

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Questions for May 2007 Winthrop/ETV Poll: Questions 1–7

Q1 Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election or not. Others aren't that interested. How often would you say that you follow what is going on in government and public affairs: Most of the time, Some of the time, Only now and then, or Hardly at all?

Most of the time	62.2
Some of the Time	25.9
Only now and then	7.5
Hardly at all	3.9
Don't Know/Refused	0.6

Q2 How about the race for presidential nominations for the 2008 elections? Would you say you have been following the presidential primary races Very Closely, Somewhat Closely, Not Very Closely, or Not at all Closely?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Independents</i>	<i>Republicans</i>
Very Closely	27.2	28.6	25.1	27.4
Somewhat Closely	46.8	45.8	47.0	48.5
Not Very Closely	19.7	21.4	18.7	18.4
Not At All Closely	5.7	4.2	7.8	5.3
Don't Know/Refused	0.6	0.0	1.4	0.4

Q3 With regard to the presidential primary elections to be held in South Carolina in January and February of 2008, would you say that you Almost Certainly will vote in this election, Will Probably vote in this election, May or May Not vote in this election, or are Unlikely to vote in this election?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Independents</i>	<i>Republicans</i>
Almost Certainly	72.8	78.0	67.6	74.1
Will Probably	17.2	12.5	18.3	19.2
May or May Not	4.8	5.4	6.8	2.6
Unlikely to Vote	4.5	3.6	6.4	3.4
Don't Know/Refused	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.8

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Among Democrats

Q4.1 If the presidential primary election were held today, which of these candidates would you vote for?

Undecided/ Not Sure	30.4
Hillary Clinton	29.2
Barack Obama	20.8
John Edwards	10.7
Bill Richardson	1.8
Joe Biden	0.6

Among Independents

Q4.2 If the presidential primary election were held today, which of these candidates would you vote for?

Undecided/ Not Sure	29.7
Rudy Giuliani	12.3
Hillary Clinton	11.0
John Edwards	10.5
John McCain	9.1
Barack Obama	5.9
Mitt Romney	5.9
Newt Gingrich	4.1
Fred Thompson	2.3
Ron Paul	1.8
Sam Brownback	1.4
Bill Richardson	1.4
Joe Biden	0.9
Mike Gravel	0.9
Mike Huckabee	0.5
Tom Tancredo	0.5
Tommy Thompson	0.5

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Among Republicans

Q4.3 If the presidential primary election were held today, which of these candidates would you vote for?

Undecided/ Not Sure	29.9
Rudy Giuliani	18.6
John McCain	14.4
Mitt Romney	11.7
Fred Thompson	6.4
Newt Gingrich	3.4
Sam Brownback	1.5
Duncan Hunter	1.1
Mike Huckabee	0.8
Tommy Thompson	0.8
Chuck Hagel	0.4

Among Democrats

Q5.1 What is the one issue that you would most like to hear the candidates for president discuss? (top 5)

Iraq	45.2
Healthcare	14.9
Education	8.3
Economy	6.5
Price of Gas	3.6

Among Independents

Q5.2 What is the one issue that you would most like to hear the candidates for president discuss? (top 5)

Iraq	34.7
Illegal Immigration	16.9
Healthcare	10.5
Taxes	7.3
Economy	4.1

Among Republicans

Q5.3 What is the one issue that you would most like to hear the candidates for president discuss? (top 5)

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Iraq	30.5
Illegal Immigration	18.4
Healthcare	6.0
Terrorism (in general)	6.0
Economy	5.3

Q6 Regardless of what you think about any of the current presidential candidates, do you think the country will be ready for a female president in the next 12 years?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Independents</i>	<i>Republicans</i>
Yes	68.9	85.1	74.9	53.8
No	25.1	9.5	18.3	41.4
Don't	6.0	5.4	6.8	4.9
Know/Refused				

Q7 Regardless of what you think about any of the current presidential candidates, do you think the country will be ready for an African American president in the next 12 years?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Independents</i>	<i>Republicans</i>
Yes	79.1	83.3	79.0	77.8
No	15.1	11.3	15.1	17.3
Don't	5.8	5.4	5.9	4.9
Know/Refused				

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Questions for May 2007 Winthrop/ETV Poll: Questions 8-15

Please tell me whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with the following statement.

