

NORTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE UNAFFILIATED 2015 STUDY – VERBATIMS

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Field

The poll surveyed 400 registered unaffiliated North Carolina voters, 30 percent of whom were reached on cell phones. The survey was taken August 10-12, 2015 and had a margin of error of plus/minus 4.9 percent. Following are verbatim responses to a key question:

In your own words, can you please tell me why you are registered as an Independent or Unaffiliated?

I am registered as a Republican.

I became a registered Republican right before the last Presidential election.

So many different things going on in politics in both parties. I get confused at times and decided to register as an Independent.

Just because I can see positive and negative on both sides. I don't want to be tied down to one or the other.

I can vote in primary parties.

Somewhat disapprove of both parties, especially morals are way bad with Democratic group, and Republicans don't stand up fiscally or important issues conservatively.

Because I vote for the person not the party.

Because I vote for morals whether you're Republican or Democrat.

I think sometimes good ones are running on both sides.

I'm not happy with either one of the other parties.

I don't care for either party.

Well I was a Democrat for several years, and the last time I voted for that ticket the President running at that time didn't do a good job with anything, and the economy in North Carolina just went down. But now I support the Republican Party, and they have been doing their best to better things in North Carolina. And if Ben Carson gets in office he will make sure everything goes well and policies are positive, and I will vote for him, he's the man.

Not sure.

I like to vote either way based on who is doing the better job. I don't want to be tied down to one particular party.

Because I do not want to be connected to one party.

Because I don't trust any of the parties, they all lie.

I think on my own. I vote for the man. I vote for who I think can get the job done.

Not an Independent.

Because I believe in voting for the specific person and not just the party title. What their views are is more important than what their affiliation is.

I have voted for both parties, and very disappointing. They both talk both ways.

I never really picked Democratic or Republican. I don't want to choose between the two.

It really comes down to someone who stands behind their beliefs, and respect someone who is true to that of either party. As long as they are sincere, it can be either party.

Don't feel like either side encompasses all the values I have.

Because you don't support two parties.

Because politics are screwed up.

Because I like to make my own decisions and see all sides. And I like to vote in the primary that I choose.

Because it does not make a difference here.

It's because I pick the best person for the job.

I think the parties, the two major parties, are too far apart from one another and their interests are not the interest of the people. They cannot seem to get past some specific issues, and cannot get anything done.

Because I don't care for the Republican Party or the Democratic Party because they work against each other instead of working together.

Just haven't made up my mind about a candidate.

Fed up with politics in general.

I am a Republican.

It gives me options.

Registered as a Democrat.

Probably because I don't like to take sides.

Registered as a Republican.

I was a Democrat until they allowed gays in the military. Then the Republicans disappointed me. So I became unaffiliated.

I make my opinions based on who the person is and not the party.

Didn't want to get a lot of requests in the mail.

Just choices.

Just because I don't like the parties.

Don't care about the affiliation.

Because I don't want to be accountable for any organization decisions, just for my vote.

So I have options and different choices when voting. I just don't vote for one party anymore, because when I've been looking forward to the Republican Party doing better to help the economy grow and make education stronger and they haven't, so I support the Democrats more because their policies are a little more positive.

That's a good question. I'm more Democrat, but I also have some Republican issues I like to focus on as well.

Because I don't go for the party, I go for the person. I go for the person who is going to do a good job. It's about how you're doing the job you're elected to. I think we need a term limit on Congress. They don't need to be in there for two terms. Then you need to be gone.

No answer.

It's not what most the people are about. It's just an independent decision.

I just registered that way because I am not completely for either party and like choice.

No answer.

Because I don't like either party, they are one of the same, but they both spend money like crazy.

Well, some Republicans have gone too far to the right, and some Democrats have gone too far to the left.

I am mad at everybody. I am very displeased with both parties, I may not even vote.

When I got out of high school I just decided to be Independent.

Because of my job.

