

NC Senate District 17

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 17th Senate 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:

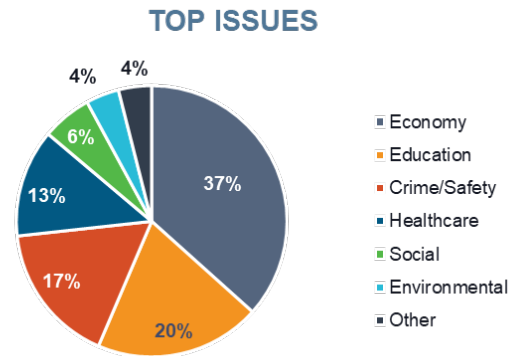
- Medical Marijuana – [Senate Bill 711](#) and [House Bill 929](#) authorize doctors to prescribe medical marijuana for the treatment of certain medical conditions and illnesses.
- Sports Betting – [Senate Bill 688](#) and [House Bill 631](#) legalize sports wagering.
- Increasing School Choice – [Senate 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 Senate District 17

Senate District 17 stretches across the Southern part of Wake County, encompassing the Towns of Apex and Holly Springs in the Southwest, and Fuquay Varina and unincorporated areas in the Southeast. House District 37, represented by Republican Erin Paré, is almost wholly contained in Senate District 17. About 40% of registered voters in this district are Unaffiliated and nearly 80% are white. Politically, SD-17 is a poster child for the rapidly shifting political dynamics of the Trump era: it once favored Republicans but has shifted quickly over the past decade and now favors Democrats slightly in a neutral political environment. Most Democrats running statewide won the district in 2020, including Governor Roy Cooper (55%), President Joe Biden (52%) and Democratic US Senate candidate Cal Cunningham (48%). The incumbent, Democrat Sydney Batch, was appointed to the seat after losing re-election to the State House to Paré in 2020. Batch, an attorney, is being challenged by Mark Cavaliero, a businessman and Marine Corps veteran who challenged former Senator Sam Searcy in 2020.

Where Voters Stand on the Issues

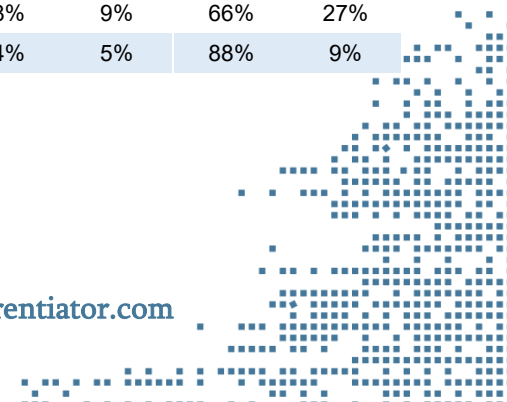
A plurality of voters (37%) in this district are more concerned about the economy than any other issue. 20% of voters said education is the most important issue and 17% said crime and public safety, followed by healthcare (13%).



At least a plurality of voters in this district support each of the 5 big policy issues the legislature could take up during the short session. More than 70% of all voters support cutting the income tax, allowing doctors to prescribe medical marijuana, and expanding Medicaid with a work requirement. Those issues have broad support across every key demographic group.

Voter Group	All		Batch		Cavaliero		Undecided	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Medical Marijuana	77%	19%	89%	8%	64%	31%	74%	19%
Sports Betting	44%	41%	47%	36%	43%	44%	37%	49%
Universal School Choice	53%	42%	30%	65%	77%	21%	52%	30%
2.5% Income Tax	72%	18%	54%	35%	88%	3%	83%	9%
Medicaid Expansion	67%	28%	95%	4%	39%	54%	60%	31%
Expansion w/ work req.	91%	7%	98%	2%	84%	14%	90%	3%

Voter Group	All		Republican		Unaffiliated		Democratic		Parent	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Medical Marijuana	77%	19%	66%	28%	80%	17%	85%	12%	79%	18%
Sports Betting	44%	41%	43%	46%	46%	38%	43%	39%	49%	39%
Universal School Choice	53%	42%	71%	24%	50%	46%	37%	56%	56%	40%
2.5% Income Tax	72%	18%	90%	4%	65%	22%	62%	29%	69%	19%
Medicaid Expansion	67%	28%	49%	46%	65%	28%	88%	9%	66%	27%
Expansion w/ work req.	91%	7%	87%	11%	92%	6%	94%	5%	88%	9%



By a wide (52/30) margin, voters who said they were undecided in the State Senate race favor expanding school choice. Even Republicans (49/46) in SD-17 support expanding Medicaid with or without a work requirement, and Unaffiliated voters are more supportive (46/40) of sports betting than most other key voter groups.

Voter Group	All		Women		Men		White		Black	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Medical Marijuana	77%	19%	76%	19%	78%	19%	80%	17%	68%	27%
Sports Betting	44%	41%	33%	41%	56%	37%	45%	39%	51%	37%
Universal School Choice	53%	42%	51%	44%	55%	39%	53%	43%	63%	33%
2.5% Income Tax	72%	18%	74%	17%	70%	20%	70%	20%	79%	12%
Medicaid Expansion	67%	28%	70%	24%	63%	33%	66%	29%	75%	21%
Expansion w/ work req.	91%	7%	93%	6%	90%	9%	92%	7%	91%	6%

How the Big Policy Issues Could Impact this Election

Many analysts have rated this potential supermajority-making district as leaning Democratic, as the district has trended away from the GOP in recent elections. But this survey points toward a very competitive election in 2022. Democrats lead on the generic ballot by just one point, while Batch, despite running multiple competitive State House campaigns in the heart of this district, only leads Cavaliero by two points, 45%-43%. The 5 big policy issues before the legislature are mostly popular with the Unaffiliated and Undecided voters in the district and could help Batch win this race if she can use them to draw a contrast with Cavaliero.