Q8 Finding out that a candidate has had multiple divorces would make me less likely to support that candidate.

	All	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Strongly Agree	11.1	8.3	7.8	15.4
Agree	25.3	22.0	22.4	29.3
Neither Agree nor Disagree	13.6	11.9	17.8	11.7
Disagree	36.5	40.5	38.8	32.3
Strongly Disagree	12.4	15.5	13.2	9.8
Don't Know/Refused	1.2	1.8	0.0	1.5

Please tell me whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with the following statement.

Q9 Finding out a candidate has had cancer in the last few years would make me less likely to support that candidate.

	All	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Strongly Agree	3.0	2.4	3.7	2.6
Agree	9.1	13.7	7.3	7.9
Neither Agree nor Disagree	11.2	8.9	15.1	9.0
Disagree	57.5	54.2	55.7	60.9
Strongly Disagree	17.0	17.3	16.9	17.7
Don't Know/Refused	2.1	3.6	1.4	1.9

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Please tell me whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with the following statement.

Q10 I am more likely to vote for John Edwards because he was born in South Carolina.

	All	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Strongly Agree	2.4	3.0	1.4	2.6
Agree	9.0	14.3	10.0	5.3
Neither Agree nor Disagree	6.7	8.9	7.8	3.8
Disagree	56.8	57.7	57.1	55.6
Strongly Disagree	23.3	13.7	23.3	30.5
Don't Know/Refused	1.8	2.4	0.5	2.3

Please tell me whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with the following statement.

Q11 I think that actor and former Senator from Tennessee Fred Thompson should officially enter the presidential race.

	All	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Strongly Agree	8.8	1.2	11.4	11.3
Agree	23.9	14.2	25.1	27.4
Neither Agree nor Disagree	29.9	33.3	32.9	26.3
Disagree	16.4	22.6	12.3	15.4
Strongly Disagree	5.1	10.1	4.1	3.0
Don't Know/Refused	15.8	17.9	14.2	16.5

Please tell me whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with the following statement.

Q12 I think money plays too big a role in who gets elected.

	All	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Strongly Agree	46.0	47.6	49.8	42.5
Agree	41.7	39.9	38.8	44.0
Neither Agree nor Disagree	3.0	2.4	3.2	3.4
Disagree	6.7	6.0	6.8	7.5
Strongly Disagree	1.3	1.2	0.0	2.6
Don't Know/Refused	1.2	3.0	1.4	0.0

For further information on the Winthrop Poll, please contact [Dr. Scott Huffmon](#) at 803/323-4669.

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Please tell me whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with the following statement.

Q13 If Hillary Clinton were elected president, I think Bill Clinton would make a good "First Husband."

	All	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Strongly Agree	16.3	36.9	15.1	4.9
Agree	25.9	43.5	28.8	11.3
Neither Agree nor Disagree	9.9	10.1	10.0	9.0
Disagree	22.6	4.8	21.9	34.2
Strongly Disagree	22.7	4.2	19.6	38.0
Don't Know/Refused	2.7	0.6	4.6	2.6

Please tell me whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with the following statement.

Q14 I would have trouble voting for a candidate whose views on abortion were different from mine.

	All	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Strongly Agree	15.1	10.1	12.8	20.3
Agree	29.3	25.6	31.1	30.8
Neither Agree nor Disagree	12.3	12.5	10.0	13.9
Disagree	33.9	39.9	36.5	27.8
Strongly Disagree	7.6	8.9	8.2	6.4
Don't Know/Refused	1.8	3.0	1.4	0.8

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Please tell me whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with the following statement.

Q15 Regardless of how I personally feel about her, Hillary Clinton may be too controversial of a figure to be elected president.

