

**October 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Winthrop Poll of Likely Voters**  
**See Methodology Statement at End**

**Questions**

Suppose the election for South Carolina Governor were being held today. Who would you be more likely to vote for: **Vincent Sheheen, the Democrat** (or) **Nikki Haley, the Republican**? [ANSWERS ROTATED]

**INTERPRETATION NOTE:**

(1) “Democrat” and “Republican” percentages for this question only include “Leaners:” people who initially claim to be Independent, but admit to “leaning” toward one party. Research shows that “Leaners” vote for the party they lean toward more consistently than do weak partisans. However, unless otherwise noted, ALL other crosstabs include “Leaners” in the “Independent” category. The small number who responded “Other” to the partisanship question are included in the “All” columns below.

(2) Our methodology (both our sampling methodology and the use of live interviewers) make our poll more likely to capture “Undecided” voters. These voters are less likely to take automated polls and the inclusion of Random Digit Dialed sample and wireless sample (it is illegal to use an autodialer to call wireless numbers) means broader coverage. This broader coverage includes newly registered voters. Polls that only draw from registered voter lists will miss voters who have registered in the last 6 or so months.

	All	Democrat (including Leaners)	Republican (including Leaners)	Independent
Haley	46.0	7.3	78.0	27.1
Sheheen	37.0	79.4	9.5	29.2
Someone Else [Volunteered]	1.4	1.4	0.3	4.2
Undecided [Volunteered]	13.4	10.1	11.2	37.5
Refused	2.1	1.8	1.0	2.1

Would you say that it is a possibility that you might change your mind before Election Day, or would you say that you are **DEFINITELY** voting for that candidate?

	Haley Voters	Sheheen Voters
Might Change Mind	26.4	18.3
Definite About Vote	71.4	80.4
Not Sure/ Don’t Know	2.1	1.3
Refused	0.0	0.0

Suppose the election for United States Senator for South Carolina were being held today. Who would you be more likely to vote for: **Alvin Greene, the Democrat** (or) **Jim DeMint, the Republican** (or) **Tom Clements, the Green Party candidate**?  
[ANSWERS ROTATED]

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Greene	11.2	30.6	0.6	8.2
DeMint	58.3	16.1	90.5	54.7
Clements	12.2	22.4	2.3	15.9
Someone Else [Volunteered]	2.6	4.0	0.0	5.2
Undecided [Volunteered]	13.5	24.1	6.3	12.8
Refused	2.3	2.8	0.3	3.3

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Approve	39.0	89.7	6.5	36.2
Disapprove	53.0	7.5	85.4	54.7
Not Sure	6.8	2.8	6.2	9.0
Refused	1.2	0.0	2.0	0.0

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States Congress is handling its job?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Approve	16.4	36.2	3.8	14.6
Disapprove	72.9	46.9	89.0	79.9
Not Sure	10.1	15.6	7.3	5.2
Refused	0.6	1.3	0.0	0.3

Thinking about the current path that our nation is taking, do you think our country is on the right track or headed in the wrong direction?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Right Track	31.7	70.2	6.7	27.6
Wrong Direction	61.3	19.6	88.7	66.7
Don't Know/ Refused	7.0	10.1	4.6	5.7

Thinking about the current path that the state of South Carolina is taking, do you think South Carolina is on the right track or headed in the wrong direction?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Right Track	30.3	27.5	37.7	25.2
Wrong Direction	48.2	55.9	41.4	50.8
Don't Know/ Refused	21.5	16.6	20.9	24.0

What do you think is the most important problem facing **the country** today?

INTERPRETATION NOTE: No answer choices were read; callers coded in whatever respondent said into one of twenty seven possible categories. Top 4 are below.

