



Harper Polling

**Survey of Likely 2026 General Election Voters**

North Carolina Statewide

Conducted January 22 - 25, 2026

n=700 | ±3.70%

**Q1. Vote Method:** How do you plan to vote in the 2026 general election for U.S. Congress?

	Freq.	%
<b>Vote in-person on Election Day</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>41.5%</b>
Definitely vote in-person on Election Day	193	27.5%
Probably vote in-person on Election Day	98	13.9%
<b>Vote absentee by mail</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
Definitely vote absentee by mail	23	3.3%
Probably vote absentee by mail	10	1.4%
<b>Vote early in-person</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>53.8%</b>
Definitely vote early in-person	195	27.8%
Probably vote early in-person	182	26.0%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q2. Local School Satisfaction:** Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of K-12 education students receive today in your local public schools?

	Jan '26	Jan '25	Jan '24
<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>
Completely satisfied	7.3%	7.5%	5.1%
Somewhat satisfied	27.6%	25.8%	25.9%
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>55.2%</b>	<b>48.0%</b>
Somewhat dissatisfied	25.9%	28.1%	27.9%
Completely dissatisfied	21.2%	27.1%	20.2%
Unsure	18.0%	11.5%	21.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Q3. Statewide School Satisfaction:** Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of K-12 education students receive statewide in North Carolina public schools?

	Freq.	%
<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>29.2%</b>
Completely satisfied	43	6.1%
Somewhat satisfied	161	23.0%
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>52.8%</b>
Somewhat dissatisfied	225	32.2%
Completely dissatisfied	144	20.6%
Unsure	126	18.0%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q4. Education Determination:** Out of the following options, in your opinion, who is best suited to determine where a child should attend school?

	Jan '26	Jan '25
The child's parents or guardians	67.8%	71.8%
Local Board of Education	17.6%	13.6%
State Board of Education	5.4%	4.0%
U.S. Department of Education	2.4%	3.5%
Unsure	6.9%	7.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%



**Q5. Opportunity Scholarship Program Support:** All North Carolina families are eligible to apply for taxpayer-funded scholarships through the Opportunity Scholarship Program. Scholarships are awarded on a sliding scale, prioritizing lowest family incomes. Awards range from \$3,500 to \$7,700 and can be used to attend a private school of their choice. In 2025–26, more than 100,000 students have received Opportunity Scholarship awards. Do you support or oppose the Opportunity Scholarship Program?

	Jan '26	Jan '25	Apr '24	Jan '24	Jan '23
<b>Support</b>	<b>63.7%</b>	<b>60.8%</b>	<b>60.4%</b>	<b>64.0%</b>	<b>67.3%</b>
Strongly support	40.5%	35.4%	38.4%	41.9%	39.6%
Somewhat support	23.2%	25.4%	22.0%	22.1%	27.7%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>29.2%</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>
Somewhat oppose	10.4%	9.3%	10.3%	10.5%	10.6%
Strongly oppose	18.8%	17.9%	13.9%	15.0%	11.5%
Unsure	7.2%	12.0%	15.4%	10.5%	10.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Q6. Charter School Support:** Charter schools are public schools that are governed by an independent board, instead of a local school board. While charter schools are subject to the same academic and testing requirements as traditional public schools, they are exempt from certain administrative regulations in the areas of hiring, budgeting, and curriculum design. Knowing this, do you support or oppose charter schools?

	Jan '26	Jan '25	Jan '24	Jan '23
<b>Support</b>	<b>57.4%</b>	<b>59.9%</b>	<b>66.0%</b>	<b>68.7%</b>
Strongly support	31.5%	31.2%	36.1%	35.2%
Somewhat support	25.9%	28.7%	29.9%	33.4%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>32.8%</b>	<b>30.4%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>21.5%</b>
Somewhat oppose	14.9%	15.9%	10.2%	12.2%
Strongly oppose	17.9%	14.5%	13.4%	9.3%
Unsure	9.7%	9.7%	10.5%	9.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Q7. Board of Education Election Support:** According to the North Carolina Constitution, the State Board of Education shall consist of 13 members: the Lieutenant Governor, the State Treasurer, and 11 members appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. Legislation has been introduced that would require all members of the State Board of Education to be elected. Knowing this, would you support or oppose such legislation?

	Jan '26	Jan '25
<b>Support</b>	<b>67.5%</b>	<b>62.9%</b>
Strongly support	38.4%	39.0%
Somewhat support	29.1%	24.0%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>23.4%</b>
Somewhat oppose	9.9%	10.0%
Strongly oppose	10.4%	13.4%
Unsure	12.2%	13.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%



**Q8. Not Public School Reason:** If you decided to not send your child to a public school, which of the following would best explain your decision?

