

## April 2014 Winthrop Poll of Adults Living in South Carolina

**Almost 50% of Registered Voters Approve of How Gov. Nikki Haley is Doing Her Job**

**43% Approve of How U.S. Sen. Tim Scott is Doing His Job, While Only 18% Disapprove**

**And Nearly 40% Give a Thumbs-Up to U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham With Approval and Disapproval More Closely Divided**

**Meanwhile, More Than 50% of All Respondents Disapprove of Pres. Barack Obama's Job Performance**

**And Almost 40% of South Carolina Retirees Say They Don't Have Enough Money to Live as Comfortably as They Hoped**

**And Nearly 18% of All Those Polled Have a Parent, Sibling or Spouse with Alzheimer's or Dementia of Some Kind**

ROCK HILL, S.C. - The results of the April 2014 Winthrop Poll of 877 adults living in South Carolina are in. The survey was in the field from April 6-13, 2014. After weights (for sex, age, and race) have been applied, results which use all respondents have a margin of error of approximately +/- 3.3% at the 95% confidence level. Results that use less than the full sample will naturally have a higher margin of error.

Since the last Winthrop Poll of the general population—with breakouts of registered voters—took place in Oct. 2013, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's approval rating among all respondents has gone up 3.1%, within the margin of error—(42.8% now, 39.7% in Oct. 2013). Meanwhile, his approval rating among registered voters during the same period ticked up 2.2%—again within the margin of error (39.6% now, 37.4% in Oct 2013.).

And while Graham's disapproval rating among registered voters is higher than his approval rating with the same group (43.8% disapproval vs. 39.6% approval), Poll Director Scott Huffmon cautioned that the difference between the two is just at the margin of error for the registered voter sample.

At the same time, U.S. Senator Tim Scott, facing his first election for the Senate, received an approval rating among all those polled of 43.1%. Huffmon noted in the context of his disapproval and 'no opinion' numbers, the 43.1% figure should not be regarded as being low, since his approval among all respondents is 25.5 percentage points above his disapproval number. Huffmon said that the most interesting factor is that more than one-third of respondents still do not know enough about Sen. Scott to form an opinion even as he prepares for an election.

### Other Winthrop Poll findings include:

**\*President Barack Obama's job approval remains low among South Carolinians as he posted a 37.8% approval rating in the latest poll— while lower than his approval numbers from the general population poll in October 2013, the almost 3 percentage point drop is within the margin of error.**

**\*Among registered voters surveyed, Gov. Nikki Haley's approval rating is almost 10 percentage points higher than her disapproval rating (49.3% vs. 39.6%). Among all those surveyed, her approval rating is almost 15 percentage points higher than her disapproval rating (49.8% vs. 35.0%).**

**\*When asked what the most important problem facing the U.S. today is, the economy/economic-financial crisis was the #1 response. Despite the fact that news reports are asking whether another Cold War is imminent based on what's happening in Russia and Ukraine, only 0.5% identified them as the most important problem facing the U.S.**

**\*Education and jobs/unemployment switched first and second positions in the last six months when it comes to what respondents identified as the most important problem facing South Carolina. While education received the most responses in the current poll (18.5 % now compared with 14.5% in October 2013), in the fall it was jobs or unemployment that was most frequently mentioned (17.5% now compared with 19.6% in Oct. 2013).**

**\*42.3% of all respondents strongly, or somewhat strongly, felt that generations of slavery and discrimination make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower class. However 52.2% of all respondents strongly, or somewhat strongly, do not feel that this is the case.**

**\*62.1% of all those polled felt positive, or somewhat positive, when asked about BMW. The company recently announced that it plans on investing \$1 billion to expand its operation in the Upstate, with the expectation that this will bring 800 additional jobs to the state by 2016.**

**\*Boeing also garnered impressive numbers. When asked their feelings towards Boeing, almost 60% said they had either very positive—or somewhat positive--reaction to the company.**

**\*When those polled were asked if they currently had a parent, sibling or spouse suffering from Alzheimer's, or some other form of dementia, 17.9% said yes. Of those, almost three-quarters reside in South Carolina.**

**\*Twenty states and D.C. now permit the use of marijuana for medical reasons. When South Carolinians were asked if they thought doctors should be allowed to prescribe actual marijuana for medical purposes to treat their patients, 71.6% of all those polled said they should, while registered voters responded yes 66.7% of the time. However, nearly 6 in 10 oppose the legalization of marijuana for personal use.**

**\*Among retirees polled, almost 40% of all respondents said they did not have enough retirement savings or pension, when combined with other retirement income, to live as comfortably as they had hoped.**

**\*Among those polled who have not yet retired, over one-third (33.9%) said they, or their spouse, were not currently putting money into a specific account dedicated to their retirement.**

**\*Over 90% of all respondents said they did not consider themselves to be members of the Tea Party movement. 90.7% of registered voters said the same. (Please see *interpretative note under Question T-29 for important context*).**

This Winthrop Poll, which is partially underwritten by the John C. West Forum at Winthrop, contains a significant number of social questions. For additional information on methodology, see this link: [Methodology](#)

For more information or to set up an interview with Poll Director Scott Huffmon, contact Judy Longshaw, news and media services manager, at 803/323-2404 or e-mail her at [longshawj@winthrop.edu](mailto:longshawj@winthrop.edu).

