

North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

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Elon University Poll

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www.elon.edu/elonpoll

Republicans Rule: Coronation, Control, & Change

“. . . the world is like an enormous spider web and if you touch it, however lightly, at any point, the vibration ripples to the remotest perimeter and the drowsy spider feels the tingle and is drowsy no more . . .”

-Jack Burden, from Robert Penn Warren's, *All The King's Men*

Coronation

Enthusiasm	Feb 2010			April 2010			Oct 2010		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Dem	Ind	Rep	Dem	Ind	Rep
Not Enthusiastic	77.1	82.1	55.6	75.7	65.7	60.6	53.6	58.2	35.8
Enthusiastic	11.7	8.2	16.0	7.7	12.5	13.9	14.0	16.2	16.8
Very & Extremely	11.2	9.7	28.5 +17	16.6	21.8	25.5 +9	27.4	18.6	40.5 +13

Feb 2010, N= 607, +/- 4.1; April 2010, N= 508, +/- 4.4; 10/2010, N=515, +/-4.4

Coronation

- Turnout – 44%
 - Republicans – 50%
 - Democrats – 44%
 - Independents – 33%
- Key Groups
 - Women – D-45%, R-49%
 - Men – D-44%, R-52%
 - Blacks – 40% (whites-46%)

Source: *Democracy NC*

Control

- Thom Tillis (R) Mecklenburg
 - 2 terms (Hackney=15)
- Phil Berger (R) Rockingham
 - 5 terms (Basnight=13)

Control

■ Loss of Institutional Knowledge

Charlie Albertson (D-Duplin), Julia Boseman (D-New Hanover),
Eddie Goodall (R-Union), David Hoyle (D-Gaston),
Jim Jacumin (R-Burke), Tony Rand (D-Cumberland),
Larry Shaw (D-Cumberland), R.C. Soles (D-Columbus),
David Weinstein (D-Robeson)

Change

- Legislature/Legislative Adjustment
- Leadership Learning Curve
- Statewide gains in Republican County Commissioners

Consequences

- Budget
- Services
- Issues
- Taxes

Consequences

■ Budget

- ❖ resolve without increasing taxes
- ❖ ~\$3.2 billion
- ❖ Fiscal Research Report ~ \$3.7 billion
[\$21.9 – \$18.2 = \$3.7; 12/7/10]

Consequences

■ Services

- ❖ Governor's consolidation plan [no \$ est]
 - ❖ HHS & DENR "changes & reductions"
 - ❖ privatizing IT
 - ❖ hiring freeze
- ❖ Trickle-Down Effect for Counties (?)
 - ❖ HHS: Social Services: Senior, Medicaid, Disability, Child services
 - ❖ DENR: financial/technical assistance

Consequences

■ Issue Targeted

- Adjust Charter School Cap (-)
- Annexation & Eminent Domain (+/-)
- ABC System (?/-)
- Voter ID (?/-)
- Abortion (+/-)
- Economic Development Incentives (-)
- Criminal Punishment (tougher penalties)

Consequences

■ Taxes

- State Tax Rates Reduced → Local Tax Rate Increases
- Local Property Values down

■ Public Opinion

- 'Too Little' spent on Education
- Businesses should pay more
- More than half support State Sales Tax Increase

Trickle Down Effect

Infrastructure	Miscellaneous
Education ✓	ABC System
Water & Sewer ✓	Annexation ✓
Age Wave ✓	Econ Dev Incentives ✓
Technical Support ✓	Oil Industry
Transportation (?)	Local Option Taxes

Thank You

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