

Current Findings

November 2022 Winthrop Poll

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – Former President Trump may face some competition in South Carolina for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

Half of S.C. Republicans who are registered to vote think former S.C. Governor Nikki Haley should run for president in 2024, according to the latest Winthrop Poll.

The poll results were gathered by telephone calls and online before the midterm elections on November 8.

Speculation has already started about who will challenge President Joe Biden in two years to become the nation's leader.

Respondents were asked who they would support if both Nikki Haley and former President Donald Trump ran for the Republican Presidential nomination in 2024. More S.C. Republican registered voters picked Trump (45%). Thirty-seven percent picked Haley, 10% picked “someone else,” and 8% were not sure.

Winthrop Poll Director, Dr. Scott Huffmon, stated, “Haley has a strong showing against the former president, who is popular within his party. Since this was conducted before the disappointing midterm results, for which many Republicans blame Trump, her star may have risen even further.”

As for the 2020 presidential election, only one-fourth of Republicans believe the results were fair and accurate, while 85% of Democrats agreed with the results.

The abortion issue brought out many voters around the country last week due to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in June to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the federal case that allowed legal abortion. Each state is determining how to proceed, causing some Southern states to ban most abortions while abortion advocates are suing to block enforcement of laws that restrict the procedure.

Here in South Carolina, 86% of all respondents said a woman should be able to obtain a legal abortion if the pregnancy threatens her life or health. That percentage climbed to 92% for Democrats, and dipped to 80% for Republicans.

If the pregnancy was the result of a rape, 82% of respondents also said the woman should be able to obtain a legal abortion. Republican support was 75% in this situation, while Democratic support was 91%.

Support for legal abortion fell if the baby was likely to be born with severe disabilities or health problems with 63% of all respondents indicating a woman should be able to obtain a legal abortion in these instances. Eighty-one percent of Democrats voiced support in this case while less than half of Republicans agreed.

When asked if a woman should be able to obtain a legal abortion for any reason, the support dropped to 46% of all respondents; only a fourth of Republican voters and almost three-fourths of Democratic voters.

According to Huffmon, “The majority of South Carolinians believe in the ability to get a legal abortion at least under some circumstances. There doesn’t seem to be much support for additional restrictions.”

Here are more views on current topics by S.C. voters:

- More than three-fourths of S.C. voters are in favor of medical marijuana but support drops to half when asked about recreational marijuana. Republicans are less likely to support the legalization of marijuana than Democrats. Huffmon notes, “Support for medical marijuana has been growing in South Carolina with sizeable majorities from both parties favoring it. While a bit more than half showed support for legalizing recreational marijuana, there was a sharp partisan divide.”
- Half of respondents said they favor legalizing gambling on sports in the Palmetto state. Sixty percent of Democrats favored this, while only 40% of Republicans supported the idea.
- Only one-third of respondents thought the newly drawn Congressional districts based on the 2020 Census were redrawn in a fair manner. About 40% of Democrats said they weren’t, while around one-third of all respondents didn’t know.
- Half of white respondents said the Confederate battle flag is a symbol of Southern pride. Conversely, 63% of Black respondents felt the flag was a symbol of racial conflict and only 11% stated it represented Southern pride.

- More than half of all participants said same-sex marriages should be recognized by law as valid. Half of Republicans disagreed. Huffmon stated, “With the Dobbs decision putting abortion back onto the states, some worry that the same might happen to the decision that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide. While more than half of the South Carolina population support the continued legality of same-sex marriage, support among Republicans drops below 40% in this GOP-dominated state.”
- What to do with Confederate monuments and memorials continues to be problematic and shows the racial divide in South Carolina. Only a third of all respondents said to leave the memorials to Confederate soldiers who died during the Civil War just as they are. Around 30% said to add a marker for context, while one-fourth of all respondents said to move them to a museum. More than 40% of Black respondents said to move them to a museum.

Race, gender and religious reactions

The Winthrop Poll sought to find out how much discrimination there is against different groups in our society. Here is a sampling of the findings:

Black people – 70% of white respondents said there is some or a lot of discrimination toward Black people while 94% of Black respondents said some or a lot.