All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Economy/ Economic- Financial Crisis 29.2%	Jobs or Unemployment 39.5%	Economy/ Economic- Financial Crisis 29.2%	Economy/ Economic- Financial Crisis 30.6%
Jobs or Unemployment 24.1%	Economy/ Economic- Financial Crisis 28.2%	Jobs or Unemployment 18.1%	Jobs or Unemployment 16.4%
Politicians/ Government 6.0	Education 5.5%	Moral Values 8.6%	Politicians/ Government 9.8%
Education 5.1%	Iraq 3.4%	Health Care 6.4%	Education 7.6%

What do you think is the most important problem facing **South Carolina** today?

INTERPRETATION NOTE: No answer choices were read; callers coded in whatever respondent said into one of twenty seven possible categories. Top 4 are below.

All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Jobs/ Unemployment 35.5	Jobs/ Unemployment 38.3%	Jobs/ Unemployment 36.4%	Jobs/ Unemployment 31.9%
Economy/ Economic- Financial Crisis 22.5	Education 21.3%	Economy/ Economic- Financial Crisis 26.5%	Economy/ Economic- Financial Crisis 22.9%
Education 19.6	Economy/ Economic- Financial Crisis 16.0%	Education 17.1%	Education 22.9%
Politicians/ Government 6.0	Politicians/ Government 5.5%	Politicians/ Government 5.3%	Politicians/ Government 7.2-%

I'd like for you to think about the **national Republican Party** for a moment. What person would you say is the **leading voice** for the **national Republican Party** and **speaks for the national Republican Party**?

INTERPRETATION NOTE: No answer choices were read; callers recorded whatever answer respondent gave.

All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Not Sure/ Can't think of anyone 54.2%	Not Sure/ Can't think of anyone 59.4%	Not Sure/ Can't think of anyone 46.9%	Not Sure/ Can't think of anyone 58.1%
Sarah Palin 11.4%	Sarah Palin 13.7%	Sarah Palin 10.1%	Sarah Palin 11.3%
Newt Gingrich 4.3%	John McCain 4.7%	Newt Gingrich 7.5%	Jim DeMint 4.5%
John McCain 3.6%	Rush Limbaugh 4.3%	John McCain 4.4%	Lindsey Graham 3.9
Rush Limbaugh 3.5%	John Boehner 2.5%	Jim DeMint 4.0%	Newt Gingrich 3.8%
Lindsey Graham 3.1%	Lindsey Graham 2.4%	Mitt Romney 3.7%	Rush Limbaugh 3.0%
Jim DeMint 2.9%	No others got more than 2%	Rush Limbaugh 3.7%	No others got more than 2%
John Boehner 2.7%		John Boehner 3.5%	
No others got more than 2%		Lindsey Graham 2.6	
		No others got more than 2%	

In 2006, the South Carolina legislature passed Act 388. This act, which took effect in 2007, reduced property taxes by removing school operating costs from property tax bills. Instead, school operating costs are paid for by a one percent sales tax increase on non-grocery sales.

Would you say you currently FAVOR or OPPOSE Act 388?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Favor	51.6	44.7	57.6	52.1
Oppose	35.9	40.8	32.7	35.2
Not Sure	11.4	13.3	7.8	12.7
Refused	1.1	1.2	1.9	0.0

Do you feel that K through 12 education in South Carolina is currently being funded at adequate levels?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Yes	21.5	11.3	26.9	23.8
No	70.0	84.4	62.5	65.1
Not Sure	8.2	4.2	10.6	9.9
Refused	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.1

Which of the following would you prefer: **Repeal Act 388 entirely** or **Change parts of Act 388, but leave it in force** or **Do neither and leave things as they are** or **Something else?** [FIRST TWO ANSWERS ROTATED]

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Repeal Act 388	11.7	18.3	8.3	10.7
Change Parts, But Leave Rest	31.2	30.4	33.8	29.4
Do Neither	18.2	18.0	17.0	21.1
Something Else	26.1	25.3	26.9	23.5
Not Sure	10.7	7.1	11.6	13.0
Refused	2.0	0.9	2.5	2.4