I want to feel free of who I vote for.

I guess you have to pick the lesser of two evils.

I have been a Democrat ever since I was able to vote. I haven't seen the Democrats do enough, or anything, that I favor. This caused my opinions to change. Now I want to hear what everyone has to say and plans on doing. It gives me more of a choice.

So that I can choose.

Because both sides tend to mobilize those that are uninformed to go to their party. I would rather be informed by my own research.

Because I do not approve of some of the ways social issues are handled by Republicans, nor do I approve of the way fiscal issues are being handled by Democrats.

I think that Republicans are better, but I really don't like either one too much.

I've always been an Independent since I was 18, I'm now 51. I don't believe in a two-party system, I vote for the best person.

I'm unaffiliated.

Because I truly don't believe both parties.

Neither of them are perfectly right.

Don't want to be considered just one party. Want to make sure the candidates are good for the job.

I try to vote for the person and what they stand for, and not the party.

They all have different opinions.

No answer.

Because I do not want to be locked into who I can vote for. I want to be able to choose who I want.

I am a Republican.

Just because never seem to agree with either party.

They believe the issues are important, but can't determine a particular platform. Illegal immigration is important but not the highest priority issue.

Sick and tired of politics, and change my mind.

I vote for the people.

The Republicans are going for what I think they should stand for.

I strongly feel neither party is managing the issues well.

Because nobody is all right and nobody is all wrong, I'd rather pick somebody with good points.

Because I haven't been really satisfied on either the Democratic or Republican party, I vote on issues.

I don't believe in voting straight party.

I am registered as a Democrat.

I've been a Democrat since I was in the sixth grade. When I was 18 I registered as a Democrat. Your records are wrong.

Because I want to be able to choose who I vote for.

Simply because, national elect Republicans most, but local voted Democrat. More flexibility.

I'm not registered as ether one of those.

Tired of both side's corruption.

Because I do not agree with all decisions by either party.

Because I do not think that picking a party is important.

I don't like to vote by party, I like to vote for the person.

So I can make my own choice.

I vote for the people that I have respect for, and who have responsibility to make decisions that will make our country survive.

Republican.

The local elections we had to support one of the people voting in the primary.

Well, I just like to be able to look at all the candidates to choose from, instead of one party.

I can choose which one I vote for.

That is not correct. I am registered as a Democrat.

Don't trust the Democrats some of the time.

Because I would say that I gravitate more to the parties for their ideas, what they are for and against, ideas both Republican and Democrat.

Just don't want to be registered to either one of those two major parties.

Because I don't want to be tied to any one party.

Generally dissatisfied with both parties.

So I can switch if I don't like the candidate.

Always go for the conservative person.

I don't feel like either of the parties totally speaks for their beliefs together. It makes it easier to just pick as the poles go on if I am not already leaned towards one party.

Because I usually don't just vote specifically for one party. I vote for the person I feel will do a better job bettering the state, but both sides lately have done nothing to better things, they just tell lies to get in office.

Don't agree with everything the parties vote for and like.

That is religious.

I vote both ways.

I'm not.

Mostly because I don't like to be beholden one way or the other. I like to decide on what candidate matches my views the most. I like more the individual than being beholden to a party.

It is not good for one party or another, better to have a choice instead of being locked in to one party.

They believe they vote for the candidate, and sometimes vote mix, not necessarily toward a particular party.

I want to vote for the best person who will get the job done right.

I am registered as a Republican for electing state offices, and national issues, that I follow more than state issues.

I do not wish to be part of a party.

Because I really am not considering myself as a Republican. I'm a fiscal conservative and the Republican Party seems to have more positive policies than the Democrats, but I don't trust either one of them.

Generally it gives me more choices on who I can vote for.

I'm in the middle of the left and right and what's going on with the parties.

Democrat.

Gives me choices, and I can pick from the best on each side.

