

## **April 2012 Winthrop Poll**

### **RESULTS OF LATEST WINTHROP POLL TAKEN IN SOUTH CAROLINA ARE IN**

**THOSE POLLED EVENLY DIVIDED ON HOW GOV. HALEY IS DOING HER JOB, BUT ALMOST 60% OF REGISTERED VOTERS WHO SELF-IDENTIFY AS REPUBLICANS, OR INDEPENDENTS WHO LEAN REPUBLICAN, GIVE HER A THUMBS-UP**

**COMPARED WITH RESULTS OF MOST RECENT WINTHROP POLL (FEB. 2012), ALMOST 25% MORE RESPONDENTS SAY S.C. IS ON RIGHT TRACK**

**ALMOST ONE-THIRD FEWER PEOPLE IDENTIFIED JOBS/UNEMPLOYMENT AS #1 PROBLEM FACING U.S. AND S.C. AND NEARLY 20% MORE FEEL THE ECONOMY IN S.C. IS GETTING BETTER**

**ALMOST 60% OF THOSE FAMILIAR WITH TRAYVON MARTIN/GEORGE ZIMMERMAN CASE THINK ZIMMERMAN ACTED IRRESPONSIBLY AND SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR MARTIN'S DEATH**

**NEARLY 80% OPPOSE REGULATIONS ALLOWING PERMIT HOLDERS TO CARRY CONCEALED WEAPONS INTO RESTAURANTS/BARS THAT SERVE ALCOHOL**

**ALMOST 70% SAY INCREASED GAS PRICES CAUSING THEM TO REDUCE SPENDING ON OTHER THINGS**

**OVER 50% OF REPUBLICANS AND INDEPENDENTS WHO LEAN REPUBLICAN AND ARE REGISTERED VOTERS, APPROVE OF THE TEA PARTY MOVEMENT, BUT MORE THAN 80% OF THEM DON'T CONSIDER THEMSELVES MEMBERS**

*Rock Hill SC...* The results of the latest **Winthrop Poll**, of **981 adults living in South Carolina**, taken between **April 15-April 22** are in. Results which use all respondents have a **margin of error of +/-3.13%** at the 95% confidence level. Reported results using a subset of the entire sample will naturally have a higher margin of error.

### **Among the Winthrop Poll findings:**

- When asked if they approved or disapproved of the way Nikki Haley is handling her job as governor of South Carolina, respondents were almost evenly divided on the subject, with 37.3% of all respondents saying they approved of the governor's performance, while

36.5% reacted negatively. However, among Republicans and Independents who are registered voters and lean Republican, her approval rating is almost 60%, with one-in-five disapproving (20.2%).

- Compared with Winthrop's previous poll (February 2012), South Carolinians are feeling much better about the jobs situation on both the national and state levels. When asked about the most important problem facing the U.S.—and the most important problem facing S.C.—almost one-third fewer respondents identified jobs or unemployment as the most pressing issue. While 22% identified jobs/unemployment in February as the number one problem nationally, now 14.7% selected that, and while 36.5% identified jobs/unemployment as the number one issue for S.C. in February, now 26.4% see that as the most pressing problem facing the state.
- Meanwhile when compared with February's poll, 25.8% more respondents say the condition of the economy in S.C. is very good, or fairly good (47.8% now vs. 38% in February). And almost 20% more felt the economy in S.C. is getting better compared with the February results (58.8% now vs. 49.1% in February).
- Almost 80% of respondents (79.4%) said they were very, or somewhat, familiar with the Trayvon Martin/George Zimmerman incident.
- Almost 50% (49.7%) said the national media has given too much attention to the case, while one-third (33.6%) felt that had gotten it just right.
- Of those familiar with the Trayvon Martin/George Zimmerman case, 57.2% felt that Zimmerman acted irresponsibly and should be held accountable for Martin's death, while 12.5% felt Zimmerman acted responsibly.
- Almost eight-out-of-10 respondents (78.1%) oppose regulations that would allow concealed weapon permit holders to carry their weapons into restaurants/bars that serve alcohol.
- Nearly 70% of respondents (67.7%) said gas prices had caused them to consciously cut back their spending on other things.
- While over half of the Republicans and Independents who lean Republican and are registered voters say they approve of the Tea Party movement (50.9%), a whopping 83.8% do not consider themselves to be members of the Tea Party.
- When asked to identify what they used for their main source of news, respondents were almost evenly divided among National Cable TV (23.8%), the Internet (22.6%), and Local TV (21.1%).

