



# SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

## PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

### LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE

- STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND NATIONAL -

**Field Dates:**

**State of North Carolina:** May 27 – June 18, 2026

**National:** February 11-26, 2026

**Sample Sizes:**

**State of North Carolina:** 630

**National:** 2,509

**Confidence Interval:**

**State of North Carolina:** +/- 4.3%

**National:** +/- 2.9%

**Samples Provided by:** Multiple online opt-in panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege. Sample collection and quality control was managed by QuantifyAI under the direction of the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation.

**Note:** Rows may not add to 100% due to rounding

[Q1-8, 13-17, 37-43 previously released]

[Q9-12, 26-36, 44-59 withheld for future release]

We are now going to look at Federal government programs for people with low incomes. First, we are going to look at SNAP benefits, also known as food stamps.

Q18. For a single person living alone earning about \$860 a month, current SNAP benefits are about \$170 a month. What do you think the amount of monthly SNAP benefits should be? \_\_\_\_\_ dollars

|                                   | More than \$170/month | Median |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| <b>National</b>                   | 79%                   | \$250  |
| Republicans                       | 70%                   | \$200  |
| Democrats                         | 88%                   | \$250  |
| Independents                      | 80%                   | \$250  |
| <b>North Carolina (Statewide)</b> | 84%                   | \$250  |
| Republicans                       | 81%                   | \$250  |
| Democrats                         | 90%                   | \$250  |

Q19. For a single mother earning about \$1,150 a month, current SNAP benefits are about \$530 a month. What do you think the amount of monthly SNAP benefits should be? \_\_\_\_\_ dollars

|                                   | More than \$530/month | Median |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| <b>National</b>                   | 60%                   | \$600  |
| Republicans                       | 52%                   | \$550  |
| Democrats                         | 67%                   | \$600  |
| Independents                      | 58%                   | \$592  |
| <b>North Carolina (Statewide)</b> | 63%                   | \$600  |
| Republicans                       | 56%                   | \$566  |
| Democrats                         | 71%                   | \$600  |

Q20. Here is another proposal: Provide discounts on fruit and vegetables bought with SNAP benefits

|                                   | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>                   | 91%   | 9%     | 0%     |
| Republicans                       | 90%   | 10%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                         | 93%   | 7%     | 1%     |
| Independents                      | 87%   | 13%    | 0%     |
| <b>North Carolina (Statewide)</b> | 88%   | 10%    | 2%     |
| Republicans                       | 87%   | 12%    | 1%     |
| Democrats                         | 92%   | 7%     | 1%     |

Now, we'll explore proposals for helping low-income people who are working but are still living under or close to the poverty line.

One federal program that helps low-income workers is called the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**. EITC supplements their income by giving them a tax credit. If they do not owe any Federal taxes, they can get the credit directly.

Here are some proposals for changing the limits on the amount of the credit and who would qualify.

Currently, EITC is much lower for workers without children than workers with children. Here are some proposals for increasing the EITC for workers without children.

Q21. Raise the limit on the maximum amount of the EITC credit from \$630 to \$1,300 a year.

|                                   | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>                   | 77%   | 23%    | 0%     |
| Republicans                       | 73%   | 27%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                         | 82%   | 18%    | 0%     |
| Independents                      | 73%   | 27%    | 0%     |
| <b>North Carolina (Statewide)</b> | 76%   | 23%    | 1%     |
| Republicans                       | 73%   | 26%    | 1%     |
| Democrats                         | 84%   | 16%    | 0%     |

Q22. Lower the age of eligibility from 25 to 21.

|                                   | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>                   | 69%   | 31%    | 0%     |
| Republicans                       | 63%   | 37%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                         | 76%   | 24%    | 0%     |
| Independents                      | 68%   | 31%    | 1%     |
| <b>North Carolina (Statewide)</b> | 69%   | 30%    | 1%     |
| Republicans                       | 67%   | 32%    | 2%     |
| Democrats                         | 76%   | 24%    | 0%     |

Q23. Raise the limit on the amount of savings people can have and still get the EITC credit,

- for individuals from \$18,500 to \$24,000
- for married couples from \$25,500 to \$33,000.

|                                   | Favor | Oppose | Ref/DK |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>National</b>                   | 81%   | 19%    | 0%     |
| Republicans                       | 77%   | 22%    | 0%     |
| Democrats                         | 87%   | 13%    | 0%     |
| Independents                      | 77%   | 23%    | 0%     |
| <b>North Carolina (Statewide)</b> | 79%   | 19%    | 2%     |
| Republicans                       | 78%   | 20%    | 3%     |
| Democrats                         | 84%   | 15%    | 1%     |

Q24. Another proposal is to raise the Federal Minimum Wage. Currently, it is \$7.25 an hour. Though many states have a higher minimum wage for their state. What do you think the Federal Minimum Wage should be? \_\_\_\_\_ \$ per hour

|                                   | Increase minimum wage | Median |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| <b>National</b>                   | 94%                   | \$14   |
| Republicans                       | 90%                   | \$11   |
| Democrats                         | 97%                   | \$15   |
| Independents                      | 96%                   | \$14   |
| <b>North Carolina (Statewide)</b> | 95%                   | \$15   |
| Republicans                       | 92%                   | \$12   |
| Democrats                         | 98%                   | \$15   |

Q25. There has been a debate about how much the Federal government spends on Medicaid, the program for people with low incomes. If spending on Medicaid is reduced, this would result in fewer people being covered by Medicaid. If spending on Medicaid is increased, this would allow more people to be covered by Medicaid.

