%	Politicians/ Government 5.8%	Budget Deficit or Debt 14.6%	Tie: Politicians/ Government AND Budget Deficit or Debt 7.9%

What do you think is the most important problem facing the state of South Carolina today? TOP THREE RESPONSES GIVEN.

All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Unemployment/ Jobs 38.2%	Unemployment/ Jobs 46.2%	Unemployment/ Jobs 32.9%	Unemployment/ Jobs 34.6%
Economy/ Economic-	Economy/ Economic-	Economy/ Economic-	Economy/ Economic-

financial crisis	financial crisis	financial crisis	financial crisis
21.1%	17.3%	23.7%	22.6%
Education	Education	Education	Education
10.8%	9.7%	8.9%	12.8%

Although we do not yet know who his Republican opponent will be, how likely do you think it is that Barack Obama will be re-elected president in 2012? Very Likely, Somewhat Likely, Not Very Likely, or Not At All Likely?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Very Likely	25.8%	50.0%	5.9%	19.2%
Somewhat Likely	33.0%	35.4%	25.7%	36.8%
Not Very Likely	19.9%	8.3%	32.5%	20.8%
Not at All Likely	17.8%	4.1%	31.9%	19.2%
Not Sure	3.2%	2.2%	3.7%	3.4%
Refused	.2%	0.0%	.3%	.5%

NOTE: The following question was ONLY asked of Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents who “definitely” plan to vote in the 2012 Republican Presidential Primary in South Carolina.

NOTE: As of Herman Cain's withdrawal, we left Herman Cain's name on the list for the sake of comparability and validity. Assuming anyone who picked Cain had not heard of his withdrawal, we asked, "If Herman Cain drops out of the race, who would you support?"

Between the time of Cain's announcement and the end of polling, only 7 individuals responded to the initial question with support for Cain. In response to the follow up question, Gingrich got the support of 4 erstwhile Cain supporters, Romney got the support of 2 erstwhile Cain supporters, and 'Not Sure' got the support of 1 erstwhile Cain supporter. These numbers are far too small to have any statistical meaning whatsoever. If, after initially hearing the list of possible nominees, a respondent said, "I thought Cain dropped out," interviewers were instructed to confirm this and repeat the question.

I'm going to read the titles and names of 9 people who have been mentioned as possible candidates for the 2012 Republican Presidential nomination. The names are in alphabetical order. Please listen to all the names before selecting one.

Thinking ahead to the 2012 Presidential election, who would you vote for as your **FIRST CHOICE to be the next Republican nominee for President if the primary election were held today?**

	Likely SC 2012 Repub Pres Primary Voters
Minnesota Representative Michele Bachmann	5.4%
<i>Former CEO of Godfather's Pizza Herman Cain</i>	6.6%
Former Speaker Newt Gingrich	38.4%
Former Utah Governor Jon Huntsman	1.4%
<i>Former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson</i>	0.0%
<i>Texas</i>	4.1%

<i>Representative Ron Paul</i>	
<i>Texas Governor Rick Perry</i>	9.0%
<i>Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney</i>	21.5%
Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum	3.1%
Other	.7%
Not Sure	9.1%
Refused	.7%

How would you rate the condition of the nationaleconomy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Very Good	1.5%	2.7%	.6%	1.3%
<i>Fairly Good</i>	16.3%	29.1%	8.0%	11.1%
Fairly Bad	37.6%	41.2%	35.6%	35.3%
Very Bad	43.5%	25.0%	55.1%	51.3%
<i>Not Sure</i>	1.0%	1.6%	.3%	1.1%
<i>Refused</i>	.1%	.3%	.3%	0.0%

Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the country as a whole are getting better or getting worse?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Getting Better	41.8%	60.6%	25.6%	37.5%
<i>Getting Worse</i>	47.4%	28.9%	62.3%	53.0%
Not Sure	10.4%	10.3%	11.4%	9.2%
Refused	.4%	.3%	.6%	.3%

How would you rate the condition of the economy of South Carolina these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Very Good	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%	1.1%
<i>Fairly Good</i>	33.1%	35.5%	33.2%	30.8%
Fairly Bad	43.5%	37.7%	50.6%	43.4%
Very Bad	19.7%	22.7%	12.4%	22.6%
<i>Not Sure</i>	2.2%	2.5%	1.9%	2.1%
<i>Refused</i>	.2%	.3%	.3%	0.0%

