



North Carolina | Carolina Forward | Toplines - August 2026

915 likely 2026 voters in North Carolina from August 3-6, 2026

Margin of error = 3.5%

Q1. Do you plan to vote in the 2026 election for U.S. Senate and other state and local offices in North Carolina?

88%	Yes, definitely
7	Yes, probably
4	Maybe (50-50)
0	No, probably not
0	No, definitely not

Q2. How motivated are you to vote in the November 2026 election on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means you are not motivated at all and 10 means you are extremely motivated?

80%	10 - Extremely motivated
4	9
5	8
3	7
2	6
3	5
1	4
0	3
0	2
1	1
1	0 - Not motivated at all

88%	Total 8-10
2	Total 0-2

Polling was conducted online from August 3-6, 2026. Using Dynamic Online Sampling to attain a representative sample, Change Research polled 915 likely 2026 voters in North Carolina. Post-stratification was performed on age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, region, and 2024 presidential vote. You can see a full methodology statement [here](#), which complies with the requirements of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative. Members of the Transparency Initiative disclose all relevant details about our research, with the principle that the public should be able to evaluate and understand research-based findings, in order to instill and restore public confidence in survey results.

Q3. How would you rate the job each of the following is doing?

	<u>Approve</u>		<u>Disapprove</u>		Not sure	<i>Total Approve</i>	<i>Total Disapprove</i>
	Strongly	Smwt	Smwt	Strongly			
Jeff Jackson as Attorney General of North Carolina	26	25	11	12	27	51	23
Josh Stein as Governor of North Carolina	28	20	13	28	10	48	42
Donald Trump as President	29	14	4	52	2	42	56
North Carolina's members of Congress	5	27	25	28	15	32	53
The North Carolina state legislature	8	23	21	33	15	31	54
Ted Budd as U.S. Senator	12	19	12	35	23	30	47
Thom Tillis as U.S. Senator	4	19	22	43	12	23	65

Q4. How favorable are your feelings about each of the following public figures and groups? If you haven't heard of them, please indicate it.

	<u>Favorable</u>		Neutral	<u>Unfavorable</u>		Never heard	<i>Total Fav</i>	<i>Total Unfav</i>
	Very	Smwt		Smwt	Very			
Roy Cooper	32	12	10	5	38	3	44	42
JD Vance	33	10	5	5	45	2	43	50
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	33	10	7	4	45	1	43	49
Marco Rubio	33	10	9	8	36	5	42	44
The Black Lives Matter movement	21	16	16	7	39	1	37	46
The MAGA movement	24	12	9	4	49	2	36	53
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC)	21	12	12	4	42	8	34	46
Zohran Mamdani	21	13	11	2	43	10	34	45
Michael Whatley	17	13	16	5	33	17	29	37
Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)	11	11	17	6	44	11	22	50

Q5. If the election for North Carolina state legislature were held today, who would you vote for?

46% The Democratic candidate
 40 The Republican candidate
 13 Not sure

Q5b. Generic State Legislature Ballot (with leans)

48% The Democratic candidate
 41 The Republican candidate
 10 Not sure
 1 Would not vote

Q6. If the election for U.S. Senate were today, and the candidates were the following, who would you vote for?

50% Roy Cooper, the Democrat
42 Michael Whatley, the Republican
8 Not sure

Q6b. U.S. Senate Ballot (with leans)

50% Roy Cooper, the Democrat
43 Michael Whatley, the Republican
6 Not sure
1 Would not vote

Q7. Which of the following do you think is most responsible for raising the cost of living?

15% Corporate greed
14 Political corruption
10 Illegal immigration
4 Foreign conflicts (Ukraine, Iran, etc.)
35 Trump administration's policies
18 Biden administration's policies
4 Other/don't know

Q9. How much do you support or oppose eliminating restrictions on the concealed carry of a handgun in North Carolina?

31% Strongly support
17 Somewhat support
14 Somewhat oppose
30 Strongly oppose
8 Not sure

47% Total Support

45 Total Oppose

Q10. Regardless of who you supported, do you think Joe Biden was legitimately elected president in 2020, or do you think he was not legitimately elected?

55% Legitimately elected
36 Not legitimately elected
9 Not sure

Q11. According to North Carolina law, who is most responsible for funding prosecutors, courts, and judges?

2% City government
8 County government
4 The Governor
42 The North Carolina General Assembly
4 Congress
40 Not sure

Q12. Are you the parent or guardian of a child(ren) under the age of 18?

24% Yes
76 No

D1. Are you:

46% A man

54 A woman

D2. Age

14% 18 to 34
23 35 to 49
28 50 to 64
35 65+

D3. Race/ethnicity

75% White / Caucasian
17 Black or African American
3 Hispanic or Latino/a
2 Asian / Pacific Islander
1 American Indian or Alaska Native
2 Other

D4. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

13% High school diploma or less
26 Some college, but no degree
15 Associate's degree, or two-year college degree
27 Bachelor's degree, or four-year college degree
20 Graduate degree

D5. Party Identification

24% Strong Democrats
6 Weak Democrats
12 Independent lean Democrats
13 Pure independents
10 Independent lean Republicans
4 Weak Republicans
29 Strong Republicans

43% Democrats

13 Pure independents

44 Republicans

D5b. [IF REPUBLICAN] Do you identify as a MAGA Republican or not?

65% Yes
23 No
12 Not sure

D6. How did you vote in the 2024 election for President, or for some reason were you unable to vote?

45% Kamala Harris, the Democrat
47 Donald Trump, the Republican
3 A third party candidate
2 Not registered/Too young/Ineligible
3 Did not vote