

WRHI Newsroom

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Results of Winthrop Poll Taken In 11 Southern States Are In

Independents Give Thumbs-Down To Obama and Congress

On Eve of Obama's Asian Trip, Fifty Percent of Southerners Say Stay Home

Nearly 45 Percent Say Their Kids Either Haven't—Or Won't—Get Swine Flu Shot

South Split on Whether Economy Is Getting Better or Worse

ROCK HILL, S.C. - The results of the latest **Winthrop Poll**, of **866** respondents in **11 Southern states**, taken between **Oct. 24** and **Nov. 7** are in.

The poll was conducted among those 18 years and older from **AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX,** and **VA**. The survey used Random Digit Dialing (RDD) and wireless phone number sampling. Data utilizing all respondents has a **margin of error of plus/minus 3.33 percent**.

To learn about the methodology, history and staff of the Winthrop Poll, click [here](#).

Among the Winthrop Poll findings:

- **As Democrats clamor to re-claim the affection of Independent voters prior to mid-term elections next year, a majority of Southern Independent respondents said they disapprove of how Barack Obama is handling his job as president; handling**

healthcare policy; and handling the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Almost three-out-of four disapprove of how Congress is handling its job.

- As President Obama leaves on a trip to Asia this week, his travels abroad are proving a sore point for more than one-in-four Democrats and three-in-four Republicans who said he should spend less time traveling abroad and focus on problems at home.
- And as Obama heads to Oslo a month from today, almost 55 percent of Southerners polled say he did not deserve to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Over one-third of Southerners polled say President Obama is untrustworthy.
- Southerners are almost evenly divided on whether the economy is getting better or worse.
- Despite Obama declaring Swine Flu a national emergency, over 55 percent of Southerners say they are not worried about getting the Swine Flu.
- Meanwhile, nearly 45 percent say that they either don't intend to have their children get the Swine Flu vaccine, or their children haven't gotten it yet.
- Southerners polled lay almost equal blame for the current economic situation on banks/financial institutions, large business corporations and consumers.
- Almost 40 percent of those polled are concerned about the possibility of losing their job in the next year.
- When asked separate questions about whether companies should be allowed to require employees who smoke—or who are obese or very overweight—to pay higher health insurance premiums, the results were almost the exact opposite of each other. Smoking: almost 58 percent yes, almost 38 percent no. Overweight/obese: almost 38 percent yes, almost 55 percent no.
- Nearly three-out-of-five Southerners said the economic stimulus plan has either made the economy worse or had no effect.

NOTE: PERCENTAGES MAY NOT SUM TO 100% DUE TO ROUNDING

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	47.4%	78.7%	15.9%	43.4%
Disapprove	42.2%	12.9%	74.7%	46.3%
Not Sure	9.9%	8.1%	9.4%	9.5%
Refused	.6%	.4%	.0%	.8%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling healthcare policy?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Approve	37.0%	63.4%	7.7%	36.1%

Disapprove	50.9%	21.2%	87.6%	50.6%
Not Sure	11.4%	15.0%	4.3%	12.4%
Refused	.7%	.4%	.4%	.8%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Approve	38.0%	57.1%	22.2%	34.3%
Disapprove	47.9%	27.1%	69.2%	54.5%
Not Sure	13.2%	15.4%	7.3%	9.9%
Refused	.9%	.4%	1.3%	1.2%

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

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Approve	18.4%	26.4%	8.5%	16.5%
Disapprove	69.5%	58.6%	82.1%	73.6%
Not Sure	11.7%	14.3%	9.4%	9.5%
Refused	.4%	.7%	.0%	.4%

Regardless of how you voted in the 2008 presidential election, are you still happy with your vote choice?

	Obama Voters	McCain Voters
Yes	92.5%	87.5%
No	3.6%	9.0%
Not Sure	3.6%	2.9%
Refused	.3%	.6%

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	35.1%	62.3%	9.8%	31.5%
Wrong Direction	54.0%	23.8%	84.7%	57.7%
Not Sure	10.7%	13.6%	5.5%	10.4%
Refused	.2%	.4%	.0%	.4%

Is your opinion of Michelle Obama favorable, not favorable, or undecided?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Favorable	53.2%	77.7%	26.2%	55.4%
Not Favorable	13.4%	3.6%	21.9%	16.5%
Undecided	32.4%	18.2%	51.1%	26.9%
Refused	1.0%	.4%	.9%	1.2%

In 2010, all members of the U.S. House of Representatives are up for reelection and one-third of the members of the U.S. Senate are up for reelection. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion: [ANSWERS ROTATED]

