

Winthrop Poll April 2017 - General Population in SOUTH CAROLINA

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – President Donald Trump’s approval rating of 43% has remained steady in South Carolina for the past two months, according to the latest Winthrop Poll. His approval numbers in South Carolina continue to be a few points higher than his national average.

The 45th president has a disapproval rating of 47% among Palmetto State citizens. An earlier Winthrop Poll in February showed similar ratings.

Trump has strong support within his own party; the president has support from 79% of residents who identify GOP or lean Republican.

Trump’s support is more than two and a quarter times higher than that of Congress. Only 19% of South Carolina residents approve of the way Congress is handling its job.

ECONOMY AND STATE GOVERNMENT

Nearly 60% of Winthrop Poll respondents said our country is headed in the wrong direction. Yet two thirds of South Carolina residents said our country’s economy is very good or fairly good.

More than half (54%) think South Carolina is moving in a positive direction, while 67% think the condition of the state’s economy is either very or fairly good. Nearly 54% described their own financial situation as good or excellent.

S.C. residents said the most important problem facing our country is politicians/government, followed by racism, jobs/unemployment, then immigration/refugees. Those surveyed said the most important issues facing the Palmetto State are roads/bridges/infrastructure, education, jobs or unemployment, and racism.

When asked if state services, including highway troopers, social workers, mental health experts, and schools, have kept pace with the growth of the Palmetto State, 62% of poll respondents said they somewhat or strongly felt that these services have not kept pace. Only 11% said that they strongly felt that services have kept pace with growth.

SC GOVERNOR HENRY MCMASTER AND OTHERS

S.C. Governor Henry McMaster's approval rating in South Carolina stands at 47%. However, his approval rating is 25 points higher than his disapproval rating, putting him very much "above water." According to Huffmon, "the key for Governor McMaster are those 28% who have yet to form an opinion of his job performance. More than a quarter of South Carolinians are taking a 'wait-and-see' attitude in these early months of his administration, but, among those who express an opinion, it is more favorable than unfavorable." McMaster has announced plans to run for governor next year. Elected as the lieutenant governor in 2014, McMaster took over as governor on Jan. 24 after Trump tapped S.C. Governor Nikki Haley to be the United Nations ambassador.

The S.C. General Assembly got an approval nod from 47% of those polled while 38% disapprove of the job they're doing.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's approval is nearly evenly split among all South Carolinians. He has a 45% approval rating and a 47% disapproval rating. His approval among Republicans, and those who lean Republican, stands at just under 50%. The state's junior senator, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, is much more highly rated among the Republican base. He has a strong 82% approval rating among the GOP (including 'Leaners'). Scott's popularity among the general public remains high as well, with 60% reporting approval of the job he is doing.

South Carolinians have complex, and somewhat conflicting, views on equality of opportunity in our state. Fifty four percent say that they believe that all people in South Carolina have an equal chance to succeed if they work equally hard, yet, a plurality believe that people born into poverty are less likely to be in the middle class as an adult than someone who was born into the middle class if both persons put forth the same amount of effort in life. The implication of the latter finding is that those born into poverty must work harder to end up in the middle class setting up a cognitive conflict with the former finding that most say equal work brings equal success.

South Carolina remains a faithful part of the Bible Belt. Forty seven percent of South Carolinians report attending worship services at least once a week compared to only 36% nationally, according to Pew. Additionally, nearly 70% report that religion is a 'very important' part of their life.

Demographics:

	Census	April 2017 Winthrop Poll
Male	47.9412	48.9
Female	52.05879	50.8
Not Sure	N/A	0.3
18-19	4.0608	3.4
20-29	17.966	17.4
30-39	16.4846	16.5
40-49	17.9802	17.1
50-59	17.7694	17.7
60-69	13.9953	13.9
70-79	7.5244	7.6
80-89	3.5764	3.6
90-99	0.6247	0.6
over 100	0.0184	--
Refused	N/A	2.1
White	68.57	66.5
Black	26.5	25.8
Other	4.93	3.9
Refused	N/A	3.9

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

	All Respondents	GOP (& Independents who Lean GOP)
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Approve	43	79
Disapprove	47	11
Don't Know	9	9
Refused	2	2

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

	All Respondents
Approve	19
Disapprove	71
Don't Know	8
Refused	2

T3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Henry McMaster** is handling his job as Governor of South Carolina?

	All Respondents	GOP (& Independents who Lean GOP)
Approve	47	61
Disapprove	21	9
Don't Know	28	26
Refused	4	4

NOTE: Analysis of Gov. McMaster's approval that focuses on it being below 50% is not an accurate representation of the data unless the disapproval numbers are taken into account. Although his approval is 47%, his approval numbers are 26 points higher than his disapproval numbers. The key number is the 28% who have not yet formed an opinion of his job performance.

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

	All Respondents
Approve	47
Disapprove	38
Don't Know	13
Refused	2

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	GOP (& Independents who Lean GOP)
Approve	45	49
Disapprove	47	45
Don't Know	7	5
Refused	1	1

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	GOP (& Independents who Lean GOP)
Approve	60	82
Disapprove	27	7
Don't Know	12	9
Refused	2	2

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?

