

League of Conservation Voters Climate-Smart Agriculture NC-01 Survey Findings

Methodology

Quantitative Research

Global Strategy Group and North Star Opinion Research conducted a survey of **400 likely 2024 voters in NC-01** between August 22 and August 31, 2023. The survey was conducted on the phone and via text-to-web.

Confidence Interval

The confidence interval at the 95% confidence level is 4.9%.

The confidence interval on sub-samples is greater.



Demographics of NC-01

| Gender | | | Party Self-Identification | |
|--------|-------------------|----|---------------------------------|---------|
| | Men | 44 | Democi | ats 30 |
| | Women | 56 | Independents (w/ lean | ers) 34 |
| Age | | | Republic | ans 30 |
| | 18-29 year olds | 14 | Region | |
| | 30-44 year olds | 20 | Greenville – New Bern – Washing | on 30 |
| | 45-54 year olds | 15 | Norfolk – Portsmouth – Newp | ort 14 |
| | 55-64 year olds | 19 | Raleigh – Durham No | rth 2 |
| | Seniors 65+ | 33 | Raleigh – Durham So | uth 3 |
| Race | | | | |
| | White | 59 | | |
| | White non-college | 44 | | |
| | White college | 14 | | |
| | Black | 40 | | |
| | Hispanic | 2 | | |
| | AAPI | 1 | | |

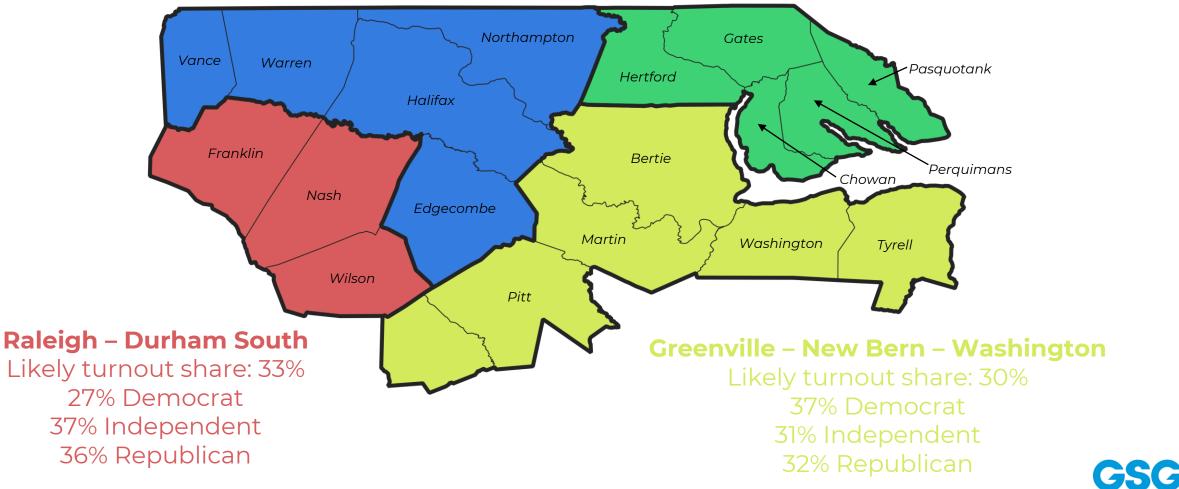
Map of NC-01

Raleigh – Durham North

Likely turnout share: 23% 49% Democrat 25% Independent 26% Republican

Norfolk – Portsmouth – Newport

Likely turnout share: 14% 30% Democrat 49% Independent 20% Republican



Key Findings

NC-01 constituents want to see action in the Farm Bill to help farmers and ranchers deal with and prepare for extreme weather. Constituents reject the idea that we need to choose between supporting American farmers and protecting our environment. Instead, an overwhelming majority agrees: "We can do both." As a result, big majorities agree that Congress should take action in the upcoming Farm Bill to help farmers deal with extreme weather and protect drinking water from pollution, as well as helping prepare farmers and ranchers prepare for extreme weather.

They strongly support climate-smart ag funding in the IRA – and overwhelmingly oppose using the Farm Bill to repeal or redirect that funding... NC-01 constituents support the \$19.5 billion in the IRA to help farmers reduce pollution and make their farms more resilient to extreme weather by a more than two-to-one margin, and they support specific programs funded by that \$19.5 billion by even larger margins. Moreover, when we put them to a choice, constituents want to use the funding as intended rather than repealing it or redirecting it to "other agricultural programs, like federal subsidies for crop prices" by more than a two-to-one margin as well.

... Because they overwhelmingly believe repealing the funding will negatively impact the economy, the cost of food and groceries, and the security of America's food systems.