	Freq.	%
I would send my child to public school	166	23.8%
Academic quality	136	19.4%
Curriculum or educational values	116	16.6%
Preference for private, charter, or homeschooling alternatives	91	13.0%
School safety or bullying	79	11.3%
Teacher quality or staffing	56	8.0%
Lack of extracurricular or enrichment opportunities	16	2.3%
Transportation challenges	2	0.3%
Unsure	38	5.4%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q9. School Type Preference:** If money was no object, and you could choose any type of school for your child, what type of school would you choose?

	Jan '26	Jan '25
Public school	29.5%	30.1%
Private school	44.5%	41.7%
Charter school	8.4%	11.3%
Homeschool	10.5%	10.7%
Virtual school	0.7%	0.4%
Unsure	6.3%	5.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

**Q10. Financial Spending Levels:** To the best of your knowledge, which of the following ranges best reflects the average per pupil spending for K-12 public schools in North Carolina? Your estimate should include the combined expenditures of the state, federal, and local governments.

	Jan '26	Jan '25
\$0 - \$4,999	12.2%	5.6%
\$5,000 - \$9,999	21.8%	12.0%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	20.4%	13.2%
\$15,000+	12.9%	32.1%
Unsure	32.6%	37.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

**Q11. Financial Spending Levels Opinion:** The average per pupil spending (combined federal, state, and local expenditures) for K-12 students in North Carolina is \$13,100. Do you consider this to be:

	Freq.	%
Too much	113	16.1%
Too little	300	42.9%
The appropriate amount	107	15.3%
Unsure	180	25.7%
Total	700	100.0%



**Q12. State Funding for Charters Opinion:** Currently the state provides no funding to charter schools for their facilities. Would you support or oppose state government providing money to charter schools to help obtain land and buildings for schools?

	Freq.	%
<b>Support</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>46.9%</b>
Strongly support	141	20.1%
Somewhat support	187	26.8%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>47.3%</b>
Somewhat oppose	99	14.2%
Strongly oppose	231	33.1%
Unsure	41	5.9%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q13. Open Enrollment Support:** Intra-district open enrollment in a K-12 public school allows students enrolled in a public school to select and transfer to a public school of their choice within the child's school district, rather than their assigned school. Transfers are allowed on a first-come, first-served basis, provided there is space. Do you support or oppose intra-district open enrollment in public schools?

	Jan '26	Jan '25
<b>Support</b>	<b>78.8%</b>	<b>71.5%</b>
Strongly support	42.4%	38.6%
Somewhat support	36.4%	32.9%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
Somewhat oppose	7.1%	12.4%
Strongly oppose	5.5%	8.7%
Unsure	8.6%	7.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

**Q14. Issues Facing K-12:** In your opinion, what is the most challenging issue facing K-12 public education?

	Jan '26	Jan '25
Shortage of high-quality teachers	19.8%	19.9%
Adequate finances	14.5%	13.1%
Academic standards	14.4%	15.0%
Preparing students for the workforce	11.5%	2.8%
Curriculum concerns	10.1%	14.6%
Lack of parental involvement	10.0%	12.4%
Overcrowded classrooms	8.6%	6.9%
School safety	7.0%	11.1%
Unsure	4.0%	4.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

**Q15. Open Enrollment Importance:** Which is the most important reason for supporting intra-district open enrollment in public schools?

	Freq.	%
It allows students to attend the school that best fits their needs	215	30.8%



It protects and upholds the right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children	151	21.6%
It expands access to public schools for families who could not otherwise afford to move to neighborhoods zoned for their desired school	141	20.1%
It improves schools and districts by forcing them to compete for students	61	8.6%
It provides a solution for declining enrollment in public schools	10	1.4%
It expands choice in extracurricular activities, including sports	9	1.2%
Unsure	113	16.2%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q16. Open Enrollment Opposition:** Which is the most important reason for opposing intra-district open enrollment in public schools?

	Freq.	%
It complicates student transportation, creating logistical hurdles for districts and financial barriers for families	173	24.7%
It leads to budgetary uncertainty within school districts	100	14.3%
It promotes athletic recruitment among schools	81	11.6%
There are already enough education choices, considering private schools, homeschools, charter schools, and magnet programs	43	6.1%
It creates administrative or operational burdens for districts	41	5.9%
Unsure	262	37.4%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q17. Education Options Information:** What is your current source of information on the educational options available to you and your family?

	Freq.	%
My current public school	70	9.9%
My local school district	165	23.5%
Friends and family	217	30.9%
Education organizations	73	10.4%
Church or civic groups	37	5.2%
Unsure	140	20.0%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q18. Open Enrollment in District:** Does your school district offer open enrollment?

	Freq.	%
Yes	183	26.1%
No	85	12.2%



Unsure	432	61.8%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q19. Student Transportation Responsibility:** If a student attends a public school other than their assigned school, who should be responsible for the student's transportation?

