Survey of Georgia Registered Voters

Conducted by 20/20 Insight, LLC
August 15-18, 2012

1500 Registered Voters (2.5% Margin of Error) = RV
1158 Likely November Voters (2.9% Margin of Error) = LV
Some questions are subsamples - size and margin of error noted

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Q1 Thinking about the direction of things in [area] right now, would you say they are headed in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

			Right Direction	Wrong Track	Not Sure	Right - Wrong
A	The Nation	**RV**	33	62	5	-29
	(759 RV/3.6%; 582 LV/4.1%)	**LV**	33	62	5	-29
B	The State of Georgia	**RV**	27	62	12	-35
	(741 RV/3.6%; 576 LV/4.1%)	**LV**	27	61	12	-34

Q2 Generic State Ballot

RV	**LV**	
45	45	Democratic Candidate
45	48	Republican Candidate
9	8	Not Certain
47	46	Democratic Total/Includes Leaners
47	49	Republican Total/Includes Leaners
0	-3	Democratic - Republican margin

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Q3 [ONLY ASKED OF RESPONDENTS REGISTERED IN COUNTIES WHERE TSPLOST FAILED] You may have heard that Georgia's recent referendum on the "TSPOLST" was voted down in your part of the state. Had the referendum passed, it would have raised the sales tax by a penny on the dollar to fund transportation improvements. Now that voters rejected the referendum, what do you think state leaders should do?
(1325 RV/2.7%; 1028 LV/3.1%)

RV	LV	
27	27	Governor Deal and legislators should do nothing more on transportation
23	23	Governor Deal and legislators should have more regional referendums on raising the sales tax for transportation improvements
28	28	Governor Deal and legislators should pass a new statewide transportation plan without another referendum
22	22	not sure

Q4 The Public Service Commission is the state agency that regulates Georgia Power. It has allowed Georgia Power to pay for building new nuclear reactors by charging customers a surcharge on electricity bills, which increases the cost of power now even though the new reactors won't actually be producing power for many years. Some say this is the only way to pay for the new reactors. Others say that Georgia Power's shareholders should finance new reactors with their money, and shouldn't be able to charge ratepayers higher rates until it's actually selling them the power that the reactors produce when they are done. What do you think?
(842 RV/3.4%; 640 LV/3.9%)

RV	LV	
12	13	Charge Customers
79	79	Pay for with shareholder money
8	8	Not Sure

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Q5 Do you support or oppose raising the Georgia state income tax by one percentage point on [GROUP] to fund improvements in public schools and transportation?

			Yes	No	Not Sure
A	People making more than $250,000/year	**RV**	57	35	8
	(420 RV/4.8%; 328 LV/5.4%)	**LV**	56	36	8
B	Big corporations making more than $5,000,000/year	**RV**	53	37	10
	(395 RV/4.9%; 314 LV/5.5%)	**LV**	51	39	9
C	Combined: People/Corporations	**RV**	55	36	9
	(814 RV/3.4%; 642 LV/3.9%)	**LV**	54	38	9

Q6 Some people say Georgia government should have stronger environmental laws to ensure that sportsmen have places to hunt and fish, now and in the future, and to protect public health. Others say that stronger environmental laws hurt the economy and cost people jobs, and that Georgia should not enact them. What do you think?
(413 RV/4.8%; 315 LV/5.5%)

RV	**LV**	
48	47	Have Stronger Environmental Laws
36	38	Should Not enact stronger laws
16	15	Not Sure

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Q8 To address a shortage in funding from the lottery, some legislators propose to limit the HOPE Scholarship to students who come from families making no more than $140,000 a year. This proposal would ensure that the state once again has the funds to cover all tuition and fees at in state public college for middle class Georgia students who graduate from high school with a B average or better. Do you support or oppose this proposal?
(859 RV/3.3%; 663 LV/3.8%)

RV	LV	
50	49	Support, Strongly
7	6	Support (not strongly)
3	3	Oppose (not strongly)
22	24	Oppose, Strongly
9	9	Neither Support/Oppose
9	8	Not sure
56	56	Total Support
26	27	Total Oppose
31	29	Support - Oppose margin

Q9 Under the new health care reform law, Georgia has the option to expand its Medicaid program to add more people who are working and don't qualify for welfare, but don't make enough to buy private health insurance. The law requires the federal government to pay at least 90% of the cost. Do you support expanding Medicaid or not?
(427 RV/4.7%; 323 LV/5.5%)

RV	LV	
52	49	Support
36	39	Oppose
12	12	Not Sure

Q10 Some people say that gay marriage should be legalized because people should be allowed to do what they want. Other people say that while gay marriage should not be legal, the government should recognize civil unions that protect rights like hospital visitation and inheritance. Still other people say that the government should not recognize any relationships other than marriage between a man and a woman. What do you think?
(264 RV/6.0%; 201 LV/6.9%)

RV	LV	
25	23	Legalize Gay Marriage
35	34	Civil Unions Only
34	37	No Legal Recognition
6	6	Not Sure

Q11 Georgia law currently allows corporations to give contributions to politicians' campaigns. Some have proposed banning corporations from giving to politicians in order to reduce special interest influence in politics. Do you support this proposal?
(400 RV/4.9%; 305 LV/5.6%)

RV	LV	
53	55	Support
30	29	Oppose
17	16	Not Sure

Q12 Some people say that state government should attract new companies to Georgia by aggressively competing with other states by offering special tax breaks and financial incentives. Others say that rather than offering specific tax breaks for particular companies, the state should attract business by making our schools, roads and other infrastructure as strong as possible. If you had to choose between the two, which approach would you pick?
(822 RV/3.4%; 638 LV/3.9%)

RV	LV	
34	36	Special Tax Breaks and Incentives
54	53	Make Schools, Roads and Infrastructure as strong as possible
12	11	Not Sure

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Q13 Over the last several years, the state legislature has cut money for local school districts, failing to meet its funding obligation under Georgia law. As a result, local school property taxes have gone up. Some legislators propose creating a school trust fund that will safeguard tax dollars meant for schools to prevent politicians from spending it on other things. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

(843 RV/3.4%; 648 LV/3.8%)

RV	LV	
73	74	Support
10	10	Oppose
17	16	Not Sure

Q14 Now I'm going to ask you about your opinion of Governor Nathan Deal on some specific traits. For each one, please rate him on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best.

