



Additional data on questions related to the death penalty from the February 2018 Winthrop Poll of adults in South Carolina. Full methodology is at the bottom.

How to read these tables.

Column 1 lists the demographic characteristics being displayed. Column 2 displays the demographics for the entire set of respondents (the rounded totals of what is displayed on the general results page). The other two columns display the demographic characteristics of supporters and opponents of the death penalty. The columns should be read down and compared to each other. For example, the general pool of respondents is 68% white whereas the group of death penalty supporters is 78% white. Therefore, whites are disproportionately likely to support the death penalty.

	Demographic Profile of Poll Respondents	Demographic Profile of Death Penalty Supporters (63% of respondents)	Demographic Profile of those who Oppose the Death Penalty (30% of respondents)
Male	49	52	43
Female	51	48	57
White	68	78	51
Black	26	17	42
18-24	13	13	12
25-44	35	36	34
45-65	32	33	31
65+	17	16	20
Democrats & Leaners	38	26	62
Independents who do NOT Lean	11	11	11
Republicans & Leaners	43	57	18

NOTE: This was a GENERAL POPULATION poll. Any comparison of partisan totals to electoral outcomes is wrong. This is NOT just of Likely Voters, or even just of Registered Voters. This is all adult South Carolinians. Republicans have a 5 point advantage in the General Population. The fact that Democrats historically turn out in lower numbers, and Independents often break their way, accounts for the usual 10 point GOP advantage at the polls. E.g. in 2016, Trump got 55% of the vote to 45% for all opponents; in 2012, Mitt Romney got 55% to 45% for his opponents; in 2008, John McCain 54% to 46% for his opponents. –Scott Huffmon

	Demographic Profile of Poll Respondents	Demographic Profile of those who think Death Penalty IS Applied Fairly in US (32% of respondents)	Demographic Profile of those who think Death Penalty is NOT Applied Fairly in US (54% of respondents)
Male	49	55	47
Female	51	45	52
White	68	81	59
Black	26	13	34
18-24	13	12	14
25-44	35	37	34
45-65	32	32	34
65+	17	16	17
Democrats & Leaners	38	25	48
Independents who do NOT Lean	11	11	11
Republicans & Leaners	43	60	33

	Demographic Profile of Poll Respondents	Demographic Profile of those who SUPPORT the Death Penalty, but believe it is NOT Applied Fairly (27% of respondents)
Male	49	50
Female	51	50
White	68	70
Black	26	25
18-24	13	14
25-44	35	36
45-65	32	35
65+	17	14
Democrats & Leaners	38	31
Independents who do NOT Lean	11	12
Republicans & Leaners	43	51

I really just wanted to see what this last group looked like. These are people who think the death penalty is NOT applied fairly in the United States, but support it anyway. Since this is only 27% of the entire sample, the margin of error for that column is 6.1% as opposed to the margin of error of 3.2% for any column using all respondents. Given the margin of error, these folks almost mirror the population. It looks like there could be more Republicans in this group, but given the margins of error, even that can't be said definitively. Like I said, I was just interested in this sub-group. – Scott Huffmon

Methodology Statement

Survey Methodology

February 2018 Winthrop Poll of South Carolina

This is a General Population poll of **976** adult residents of South Carolina. Results which use All Respondents have a margin of error of approximately **+/- 3.2%** at the 95% confidence level. Any subset will have a larger margin of error. Margins of error are based on weighted sample size and account for design effects.

Phone calls were made during weekday evenings, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon and evening. Weekday daytime calls are not made to avoid oversampling those who are more likely to be at home during the day (e.g. retirees, stay-at-home-parents, etc.). Conducting weekend calls is important to avoid systematically excluding certain populations (such as those who may work 2nd or 3rd shift during the week). This poll was in the field from **Feb 17 – Feb 25, 2018**.

The survey used (1) Random Digit Dialing (RDD) and (2) Wireless phone number sampling. Both RDD and wireless samples are crucial to ensure no adult in the geographical area of interest is systematically excluded from the sample. All samples were purchased from Survey Sampling International (SSI).

Data are **weighted based on age, sex, and race** using Census Bureau data.

Phone numbers selected for the survey were re-dialed up to 5 times in an attempt to reach a respondent. Once a household was reached, we also employed procedures to randomize within households for RDD sample. Surveys were conducted in English.

Computerized autodialers were not used in order to ensure the survey of wireless phones complied with the Telephone Consumers Protection Act and all FCC rules regarding contacting wireless telephones. **73% of the completions came from the wireless sample.**

The Winthrop Poll is paid for by Winthrop University with additional support from The West Forum on Politics and Policy at Winthrop University.

Additional Explanation of RDD Methodology : (with descriptions taken from SSI website)

Samples are generated using a database of "working blocks." A block (also known as a 100-bank or a bank) is a set of 100 contiguous numbers identified by the first two digits of the last four digits of a telephone number. For example, in the telephone number 203-567-7200, "72" is the block. A block is termed to be working if some specified number of listed telephone numbers are found in that block.

Samples of random numbers distributed across all eligible blocks in proportion to their density of listed telephone households are selected. All blocks within a county are organized in ascending order by area code, exchange, and block number. Once the quota has been allocated to all counties in the frame, a sampling interval is calculated by summing the number of listed residential numbers in eligible blocks within the county and dividing that sum by the number of sampling points assigned to the county. From

a random start between zero and the sampling interval, blocks are systematically selected in proportion to their density of listed households. Once a block has been selected, a two-digit number is systematically selected in the range 00-99 and is appended to the exchange and block to form a 10-digit telephone number.