

February 2013 Winthrop Poll

Methodology Statement

Survey Methodology

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The February 2013 Winthrop Poll interviewed 1038 adults living in South Carolina. After weights (for sex, age, and race) have been applied, results which use all respondents have a **margin of error of approximately +/- 3.1%** at the 95% confidence level. Results that use less than the full sample (e.g. just Registered Voters) will naturally have a higher margin of error.

The survey was in the field from 2/9-2/17, 2013. 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. Both 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 for RDD sample.

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 residents of SC age 18 and older.
3. Weight Responses for the subset of registered voters based on **sex, age, and race** according to the known population of those registered to vote 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.

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

**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.

Current Findings

February 2013 Winthrop Poll

Download a high resolution version of the [Winthrop Poll logo](#) (576KB, 2028x1351).

For methodological questions please read the full [Methodology Statement](#)

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RESULTS OF LATEST WINTHROP POLL ARE IN

PRES. OBAMA'S APPROVAL RATINGS BY SC RESIDENTS HOLDS STEADY AT 48%, ABOUT FOUR PERCENTAGE POINTS LOWER THAN HIS NATIONAL APPROVAL RATING, WHILE 46.5% GIVE HIM A THUMBS DOWN

RESPONDENTS GIVE GOV. HALEY HIGHER MARKS ON JOB PERFORMANCE SINCE DECEMBER WINTHROP POLL

ONLY ¼ OF SC RESPONDENTS APPROVE OF THE TEA PARTY MOVEMENT

47.3% APPROVE OF SEN LINDSEY GRAHAM'S HANDLING OF JOB

MORE THAN HALF THINK THAT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SC ARE GETTING BETTER AND ALMOST HALF THINK CONDITIONS GETTING BETTER ACROSS THE COUNTRY

ROCK HILL, S.C. - The results of the latest Winthrop Poll, of 1,038 respondents living in South Carolina are in. The survey was in the field from Feb. 9-17, 2013.

After weights (for sex, age, and race) have been applied, results which use all respondents have a margin of error of approximately +/- 3.1% at the 95% confidence level. Results that use less than the full sample (e.g. just Registered Voters) will naturally have a higher margin of error.

For additional information on methodology, see conclusion of poll.

Among the Winthrop Poll findings:

- More than three months after Barack Obama won a second term as president, 47.6% of all South Carolinians polled approve of the job he is doing.
- "Three-in-four of all respondents and over 80% of registered SC voters disapproved of the way Congress is doing its job. Regarding the S.C. General Assembly, 40% of SC residents approved and 35.1% disapproved.
- S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley garnered higher approval ratings in this poll compared to the December Winthrop Poll. Ratings have climbed to 43.7% for registered voters, compared to disapproval of 39.1%. In December, those numbers were nearly even.
- Gov. Haley garners a much higher approval rating—66.8% vs. 16.2% who disapprove of her job performance—among those who are registered to vote and say they are either Republicans or Independents who lean Republican.

- U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, who is up for re-election in 2014, received a 48.4% approval rating among S.C. registered voters -- 12 points higher than his disapproval rating-- but his approval rating climbs to 71.6% among Republicans and those independents who lean toward the GOP
- Tea Party membership continues to remain much lower than 2010 highs. In numbers similar to the December Winthrop Poll, only about 1 in 10 Republicans and GOP Leaning Independents who are registered approve of the Tea Party consider themselves a member of the movement. Overall, only about 6% of all registered voters consider themselves members of the Tea Party movement. While membership in the Tea Party remains steady from December 2012, approval of the movement continues to drop across the board.
- Concerning lifestyle questions, only 41.7% respondents said they were close to their ideal weight, 23.2% reported experiencing significant physical pain recently, 1 in 10 reported depression, more than a third were stressed a lot, over a quarter were worried and only 22.1% engaged in vigorous exercise for at least 30 minutes daily or almost every day during the week with nearly 3 in 10 reporting NO physical exercise. Only 56% of respondents reported having eaten healthy the previous day. Nearly 43% of those with Internet in their homes frequently visit social networking sites.
- Fewer respondents think country is on the right track (36.3%) compared with those who say it is headed in the wrong direction (55%). Yet 48.3% said the economic conditions for the country as a whole are getting better, while 52.1% said conditions for S.C. are getting better.
- The most important problems facing the U.S. respondents said are, in order: the economy, the budget deficit or debt, jobs or employment, and politicians/government.