Do you think the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, sometimes called the “Stimulus Package,” has helped South Carolina, hurt South Carolina, or made no difference in South Carolina? If HELPED, would you say it helped a great deal or helped somewhat? If HURT would you say it hurt a great deal or hurt somewhat?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Helped a Great Deal	5.6	14.2	0.4	4.1
Helped Somewhat	22.9	38.9	10.6	22.5
Made No Difference	36.3	25.4	40.5	45.7
Hurt Somewhat	11.7	6.1	16.1	10.1
Hurt a Great Deal	14.9	1.6	26.3	11.9
Not Sure/Don't Know	8.3	13.9	5.1	5.7
Refused	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.0

If you had to guess, what percentage of the members in the South Carolina Assembly today are women?

INTERPRETATION NOTE: The actual percentage of women in the SC Legislature is 10%. The modal guess, by 18.1% of all respondents, was 10%.

Mean Guess Dem/Repub/Ind Combined: 15.09%  
 Mean Guess Democrats: 15.15%  
 Mean Guess Republicans: 15.09%  
 Mean Guess Independents: 15.02%

In your opinion, in the best government the state of South Carolina could have, what percentage of elected officials would be men?

INTERPRETATION NOTE: The modal preference, selected by 40.5% of all respondents, was 50%.

Mean Dem/Repub/Ind Combined: 53.37%  
 Mean Democrats: 54.05%  
 Mean Republicans: 53.64%  
 Mean Independents: 52.25%

Thinking about the way things are in the South Carolina Assembly today, do you think there should be more women, fewer women, or about the same number of women in the SC Assembly as there are today?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
More	55.0	61.6	48.1	59.6
Fewer	2.8	3.1	3.9	1.3
Same	22.4	24.8	22.5	20.7
Not Sure	17.0	10.5	21.3	15.7
Refused	2.8	0.0	4.2	2.6

If asked to choose between the following alternatives for how South Carolina should spend money to attract out-of-state businesses, which would you prefer: **Spending money on improving education and worker training to make the South Carolina workforce look more attractive to businesses** or **Spending money on tax incentives and tax breaks for businesses to make the SC tax environment look more attractive to businesses?** [ANSWERS ROTATED]

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Education/Training	62.6	81.4	54.4	54.8
Tax Breaks/ Incentives	27.0	11.6	35.9	30.1
Both [Volunteered]	6.7	3.8	7.1	9.9
Neither [Volunteered]	1.2	0.7	0.9	2.1
Not Sure	2.4	2.5	1.7	2.9
Refused	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3

How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very Good	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0
Fairly Good	20.4	38.5	8.4	18.7
Fairly Bad	38.5	37.3	41.6	36.4
Very Bad	39.4	20.0	49.8	43.8
Don't Know/ Refused	1.6	3.7	0.3	1.1



Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the country as a whole are getting better or getting worse?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Getting Better	40.7	62.6	27.1	38.0
Getting Worse	49.3	25.6	62.8	54.2
Don't Know/ Refused	10.0	11.8	10.1	7.8

How would you rate the condition of the South Carolina economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very Good	.04	0.3	0.8	0.0
Fairly Good	27.4	34.3	24.8	24.9
Fairly Bad	46.0	41.1	49.7	48.1
Very Bad	24.1	22.0	23.0	24.7
Don't Know/ Refused	2.1	2.2	1.7	2.3

Right now, do you think that economic conditions in South Carolina are getting better or getting worse?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Getting Better	37.8	37.2	36.1	41.6
Getting Worse	48.6	48.3	50.4	46.6
Don't Know/ Refused	13.6	14.5	13.5	11.8

Right now, do you believe that economic conditions in South Carolina are better than those of the nation as a whole, worse than those of the nation as a whole, or about the same as those of the nation as a whole?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Better	16.3	9.3	21.5	18.3
Worse	29.6	40.2	19.5	33.3
Same	48.8	44.4	53.7	44.6
Not Sure	4.8	5.0	5.3	3.8
Refused	0.4	1.1	0.0	0.0

How concerned are you about the possibility of losing your job in the next year? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned.

