M E E T N G

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KEY FINDINGS FROM A STATEWIDE SURVEY IN NORTH CAROLINA



KEY FINDINGS FROM A NOVEMBER 17–19, 2021, SURVEY OF 500 REGISTERED VOTERS

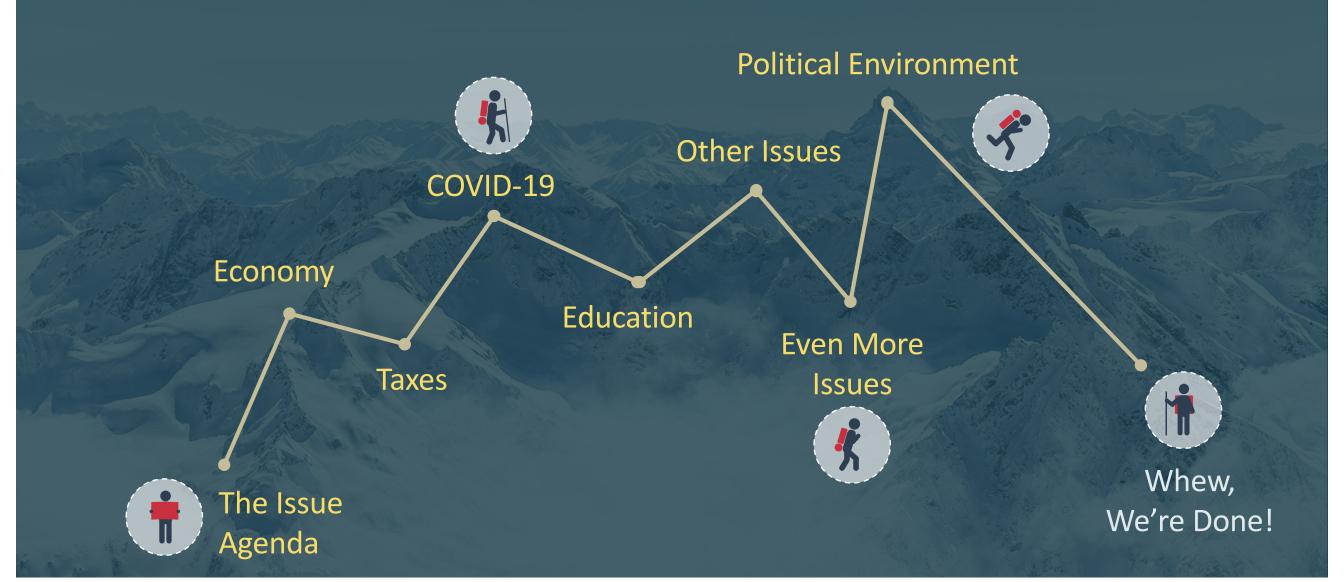
METHODOLOGY

Meeting Street Insights is pleased to present the key findings from a survey of registered voters in North Carolina conducted.

Interviews were completed November 17–19, 2021 among N=500 registered voters.

This is the 11th statewide survey Meeting Street has conducted for CPR since 2014.

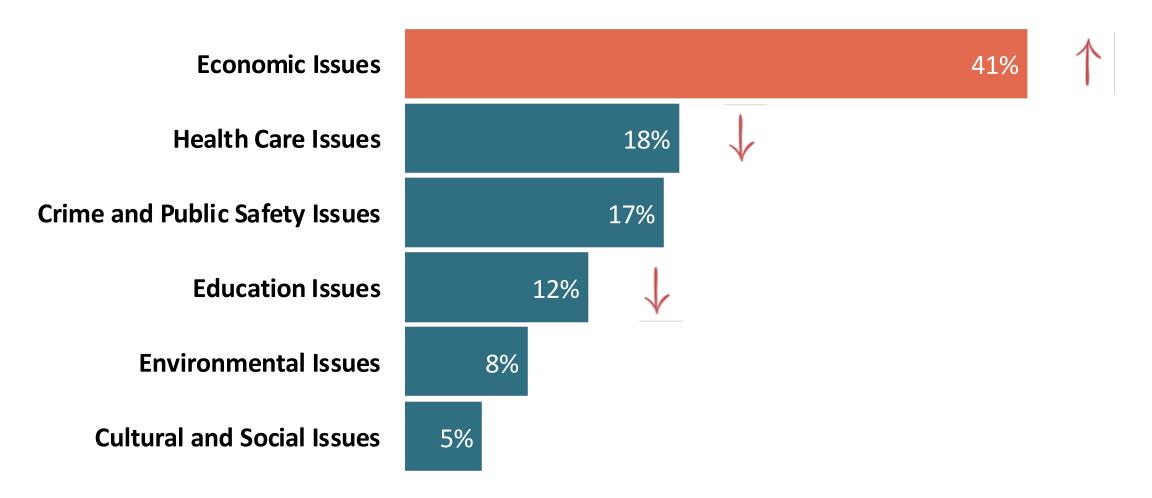
WHERE WE'RE GOING





Outside of COVID-19, voters in North Carolina want the Legislature to focus more of its attention on economic issues.

"Now, thinking about the session of the State Legislature in Raleigh that concludes this month, with the exception of the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following six issues do you think Legislators should focus the most attention on?"



The economy is the top issue across party lines and with swing voters.

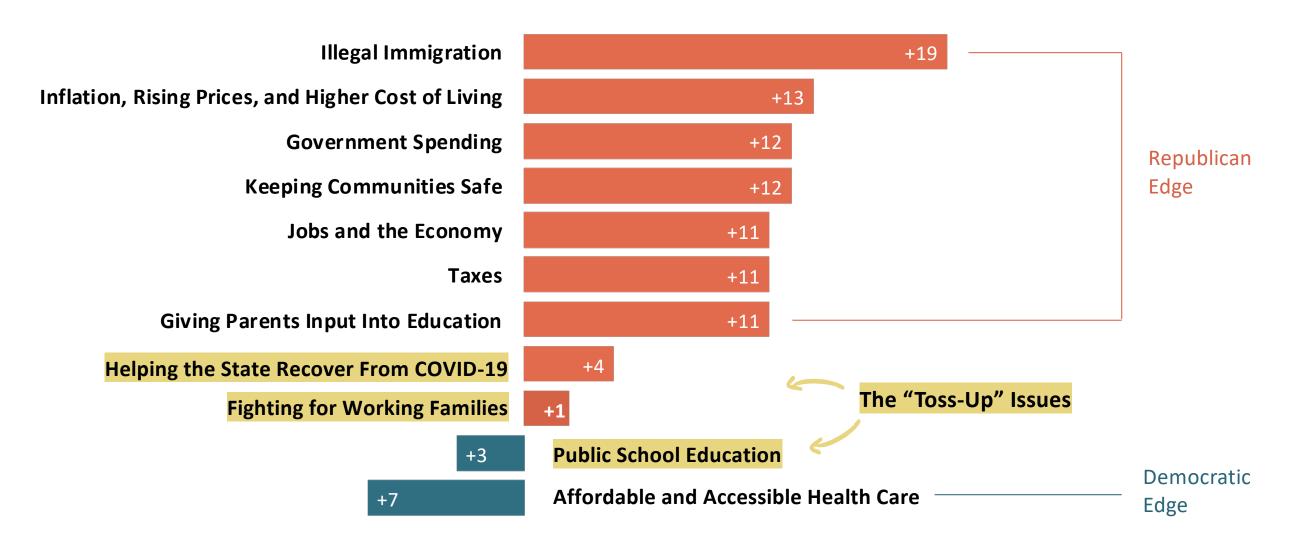
Issue Agenda By Key Subgroups (Top Two Highlighted)

	Republicans	Unaffiliateds	Democrats
Economic Issues	51%	45%	28%
Health Care Issues	10%	18%	25%
Crime And Public Safety Issues	21%	14%	15%
Education Issues	8%	14%	14%
Environmental Issues	6%	6%	12%
Cultural and Social Issues	4%	4%	6%

Persuadable Voters*
38%
16%
16%
15%
10%
5%

North Carolina voters think Republicans in the State Legislature are better able to deal with nearly every issue than their Democratic counterparts.

"Which party, Republicans or Democrats in the State Legislature, do you think can do a better job of dealing with each issue?"



We've seen significant shifts on several of these issues over the past year.

Republican vs Democratic Party 2021 2020 Issue Net Edge +11 GOP Job and the Economy +3 GOP +19 GOP **Illegal Immigration +4 GOP Health Care** +8 DEM **+7 DEM Public School Education*** +13 DEM **+3 DEM**

^{*} Was "Public School Education and Teacher Pay" In October 2020

Unaffiliateds say Republicans are better on every issue except health care.

Republican vs Democratic Party Issue Net Edge

	Republicans	Unaffiliateds	Democrats
Illegal Immigration	+72 GOP	+32 GOP	+40 DEM
Jobs and the Economy	+70	+28	+57
Inflation	+65	+23	+44
Taxes	+62	+26	+51
Government Spending	+66	+24	+47
Keeping Communities Safe	+62	+29	+46
Fighting for Working Families	+62	+13	+63
Giving Parents Input Into Education	+63	+20	+46
Helping the State Recover From COVID-19	+58	+20	+59
Public School Education	+62	+1	+64
Health Care	+51	+3	+65

On the issue of jobs and the economy, white voters across gender and education trust Republicans a lot more than Democrats.

Republican vs Democratic Party Issue Net Edge

	White Men < College	White Men College +	White Women < College	White Women College +
Illegal Immigration	+40 GOP	+39 GOP	+38 GOP	+19 GOP
Jobs and the Economy	+25	+20	+40	+22
Inflation	+27	+19	+33	+16
Taxes	+26	+27	+31	+22
Government Spending	+28	+18	+36	+18
Keeping Communities Safe	+23	+29	+34	+17
Fighting for Working Families	+18	+13	+32	+14
Giving Parents Input Into Education	+25	+17	+29	+11
Helping the State Recover From COVID-19	+18	+22	+32	+7
Public School Education	+9	+3	+29	+6
Health Care	+3	+3	+19	+5

And, Republicans have a sizeable issue edge on immigration, economic, and security issues among up-for-grab voters.

Republican vs Democratic Party Issue Net Edge

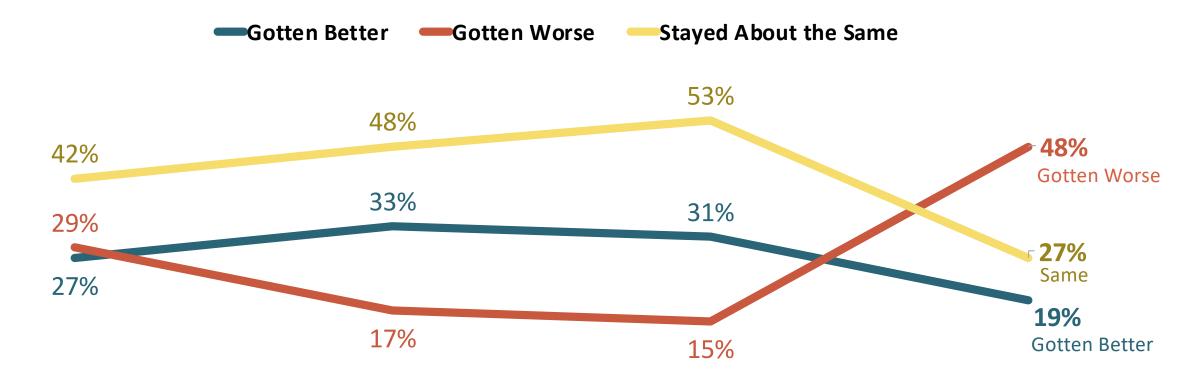
	High Interest Voters (8-10)
Illegal Immigration	+20 GOP
Jobs and the Economy	+12
Inflation	+12
Taxes	+10
Government Spending	+12
Keeping Communities Safe	+12
Fighting for Working Families	0
Giving Parents Input Into Education	+11
Helping the State Recover From COVID-19	0
Public School Education	+1
Health Care	+9

Persuadable Voters
+23 GOP
+14
+14
+13
+13
+18
+3 DEM
+10
+6
+7
+11



North Carolina voters are more likely to say the state's economy has gotten worse over the past year.

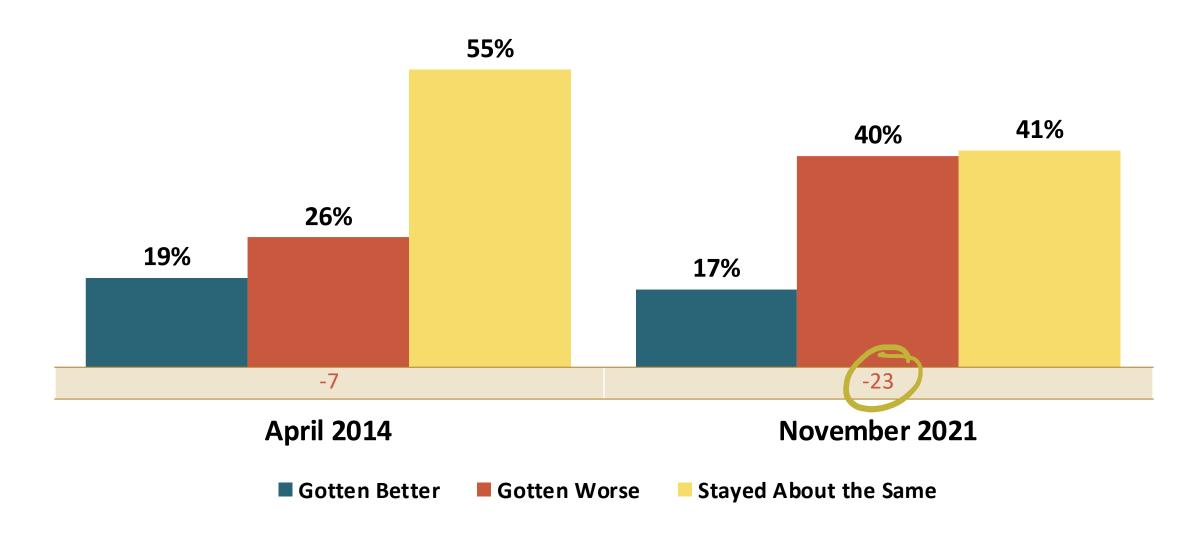
"Over the last year, do you think North Carolina's economy has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?"



