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Director's Report

FERREL GUILLORY, director, Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life

This issue of *NC DataNet* appears as the academic year nears a close. It seems an appropriate moment to report to our friends and supporters on the recent activities of the Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life.

Seminar for First-Term Legislators: In September, the School of Government and the Program convened first-term North Carolina legislators for a two-day consideration of issues facing lawmakers and a reflection on the 2003 session of the General Assembly. Ed Fouhy, director of the Pew Center on the States and executive editor of *Stateline.org*, and Tim Storey, a redistricting expert on the staff of the National Conference of State Legislatures, gave presentations. Lawmakers discussed the state budget-making process, legislative redistricting and the conduct of the state House under a co-speakership.

Carolina Seminar on Economic Development: Between September 2003 and April 2004, more than 50 people participated in an exploration of North Carolina's economy "After the Factories." Participants in the five, three-hour, Friday-afternoon seminars, co-sponsored by the Program and the School of Government, have included staff of the office of the Governor and state Department of Commerce, legislators, UNC faculty members from several campuses, staff of non-profit agencies and think-tanks.

Former Gov. Jim Hodges of South Carolina gave the opening address. Presenters have included Billy Ray Hall, president of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center; John Bardo, chancellor of Western Carolina University; Jim Clinton, executive director of the Southern Growth Policies Board; J.B. Milliken, vice president of the UNC system, and Jesse White, the new director of the UNC Office of Economic and Business Development.

Executive Seminar for Southern Legislators: In partnership with UNC's Program in the Humanities and Human Values, the Program sponsored the Fifth Annual Executive Seminar for Southern Legislators in November. Legislators from four states gathered in Chapel Hill for four days of presentations and

discussions on the trends and issues facing the region. Speakers included William Winter, former governor of Mississippi; Charles Haynes, senior scholar at the Freedom Forum's First Amendment Center, and faculty members of UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Law, School of Government and College of Arts and Sciences.

Future of the South Lecture: U.S. Senator Bob Graham delivered the inaugural "Future of the South" lecture, hosted by the Program and held in connection with the spring semester meeting of the board of the Center for the Study of the American South. In addition to board members, guests included several state legislators, UNC students and faculty.

Graham, a veteran senator and a former governor of Florida, noted the "massive transformation" of the South over the past three decades and issued a challenge to "cultivate the intellectual power" of the region toward developing a "new generation of leaders who can spearhead the progress of both the South and this nation." You can read more of Senator Graham's address on our Web site, www.southnow.org.

Southern Journalists Roundtable: The Program and Jack Bass, professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at the College of Charleston, co-sponsored a discussion of the South's political landscape four days before the South Carolina Democratic presidential primary. Held in Charleston, the roundtable featured a presentation on political attitudes in the South by Scott Keeter, deputy director of the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. Rep. Todd Rutherford, a South Carolina legislator, took part, as well as UNC political scientist Thad Beyle and College of Charleston political scientist Bill Moore. Journalists from South Carolina, North Carolina, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Washington, D.C., attended.

SouthNow: The Program continues to publish an array of data and analysis on North Carolina and the South in several formats. We rotate issuing the *NC DataNet* and *SouthNow* newsletters every two to

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New Voters Altering Political Landscape

JOHN QUINTERNO, assistant director, Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life

The in-migration of people from other states into North Carolina fueled much of the state's population growth between 1990 and 2000. A 2003 poll sponsored by NCFREE, a nonpartisan, pro-business organization based in Raleigh, found that voters who have moved to North Carolina since 1990 differ significantly from the overall electorate.

The 2000 U.S. Census found that North Carolina's population increased by 1.4 million between 1990 and 2000. Three factors accounted for this growth: a natural increase resulting from more births than deaths, immigration from foreign countries and in-migration from other parts of the U.S.

According to the Census Bureau, 337,883 more people age five and older moved into North Carolina than moved away between 1995 and 2000. Overall, North Carolina had the fourth-highest net in-migration rate in the nation between 1995 and 2000. Much of North Carolina's growth occurred in metropolitan areas, primarily Mecklenburg and Wake counties. In fact, almost a third of the state's net in-migrants settled in those two counties (Table 1).

North Carolina was the rare state that attracted in-migration from its own region, the South, and other regions, particularly the Northeast. For example, North Carolina netted 80,465 New Yorkers between 1995 and 2000 and joined Florida and New Jersey as the major magnets for relocating New Yorkers.

The state's in-migrants were overwhelmingly non-Hispanic whites. Non-Hispanic whites accounted for 67 percent of the state's net in-migration,

blacks 16 percent and Hispanics 12 percent. Also, native-born Americans accounted for 87 percent of North Carolina's total net in-migration.

Gauging In-migration's Political Impact

Last September, NCFREE commissioned pollster Verne Kennedy to survey 800 North Carolina voters, along with an over-sample of 200 non-Southern voters who had moved to the state since 1990 (margins of error: +/- 3.5 percentage points for the statewide sample and +/- 7.19 percentage points for the new voter sample). The study found that 20 percent of North Carolina voters have moved to the state since 1990 — a result consistent with the Voter News Service's finding that 19 percent of presidential voters in 2000 had moved to the state

Table 1:
Top NC Counties for In-migrants from Other States, 1995–2000

County	Net Migration (Other States) ¹	Net Migration (Within State) ²	Net Migration (Total) ³
Mecklenburg	57,618	-20,245	37,373
Wake	51,393	1,824	53,217
Guilford	14,605	-5,874	8,731
Durham	12,727	-3,714	9,013
Forsyth	10,970	-5,273	5,697
Iredell	10,768	2,252	13,020
Buncombe	9,571	-2,598	6,973
Cabarrus	9,330	3,157	12,487
Union	9,109	9,223	18,332
New Hanover	8,658	835	9,493
Johnston	7,253	8,206	15,459

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov/population/cen2000/phc-t22/tab01.pdf)

¹ Measures the difference between the number of people who moved into a county from other states and the number who left for counties in other states.