	Freq.	%
State responsibility	47	6.7%
Parent responsibility	436	62.3%
Responsibility of sending school	6	0.9%
Responsibility of receiving school	43	6.2%
Shared responsibility	138	19.7%
Unsure	30	4.2%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q20. COVID Impact:** How much impact did COVID-19 school shutdowns from 2020 and 2021 have on student achievement in North Carolina schools today?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Negative impact</u></b>	<b>578</b>	<b>82.6%</b>
A great deal of negative impact	434	62.1%
Some negative impact	144	20.5%
<b><u>Minimal/no impact</u></b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
Minimal impact	20	2.9%
No noticeable impact	14	1.9%
<b><u>Positive impact for some students</u></b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Unsure	77	11.1%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q21. COVID Funds Opinion:** North Carolina received \$6.2 billion in federal money for recovery following COVID-19 school shutdowns. The major expenditures include salaries and benefits (52 percent); supplies and materials (21 percent) and purchased services (11 percent). Approximately 2 percent of total expenditures was spent on tutoring. How would you describe the job North Carolina schools did of spending COVID recovery funds?

	Freq.	%
<b><u>Good Total</u></b>	<b>140</b>	<b>19.9%</b>
Good	43	6.1%
Somewhat good	97	13.8%
<b><u>Neither good nor poor</u></b>	<b>90</b>	<b>12.9%</b>
<b><u>Poor Total</u></b>	<b>317</b>	<b>45.4%</b>
Somewhat poor	155	22.1%
Very poor	163	23.3%
Unsure	153	21.8%
Total	700	100.0%



**Q22. Teacher Pay Opinion:** Which statement best reflects your view of how the state should approach teacher pay?

	Freq.	%
Higher teacher pay is essential regardless of measured student outcomes	359	51.3%
Teacher pay increases should be tied to improved student outcomes	242	34.5%
Improving student achievement should take priority over teacher pay	53	7.6%
Teacher pay should remain unchanged	11	1.6%
Unsure	35	5.0%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q23. Laptops Opinion:** Which approach do you support regarding laptops for public school students?

	Freq.	%
Provide a laptop to every student	185	26.5%
Provide laptops based on educational need or grade level	311	44.5%
Provide shared devices rather than individual laptops	59	8.4%
Do not prioritize laptops; focus resources elsewhere	107	15.3%
Unsure	38	5.4%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q24. Distance from School:** If you have a student enrolled in a public school, how does your student's current school location and commute compare to the nearest public school available to you?

	Freq.	%
My student attends the nearest public school to our home	145	20.7%
My student attends a public school farther from home than another school in our district	36	5.1%
My student attends a public school farther from home than a school in a neighboring district	26	3.8%
No student currently enrolled	420	60.0%
Unsure	73	10.4%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q25. Tax Credit Scholarship Veto Opinion:** Congress recently approved the Federal Tax Credit Scholarship Program. The program allows individuals to get a federal tax credit of up to \$1,700 for donating to approved Scholarship Granting Organizations. Those monies will be used for private school tuition, tutoring or other educational expenses. Last year Governor Stein vetoed required legislation to have North Carolina opt-in to the program. Do you support or oppose Governor Stein's veto?

	Freq.	%
<b>Support Governor Stein's veto</b>	<u>255</u>	<u>36.4%</u>
Strongly support Governor Stein's veto	173	24.7%
Somewhat support Governor Stein's veto	82	11.7%
<b>Oppose Governor Stein's veto</b>	<u>290</u>	<u>41.4%</u>
Somewhat oppose Governor Stein's veto	94	13.4%



Strongly oppose Governor Stein's veto	196	28.0%
Unsure	155	22.2%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q26. Purpose of Education:** In your opinion, what is the main purpose of education?

	Freq.	%
Develop skills for future employment	178	25.4%
Develop independent thinkers	159	22.8%
Master core academic subjects	138	19.8%
Develop good citizens	89	12.8%
Instill values, moral character, and religious values	44	6.2%
Improve the quality of the workforce	38	5.4%
Learn to address and fix social problems	23	3.3%
Unsure	30	4.3%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q27. Local Board Grade:** Local schools and school board members are assigned with carrying out the day-to-day education of children and local schools and develop policies to guide and improve instruction. What grade would you give local schools and school board members in carrying out these responsibilities?

