



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **North Carolinians want to vote on proposed transfer tax**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – According to a recent survey conducted by Public Policy Polling (PPP), North Carolinians want the opportunity to vote on whether or not their county can use a transfer tax by a margin of nearly 10 to 1. The survey was commissioned by the Partnership for North Carolina's Future.

Eighty four percent of those surveyed agreed that “voters in each North Carolina county should be able to vote on whether or not their counties can use a one time transfer tax to pay for communities needs...”, while only 8% were opposed.

“People want the same right to vote on the transfer tax that other counties have and they would be more likely (62-14) to vote for legislators who support giving them that vote,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

When given a choice of how to pay for schools, safe, clean water, better roads, open spaces and housing for seniors, those surveyed preferred a 1% transfer tax to a 10% property tax increase 75% to 25%. On average a 1% transfer tax would be equal to about a 10% property tax increase in most counties.

Survey respondents also favored (82%-18%) an impact fee charged to developers for each newly built home or business and a large majority (62%-38%) supported a tax on realtor commissions to help pay for community needs.

Additionally, 79% felt that realtors were being hypocritical by saying that a 1% transfer tax would prevent people from buying a home when those realtors charge a 6% commission.

In the last election the realtors and homebuilders made more than \$900,000 in contributions to legislative candidates. According to the survey, 70% of likely North Carolina voters said they would be less likely to vote for legislators who received large contributions from realtors and homebuilders.

PPP surveyed 517 likely North Carolina voters on July 17. The survey has a margin of error of  $\pm 4.3\%$ . Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and include crosstabs breaking down the results by gender, party affiliation, race, and age. If you have questions about this release or would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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## NC Survey Results

**Q1** Most local governments are under pressure to raise property taxes for capital investments in schools, roads, water and sewer, parks and housing for fixed income seniors. An alternative to increasing property taxes is a real estate transfer tax that's paid one time when a property is sold. Five North Carolina counties have used revenues from a transfer tax to pay for schools and other infrastructure and reduce property taxes.

Do you feel that voters in each North Carolina county should be able to vote on whether or not their counties can use a one time transfer tax to pay for community needs as an alternative to property tax increases? If you think yes people should be able to vote, press 1 on your keypad now. If no, press 2. If you don't know, press 3.

*Support* .....84% *Don't know* ..... 7%  
*Oppose* ..... 8%

**Q2** If your legislator supported giving you the right to vote on whether or not your county should have the transfer tax, would that make you more or less likely to vote for your legislator. If more likely, press 1. If less likely, press 2. If no difference, press 3.

*More Likely* .....62% *No Difference*.....24%  
*Less Likely*.....14%

**Q3** A one-time 1% transfer tax is on average equal to a 10% increase in property taxes. Would you prefer a property tax increase that would be paid annually, or one-time transfer tax to pay for schools, safe, clean water, better roads, open spaces and housing for seniors? If you would prefer a 10% property tax increase, press 1. If you would prefer a 1% land transfer tax, press 2.

*Property tax* .....25% *Transfer tax*.....75%

**Q4** The Realtors and Home Builders have given \$900,000 in contributions to state legislators. If your legislator received a large contribution from the Realtors would that make you more or less likely to vote for that legislator? If more likely to vote for the legislator, press 1. If less likely, press 2. If no difference, press 3.

*More Likely* ..... 6% *No Difference*.....24%  
*Less Likely* .....70%

**Q5** North Carolina Realtors say that a 1% transfer tax would prevent people from buying a home, yet they charge a 6% commission. Do you think the Realtors are being hypocritical? If yes, press 1. If not, press 2.

*Yes*..... 79% *No* .....21%

**Q6** Realtors make \$12,000 on a sale of the average sized home. Some say realtors should contribute a small portion of their commissions to pay for community needs like schools and roads. Would you support a small tax on realtor commissions? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

*Yes*.....62% *No* ..... 38%

**Q7** Others suggest an impact fee charged to developers for each newly built home or business that would help build schools, roads, water and sewer, housing for seniors, and land and water conservation. Would you support requiring developers to pay an impact fee? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

*Yes*..... 82% *No* ..... 18%

**Q8** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Women* .....54% *Men*.....46%

**Q9** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

*Democrat*.....41% *Other*.....17%  
*Republican*.....42%



**Q10** If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If Hispanic, press 3. If other, press  
*White* .....79% *Other*..... 4%  
*Black*.....17%

**Q11** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.  
*18-29*..... 6% *46-65*.....51%  
*30-45*.....17% *Older Than 65*.....25%