² Measures the difference between the number of people who moved into a county from other counties in the same state and the number who left for other counties in the same state.

³ Measures the difference between the number of people who moved into a county from all places and the number who left for all other places.

Table 2: Demographic Traits of New Voters

Trait	% New Voters ¹	% All Voters
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>		
White	85	74
African American	5	19
Hispanic	6	2
<i>Grew Up in</i>		
South	0	75
Northeast	52	12
Midwest	30	8
West	16	4
<i>Age</i>		
18–29	12	10
30–44	40	24
45–59	24	32
60 and Over	25	33
<i>Education</i>		
Less than H.S.	3	6
H.S. Graduate	14	25
Some College	26	31
College Graduate	30	22
Post Graduate	27	16
<i>Occupation</i>		
Professional/Admin.	16	9
Sales/Clerical/Tech.	64	57
Laborer/Agriculture	16	29
Other	5	5
<i>Household Income</i>		
Under \$20,000	7	13
\$20,000–\$39,999	20	27
\$40,000–\$59,999	15	23
\$60,000–\$79,999	24	16
\$80,000 & Over	34	20

SOURCE: NCFREE, "North Carolina Survey." September 2003.

¹ "New Voters" are voters who have moved to North Carolina from non-Southern states since 1990.

since 1990. Also, NCFREE's survey found that new voters differ demographically and politically from the overall electorate.

Demographic Characteristics of New Voters

Voters who have moved to North Carolina since 1990 tend to be younger white people from the Northeast. These voters also tend to have children, high levels of education and well-paying professional and administrative jobs (Table 2).

A slight majority of new voters (52 percent) spent their formative years (birth to age 18) in the Northeast, compared to 12 percent of the overall electorate. Another 30 percent of new voters matured in the Midwest and 16 percent grew up in the West. These figures should be interpreted carefully, however, since the sample excluded new voters who came from other Southern states.

New voters are concentrated in the state's metropolitan regions. The Raleigh area contains roughly a third of the state's new voters, while Charlotte contains about a quarter.

New voters are more likely to be white than the overall electorate — 85 percent versus 74 percent. African Americans comprise nearly a fifth of the overall electorate but only five percent of new voters. Other groups, including Hispanics, account for a small portion of both voter groups.

New voters also are more apt to be younger than the general electorate and more likely to have families. Forty percent of new voters are between the ages of 30 and 44, and 64 percent are between 30 and 59. The comparable numbers for the overall electorate are 24 percent and 56 percent. New voters also are more likely to be married and have children. Eight out of ten new voters are married, and four out of ten are married with children.

Significant differences between new voters and the overall electorate exist in the areas of education, occupation and income. While 22 percent of the overall electorate holds a college degree and 16 percent has earned a post-graduate credential, three out of ten new voters have finished college and 27 percent hold graduate degrees. As a result, a higher percentage of new voters (16 percent) occupy professional and administrative jobs than the overall electorate (9 percent). This in turn translates into higher household incomes. Almost 60 percent of new voters have household incomes exceeding \$60,000, compared to 36 percent of the overall electorate.

Political Characteristics of New Voters

New voters also differ politically from the overall electorate, though the differences are smaller than might be expected (Table 3).

Neither major political party enjoys a majority of support among new voters. New voters, however, are more likely to register as unaffiliated or Republican. If new voters had to re-register, 41 percent would register unaffiliated, 37 percent Republican and 23 Democratic. The figures for the entire electorate, meanwhile, would be 24 percent unaffiliated, 33 percent Republican and 43 percent Democratic.

If forced to pick a partisan identity, 51 percent of new voters would characterize themselves as Republicans compared to 42 percent of the overall electorate. Yet despite a higher level of Republican self-identification, new voters are slightly less likely than the overall electorate to favor conservative government policies. As John Davis, NCFREE's executive director, has written: "The ironic consequence of this new explosion of Republicans in North Carolina in this decade [1990s] is that the state became less conservative."

Another difference is that new voters differ religiously from the overall electorate. Almost 60 percent of all North Carolina voters consider themselves born-again Christian, but only 32 percent of new voters claim that identity. Also, new voters who call themselves born-again attend religious services less frequently than other born-again Christians.

New voters also view certain issues differently than the overall electorate. Perhaps because of their higher incomes and work in professional occupations, new voters rate economic conditions in the state more positively than the overall electorate. Though 33 percent of new voters assess the state's economy as excellent or good, only 24 percent of all voters express that view.

Overall, new voters are more positive about the state than the overall electorate. Forty percent of new voters said that the state is moving in the right direction, compared to 32 percent of the overall electorate.

Both groups of voters claim that the economy is the single most important problem facing the state. Interestingly, new voters express greater concern about education than other voters. While 17 percent of new voters claimed that education was the most important issue facing the state, only 10 percent of all voters expressed that view.