Hispanics – 72% of all respondents said this group faces some or a lot of discrimination; 57% of white respondents said some or a lot and 86% of Black respondents said some or a lot.

White people – 44% of all respondents said some or a lot; 48% of white respondents said some or a lot and 32% of Black respondents said none at all.

Asian people – 68% of all respondents said some or a lot; 63% of white respondents said some or a lot and 78% of Black respondents said some or a lot.

Gays and Lesbians – 78% of all respondents said some or a lot; 68% of Republicans said some or a lot and 91% of Democrats said some or a lot.

Women – 65% of all respondents said some or a lot; 55% of men said some or a lot and 73% of women said some or a lot.

Men – 37% of all respondents said some or a lot; 42% of men said some or a lot and 32% of women said some or a lot.

Jews – 61% of all respondents said some or a lot; 51% of Republicans said some or a lot and 76% of Democrats said some or a lot.

Muslims – 75% of all respondents said some or a lot; 65% of Republicans said some or a lot and 85% of Democrats said some or a lot.

Christians – 53% of all respondents said some or a lot; 62% of Republicans said some or a lot and 43% of Democrats said some or a lot.

Conservatives and Liberals – Republicans were more likely to say conservatives face a lot or some discrimination than were Democrats, while Democrats were more likely to say liberals face a lot or some discrimination than were Republicans.

Three-fourths of white respondents said they have not been discriminated against in the past year based on their race, while nearly half of Black respondents said they were.

Separation of Church and State

The Winthrop Poll explored religion's role in government. Nearly 70% said it was critical for our government to maintain a separation of church and state.

Half of all respondents said the federal government should not declare the United States a Christian nation, yet a third said it should.

The idea that the United States holds a special place in God's plan figures into many Southerners' thinking, with 46% agreeing with that statement.

Nearly half of respondents consider the founding documents, such as the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, to be divinely inspired. More than a third of respondents said they consider being a Christian an important aspect of being truly American. Dr. Huffmon noted, "While not a majority, Christian Nationalism, which blends identities of being an American and being a Christian, appears to have a strong base in South Carolina."

For additional information, or to set up an interview with **Poll Director, Dr. Scott Huffmon**, please contact **Judy**

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Methodology Statement

November 2022 Winthrop Poll

Quick Methodology

The November Winthrop Poll was a mixed-mode online and phone survey conducted and paid for by Winthrop University. The survey is a probability sample of adult residents of South Carolina. Respondents were randomly selected either from online panels (32.6% of respondents) or via random digit dial for those contacted by phone (67.4% of respondents). Data from 1298 (weighted) respondents were collected between October 22 and November 5, 2022. Results using all respondents have a margin of error of +/- 2.8% at the 95% confidence level. All subgroups will have a higher margin of error.

AAPOR Transparency Initiative Statement

The November Winthrop Poll was a conducted online and via telephone and paid for by Winthrop University (1,2). The online sample is a probability sample drawn from panels of adult residents of South Carolina curated by Cint and purchased from M-S-G (4,5). The telephone sample is a probability sample of South Carolina adults reached via cell phone (92.7% of phone respondents) or land line (7.3% of phone sample) (4,5). Data were weighted on sex, race and age based on data from the US Census Bureau (9). Full question wording for released results are included; full instrument available upon request (3). Participants responded using CAPI via computer or smartphone for the online sample and were hand-dialed by trained interviewers using a CATI system for the telephone sample; the survey averaged 12 - 15 minutes (6). Data were collected between October 22 and

November 5, 2022. (7). Weighted data include a sample of 1298 respondents which translates to a margin of error of +/- 2.8% at the 95% confidence level for results using all respondents; all subgroups will have a higher margin of error (8). Center for Public Opinion & Policy Research personnel conducted quality control by eliminating data with inappropriate responses (didn't match the question asked), "line" data (strings of the same number punched in in a long row), or completions recorded too quickly for an individual to have actually read the questions for data collected online and through direct supervision and full monitoring for responses collected via telephone (10). All survey research contains unmeasured error and results should be seen as informative, not definitive (11).