February 2013 Winthrop Poll – Results

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

Weighted Demographics

T.1

	Census*	February 2013 Winthrop Poll – All Respondents
Sex		
Male	47.94	48.6
Female	52.06	51.4
Race		
Caucasian	68.57	68.4
African American	26.5	27.1

Other	4.93	4.5
Age		
18-19	4.06	4.0
20-29	17.97	17.9
30-39	16.49	16.2
40-49	17.98	17.7
50-59	17.77	17.7
60-69	13.99	13.9
70-79	7.52	7.3
80-89	3.6	3.5
90-99	.62	.6
99 & over	.018	0.0
Refused	--	1.2

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

T.2

	Registered Voters – SC Election Commission (accessed 2/18/13)	February 2013 Winthrop Poll – Registered Voters
Sex		
Male	45.0	46.9
Female	55.0	53.1
Race		
White	68.7	68.3
Non-white	31.3	31.6
Age		
18-24	4.7	4.7
25-44	38.3	37.7
45-65	35.9	35.6
65+	21.1	20.3
Refused	--	1.6

T.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Barack Obama** is handling his job as President of the United States?

	All	Gallup National Poll as of 2/17/13	Bloomberg National Poll as of 2/18/13	Registered Voters in SC
Approve	47.6	52	55	48.1
Disapprove	45.2	42	40	46.8

Not Sure	6.5	6	5	4.8
Refused	.7	-	-	.3

T.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Congress** is handling its job?

	All	Gallup National Poll as of 1/10/13	Registered Voters in SC
Approve	14.1	14	12.2
Disapprove	75.5	81	80.3
Not Sure	10	6	7.5
Refused	.4	-	.1

T.5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Nikki Haley** is handling her job as Governor of South Carolina?

	All	All – Excluding Not Sure and Refused	Registered Voters in SC	Registered Voters in SC – Excluding Not Sure and Refused	Republicans & GOP Leaning Ind who are Reg. Voters
Approve	42.5	52.5	43.7	52.8	66.8
Disapprove	38.4	47.5	39.1	47.2	16.2
Not Sure	18.2	-	16.4	-	16.8
Refused	1.0	-	.8	-	.2

*NOTE: We do not register by political party in South Carolina. Therefore, partisanship is self-reported.

T.6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **the South Carolina State Legislature** is handling its job?

	All	Registered Voters in SC
Approve	40.0	39.3
Disapprove	35.1	37.0
Not Sure	24.1	23.3
Refused	.9	.4

T.7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Lindsay Graham** is handling its job as a United States Senator for South Carolina?

	All	All – Excluding Not Sure and Refused	Registered Voters in SC	Registered Voters in SC – Excluding Not Sure and	Republicans & GOP Leaning Ind who are Reg. Voters
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				Refused	
Approve	47.3	58.4	48.4	57.1	71.6
Disapprove	33.7	41.6	36.3	42.9	17.4
Not Sure	18.3	-	14.8	-	10.7
Refused	.6	-	.5	-	.3

*NOTE: We do not register by political party in South Carolina. Therefore, partisanship is self-reported.

T.8 In December, U.S. Senator Jim DeMint resigned his post to become the president of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank. Governor Nikki Haley appointed Representative Tim Scott, the Congressman from South Carolina's 1st Congressional District, to replace Jim DeMint in the U.S. Senate.

Would you say the choice of Tim Scott to fill the vacancy in the U.S. Senate was: Excellent, Good, Only Fair, or Poor?

	All	Registered Voters in SC	Republicans & GOP Leaning Ind who are Reg. Voters
Excellent	16.1	18.6	31.6
Good	29.0	30.1	38.0
Only fair	25.2	24.4	10.8
Poor	10.1	11.7	3.3
Not sure	18.4	14.2	14.9
Refused	1.2	1.0	1.4

*NOTE: We do not register by political party in South Carolina. Therefore, partisanship is self-reported.

T.9 Would you say that your overall opinion of U.S. Senator Tim Scott is favorable or unfavorable?