Few differences between the two groups of voters exist in other areas. Large majorities of both groups favor lowering business taxes to recruit new business and industry and implementing a state lottery. Also, neither group favors raising taxes to offset state budget shortfalls. Roughly three-fourths of both groups would prefer some combination of tax increases and service cuts, but new voters are more apt

to prefer service cuts to tax increases.

Both groups share similar views of foreign trade. Pluralities of both groups blame NAFTA and foreign trade policies for the state's loss of manufacturing jobs. Meanwhile, majorities of both groups — though a higher percentage of new voters than all voters — say that the proper response is to attract new industries and jobs. A significant difference is that the overall electorate is more likely to claim that President George W. Bush's trade policies are responsible for job losses.

In terms of electoral politics, the attitudes of both groups of voters reflect the divided nature of an electorate in which neither major party commands a majority of popular support. ■

Thanks to John Davis, executive director, NCFREE, for reviewing this article.

Table 3: Political Traits of New Voters

Trait	% New Voters ¹	% All Voters
<i>Political Self ID</i>		
Democrat	25	38
Ind. Democrat	15	10
Independent	9	10
Ind. Republican	15	9
Republican	36	33
<i>Political Registration</i>		
Democrat	27	48
Republican	40	34
Unaffiliated	34	18
<i>If had to re-register</i>		
Democrat	23	43
Republican	37	33
Unaffiliated	41	24
<i>Political Ideology</i>		
Very Liberal/Liberal	18	16
Moderate	38	36
Very Cons./Cons.	44	48
<i>Born-Again Christian</i>		
Yes	32	60
No	68	40
<i>Vote for GOP for²</i>		
President	49	42
Governor	39	43
U.S. Senate	43	34
U.S. House	46	37
State Legislature	41	33

SOURCE: NCFREE, "North Carolina Survey," September 2003.

¹ "New Voters" are voters who have moved to North Carolina from non-Southern states since 1990.

² The president line measure support for a specific Republican, President Bush. The other lines measure support for a generic Republican.

All Over the Map: The Unaffiliated Voter in NC

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TIM VERCELLOTTI, assistant professor, *Department of Political Science, Elon University*

Methodological Note

The Elon University Poll is a statewide telephone survey of approximately 600 North Carolina adults conducted six times each year. This article draws data from the October 2003 and February 2004 surveys. In particular, the article uses a sub-sample of registered voters.

The margin of error for the overall February sample was +/- 3.7 percentage points. For the sub-sample of 592 registered voters, the margin of error was +/- 4.0 percentage points. Note too that each sub-group (Republican, Democrats and Unaffiliated) included in the accompanying tables has a different margin of error. Nevertheless, all of the results reported in the tables are statistically significant.

For the October survey, the overall margin of error was +/- 4.4 percentage points. The sub-sample of 427 registered voters had a margin of error of +/- 4.7 percentage points.

According to the State Board of Elections, 881,541 registered North Carolina voters — 17.6 percent of all registered voters — were unaffiliated with a political party in 2003. These unaffiliated voters represent the fastest growing segment of the state's electorate and have the ability to determine statewide elections. Who, then, are North Carolina's unaffiliated voters, and what political and policy issues resonate with them?

Data generated from the Elon University Poll, a statewide telephone survey of approximately 600 North Carolina adults conducted six times each year, suggest that unaffiliated voters in North Carolina are more likely to be white, male and to have been born outside of the South. Such voters also perceive few differences between the two major parties but are more likely to gravitate towards Republican positions on security and Democratic stances on domestic issues.

The Growth of Unaffiliated Voters, 1993–2003

While North Carolina's electorate grew by 43.5 percent between 1993 and 2003, the number of unaffiliated voters expanded by 212 percent, according to the State Board of Elections. During that same period, Republican registrations increased by 52.9 percent, while Democratic registrations rose by 15 percent.

During that same decade, the share of the electorate accounted for by unaffiliated voters more than doubled, from 8.1 percent to 17.6 percent. The Republican share of the electorate, meanwhile, grew from 32.4 percent to 34.5, while the Democratic share fell. Approximately 48 percent of registered voters were Democrats in 2003, down from 59.5 percent in 1993.

Demographic Characteristics of Unaffiliated Voters

The Elon University Poll conducted in February 2004 found that men were more likely than women to be unaffiliated — 23.1 percent of men versus 14.1 percent of women (Table 1). The same survey also showed an association between race and unaffiliated status. Nearly 20 percent of whites reported they were unaffiliated, compared to 10.3 percent of non-white adults.

Meanwhile, the Elon University Poll administered in October 2003 found that adults born outside of the 11 former Confederate states were more likely to be unaffiliated voters. Nearly 32 percent of non-Southerners claimed to be unaffiliated, while 13.3 percent of Southerners identified as such.

Policy and Political Views of Unaffiliated Voters

When asked about their views on policy and political issues, unaffiliated voters reported that they perceive few differences between the major political parties on some issues, including the war on terrorism and balancing the federal budget. Note that all of the findings reported in this section come from the Elon University Poll administered in February 2004.

Unaffiliated voters tend to side with the GOP on defense issues. When asked which party would do a better job of strengthening the military, 55.4 percent of unaffiliated voters said the Republican Party, 8.4 percent said the Democratic Party, and 36.1 percent said there would be no difference (Table 2). Yet 60.2 percent of unaffiliated voters said there is no difference between the parties in their ability to prevent another terrorist attack on the United States.