April 2014 January 2015 June 2017 November 2021

Four-in-ten voters say their personal financial situation has gotten worse over the last year, too.

"Over the last year, has your personal financial situation gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?"



The sense of malaise carries across partisan, racial, gender, and educational attainment lines.

NC's Economy Has...

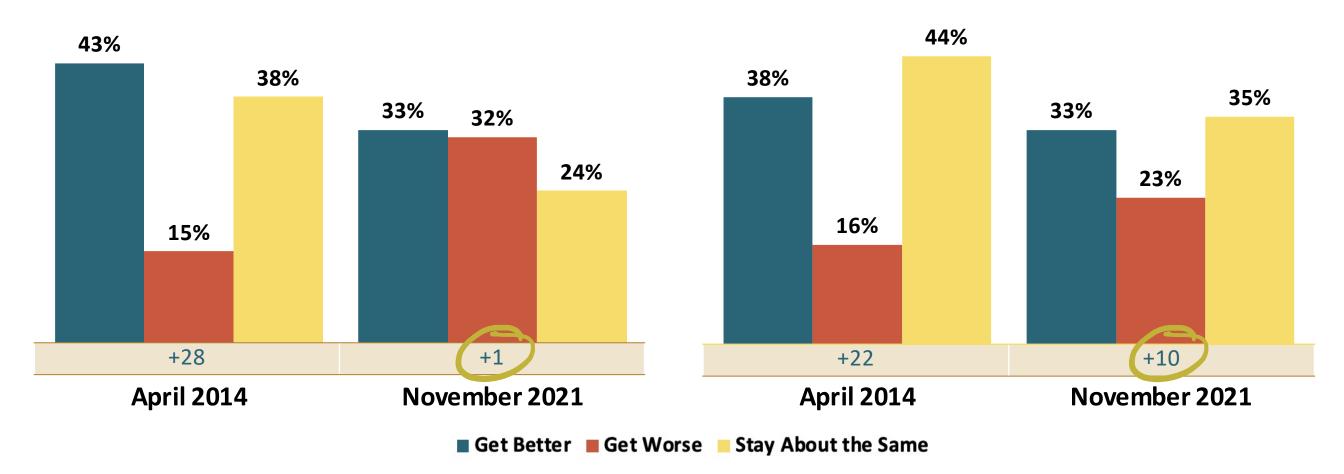
Your Own Financial Situation Has...

	Gotten Better	Gotten Worse	Stayed the Same
Republicans	13%	56%	25%
Unaffiliateds	11%	55%	32%
Democrats	32%	35%	25%
White Men < College	17%	43%	33%
White Men College +	25%	49%	21%
White Women < College	7%	65%	23%
White Women College +	17%	46%	34%
African Americans	30%	41%	22%

Gotten Better	Gotten Worse	Stayed the Same
14%	46%	37%
8%	43%	47%
28%	32%	40%
8%	39%	48%
23%	36%	41%
9%	51%	40%
18%	32%	49%
26%	39%	33%

One out of three think the state's economy and their personal financial situation will improve in the next year.

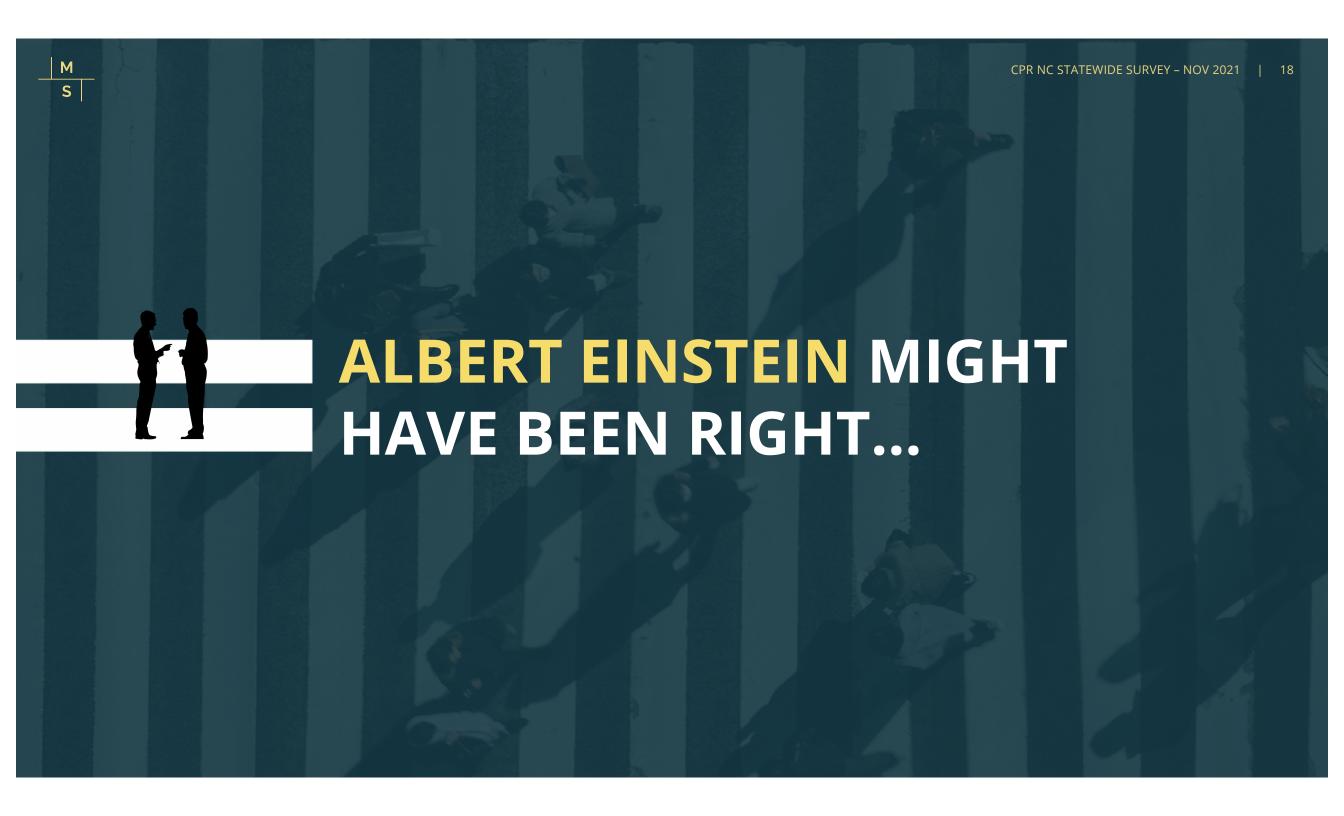
"Looking ahead one year, do you expect North Carolina's economy to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?" "Looking ahead one year, do you expect your personal financial situation to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?"



Democrats are more optimistic than Republicans, and Raleigh voters are more optimistic about the state's economy than the rest of the state.

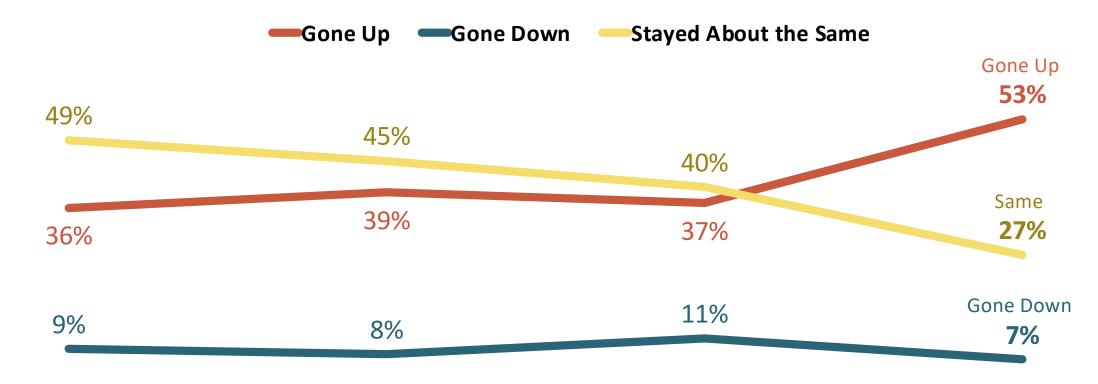
Expect NC's Economy to...

	Get Better	Get Worse	Stay About the Same
Republicans	22%	47%	20%
Unaffiliateds	26%	32%	32%
Democrats	50%	18%	21%
Small Eastern Markets	26%	30%	29%
Raleigh Media Market	41%	23%	25%
Triad Media Market	31%	36%	26%
Charlotte Media Market	32%	36%	23%
Small Western Markets	30%	46%	10%



NC voters continue to believe their state taxes have gone up. In fact, the percentage who say this is at its highest level in our polling history.

"And do you believe your state income taxes have gone up, gone down, or stayed about the same over the last five years?"



April 2014 June 2017 May 2018 November 2021

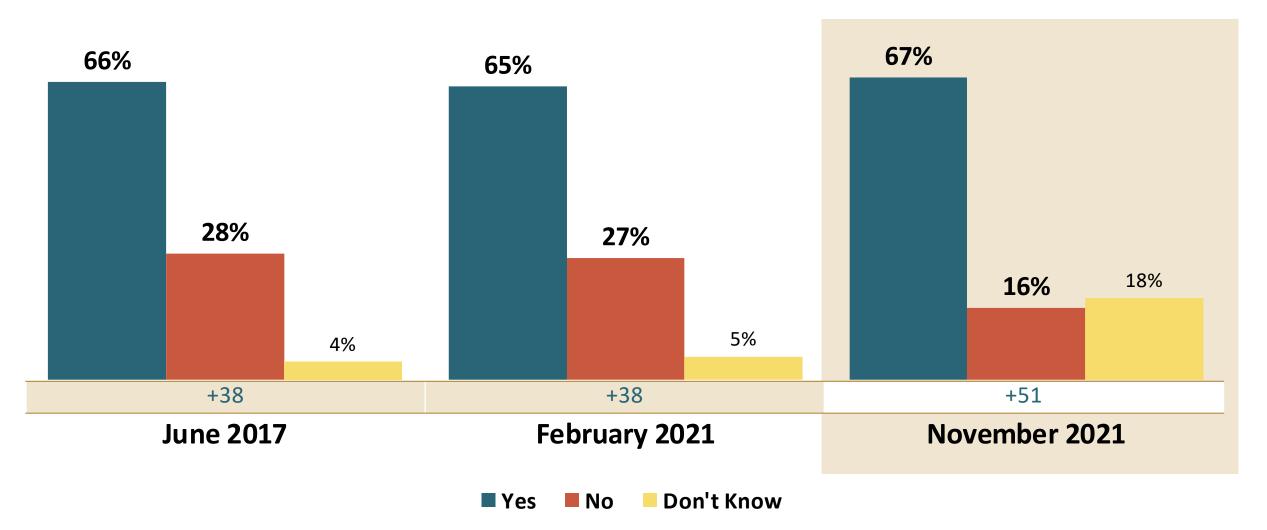
Republicans, younger white voters, and Charlotte voters have moved the most.

State Income Taxes Have Gone Up by Key Groups

	May 2018	November 2021	Net Change
Republicans	<mark>36%</mark>	<mark>60%</mark>	+24
Unaffiliateds	36%	45%	+9
Democrats	38%	52%	+14
White Men 18-54	35%	66%	+31
White Men 55+	32%	41%	+9
White Women 18-54	34%	54%	+20
White Women 55+	34%	49%	+15
African Americans	50%	54%	+4
Charlotte Media Market	34%	56%	+22

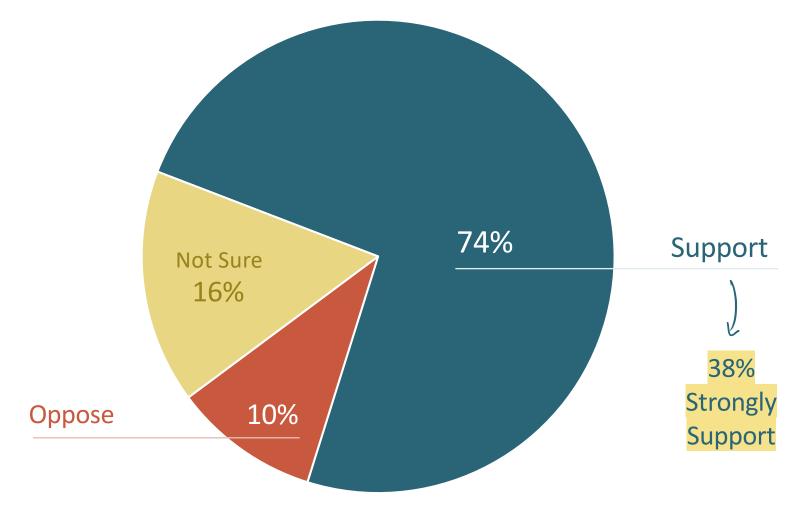
About two-thirds of voters say lowering income taxes on families and businesses helps to create jobs and grow the economy.

"Do you believe that lowering income taxes on families and businesses helps to create jobs and grow the economy, or not?"



Three-quarters of voters support the tax cut that was included in the recent budget, with four-in-ten strongly supporting it.