"I would rather have a Republican-controlled Congress to serve as a check on President Obama's agenda"

OR

"I would rather have a Democratic-controlled Congress to help with President Obama's agenda"

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Republican Congress	44.5%	10.6%	90.2%	42.1%
Democratic Congress	39.6%	79.1%	3.0%	36.8%
Not Sure	13.1%	8.4%	5.6%	16.9%
Refused	2.8%	1.8%	1.3%	4.1%

Regardless of whether the president is a Republican or Democrat, I want you to tell me which of the following comes closest to your beliefs: [ANSWERS ROTATED]

It is better to have Congress controlled by the same party as the president because it helps things run smoother and more efficiently.

OR

It is better to have Congress controlled by a different party than the president because this serves as a check on extremes.

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Same Party	36.9%	59.9%	18.7%	31.8%
Different Party	44.2%	22.4%	65.1%	51.0%
Not Sure	16.8%	16.2%	13.6%	15.9%
Refused	2.0%	1.5%	2.6%	1.3%

As you may know, Barack Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Approve	39.7%	69.7%	12.8%	35.1%
Disapprove	48.1%	21.2%	77.4%	50.0%
Not Sure	11.5%	8.8%	9.0%	13.2%
Refused	.7%	.4%	.9%	1.7%

Whether you approve or disapprove, do you think Barack Obama deserved to win the Nobel Peace Prize?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Yes	34.5%	63.0%	9.4%	26.4%
No	54.9%	26.0%	83.7%	62.4%
Not Sure	9.8%	10.6%	6.4%	10.3%
Refused	.8%	.4%	.4%	.8%

I'd like to ask more about your opinion of Barack Obama. For each of the following, tell me which statement comes closest to your opinion.

Would you say Barack Obama is a good communicator or NOT a good communicator?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A Good Communicator	84.4%	94.9%	75.2%	86.0%
Not a Good Communicator	12.8%	3.7%	20.1%	11.6%
Not Sure	2.6%	1.5%	4.3%	2.5%
Refused	.2%	.0%	.4%	.0%

Would you say Barack Obama is warm and friendly or cold and aloof?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Warm and Friendly	76.0%	91.6%	63.7%	72.7%
Cold and Aloof	12.5%	3.3%	19.2%	15.3%
Not Sure	11.0%	5.1%	16.7%	10.7%
Refused	.6%	.0%	.4%	1.2%

Would you say Barack Obama is trustworthy or untrustworthy?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Trustworthy	54.4%	86.8%	21.4%	54.1%
Untrustworthy	36.2%	9.2%	65.0%	39.3%
Not Sure	8.6%	4.0%	11.5%	6.6%
Refused	.8%	.0%	2.1%	.0%

Would you say Barack Obama cares about people like me or does NOT care about people like me?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Cares About People Like Me	61.5%	87.2%	36.3%	58.9%
Does Not Care About People Like Me	30.6%	8.8%	53.8%	33.2%
Not Sure	7.3%	4.0%	8.5%	7.5%
Refused	.6%	.0%	1.3%	.4%

	White Males
Cares About People Like Me	51.3%
Does Not Care About People Like Me	43.3%
Not Sure	5.0%

Refused	.4%
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Barack Obama has traveled to more foreign countries in his first year in office than any previous U.S. president topping the record set by President Gerald Ford and the first President Bush. Which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion: [ANSWERS ROTATED]

It is important for President Obama to travel internationally in order to repair relationships with foreign nations and restore our standing in the world.

OR

President Obama should spend less time traveling abroad and instead focus on problems at home.

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Important to Travel	44.6%	67.4%	19.7%	46.3%
Focus on Problems at Home	49.8%	26.7%	74.4%	50.0%
Not Sure	4.9%	5.5%	5.6%	3.3%
Refused	.7%	.4%	.4%	.4%

What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? ANSWERS REFLECT THE TOP FIVE RESPONSES GIVEN FOR “ALL,” “DEMOCRAT,” “REPUBLICAN” AND “INDEPENDENT” CATEGORIES

All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Economy 39.4%	Economy 35.5%	Economy 39.1%	Economy 45.6%
Healthcare 12.8%	Unemployment 15.0%	Healthcare 14.0%	Healthcare 12.9%
Unemployment 12.1%	Healthcare 13.9%	Unemployment 11.1%	Unemployment 9.5%
War (Iraq, Afghanistan, and in general) 6.2%	War (Iraq, Afghanistan, and in general) 8.8%	Politicians/Government 7.2%	War (Iraq, Afghanistan, and in general) 7.0%
Politicians/Government 4.7%	Politicians/Government 3.7%	War (Iraq, Afghanistan, and in general) 3.9%	Politicians/Government 4.6%