	All	Registered Voters in SC	Republicans & GOP Leaning Ind who are Reg. Voters
Favorable	52.0	54.8	73.2
Unfavorable	19.0	18.8	4.5
Not sure/don't know	27.4	25.1	21.2
Refused	1.5	1.3	1.2

*NOTE: Senator Scott has not been on the job long enough to ask whether respondents approve/disapprove of the way he is handling his job. Therefore, it was determined that favorable/unfavorable ratings would be more appropriate at this time.

*NOTE: We do not register by political party in South Carolina. Therefore, partisanship is self-reported.

T.10 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	36.3
Wrong Direction	55.0
Don't Know/ Refused to Answer	8.7

T.11 Thinking about the current path that state of South Carolina is taking, do you think state of South Carolina is on the right track or headed in the wrong direction?

	All
Right Track	45.6
Wrong Direction	41.2
Don't Know/ Refused to Answer	13.1

T.12 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 30 answer options)

	All
Economy or Economic/financial crisis	22.5
Budget deficit or debt	14.4
Jobs or unemployment	14.3
Politicians/ government	10.1

T.13 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 30 answer options)

	All
Jobs or unemployment	24.2
Economy or Economic/financial	14.0

crisis	
Education	12.8
Politicians/ government	6.5

T.14 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	31.6
Fairly Bad	36.6
Very Bad	27.8
Not Sure	2.1
Refused	.2

T.15 Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the country as a whole are getting better or getting worse?

	All
Getting Better	48.3
Getting Worse	44.0
Not Sure	7.3
Refused	.4

T.16 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	3.3
Fairly Good	47.7
Fairly Bad	32.7
Very Bad	11.8
Not Sure	3.8
Refused	.8

T.17 Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the South Carolina are getting better or getting worse?

	All
Getting Better	52.1
Getting Worse	33.1

Not Sure	13.5
Refused	1.2

T.18 How would you rate your financial situation today? As excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	All
Excellent	7.2
Good	42.6
Only Fair	34.3
Poor	13.9
Not Sure	.9
Refused	1.1

T.19 Right now, do you think that your financial situation as a whole is getting better or getting worse?

	All
Getting Better	52.0
Getting Worse	32.2
Not Sure	14.4
Refused	1.4

T.20 OK, now I'd like to ask some different kinds of questions. First, do you have internet access in your home? [Includes access via smart phone]

	All
Yes	84.6
No	15.0
Not Sure	.3
Refused	.0

T.21 Is your home internet access, high speed, such as DSL or a Cable Modem, dial-up, or only via a smart phone that does not use your home's wireless access?

	All
High Speed	89.1
Dial Up	4.0
Smart Phone Only	3.8
Not Sure	2.8
Refused	.2

***NOTE:** This question was only asked of those respondents who reported that they had internet access in their home.

T.22 Do you visit social networking sites, such as FaceBook, MySpace, or LinkedIn on the internet very often, often, sometimes, hardly at all, or never?

	All
Very Often	23.0
Often	19.5
Sometimes	18.6
Hardly At All	13.1
Never	25.6
Refused to Answer	.2

***NOTE:** This question was only asked of those respondents who reported that they had internet access in their home.

T.23 Do you **primarily** see the internet in your life as a tool for communication, for work, for information, or forentertainment?

	All
Communication	12.2
Work	20.3
Information	38.6
Entertainment	14.8
Other	13.0
Refused to Answer	1.1

***NOTE:** This question was only asked of those respondents who reported that they had internet access in their home.

T.24 On a different subject, would you say you **ate healthy** all day yesterday?

	All
Yes	56.0
No	42.1
Not Sure	1.5
Refused	.5

T.25 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your personal health?

	All
Satisfied	72.1
Dissatisfied	25.7
Don't know/ Not sure	1.8

Refused	.3
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T.26 Do you have any health problems that prevent you from doing any of the things people your age normally can do?

	All
Yes	21.2
No	78.1
Don't know/ Not sure	.2
Refused	.5

*Did you experience the following feelings during **A LOT OF THE DAY** yesterday?*

[NOTE: The following four questions were randomized]

T.27 How about...physical pain? [Did you experience this during **A LOT OF THE DAY** yesterday?]

	All
Yes	23.2
No	76.6
Don't know/ Not sure	0
Refused	.3

T.28 How about...depression? [Did you experience this during **A LOT OF THE DAY** yesterday?]