Numbers correspond to the [AAPOR Transparency Initiative Disclosure Elements](#).

Results

November 2022 Winthrop Poll

RESULTS MAY NOT SUM TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

Demographics:

	Census	November 2022 Winthrop Poll
Male	47.9759	47.2
Female	52.0241	51.7
Other/Ref		1.1
White	65.955	64.5
Black	25.262	25.0
Other	8.783	8.5
Refused		2.0
18-24	11.4038	12.0
25-44	32.2448	32.8
45-64	32.628	32.4
65+	23.7234	22.7

TABLE 1: In the past year, do you feel that you have been discriminated against because of your race or ethnicity?

	All Respondents	White Respondents	Black Respondents
Yes	30	21	47
No	65	75	46
Not sure/Refused	5	4	7

TABLE 2: In the past year, has there been a time when you felt that you could not express your political opinions out of fear of being verbally attacked or harassed?

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
Yes	47	52	36
No	50	46	63
Not sure/Refused	3	2	2

TABLE 3: Would you favor or oppose a law legalizing medical marijuana prescribed by a doctor?

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
Favor	78	71	82
Oppose	15	22	12
Not sure/Refused	7	8	6

TABLE 4: Would you favor or oppose a law legalizing the recreational use of marijuana?

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
Favor	54	39	67
Oppose	37	54	26
Not sure/Refused	10	7	8

TABLE 5: Would you favor or oppose a law legalizing gambling on sports in the state of South Carolina?

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
Favor	50	40	60
Oppose	37	50	31
Not sure/Refused	14	10	10

TABLE 6: Which of the following comes closest to your opinion about what to do with monuments or memorials to Confederate soldiers who died during the Civil War?

	All Respondents	White Respondents	Black Respondents
Leave them just as they are	35	42	16
Leave them, but add a plaque or marker for context and historical interpretation	28	33	16
Move them to a museum	25	19	42
Remove them completely	8	5	18
Not sure/Refused	4	2	8

TABLE 7: Some people say the confederate flag reminds them of white supremacy and racial conflict. Other people say the confederate battle flag is a symbol of southern heritage and pride.

Do you think the flag is **more** a symbol of racial conflict or of southern pride?

	All Respondents	White Respondents	Black Respondents
Racial Conflict	37	27	63
Southern Pride	39	52	11
Equally Both	14	13	15
Not sure/Refused	10	8	12

TABLE 8: Do you believe that the results of the 2020 Presidential election were fair and accurate?

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
Yes	52	25	85
No	34	62	7
Not sure/Refused	14	13	8

TABLE 9: Should a woman be able to obtain a legal abortion if the pregnancy threatens the woman's life or health?

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
Yes	86	80	92
No	7	13	4
Not sure/Refused	8	8	4

TABLE 10: Should a woman be able to obtain a legal abortion if the pregnancy is the result of rape?

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
Yes	82	75	91
No	12	19	5
Not sure/Refused	7	6	4

TABLE 11: Should a woman be able to obtain a legal abortion if the baby is likely to be born with severe disabilities or health problems?

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
Yes	63	48	81
No	24	40	10
Not sure/Refused	13	12	9

TABLE 12: Should a woman be able to obtain a legal abortion for any reason whatsoever?

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
Yes	46	23	72
No	43	69	18
Not sure/Refused	11	8	10

TABLE 13: Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as a marriage between a man and a woman?

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
Yes, should be recognized as valid	56	37	69
No, should not be recognized as valid	35	54	23
Not sure/Refused	10	9	8

TABLE 14: Do you think Nikki Haley should run for president in 2024?

[for this table the margin of error is +/- 5%]

	Republicans who are registered to vote
Yes	51
No	33
Not sure/Refused	16

TABLE 15: If both Nikki Haley and Donald Trump ran for the Republican Nomination for President in 2024, would you support Nikki Haley, Donald Trump, **or** someone else who might run?