	All Respondents
Right Track	35
Wrong Direction	59
Don't Know/ Refused	6

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?

	All Respondents
Right Track	54
Wrong Direction	36
Don't Know/ Refused	10

T9 What do you think is the most important problem facing the United States of America today?

All Respondents
Politicians / Government 8.1%
Racism 7.5%
Jobs / Unemployment 6.7%
Immigration and/or Refugees 6.0%

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

All Respondents
Roads / Bridges / Infrastructure 18.7%
Education 12.1%
Jobs or Unemployment 10.1%
Racism 6.5%

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

	All Respondents
Very good	5
Fairly good	61
Fairly bad	26
Very bad	8
Not sure	1
Refused	0

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

	All Respondents
Getting Better	56
Getting Worse	35
Not Sure [volunteered]	7
Refused	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?

	All Respondents
Very good	7
Fairly good	60
Fairly bad	27
Very bad	5
Not sure	2
Refused	0

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

	All Respondents
Getting Better	61
Getting Worse	30
Not Sure [volunteered]	7
Refused	2

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

	All Respondents
Excellent	10
Good	44
Only Fair	32
Poor	11
Not Sure	1
Refused	1

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

	All Respondents
Getting Better	66
Getting Worse	23
Not Sure [volunteered]	9
Refused	2

T17 Do you believe all people in South Carolina do or do not have an equal chance to *succeed* if they work equally*hard*?

	All Respondents
Do	54
Do NOT	43
Not Sure [volunteered]	2
Refused	1

T18 Do you think a person who was born into poverty is more likely, less likely, or equally likely to be middle class **as an adult** than a person who was born into the middle class if both of them put forth **the same amount** of effort in life?

	All Respondents
More likely to be in middle class	17
Equally likely to be in middle class	37
Less likely to be in middle class	43
Not Sure [volunteered]	3
Refused	1

T19 Do you feel that state services -- including highway troopers, social workers, mental health experts, and schools – have or have not kept pace with the growth of the state of South Carolina and its population?

Do you feel that way Strongly or Somewhat?

	All Respondents
Strongly have	11
Somewhat have	19
Somewhat have NOT	23
Strongly have NOT	39
Not sure	7
Refused	1

T20 Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

	All Respondents
More than once a week	21
Once a week	26
Once or twice a month	15
Few times a year	14
Seldom	13
Never	10
Don't Know/ Refused	1

T21 How important would you say religion is in your own life: Very important, Fairly important, or Not very important?

	All Respondents
Very Important	69
Fairly Important	16
Not Very Important	14
Don't Know/ Refused	1

T22 Would you favor or oppose a proposal to make South Carolina community colleges and two-year technical colleges tuition free to South Carolina residents?

	All Respondents
Favor	71
Oppose	26
Not sure	2
Refused	1

T23 Would you favor or oppose a proposal to allow the state of South Carolina to borrow as much as five hundred million dollars through revenue bonds to pay for repairs and maintenance projects at state-owned buildings and facilities that were deferred during the economic downturn?

	All Respondents
Favor	46
Oppose	47
Not sure	6
Refused	2

T24 Would you favor or oppose a proposal to require any organization that publicly campaigns for or against a South Carolina political candidate, or for or against a public policy, to publicly disclose their donors?

	All Respondents	GOP & Leaners	Democrats & Leaners
Favor	71	71	71
Oppose	21	22	22
Not sure	6	5	6
Refused	2	3	2

T25 Which of the following comes closer to your beliefs about the South Carolina legislature?

[Options rotated]

Recent legislators who have been accused of political corruption represent “bad apples” and do not represent a broader culture that tolerates corruption.

Or

Recent legislators who have been accused of political corruption reflect a broader culture in the legislature that tolerates corruption.

	All Respondents	GOP & Leaners	Democrats & Leaners
Bad Apples	43	47	40
Culture that tolerates corruption	45	42	47
Not Sure	7	7	7
Refused	5	4	5

Methodology Statement

Survey Methodology

April 2017 Winthrop Poll South Carolina

This is a General Population poll of **878** SC residents. Results which use **All Respondents** have a **margin of error of approximately +/- 3.3%** at the 95% confidence level. Results for Whites have a margin of error of approximately +/- 4.1%; results for Blacks have a margin of error of approximately +/- 6.5%; results for GOP & Independent who Lean Toward the GOP respondents have a margin of error of approximately +/- 5.2%; results for Democratic & Independent who Lean Toward the Democratic Party respondents have a margin of error of approximately +/- 5.4% -- all at the 95% confidence level. Any subset will have a larger margin of error. Margins of error are based on weighted sample size.

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-parents, 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). This poll was in the field from April 2 – 11, 2017.

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. All samples were purchased from Survey Sampling International (SSI).

Data are weighted based on age, sex, and race using Census Bureau data.

Phone numbers selected for the survey were re-dialed up to six times in an attempt to reach a respondent. Once a household was reached, we also employed procedures to randomize within households for RDD sample. Surveys were conducted in English.

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. 60% of the completions came from the wireless sample.

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.