When asked about domestic issues, unaffiliated voters tend to favor the Democratic Party. Forty-one percent of unaffiliated voters said Democrats would be more effective in creating jobs, while 20.5 percent gave the nod to Republicans. At the same time, nearly four in 10 said there would be no difference (Table 3). A plurality of unaffiliated voters said that that Democratic Party would do a better job of making health care more affordable, but 42.2 percent of unaffiliated voters claimed that there would be no difference between the two major parties on health care.

Unaffiliated voters were somewhat agnostic about which party would do a better job of balancing the budget. Forty-seven percent said they saw no differ-

Table 1: Demographic Traits of Voters

	Gender		Race		Place of Birth	
	Male	Female	White	Non-white	South	Non-South
Republican	39.9 %	39.3 %	45.6 %	14.7 %	35.4 %	35.2 %
Unaffiliated	23.1 %	14.1 %	19.5 %	10.3 %	13.3 %	31.7 %
Democrat	37.0 %	46.6 %	34.9 %	75.0 %	51.2 %	33.1 %
Total Respondents	238	354	476	116	285	142

NOTE: Percentages are column percentages. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. Gender and race data come from the February 2004 Elon University Poll. Place of birth data come from the October 2003 Elon University Poll. Respondents were categorized as having been born in the South if their place of birth was in one of the 11 states of the former Confederacy.

SOURCES: Elon University Poll, Oct. 27–30, 2003, and Feb. 16–19, 2004 (www.elon.edu/academics/elonpoll/)

Table 2: Views of Foreign Policy

In thinking about the Democratic and Republican parties, which party do you think would do a better job of getting the national government to address the following issues:

	Strengthening the military			Preventing terrorist attacks on the U.S.		
	Rep.	Unaff.	Dem.	Rep.	Unaff.	Dem.
Democrats	2.1 %	8.4 %	28.7 %	3.1 %	9.6 %	32.1 %
Republicans	87.0 %	55.4 %	40.7 %	76.4 %	30.1 %	21.0 %
There would be no difference	10.0 %	36.1 %	30.6 %	20.4 %	60.2 %	46.9 %
Total Respondents	191	83	209	191	83	209

NOTE: Percentages are column percentages. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. "Don't know" and "No response" answers were omitted from the analyses.

SOURCE: Elon University Poll, Feb. 16–19, 2004 (www.elon.edu/academics/elonpoll/)

ence between the parties on the issue, while 37.4 percent favored Democrats and 15.7 percent favored Republicans.

Survey data on civil unions and gay marriage show that unaffiliated voters hold opinions closer to those of Democrats than Republicans. Nearly 57 percent of independents favor civil unions, compared to 48.3 percent of Democrats and 36.1 percent of Republicans. (Table 4) Almost 58 percent of unaffiliated voters oppose the legalization of gay marriage, compared to 56.5 percent of Democrats and 82.7 percent of Republicans. Furthermore, 48 percent of unaffiliated voters favor amending the U.S. Constitution to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, as do 49.3 percent of Democrats and 77 percent of Republicans.

Approval of President Bush's Job Performance

Independent voters fall between Democrats and Republicans in their evaluation of President Bush, but they resemble Democrats more so than Republicans in the distribution of their opinions, at least according to the February administration of the Elon University Poll.

Nearly 51 percent of unaffiliated voters approved of the overall job Bush is doing as president, compared to 90 percent of Republicans and 30.6 percent of Democrats (Table 5).

In terms of Bush's management of the economy, 37.4 percent of unaffiliated voters approved of the president, compared to 74.4 percent of Republicans and 20.6 percent of Democrats. A greater percentage of unaffiliated voters, however, disapproved of President Bush's economic performance than approved.

Meanwhile, higher percentages of all three groups — 45.8 percent of unaffiliated voters, 83.2 percent of Republicans and 29.2 per-

cent of Democrats — approved of Bush's handling of the war in Iraq. Yet, unaffiliated voters were split almost evenly between approval and disapproval, with 44.6 percent voicing disapproval.

These survey data prompt the question of what role unaffiliated voters might play in

November's elections. The answer depends on which issues become salient during the campaigns. In a contest that focuses on national security issues, the Republican Party is likely to attract independent voters. If job creation and health care are the key concerns, the Democratic Party may benefit the most from the support of unaffiliated voters. ■

Table 3: Views on Domestic Policy

In thinking about the Democratic and Republican parties, which party do you think would do a better job of getting the national government to address the following issues:

	Creating jobs			Making healthcare more affordable			Balancing the federal budget		
	Rep.	Unaff.	Dem.	Rep.	Unaff.	Dem.	Rep.	Unaff.	Dem.
Democrats	14.7 %	41.0 %	67.5 %	23.0 %	48.2 %	72.2 %	14.1 %	37.4 %	59.3 %
Republicans	55.0 %	20.5 %	8.1 %	42.4 %	9.6 %	6.2 %	50.8 %	15.7 %	11.5 %
There would be no difference	30.4 %	38.6 %	24.4 %	34.6 %	42.2 %	21.5 %	35.1 %	47.0 %	29.2 %
Total Respondents	19	83	209	191	83	209	191	83	209

NOTE: Percentages are column percentages. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. "Don't know" and "No response" answers were omitted from the analyses.

SOURCE: Elon University Poll, Feb. 16-19, 2004 (<http://www.elon.edu/academics/elonpoll/>)

Table 4: Views on Gay Marriage and Related Issues

Would you support or oppose a law allowing homosexual couples to form civil unions, giving them some of the legal rights of married couples in areas such as health insurance, inheritance, and pension coverage?

Would you support or oppose a law allowing homosexual couples to marry, giving them the same legal rights as married couples?