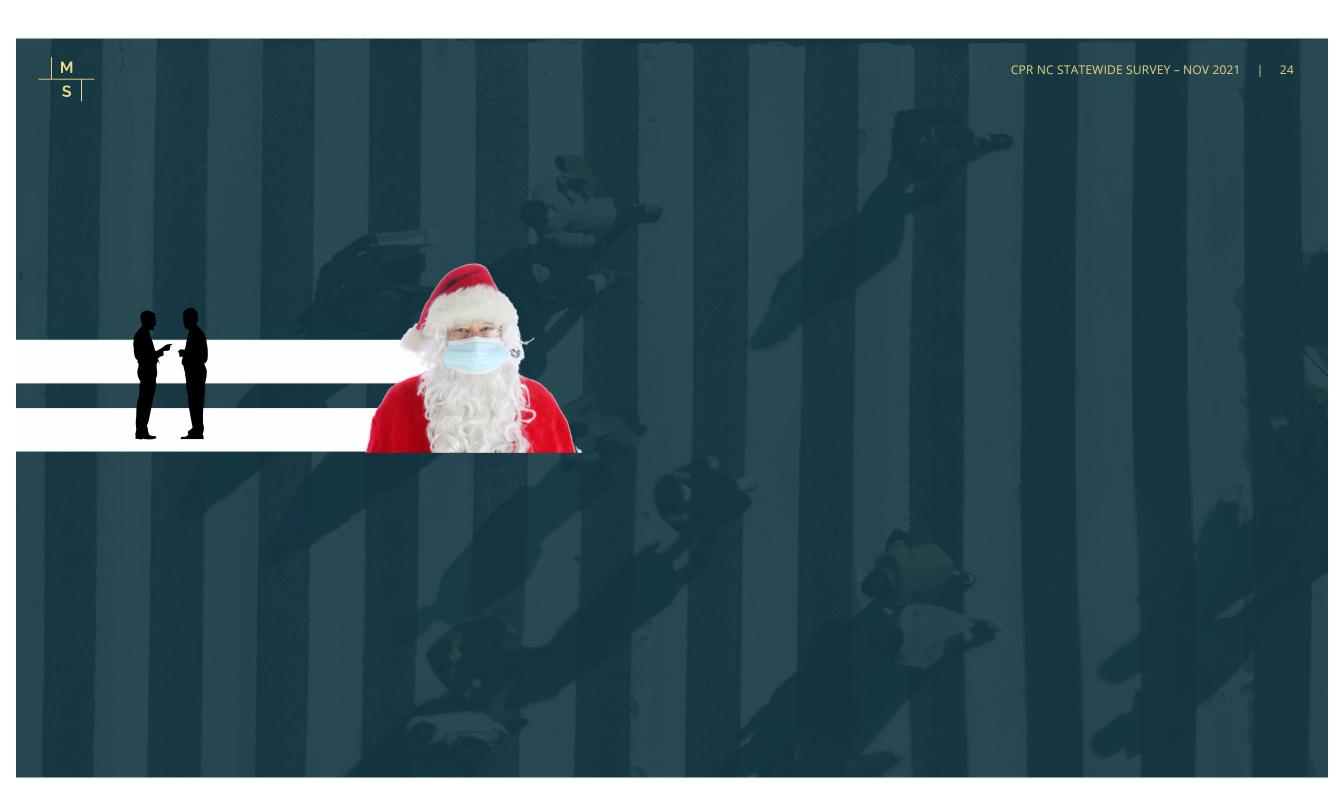
"Do you support or oppose the recent tax cut for North Carolina families and small businesses that makes the first \$25,000 of a family's income tax-free, increases the child tax credit by \$500 per child, and reduces the income tax rate from 5.25% to 3.99%?"



Support never dips below two-thirds across all major demographic groups.

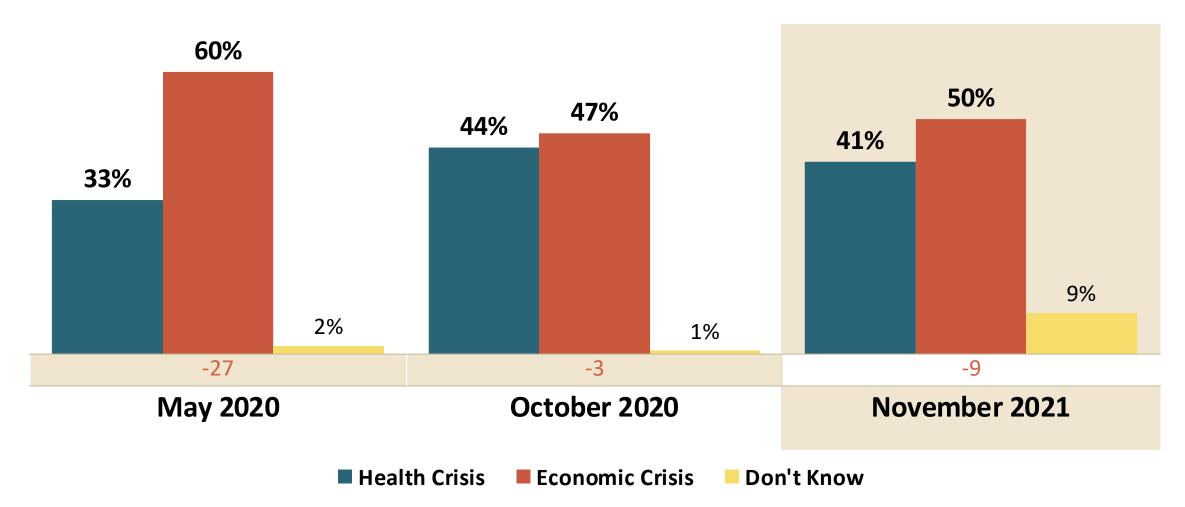
Tax Cut Plan By Subgroups

	Support	Oppose	Not Sure
Republicans	73%	11%	15%
Unaffiliateds	67%	13%	20%
Democrats	80%	7%	13%
White Men 18-54	74%	13%	13%
White Men 55+	81%	10%	9%
White Women 18-54	68%	8%	24%
White Women 55+	72%	14%	14%
White Men < College	73%	12%	15%
White Men College +	84%	11%	5%
White Women < College	66%	12%	22%
White Women College +	78%	9%	14%
African Americans	<mark>75%</mark>	7%	18%



Voters today are slightly more likely than they were to say that COVID-19 has been created more of an economic crisis than a year ago.

"If you had to pick only one, would you say the Coronavirus here in North Carolina has created more of a health crisis or an economic crisis?"



Republicans and Unaffiliated voters are more likely to see COVID-19 as an economic crisis, while Democrats say it's more of a health crisis.

COVID in North Carolina

October 2020

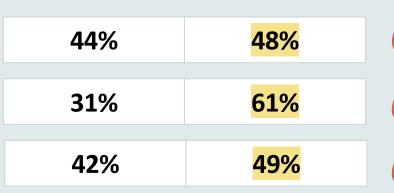
	Health Crisis	Economic Crisis
Republicans	21%	69%
Unaffiliateds	47%	44%
Democrats	62%	30%

November 2021

Health Crisis	Economic Crisis
32%	59%
34%	56%
55%	38%



African Americans	62%	31%
White Women 55+	41%	50%
White Women College +	56%	38%







Since May 2020, we've seen the popularity of Governor Cooper's shutdown orders slide. Opinions today remain mixed.

"And, based on what you know, when you think about the shutdown orders that were implemented in North Carolina last year, which of the following statements do you tend to agree with more?"

	May 2020	Oct 2020	Feb 2021	Nov 2021
Overall, the shutdown orders were a positive with the health benefits outweighing the job losses and economic damage	60%	51%	46%	45%
Overall, the shutdown orders were a negative with the job losses and economic damage outweighing the health benefits	33%	43%	46%	45%
Net Positive	+27	+8	0	0

Unaffiliateds, younger white women, and voters in the smaller media markets are noticeably less positive today they they were a year ago.

Shutdown Orders In NC

October 2020

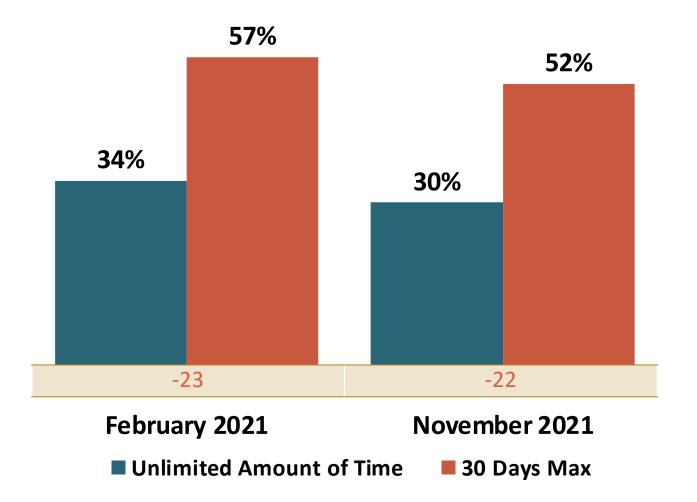
	Octobel 2020		
	Positive	Negative	
Republicans	30%	64%	
Unaffiliateds	57%	38%	
Democrats	65%	28%	
White Men 18-54	43%	51%	
White Men 55+	42%	51%	
White Women 18-54	53%	43%	
White Women 55+	46%	45%	
African Americans	68%	28%	
Small Eastern Markets	<mark>58%</mark>	36%	
Raleigh Media Market	52%	42%	
Triad Media Market	44%	52%	
Charlotte Media Market	49%	42%	
Small Western Markets	59%	<mark>39%</mark>	

November 2021

Positive	Negative
26%	66%
40%	46%
65%	26%
35%	55%
44%	47%
38%	51%
44%	49%
56%	30%
33%	52%
54%	40%
47%	46%
41%	47%
41%	<mark>46%</mark>

Most say the Governor's authority to issue emergency shutdown orders should be capped at 30 days without a vote of the Legislature.

"Do you think Governor Cooper should have the authority to issue shutdown orders for COVID-19 and other emergencies for an unlimited amount of time or a maximum of thirty days, and only longer with a vote of the State Legislature?"



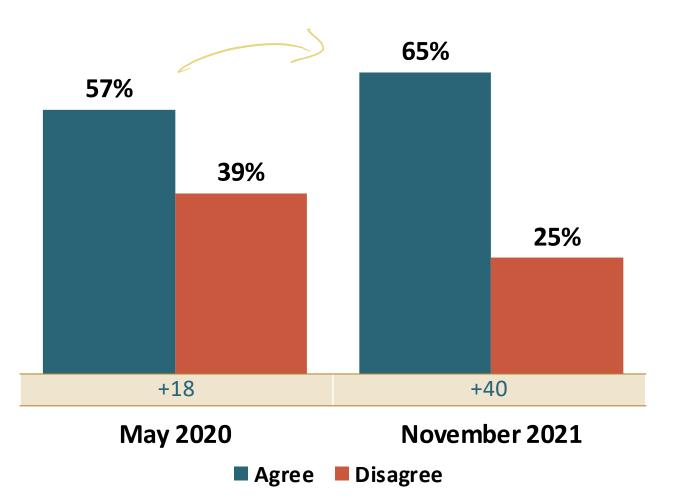
	Unlimited	30 Days Max
Republicans	15%	68%
Unaffiliateds	22%	57%
Democrats	52%	34%
Small Eastern Markets	22%	59%
Raleigh Media Market	33%	49%
Triad Media Market	31%	53%
Charlotte Media Market	32%	51%
Small Western Markets	31%	55%

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About two-thirds of North Carolina voters agree with the statement "China deserves most of the blame for the spread of the coronavirus outbreak."

"Please tell me if that is something you generally AGREE or DISAGREE with this viewpoint:

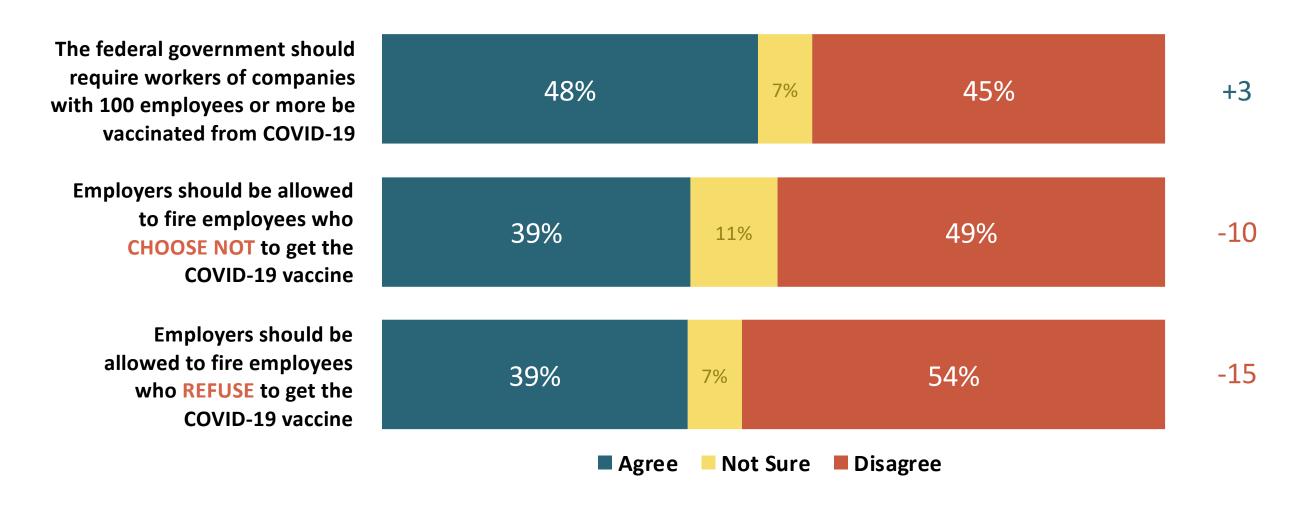
China deserves most of the blame for the spread of the coronavirus outbreak."



	Agree - May 2020	Agree - Nov 2021
Republicans	87%	80%
Unaffiliateds	53%	<mark>63%</mark>
Democrats	40%	<mark>52%</mark>
White Men 18-54	63%	73%
White Men 55+	73%	71%
White Women 18-54	47%	52%
White Women 55+	64%	78%
African Americans	<mark>43%</mark>	<mark>55%</mark>

Voters are split about a federal vaccine mandate, but there is less agreement about employers being allowed to fire unvaccinated employees.

"Next, I am going to read you a series of different viewpoints on COVID-19 vaccines, and, after I read each one, please tell me if you generally AGREE or DISAGREE with that particular point of view."



On both of these issues, Unaffiliateds look a lot more like Republicans than Democrats (who clearly stand out from the crowd).

