Memorandum

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Paul Shumaker
SUBJECT: Survey on NC Voting Issues
Date: April 27, 2021

METHODOLOGY

Strategic Partners Solutions conducted a survey using live-phone interviews between April 18-20, 2021 on behalf of Secure Democracy. The survey included 65% landlines and 35% cellphones with 1,030 likely voters. The survey sample was segmented to achieve N=800 general election voters and N=500 Republican voters. The N=800 survey has a margin of error of + 3.5% and the N=500 GOP survey has a margin of error of + 4.4%.

96.7% of respondents said they had voted in the last election.

VOTING ISSUES AND VOTER OPINIONS

Those respondents who said they voted last November generally agree that they had a good voting experience. An overwhelming majority of voters statewide gave a favorable job rating of their local elections board.

“Overall, would say your experience voting last year was very good, somewhat good, or not good at all?”

“And would you say your local county board of elections did an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job in handling voting in North Carolina?”
We asked the respondents a series of legislative issue questions. Here are some proposals currently being considered in the state legislature regarding election reform. We asked the respondents to please share if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each.

"Throwing away mail ballots received after 5 PM on Election Day, even if they were mailed before Election Day"

A majority of voters statewide are opposed to throwing away ballots received after 5pm on Election Day and among Republican voters, a plurality oppose.

"Blocking the state board of elections from settling election lawsuits"

"Barring the state board of elections from modifying election procedures in the event of an emergency"

Voters across all partisan lines oppose blocking the board from settling election lawsuits. The high response count of Don’t Know/Refused indicates that voters need more information before answering this question.

A plurality of voters across all partisan lines oppose, with Republicans more divided on this issue than Democrats or Unaffiliated voters.
"Limiting opportunities for voters to vote early in person"

A majority of NC voters across all partisan lines strongly oppose limitations on voting early in North Carolina.

"Providing voters with an opportunity to fix an error so they can have their ballot counted”

An overwhelming majority of voters across all partisan lines support having an opportunity to fix an error on their ballot so their ballot can be counted.

"Establishing an electronic ballot tracking system, which allows voters to know the status of their mail-in ballot at any time until it is verified and counted"

An overwhelming majority of voters across all partisan lines also support a statewide electronic ballot tracking system.
An overwhelming majority of voters across all partisan lines support these proposals:

"Allowing family members, caregivers, and household members to assist someone in filing their ballot"  
"Increasing the number of days and hours for in person early voting"

"Requiring election officials to contact a voter before cancelling their voter registration"  
"Establishing a non-partisan and independent commission to draw congressional and state legislative district lines"

“Please share if you have a favorable, or unfavorable opinion of each of the following. If you have never heard of the person just say so.”

“Please share your job approval rating of Roy Cooper and the State Legislature.”
“How trustworthy would you rate the following institutions?”

![Graphs showing the trustworthiness ratings of State Board of Elections, Local Legislator, Local Election Board, NC Business.]

**SUMMARY OF KEY FINDING**

Voters were satisfied with their voting experience in the November 2020 elections. When it comes to the voting process, they favor more access to early voting opportunities; and they want accountability in the process. Most voters are in favor of establishing an electronic ballot tracking system for mail-in ballots, and providing voters with an opportunity to fix an error so they can have their ballot counted. Voters also favor requiring election officials to contact a voter before cancelling their voter registration, increasing the number of days and hours for in-person early voting, and allowing family members, caregivers and household members to assist someone in filing their ballot. Establishing a non-partisan and independent commission to draw congressional and state legislative district lines were all strongly supported by all voting groups.

**About Paul Shumaker**

For over four decades, Paul Shumaker has created winning, data-driven strategies for candidates and businesses at every level, leading to a historic transformation of North Carolina’s political landscape.

With five Senate wins, Paul has won more U.S. Senate races in North Carolina than any consultant in the past 25 years. Paul also set the record for winning the most expensive U.S. Senate race in American history in 2014, and then beat his own record again in 2020, with Senator Thom Tillis’ historic win in a race that cost $300 million.

Paul has been described as the “Data Guy’ Behind North Carolina Republicans,” who is one of the longest serving political consultants in the state, distinguished by clear and honest direction based on historical, current, and projected data.

He is also the co-owner of Strategic Partners Solutions, an issue management firm based in Raleigh.