



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **McCain General Election Favorite in NC, but closer than usual**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – John McCain leads both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in possible general election matches for President in North Carolina, but only by five points, according to Public Policy Polling’s latest survey.

McCain leads Clinton 48-43 and Obama 47-42. Those margins are down from a similar poll last month and particularly show a surge for Obama, who trailed McCain 52-38 previously.

The poll also showed Obama with a narrow lead on Mike Huckabee, while Huckabee holds the advantage over Clinton.

“These numbers are good news for Democrats,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Obama or Clinton might not win North Carolina, but it looks like they have the ability to keep the race much closer in the state than it has been in recent cycles.”

The PPP survey also found that Elizabeth Dole’s approval rating is just 43%. Her two main Democratic challengers aren’t getting much traction on her though. She leads Kay Hagan 50-33 and Jim Neal 50-29.

“The Democratic Senate candidates aren’t running the sort of year long campaign against Elizabeth Dole that they probably need to have a chance to beat her,” said Debnam. “Her approval ratings indicate some vulnerability but Hagan and Neal will need to be more aggressive to convince those folks leery of her that either of them is a better option.”

PPP surveyed 686 likely general election voters on February 18th. The survey has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.7\%$ . Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com). Results include crosstabs breaking down the results by gender, party affiliation, race, age and region. For more discussion of the poll visit the Public Policy Polling blog at <http://publicpolicypolling.blogspot.com>.

If you have questions about this release or would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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## North Carolina Survey Results

**Q1** If the election for President was between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Mike Huckabee, who would you vote for? If Hillary Clinton, press 1. If Mike Huckabee, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Clinton*.....44% *Undecided*..... 8%  
*Huckabee*.....48%

**Q2** If the election for President was between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican John McCain, who would you vote for? If Hillary Clinton, press 1. If John McCain, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Clinton*.....43% *Undecided*..... 9%  
*McCain*.....48%

**Q3** If the election for President was between Republican Mike Huckabee and Democrat Barack Obama, who would you vote for? If Mike Huckabee, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Huckabee*.....45% *Undecided*..... 9%  
*Obama*.....46%

**Q4** If the election for President was between Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama, who would you vote for? If John McCain, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*McCain*.....47% *Undecided*..... 11%  
*Obama*.....42%

**Q5** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Senator Elizabeth Dole is handling her job as Senator? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Approve* .....43% *Not sure* .....25%  
*Disapprove*.....32%

**Q6** If the election for US Senate was between Republican Elizabeth Dole and Democrat Kay Hagan, who would you vote for? If Elizabeth Dole, press 1. If Kay Hagan, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Dole* .....50% *Undecided*.....18%  
*Hagan* .....33%

**Q7** If the election for US Senate was between Republican Elizabeth Dole and Democrat Jim Neal, who would you vote for? If Elizabeth Dole, press 1. If Jim Neal, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Dole* .....50% *Undecided*.....20%  
*Neal* .....29%

**Q8** I am going to name 7 issues. Which of these is most important to you? The War in Iraq, education, the economy and jobs, taxes, moral or family values, health care, or immigration. If the War in Iraq is most important, press 1. If education, press 2. If the economy and jobs, press 3. If taxes, press 4. If moral and family values, press 5. If health care, press 6. If immigration, press 7. If some other issue is most important, press 8.

*War in Iraq* .....23%  
*Education*..... 5%  
*Economy and Jobs* .....39%  
*Taxes*..... 5%  
*Moral and family values* .....11%  
*Health care* ..... 8%  
*Immigration*..... 7%  
*Other*..... 1%