Federal Government Should Require Employees to be Vaccinated Employers Should Be Allowed to Fire Unvaccinated Employees (Combined)

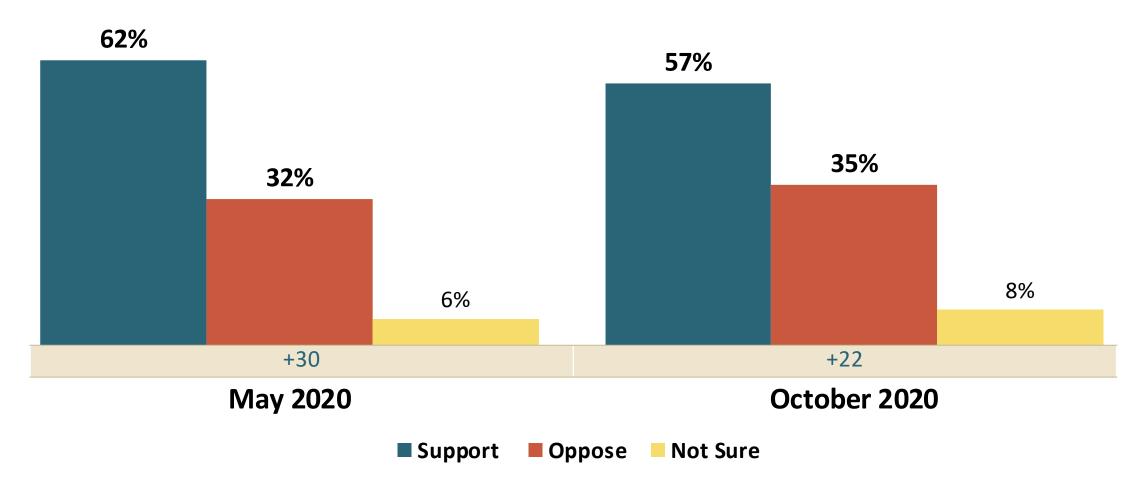
	Agree	Disagree
Republicans	27%	67%
Unaffiliateds	39%	52%
Democrats	<mark>74%</mark>	20%
White Men 18-54	45%	46%
White Men 55+	47%	48%
White Women 18-54	40%	54%
White Women 55+	42%	53%
White Men < College	43%	48%
White Men College +	51%	46%
White Women < College	32%	61%
White Women College +	<mark>59%</mark>	41%

Agree	Disagree
23%	67%
32%	59%
<mark>60%</mark>	<mark>31%</mark>
42%	47%
44%	51%
31%	64%
33%	60%
40%	48%
48%	51%
23%	69%
<mark>50%</mark>	<mark>50%</mark>

Mask mandates, both generally and specifically in schools, are supported by wide majorities of North Carolina voters.

"Do you support or oppose government mandates requiring people to wear masks in indoor public places?"

"Do you support or oppose government mandates requiring children to wear masks in school?"



Voters across most subgroups support mask mandates in public places and in schools; even a significant chunk of Republicans support them.

Mask Mandates in Public Places

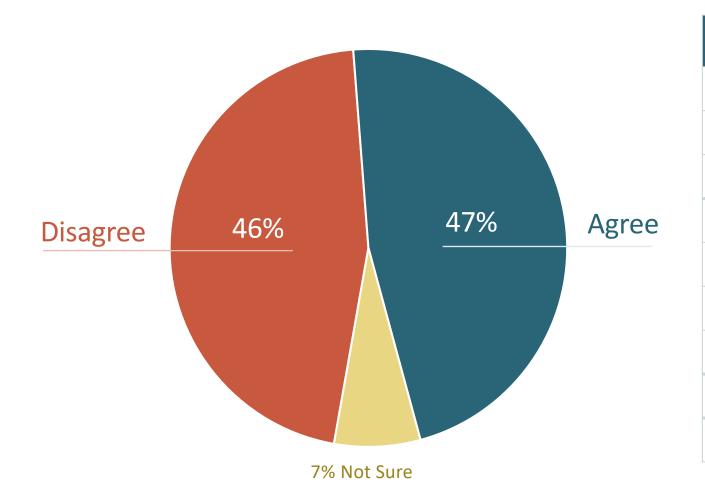
	Support	Oppose
Republicans	41%	<mark>54%</mark>
Unaffiliateds	53%	37%
Democrats	89%	6%
White Men 18-54	55%	40%
White Men 55+	58%	36%
White Women 18-54	53%	39%
White Women 55+	54%	44%
African Americans	86%	7%
Small Eastern Markets	52%	39%
Raleigh Media Market	69%	26%
Triad Media Market	64%	29%
Charlotte Media Market	57%	36%
Small Western Markets	67%	29%
Public School Parents	69%	23%

Mask Mandates in Schools

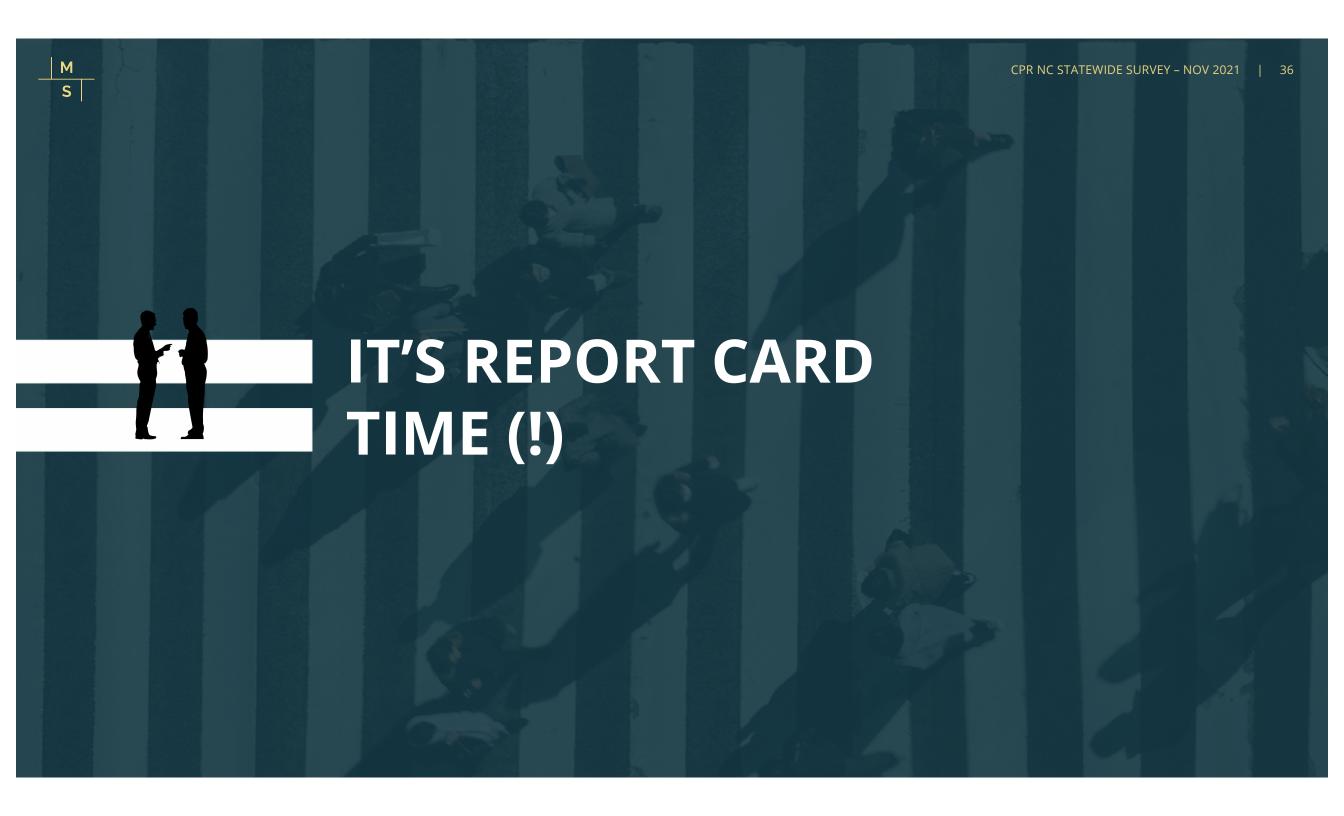
Support	Oppose
34%	57%
48%	43%
<mark>85%</mark>	10%
47%	43%
52%	45%
49%	40%
50%	45%
79%	11%
39%	44%
64%	30%
61%	33%
54%	39%
64%	31%
64%	29%

Voters (including public school parents) are evenly split about a vaccine mandate for public school students to attend in-person classes.

"Public schools should require children to get the COVID-19 vaccine before being allowed to attend in-person classes."

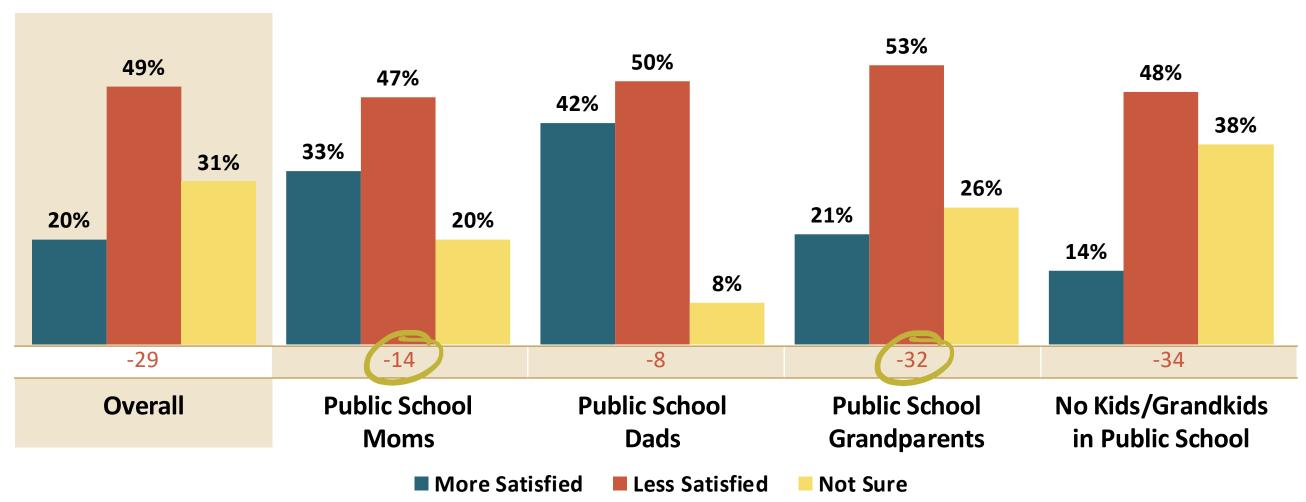


	Agree	Disagree
Republicans	28%	67%
Unaffiliateds	42%	46%
Democrats	68%	26%
White Men 18-54	43%	47%
White Men 55+	53%	40%
White Women 18-54	35%	59%
White Women 55+	46%	50%
African Americans	56%	33%
Public School Parents	47%	48%



Over the past couple of years, North Carolinians have become less satisfied with the job the state's public schools are doing educating our children.

"Generally speaking, over the last two years, would you say you have become more satisfied or less satisfied with the job North Carolina's public schools are doing educating our children?"



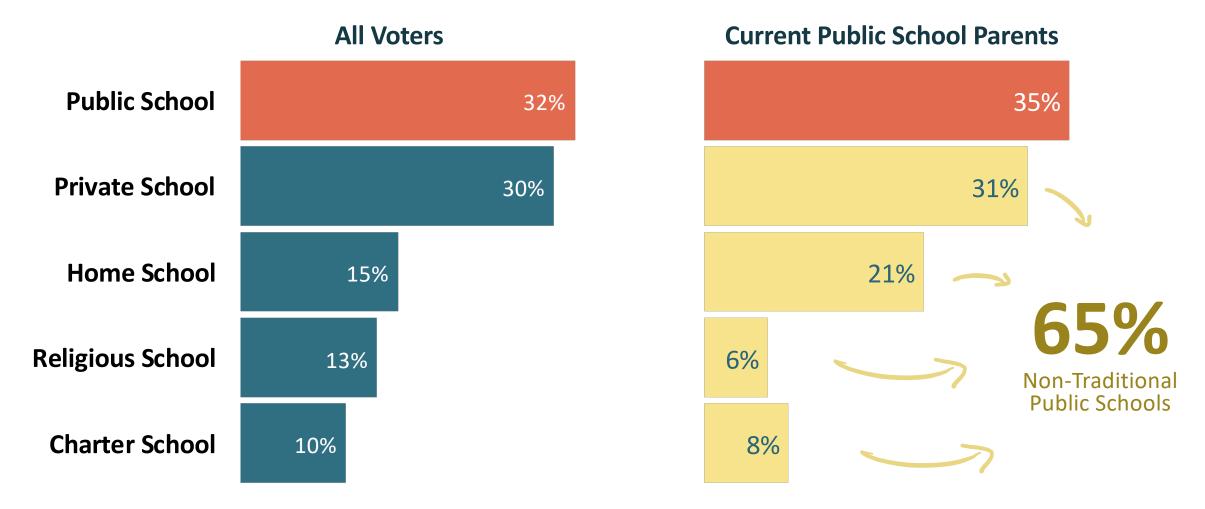
No major demographic subgroup has become more satisfied with North Carolina's public schools over the last two years.

More or Less Satisfied with Public Schools

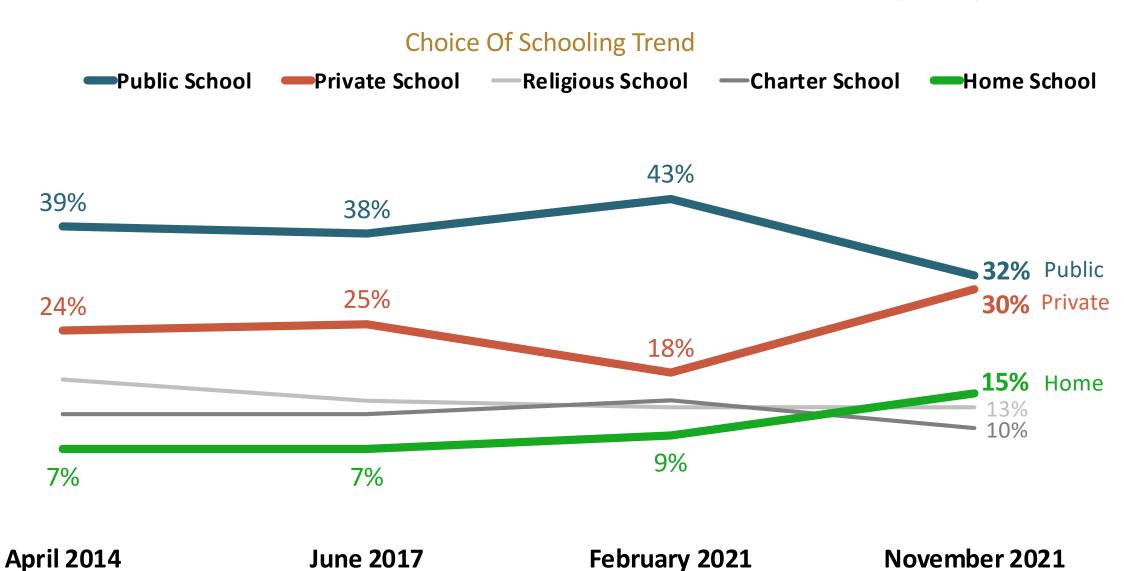
	More Satisfied	Less Satisfied
Republicans	17%	54%
Unaffiliateds	11%	57% !
Democrats	31%	37%
African Americans	36%	40%
White Men < College	17%	49%
White Men College +	21%	55%
White Women < College	10%	52%
White Women College +	16%	55%
Small Eastern Media Markets	19%	42%
Raleigh Media Market	19%	51%
Triad Media Market	23%	56%
Charlotte Media Market	21%	48%
Small Western Media Markets	17%	42%

If given the choice, most voters (and most public school parents) would send their child somewhere other than a a traditional public school.