Would you support or oppose an amendment to the United States Constitution that would define marriage as occurring only between a man and a woman, thus prohibiting marriages between homosexuals?

	Civil unions			Gay marriage			Constitutional amendment		
	Rep.	Unaff.	Dem.	Rep.	Unaff.	Dem.	Rep.	Unaff.	Dem.
Support the law (amendment)	36.1 %	56.6 %	48.3 %	14.7 %	34.5 %	36.4 %	77.0 %	48.2 %	49.3 %
Oppose the law (amendment)	58.6 %	37.4 %	45.9 %	82.7 %	57.8 %	56.5 %	20.9 %	48.2 %	43.1 %
Don't know	5.2 %	6.0 %	5.7 %	2.6 %	7.2 %	7.2 %	2.1 %	3.6 %	7.7 %
Total Respondents	191	83	209	191	83	209	191	83	209

NOTE: Percentages are column percentages. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. "No response" answers were omitted from the analyses.

SOURCE: Elon University Poll, Feb. 16-19, 2004 (www.elon.edu/academics/elonpoll/)

Table 5: Presidential Job Approval

I would like to ask your opinion of the job that George W. Bush is doing as president of the United States.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling the national economy?

Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling the situation in Iraq?

	Overall			The economy			Iraq		
	Rep.	Unaff.	Dem.	Rep.	Unaff.	Dem.	Rep.	Unaff.	Dem.
Approve	90.0 %	50.6 %	30.6 %	74.4 %	37.4 %	20.6 %	83.2 %	45.8 %	29.2 %
Neither approve nor disapprove	4.2 %	13.2 %	10.5 %	8.9 %	18.1 %	8.1 %	7.3 %	9.6 %	7.2 %
Disapprove	5.8 %	36.1 %	58.8 %	16.8 %	44.6 %	71.3 %	9.4 %	44.6 %	63.6 %
Total Respondents	191	83	209	191	83	209	191	83	209

NOTE: Percentages are column percentages. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. "Approve" is a combination of two categories: "Strongly approve" and "Approve." "Disapprove" also is a combination of two categories: "Strongly disapprove" and "Disapprove." "Don't know" and "No response" answers were omitted from the analyses.

SOURCE: Elon University Poll, Feb. 16-19, 2004 (www.elon.edu/academics/elonpoll/)

NC's Catholic Voters: Small but Significant

JOHN QUINTERNO, assistant director, Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life

Counting the Catholic Population

Obtaining accurate data on religious membership is difficult for several reasons. First, the U.S. Census Bureau does not ask people about their religious affiliation. This means that no official national count exists. Second, different religious denominations track membership in different ways. Some count only adult members, while others measure adults and children. Finally, formal church membership figures do not capture people who consider themselves part of a certain denomination but are not officially registered members of that church.

All of the figures cited in this analysis come from various volumes of Religious Congregations and Membership, a decennial study sponsored by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies. This study is distinctive because it tracks church membership on the county level and counts people who self-identify as Catholics, not just those who are formally registered.

A significant limitation in analyzing Catholic population data is that much of the existing information is not disaggregated by age, race, gender or other characteristics. Population figures, for example, combine adults and children. While polling data have permitted demographic breakdowns of the national Catholic electorate, similar estimates on the state and local level typically are unavailable.

Note too that most analyses of Catholic voters focus on white Catholics for three reasons. First, Catholics are predominately white. According to Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, American Catholics are 78 percent white, 16 percent Hispanic and 3 percent African-American. Second, research indicates that African-American Catholics vote no differently than their non-Catholic counterparts. Third, while the number of Hispanic Catholics has burgeoned, information about their political behavior is limited. A news series of studies of Latinos in the public square, funded by the Pew Memorial Trusts, however, may remedy this shortage of information.

Thanks to David Leege, professor emeritus, Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame, and Mary Gautier, senior research associate, Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Georgetown University, for reviewing this article.

North Carolina's Roman Catholic population more than doubled between 1990 and 2000, according to the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies. Though a small part of the state's total population, Catholics, particularly white Catholics, may be positioned to play an influential future role in the state's electoral politics.

NC's Catholic Population, 1970–2000

In 1971 Catholics comprised 1.4 percent of the state's population. Approximately 52 percent of the Catholic population lived in Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford, Forsyth, Onslow and Buncombe counties. Eighteen counties had no Catholics, and 20 counties had fewer than 100 Catholics.

Between 1970 and 2000, the Catholic population surged along with the overall population. While North Carolina's overall population increased by 58.4 percent, the Catholic population grew by 356.5 percent. A critical period of growth occurred between 1990 and 2000 when the Catholic population expanded by 111.2 percent.

Roughly 315,000 Catholics of all ages and races lived in North Carolina in 2000 — a total equal to 3.9 percent of the state's population. Catholics lived in 90 of the state's 100 counties, but the bulk of the population clustered in metropolitan areas. In fact, 82 percent of the 2000 Catholic population resided in metros. Nearly 40 percent of the Catholic population lived in Wake and Mecklenburg counties, and 55.9 percent of the

Catholic population resided in Wake, Mecklenburg, Guilford, Forsyth, New Hanover and Durham counties.

This growth has resulted from two trends: the movement of Hispanic Catholics to North Carolina and the in-migration of Catholics, particularly whites, from other states. From a political standpoint, in-migration has played a more important role in recent years. White transplants not only are more apt to participate in politics than recent Hispanic immigrants, but they also often inject political values from other regions into North Carolina.

