

NC House District 37

2022 General Election Likely Voter Survey Data

To: David Avella, Chairman, GOPAC Education Fund and the Center for American Ideas
From: Jim Blaine, Differentiators Data

Summary

As part of a joint project sponsored by the Center for American Ideas and the GOPAC Education Fund to determine voter sentiment on key policy issues in legislative districts around North Carolina, Differentiators Data conducted a survey in North Carolina's 37th House District on May 31st through June 2nd. The survey of 300 likely general election voters was comprised of 1/3 live landline interviews, 1/3 live cell phones interviews, and 1/3 text to web interviews, with a margin of error of +/- 5.7%.

The Big Policy Issues

There are several big, controversial policy issues before the NC General Assembly this legislative session. The goal of this project is to assess public opinion on these policy issues in competitive legislative districts:

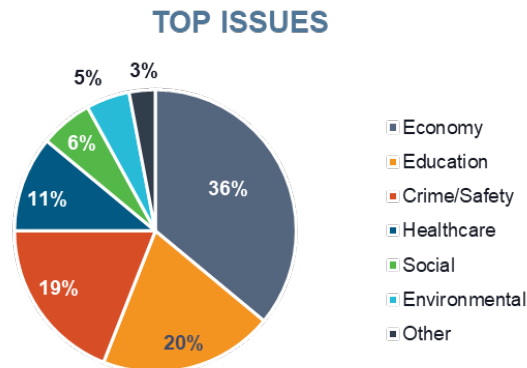
- Medical Marijuana – [Senate Bill 711](#) and [House Bill 929](#) authorize doctors to prescribe medical marijuana for the treatment of certain medical conditions and illnesses.
- Sports Betting – [Senate Bill 688](#) and [House Bill 631](#) legalize sports wagering.
- Increasing School Choice – [Senate Bill 671](#) and other legislation increases school choice options for North Carolina families.
- Reduce the Personal Income Tax – [Senate Bill 337](#), and state budget negotiations, propose further reductions in North Carolina's personal income tax rates.
- Expanding Medicaid – [House Bill 149](#) expands Medicaid program with a work requirement.

About NC House District 37

This State House district, located south of Raleigh in Wake County, includes the Town of Fuquay-Varina and part of the Town of Holly Springs. It is an affluent, predominantly white district that was one of the most competitive districts in 2020 in its old configuration and remains politically competitive under the new district lines. Republican Erin Paré, a local business owner and former PTA president, flipped the seat in 2020 and is the lone Republican from Wake County serving in the entire state legislature. Unaffiliateds account for more than 38% of the district's registered voters here, and in 2020 the district was carried by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, Republican US Senator Thom Tillis, and Democratic Governor Roy Cooper. Paré is seeking re-election, and is being challenged by Christine Kelly, who served on the Holly Springs Town Council.

Where Voters Stand on the Issues

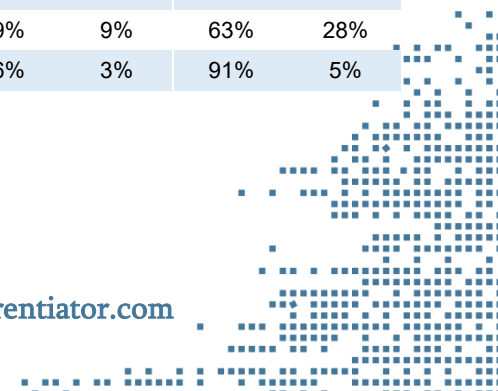
A plurality of voters (36%) in this district are more concerned about the economy than any other issue. Education (20%) and crime/public safety (19%) are virtually tied as the second most important issues, followed by healthcare (11%).



Each of the 5 big policy issues the legislature could take up during the short session enjoy majority support in this district, with the exception sports betting, but a plurality of all voters and a sizeable majority (54/32) of Unaffiliated voters support legalizing sports betting too. Reducing the income tax, medical marijuana, and Medicaid expansion with a work requirement each exceed 73% support from all voters and have broad support across all key demographic groups.

Voter Group	All		Kelly		Pare		Undecided	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Medical Marijuana	78%	16%	88%	9%	74%	21%	62%	25%
Sports Betting	48%	39%	48%	39%	51%	37%	34%	49%
Universal School Choice	53%	42%	31%	64%	76%	22%	52%	35%
2.5% Income Tax	74%	16%	58%	32%	93%	1%	68%	9%
Medicaid Expansion	63%	30%	96%	4%	35%	56%	47%	30%
Expansion w/ work req.	93%	5%	100%	0%	87%	11%	86%	3%

Voter Group	All		Republican		Unaffiliated		Democratic		Parent	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Medical Marijuana	78%	16%	68%	24%	84%	12%	84%	11%	79%	16%
Sports Betting	48%	39%	44%	46%	54%	32%	44%	40%	55%	36%
Universal School Choice	53%	42%	72%	25%	57%	40%	27%	66%	61%	36%
2.5% Income Tax	74%	16%	94%	1%	70%	17%	55%	33%	71%	18%
Medicaid Expansion	63%	30%	46%	44%	60%	32%	89%	9%	63%	28%
Expansion w/ work req.	93%	5%	89%	8%	94%	4%	96%	3%	91%	5%



Voters who say they're undecided in the State House race are overwhelmingly supportive of cutting the state income tax (68% support), medical marijuana (62% support), and expanding Medicaid with a work requirement (86% support). They also favor universal school choice by a margin of 52/35.

Voter Group	All		Women		Men		White		Black	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Medical Marijuana	78%	16%	74%	19%	84%	13%	81%	14%	77%	18%
Sports Betting	48%	39%	39%	41%	57%	37%	48%	39%	51%	32%
Universal School Choice	53%	42%	48%	46%	59%	38%	53%	44%	58%	34%
2.5% Income Tax	74%	16%	72%	15%	76%	17%	73%	18%	81%	7%
Medicaid Expansion	63%	30%	67%	26%	59%	34%	64%	29%	69%	23%
Expansion w/ work req.	93%	5%	94%	3%	91%	8%	93%	5%	92%	4%

How the Big Policy Issues Could Impact this Election

All early indications are this district, which House Republicans likely need to win to regain a Supermajority in the chamber, will be a major battleground in 2022. The generic ballot favors Republicans by less than one point and Rep. Erin Paré, the first-term incumbent Republican, trails her Democratic opponent Christine Kelly by the slimmest of margins – 44% to 45%, with 12% undecided. Each of the 5 big policy issues before the legislature could help Paré win undecided and Unaffiliated voters in the fall.

