

December 2012 Winthrop Poll

**RESULTS OF LATEST WINTHROP POLL ARE IN
ALMOST ONE MONTH TO-THE-DAY AFTER PRES.
OBAMA'S RE-ELECTION,
48% OF SC RESPONDENTS SAY THEY APPROVE OF
HIS JOB PERFORMANCE, WHILE 41% GIVE IT A
THUMBS DOWN**

**RESPONDENTS ALMOST EVENLY DIVIDED WHEN
ASKED
TO ASSESS GOV. HALEY'S JOB PERFORMANCE
MORE THAN 90% SAY THEY DO NOT CONSIDER
THEMSELVES MEMBERS OF THE TEA PARTY**

**38% SAY SC GOP PRIMARY WINNER NEWT
GINGRICH
WOULD HAVE RACKED UP ABOUT THE SAME
RESULTS
AS MITT ROMNEY DID VS. OBAMA**

**NEARLY HALF THINK THAT ECONOMIC
CONDITIONS IN SC ARE GETTING BETTER**

***Rock Hill SC...*The results of the latest Winthrop Poll, of 929 respondents living in South Carolina are in. The survey was in the field from Nov. 25-Dec. 2, 2012. After weights (for sex, age, and race) have been applied, results which use all respondents have a margin of error of approximately +/- 3.5% at the 95% confidence level. Results that use less than the full sample (e.g. just Registered**

Voters or just those who voted in the 2012 presidential election) will naturally have a higher margin of error.

For data of those who voted in the 2012 presidential election, the sample size is 600 and after weights (for sex, age, and race) have been applied, results which only use these respondents have a margin of error of approximately +/-4% at the 95% confidence level.

For additional information on methodology, see conclusion of poll.

Among the Winthrop Poll findings:

- Almost one month to-the-day after Barack Obama won a second term as president, 48% of all South Carolinians polled approved of the job he is doing. The category of respondents who most disapproved of his performance—at 51.9%—were those who reported that they had voted in the presidential election last month.
- More than three-in-four of all respondents disapproved of the way Congress is doing its job.
- When you factor in the margin of error, and remove those who either expressed no opinion—or refused to answer whether they approved or disapproved of her job performance—Gov. Nikki Haley garnered roughly even approval/disapproval ratings among all those polled, registered voters, and those who voted in the 2012 presidential election.
- Gov. Haley garners a much higher approval rating—61.5% vs. 19% who disapprove of her job performance—among those who are registered to vote and say they are either Republicans or Independents who lean Republican.
- Respondents were almost equally divided as to whether they think South Carolina is on the right track (40.2%) compared with those who say it is headed in the wrong direction (41.9%).
- 38.2% of those polled say Newt Gingrich, who bested Mitt Romney in the S.C. GOP Primary in January, would have posted about the same result as Romney did in the presidential election. Almost 40% say he would have been less successful than Romney.
- Almost one-half of all respondents say they think that economic conditions in South Carolina are getting better, with over 50% of them rating their personal financial situation as excellent or good.
- While the U.S. Supreme Court has not tipped its hand this session as to whether it will hear any cases involving same-sex marriages, almost 50% of poll respondents said they felt somewhat—or very—strongly that S.C. law should not be used to decide the divorce cases of gay couples who were legally married in Washington D.C., or one of the nine states that allows it.

- Among Registered Voters, the number of respondents who said they were not members of the Tea Party was decidedly significant. While 90.8% said they were not, a mere 5.7% said they were.

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

Demographics

T.1

	Census*	December 2012 Winthrop Poll – All Respondents
Sex		
Male	47.94	50.0
Female	52.06	50.0
Race		
Caucasian	68.57	64.0
African American	26.5	29.6
Other	4.93	6.5
Age		
18-19	4.06	4.3
20-29	17.97	17.6
30-39	16.48	16.6
40-49	17.98	17.8
50-59	17.76	17.4
60-69	13.99	13.3
70-79	7.52	7.1
80-89	3.6	3.3
90-99	.62	.7
99 & over	.018	0.0
Refused	--	1.8

***Census percentages are ONLY for those S.C. residents age 18 and over.**

T.2 Registered Voters

	Registered Voters – SC Election Commission	December 2012 Winthrop Poll – Registered Voters
Sex		
Male	44.9	46.1

Female	55.1	53.9
Race		
White	69.1	71.0
Non-white	30.9	29.0
Age		
18-24	4.4	4.3
25-44	38.2	34.8
45-65	36.2	38.7
65+	21.2	20.6
Refused	--	1.6

As was demonstrated by the national election outcome, people who suggest reweighting (or “unskewing”) polls based on a snapshot of self-reported partisanship have a fundamental misunderstanding of polling, in general, and sampling in particular.