### **Demographics:**

<b>General Adult Population</b>	<b>Census</b>	<b>April 2014 Winthrop Poll</b>
Male	47.9412	48.5
Female	52.05879	51.5
18-19	4.0608	4.1
20-29	17.966	17.1
30-39	16.4846	16.2
40-49	17.9802	17.7

50-59	17.7694	17.5
60-69	13.9953	13.9
70-79	7.5244	7.5
80-89	3.5764	3.5
90-99	0.6247	0.6
over 100	0.0184	--
Refused	--	1.9
White	68.57	67.4
Black	26.5	24.9
Other	4.93	5.3
Refused	--	2.4
<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>SCVotes.org as of Apr 14, 2014</b>	<b>April 2014 Winthrop Poll</b>
Male	44.99077	44.6
Female	55.0053	55.4
Unknown/Could not determine	0.003929	--
White	68.80284	67.2
Non-white	31.19716	30.2
Refused		2.7
18-24	3.936082	4.0
25-44	37.68886	37.3
45-64	35.91571	34.8
65+	22.42003	21.5
Refused	--	2.4

**NOTES:** Margin of Error for All Respondents is +/- 3.3% Margin of Error for Registered Voters is +/- 4.1% - totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

T1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Barack Obama** is handling his job as President of the United States?

	All Respondents	April 13, 2014 Gallup Poll of United States
Approve	37.8	44
Disapprove	52.7	50
Don't Know	8.1	[not reported]
Refused	1.4	[not reported]

T2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Congress** is handling its job?

	All Respondents	Registered Voters
Approve	13.9	12.0
Disapprove	77.5	82.1
Don't Know	7.8	4.9
Refused	0.8	1.0

T3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Nikki Haley** is handling her job as Governor of South Carolina?

	All Respondents	Registered Voters
Approve	49.8	49.3
Disapprove	35.0	39.6
Don't Know	13.3	9.3
Refused	1.9	1.8

T4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **the South Carolina State Legislature** is handling its job?

	All Respondents	Registered Voters
Approve	41.7	38.9
Disapprove	34.4	38.4
Don't Know	22.3	21.1
Refused	1.6	1.7

T5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Lindsey Graham** is handling his job as a United States Senator for South Carolina?

	All Respondents	Registered Voters
Approve	42.8	39.6
Disapprove	38.9	43.8
Don't Know	17.1	14.8
Refused	1.2	1.7

T6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Tim Scott** is handling his job as a United States Senator for South Carolina?

	All Respondents	Registered Voters
Approve	43.1	43.1
Disapprove	17.6	20.8
Don't Know	36.9	33.5
Refused	2.4	2.6

[Interpretation note: 43.1% is not low when put in the context that Scott's approval among all respondents is 25.5 percentage points above his disapproval. The only real interesting factor is that more than a third of respondents still don't know enough about Sen. Scott to form an opinion even as he readies to run for his first Senate election.]

T7 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?

Right Track	26.7
Wrong Direction	65.4
Not sure/Refused	7.9

T8 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?

Right Track	49.4
Wrong Direction	36.6
Not sure/Refused	14.0

T9 What do you think is the most important problem facing the United States of America today? [Top 4 issues]

Economy/Economic-financial crisis	13.0
Jobs or Unemployment	9.6
Budget deficit or debt	7.9
Politicians/Government	7.4

NOTE: only 0.5% said "Ukraine" or "Russia" as the most important problem facing the country

T10 What do you think is the most important problem facing the state of South Carolina today?

Education	18.5
Jobs or Unemployment	17.5
Economy/Economic-financial crisis	9.0
Politicians/Government	5.0

T11 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

Very Good	3.1
Fairly Good	34.7
Fairly Bad	38.8
Very Bad	21.2
Not Sure	2.0
Refused	0.2

T12 Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the country as a whole are getting better or getting worse?

Getting Better	45.5
Getting Worse	48.2
Not Sure	6.2
Refused	0.1

T13 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?

Very Good	4.5
Fairly Good	54.4
Fairly Bad	28.1
Very Bad	8.7
Not Sure	4.2
Refused	0.1

T14 Right now, do you think that economic conditions in South Carolina are getting better or getting worse?