			1 (Worst)	2	3	4	5 (Best)	Not Sure	Mean Score
A	Competence to manage state government	**RV**	18	14	27	15	11	16	2.85
	(720 RV/3.7%; 548 LV/4.2%)	**LV**	18	14	27	16	12	13	2.89
B	Honesty	**RV**	21	15	21	16	9	19	2.73
	(764 RV/3.5%; 588 LV/4.0%)	**LV**	21	15	21	18	9	16	2.77
C	Leadership ability	**RV**	15	16	27	17	9	15	2.86
	(789 RV/3.5%; 605 LV/4.0%)	**LV**	16	16	28	19	9	13	2.88
D	Concern for the middle class	**RV**	23	15	20	15	8	20	2.63
	(727 RV/3.6%; 575 LV/4.1%)	**LV**	23	16	19	15	9	17	2.65

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Q15 Which of the following approaches do you believe Georgia state government should take to improve the economy and create jobs? Should it invest money in improving schools and infrastructure or should it keep taxes and regulations as low as possible?

RV	LV	
48	48	Invest in improving schools and infrastructure
43	45	Keep Taxes and Regulations as low as possible
8	7	Not Sure

Q16 The Republicans have been in complete control of Georgia government for almost a decade. Some people say that one party control leads to corruption and extreme decisions, so voters should give Democrats some power, while others say that Republicans should remain in total control. What do you think?

RV	LV	
52	51	Give Democrats some power
36	38	Republicans should remain in total control
12	11	Not Sure

And now we have a few final questions to make sure a representative sample of all voters has been called.

Q17 Age

RV	LV	
17	16	18-29
30	30	30-44
38	38	45-64
11	12	65 & Older
4	4	Refused To Say

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Q18 Gender

RV	LV	
51	51	Female
45	45	Male
4	3	Rather Not Say

Q19 And do you come from a Hispanic or Spanish speaking background, or not?

RV	LV	
4	4	Yes
92	93	No
1	1	Not Sure
3	3	Rather Not Say

And can you tell me what you consider to be your main race

RV	LV	
58	60	White
29	29	Black/African American
1	1	American Indian/Alaska Native
1	0	Asian
0	0	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
2	2	Some Other Race
3	3	More Than One Race
0	0	Not Sure
5	5	Rather Not Say

Q20 Thinking about the political parties, can you tell me what party you consider yourself to be a member of?

RV	LV	
39	38	Democrat
31	32	Republican
25	25	Independent
2	2	Third Party
4	3	Not Sure

[D/R combined with followup for others about what party they usually choose in two way race, not read option also included depends on the person]

45	44	Total Democratic Base Vote
42	44	Total Republican Base Vote

Thank you for your time today. That concludes our survey.

Q21 DMA: CODED NOT ASKED

RV	LV	
5	5	Albany
63	63	Atlanta
4	4	Augusta
3	3	Columbus
8	8	Macon
7	8	Savannah
4	4	Tallahassee/Thomasville
6	6	Fringe/Out of State

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Statement of Methodology: 20/20 Insight, LLC surveyed 1,654 Georgia Registered Voters from Aug 15-18, 2012. These 1,654 interviews were then weighted to 1,500 representative Georgia Registered voters. The survey's margin of error is +/-2.5% at a confidence level of 95%. From these interviews, a modeled likely voter subset of 1,158 interviews (+/- 2.9% @ 95%) was created. 20/20 Insight, LLC conducts surveys using automated interactive voice response (IVR) technology. This is what is often referred to in the media as a "robo poll".

No live human operators spoke to respondents, who used their touch-tone phones to answer questions. Every respondent heard the exact same prompt for each question, except where noted a computer randomized the order in which they heard questions, ballot choices or names. To keep the average call length to a reasonable amount of time, some questions were read only to a sub-sample or split-sample of respondents. Respondents had up to 5 seconds to answer each question after the full prompt was read, and could answer early at any time once they heard their choice. On average for this survey, respondents spent more than 12 minutes on the phone, and slightly more than 30% of those called who initially agreed to take the survey did not complete it due to dropoff or some other factor.

The frequencies reported in this survey include the weighted results from ONLY the 1,500 modeled respondents who answered every question including the demographic profile.

Additional demographic weighting was applied to the survey using statistical information available from the Georgia Secretary of State and the 2008 Exit Poll for the Georgia General Election available on www.cnn.com. More than 87% of poll respondents had a final weight applied of less than 1.5. A weighting of 1 would mean no weighting was applied. This weighting, and other factors such as refusal to be interviewed may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify. 20/20 Insight, LLC employed multiple callbacks over successive days and at different hours during the day and also attempted to convert those who initially decline to participate in order to reduce any respondent bias introduced by only interviewing the subset of the general population that answers a call on any random night. A "raking" weighting methodology was used - first the survey was raked to match Georgia's racial and ethnic population, then the survey was adjusted for age and finally the survey was adjusted for gender. The likely voter weighting was a two-step weighting done first by age and then self-reported (Q1207) previous turnout frequency.