Thinking about federal spending on Medicaid over the last few years, do you think spending should be:

|                 | Increased a lot | Increased some | Increased a little | Increased  | Kept the same | Reduced    | Reduced a little | Reduced some | Reduced a lot | Ref/DK |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------|
| <b>National</b> | 28%             | 27%            | 15%                | <b>70%</b> | 21%           | <b>9%</b>  | 4%               | 1%           | 3%            | 0%     |
| Republicans     | 19%             | 24%            | 16%                | <b>59%</b> | 28%           | <b>13%</b> | 6%               | 2%           | 5%            | 0%     |
| Democrats       | 39%             | 32%            | 13%                | <b>83%</b> | 14%           | <b>3%</b>  | 2%               | 1%           | 1%            | 0%     |

|                            |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| Independents               | 24% | 25% | 21% | 69% | 22% | 9%  | 5% | 1% | 4% | 0% |
| North Carolina (Statewide) | 26% | 27% | 17% | 70% | 18% | 11% | 5% | 2% | 5% | 0% |
| Republicans                | 18% | 25% | 17% | 59% | 26% | 14% | 5% | 3% | 6% | 1% |
| Democrats                  | 35% | 32% | 17% | 84% | 10% | 7%  | 4% | 1% | 1% | 0% |

## Methodology

**Fielding and Sample Size:** The surveys were fielded by the Program for Public Consultation (PPC) at the University of Maryland's Civic Innovation Center, with representative non-probability samples obtained from multiple online panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege.

### National

Field Dates: February 11-26, 2026      Total Sample Size: 2509      Response Rate: 7.6%  
Four-fifth Sample Sizes: 1991 to 2020

### State of North Carolina

Field Dates: May 27 – June 18, 2026      Sample Size: 630      Response Rate: 7.7%

**Pre-Stratification and Weighting:** The samples were pre-stratified and weighted by age, race, ethnicity, gender, educational attainment, household income, and home ownership. Benchmarks were obtained from the Census Bureau's 2024 and 2025 American Community Surveys, as well as the 2024 Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

The national sample was also weighted by Census region and partisan affiliation. In the North Carolina sample, the distribution of partisan affiliation was weighted to be within expectations, based on voter registration data for non-leaners and/or Cook's Partisan Voting Index for leaners.

### National

Confidence Interval of Four-fifth Samples: +/-2.9%      Min Weight: 0.25      Max Weight: 2.51      Mean Weight: 1.0

### State of North Carolina

Confidence Interval: +/-4.3%      Min Weight: 0.30      Max Weight: 2.78      Mean Weight: 1.0

Confidence Intervals were calculated using the sample variance of the weights using the following formula:

CI = Square root ((1+variance)/sample size)

**Sample Collection:** Sample collection was managed by Quant-E with oversight from PPC. Samples were drawn from multiple large online panels, including Cint, Prodege, and Dynata, whose members are recruited using non-probability sampling methods. The selected sample was invited to participate via email invitation, push notification, or SMS for cell phone users. Respondents were offered cash or cash-equivalent incentives to participate in the survey.

**Data Collection and Privacy:** Survey responses were collected directly on the Qualtrics platform. Only respondents with a provided link could take the survey, using their computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile phone.

Privacy and security measures were taken to ensure that data was collected in adherence to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation policies for data privacy and security, as well as the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA).

**Quality Control:** Quality control measures in the sample collection process to disqualify duplicate respondents and survey bots included:

- checking respondents' IP addresses to determine if there are duplicate respondents
- employing an "operating system & Web browser check" to determine if there are any cross-panel duplicates
- using hCaptcha to detect and disqualify survey bots.

Quality control measures within the survey to disqualify dishonest or mischievous respondents, as well as survey bots, included:

- an attention-check question, e.g. Select the word that does not belong. [Tuesday]; [Friday]; [April]; [Wednesday]
- an honesty question, e.g. What have you done in the past week? Select all that apply. [Won a gold medal at the Olympics]; [Watched TV]; [Got a license to operate a Class SSGN submarine]; [Read a book]
- a speed limit, which disqualified respondents who moved through the first quarter of the survey at a pace roughly triple the average reading speed.

Lastly, respondents were removed from the sample who answered less than half the substantive questions, or who engaged in straight-lining.