**Note: Topline** (may not sum to 100% due to rounding)

**Demographics**

Demographics		
	Census*	April 2012 Winthrop Poll
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	47.94	49.0
Female	52.06	50.9
<b>Race</b>		
Caucasian	68.57	66.9

African American	26.5	25.1
Other	4.93	5.5
Refused	--	2.5
<b>Age</b>		
18-19	4.06	4.0
20-29	17.97	17.0
30-39	16.48	15.7
40-49	17.98	17.4
50-59	17.76	17.5
60-69	13.99	13.8
70-79	7.52	7.4
80-89	3.6	3.5
90-99	.62	.6
99 & over	.018	0.0
Refused	--	3.0

\*Census percentages are ONLY for those SC residents age 18 and over.

Percentage of population who are registered to vote

Percentage of population registered to vote	
South Carolina Election Commission	April 2012 Winthrop Poll
76.8	79.7

Self-reported partisanship from April 2012 Winthrop Poll\*

All Registered Voters/Committed Voters				
	All Registered Voters		Committed Voters	
	Leaners counted as Independents	Leaners counted as Partisans**	Leaners counted as Independents	Leaners counted as Partisans**
Republican	34.3	43.15	36.8	46.77
Democrat	31.1	39.43	30.9	37.51
Independent	31.1	13.57	29.7	12.72
Something Else	1.3	1.3	.6	.6
Refused to Answer	2.2	2.6	1.9	2.5

\*In SC, we do not register by political party; therefore, partisanship is self-reported.

\*\*Research shows that Independents who "Lean" toward a party vote for that party more consistently than partisans who describe their partisanship as "not so strong."

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**RESULTS OF WINTHROP POLL APRIL 2012:**

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

Haley Approval			
	All	Registered Voters	Republicans & Ind who Lean Repub* (who are Registered to Vote)
Approve	37.3	37.8	59.8
Disapprove	36.5	38.5	20.2
Not Sure	24.2	21.6	19.2
Refused to Answer	2.0	2.0	.8

\* Self-reported partisanship; we do NOT register by political party in SC

[**INTERPRETATION NOTE:** If you **only** examine those who actually have an opinion, the Governor's approval ratings are: 50.5% among all SC adults, 49.5% among Registered Voters in SC, and 74.75% among Registered Voters in SC who self-identify as Republican or Independents who Lean Republican]

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

Legislative Approval		
	All	Registered Voters
Approve	33.4	34.2
Disapprove	39.4	41.1
Not Sure	24.7	22.3
Refused to Answer	2.4	2.4

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?

U.S. Right Track	
	All
Right Track	32.9
Wrong Direction	58.7
Don't Know/ Refused to Answer	8.4

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

SC Right Track	
	All
Right Track	44.9
Wrong Direction	41.2
Don't Know/ Refused to Answer	14.0

How familiar are you with the incident involving Trayvon Martin, the teenager who was shot while walking in his father's neighborhood in Florida and wearing a hoodie by George Zimmerman, a member of the neighborhood watch?

Would you say that you are Very Familiar with the incident, Somewhat Familiar with the incident, Have Heard About It But Don't Know Many Details, or Not Familiar with the incident at All?