A better test of the accuracy of our sampling would be to compare reported votes from our respondents to the actual vote in the recent presidential election. Reported vote from the Winthrop Poll seen below represent answers from those sampled who were screened first for registration status and then for whether or not they actually voted.

2012 Election Results

T.3

	SC Election Commission – Official Results	December 2012 Winthrop Poll – Reported Vote
Romney	54.56	53.2
Obama	44.09	44.8
Other	1.35	1.9

Sample size for Registered Voters is 726. That is 78.2% of our sample.

According to the Census, there are 3,544,890 individuals in SC age

18 and over. Of those, the SC Election Commission reports that 2,820,774 are registered. That's 79.57%

December 2012 Winthrop Poll – Results

T.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President of the United States?

	All	Registered Voters	Voted in 2012 Presidential Election
Approve	48.0	42.5	43.1
Disapprove	41.2	49.4	51.9
Not Sure	8.9	6.2	3.9
Refused	1.9	1.9	1.1

***NOTE: Nationally, among “Likely Voters” Approve: 56%; Disapprove: 44% (Rasmussen 11/29-12/1). Among the general population Approve: 52%; Disapprove: 41% (Gallup 11/29-12/1)**

T.5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

	All	Registered Voters	Voted in 2012 Presidential Election
Approve	13.2	14.0	13.1
Disapprove	77.1	78.0	79.4
Not Sure	8.8	7.1	6.4
Refused	1.0	1.0	1.1

T.6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nikki Haley is handling her job as Governor of South Carolina?

	All	Registered Voters	Voted in 2012 Presidential Election	Republicans – Including Leaners (Registered Voters only)

Approve	38.3	40.0	40.5	61.5
Disapprove	41.3	42.4	42.9	19.0
Not Sure	19.1	16.2	15.4	17.2
Refused	1.2	1.4	1.2	2.3

***NOTE: Due to larger number of “Not Sure/ Don’t Know” answers, comparisons to national figures (where there are notably fewer ‘Not Sure/ Don’t Know’) are erroneous. Also remember that point estimates that are within the margin of error are functionally equivalent.**

****NOTE: When those who express no opinion or refuse to answer are removed, Gov. Haley enjoys a roughly 50/50 approval rating when the margin of error is factored in for all respondents, registered voters, and those who voted in the 2012 presidential election. She enjoys notably higher approval ratings among Republicans and Independents who Lean Republican (who are also registered to vote --- partisanship is self-reported; we do not register by party in South Carolina)**

T.7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way the South Carolina State Legislature is handling its job?

	All	Registered Voters	Voted in 2012 Presidential Election
Approve	38.0	40.4	42.5
Disapprove	33.0	32.8	33.0
Not Sure	27.6	25.3	23.0
Refused	1.4	1.4	1.4

T.8 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
Right Track	39.6
Wrong Direction	53.0
Don’t Know/	7.4

Refused to Answer	
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T.9 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?

	All
Right Track	40.2
Wrong Direction	41.9
Don't Know/ Refused to Answer	17.9

T.10 Even though Mitt Romney won the Republican Nomination, more voters in the South Carolina Republican Primary held in January of this year voted for Newt Gingrich. Do you think Newt Gingrich would have been more successful running against Obama than Mitt Romney, less successful running against Obama than Mitt Romney, or achieved about the same result running against Obama as Mitt Romney.

	All	Registered Voters	Voted in 2012 Presidential Election	Republicans – Including Leaners (Registered Voters only)
More Successful	14.9	15.5	15.2	21.0
Less Successful	39.9	41.2	42.8	42.0
About the Same	38.2	36.1	35.6	32.0
Don't Know/ Not Sure	5.8	5.8	5.1	4.1
Refused to Answer	1.1	1.4	1.3	.9

***NOTE: Those in the Republican/Leaner column are registered to vote and identified themselves as Republicans or Independents who lean Republican, but they may or may not have voted in the January 2012 SC Republican Presidential Primary**

T.11 What do you think is the most important problem facing the United States of America today?

(Top four responses listed. Response options are not read to respondents. Interviewers code responses into one of 29 answer options)

	All
Economy/ Economic- financial crisis	29.9
Budget deficit or debt	14.8
Jobs or unemployment	12.0
Politicians/ Government	9.3

T.12 What do you think is the most important problem facing the state of South Carolina today?

(Top four responses listed. Response options are not read to respondents. Interviewers code responses into one of 29 answer options)

	All
Jobs or unemployment	21.7
Economy/ Economic- financial crisis	16.9
Education	16.1
Politicians/ Government	7.0

T.13 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

	All
Very Good	1.7
Fairly Good	29.6

Fairly Bad	39.3
Very Bad	27.4
Not Sure	1.7
Refused to Answer	0.4

T.14 Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the country as a whole are getting better or getting worse?