	All
Yes	10.3
No	89.1
Don't know/ Not sure	.3
Refused	.3

T.29 How about...stress? [Did you experience this during **A LOT OF THE DAY** yesterday?]

	All
Yes	36.2
No	62.9
Don't know/ Not sure	.6
Refused	.3

T.30 How about...worry? [Did you experience this during **A LOT OF THE DAY** yesterday?]

	All
Yes	27.7
No	71.8
Don't know/ Not sure	.3
Refused	.3

T.31 How many days during the last 7 days did you engage in vigorous physical exercise for **at least** 30 minutes?

	All
0	29.1
1 - 2	23.4
3 - 4	22.9
5 - 7	22.3
Don't Know/ Not Sure	1.8
Refused to Answer	.4

*NOTE: Respondents who answered with a range, such as "two to three," were coded as the lower number

T.32 I'm going to read several statements and ask you to tell me whether each statement was often, sometimes, or never true for your household during the past 12 months. You were worried that food would run out in your household before you were able to afford to buy more. Was that statement often, sometimes, or never true for your household during the past 12 months?

	All
Often	6.3
Sometimes	15.0
Never	77.5
Not Sure	.7
Refused	.4

T.33 You felt that you couldn't afford to serve everyone balanced meals in your household because there wasn't enough money. Was that statement often, sometimes, or never true for your household during the past 12 months?

	All
Often	6.9
Sometimes	12.5
Never	79.7
Not Sure	.4
Refused	.4

T.34 Think for a moment about what you would consider your ideal physical weight. Would you say that your current weight is much higher than that ideal, somewhat higher than that ideal, very close to that ideal, somewhat lower than that ideal, or much lower than that ideal?

	All
Much Higher	13.0
Somewhat higher	37.0
Close to ideal	41.7
Somewhat lower	4.4
Much lower	1.6
Not Sure/ Don't Know	1.1
Refused	1.2

T.35 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 in SC	Republicans & GOP Leaning Ind who are Reg. Voters
Approve	24.1	26.5	48.0
Disapprove	34.7	37.9	20.6
Not Familiar	34.6	28.4	22.0
Not sure	5.4	6.0	8.6
Refused	1.2	1.2	.8

*NOTE: We do not register by political party in South Carolina. Therefore, partisanship is self-reported.

T.36 Would you consider yourself a **MEMBER** of the **Tea Party Movement**?

	All	Registered Voters in SC	Republicans & GOP Leaning Ind who are Reg. Voters
Yes	5.5	6.1	10.6
No	87.4	88.2	84.1
Not sure	6.4	4.7	4.6
Refused	.7	1.1	.7

*NOTE: We do not register by political party in South Carolina. Therefore, partisanship is self-reported.

T.37 Do you favor or oppose placing an armed police officer in every public school in South Carolina?

	All
Favor	65.9
Oppose	28.9
Not Sure	4.6
Refused	.6

T.38 Would you favor or oppose a tax increase to cover the additional cost of having an armed police officer in every school?

	All
Favor	73.3
Oppose	24.4
Not Sure	2.2
Refused	-

***NOTE:** This question was only asked of those who said they “Favor” placing an armed officer in every school

T.39 Do you favor or oppose allowing teachers to carry concealed weapons in the classroom in public schools in South Carolina?

	All
Favor	28.0
Oppose	66.1
Not Sure	5.8
Refused	.2

T.40 SC partisan breakdown for General Population (from February 2013 Winthrop Poll), Registered Voters (from February 2013 Winthrop Poll) and those who voted in the 2012 presidential election (from the December 2012 Winthrop Poll)

Because prior research has shown that “Leaners” (those who say they are independent, but ‘lean’ toward a party) vote more consistently partisan than weak party identifiers, “Leaners” have been included with the party they lean toward. “Independent” in the table below represent ONLY those who lean toward neither party.

	Feb 2013 General Public	Feb 2013 Registered Voters	Dec 2012 Voted in 2012 Presidential Election
Republican (Including Leaners)	41.1	45.0	48.7

Democrat (Including Leaners)	38.4	39.7	39.6
Independent (Do NOT lean toward either party)	14.5	11.1	9.0
Other	2.7	2.0	1.9
Refused	3.3	2.2	0.8

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See full **methodology** page for more info.

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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.

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