

NC House District 82

2022 General Election Likely Voter Survey Data

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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 82nd 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:

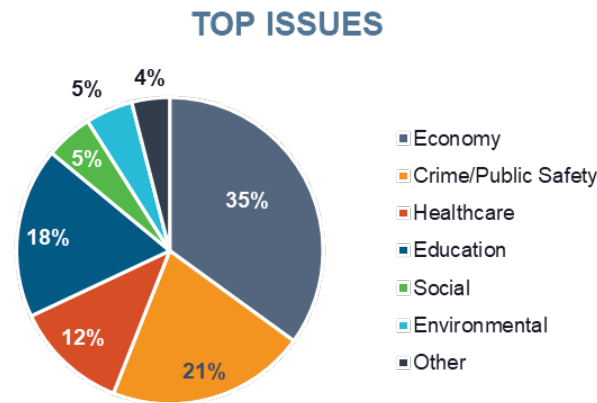
- Medical Marijuana – [Senate Bill 711](#) and [House Bill 929](#) authorize doctors to prescribe medical marijuana for the treatment of certain medical conditions and illnesses.
- Sports Betting – [Senate Bill 688](#) and [House Bill 631](#) legalize sports wagering.
- Increasing School Choice – [Senate 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 82

North Carolina House District 82 is located in Cabarrus County and includes most of Concord and Kannapolis. Like Cabarrus County as a whole, HD-82 has seen explosive growth over the past decade and has trended more Democratic. Voter registration is split almost evenly between Republicans, Democrats and Unaffiliated voters, with Unaffiliateds holding a slight advantage. Politically, while the district is trending more Democratic, it still favored the GOP slightly in the 2020 elections: GOP Presidential candidate Donald Trump carried the district with more than 51% of the vote and U.S. Senator Thom Tillis won the district with about 50%, while Democrat Roy Cooper and Republican Dan Forest virtually tied in the governor's race at 49% each. The district is represented in the State House by Republican Kristin Baker, a psychiatrist who is serving her first full term but is battle-tested after competitive primary and general election races in 2020. Baker was being challenged by progressive Democrat Katherine Jeanes. Jeanes recently withdrew her candidacy, and after reading this survey, we understand why.

Where Voters Stand on the Issues

With seemingly no end in sight on inflation and record-breaking gas prices, it's not surprising that a plurality of voters (35%) say economic issues are the most important to them. Over one fifth of voters said crime and public safety (21%) is their chief concern, followed by education (18%), and healthcare (12%):



Of the big policy issues the legislature could take up during the short session, medical marijuana, reducing the state income tax, and Medicaid expansion with a work requirement were all widely popular, exceeding 73% support from all voters. These issues enjoy majority support across all key demographics.

Voter Group	All		Jeanes		Baker		Undecided	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Medical Marijuana	73%	22%	89%	10%	59%	41%	72%	20%
Sports Betting	39%	45%	43%	43%	35%	49%	43%	33%
Universal School Choice	55%	39%	40%	56%	70%	24%	47%	44%
2.5% Income Tax	77%	14%	66%	22%	86%	28%	79%	13%
Medicaid Expansion	61%	31%	91%	5%	35%	54%	60%	29%
Expansion w/ work req.	89%	7%	97%	1%	86%	10%	73%	15%

Voter Group	All		Republican		Unaffiliated		Democratic		Parent	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Medical Marijuana	73%	22%	65%	27%	69%	24%	84%	12%	78%	16%
Sports Betting	39%	45%	33%	46%	40%	49%	44%	42%	48%	34%
Universal School Choice	55%	39%	66%	27%	55%	40%	44%	52%	50%	44%
2.5% Income Tax	77%	14%	81%	11%	78%	11%	73%	20%	75%	16%
Medicaid Expansion	61%	31%	41%	48%	56%	36%	89%	8%	58%	33%
Expansion w/ work req.	89%	7%	87%	9%	84%	10%	97%	1%	87%	8%

Universal school choice was not quite as popular, but a majority of voters (55/39) are still supportive. In this district, sports betting was the only issue that did not enjoy majority support (39/45) though voters who say they are undecided in the State House race support sports betting by a 10-point margin (43/33). 60% of undecided voters, 73% of black voters, and 56% of all Unaffiliated voters back Medicaid expansion in this district. Expanded school choice was more popular among black voters – 62% support – than any key demographic aside from Republicans.

Voter Group	All		Women		Men		White		Black	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Medical Marijuana	73%	22%	75%	19%	69%	25%	74%	20%	72%	24%
Sports Betting	39%	45%	33%	48%	47%	42%	35%	47%	54%	36%
Universal School Choice	55%	39%	49%	43%	62%	34%	53%	42%	62%	31%
2.5% Income Tax	77%	14%	77%	13%	78%	14%	77%	14%	77%	15%
Medicaid Expansion	61%	31%	64%	28%	57%	36%	58%	35%	73%	19%
Expansion w/ work req.	89%	7%	92%	4%	86%	11%	88%	8%	93%	3%

How the Big Policy Issues Could Impact this Election

Elections analysts pegged HD-82 as a tossup district in a neutral environment but one that likely will sail whichever way the political winds blow. That’s what this survey indicates, too. The generic ballot favors Republicans by eight points, several points outside this poll’s margin of error. Representative Kristin Baker, the incumbent Republican, led her Democratic challenger by the same eight-point margin, 50% to 42%, but Jeanes recently withdrew her candidacy. Regardless of who Democrats choose to replace Jeanes on the ballot, Undecided voters in the district support the passage of all 5 of the major policy issues and none of those issues are likely to hurt Rep. Baker’s prospects for re-election in November.