Familiar Trayvon	
	All
Very Familiar	51.3
Somewhat Familiar	28.1
Have Heard About It, But Don't Know Many Details	16.5
Not Familiar at All	3.5
Refused to Answer	.6

Do you feel the amount of national media attention given to this incident has been:

[NOTE: this was only asked of those familiar with the case]

Trayvon Media	
	All
Too Much	49.7
About the Right Amount	33.6
Not Enough	12.3
Don't Know [Volunteered]	4.0
Refused to Answer [Not Read]	.4

Which of the following comes closer to your opinion: [ANSWERS ROTATED]

George Zimmerman acted responsibly even though the end result was tragic

or

George Zimmerman acted irresponsibly and should be held accountable for Trayvon Martin's death

[NOTE: this was only asked of those familiar with the case]

Zimmerman Resp	
	All
Zimmerman Acted Responsibly	12.5
Zimmerman Acted Irresponsibly	57.2
Don't Know	26.1
Refused to Answer	4.2

How much of the time do you think you can trust the **national** government in Washington to do what is right: Just about always, Most of the time, or only Some of the time.

Nat Gvt Do Right	
	All
Just About	2.8

Always	
Most of the Time	16.3
Some of the Time	65.8
Never	13.4
Don't Know	.6
Refused to Answer	1.1

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How much of the time do you think you can trust the South Carolina state government to do what is right: Just about always, Most of the time, or only Some of the time.

State Gvt Do Right	
	All
Just About Always	3.3
Most of the Time	27.6
Some of the Time	57.8
Never	6.9
Don't Know	3.4
Refused to Answer	.9

How much of the time do you think you can trust your **local** government to do what is right: Just about always, Most of the time, or only Some of the time.

Local Gvt Do Right	
	All
Just About Always	6.5
Most of the Time	38.6
Some of the Time	44.3
Never	6.7
Don't Know	3.0
Refused to Answer	.9

What do you think is the most important problem facing the United States of America today?  
[NOTE: Top four answers reported]

U.S. Imp Prob	
	All
Economy/	27.5

Economic/Financial Crisis	
Jobs or unemployment	14.7
Politicians/Government	9.1
Budget Deficit or Debt	8.0

What do you think is the most important problem facing the state of South Carolina?  
[NOTE: Top four answers reported]

State Imp Prob	
	All
Jobs or unemployment	26.4
Economy/Economic/Financial Crisis	19.1
Education	12.7
Politicians/Government	6.6

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

Rate Nat Econ	
	All
Very Good	.7
Fairly Good	33.4
Fairly Bad	35.1
Very Bad	29.0
Not Sure	.7
Refused to Answer	1.1

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

U.S. Econ Better/Worse	
	All
Getting Better	53.7
Getting Worse	38.0
Not Sure	7.7



Refused to Answer	.7
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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?

Rate SC Econ	
	All
Very Good	2.0
Fairly Good	45.8
Fairly Bad	34.0
Very Bad	13.7
Not Sure	4.0
Refused to Answer	.4

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

SC Econ Better/Worse	
	All
Getting Better	58.8
Getting Worse	26.6
Not Sure	13.9
Refused to Answer	.6

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

Rate Fin Sit	
	All
Excellent	8.2
Good	44.8
Only Fair	32.6
Poor	13.3
Not Sure	.3
Refused to Answer	.8

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

Fin Sit Better/Worse	
	All

Getting Better	52.8
Getting Worse	29.4
Not Sure	15.3
Refused to Answer	2.5

A Concealed Weapons Permit allows people who undergo handgun safety training and obtain a license to carry a concealed handgun in most public places.

Would you favor or oppose changing current concealed carry regulations to **allow** permit holders to carry their weapon into restaurants or bars that serve alcohol?

CWP Alcohol			
	All	Personally own, or regularly use, a firearm?	
		Yes	No
Favor	17.9	25.8	11.2
Oppose	78.1	71.4	84.8
Not Sure	3.3	2.3	3.1
Refused to Answer	.7	.5	.9

What would you say is the main source you use to get news ... national cable television news, national network television news, local television news, National Public Radio, Talk Radio, commercial radio, newspapers, the internet, or friends or family?

Main Source News	
	All
National Cable TV	23.8
National Network TV	14.9
Local TV	21.1
NPR	3.5
Talk Radio	2.7
Commercial Radio	.4
Newspaper	5.2
Internet	22.6
Friends/Family	2.0
Something Else	2.6
Don't Know/ Refused to Answer	1.2

Over the last 30 years, do you think that violent crime in the United States has Increased, Decreased, or Remained About the Same?