	<i>All</i>	<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Independents</i>	<i>Republicans</i>
Strongly Agree	18.2	4.2	15.5	30.1
Agree	34.8	18.5	32.0	47.4
Neither Agree nor Disagree	8.5	10.7	10.5	5.6
Disagree	27.7	45.8	32.4	11.7
Strongly Disagree	6.7	13.7	6.4	3.0
Don't Know/Refused	4.0	7.1	3.2	2.3

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Questions for May 2007 Winthrop/ETV Poll: Questions 16-18

All Respondents

Q16.1 What do you think is the most important issue currently facing our nation?

(top 5)

Iraq	53.4
Illegal Immigration	9.1
Terrorism (in general)	5.7
Healthcare	5.2
Economy	4.0

Among Democrats

Q16.2 What do you think is the most important issue currently facing our nation?

(top 5)

Iraq	61.9
Healthcare	7.7
Price of Gas	4.8
Economy	4.2
Education	3.6

Among Independents

Q16.3 What do you think is the most important issue currently facing our nation?

(top 5)

Iraq	49.3
Illegal Immigration	13.2
Healthcare	6.4
Terrorism (in general)	5.0
Economy	4.6

Among Republicans

Q16.4 What do you think is the most important issue currently facing our nation?

(top 5)

Iraq	50.8
Illegal Immigration	10.2
Terrorism (in general)	9.0
Homeland Security/ Protecting U.S from Terrorist Attack	4.1
Tie:	3.4
Economy	
Price of Gas	

The Winthrop Poll Findings

All Respondents

Q17.1 What do you think is the second most important issue currently facing our nation? (top 5)

Illegal Immigration	15.1
Iraq	14.4
Economy	12.9
Healthcare	12.5
Price of Gas	6.7

Among Democrats

Q17.2 What do you think is the second most important issue currently facing our nation? (top 5)

Healthcare	20.3
Iraq	15.2
Economy	13.9
Education	11.4
Price of Gas	7.0

Among Independents

Q17.3 What do you think is the second most important issue currently facing our nation? (top 5)

Iraq	15.7
Economy	14.3
Illegal Immigration	13.3
Healthcare	10.5
Price of Gas	7.1

Among Republicans

Q17.4 What do you think is the second most important issue currently facing our nation? (top 5)

Illegal Immigration	22.1
Iraq	13.2
Economy	11.2
Healthcare	9.3
Price of Gas	6.2

The Winthrop Poll Findings

All Respondents

Q18.1 What do you think is the third most important issue currently facing our nation? (top 5)

Healthcare	11.1
Economy	9.8
Illegal Immigration	9.1
Education	8.0
Price of Gas	6.5

Among Democrats

Q18.2 What do you think is the third most important issue currently facing our nation? (top 5)

Healthcare	13.7
Education	13.1
Economy	8.5
Price of Gas	7.8
Tie:	5.2
Illegal Immigration	
Social Security	

Among Independents

Q18.3 What do you think is the third most important issue currently facing our nation? (top 5)

Healthcare	11.3
Tie:	9.3
Economy	
Illegal Immigration	
Tie:	6.4
Education	
Iraq	
Price of Gas	
Taxes	5.9
Social Security	3.4

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Among Republicans

Q18.4 What do you think is the third most important issue currently facing our nation? (top 5)

Tie:	11.5
Economy	
Illegal Immigration	
Healthcare	9.0
Tie:	6.1
Education	
Price of Gas	
Iraq	5.3
Taxes	4.9

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Questions for May 2007 Winthrop/ETV Poll: Questions 19-29

Q19 Which of the following statements best describes how you feel when it comes to how you will cast your ballot for president:

- a) The issue of Iraq is more important than the issue of the economy
- b) The issue of the economy is more important than the issue of Iraq
- c) These two issues are of equal importance when deciding how I will vote for president
- d) Neither of these issues is important when deciding how I will vote for president