Getting Better	57.6
Getting Worse	30.7
Not Sure	10.8
Refused	0.9

T15 How would you rate your financial situation today? As excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

Excellent	7.3
Good	43.9
Only Fair	33.9
Poor	13.1
Not Sure	0.5
Refused	1.4

T16 Right now, do you think that your financial situation as a whole is getting better or getting worse?

Getting Better	60.5
Getting Worse	26.4
Not Sure	11.7
Refused	1.4

T17 Now I'm going to read you the names of several public figures and groups. I'd like you to rate your feelings toward each one as very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative. If you don't know the name, please just say so [NOTE: these were read in random order]

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Not sure (or don't know name)	Refused
Barack Obama	20.1	19.5	11.3	16.0	31.5	1.2	0.4
John Boehner	4.6	15.6	20.0	13.0	16.0	29.6	1.2
The National Republican Party	6.8	26.6	21.0	18.4	20.0	6.4	0.7
The SC Republican Party	7.7	29.2	22.9	14.9	16.6	7.8	1.0
The Boeing Aviation Company	30.9	28.6	16.3	2.9	2.0	18.8	0.6
Jim DeMint	13.8	19.8	22.5	9.4	9.9	23.3	1.3
The BMW Car Manufacturer	37.9	24.2	17.9	4.1	2.7	12.6	0.5
The SC Democratic Party	8.5	23.2	25.4	20.5	14.5	7.4	0.5
The National Democratic Party	9.3	23.9	19.7	19.4	21.2	5.8	0.7

T18 On a completely different topic, do you feel that generations of slavery and discrimination do or do not make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower class?

Do you feel that way Strongly or Somewhat?

Strongly DO make it difficult	26.4
Somewhat DO make it difficult	15.9
Somewhat do NOT make it difficult	14.8
Strongly do NOT make it difficult	37.4
Don't Know/ Not Sure	4.5
Refused	0.9

T19 Do you currently have a parent, sibling, or spouse who is suffering from Alzheimer's or some other form of dementia?

Yes	17.9
No	81.4
Not Sure	0.6
Refused	0.1

T20 Does this person live in South Carolina? [NOTE; this was **only** asked of those who had a parent, sibling, or spouse who is suffering from Alzheimer's or some other form of dementia.]

Yes	73.6
No	26.4
Not Sure	--
Refused	--

T21 Do you currently care for, or give financial support for the care of, any family member who is in poor or declining health due to **age related** physical or mental issues?

Yes	26.0
No	73.7
Not Sure	--
Refused	0.3

T22 Cannabidiol is an oil derived from marijuana that has no, or virtually no, THC .... which is the chemical in marijuana that gives the user a "high." The South Carolina legislature is considering a bill that would legalize the use of Cannabidiol when prescribed by a doctor

[The following statements were rotated]]

Some say Cannabidiol **should** be made legal because it does not get users high and can relieve symptoms of seizure disorders in adults and children

while

Some say Cannabidiol should **NOT** be made legal because it may open the door to the legalization of illicit drugs

How about you? Do you think Cannabidiol **should** or should **NOT** be made legal in South Carolina?

	All	Registered Voters
SHOULD be made legal	73.4	70.7
Should NOT be made legal	20.4	22.5
Not Sure [volunteered]	4.6	5.3
Refused	1.5	1.5

T23 Do you think doctors should or should not be allowed to prescribe **actual** marijuana for medical purposes to treat their patients?

	All	Registered Voters
Should	71.6	66.7
Should NOT	23.2	27.2
Not Sure [volunteered]	4.1	5.0
Refused	1.1	1.1

T24 Do you think marijuana should or should not be made legal **for personal use**?

	All	Registered Voters
Should	37.4	33.4
Should NOT	57.7	61.9
Not Sure [volunteered]	4.0	4.0
Refused	0.9	0.8

T25 Do you have enough retirement savings or pension, when combined with other retirement income such as Social Security, to live as comfortably in retirement as you had hoped to? [NOTE: This question was only asked of retirees]



Yes	56.4
No	39.4
Refused	4.2

T26 Are you or a spouse currently putting money into a savings, investment, or pension account that is specifically dedicated to your retirement? [NOTE: This question was only asked of those who were NOT retired.]

Yes	65.2
No	33.9
Not sure	0.6
Refused	0.3

T27 I'd like to ask whether you feel you will or will not have enough money to live comfortably when you **DO** retire. Would you say that you Feel CERTAIN you will have enough money, Feel that you will PROBABLY have enough money, Feel you MAY or MAY NOT have enough money, Feel that you PROBABLY WILL NOT have enough money, or Feel CERTAIN you WILL NOT have enough money to live comfortably when you retire? ? [NOTE: This question was only asked of those who were NOT retired.]