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	.8%	1.5%	.9%	.4%
Fairly Good	17.1%	23.0%	13.7%	15.7%
Fairly Bad	43.6%	44.9%	46.4%	42.6%
Very Bad	37.5%	28.8%	39.1%	40.9%
Don't Know/	.9%	1.8%	.0%	.4%

Refused				
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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	46.5%	64.1%	34.0%	45.9%
Getting Worse	42.1%	24.2%	55.3%	45.5%
Don't Know/ Refused	11.4%	11.7%	10.6%	8.7%

In the past week, have you, personally, worried about either you or a family member getting the Swine Flu?

	All
Yes	44.2%
No	55.5%
Refused	.3%

Have you gotten, or do you intend to get a Swine Flu vaccine this year?

	All
Yes	39.1%
No	58.1%
Refused	2.9%

Has your child had, or do you intend for your child to get, a Swine Flu vaccine this year? [among parents with child under 18 living at home]

	All
Yes	53.2%
No	43.8%
Refused	3.0%

Have you kept your child home from school, pre-school, or daycare out of concern over Swine Flu even though they were not ill? [among parents with child under 18 living at home]

	All
Yes	10.4%
No	88.4%
Refused	1.2%

I am going to read several items. For each item, tell me how much blame do you think that item deserves for the country's economic situation - a great deal, a good amount, only some or hardly any?

How much blame do you think **Banks and other financial institutions, for taking unnecessary risks** deserve for the country's economic situation - a great deal, a good amount, only some or hardly any?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent

Great Deal	47.8%	52.6%	45.7%	48.3%
Good Amount	24.1%	22.4%	26.1%	24.2%
Only Some	15.7%	12.9%	13.2%	19.2%
Hardly Any	7.6%	7.4%	11.1%	3.8%
None [Volunteered]	1.4%	1.8%	.4%	2.1%
Not Sure [Volunteered]	.2%	.4%	.4%	.0%
Refused	3.2%	2.6%	3.0%	2.5%

How much blame do you think **the Bush administration, for inadequate regulation of the financial industry** deserves for the country's economic situation - a great deal, a good amount, only some or hardly any?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Great Deal	39.1%	65.2%	10.7%	38.2%
Good Amount	23.7%	17.9%	33.9%	20.7%
Only Some	23.1%	7.7%	36.9%	30.3%
Hardly Any	8.1%	5.5%	10.7%	6.6%
None [Volunteered]	2.6%	1.1%	3.9%	2.1%
Not Sure [Volunteered]	2.1%	1.5%	2.1%	.4%
Refused	1.2%	1.1%	1.7%	1.7%

How much blame do you think **large business corporations, for poor management decisions** deserve for the country's economic situation - a great deal, a good amount, only some or hardly any?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Great Deal	46.8%	53.3%	43.6%	41.7%
Good Amount	27.5%	26.3%	26.9%	32.2%
Only Some	15.0%	12.0%	18.8%	15.3%
Hardly Any	5.9%	5.5%	7.7%	5.4%
None [Volunteered]	.7%	.4%	.0%	1.2%
Not Sure [Volunteered]	1.9%	1.5%	.9%	.8%
Refused	2.1%	1.1%	2.1%	3.3%

How much blame do you think **Consumers, for taking on too much debt** deserve for the country's economic situation - a great deal, a good amount, only some or hardly any?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Great Deal	42.5%	40.7%	44.4%	46.5%
Good Amount	31.3%	31.1%	33.3%	28.6%
Only Some	16.6%	17.6%	15.4%	18.7%
Hardly Any	5.3%	6.2%	3.4%	2.5%
None [Volunteered]	.7%	1.1%	.4%	.0%

Not Sure [Volunteered]	2.0%	2.2%	1.7%	1.2%
Refused	1.6%	1.1%	1.3%	2.5%

How much blame do you think **the Obama administration, for not doing enough to turn the economy around** deserves for the country's economic situation - a great deal, a good amount, only some or hardly any?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Great Deal	17.9%	8.1%	24.6%	21.5%
Good Amount	16.8%	10.3%	20.8%	17.4%
Only Some	24.1%	25.3%	29.7%	20.2%
Hardly Any	27.2%	39.9%	16.9%	26.0%
None [Volunteered]	10.0%	13.2%	3.8%	12.8%
Not Sure [Volunteered]	2.8%	2.2%	3.0%	.8%
Refused	1.2%	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%

