

Survey of Likely Buncombe County General Election Voters

August 28-29, 2014 • n=600 • Margin of Error +/- 4.08%

Overall, do think Buncombe County is headed in the wrong direction or the right direction?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Right Direction	177	29.5	29.5	29.5
	Wrong Direction	284	47.3	47.3	76.8
	Unsure	139	23.2	23.2	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

How likely are you to vote in the upcoming elections this November?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Likely	545	90.8	90.8	90.8
	Somewhat Likely	55	9.2	9.2	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

When faced with a budget shortfall, should elected official first look to raise taxes or cut spending?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Raise Taxes	133	22.2	22.2	22.2
	Cut Spending	397	66.2	66.2	88.3
	Unsure	70	11.7	11.7	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Should elected officials be permitted to vote themselves pay raises or should the voters get to decide?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Vote for Their Own Raises	30	5.0	5.0	5.0
	Voters Should Decide	545	90.8	90.8	95.8
	Unsure	25	4.2	4.2	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Should local elected officials be required to disclose conflicts of interests about their employment and investments like state and federal officials?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	494	82.3	82.3	82.3
	No	52	8.7	8.7	91.0
	Unsure	54	9.0	9.0	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

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Recently, local officials awarded millions of tax dollars to a fortune 500 company attract new high-paying jobs to the region. Was this a good idea or a bad idea?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Good Idea	236	39.3	39.3	39.3
	Bad Idea	214	35.7	35.7	75.0
	Unsure	150	25.0	25.0	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

In the last county budget, hundreds of thousands of tax dollars were given to non-profit corporations. Should taxpayer dollars be used to fund non-profit corporations?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	170	28.3	28.3	28.3
	No	303	50.5	50.5	78.8
	Unsure	127	21.2	21.2	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

When you think of The Asheville Citizen-Times newspaper, do you consider their political reporting fair or biased?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Fair	183	30.5	30.5	30.5
	Biased	291	48.5	48.5	79.0
	Unsure	126	21.0	21.0	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

If a television or newspaper reporter is or was a paid employee of a political campaign, should the television station or paper disclose this fact?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	481	80.2	80.2	80.2
	No	60	10.0	10.0	90.2
	Unsure	59	9.8	9.8	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

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What do you consider to be the most important issue facing Buncombe County today? Is it jobs and the economy, taxes, education or crime?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Jobs and the Economy	293	48.8	48.8	48.8
	Taxes	78	13.0	13.0	61.8
	Education	168	28.0	28.0	89.8
	Crime	29	4.8	4.8	94.7
	Unsure	32	5.3	5.3	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

In the past few years, do you think the level of crime in Buncombe County has increased, decreased or remained about the same?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Increased	274	45.7	45.7	45.7
	Decreased	64	10.7	10.7	56.3
	Remained the Same	221	36.8	36.8	93.2
	Unsure	41	6.8	6.8	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Have you or anyone you know been the victim of a crime in the last two years?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	207	34.5	34.5	34.5
	No	354	59.0	59.0	93.5
	Unsure	39	6.5	6.5	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

When it comes to education in Buncombe County, has the county done an adequate job of funding our local schools?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	168	28.0	28.0	28.0
	No	328	54.7	54.7	82.7
	Unsure	104	17.3	17.3	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

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If a candidate for elected office was found to be in violation of state campaign finance laws or regulations, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for that person?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	More Likely	11	1.8	1.8	1.8
	Less Likely	545	90.8	90.8	92.7
	Makes No Difference	33	5.5	5.5	98.2
	Unsure	11	1.8	1.8	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Under current law, local elected officials and their spouses are permitted to accept gifts from corporations and individuals like free trips, fee parking, free dinners and the like from individuals, businesses and groups. Do you think this is appropriate?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	56	9.3	9.3	9.3
	No	510	85.0	85.0	94.3
	Unsure	34	5.7	5.7	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Would you support or oppose an effort to bring NASCAR to western North Carolina?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Support	292	48.7	48.7	48.7
	Oppose	213	35.5	35.5	84.2
	Unsure	95	15.8	15.8	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Recently the county spent millions of taxpayer dollars to extend water lines to families impacted by groundwater pollution. Should the county seek reimbursement of those tax dollars from the company responsible for the pollution?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	537	89.5	89.5	89.5
	No	22	3.7	3.7	93.2
	Unsure	41	6.8	6.8	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

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Age Category

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18 to 25	22	3.7	3.7	3.7
	26 to 35	50	8.3	8.3	12.0
	36 to 50	177	29.5	29.5	41.5
	51 to 65	188	31.3	31.3	72.8
	66 or Older	163	27.2	27.2	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

With which political party are you currently registered to vote?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Republican	159	26.5	26.5	26.5
	Democrat	259	43.2	43.2	69.7
	Unaffiliated/ Other	182	30.3	30.3	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Ideology

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Conservative	136	22.7	22.7	22.7
	Somewhat Conservative	138	23.0	23.0	45.7
	Moderate	146	24.3	24.3	70.0
	Somewhat Liberal	110	18.3	18.3	88.3
	Very Liberal	52	8.7	8.7	97.0
	Unsure	18	3.0	3.0	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	270	45.0	45.0	45.0
	Female	330	55.0	55.0	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	