"If cost, distance, and transportation were not factors and you could send your child or grandchild to any kind of school in North Carolina, would you choose to send them to a..."

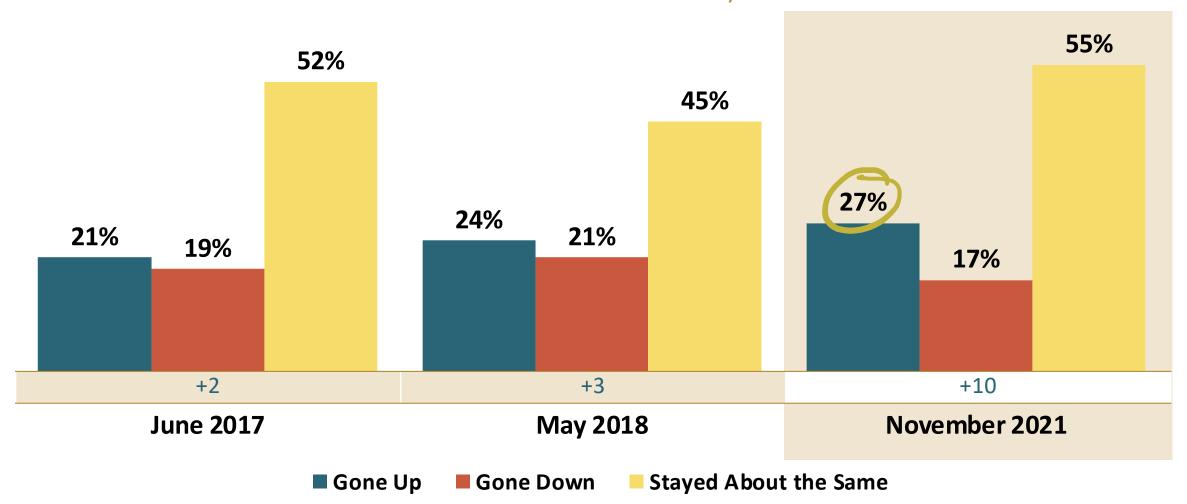


And, we've seen dramatic shifts in this data over the past year.



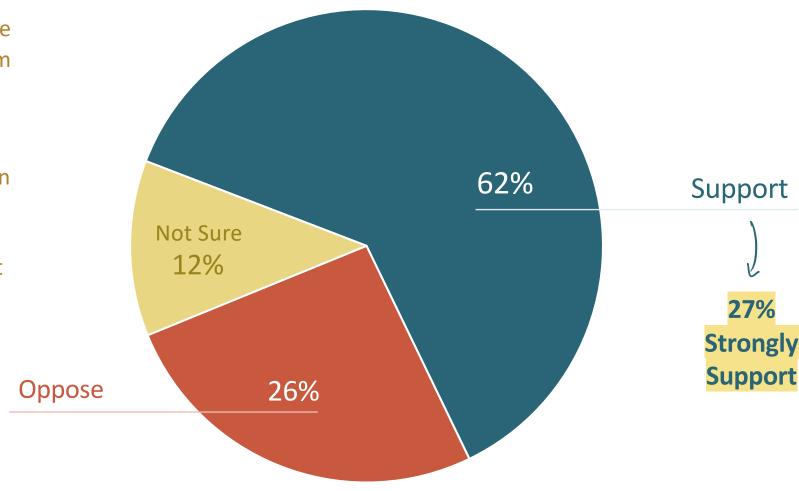
We've seen a slight uptick in the share of voters who say teacher pay has gone up. (But, most continue to say it's stayed about the same).

"And do you believe teacher pay here in North Carolina has gone up, gone down, or stayed about the same over the last five years?"



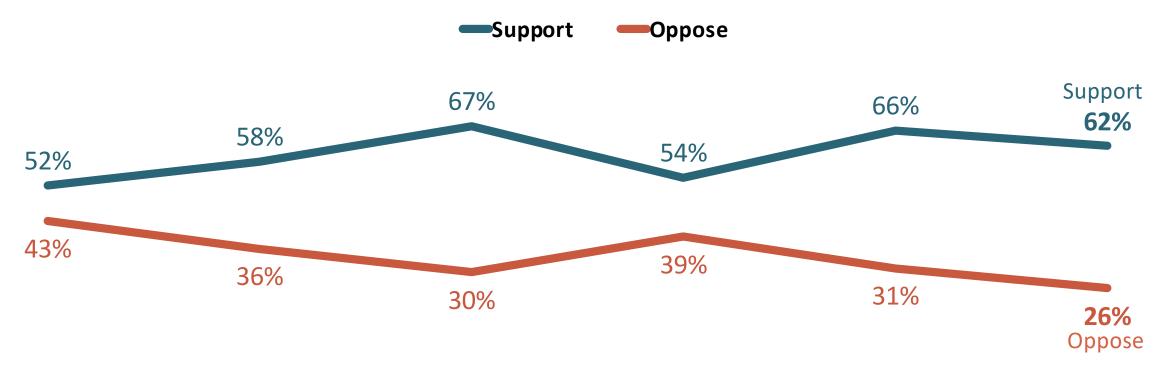
North Carolina's Opportunity Scholarship Program is extremely popular.

"Do you SUPPORT or OPPOSE the Opportunity Scholarship Program that provides \$5,900 scholarships to working and middle class families making under \$85,000 a year so they can choose to send their child to a private school if they believe their local public school doesn't meet their child's needs?"



The Opportunity Scholarship Program has been supported by a strong majority of voters for as long as we have been testing it.

Trend Data for the Opportunity Scholarship Program



January 2015 April 2016 June 2017 May 2018 February 2021 November 2021

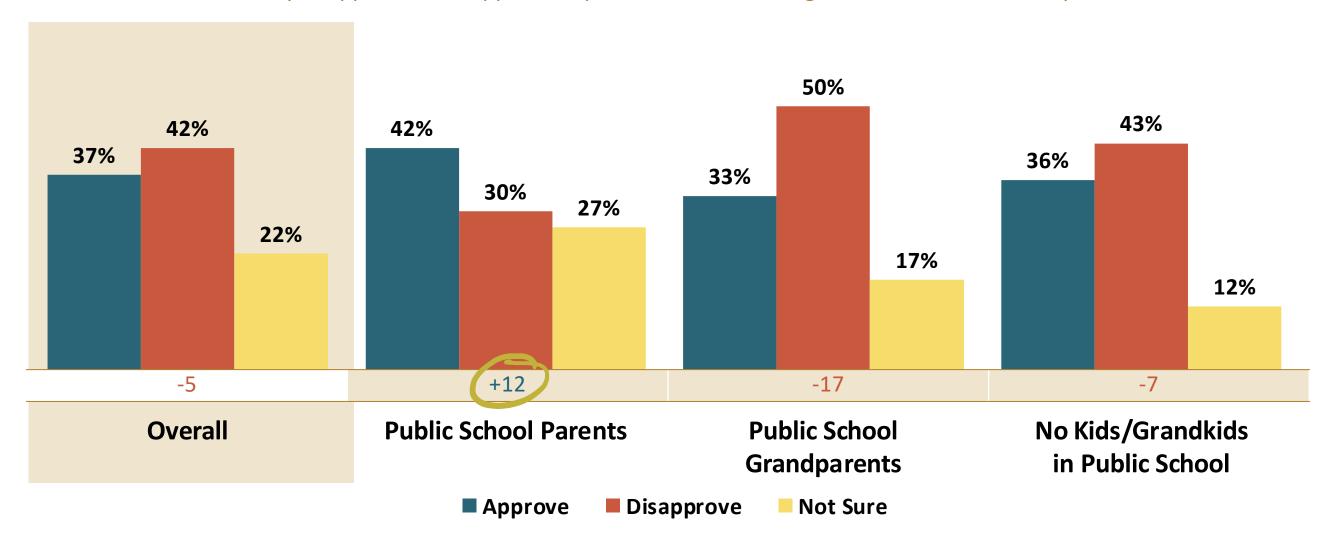
The Opportunity Scholarship is supported across demographic lines, with levels higher among African American voters and public school parents.

Support/Oppose Opportunity Scholarships

	Support	Oppose
Republicans	62%	27%
Unaffiliateds	59%	27%
Democrats	66%	23%
White Men 18-54	64%	29%
White Men 55+	57%	36%
White Women 18-54	66%	17%
White Women 55+	57%	28%
African Americans	69%	17%
White Men < College	<mark>62%</mark>	28%
White Men College +	57%	39%
White Women < College	64%	17%
White Women College +	59%	32%
Public School Parents	<mark>68%</mark>	22%

By a slight margin, voters disapprove of public schools teaching about critical race theory, but 22% say they are not sure.

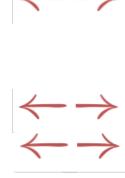
"Do you approve or disapprove of public schools teaching about critical race theory?"



Democrats and African Americans are the only major demographic subgroups where a majority approve of teaching about critical race theory.

Teaching CRT In Schools By Subgroups

	Approve	Disapprove
Republicans	22%	63%
Unaffiliateds	28%	47%
Democrats	57%	17%
White Men < College	28%	49%
White Men College +	33%	59%
White Women < College	24%	50%
White Women College +	40%	40%
African Americans	<mark>58%</mark>	16%
Small Eastern Media Markets	31%	40%
Raleigh Media Market	41%	40%
Triad Media Market	35%	40%
Charlotte Media Market	33%	45%
Small Western Media Markets	45%	43%

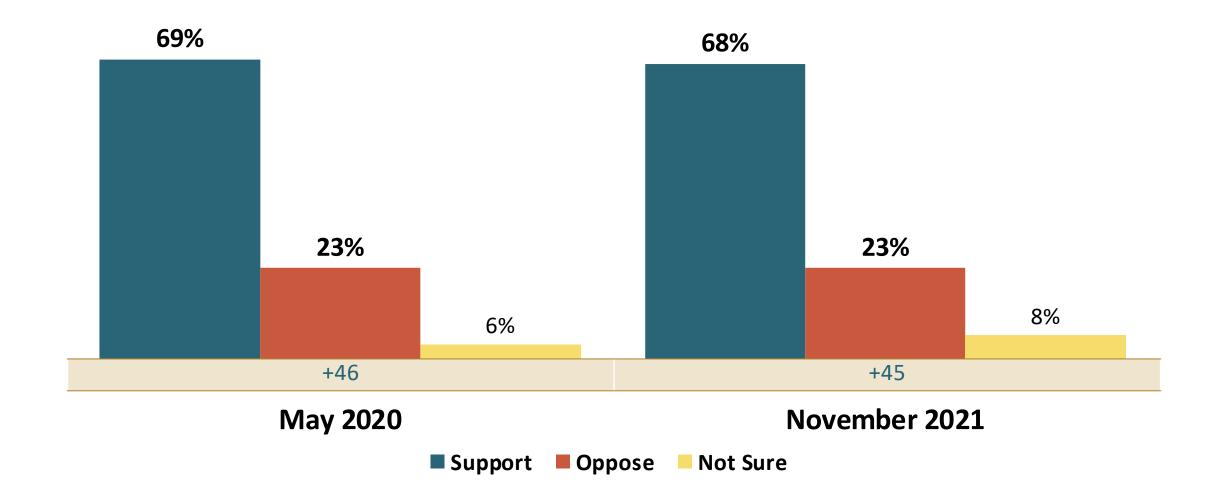




As we saw last year, nearly two-thirds of voters support expanding Medicaid.

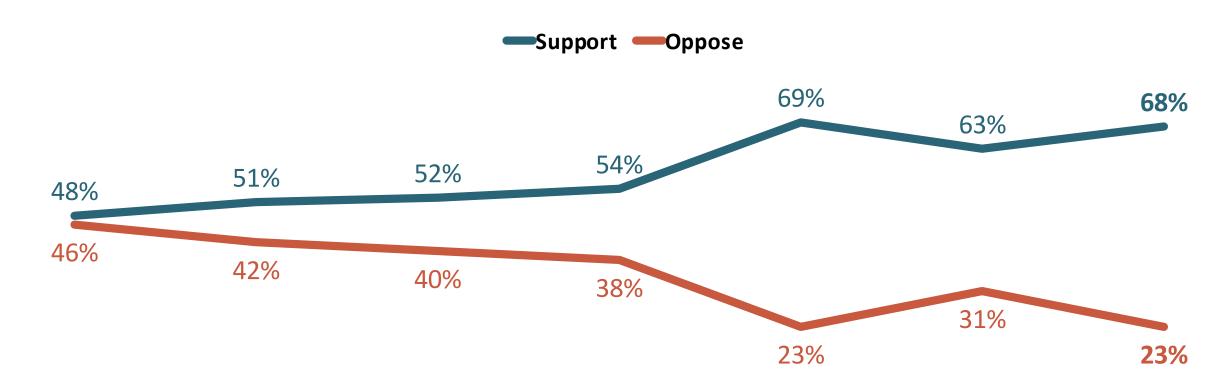
"As you may know, Medicaid is a taxpayer-funded program that provides healthcare coverage to low-income people.

Do you support or oppose expanding the state's Medicaid program to cover more people in North Carolina?"