	<i>All</i>	<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Independents</i>	<i>Republicans</i>
Iraq More Important	22.6	28.9	19.6	22.2
Economy More Important	12.6	11.4	11.9	13.9
Equal Importance	58.3	56.0	63.0	55.3
Neither is Important	4.5	2.4	3.7	6.0
Don't Know/Refused	1.9	1.2	1.8	2.6

Q20 Senator John McCain has recently voiced support for several of President Bush's policies regarding Iraq. Do you think this has helped his bid for the presidency, hurt his bid for the presidency, or had no effect on his bid for the presidency?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Independents</i>	<i>Republicans</i>
Helped	14.7	6.6	11.4	22.2
Hurt	45.0	63.3	46.1	32.3
No Effect	29.5	17.5	29.7	37.6
Not Sure	10.2	12.0	11.9	7.5
Refused	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.4

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Q21 On the issue of abortion, do you consider yourself "Pro-Life" or "Pro-Choice?"

	<i>All</i>	<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Independents</i>	<i>Republicans</i>
Pro-Life	48.6	34.9	43.8	62.0
Pro-Choice	42.3	57.8	43.8	32.3
Not Sure	7.6	5.4	11.0	4.9
Refused	1.5	1.8	1.4	0.8

Q22 Regardless of your personal beliefs about the practice of abortion, do you think a woman should be able to obtain a legal abortion in certain circumstances?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Democrats</i>	<i>Independents</i>	<i>Republicans</i>	<i>Respondents who are Pro- Life</i>
Yes	83.5	89.8	86.3	78.2	71.6
No	12.4	7.2	9.6	18.4	23.8
Not Sure	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.0	4.0
Refused	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.6

Q23 What is your primary source for information about candidates for public office? Is it political commercials, network television news, cable television news, newspapers, the internet, talking with friends or family, or something else?

Cable News	34.9
Newspapers	18.7
Network News	18.0
Internet	10.0
Something Else	7.6
Radio	4.0
Friends or Family	3.3
Commercials	1.6
Don't Know/Refused	1.6

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Q24/Q25 Have you watched any of the recent (Democratic/Republican) presidential debates.

	<i>Watched Dem Debate</i>	<i>Watched Rep Debate</i>
Yes	42.6	32.4
No	57.1	67.4
Don't Know/Refused	0.3	0.2

Q26 Who do you think won, or performed the best, in the most recent Democratic presidential debate you watched?

**only asked of respondents who reported that they had watched a Democratic debate*

No Winner	31.1
Not Sure	25.9
Hillary Clinton	17.5
Barack Obama	12.9
John Edwards	5.2
Joe Biden	1.7
Mike Gravel	1.4
Tie:	0.7
Christopher Dodd	
Dennis Kucinich	
Bill Richardson	

Q27 Who do you think won, or performed the best, in the most recent Republican presidential debate you watched?

**only asked of respondents who reported that they had watched a Republican debate*

No Winner	24.1
Rudy Giuliani	19.9
Not Sure	19.4
Mitt Romney	17.6
John McCain	10.6
Ron Paul	2.3
Mike Huckabee	1.4
Sam Brownback	0.9
Tie:	0.5
Jim Gilmore	
Tom Tancredo	
Tommy Thompson	

The Winthrop Poll Findings

Q28 Some surveys have shown Hillary Clinton doing well in South Carolina in the race for the Democratic nomination for president; why do you think that is?

**of those who offered responses*

Name Recognition (connection to Bill, former First Lady, etc.)	13.1
Personal Attributes (intelligent, competent, experienced, etc.)	13.1
Woman (support from women, etc.)	10.0
Support from African Americans	8.7
Issue Stances	8.0
Large amount Of Money	1.5

Q29 Some surveys have shown Rudolph Giuliani doing well in South Carolina in the race for the Republican nomination for president; why do you think that is?

**of those who offered responses*

9/11	48.0
Characteristics (strong, tough, smart, experienced, etc.)	17.7
Issue Stances	8.5

About This Winthrop/ETV Poll:

The Winthrop/ETV Poll was conducted among 670 randomly selected registered voters in South Carolina, and has a margin of error of plus/minus 3.79 percent. As is true with all survey data, reported results that use only a subset of the data will have a slightly higher margin of error.