Opposition to repealing or redirecting funding holds strong after a simulated debate. After hearing a balanced debate with messaging from both sides, while losing some ground, opposition to repealing or redirecting the climate-smart ag funding remains robust – with three in five in NC-01 continuing to favor using the funding as intended.

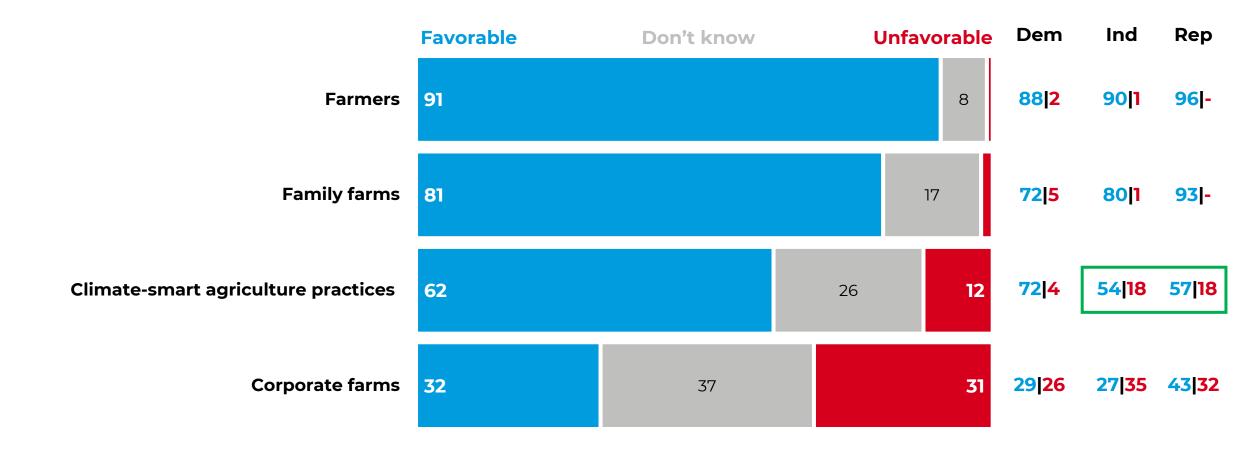


Landscape



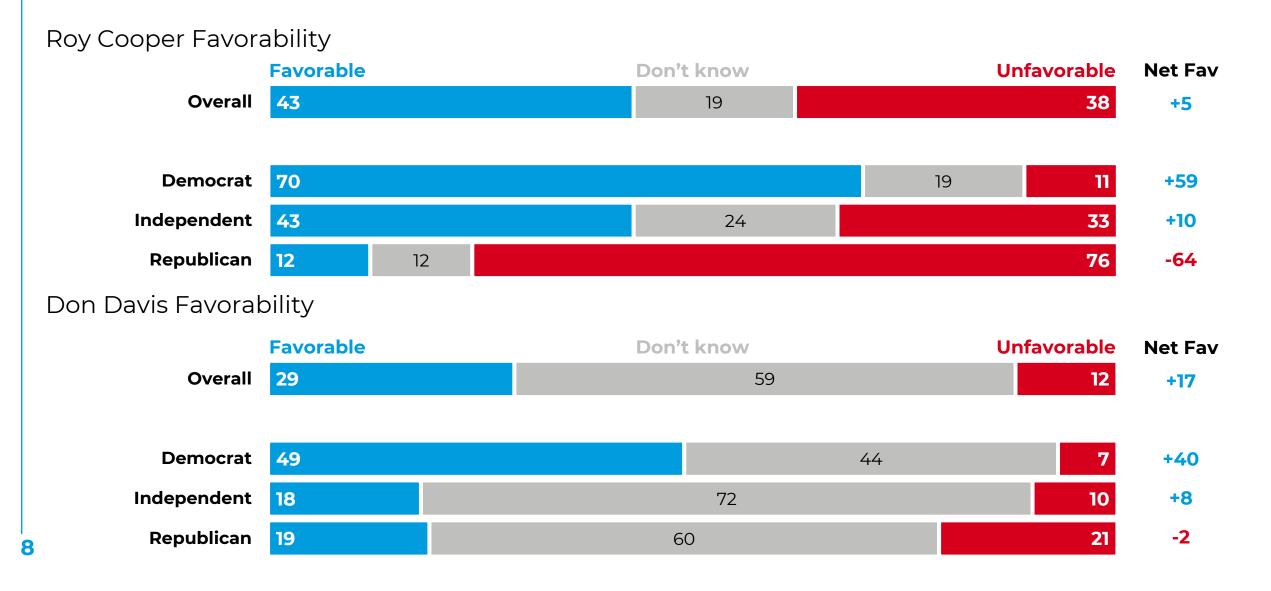
Constituents in NC-01 are intensely favorable to farmers and family farms and view climate-smart agriculture quite positively; even among Republicans