The Myth of the Catholic Vote: A National Perspective

Roman Catholics are the largest religious aggregation in the American electorate. According to exit polls, Catholics cast 26 percent of the 2000 presidential vote and 29 percent of the 1996 vote. Also, surveys show that Catholic voters tend to turn out at high levels and are clustered in battleground states. These factors, coupled with the upward mobility experienced by Catholics in recent decades, have led political elites to attempt to attract the "Catholic Vote." Democratic strategists believe that Catholics will vote for the party due to economic policies and historical ties, while Republicans see Catholics as cultural conservatives who can be drawn through the party's social policies on race and traditional family values.

Yet there is no monolithic Catholic vote. Data analyzed by University of Notre Dame political scientist David Leege show that white Catholics have not voted as a Democratic bloc since the early 1960s. While Democrats maintain a slight edge in party identification among Catholics, growing numbers of Catholics vote Republican. For example, George W. Bush captured 52 percent of the national white Catholic vote in 2000, according to the Voter News Service exit poll.

Explaining Catholic Voting: Generation and Gender

Leege's research suggests that the changing political behavior of Catholics results from the interaction of generation and gender.

Looking at presidential voting through a generational lens shows that the oldest Catholics — the New Deal generation — supported Democratic candidates fairly consistently over the period 1960–96. When movement to Republican candidates occurred, it was based primarily on attitudes toward the role of the federal government on racial issues. For a variety of reasons, the Baby Boom generation began moving towards the GOP, and the Catholic members of Generation X have continued this movement.

The generational shift, however, masks a gender gap. Men have accounted for much of the increased Catholic support of the GOP. While male and female members of the New Deal generation generally have supported Democrats equally, male members

Major Religious Denominations in North Carolina in 2000, Ranked by Number of Adherents¹

Denomination	Number of Adherents ²	Adherents as % of Total Population ³
Southern Baptist	1,512,058	18.79
United Methodist	638,785	7.94
Roman Catholic	315,606	3.92
Presbyterian Church (USA)	203,647	2.53
Evangelical Lutheran Church	88,830	1.10
Church of God (TN Conf.)	81,037	1.01
Episcopal Church	80,068	0.99
Pentecostal Holiness	50,265	0.62
United Church of Christ	50,088	0.62

SOURCE: American Religion Data Archive (www.thearda.com)

¹ The data in this chart are based on a survey of participating religious congregations. Consequently, the numbers do not capture non-participating churches, many of which are historically black. Also, unaffiliated or non-congregational churches are not included.

² "# of Adherents" measures all members of a religious group, including children. Catholic, for instance, track the number of adherents. Other congregations, however, only track full members and omit children. For those denominations, estimation techniques were used to determine the number of adherents and create comparable figures.

³ Based on a 2000 population figure of 8,049,303.

of the two subsequent generations have become more Republican, while their female counterparts — who as a whole possess college degrees and occupy professional occupations at rates higher than many other groups of women — have grown steadily more Democratic.

Interestingly, younger Catholic men who vote Republican represent the least religiously engaged segment of the Catholic population. For example, 77 percent of the Baby Boom and Generation X Catholics who identify as Republican attend church occasionally, seldom or never. These Catholic Republicans also hold social attitudes more moderate than those embodied in the GOP's platform and held by the party's evangelical Protestant wing.

Also, national studies like one conducted in 2000 by Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, a research center that studies Catholic trends, suggest that Catholic Republicans and Democrats possess a more "communitarian ethic that emphasizes solidarity, interdependence and the common good rather than the individualism, independence and self-help characteristic of the Protestant ethic." As an illustration of this point, Georgetown's survey found that a majority of Catholic Republicans and Democrats believed that helping the poor was a social rather than individual responsibility.

Catholic Voters in the Old North State

If white Catholic voters in North Carolina behave in ways similar to the national population, then the growth of the state's Catholic population presents a political opportunity for both parties for two reasons.

First, the recent growth of the Republican Party in North Carolina has led to a two-party state where neither party has a majority. Records from the State Board of Elections show that, as of October 2003, 48 percent of registered voters were Democrats, 34 percent Republican and 18 percent unaffiliated. This voter profile means that Republicans and Democrats need to woo vacillating voters to win statewide races.

Second, the North Carolina electorate now is concentrated in a handful of metropolitan counties. In the 2000 presidential election, for example, 15 counties accounted for 51.1 percent of the statewide vote. The concentration of voters in metro areas, coupled with the extensive media resources in those areas, has made metros the state's main political battleground.

These two trends could afford Catholics an influential role in statewide elections. As mentioned earlier, Catholics comprise a small percentage of the state's overall population — only 3.9 percent. Yet the state's Catholic population is heavily concentrated in the metro areas that are pivotal to political success. For example, Catholics of all ages and races account for 9.5 percent of the

total population in Wake County and 8.5 percent of Mecklenburg County's total population.

Besides being concentrated in key counties, white Catholic voters are divided in their partisan leanings. Consequently, different segments of the Catholic population may be receptive to appeals from different political parties. Catholics who identify as Republican, for example, generally are more supportive than other Republicans of government intervention to relieve poverty. Such voters may prove receptive to Democratic appeals that stress an opportunity society.