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... [among those currently employed]

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very Concerned	16.2%	13.6%	12.5%	18.6%
Somewhat Concerned	21.7%	22.0%	21.3%	21.4%
Not Very Concerned	20.7%	22.0%	22.8%	22.8%
Not at All Concerned	41.1%	42.4%	42.6%	37.2%
Don't Know/ Refused	.2%	.0%	.7%	.0%

Would you advise your member of Congress to vote for or against the healthcare reform bill currently before Congress, or do you not have an opinion?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Vote For	31.5%	55.7%	8.6%	31.5%
Vote Against	42.2%	13.2%	75.5%	43.6%
No Opinion	25.2%	31.1%	15.5%	23.7%
Refused	1.1%	.0%	.4%	1.2%

Do you think you currently lean toward advising your member of Congress to vote FOR the bill or AGAINST the bill, or do you currently lean in neither direction? [Among those reporting "no opinion" above]

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Lean For	23.6%	40.0%	8.6%	14.3%

Lean Against	4.8%	.0%	8.6%	10.7%
Neither	71.5%	60.0%	82.9%	75.0%

As you may know, the federal government has taken many steps to deal with problems in the economy in the past year. Please tell me whether, in general, you favor or oppose the government doing each of the following.

Funding new government programs to help create jobs

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Favor	71.6%	94.5%	53.4%	68.9%
Oppose	23.8%	2.9%	40.6%	28.6%
Not Sure/ Don't Know	4.4%	2.6%	5.1%	2.5%
Refused	.2%	.0%	.9%	.0%

Giving aid to states in serious financial trouble

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Favor	62.7%	80.6%	50.9%	63.6%
Oppose	31.5%	14.3%	44.0%	31.8%
Not Sure/ Don't Know	5.7%	5.1%	5.1%	4.5%
Refused	.1%	.0%	.0%	.0%

Giving aid to homeowners who are in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Favor	53.5%	76.3%	36.3%	48.3%
Oppose	37.5%	16.4%	56.8%	39.7%
Not Sure/ Don't Know	8.7%	7.3%	6.8%	12.0%
Refused	.3%	.0%	.0%	.0%

Giving aid to U.S. banks and financial companies in danger of failing

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Favor	28.1%	39.4%	16.3%	28.1%
Oppose	63.2%	50.0%	78.5%	62.4%
Not Sure/ Don't Know	8.6%	10.2%	5.2%	9.5%
Refused	.1%	.4%	.0%	.0%

How satisfied are you with the **QUALITY** of healthcare available to you and your family? Would you say you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	All
Very Satisfied	33.8%
Satisfied	42.4%

Dissatisfied	11.7%
Very Dissatisfied	9.3%
Not Sure	2.5%
Refused	.2%

How satisfied are you with the **COST** of healthcare available to you and your family? Would you say you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	All
Very Satisfied	17.7%
Satisfied	34.8%
Dissatisfied	24.7%
Very Dissatisfied	20.4%
Not Sure	2.3%
Refused	.1%

I'd like to ask about your health insurance. Do you currently have private health insurance either through your job or that you purchase yourself, receive health insurance through Medicare or Medicaid, or do you not currently have health insurance?

	All
Private	61.9%
Medicare/ Medicaid	25.0%
No Insurance	12.3%
Refused	.9%

Do you believe that companies should be allowed to require employees who smoke to pay higher health insurance premiums?

	All	Smokers	Non-Smokers
Yes	57.6%	33.1%	63.6%
No	37.7%	62.0%	31.7%
Not Sure	4.5%	4.8%	4.5%
Refused	.2%	.0%	.1%

Do you believe that companies should be allowed to require employees who are obese, or very overweight, to pay higher health insurance premiums?

	All
Yes	37.7%
No	54.2%
Not Sure	7.8%
Refused	.4%

Have you, or a member of your *immediate* family ever chosen to not have a medical treatment because it was not covered by insurance?

	All
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Yes	29.5%
No	69.7%
Not Sure	.7%
Refused	.1%

Up until now, do you think the economic stimulus plan has made the economy as a whole better, not had an effect, or made it worse?

	All	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Better	35.0%	51.1%	19.1%	34.3%
No Effect	37.9%	30.3%	46.0%	38.0%
Worse	20.6%	9.1%	31.1%	24.8%
Don't Know/ Not Sure	6.2%	8.8%	3.8%	2.9%
Refused	.2%	.7%	.0%	.0%

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