Favorability of Groups and Concepts



GSG

While Governor Cooper is known by most residents, Don Davis is unfamiliar to nearly three in five. Cooper has mixed ratings



Constituents across the aisle agree we need to protect America's farms from extreme weather and that we do not need to choose between supporting farmers and protecting the environment

Totol Agree

Climate and Farm Bill Statements

| | 5 | | | т | otal Agree | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------|-----|------------|-----|
| | Agree | DK/Ref | Disagree | Dem | Ind | Rep |
| In the upcoming Farm Bill, Congress should include programs that help farmers deal with extreme weather like droughts and floods | 92 71% stro | ngly agree | 5 | 91 | 93 | 91 |
| We don't have to choose between supporting American farmers and protecting our environment. We can do both | 88 63% stro | ngly agree | 11 | 90 | 90 | 85 |
| In the upcoming Farm Bill, Congress should include programs that help conserve water and protect our drinking water from pollution | 87 60% stro | ongly agree | 10 | 94 | 83 | 83 |
| North Carolina farmers and ranchers need more tools to prepare for extreme weather | 81 <i>5</i> 9% stro | ngly agree | 6 13 | 84 | 82 | 76 |
| As extreme weather events continue to become more frequent and more severe, we need to take steps that will make America's farms and food systems more resilient and reliable | 80 53% stro | ngly agree | 18 | 92 | 81 | 63 |
| The federal government should enact agricultural policies that reduce pollution | 72 45% stro | ongly agree | 25 | 89 | 80 | 43 |



Climate-Smart Agriculture Funding



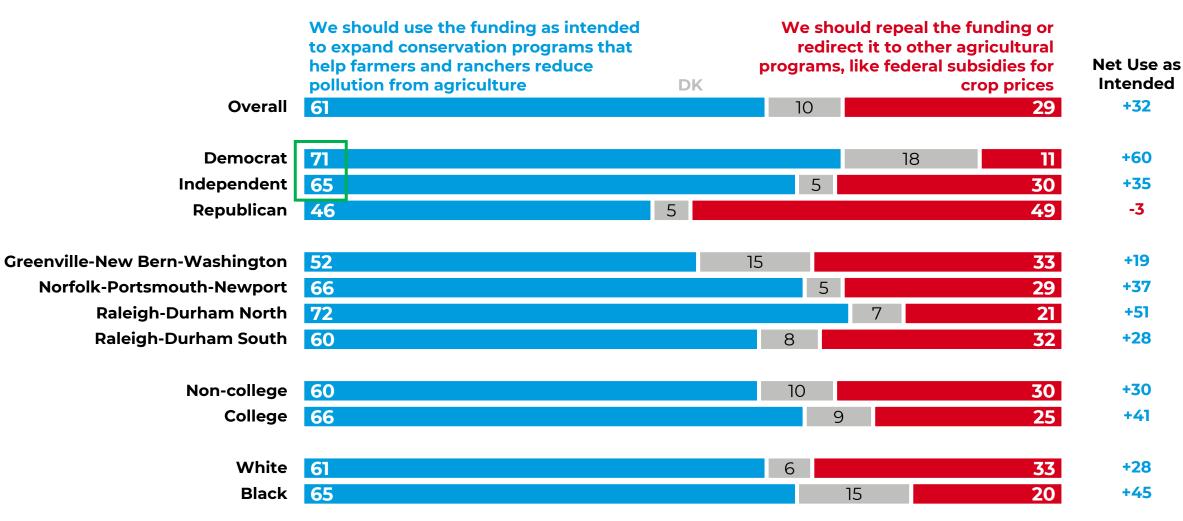
Constituents, including independents, strongly support the IRA's funding for climate-smart agricultural programs. Specific policies enjoy high levels of support

As you may know, last year, Democrats in Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which included \$19.5 billion in new funding to expand existing programs that help farmers and ranchers use practices that reduce their pollution and make their farms more resilient to extreme weather. Just based on what you know, do you support or oppose this funding?



More than three in five support using the climate-smart ag funding as intended, including two-thirds of independents

Some members of Congress have said that as part of the Farm Bill, they want to repeal the \$19.5 billion that was provided to help farmers and ranchers reduce the amount of pollution they create by expanding conservation programs and other climate-smart agricultural practices. Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?