Medicaid expansion is becoming more popular over time. Or....

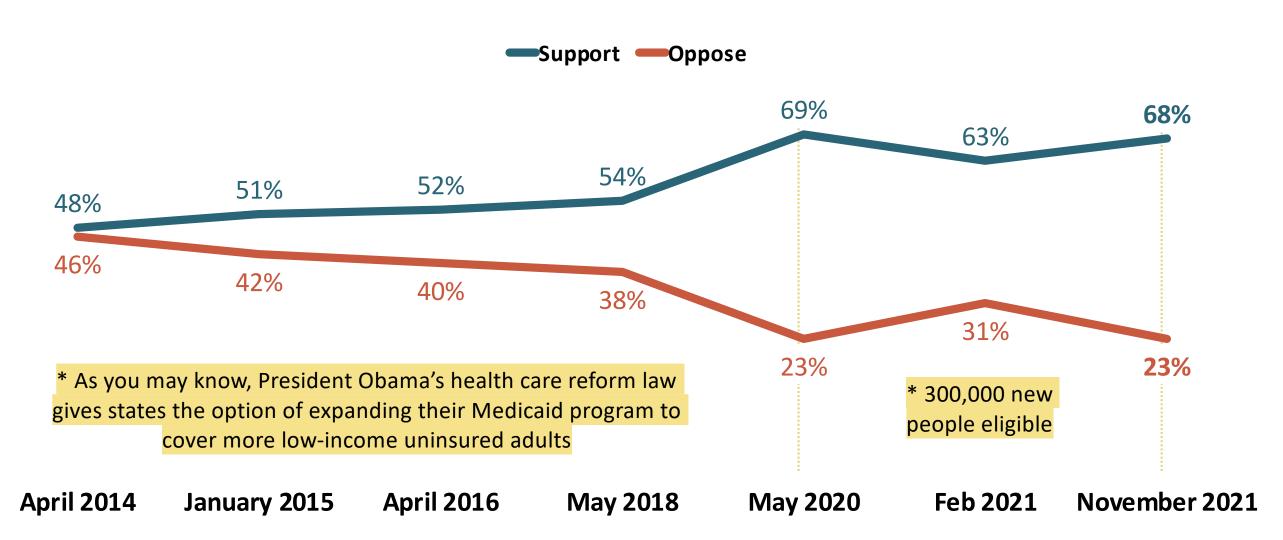
Trend Data for Medicaid Expansion



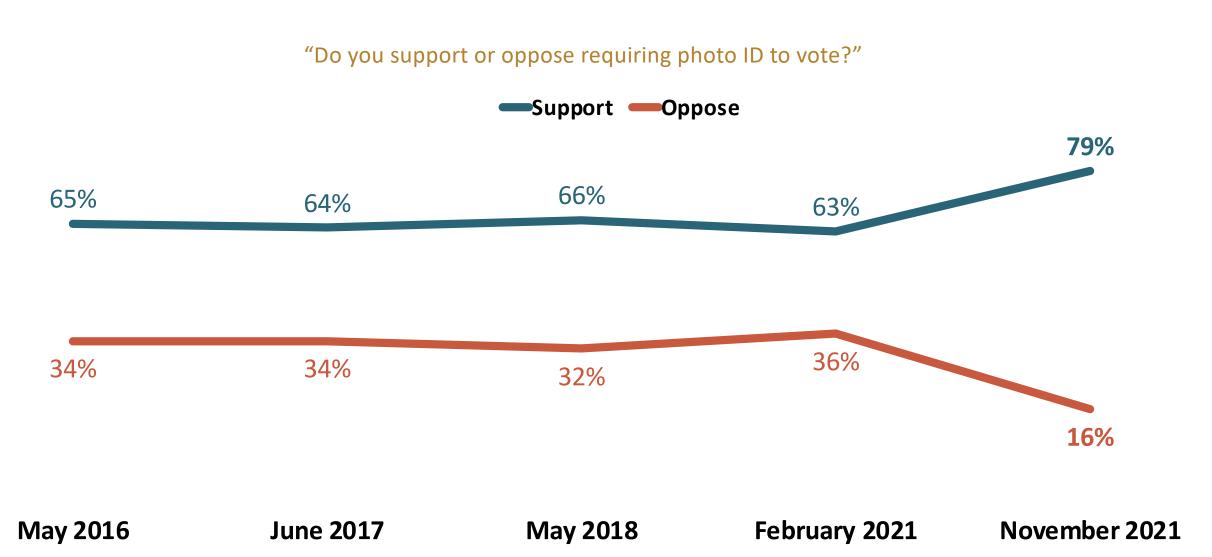
April 2014 January 2015 April 2016 May 2018 May 2020 Feb 2021 November 2021

..wording does matter when it comes to framing Medicaid expansion.

Trend Data for Medicaid Expansion



Voter ID has always been popular, but support has risen lately.



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Want to venture a guess which voter group(s) have moved the most on this?

The New York Times

Why Democrats Are Reluctantly Making Voter ID Laws a Bargaining Chip



Democrats Are Now Open To New Voter ID Rules.

The Washington Post

Democrats signal a shift toward accepting voter ID laws

"I support voter identification."

"No one has ever objected to having to prove who you are to vote."

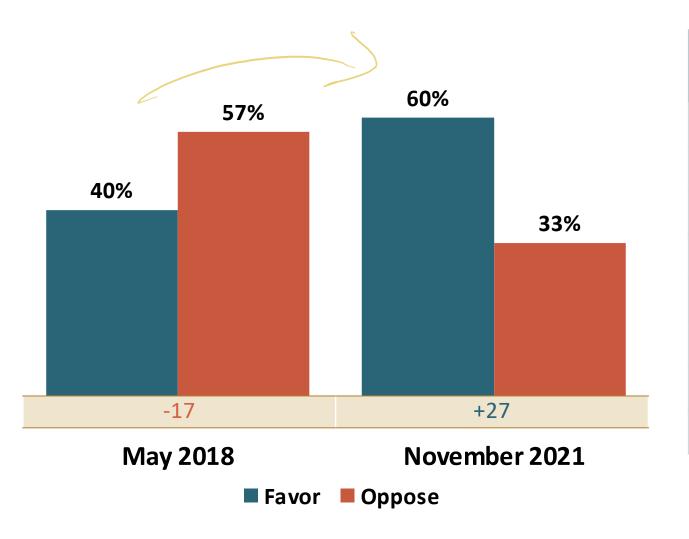
Yup, it was Democrats and African Americans.

"Do you support or oppose requiring photo ID to vote?"

	Support - February 2021	Support - November 2021	Net Change
Republicans	94%	96%	+2
Unaffiliateds	63%	80%	+17
Democrats	34%	62%	+28
White Men 18-54	71%	88%	+17
White Men 55+	83%	82%	-1
White Women 18-54	60%	78%	+18
White Women 55+	70%	83%	+13
African Americans	35%	<mark>68%</mark>	+33
Small Eastern Markets	79%	80%	+1
Raleigh Media Market	52%	75%	+23
Triad Media Market	77%	79%	+2
Charlotte Media Market	58%	83%	+25
Small Western Markets	69%	76%	+7

Building the wall along the U.S.–Mexico border was unpopular in 2018. Today, a solid majority of voters support it.

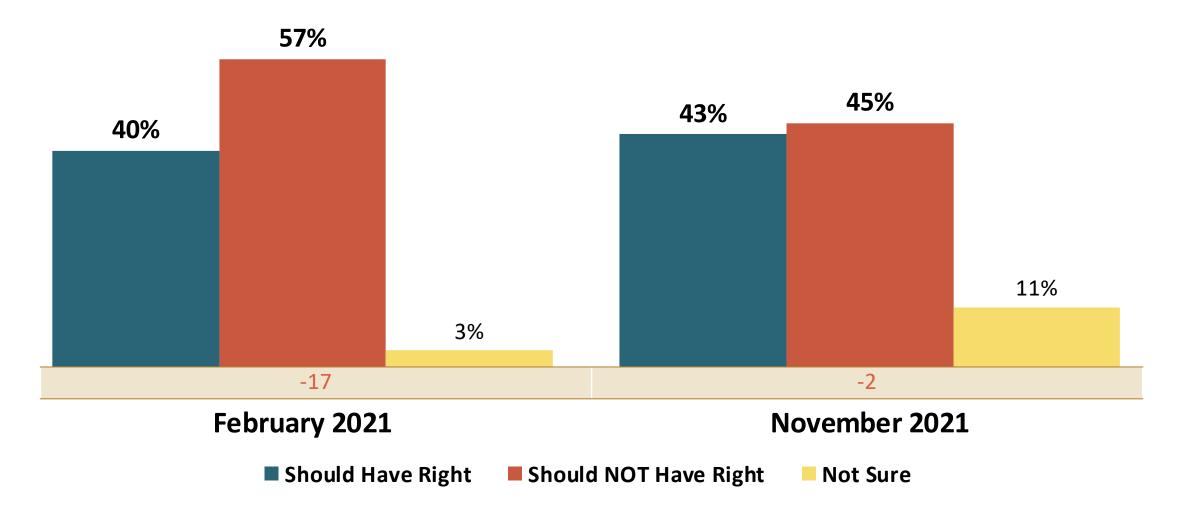
"Do you favor or oppose building a wall along the U.S.–Mexico border to try to stop illegal immigration?"

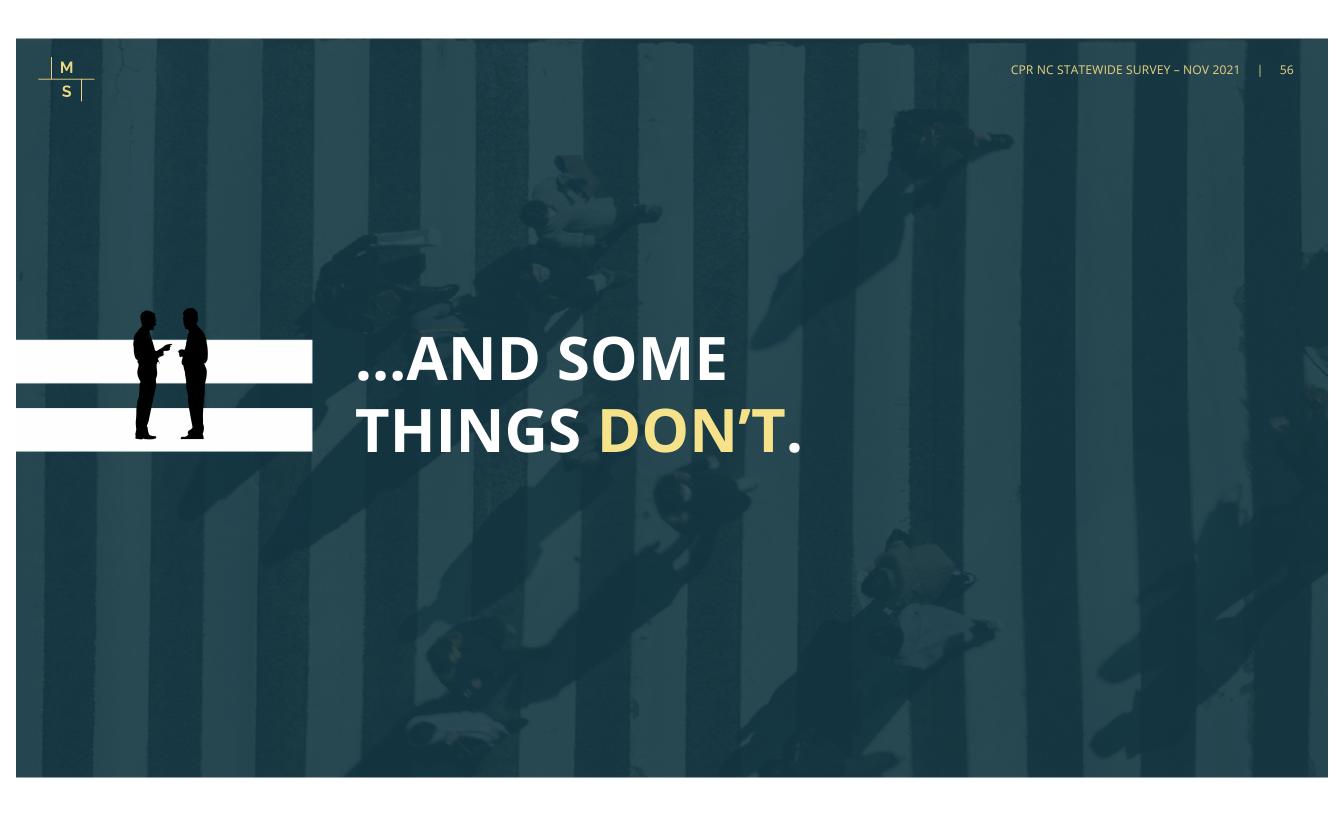


	Favor – May 2018	Favor – Nov 2021
Republicans	80%	89%
Unaffiliateds	36%	57%
Democrats	13%	36%
White Men 18-54	52%	79%
White Men 55+	58%	64%
White Women 18-54	38%	50%
White Women 55+	53%	72%
African Americans	9%	<mark>47%</mark>

Voters today are split about whether or not big tech companies should have the right to remove conservative politicians from their platforms.

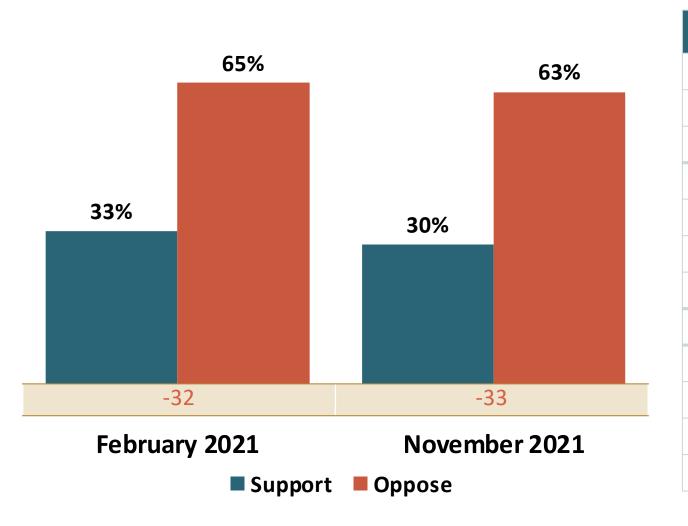
"Do you believe big tech and social media companies such as Facebook, Amazon, Twitter, and Google should have the right to remove conservative politicians from their platforms, or not?"