Because I don't want to be labeled Republican and Democrat, and I'd rather vote on the person not just the party.

I do not like politicians, and do not trust any political parties.

I am going to vote who is the best fit, and don't want to be labeled to a specific party.

I vote for the person, not the party.

I like to keep my options open. Do not approve of other parties.

Depends if I want to change and who I want to vote for.

I am a Democrat.

Because I can vote either way I want to. And I don't want to be a Republican or a Democrat.

Can't choose unless I research.

I just registered that way.

Vote for the person.

Because I vote on a candidate based on their views, not on a complete party system. I feel that Democrats and Republican parties are a bad way to vote people because it's all based on party not individual judgement.

I'm registered as a Republican.

I want the freedom to change my opinion.

Because I do not completely agree with either one's beliefs.

I vote for the man or the woman, not by the party.

I am registered as a Democrat.

I registered as Democrat.

Sticking to a party affiliation specifically just because of a title is preposterous. You can't simply side with someone just because they are Democrat or Republican, everyone is different even them. They all have different opinions, some are insane and some are not. You have to go by person instead of by party.

I am independent because I do not agree completely with either party.

I don't like to associate myself with either party until I see the candidates myself.

No answer.

I don't like being tied down to one party in case I like the other party's candidate.

I just go with what's in my heart. Nobody's going to be perfect, and I go with what's in my heart.

Because my view may change off of who is running.

I'm not an Independent or unaffiliated, I'm all Democrat.

They believe the Democrats are too far left, and same for the Republican Party.

I like to keep myself open, at least back when Republicans were a better option, nowadays it's rare to see me vote Republican.

Don't know.

I vote for candidate, not for the party.

I usually look at the issues and policies of the candidates rather than the party.

I vote for who I want to vote for.

I am not. I am registered for the Democratic Party.

Because I feel that a person should be able to vote based on their belief and not their party.

Well, I am an Independent because I believe that both sides have something to offer.

I make my choice based on what I see and hear.

I am registered as a Democrat and always have been.

Because I go with the candidates I like, not what everyone else.

Not an Independent.

I was a Democrat and I wanted to be different.

Because I don't like either party.

I just don't vote party line and more for the person.

Because I just don't fully agree with both parties on everything. Some parties have positive ideas I like, and one may have negative ideas I don't like. I just don't vote a straight ticket when voting.

Don't know.

I like to look at all the issues and all the candidates.

I am registered as a Democrat.

Both parties have taken a path of interest for their party only, not for the interest of the people of this country.

I am mostly conservative but, I don't agree with either party on all issues.

I am a registered Democrat.

I don't believe in voting for the party. I vote for the one that will do the best job and deliver on campaign promises, it's pie in sky. Our government never accomplishes anything on the federal or local level like our forefathers did. It's nothing but mental masturbation.

Because I like to be able to vote either way. I look at the individual. Not everyone will think the same way. I am for non-conformity.

Because I really don't care to support any candidate based on their party affiliation.

Because I vote for the person not the party.

Because I don't play party games. I vote for the person not the party.

At the time when I was 18 and registered, I wasn't either one at the time, I just listed independent.

Because I do not believe in everything that everybody says.

Because, I vote for who I want to vote for and not for a party.

Because I don't think one party has the answer.

So I can vote if a Democrat or Republican suits me.

Because 10 years ago I was a registered Republican, and I was registered this way for 45 years. I became so disappointed in the Republican Party, I felt to unaffiliated myself was a way I can vote for either party.

Because I believe we are heading to the same place.

Not sure how I would vote yet. Try to find the best person who takes care of working-class people.

Basically because I see myself as a Republican, but if there were an establishment Republican vs. a Democrat that may still follow more of a moral compass I would want ability to vote for the Democrat. Keeping my options open.

Because I'm not particularly happy with either party.

Because I tend to vote issues rather than ideology of a person.

I choose to vote the way I wish to vote.

No answer.

