

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 23, 2009**

**INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Overwhelming support for Sex Ed bill**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – 69% of North Carolina voters support a proposal in the General Assembly this year to let parents choose whether their children receive abstinence only or comprehensive sex education.

That includes majority support from every demographic group PPP tracks. Even a majority of conservatives (58%) and Republicans (54%) support the bill.

Several groups even exceed an 80% level of support for the bill, including 88% of self described liberals, 86% of urban voters, and 83% of African Americans.

It's interesting to note along age lines that the highest level of support comes from those respondents under the age of 30 who have most recently gone through the public schools in North Carolina. They express 76% support for the proposal.

“Legislators are doubtless going to hear a lot of opposition to this bill but it's going to be coming from a noisy minority,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The truth is that when you strip out the rhetoric and passion and explain simply what this proposal would do, it gets strong support from every segment of the population.”

Interestingly rural voters (69%) are somewhat more supportive than suburban voters (63%), not necessarily what you would intuitively expect. Women (77%) are a good deal more supportive than men (62%).

PPP polls last week also showed strong bipartisan support for the proposed smoking ban and opposition to making select Council of State positions appointed rather than elected.

PPP surveyed 1,020 North Carolina voters from February 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.07%. 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 can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

###



## North Carolina Survey Results

**Q1** A bill being considered in the Legislature would give parents the choice of having their children receive comprehensive sex education or abstinence only sex education. Would you support this proposal? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Yes ..... 69%  
No ..... 31%

**Q2** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

Liberal ..... 15%  
Moderate ..... 41%  
Conservative ..... 44%

**Q3** Would you describe the community you live in as urban, suburban, rural, or a small town? If urban, press 1. If suburban, press 2. If rural, press 3. If a small town, press 4.

Urban ..... 17%  
Suburban ..... 31%  
Rural ..... 28%  
Small Town ..... 23%

**Q4** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman ..... 51%  
Man ..... 49%

**Q5** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat ..... 48%  
Republican ..... 34%  
Independent/Other ..... 19%

**Q6** If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

White ..... 76%  
African-American ..... 21%  
Other ..... 3%

**Q7** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29 ..... 16%  
30 to 45 ..... 25%  
46 to 65 ..... 40%  
Older than 65 ..... 19%

**Q8**

252 ..... 14%  
336 ..... 18%  
704 ..... 18%  
828 ..... 16%  
910 ..... 15%  
919 ..... 18%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Sex Education Bill</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>69%</b>	88%	75%	58%
<b>No</b>	<b>31%</b>	12%	25%	42%

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Sex Education Bill</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	<b>69%</b>	86%	63%	69%	67%
<b>No</b>	<b>31%</b>	14%	37%	31%	33%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Sex Education Bill</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>69%</b>	77%	62%
<b>No</b>	<b>31%</b>	23%	38%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Sex Education Bill</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>69%</b>	80%	54%	70%
<b>No</b>	<b>31%</b>	20%	46%	30%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Sex Education Bill</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>69%</b>	65%	83%	82%
<b>No</b>	<b>31%</b>	35%	17%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Sex Education Bill</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	<b>69%</b>	76%	71%	69%	63%
<b>No</b>	<b>31%</b>	24%	29%	31%	37%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Sex Education Bill</b>							
<b>Yes</b>	<b>69%</b>	69%	64%	70%	68%	73%	74%
<b>No</b>	<b>31%</b>	31%	36%	30%	32%	27%	26%