Defunding the police remains deeply unpopular with NC voters.

"Thinking about your local police department...Do you support or oppose defunding your local police department?"

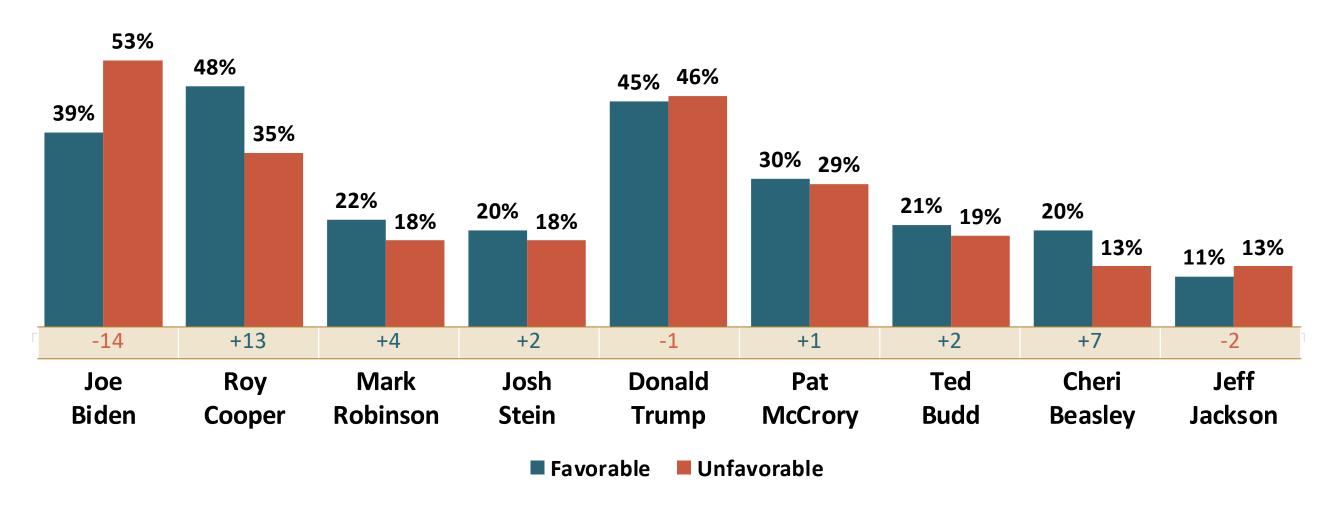


	Support	Oppose
Republicans	20%	74%
Unaffiliateds	20%	72%
Democrats	47%	45%
White Men 18-54	35%	61%
White Men 55+	18%	78%
White Women 18-54	31%	58%
White Women 55+	15%	83%
African Americans	46%	41%
White Men < College	22%	71%
White Men College +	28%	70%
White Women < College	25%	68%
White Women College +	<mark>20%</mark>	<mark>72%</mark>

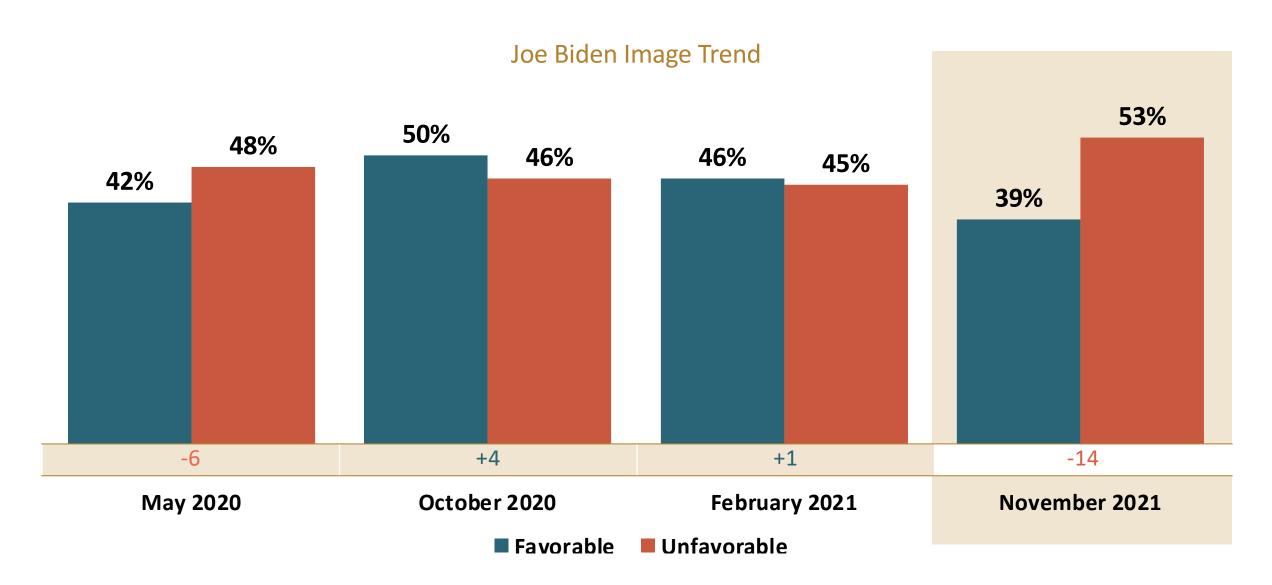


President Biden has the worst image rating of any politico tested in this survey.

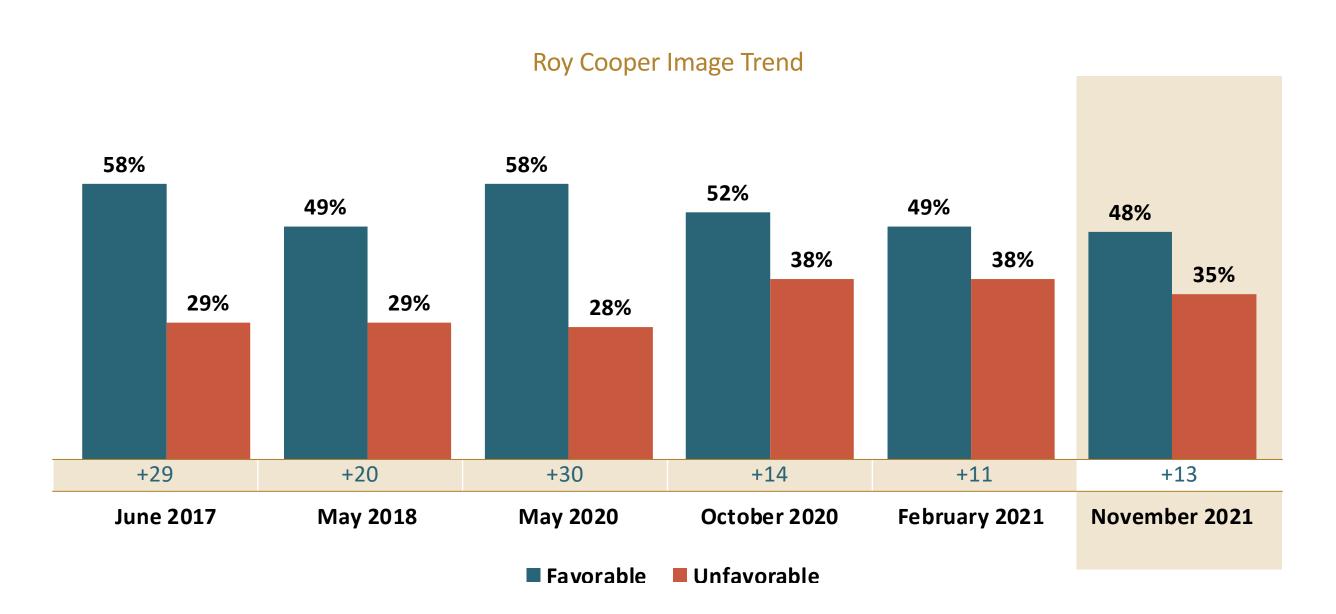
Summary Of Key Image Ratings



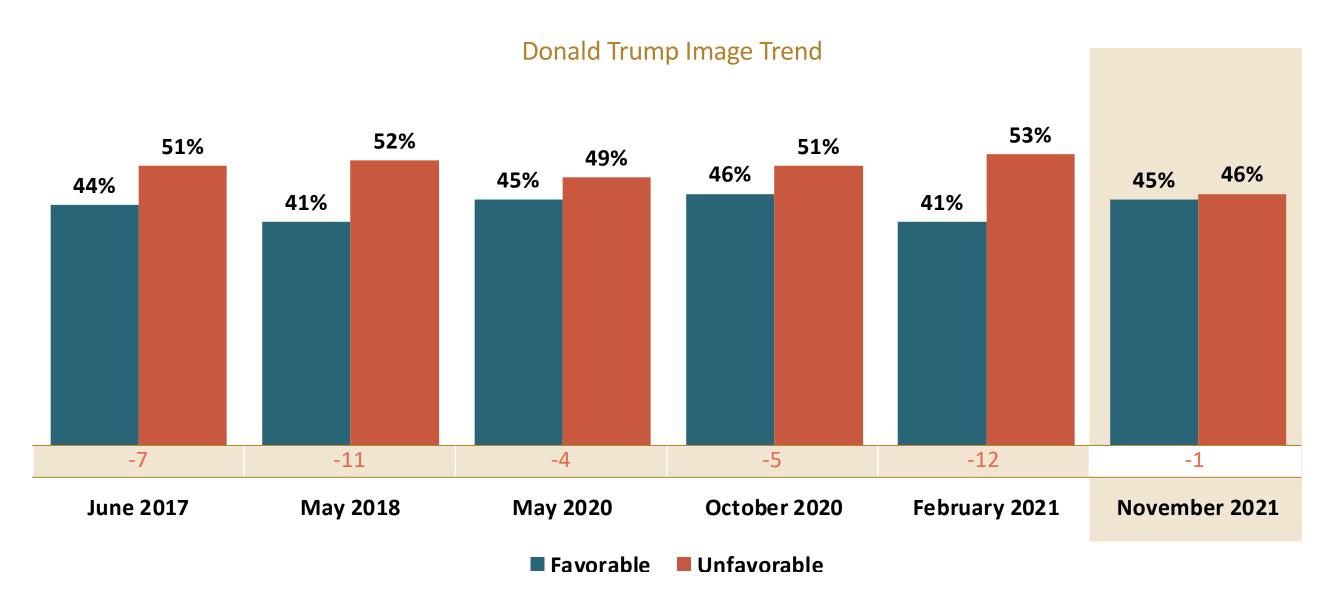
Joe Biden's favorable rating has dipped below 40% in North Carolina for the first time.



Meanwhile, Roy Cooper's image has largely remained the same this year.

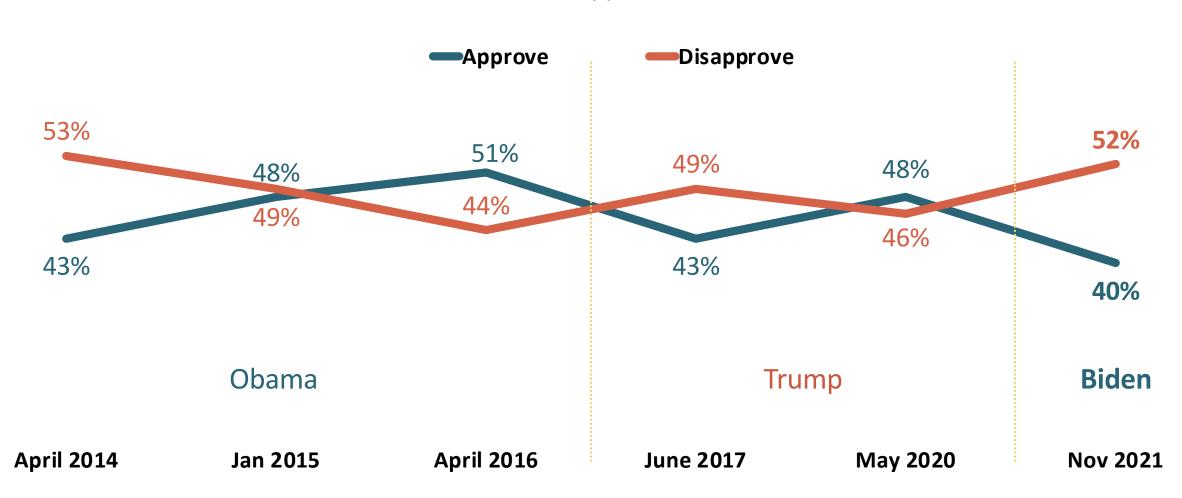


One political figure who has seen an improvement in his image ratings among NC voters since February is Donald J. Trump.



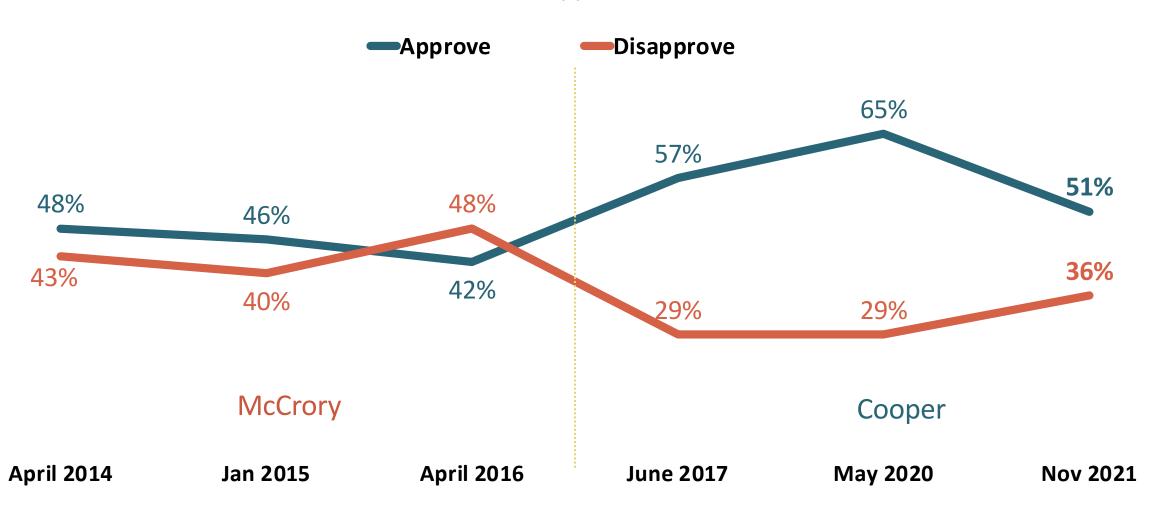
President Biden's approval rating looks a lot like Obama's did in 2014.