Because we feel we need more health care, not Obamacare.

Democrat.

I am a strong Democrat.

Because in my county, part of the people are Democrats and Republican, whichever one I favor I vote on.

I have more options in choosing the candidates for the primaries. If I see the worst, that's what I decide regardless of which party.

Like to be able to vote either way.

Well, the reason I'm registered that way is because I don't have to argue with either party.

They believe people should have choices instead of relying on the government to make their decisions.

So I can make my own choice.

Tired of both parties.

Because I vote for the person, and I can vote either way.

I do not know.

Have no faith in the two-party system.

Because I don't feel a close identification with either political party.

The government has gotten too big, they need to get back to fixing the real problems.

Because I try to vote for who might be the best candidate. I don't just vote for Republicans, but right now they seem to be ones making sense.

I don't believe in party politics. People get too wrapped up with the party politics, like gangs rather than listening to what they actually say.

Well, because I think politics are idiots in general.

I'm registered as a Democrat, but I voted Independent once because of the issue they had back in the 90s with Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky in the white house. The time when they tried to have him impeached, it just had a negative effect on me and several others.

I do not believe in parties, things do not get done.

I'm not sure.

Neither party is worthy of my allegiance.

I like to choose the best person and not a party.

Well, I'm registered as a Democrat not an Independent.

Because I can vote as I please.

I am an Independent, because I live in a Republican area and I can vote in it if I choose.

Just my personal preference.

I don't consider myself well enough informed on one side or the other, and I prefer to listen as best I can to both sides before I can make an informed decision.

Because it depends on the issues the party is supporting.

I just don't agree with one party from the other.

Because I can't really agree, or side, with either party.

Because I haven't had time yet to change it to Republican.

Because if you're registered as Independent you can vote any way.

Because I like to have a choice, and I do not like to be associated with one party.

I am registered to vote Democrat.

I like to vote for the character of the person, but I feel that the character has not been trustworthy in the most recent elections; in other words, they do not keep their word. And that's why I reserve an Independent vote.

I am not registered as an Independent, I am a life-long Democrat.

Because I want to be able to choose the one I like.

Not a Democrat.

Because I want to be able to choose with primary.

I am registered as a Democrat.

Because I have no faith in Democratic or Republican.

Because I want them to work for my vote.

I like to vote on people of either party depending on their point of views.

Haven't had much faith in either party. Like to look at the whole system and decide. It's very important to vote. No confidence with what's going on. Very frustrated and saddened with the political system now.

Because I do not like to identify. I like to feel free and vote for the person I like.

I'm registered as Republican.

I used to be Democrat, but I was disappointed with Democrats because things kept getting worse.

I choose the person not the party.

Felt it was a safe place to be.

Because I could vote for whoever I want.

I want to vote for the person I like.

Because I don't vote for a party, I vote for the individual that's going to do right for our country.

Because my political philosophy sounds like it should be Republican, but they break all campaign promises, and I am extremely disappointed many times.

I have been both. I was Republican. I'm not in favor of either, I lean to the Republicans because they're conservative.

Because I don't agree with everything that either party does. I have my own independent mind.

I'm a Democrat.

Because not pleased with either party.

Every person varies.

Because even though at times I support one party, it's often the case that I am often opposed to other members of the same party whether is Democratic or Republican.

I don't believe all that the Republicans stand on as far as their issues, but some of it, so I registered Independent.

I'm actually a Libertarian. Moral issues, in my opinion, are none of the government's business.

I don't want to be affiliated with either party in a formal way.

Because it is more important to vote for a candidate than a party.

Because I don't want to be boxed in.

I want to do research on the party before I do anything. I don't think either party is good, and I like to make my own choices. I like to research whether they're okay or not. I also support the environment and education.

I'm pretty sure I'm registered as a Democrat.

I have no answer, and I just turned eighteen.

I feel like I am middle-of-the-road. I don't agree 100 percent with either party. Made me feel more honest to register as unaffiliated.

