



## Carolina Forward | NC Statewide | Toplines | May 2026

957 Interviews likely general election voters statewide in North Carolina fielded May 4 - 8, 2026

Margin of error: +/- 3.3%

### US House Ballot (with leans)

46% The Democratic candidate  
41 The Republican candidate  
12 Not sure  
1 Would not vote

### State Legislature Ballot (with leans)

47% The Democratic candidate  
41 The Republican candidate  
12 Not sure  
1 Would not vote

### US Senate Ballot (with leans)

49% Roy Cooper, the Democrat  
42 Michael Whatley, the Republican  
6 Not sure  
2 Would not vote

### NC Supreme Court Ballot (with leans)

44% Anita Earls, the Democrat  
40 Sarah Stevens, the Republican  
13 Not sure  
2 Would not vote

### Q1. How did you vote in the 2024 election for President, or for some reason were you unable to vote?

46% Kamala Harris, the Democrat  
47 Donald Trump, the Republican  
3 A third party candidate  
1 Not registered/Too young/Ineligible  
4 Did not vote

### Q2. Do you plan to vote in the 2026 election for U.S. Senate and other state and local offices in North Carolina?

86% Yes, definitely  
6 Yes, probably  
5 Maybe (50-50)  
2 No, probably not  
1 No, definitely not

*Polling was conducted online from May 4 - May 8, 2026. Using Dynamic Online Sampling to attain a representative sample, Change Research polled 957 likely voters in North Carolina.. Post-stratification was performed on age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, region, and 2024 presidential vote. You can see a full methodology statement [here](#), which complies with the requirements of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative. Members of the Transparency Initiative disclose all relevant details about our research, with the principle that the public should be able to evaluate and understand research-based findings, in order to instill and restore public confidence in survey results.*

**Q3. How would you rate the job each of the following is doing?**

	<u>Approve</u>		<u>Disapprove</u>		Not sure	<i>Total Approve</i>	<i>Total Disapprove</i>
	Strongly	Smwt	Smwt	Strongly			
Josh Stein as Governor of North Carolina	25	26	13	23	14	<b>51</b>	<b>35</b>
Donald Trump as President	28	15	5	50	2	<b>43</b>	<b>55</b>

**Q4. If the election for U.S. House of Representatives were held today, who would you vote for?**

45% The Democratic candidate  
40 The Republican candidate  
15 Not sure

**US House Ballot (with leans)**

46% The Democratic candidate  
41 The Republican candidate  
12 Not sure  
1 Would not vote

**Q5. If the election for North Carolina state legislature were held today, who would you vote for?**

45% The Democratic candidate  
40 The Republican candidate  
15 Not sure

**State Legislature Ballot (with leans)**

47% The Democratic candidate  
41 The Republican candidate  
12 Not sure  
1 Would not vote

**Q6. If the election for U.S. Senate were today, and the candidates were the following, who would you vote for?**

49% Roy Cooper, the Democrat  
42 Michael Whatley, the Republican  
9 Not sure

**US Senate Ballot (with leans)**

49% Roy Cooper, the Democrat  
42 Michael Whatley, the Republican  
6 Not sure  
2 Would not vote

**Q7. If the election for the North Carolina Supreme Court were today, and the candidates were the following, who would you vote for?**

43% Anita Earls, the Democrat  
39 Sarah Stevens, the Republican  
17 Not sure

**NC Supreme Court Ballot (with leans)**

44% Anita Earls, the Democrat  
40 Sarah Stevens, the Republican  
13 Not sure  
2 Would not vote

**Q8. North Carolina is currently the only state in the country that has not passed a state budget. Who do you think is most responsible for the failure to pass a budget?**

33% Republicans in the state legislature  
 12 Democrats in the state legislature  
 10 Governor Josh Stein  
 35 All of the above  
 10 Not sure

**Q9. Data centers are large computer facilities that power services like cloud storage, social media, and artificial intelligence. North Carolina currently exempts data centers from state sales tax on equipment and electricity, a policy supporters say attracts investment and jobs to the state, and critics say is a giveaway to large technology companies. Should the state legislature keep the sales tax exemption as it is, modify it, or end it?**

10% Keep as-is  
 30 Modify tax exemptions  
 46 Eliminate tax exemptions  
 15 Not sure

**Q10. Regardless of how you generally vote, which party do you trust more on each of the following issues?**

	More the Democrats	More the Republicans	Neither	Not sure
Growing the economy	34	41	17	7
Fighting corruption	30	36	29	4
Cost of living	38	33	24	4
Education	44	33	18	5
Environmental protection	47	26	19	7
Healthcare	44	29	24	4
Crime	28	48	17	8
Immigration	35	47	14	4
Energy policy	39	32	21	7
Housing affordability	39	27	29	5
The state budget	36	31	25	9
Roads and infrastructure	35	32	23	10
Voting and elections	43	39	14	4

**Q11. On May 1st, teachers across North Carolina called out of work to attend a rally in Raleigh calling for higher pay and better school funding. Several school districts, including some of the state's largest, canceled classes that day. How strongly do you support or oppose the teachers' protest?**

56% Strongly support  
 11 Somewhat support  
 6 Somewhat oppose  
 23 Strongly oppose  
 4 Not sure

**67% Total Support**  
**29 Total Oppose**

**Q12. Are you originally from North Carolina, or did you move here from somewhere else?**  
42% Born in North Carolina  
58 Born in another state or country

**D1. Are you:**

46% A man  
54 A woman

**D2. Age**

16% 18 to 34  
22 35 to 49  
30 50 to 64  
32 65+

**D3. What is your race?**

75% White / Caucasian  
17 Black or African American  
4 Hispanic or Latino/a  
1 American Indian or Alaska Native  
0 Asian / Pacific Islander  
3 Other

**D4. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

12% High school diploma or less  
26 Some college, but no degree  
13 Associate's degree, or two-year college degree  
30 Bachelor's degree, or four-year college degree  
19 Graduate degree

**D5. Party Identification**

23% Strong Democrats  
5 Weak Democrats  
13 Independent lean Democrats  
15 Pure independents  
10 Independent lean Republicans  
5 Weak Republicans  
28 Strong Republicans

28% Base Democrats  
38 Independents + Leaners  
33 Base Republicans

42% Democrats  
15 Pure independents  
43 Republicans

**[IF REPUBLICAN] Do you identify as a MAGA Republican or not?**

56% Yes  
29 No  
15 Not sure