Certain have enough money	19.3
Probably have enough money	27.1
May or May Not	27.1
Probably NOT have enough	13.7
Certain NOT have enough	10.8
Refused	2.0

T28 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
Approve	23.6	26.2
Disapprove	29.3	32.3
Not Sure/Not familiar enough to have opinion	45.5	39.2
Refused	1.5	2.3

T29 Would you consider yourself a **MEMBER** of the **Tea Party Movement**?

	All	Registered Voters
Yes	4.6	5.6
No	90.5	90.7
Not Sure	4.0	2.4
Refused	0.9	1.3

[Interpretation note: Before you consider the Tea Party membership numbers small, please consider that 5.6% of registered voters translates to 158,223 people who consider themselves MEMBERS of the Tea Party. That is not an insignificant number.]

T30

<b>Breakdown of Support for Sen. Lindsey Graham Among SC Adults by Sex, Race (white/black only), Ideology, and Partisanship</b>										
<b>(Note: "leaners" are counted as 'Independent' here)</b>										
	Male	Female	White	Black	Liberal	Conservative	Moderate	GOP	Dem	Ind
Approve	42.3	43.3	46.9	35.8	24.9	47.4	51.3	54.6	30.6	44.2
Disapprove	43.2	34.9	35.7	47.2	57.4	36.6	32.7	29.7	52.3	36.5
Not Sure	12.8	21.1	16.6	14.6	17.2	15.0	14.8	14.4	16.2	18.4
Refused	1.7	0.7	0.9	2.4	0.6	1.1	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.9

T31 Would you say that you approve or disapprove of allowing tax deductions for people who donate money to organizations that provide scholarships for children to attend **private** or **religious** schools

	All	Registered Voters
Approve	66.1	62.3
Disapprove	26.1	29.8
Not Sure	7.3	7.5
Refused	0.6	0.5

T32 *Now I am going to read some specific situations under which an abortion might be considered. For each one, please say whether you think abortion should be legal in that situation, or illegal. How about – [NOTE: the following were read in random order]*

	Should be LEGAL	Should be ILLEGAL	Depends [Volunteered]	Not Sure [Volunteered]	Refused
When the woman's life is endangered	73.9	18.0	2.8	2.4	2.9
When the woman's physical health is endangered	67.9	22.9	3.8	2.7	2.7
When there is evidence that the baby may be physically impaired	36.6	52.4	3.2	3.8	4.0
When there is evidence that the baby may be mentally impaired	35.1	53.6	2.8	4.2	4.3
When the pregnancy was	65.4	27.5	2.1	2.0	3.0

caused by rape or incest					
When the woman or family cannot afford to raise the child	26.2	68.0	1.5	2.0	2.3

**T33 Currently, within certain limitations of the law, a woman may obtain a legal abortion in South Carolina up to TWENTY FOUR weeks of pregnancy, but after 24 weeks, abortions are only allowed for the health of the mother.**

**Would you favor or oppose changing the law to limit legal abortion in South Carolina to the first TWENTY weeks of pregnancy in the absence of health issues?**

	All	Registered Voters
<b>Favor</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>47.4</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>40.5</b>
<b>Not Sure [volunteered]</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Refused</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>

**T34 Overall, do you think abortion should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances? [Note: if respondent replied “legal only under certain circumstances,” this was followed up with “Do you think abortions should be legal in most circumstances or only in a few circumstances?”]**

	All	Registered Voters
<b>Legal under any circumstances</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>
<b>Legal in most circumstances</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>13.7</b>
<b>Legal only in a few circumstances</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>45.3</b>
<b>Illegal in all circumstances</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>16.3</b>
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>Refused</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>

See full [methodology](#) page for more info.

###

Contact Information:  
[Judy Longshaw](#)  
 803/323-2402 (office)  
 803/984-0586 (cell)

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 2014 Winthrop Poll

The April 2014 Winthrop Poll interviewed **877** 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 +/- 3.3%** at the 95% confidence level. Results that use less than the full sample will naturally have a higher margin of error. For results using only Registered Voters, n=588, margin of error of approximately +/- 4.1% at the 95% confidence level.

The survey was in the field from 4/6-4/13, 2014. Phone calls were made during weekday evenings, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon and evening. Weekday daytime calls are 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. Weight responses based on **sex, age, and race** according to the known population of residents of SC age 18 and older.
2. 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.

Full Methodology Statement for February 2010. This survey includes respondents aged 18 years and older from SC. This survey includes responses from 837 respondents giving results which use all respondents a margin of error of +/- 3.39% at the 95% confidence level. Reported results using a subset of the entire sample will naturally have a higher margin of error.

**Description:**

The highly respected Winthrop Poll is widely considered to be the national authority for accurate public opinion for states across the South and general southern political opinion