Because of the political GOP machine, and the good ole boys clubs. Rhinos that are Republicans in name only and don't hold conservative values.

I registered that way because I feel freer to vote for the person that will do the best job.

I have always voted Republican because they have positive policies, and they are willing to try to compromise and save money with addressing most economical issues.

Was a Democrat until last year. Now I am an Independent.

Not registered as a Republican.

Republican.

Because I like to choose between the two parties. I'm not completely for either party.

I am Republican but wanted to vote for a gentleman in the Democratic Party so I changed.

The right person should do the job, not just what they represent.

I don't want to corner myself to any party. I need more flexibility. Need to decide on the person.

Because both parties do a crappy job and may have to switch.

Because I'm embarrassed by both parties.

Back when I registered it was the way to go.

So I can vote in either primary, plus not in love with either party.

I really don't have time to research the parties to decide which I should belong to.

Because I like to hear each person's opinion. The party doesn't matter, it's about what they have to say.

Basically because at some point I tend to vote for the best person.

Because when I registered I wasn't happy as a Republican.

Because sometimes I don't like either party.

I really wasn't sure about committing to a party.

I never believed in either side enough to choose.

I vote for the person, not the party.

So I can have the opportunity to vote for whomever I choose. I'm not restricted to one party. I just vote for the person not the party.

I find the Republicans distasteful, I like to vote in the primary of my choosing.

Because I believe in the right to choose. I don't believe in a straight ticket. There could be people I like running in different parties.

I don't know how I'm registered but I think it's Independent.

So that I could vote against the Democrats. Strategy.

I vote the side that I like. I like to be able to vote for what I want.

I am a Republican.

Because I was born a Republican and married a Democrat. Too much hanky-panky with the parties. My daddy told me to vote my conscience. That is all that makes sense to me.

No.

I would say that the candidates should run on their own merits, not for a political party.

Because while I lean Republican I don't associate with any party.

So I can choose who I want to vote for from either party.

I don't vote on party lines. I feel it's important to vote in primaries.

No candidate really adheres to any platform. They have their own opinions which causes my vote to change, to lean towards who has the same beliefs as me.

I am registered as a Democratic. I am strong Democratic.

I believe them.

Well, I don't completely go Republican, but I am more of a Republican than a Democrat.

Because there are some Republicans and Democrats I like, and since I am an independent I can vote for either.

I like to vote for a good person, whether he is Democrat or Republican.

Vote for who I want to.

I have always voted Democrat because their policies match my way of living, and they have a stronger plan for bettering education in North Carolina. I have never registered as an Independent.

Because I am not liking what I see with the parties.

I really don't know, I just am.

I'm not a Democrat or Republican, I'm more conservative.

They believe it is a privilege to vote and shouldn't be influenced by other forces, besides their own ideology.

I'm just not a one-party person.

No answer.

Yes, I like to keep my options open.

Freedom.

I don't like to be tagged to a party, and I can vote how I want to.

Good and bad in both parties.

I feel I want to pick the person best for the job, regardless of their party.

It had to do with local elections. Someone local was running on the Republican ballot, and I wanted to be able to vote in the primary.

Just so I won't be locked into one when it's time for the primaries.

I was a Republican but they messed me up at the polls, so I registered Independent.

Don't have a strong opinion on either party.

Because I believe the two parties are wrecking the country and causing everything, including social issues and illegal immigration, to be way out of hand as well.

I like to vote for the man, not the party. I'm for conservative principles and moral values, and someone who has families first in mind.

Because I think for myself.

Not sure what she is registered as.

Because I pick the person I choose, not the party.

No comment.

I vote for the candidate and not for the party.

Because that's my right. Because I don't always agree with either party.

Because I like the flexibility of being an independent.

Because I like to make my own mind up and decide who I'm going to vote for. I don't necessarily agree either party all the time.