**Q9** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* .....56%  
*Man*.....44%





**Q10** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

*Democrat* ..... 46%  
*Republican*..... 37%  
*Other*..... 18%

**Q11** If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 71%  
*African-American* ..... 26%  
*Other*..... 3%

**Q12** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 8%  
*30 to 45*..... 25%  
*46 to 65*..... 45%  
*Older than 65*..... 22%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Clinton/Huckabee</b>			
<b>Clinton</b>	44%	52%	35%
<b>Huckabee</b>	48%	39%	58%
<b>Undecided</b>	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Clinton/McCain</b>			
<b>Clinton</b>	43%	47%	37%
<b>McCain</b>	48%	43%	55%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	10%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Huckabee/Obama</b>			
<b>Huckabee</b>	45%	40%	51%
<b>Obama</b>	46%	49%	42%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>McCain/Obama</b>			
<b>McCain</b>	47%	43%	52%
<b>Obama</b>	42%	45%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	12%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dole Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	43%	43%	43%
<b>Disapprove</b>	32%	29%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	25%	29%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dole/Hagan</b>			
<b>Dole</b>	50%	47%	53%
<b>Hagan</b>	33%	34%	31%
<b>Undecided</b>	18%	19%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dole/Neal</b>			
<b>Dole</b>	50%	47%	54%
<b>Neal</b>	29%	31%	27%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	21%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Clinton/Huckabee</b>				
<b>Clinton</b>	44%	72%	14%	35%
<b>Huckabee</b>	48%	20%	79%	54%
<b>Undecided</b>	8%	8%	7%	11%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Clinton/McCain</b>				
Clinton	43%	68%	16%	33%
McCain	48%	22%	80%	50%
Undecided	9%	10%	4%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Huckabee/Obama</b>				
Huckabee	45%	19%	76%	46%
Obama	46%	73%	15%	40%
Undecided	9%	8%	9%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>McCain/Obama</b>				
McCain	47%	20%	80%	48%
Obama	42%	69%	11%	34%
Undecided	11%	10%	9%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Dole Approval</b>				
Approve	43%	24%	68%	39%
Disapprove	32%	45%	16%	34%
Not sure	25%	31%	16%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Dole/Hagan</b>				
Dole	50%	24%	83%	46%
Hagan	33%	54%	8%	27%
Undecided	18%	21%	8%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Dole/Neal</b>				
Dole	50%	24%	85%	46%
Neal	29%	51%	6%	23%
Undecided	20%	25%	9%	32%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Clinton/Huckabee</b>				
Clinton	44%	35%	70%	36%
Huckabee	48%	58%	19%	46%
Undecided	8%	6%	11%	18%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Clinton/McCain</b>				
Clinton	43%	33%	70%	36%
McCain	48%	61%	14%	43%
Undecided	9%	6%	16%	21%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Huckabee/Obama</b>				
Huckabee	45%	57%	13%	36%
Obama	46%	33%	79%	54%
Undecided	9%	10%	8%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>McCain/Obama</b>				
McCain	47%	60%	14%	39%
Obama	42%	28%	78%	46%
Undecided	11%	12%	8%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Dole Approval</b>				
Approve	43%	49%	25%	39%
Disapprove	32%	31%	37%	32%
Not sure	25%	20%	38%	29%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Dole/Hagan</b>				
Dole	50%	59%	25%	36%
Hagan	33%	28%	44%	46%
Undecided	18%	13%	30%	18%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Dole/Neal</b>				
Dole	50%	60%	25%	39%
Neal	29%	24%	43%	32%
Undecided	20%	16%	32%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Clinton/Huckabee</b>					
Clinton	44%	54%	41%	46%	42%
Huckabee	48%	41%	48%	47%	51%
Undecided	8%	5%	11%	7%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Clinton/McCain</b>					
Clinton	43%	55%	39%	43%	42%
McCain	48%	35%	51%	48%	50%
Undecided	9%	10%	10%	9%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Huckabee/Obama</b>					
Huckabee	45%	28%	45%	44%	52%
Obama	46%	59%	48%	48%	36%
Undecided	9%	13%	7%	8%	13%





**Crosstabs**

		Age				
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65	
<b>McCain/Obama</b>		<b>Base</b>				
	<b>McCain</b>	47%	30%	45%	47%	55%
	<b>Obama</b>	42%	59%	41%	43%	33%
	<b>Undecided</b>	11%	11%	13%	10%	11%

		Age				
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65	
<b>Dole Approval</b>		<b>Base</b>				
	<b>Approve</b>	43%	53%	37%	43%	44%
	<b>Disapprove</b>	32%	23%	37%	31%	34%
	<b>Not sure</b>	25%	25%	26%	26%	22%

		Age				
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65	
<b>Dole/Hagan</b>		<b>Base</b>				
	<b>Dole</b>	50%	57%	41%	52%	53%
	<b>Hagan</b>	33%	28%	38%	32%	30%
	<b>Undecided</b>	18%	15%	21%	17%	17%

		Age				
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65	
<b>Dole/Neal</b>		<b>Base</b>				
	<b>Dole</b>	50%	48%	43%	53%	53%
	<b>Neal</b>	29%	27%	34%	29%	25%
	<b>Undecided</b>	20%	25%	23%	17%	22%

