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Civitas Polls: NC Voters Dubious of Tenure, Support Higher Pay for the Best Teachers

RALEIGH – Civitas Polls show North Carolina voters support alternatives to the tenure system that pay larger raises to the best teachers.

According to a March 2014 poll, 64 percent of respondents said they supported a proposed system for improving teacher quality and increasing the salaries of the best teachers, and 78 percent supported larger raises for the best teachers.

A poll one year earlier found that 49 percent of voters opposed the tenure system.

"Most North Carolinians are not sold on teacher tenure as something that benefits teachers and students alike," said Civitas Senior Education Policy Analyst Dr. Robert Luebke. "The public does want to see the best teachers get appropriate awards for success."

He added, "Voters also understand that, as in all jobs, job security must be tied to performance."

Text of questions\*:

March 2014

The poll of 600 registered North Carolina voters was conducted March 18-20, 2014 and had an error margin of plus/minus 4 percent.

"A change in state law requires local school systems to end tenure and offer the top performing 25% of the system's teachers four-year contracts with a guaranteed pay raise each year of the contract. Do you support or oppose this new system of improving teacher quality and increasing the salaries for the best teachers?"

64% Total Support

29% Total Oppose

38% Strongly Support

26% Somewhat Support

7% Somewhat Oppose

22% Strongly Oppose

7% Undecided/Don't Know

"Traditionally North Carolina has provided largely uniform increases for all teachers. Do you

support a system that rewards better teachers with larger raises?”

78% Total Support  
15% Total Oppose  
  
48% Strongly Support  
29% Somewhat Support  
6% Somewhat Oppose  
9% Strongly Oppose  
7% Undecided/Don't Know

March 2013

The poll of 600 registered North Carolina voters was conducted March 19-21, 2013 and had an error margin of plus/minus 4 percent.

“On average, teachers can apply for tenure after three or four years. Tenure says that an employee cannot be dismissed, demoted or employed on a part-time basis except for violating one of fifteen stated criteria. Do you favor or oppose the concept of tenure for teachers?”

38% Total Favor  
49% Total Oppose  
  
23% Strongly Favor  
15% Somewhat Favor  
14% Somewhat Oppose  
35% Strongly Oppose  
13% Undecided/Don't Know

Both polls of 600 registered voters in North Carolina were conducted by National Research, Inc. of Holmdel, NJ. All respondents were part of a fully representative sample of registered general election voters in North Carolina.

Civitas conducts the only regular live-caller polling of North Carolina voters. For more information on Civitas polling, see <http://www.nccivitas.org/category/poll/>.

The Civitas Institute is a policy institute based in Raleigh, N.C. More information is available at [www.nccivitas.org](http://www.nccivitas.org)<file:///C:/Users/jtynen.NCCIVITAS/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/jtynen.NCCIVITAS/Documents/July%202013%20drafts/www.nccivitas.org>, or contact Jim Tynen at (919) 834-2099 or [james.tynen@nccivitas.org](mailto:james.tynen@nccivitas.org)<file:///C:/Users/jtynen.NCCIVITAS/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/jtynen.NCCIVITAS/Documents/Sept%202013%20drafts/james.tynen@nccivitas.org>.