Because I am for the man and not the party.

I don't want to be bogged down, and choose the way I want to in an election.

I am a registered Republican but I used to be an Independent years ago.

I like to go by issues rather than the parties.

Because I truly do not like both parties that much.

Not really, can't think of a specific reason for it.

Because I don't always agree with democrats.

No answer.

I'm a socialist and too left wing for the Democrats.

Dissatisfied with both parties on national level. Displeased with last 6 of the white house.

They believe there is no one way or another way, because there's gray area in politics, or either way there's a line that must be drawn on some issues. They believe they cannot be 100 percent devoted to one party or another.

One thing, I like the opinions that both parties have. It seems crazy to me to just believe in one side of an issue. So I have to be Independent or unaffiliated.

I thought I was registered as a Democrat.

I am not.

I vote for the candidate and not the party.

I don't want to associate myself with a political party.

I'm registered as a Republican.

No.

Because I am sick and tired of our status quo. We need to do something different.

I think I am registered as a Democrat.

Two parties are fighting against each other.

Democrat.

I use to be a Democrat until the Clinton Administration, and I got tired of that, so I became an Independent.

No answer.

No comment.

I don't like many of the stands of either party, on many of the issues. For instance, I don't like the Republican stance on women's rights. I support Rowe vs. Wade, I am pro-choice. Democrats, I don't like their stand on taxes. They should be more conservative with our money.

I moved here to North Carolina five years ago and wasn't sure which way to go.

Because I look at the candidates as they come across and see if they are speaking for themselves and not any particular group. To see the overall picture.

I am a Democrat.

I'm not registered as Independent.

I have never voted as an Independent, or for a Republican, I've voted Democrat all my life.

I am a Republican.

No answer.

Because I don't vote on party lines but for the candidate.

I am register as a Democrat because it shows my opinion.

Because I look at person.

I just don't know enough about the major parties at this time.

Because I like a little of both parties, and like some of both views, but not all of either parties' views.

I am registered as a Democrat.

I'm registered as a Democrat.

I don't want to prejudge. Both Democrats and Republicans have their own merits, and I tend to judge based on candidate regardless of party.

Registered as a Republican.

Because I can go either way.

I am registered as a Republican.

I did that years ago. I did not want to be associated with either party when I moved to North Carolina. I did not want to be singled out.

I am registered as a Democrat.

I'm actually registered as a Democrat.

Because I do not vote 100 percent Democrat or 100 percent Republican.

I like to review what's going on, then make my decision on what's going on.

Because I can change my mind.

Just flexibility of being able to vote for the person and not the party.

Because I like to vote for a person not a party.

Democratic.

Neither party is taking the positions that I would like them to take.

Political parties have agendas that they stick to no matter what. I like to be able to pick the person.

I don't want to be in any category. It's better for me. Honestly, it was like five years ago.

Because to keep my options open.

Because I don't believe that the Republican Party is doing what it should be doing, and the Republican Party has left American principles many years ago.

Sometimes you don't know.

Mostly because when I registered, I did not know enough about the parties. I felt more comfortable as an Independent.

I feel I should be able to choose what I want and who I want to vote for, and what's my opinion of that.

I'm not going to saddle up with anyone so I can go either way.

I don't like either party, they are corrupt. We live off Medicare when we get old, and by the time I get old enough to get the money I won't have any. Each time we have one senator, they work one year and we pay their insurance till they die. They should be stuck living how we do when they are out of office.

Republican.

I vote for individual and not for party.

Time for a change.

I'm undecided.

I just don't believe in picking sides. Being an Independent gives me the choice to make my own decision.

I can feel free to vote either way, and not a straight party ticket voter, when it comes to deciding how I will vote.

I like to make my own decisions. Not rely on one party.

I did not like the direction the Democrats were going.

Democratic.

I think that I have the right to choose whomever regardless the party.

Reserved the right to support anyone.

Civitas