Right now, do you think that economic conditions in South Carolina are getting better or getting worse?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Getting Better	43.7%	40.4%	46.9%	43.9%
<i>Getting Worse</i>	40.2%	47.4%	35.1%	38.4%
Not Sure	15.1%	11.1%	17.4%	16.6%
Refused	.9%	1.1%	.6%	1.1%

Right now, do you believe that economic conditions in South Carolina are better than

those of the nation as a whole, worse than those of the nation as a whole, or about the same as those of the nation as a whole?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Better	18.2%	10.7%	28.4%	16.8%
Worse	23.8%	30.9%	13.9%	25.5%
Same	54.2%	55.9%	53.4%	53.5%
Not Sure	3.2%	2.2%	2.8%	3.9%
Refused	.6%	.3%	1.5%	.3%

How would you rate your financial situation today? As excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Excellent	7.3%	3.6%	10.5%	8.2%
Good	38.5%	33.1%	49.4%	33.9%
Only Fair	38.4%	48.1%	29.9%	36.8%
Poor	14.5%	14.4%	9.0%	19.2%
Not Sure	.5%	.8%	.3%	.3%
Refused	.8%	0.0%	.9%	1.6%

Right now, do you think that your financial situation as a whole is getting better or getting worse?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Getting Better	39.4%	49.3%	35.0%	33.6%
Getting Worse	40.3%	33.6%	45.2%	42.6%
Not Sure	19.5%	17.1%	19.2%	22.5%
Refused	.8%	0.0%	.6%	1.3%

Would you be willing to cut defense spending in order to address national budget concerns?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Yes	46.5%	56.1%	33.1%	49.1%
No	45.4%	32.8%	62.2%	43.3%
Not Sure	7.3%	9.4%	4.3%	7.4%
Refused	.8%	1.7%	.3%	.3%

Do you think it is possible to address national budget concerns without any tax increases on any groups, or would some tax increases be required to address national budget concerns?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Possible to Do Without Tax Increase	29.9%	13.0%	45.5%	33.4%
NOT Possible to Do Without Tax Increase	63.4%	80.4%	47.4%	60.5%
Not Sure	6.0%	5.5%	6.8%	5.3%
Refused	.8%	1.1%	.3%	.8%

We'd like to find out how familiar folks are with various issues in South Carolina. Some leaders from both parties have mentioned the importance of dealing with issues related to the South Carolina public employee pension

program. How familiar are you with issues related to the South Carolina public employee pension program, would you say you are very familiar with the issues, somewhat familiar with the issues, have heard it mentioned but are not familiar with the specifics, or have not heard of the issues at all?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Very Familiar	7.8%	6.9%	6.8%	9.7%
Somewhat Familiar	23.9%	19.4%	26.6%	26.5%
Heard Mentioned	31.2%	31.0%	31.0%	31.8%
Not Heard	36.5%	41.8%	35.3%	31.5%
Refused	.6%	.8%	.3%	.5%

NOTE: The following question was ONLY asked of those who file a SC income tax return.

Categories were not given; interviewers coded open ended answer into the listed categories after the respondent answered the question.

To the best of your knowledge, what is the highest marginal percentage rate for personal income tax in the state of South Carolina?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (&
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				other)
7 percent	5.6%	2.8%	6.7%	7.1%
Under 10 percent but not 7 percent	4.2%	3.8%	3.9%	4.7%
Between 11 percent and 20 percent	6.3%	4.5%	6.7%	7.6%
Between 21 percent and 35 percent	10.8%	7.3%	10.9%	13.8%
Over 35 percent	4.4%	5.2%	5.6%	2.9%
Don't Know/ Not Sure	65.6%	70.9%	64.1%	62.1%
Refused	3.1%	5.5%	2.1%	1.8%

In general, would you say you approve or disapprove of the Occupy Wall Street movement or are you not familiar enough with the Occupy Wall Street movement to have an opinion?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Approve	24.2%	32.2%	11.1%	27.9%
Disapprove	33.2%	10.2%	57.3%	35.3%
Not Familiar	36.6%	49.6%	26.9%	31.6%
Not Sure	5.5%	6.6%	4.3%	5.3%
Refused	.6%	1.4%	.3%	0.0%

In general, would you say you approve or disapprove of the Tea Party movement or are you not familiar enough with the Tea Party movement to have an opinion?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Approve	31.4%	5.2%	61.4%	31.7%
Disapprove	34.3%	54.7%	10.3%	35.2%
Not Familiar	28.7%	36.5%	23.1%	25.9%
Not Sure	4.8%	2.5%	5.0%	6.1%
Refused	.4%	1.1%	.3%	1.1%

Would you consider yourself a MEMBER of the Tea Party Movement?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent (& other)
Yes	6.8%	1.1%	14.8%	5.5%
No	89.8%	93.9%	83.3%	90.8%
Not Sure	3.1%	4.4%	1.5%	3.2%
Refused	.4%	.6%	.3%	.5%

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The Winthrop Poll is paid for by Winthrop University with additional support from The West Forum on Politics and Policy at Winthrop University.