This is the first in a series of four telephone surveys of South Carolinians that will be conducted over the next year by Winthrop University's Social and Behavioral Research Lab in partnership with ETV (South Carolina Educational Television).

Survey Methodology FAQs

Q: How do you select phone numbers to call?

A: That depends on the population we wish to survey. For example, if the population under study is "Registered Voters in South Carolina," we purchase the names and numbers of registered voters and randomly sample from that list. Of all the sampling procedures we might use, this is the most straightforward. Of course, we could get very specific and only sample registered voters who voted in the last election of some particular primary, but in general, the sample is drawn from the full population of registered voters.

If the population of interest is the general population of adults in South Carolina, the sampling methodology is a bit more complex. We can't simply pick numbers from the phone directory because as many as 35 percent of telephone numbers are unpublished. In general, numbers can be unpublished because of mobility or choice. Numbers unpublished because of mobility are the result of a recent move where a number has been assigned, but a new phone book has not been published. People in households with these types of unlisted numbers tend to be younger and have lower incomes. People in households who choose to maintain unlisted phone numbers are, on average, a bit older and have a higher household income. If we simply picked numbers out of a phone book, these folks would be excluded and our results would be biased.

To remedy this, we purchase sample that employs Random Digit Dialed (RDD) methodology. American phone numbers are broken down into several sub-parts. First is area code. In the following number, (999) 555-3456, "999" is the area code. This is followed by the exchange. In this example, "555" is the exchange. A phone number is further broken down into active blocks. In the number above, "34" is the active block and there are 100 numbers (00 — 99) in that active block. Some exchanges, as well as some active blocks, are put aside for business numbers. If at least one working residential number cannot be found in an active block, that block is excluded.

Exchanges and blocks are weighted prior to sample selection to reflect the known distribution of numbers. For example, in your hometown, there are probably some very

old exchanges with lots of assigned numbers and some newer ones that only started being used as your town grew and have fewer assigned numbers. If we selected an equal proportion of numbers from each exchange we would be over-sampling the newer exchange and under-sampling the older exchange.

In all, employing RDD methodology is less efficient and more cumbersome, but significantly more accurate. For any given RDD sample 30-35 percent are likely to be non-working numbers, another notable percentage will be businesses that made it through the business screening procedure, and another percentage will be government numbers and fax machines. This translates into more numbers dialed to get a live respondent than for a registered voter poll (where we have a known working residential number), but there is simply no better way to accurately sample the general population.

There is more to good sampling, however, than just how you generate phone numbers.

Q: What are other issues related to good sampling procedures?

A: One of the most important issues is when you call. When doing a registered voter poll or general population survey, the Social & Behavioral Lab only calls between 4 — 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. — 9 p.m. Saturday, and 1— 8 p.m. Sunday.

Q: What difference does it make when you do your calling?

A: If we called during the day, our sample would be too heavily weighted toward retirees and individuals who stay at home during the day. By calling on weekends and only in the evenings during the weekdays, we ensure that everyone has a chance to be selected whether they stay at home during weekdays, work during weekdays, or work swing shifts during the week. Again, it's an issue of accurate sampling.

Q: Why haven't I ever been called to take your poll?

A: Every person with a working phone has an equal probability of being selected to participate in a poll. However, just like flipping a coin, the probability "resets" each time. For example, there are two sides to a coin. This doesn't mean that if you flip it twice, you are guaranteed to get "heads." Rather, each time you flip the coin, you have a one out of two, or 50%, chance of getting heads. Similarly, every time we go into the field with a survey, you have a one out of "x" chance of being called where "x" represents the number of households in South Carolina with a working phone.

Q: How can you really know what so many people are thinking by only talking to several hundred?

A: It all hinges on the sampling. If we have accurately sampled the population, then every element of that population is accurately represented in our sample. When you have blood tests done at the physician's office, they don't take all of your blood; they only take a few drops. That is because every element within your blood is accurately represented in that sample. The same is true of a well-sampled population.