**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Vote for Transfer Tax</b>			
<b>Support</b>	84%	84%	84%
<b>Oppose</b>	8%	6%	12%
<b>Don't know</b>	7%	10%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Likely to vote for legislator if supports transfer tax vote</b>			
<b>More Likely</b>	62%	58%	67%
<b>Less Likely</b>	14%	11%	17%
<b>No Difference</b>	24%	31%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>10% property tax or 1% transfer tax</b>			
<b>Property tax</b>	25%	23%	28%
<b>Transfer tax</b>	75%	77%	72%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Likely to support legislator if received money from Realtors</b>			
<b>More Likely</b>	6%	5%	8%
<b>Less Likely</b>	70%	63%	78%
<b>No Difference</b>	24%	32%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Realtors Hypocritical?</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	79%	82%	76%
<b>No</b>	21%	18%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Tax on real estate commissions</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	62%	61%	63%
<b>No</b>	38%	39%	37%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Impact fee</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	82%	84%	79%
<b>No</b>	18%	16%	21%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Vote for Transfer Tax</b>				
<b>Support</b>	84%	82%	88%	82%
<b>Oppose</b>	8%	6%	9%	11%
<b>Don't know</b>	7%	12%	3%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Likely to vote for legislator if supports transfer tax vote</b>				
<b>More Likely</b>	62%	61%	66%	55%
<b>Less Likely</b>	14%	12%	14%	18%
<b>No Difference</b>	24%	27%	20%	27%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>10% property tax or 1% transfer tax</b>				
<b>Property tax</b>	25%	25%	22%	32%
<b>Transfer tax</b>	75%	75%	78%	68%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Likely to support legislator if received money from Realtors</b>				
<b>More Likely</b>	6%	3%	8%	10%
<b>Less Likely</b>	70%	66%	76%	62%
<b>No Difference</b>	24%	31%	15%	28%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Realtors Hypocritical?</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	79%	84%	78%	68%
<b>No</b>	21%	16%	22%	32%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Tax on real estate commissions</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	62%	66%	67%	42%
<b>No</b>	38%	34%	33%	58%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Impact fee</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	82%	86%	79%	79%
<b>No</b>	18%	14%	21%	21%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Vote for Transfer Tax</b>				
<b>Support</b>	84%	87%	72%	88%
<b>Oppose</b>	8%	9%	7%	6%
<b>Don't know</b>	7%	4%	22%	6%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Likely to vote for legislator if supports transfer tax vote</b>				
<b>More Likely</b>	62%	65%	50%	50%
<b>Less Likely</b>	14%	14%	13%	25%
<b>No Difference</b>	24%	21%	37%	25%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>10% property tax or 1% transfer tax</b>				
Property tax	25%	24%	28%	38%
Transfer tax	75%	76%	72%	63%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Likely to support legislator if received money from Realtors</b>				
More Likely	6%	7%	2%	13%
Less Likely	70%	72%	61%	63%
No Difference	24%	21%	37%	25%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Realtors Hypocritical?</b>				
Yes	79%	79%	83%	75%
No	21%	21%	17%	25%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Tax on real estate commissions</b>				
Yes	62%	63%	61%	53%
No	38%	37%	39%	47%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Impact fee</b>				
Yes	82%	81%	84%	88%
No	18%	19%	16%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Vote for Transfer Tax</b>					
Support	85%	86%	90%	85%	82%
Oppose	8%	14%	6%	9%	6%
Don't know	7%	-	4%	6%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Likely to vote for legislator if supports transfer tax vote</b>					
More Likely	63%	47%	64%	66%	59%
Less Likely	14%	8%	11%	15%	16%
No Difference	23%	44%	25%	19%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>10% property tax or 1% transfer tax</b>					
Property tax	25%	19%	30%	26%	20%
Transfer tax	75%	81%	70%	74%	80%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Likely to support legislator if received money from Realtors</b>					
<b>More Likely</b>	6%	14%	8%	6%	4%
<b>Less Likely</b>	70%	66%	62%	73%	70%
<b>No Difference</b>	23%	20%	30%	20%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Realtors Hypocritical?</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	79%	78%	80%	77%	82%
<b>No</b>	21%	22%	20%	23%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Tax on real estate commissions</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	62%	61%	47%	63%	69%
<b>No</b>	38%	39%	53%	37%	31%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older Than 65
<b>Impact fee</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	82%	78%	72%	85%	84%
<b>No</b>	18%	22%	28%	15%	16%