For additional information, or to set up an interview with Dr. Scott Huffmon, please contact Judy Longshaw at longshawj@winthrop.edu or (803) 323-2404.

Note: Winthrop University, located in Rock Hill, S.C., is a nationally recognized public university offering graduate and undergraduate degrees to an inclusive, international student body.

Methodology Statement

Survey Methodology – December 2011 Winthrop Poll

The December 2011 Winthrop Poll interviewed 1073 registered voters from South Carolina. Results which use all respondents have a **margin of error of +/- 2.99%** at the 95% confidence level. Reported results using a subset of the entire sample will naturally have a higher margin of error. Results for Likely SC Republican Presidential Primary Voters only have a margin of error of +/-5.38%

The survey was in the field from 11/27-12/4, 2011. Phone calls were made during weekday evenings, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon and evening. Weekday daytime calls are generally not made to avoid oversampling those who are more likely to be at home during the day (e.g. retirees, stay-at-home-moms, etc.). Weekday daytime calls are generally only made when a respondent has specifically requested a daytime call back to complete the survey. Conducting weekend calls is important to avoid systematically excluding certain populations (such as those who may work 2nd or 3rd shift during the week).

The survey used (1) Sample drawn from lists of registered voters in SC, also called Registration Based Sample (RBS), (2) Random Digit Dialing (RDD), and (3) wireless phone number sampling. The registered voter sample was purchased from Aristotle/Voter Lists Online. However, because these lists have a natural lag of six or so months – AND since SC does not collect and update phone information -- ONLY using Registration Based Sample would produce a systematic bias. RDD and wireless samples are crucial to ensure no adult in the geographical area of interest is systematically excluded from the sample. Both the RDD sample and the wireless sample were purchased from Survey Sampling International (SSI). A further explanation of RDD methodology, with descriptions taken from SSI's website, may be found below.

Phone numbers selected for the survey were re-dialed five or more times in an attempt to reach a respondent. Once a household was reached, we also employed procedures to randomize within households.

Additionally, we:

- (1) purge RDD and wireless against registered voter sample (RBS) before going into the field to ensure that no number can appear in multiple samples and, therefore, have a higher probability of being selected
- (2) Screen RDD and wireless sample for registration status and confirm with respondents selected from the RBS sample that they are, in fact, registered to vote
- (3) Screen the wireless sample for **cell-only** status since individuals who have a cell phone and a land line already have an established probability of appearing in either the RDD or RBS sample
- (4) weight responses from RDD and wireless samples by the proportion of registered voters on the original voter list who had no phone number listed and weight the responses from the registered voter sample (RBS) by the proportion of registered voters who did have a phone number available from the registered voter list.

and

- (5) Weight responses based on sex, age, and race according to the known population of registered voters.

These methods are consistent with recommendations from

Mitofsky, W., Bloom J., Lenski, J., Dingman, S., & Agiesta, J. (2005). "A dual frame RDD/registration-based sample design: Lessons from Oregon's 2004 National Election Pool Survey." *Proceedings of the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association*, Alexandria, VA, 3929–36)

Computerized autodialers were not used in order to ensure the survey of wireless phones complied with the Telephone Consumers Protection Act and all FCC rules regarding contacting wireless telephones.

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**Additional Explanation of RDD Methodology :
(with descriptions taken from SSI website)**

Samples are generated using a database of "working blocks." A block (also known as a 100-bank or a bank) is a set of 100 contiguous numbers identified by the first two digits of the last four digits of a telephone number. For example, in the telephone number 203-567-7200, "72" is the block. A block is termed to be working if some specified number of listed telephone numbers are found in that block.

Samples of random numbers distributed across all eligible blocks in proportion to their density of listed telephone households are selected. All blocks within a county are organized in ascending order by area code, exchange, and block number. Once the quota has been allocated to all counties in the frame, a sampling interval is calculated by summing the number of listed residential numbers in eligible blocks within the county and dividing that sum by the number of sampling points assigned to the county. From a random start between zero and the sampling interval, blocks are systematically selected in proportion to their density of listed households. Once a block has been selected, a two-digit number is systematically selected in the range 00-99 and is appended to the exchange and block to form a 10-digit telephone number.