		Area Code						
		252	336	704	828	910	919	
<b>Clinton/Huckabee</b>		<b>Base</b>						
	<b>Clinton</b>	44%	60%	41%	46%	33%	33%	52%
	<b>Huckabee</b>	48%	38%	53%	48%	63%	49%	38%
	<b>Undecided</b>	8%	3%	7%	6%	4%	17%	10%

		Area Code						
		252	336	704	828	910	919	
<b>Clinton/McCain</b>		<b>Base</b>						
	<b>Clinton</b>	43%	58%	42%	47%	34%	28%	47%
	<b>McCain</b>	48%	40%	51%	47%	56%	53%	44%
	<b>Undecided</b>	9%	3%	8%	6%	10%	19%	9%

		Area Code						
		252	336	704	828	910	919	
<b>Huckabee/Obama</b>		<b>Base</b>						
	<b>Huckabee</b>	45%	43%	46%	40%	58%	44%	40%
	<b>Obama</b>	46%	50%	46%	50%	34%	44%	50%
	<b>Undecided</b>	9%	7%	8%	10%	9%	12%	10%

		Area Code						
		252	336	704	828	910	919	
<b>McCain/Obama</b>		<b>Base</b>						
	<b>McCain</b>	47%	43%	50%	41%	62%	51%	40%
	<b>Obama</b>	42%	47%	43%	45%	24%	38%	48%
	<b>Undecided</b>	11%	10%	7%	14%	15%	11%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Dole Approval</b>							
<b>Approve</b>	<b>43%</b>	43%	41%	42%	45%	48%	39%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>32%</b>	34%	29%	29%	40%	24%	40%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>25%</b>	23%	30%	28%	15%	28%	22%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Dole/Hagan</b>							
<b>Dole</b>	<b>50%</b>	44%	55%	48%	51%	51%	47%
<b>Hagan</b>	<b>33%</b>	28%	29%	33%	39%	31%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>18%</b>	28%	16%	18%	10%	19%	16%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Dole/Neal</b>							
<b>Dole</b>	<b>50%</b>	41%	56%	50%	54%	50%	49%
<b>Neal</b>	<b>29%</b>	30%	24%	32%	34%	28%	30%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>20%</b>	29%	20%	17%	12%	22%	21%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and family values	Health care	Immigration	Other
<b>Clinton/Huckabee</b>									
Clinton	44%	51%	54%	52%	11%	8%	71%	19%	58%
Huckabee	48%	42%	36%	37%	75%	90%	24%	80%	32%
Undecided	8%	7%	10%	11%	14%	2%	4%	2%	11%

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and family values	Health care	Immigration	Other
<b>Clinton/McCain</b>									
Clinton	43%	51%	57%	49%	16%	3%	71%	23%	11%
McCain	48%	41%	33%	43%	63%	88%	24%	72%	32%
Undecided	9%	8%	10%	9%	21%	9%	4%	5%	58%

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and family values	Health care	Immigration	Other
<b>Huckabee/Obama</b>									
Huckabee	45%	37%	24%	32%	75%	87%	29%	87%	32%
Obama	46%	53%	57%	59%	8%	9%	64%	8%	58%
Undecided	9%	10%	19%	9%	16%	4%	7%	5%	11%

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and family values	Health care	Immigration	Other
<b>McCain/Obama</b>									
McCain	47%	45%	22%	38%	73%	83%	27%	74%	11%
Obama	42%	48%	47%	53%	4%	8%	60%	16%	58%
Undecided	11%	7%	31%	9%	23%	9%	13%	10%	32%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and family values	Health care	Immigration	Other
<b>Dole Approval</b>									
Approve	43%	38%	23%	39%	64%	63%	29%	61%	32%
Disapprove	32%	36%	37%	38%	13%	10%	43%	29%	-
Not sure	25%	26%	40%	23%	23%	27%	28%	10%	68%

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and family values	Health care	Immigration	Other
<b>Dole/Hagan</b>									
Dole	50%	47%	27%	41%	77%	84%	36%	66%	32%
Hagan	33%	32%	49%	41%	9%	7%	50%	19%	-
Undecided	18%	21%	24%	18%	14%	9%	14%	15%	68%

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and family values	Health care	Immigration	Other
<b>Dole/Neal</b>									
Dole	50%	49%	27%	40%	77%	84%	41%	69%	21%
Neal	29%	27%	45%	40%	9%	5%	44%	10%	-
Undecided	20%	24%	28%	20%	14%	11%	15%	21%	79%