[for this table the margin of error is +/- 5%]

	Republicans who are registered to vote
Nikki Haley	37
Donald Trump	45
Someone else	10
Not sure/Refused	8

For the next few questions, please tell us how much discrimination there is against each of these groups in our society today.

TABLE 16: Black people

	All Respondents	White Respondents	Black Respondents
A lot	42	29	76
Some	34	41	18
Only a little	16	21	3
None at all	5	7	1
Refused	3	2	3

TABLE 17: Hispanics

	All Respondents	White Respondents	Black Respondents
A lot	32	23	54
Some	40	44	32
Only a little	18	22	7
None at all	7	8	3
Refused	4	3	4

TABLE 18: White people

	All Respondents	White Respondents	Black Respondents
A lot	13	13	11
Some	31	35	21
Only a little	32	32	33
None at all	22	18	32
Refused	3	2	3

TABLE 19: Asian people

	All Respondents	White Respondents	Black Respondents
A lot	24	18	35
Some	44	45	43
Only a little	21	24	14
None at all	8	10	4
Refused	4	3	4

TABLE 20: Gays and Lesbians

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
A lot	42	24	63
Some	36	44	28
Only a little	13	21	4
None at all	5	9	3
Refused	4	3	2

TABLE 21: Women

	All Respondents	Men	Women
A lot	26	19	32
Some	39	36	41
Only a little	21	27	15
None at all	12	16	8
Refused	3	2	3

TABLE 22: Men

	All Respondents	Men	Women
A lot	11	13	9
Some	26	29	23

Only a little	31	31	32
None at all	29	25	33
Refused	3	2	3

TABLE 23: Jews

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
A lot	22	12	38
Some	39	39	38
Only a little	22	29	14
None at all	13	16	6
Refused	5	4	3

TABLE 24: Muslims

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
A lot	40	24	59
Some	35	41	26
Only a little	14	22	9
None at all	6	9	3
Refused	5	4	4

TABLE 25: Christians

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
A lot	17	23	13
Some	36	39	30
Only a little	24	24	28
None at all	19	12	27
Refused	3	1	3

TABLE 26: Conservatives

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
A lot	23	36	12
Some	34	35	33
Only a little	23	17	27
None at all	15	8	23

Refused	6	4	6
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TABLE 27: Liberals

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
A lot	17	11	22
Some	37	35	40
Only a little	24	30	21
None at all	16	21	12
Refused	5	2	6

For these next questions, we want you to tell us whether you strongly disagree, disagree, are undecided, agree, or strongly agree with each statement.

TABLE 28: The federal government should declare the United States a Christian nation.

	All Respondents
Strongly Disagree	29
Disagree	24
Undecided	14
Agree	16
Strongly Agree	15
Refused	2

TABLE 29: America holds a special place in God's plan.

	All Respondents
Strongly Disagree	17
Disagree	15
Undecided	19
Agree	27
Strongly Agree	19
Refused	4

TABLE 30: It is critical that our government maintains a separation of church and state.

	All Respondents
Strongly Disagree	5
Disagree	10

Undecided	14
Agree	30
Strongly Agree	39
Refused	3

TABLE 31: I consider founding documents, like the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution, to be divinely inspired.

	All Respondents
Strongly Disagree	14
Disagree	19
Undecided	18
Agree	28
Strongly Agree	18
Refused	3

TABLE 32: I consider being a Christian an important aspect of being truly American.

	All Respondents
Strongly Disagree	21
Disagree	26
Undecided	13
Agree	21
Strongly Agree	16
Refused	3

TABLE 33: As you may know, after every Census, electoral districts are redesigned in order to reflect any changes in the population. This happens for all Congressional districts as well as districts for State House and State Senate.

2022 will be the first election using the newly drawn districts from the 2020 Census. Do you believe the electoral districts in South Carolina were redrawn in a fair manner?

	All Respondents	Republicans (not including leaners)	Democrats (not including leaners)
Yes	31	39	30
No	27	17	41
Don't know	39	43	26
Refused	3	1	3