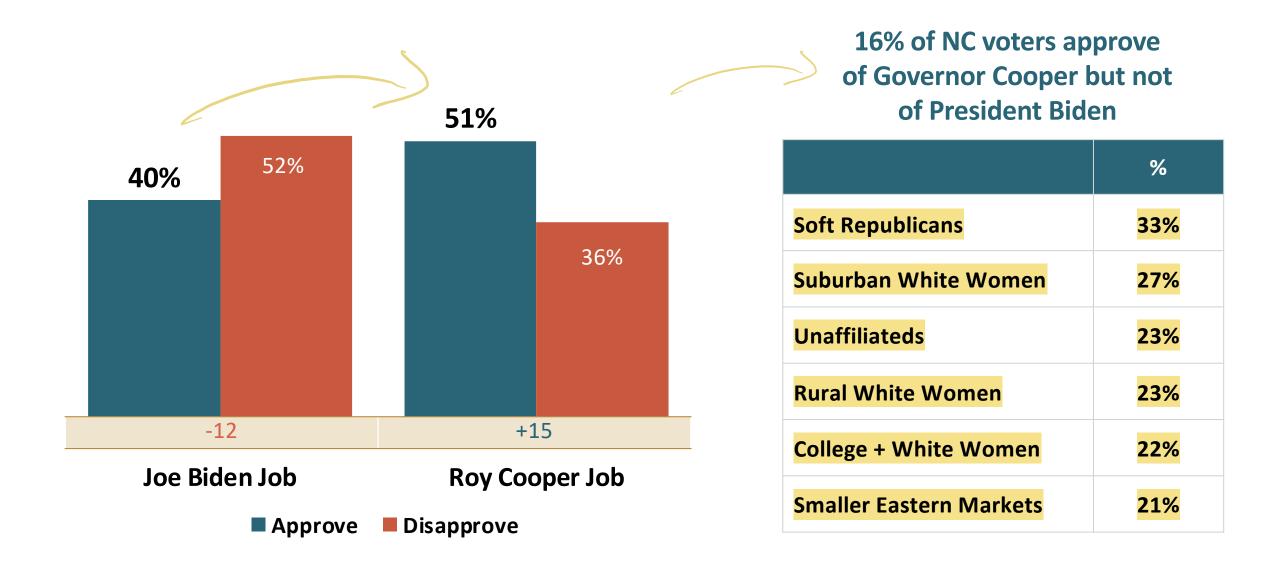


And, while Governor Cooper's approval ratings remain above 50%, he has seen a decline over the past year and a half.

Governor Approval Trend



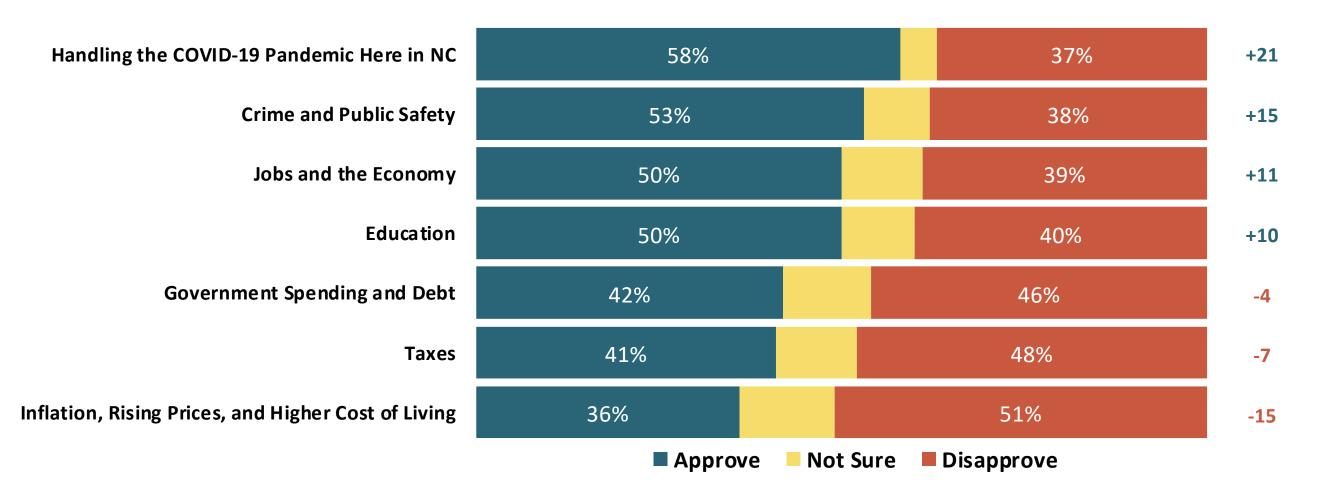
NC voters are making a notable distinction between Biden and Cooper.



Majorities approve of Cooper's handling of COVID, crime, the economy, and education, but most disapprove of how he's handling inflation.

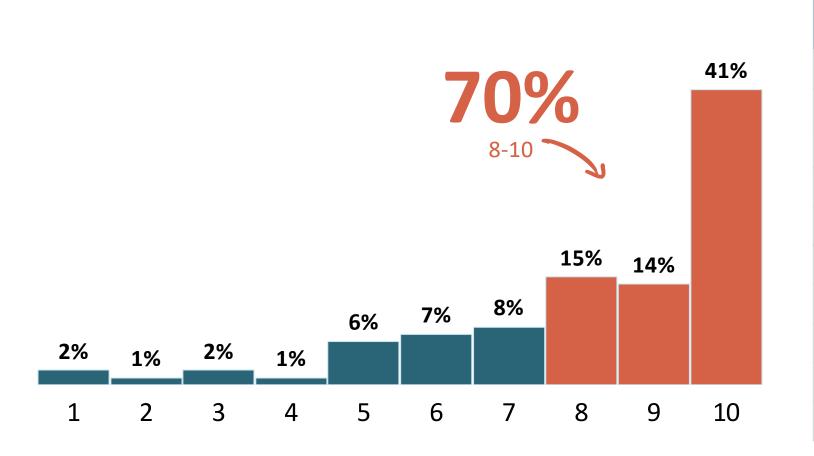
"Regardless of how you feel about the job he's doing overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Roy Cooper is handling the following issues as Governor?"

Net Approve



Seven out of ten say they are very interested (already!) in the 2022 elections, with interest running higher among Republican-leaning groups.

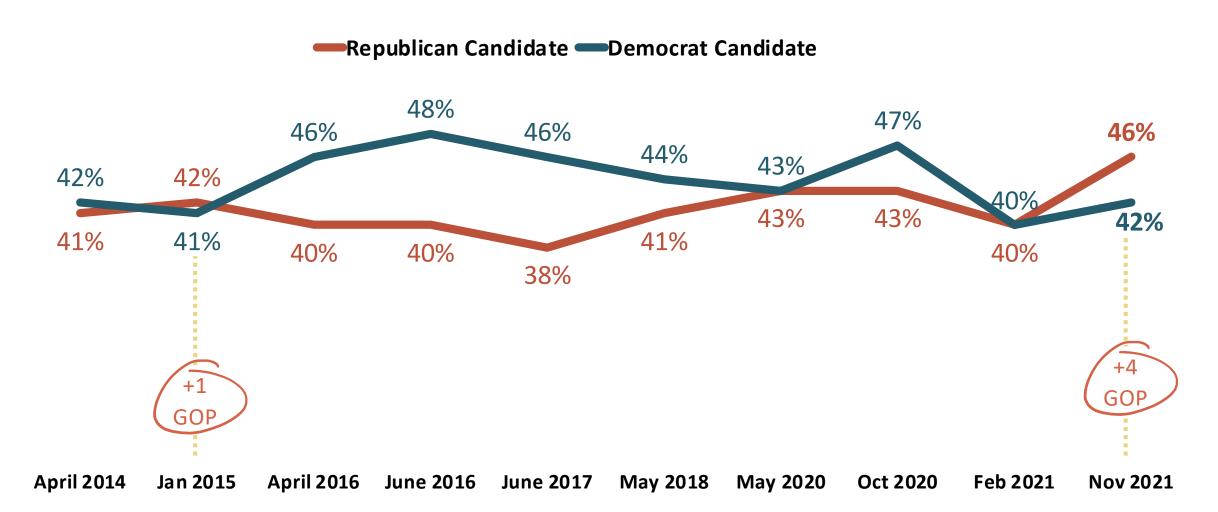
"Thinking ahead to the November 2022 elections, how interested are you in next year's elections for U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, state legislature, and various other state and local offices? Please rate your interest from one to ten, with one meaning that you have no interest in this election and ten meaning that you are extremely interested."



	8 - 10
Republicans	76%
Unaffiliateds	61%
Democrats	74%
White Men	76%
White Women	70%
African Americans	64%
White Men 18-54	68%
White Men 55+	<mark>81%</mark>
White Women 18-54	62%
White Women 55+	<mark>80%</mark>

Finally, the state legislative generic ballot is in uncharted territory.

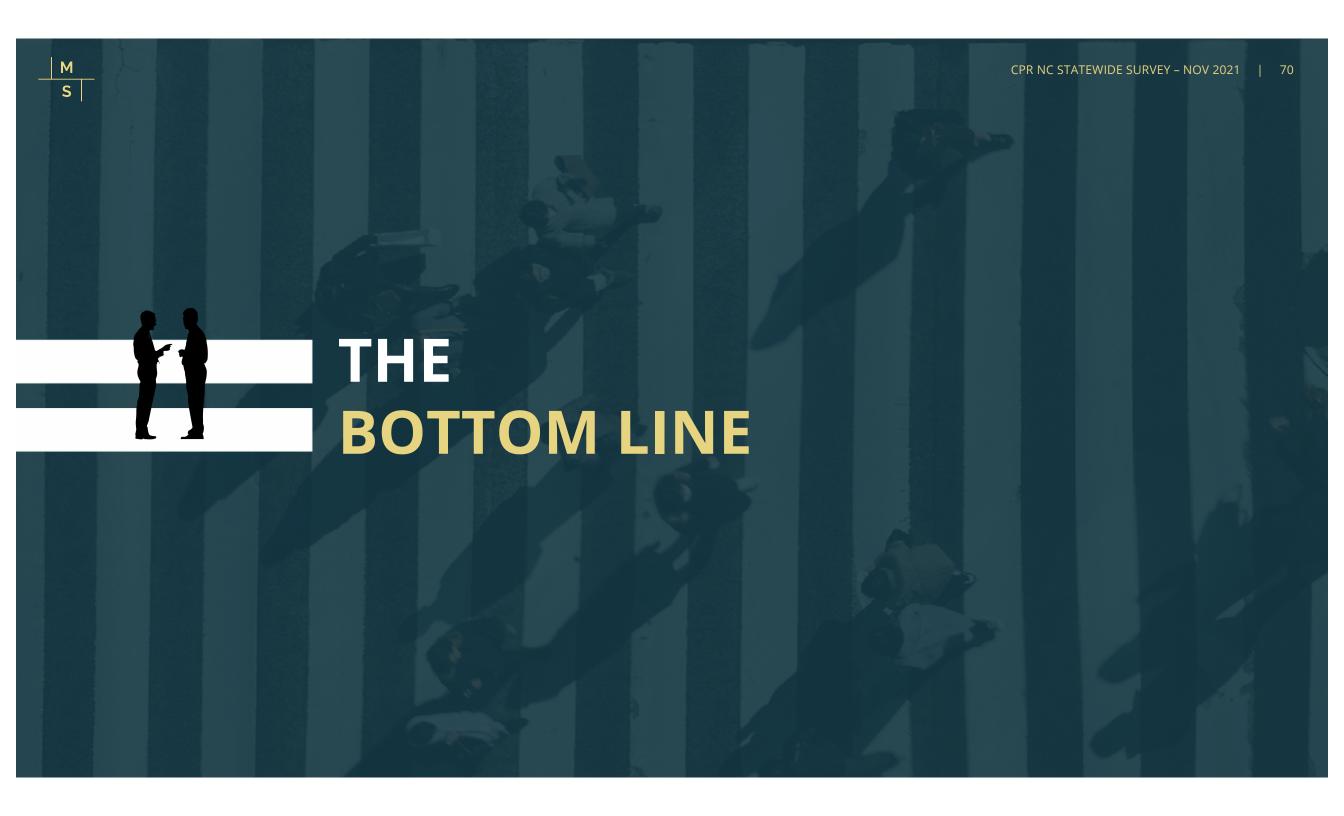
Generic State Legislature Ballot



Unaffiliateds and white women are the main groups that have moved towards Republicans over the course the past year.

% Voting Republican On Generic Ballot

	February 2021	November 2021	Net Change
Republicans	86%	89%	+3
Unaffiliateds	29%	<mark>45%</mark>	+16
Democrats	6%	7%	+1
African Americans	9%	11%	+2
White Men 18-54	49%	58%	+9
White Men 55+	63%	54%	-9
White Women 18-54	38%	49%	+11
White Women 55+	52%	<mark>67%</mark>	+15
White Men < College	53%	56%	+3
White Men College +	59%	57%	-2
White Women < College	50%	63%	+13
White Women College +	<mark>35%</mark>	<mark>46%</mark>	+11



THE BOTTOM LINE

- A lot has changed over the past ten months and the political environment data reflects that. The wind is currently at the Republicans' back and Democrats have an uphill climb to get back in the game before next year's elections.
- "It's the economy, stupid" all over again.
- There's still quite a bit of "selling" to do on the tax cut plan.
- 4 Voters are frustrated about the state of (public school) education.
- We've seen significant shifts in voter opinions on a host of issues (voter ID, the border wall, social media), but defunding the police isn't one of them.

M E E T N G

SREET