As a result of their increasing size, geographic location and divided partisan leanings, Catholic voters in North Carolina may emerge as a swing group in state politics. In targeting such voters, however, political strategists must not view Catholics as a monolithic group, but instead look at the different segments of the population, especially along gender and generational lines. Such a nuanced understanding may better equip Republicans and Democrats to appeal to a small but significant slice of North Carolina's changing electorate. ■

Counties Accounting for 75.53% of the 2000 North Carolina Catholic Population

# ¹	County	1999 MSA ²	Total Catholic Pop. ³	Total Pop. ⁴	Catholic Pop. as % of Total Pop.	% of Total Catholic Pop.
1	Wake	Raleigh	59,610	627,846	9.49	18.89
2	Mecklenburg	Charlotte	59,292	695,494	8.53	18.79
3	Guilford	Greensboro	21,628	421,048	5.14	6.85
4	Forsyth	Greensboro	13,052	306,067	4.26	4.14
5	New Hanover	Wilmington	12,887	160,307	8.04	4.08
6	Durham	Durham	9,818	223,314	4.40	3.11
7	Cumberland	Fayetteville	9,182	302,963	3.03	2.91
8	Buncombe	Asheville	8,470	206,330	4.11	2.68
9	Orange	Raleigh	6,905	118,227	5.84	2.19
10	Onslow	Jacksonville	6,457	150,355	4.29	2.05
11	Union	Charlotte	5,750	123,677	4.65	1.82
12	Craven	none	5,338	91,436	5.84	1.69
13	Gaston	Charlotte	5,304	190,365	2.79	1.68
14	Henderson	Asheville	5,059	89,173	5.67	1.60
15	Iredell	none	4,897	122,660	3.99	1.55
16	Cabarrus	Charlotte	4,725	131,063	3.61	1.50
16 County Total			238,374	3,960,285	6.02	75.53
84 County Total			77,232	4,089,018	1.89	24.47
State Total			315,606	8,049,303	3.93	100.00
(100 Counties)						

SOURCE: American Religion Data Archive (www.thearda.com)

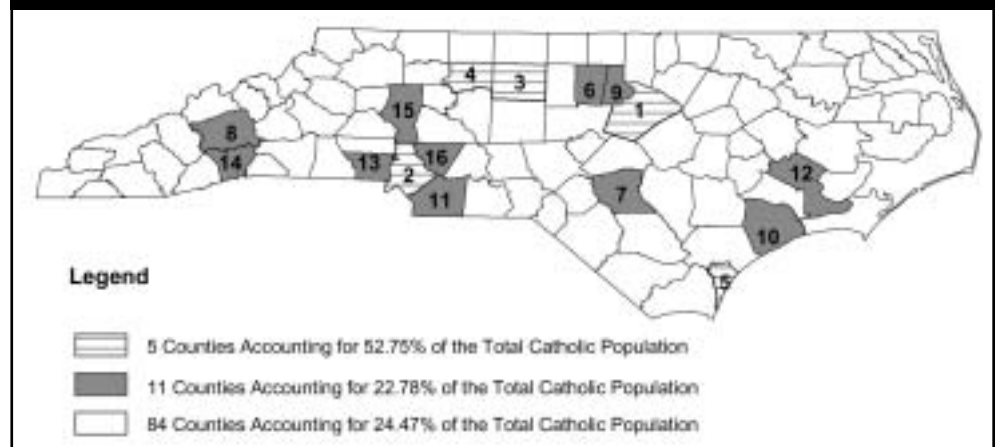
¹ "#" refers to the numbers on the adjacent map.

² "1999 MSA" refers to the Metropolitan Statistical Areas in effect in 1999. Only the first city is listed for areas with multiple central cities.

³ "Total Catholic Pop." is the total of Catholics of all ages who lived in the county in 2000.

⁴ "Total Pop." is the county's total population in 2000.

2000 North Carolina Catholic Population, By County



Libertarian Party Grows Modestly

JEREMY ASHTON, graduate student, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, UNC-Chapel Hill

The Libertarian Party maintains the strongest third-party presence in North Carolina politics. Although Libertarian candidates receive far less support than Democrats and Republicans, Libertarian candidates appear often in races for federal and state offices. Moreover, support for Libertarian candidates in North Carolina has increased slightly since 1992.

Formed in 1971 in Colorado, the Libertarian Party currently is the United States' third-largest political party. More than 590 Libertarians hold public offices, mostly on the local level, according to the national party's Web site (www.lp.org). The party champions a free-market economy with little or no government involvement, protection for civil liberties and a foreign policy of "non-intervention, peace and free trade."

Libertarian Registration and Presence

The number of registered voters claimed by the North Carolina Libertarian Party increased over the last decade. According to the state party's Web site (www.lpnc.org), 1,193 North Carolina voters were registered as Libertarians in 1993. In 2003, the party claimed 10,102 registered voters, a nearly tenfold increase. This figure is slightly higher than the 9,838 registered Libertarian voters reported by the State Board of Elections in October 2003.

North Carolina Libertarians have enjoyed a measure of success in local elections. In 2003 T.J. Rohr captured an at-large seat on the Lenoir City Council, and Dan Hill won a 10-way race for an at-large seat on the Madison Board of Alderman. Also, Henry Boschen's 24 votes led to victory in a race for a seat on the Roxobel Town Commission.

While no Libertarian candidate has won election to North Carolina's General Assembly or congressional delegation, the party is establishing itself as a fixture in such races.

In 1998, a Libertarian appeared on the ballot in 24 of the 183 races for the General Assembly and U.S. Congress.

Barbara Howe campaigned in the U.S. Senate race won by Democrat John Edwards, and Libertarian candidates ran in all 12 U.S. House races. Yet just 11 Libertarian candidates participated in General Assembly contests.