	Freq.	%
A	25	3.6%
B	119	17.1%
C	222	31.8%
D	115	16.5%
F	76	10.8%
Unsure	142	20.3%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q28. Gender**

	Freq.	%
Female	383	54.7%
Male	317	45.3%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q29. Age Range**

	Freq.	%
<u>Under 50</u>	<u>276</u>	<u>39.5%</u>
18 - 34	113	16.2%
35 - 49	163	23.3%
<u>50+</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>60.5%</u>
50 - 64	212	30.3%
65 or older	211	30.2%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q30. Party**

	Freq.	%
Republican	232	33.2%
Democrat	237	33.8%
Independent	190	27.1%



Other	21	3.0%
Unsure	20	2.9%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q31.** Ideology

	Freq.	%
<b>Conservative</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>44.1%</b>
Very conservative	167	23.9%
Somewhat conservative	141	20.2%
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>24.0%</b>
<b>Liberal</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>27.5%</b>
Somewhat liberal	98	14.0%
Very liberal	95	13.5%
Unsure	31	4.4%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q32.** Urbanicity

	Freq.	%
Rural	301	43.0%
Suburban	304	43.4%
Urban	95	13.6%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q33.** Income

	Freq.	%
Less than \$40,000	98	14.0%
\$40,000 - \$69,999	164	23.4%
\$70,000 - \$99,999	120	17.2%
\$100,000 or more	254	36.3%
Unsure	64	9.1%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q34.** Race/Ethnicity

	Freq.	%
White or Caucasian	506	72.3%
Asian or Pacific Islander	6	0.9%
Black or African American	125	17.8%
Hispanic or Latino	13	1.8%
Other	35	5.1%
Unsure	15	2.1%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q35.** 2024 Retro Ballot

	Freq.	%
Donald Trump, the Republican	317	45.4%
Kamala Harris, the Democrat	298	42.5%
Another candidate	29	4.2%
Did not vote in 2024	14	2.0%
Unsure	41	5.9%
Total	700	100.0%



**Q36.** Education Level

	Freq.	%
<b>No College</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>52.3%</b>
Some high school	8	1.2%
High school diploma/GED	77	11.0%
Technical Certification	31	4.4%
Some college or Associate's Degree	250	35.7%
<b>At least College</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>46.9%</b>
Four-year undergraduate or Bachelor's	188	26.9%
Graduate degree or further	139	19.9%
Unsure	6	0.9%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q37.** General Election VH

	Freq.	%
0 of 4	22	3.2%
1 of 4	94	13.5%
2 of 4	108	15.4%
3 of 4	113	16.1%
4 of 4	363	51.8%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q38.** Geo - DMA

	Freq.	%
<b>Charlotte/West</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>36.0%</b>
Charlotte	189	27.0%
Greenvill-Spart-Ashevill-And	60	8.5%
Chattanooga	3	0.5%
<b>Central</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>18.0%</b>
Greensboro-H.Point-W.Salem	120	17.1%
Myrtle Beach-Florence	6	0.9%
<b>Raleigh-Durham (Fayetville)</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>31.3%</b>
<b>Coastal</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>14.7%</b>
Greenville-N.Bern-Washngtn	48	6.9%
Wilmington	43	6.1%
Norfolk-Portsmth-Newpt Nws	13	1.8%
Total	700	100.0%

**Q39.** Geo - CD

	Freq.	%
1	46	6.6%
2	52	7.5%
3	46	6.5%
4	56	7.9%
5	51	7.2%
6	47	6.7%
7	55	7.8%



8	52	7.4%
9	47	6.7%
10	51	7.3%
11	59	8.4%
12	40	5.7%
13	52	7.4%
14	48	6.9%
Total	700	100.0%

#### Q40. Gender + Age

	Freq.	%
F 18 - 34	57	8.1%
F 35 - 49	88	12.6%
F 50 - 64	118	16.8%
F 65+	120	17.1%
M 18 - 34	56	8.0%
M 35 - 49	75	10.7%
M 50 - 64	95	13.5%
M 65+	91	13.0%
Total	700	100.0%

#### Q41. Race + Gender

	Freq.	%
White Female	263	37.5%
White Male	244	34.8%
Asian Female	4	0.6%
Asian Male	2	0.3%
Black Female	79	11.3%
Black Male	45	6.5%
Hispanic Female	10	1.4%
Hispanic Male	3	0.4%
Other Female	20	2.9%
Other Male	15	2.1%
Unsure	15	2.1%
Total	700	100.0%

#### Q42. Gender + Education

	Freq.	%
Female At least College	174	24.9%
Female No degree	206	29.4%
Male At least College	154	22.0%
Male No degree	160	22.9%
Unsure	6	0.9%
Total	700	100.0%

## METHODOLOGY

The sample size is 700 likely voters in the 2026 general election in North Carolina Statewide. The margin of error is  $\pm 3.70\%$  at a confidence interval of 95%. The demography of the survey sample is balanced to accurately represent the geography's likely-voting population. The data was collected January 22 – 25, 2026 and respondent interviews were conducted via live phones and SMS-to-online. The total percentages of response may not equal 100% due to rounding.