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NC-01 constituents believe repealing this funding would have a negative impact on all metrics tested

Impact of Repealing Funding for Climate-Smart Agricultural Programs

| | | Positive | | | Negative | | Negati | ve Imp | act |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|----|----------|---------|--------|--------|-----|
| | | impact I | No impact | DK | impact | Overall | Dem | Ind | Rep |
| | Climate change | 15 | 31 | | 50 | -35 | -12 | -56 | -35 |
| | The American economy | 28 | 10 4 | | 58 | -30 | -10 | -39 | -39 |
| | The cost of food and groceries | 30 | 13 | | 55 | -25 | -11 | -46 | -15 |
| т | he security of America's food system | 31 | 12 4 | | 53 | -22 | -3 | -50 | -4 |
| | America's rural communities | 28 | 16 9 | | 48 | -20 | -22 | -17 | -20 |
| | Future generations of Americans | 31 | 15 7 | 7 | 48 | -17 | -23 | -17 | -9 |
| | America's farmers and ranchers | 30 | 20 | 4 | 47 | -17 | -17 | -21 | -13 |
| | You and your family | 31 | 22 | 4 | 43 | -12 | -14 | -17 | -2 |
| 13 | America's lakes, rivers, streams, and drinking water | 33 | 19 | 7 | 41 | -8 | -10 | -21 | +4 |

Each half of the sample heard a different statement from supporters, while the full sample heard the same opposition statement. Each supporter framing yielded nearly identical results

Full Text of Supporter and Opposition Messaging: Thinking again about the \$19.5 billion that was provided to help farmers and ranchers reduce the amount of pollution they create by expanding conservation programs and other climate-smart agricultural practices...

Supporters of these policies say:

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[SPLIT A – FOOD SECURITY] Supporters say this funding will be used for programs that not only help farmers and ranchers, but also provide crucial protections to ensure the U.S. food system remains safe and reliable. Extreme weather associated with climate change, like droughts and floods, wreak havoc on farmers and endanger our country's food security. These conservation programs are an important investment in maintaining our country's food security and the wellbeing of our farmers, and they will provide a much-needed boost to America's rural communities, adding 90,000 new jobs in rural areas across America.

[SPLIT B – POLLUTION] Supporters say that the agricultural industry creates 10% of all climate pollution in America as well as a significant amount of toxic pollution that makes its way into our lakes, rivers, streams, and drinking water. These programs have a proven track record of reducing climate and water pollution to make sure everyone has clean water to drink and to make farms more resilient to extreme weather like droughts and floods. However, these programs are underfunded and can't meet the demand from all the farmers who want to participate. We should listen to farmers and expand these valuable programs that protect our farmers, our food supply, and our environment.

Opponents of these policies say:

[FULL SAMPLE] Opponents say that this funding is just another example of **runaway government spending that is driving up inflation, the price of food and groceries**, and the national debt. **The link between climate change and farming is being wildly exaggerated by radical politicians** who are pushing their own agenda. Congress should take this opportunity to cut this wasteful spending and, instead, invest in programs that will actually help our farmers who are still struggling to recover from the effects of the pandemic – **programs like crop subsidies and insurance** and other forms of financial assistance.

After hearing a balanced debate, an overwhelming majority still wants to use the IRA funding as intended – even a slight majority of Republicans

Vote Movement: Use Funding as Intended vs. Repealing/Redirecting Funding

| | | Initial Ask | | | Informed Ask | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Use as Intended | Repeal/ Redirect | NET Use as Intended | Use as Intended | Repeal/ Redirect | NET Use as Intended |
| Overall | 61 | 29 | +32 | 61 | 35 | +26 |
| Democrat | 71 | 11 | +60 | _65_ | 27 | +38 |
| Independent | 65 | 30 | +35 | 66 | 33 | +33 |
| Republican | 46 | 49 | -3 | 52 | 48 | +4 |
| Greenville – New Bern – Washington | 52 | 33 | +29 | 52 | 41 | +11 |
| Norfolk – Portsmouth – Newport | 66 | 29 | +37 | 65 | 32 | +33 |
| Raleigh – Durham North | 72 | 21 | +51 | 58 | 38 | +20 |
| Raleigh – Durham North | 60 | 32 | +28 | 71 | 28 | +43 |
| Non-college | 60 | 30 | +30 | 62 | 34 | +28 |
| College | 66 | 25 | +41 | 61 | 38 | +23 |
| White | 61 | 33 | +28 | 58 | 40 | +18 |
| Black | 65 | 20 | +45 | 67 | 26 | +41 |
| I | | | | | | |

Thank You

New York

Washington, DC

Hartford

Chicago

Denver

Seattle