INTERPRETATION NOTE: This question was only asked of those likely voters who were employed.

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very Concerned	11.9	15.1	7.1	14.3
Somewhat Concerned	26.9	28.9	22.5	30.4
Not Very Concerned	25.5	12.6	38.6	22.8
Not at All Concerned	35.2	43.4	31.1	31.5
Don't Know/ Refused	0.6	0.0	0.7	1.0

Do you approve or disapprove of allowing off shore drilling for oil off the coast of South Carolina?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Approve	58.6	38.2	72.4	62.6
Disapprove	30.9	50.2	17.6	30.9
Not Sure/ Don't Know	9.7	10.4	9.1	6.0
Refused	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.5

Would you consider yourself a MEMBER of the **Tea Party Movement**?

INTERPRETATION NOTE: Many national *general population* polls have shown the number of Tea Party members to be much lower. Remember, this is not a general population survey. This is a survey of likely voters. These higher numbers indicate the higher potential turnout among Tea Party members.

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Yes	19.2	3.8	29.8	19.4
No	71.6	88.9	59.7	73.8
Never Heard of It [Volunteered]	2.2	4.5	1.0	1.7
Not Sure	5.9	2.4	7.3	5.1
Refused	1.1	0.4	2.1	0.0

Regardless of whether you consider yourself a member of the Tea Party movement or not, would you say that you generally agree with the principles of the Tea Party movement or generally disagree with the principles of the Tea Party movement?

INTERPRETATION NOTE: Many national *general population* polls have shown the number of people in agreement with Tea Party principles to be much lower. Remember, this is not a general population survey. This is a survey of likely voters. These higher numbers indicate the higher potential turnout among those in agreement with Tea Party principles.

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Agree	49.8	7.8	77.1	53.8
Disagree	30.2	66.0	6.8	30.5
Neither Agree nor Disagree [Volunteered]	5.1	7.1	3.1	5.3
Not Sure	13.7	19.1	11.3	10.0
Refused	1.2	0.0	1.6	0.4

## **October 2010 Winthrop Poll Methodology Statement**

The October 2010 Winthrop Poll includes respondents from South Carolina who are **likely voters**. Respondents are screened for current registration status and likelihood of voting. Results do not include responses from respondents who were screened out of the survey. However, some demographic data were collected from these individuals to be used in comprehensive statistical weighting.

The results presented here include responses from **741** respondents giving results which use all respondents a **margin of error of +/- 3.6%** at the 95% confidence level. Reported results using a subset of the entire sample will naturally have a higher margin of error.

The survey was in the field from **October 5 - 10, 2010**. 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-moms, etc.).

Data are weighted by race, age, and sex.

The survey used (1) Random Digit Dialing (RDD), (2) wireless phone number sampling, and (3) sample taken from lists of registered voters. The registered voter sample was purchased from Aristotle/Voter Lists Online. Respondents reached via this sample were asked to confirm current registration status and screened for likelihood of voting. However, because these lists have a natural lag of six or so months, RDD and wireless samples are crucial to ensure no likely voter is systematically excluded from the sample. Respondents reached via the RDD or wireless sample were screened for current registration status and likelihood of voting. Both the RDD sample and the wireless sample were purchased from Survey Sampling International (SSI). For more information on RDD methodology, please see the Winthrop Poll Website.

Phone numbers selected for the survey were re-dialed five or more times in an attempt to reach a respondent. Once a household was reached, we also employed procedures to randomize within households.

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.

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

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For additional information, or to set up an interview with Dr. Scott Huffmon, please contact Judy Longshaw at [longshawj@winthrop.edu](mailto:longshawj@winthrop.edu) or (803) 323-2404.