	All
Getting Better	49.1
Getting Worse	43.7
Not Sure	6.8
Refused to Answer	0.4

T.15 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
Very Good	2.9
Fairly Good	46.5
Fairly Bad	31.1
Very Bad	13.7
Not Sure	4.7
Refused to Answer	1.1

T.16 Right now, do you think that economic conditions in South Carolina are getting better or getting worse?

	All
Getting Better	48.9
Getting Worse	32.3
Not Sure	17.9
Refused to Answer	0.9

T.17 How would you rate your financial situation today? As excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	All
Excellent	11.4
Good	39.9
Only Fair	36.1
Poor	10.6
Not Sure	0.7
Refused to Answer	1.3

T.18 Right now, do you think that your financial situation as a whole is getting better or getting worse?

	All
Getting Better	53.4
Getting Worse	31.2
Not Sure	13.7
Refused to Answer	1.8

T.19 Regardless of your attitudes toward same sex marriage, do you think South Carolina should or should not permit gay couples who were married in other states to have their divorce decided under the rules of South Carolina law?

[CALLER: if they say 'should' or 'should not,' ask "Do you feel that way very strongly or somewhat strongly?"]

	All
Very Strongly Should	20.5
Somewhat Strongly Should	16.8
Somewhat Strongly Should Not	11.6
Very Strongly Should Not	37.9
Not Sure/ Don't Know	10.3
Refused to Answer	2.8

T.20 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	Registered Voters	Republicans – Including Leaners (Registered Voters only)
Approve	28.8	33.1	59.2
Disapprove	34.3	36.8	16.4
Not Familiar	33.0	25.8	19.7
Not Sure	3.0	3.3	4.0
Refused to Answer	0.9	0.9	0.7

T.21 Would you consider yourself a MEMBER of the Tea Party Movement?

	All	Registered Voters	Republicans – Including Leaners (Registered Voters only)
Yes	5.3	5.7	8.2
No	90.6	90.8	87.0
Not Sure	3.6	3.2	4.5
Refused to Answer	0.6	0.3	0.3

T.22 Would you consider yourself a MEMBER of the Tea Party Movement?

*Note: Numbers below for 2012 represent Republicans and Independents who Lean Republican who ALSO voted in the 2012 presidential election (not just Republicans and Independents who Lean Republican who are simply registered to vote as in T.21). Numbers below for 2010 represent likely voters in the 2010 SC gubernatorial election from the October 2010 Winthrop Poll. The number of those active voters willing to identify themselves as Tea Party members has dropped by apx 2/3.

	2012 Republicans – Including Leaners (Only those who Voted in 2012)	2010 Republicans – Including Leaners (Likely 2010 SC Gubernatorial Voters)
Yes	9.0	30.5
No	86.1	60.6

Not Sure	4.9	7.2
Refused to Answer	0.0	1.6

T.23 In the last month, it was discovered that a computer hacker was able to break into the South Carolina Department of Revenue’s computers and access the social security numbers and other personal information of millions of South Carolina tax payers.

How familiar would you say you were with this incident? Would you say that you were not at all familiar with the incident, had heard of the incident, but didn’t know the details, were somewhat familiar with the incident, or were very familiar with the incident?

	All
Not at All Familiar	8.3
Heard, but No Details	18.5
Somewhat Familiar	28.2
Very Familiar	45.1
Refused to Answer	0.0

T.24 Which of the following comes close to your opinion? [ANSWERS ROTATED]

The South Carolina government WAS providing adequate computer security for the taxpayer information, but the hackers were still able to break in

or

The South Carolina government was NOT providing adequate computer security for the taxpayer information, and that’s what allowed the hackers to break in

	All
Was	17.0
Was Not	74.6
Not Sure/ Don’t Know	8.3
Refused to Answer	0.1

T.25 Crosstab: Haley Approval by Was Security Adequate

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Governor Haley's approval rating by whether respondent thought SC government WAS or WAS NOT providing adequate computer security for taxpayer information

	All Respondents		Registered Voters		Voted in 2012 pres. election	
	Security Was Adequate	Security Was <u>Not</u> Adequate	Security Was Adequate	Security Was <u>Not</u> Adequate	Security Was Adequate	Security Was <u>Not</u> Adequate
Approve	51.5	35.2	58.8	35.3	61.6	34.8
Disapprove	26.6	46.1	23.7	48.0	22.2	49.3
Not Sure	20.7	17.5	17.5	15.0	16.2	14.5
Refuse	1.2	1.2	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

T.26 Do you believe that ethics laws in South Carolina that govern the behavior of lawmakers are currently adequate or should we look for ways to make them more strict?

	All
Adequate	32.3
More Strict	56.1
Don't Know/ Not Sure	10.6
Refused to Answer	0.9

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