Perception Violent Crime	
	All
Increased	62.8
Decreased	12.0
Remained About the Same	21.2
Don't Know	3.7
Refused to Answer	.3

[**INTERPRETATION NOTE:** Violent crime in the U.S. has decreased over the last 30 years according Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics and the Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey]

Over the last 30 years, do you think that teen pregnancy in the United States has Increased, Decreased, or Remained About the Same?

Perception Teen Preg	
	All
Increased	61.7
Decreased	18.3
Remained About the Same	16.3
Don't Know	1.0
Refused to Answer	2.6

[**INTERPRETATION NOTE:** Teen pregnancy in the U.S. has decreased over the last 30 years according United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention]

Have increased gas prices directly caused you to consciously cut back your spending on other things?

Gas cut spend	
	All
Yes	67.7
No/ Not Really	30.4
<i>Don't Drive/ Don't Have a Car</i>	1.7
Don't Know	.1
Refused to	.1

Answer	
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Have increased gas prices caused you to take fewer trips or consciously cut back on the number of miles you drive?

Gas fewer trips	
	All
Yes	71.9
No/ Not Really	24.9
<i>Don't Drive/ Don't Have a Car</i>	2.5
Don't Know	.4
Refused to Answer	.3

[**INTERPRETATION NOTE:** Some of the individuals who reported not having a car of the "take fewer trips/ cut back on miles driven" question had simply responded "No," or "Not Really" for the "gas price caused you to cut other spending" question.]

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?

Approve Tea Pty		
	All	Republicans & Ind who Lean Repub* (who are Registered to Vote)
Approve	26.3	50.9
Disapprove	32.3	14.3
Not Familiar	36.0	29.7
Not Sure	4.3	4.6
Refused to Answer	1.0	.5

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

Mem Tea Pty		
	All	Republicans & Ind who Lean Repub* (who are Registered to Vote)
Yes	5.2	11.2

No	89.6	83.8
Not Sure	4.4	4.7
Refused to Answer	.8	.3

Which of the following come closer to your beliefs: [ANSWERS ROTATED]

Anyone who works hard enough can become financially successful in America

Or

Hard work alone is sometimes not enough to become financially successful in America

Hard Work			
	All	White	Black
Anyone Who Works Hard Succeeds	41.3	43.1	38.9
Hard Work Not Enough	53.7	53.2	55.9
Don't Know	4.0	2.8	5.3
Refused to Answer	1.1	0.9	0.0

Which of the following come closer to your beliefs: [ANSWERS ROTATED]

With some exceptions, the history of racism in America can prevent many hard working minorities from succeeding

Or

The racism of America's past does not prevent any minorities who work hard enough from getting ahead in this day and age

Minorities Succeed			
	All	White	Black
Racism Can Prevent Success	40.6	31.9	63.2
Racism Does NOT Prevent Success	48.2	57.1	27.5
<i>Don't Know</i>	8.1	8.4	6.5
Refused to	3.1	2.6	2.8

Answer			
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How would you describe the state of race relations in America today ... Very Good, Somewhat Good, Somewhat Bad, or Very Bad?

Race Relations			
	All	White	Black
Very Good	4.7	5.0	4.5
Somewhat Good	56.2	61.7	44.7
Neither Good Nor Bad [volunteered]	5.3	4.6	6.5
Somewhat Bad	22.4	19.7	30.1
Very Bad	7.6	5.5	12.6
Don't Know	2.9	2.4	1.2
Refused to Answer	1.2	1.1	0.4

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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](mailto: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

### April 2012 Winthrop Poll

The April 2012 Winthrop Poll interviewed 981 adults living in South Carolina. Results which use all respondents have a **margin of error of +/- 3.13%** at the 95% confidence level. Reported results using a subset of the entire sample will naturally have a higher margin of error.

The survey was in the field from 4/15-4/22, 2012. 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.). 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) Random Digit Dialing (RDD), and (2) wireless phone number sampling. 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. Screen the wireless sample for **wireless-only** status since individuals who have a cell phone and a land line already have an established probability of appearing in the RDD.
2. Weight responses based on **sex, age, and race** according to the known population of adults in South Carolina.

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.