Four years later in 2002, the Libertarians made a much stronger showing on the ballot in the same types of races. Libertarian candidates ran in 100 of the 184 races for Congress and the General Assembly. Sean Haugh, the state party's executive director, opposed Republican Elizabeth Dole and Democrat Erskine Bowles in the U.S. Senate race, and Libertarians competed in every U.S. House district except the 5th District.

The Libertarian Party also seemed to make a concentrated effort to place more candidates in statewide races in 2002. A total of 27 Libertarians ran in the 50 state Senate races, while 60 Libertarians competed in the 120 state House races.

Election Results, 1992–2002

Overall, Libertarian candidates tend to win small percentages of the total vote, but they have recorded slight improvements over the past decade.

In 1992, the party's nine candidates for U.S. House seats collectively garnered 1.8 percent of the total vote in their races. Four years later, the figure slipped to 0.9 percent. In the most recent election, Libertarians took 2.9 percent of the total vote in 12 House races. There was no Democratic candidate, however, in two of those races.

In general, Libertarians have made their best showings in races involving just one major party candidate. In the 2002 elections, 30 Libertarian candidates for the state House drew 9 percent of the vote or more in their districts. In every case, the winner received no competition from the other major party. Brad Wheeler of Wake County made the best showing by a Libertarian who ran against candidates from both major parties, drawing 1,152 votes, or 4.3 percent of the vote, in House District 37.

A similar pattern appeared in the 2002 state Senate elections. Four Libertarians received between 11 and 16 percent of the vote in their districts, but none ran against two major party candidates. Mike Helms of Cabarrus County took 5.6 percent of the vote in Senate District 36, the highest percentage for a Libertarian running against a Democrat and a Republican.

Possible Impact of Libertarians

Libertarian candidates have occasionally had a potential statistical impact on the outcome of state legislative races. In 1996, three Libertarians – two running for the state Senate and one for the state House – received more votes than the margin of victory for the winner. The party possibly affected the outcome of three more races in 2002. Overall, Democratic candidates may have been helped in four of those six races. ■

2002 Libertarian Party Results

Race	# Seats	# Libertarian Candidates	# Libertarian Votes	% Lib. Vote of Total Vote	Potential Impact ¹
U.S. Senate	1	1	33,765	1.4	0
U.S. Congress ²	13	12	64,400	2.9	0
N.C. Senate ³	50	27	54,025	2.5	2 ⁴
N.C. House ⁵	120	60	95,463	4.6	1 ⁶
Total	184	100	247,653	—	3

¹ "Potential Impact" is the number of races in which the Libertarian candidate received more votes than the vote margin of victory by the winning candidate.

² No Libertarian ran in the 5th District. Also, no Democratic candidate ran in the 3rd and 6th districts.

³ No Democratic candidates ran in two Senate districts, and no Republican candidates ran in two districts.

⁴ The districts were Senate Districts 16 (Sen. Eric Reeves) and 47 (Sen. Joe Sam Queen).

⁵ No Democratic candidates ran in 19 House districts, and no Republicans ran in 10.

⁶ The district was House District 17 (Rep. Bonner Stiller).

Different Regions, Similar Views

GREGORY PETTIS, graduate student, Department of Political Science, UNC-Chapel Hill

U.S. regions have had radically different political histories. The South long has been seen as the nation's most conservative region, while New England has been perceived as the most liberal.

An examination of 40 years of survey data generated by the American National Election Study, however, suggests that differences between the South and New England on social issues tend to be small, are getting smaller, and in some instances have disappeared.

Attitudes on Race

Racial attitudes were ascertained through questions pertaining to personal feelings toward African Americans, the pace of civil rights progress and the degree to which the government should do more to help African Americans.

The feeling thermometer shows that New Englanders liked African Americans more than Southerners did in 1960. Over the next 40 years, the attitudes of New Englanders grew colder, while Southern attitudes became warmer. By the late 1990s, Southerners exhibited warmer feelings towards African Americans than New Englanders did.

Other race-related questions show differences disappearing. Responses to the question "Are civil rights leaders moving too fast?" show New Englanders consistently more supportive of the pace of civil rights than Southerners. New England's strongest support relative to that of the South occurred in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and then the difference decreased.

Another measure of regional attitudes on civil rights comes from the following question: "Should the government do more to help blacks or should blacks help themselves?" In the 1970s New Englanders were consistently more supportive of the government's efforts to help blacks than Southerners, but this difference steadily has decreased.

Attitudes on Feminism

The differences in regional attitudes regarding feminism are virtually indistinguishable and move in lockstep over time. Feminists go from being disliked, to being evaluated neutrally in the early 1970s, to being positively evaluated by the mid-1980s.

There is one glaring exception — in 1980 New Englanders liked feminists much more than Southerners did. This highly anomalous result may be a result of measurement or

sampling error. The conclusion, then, is despite the fact one might expect that Southerners would have more negative feelings toward feminists than New Englanders, this is not the case.

Attitudes on Conservatism

Looking at responses to the question "Is the federal government too strong?" shows that, until the mid-1970s, Southerners were consistently more conservative than New Englanders. In 1964, for example, 57 percent of Southerners held conservative attitudes, compared to 40 percent of New Englanders.

Between 1968 and 1976, attitudes in both regions grew more conservative, with Southern conservatism peaking at 77 percent in 1976. In subsequent years, the degree of conservatism in the South steadily declined, though a clear majority of Southerners still express conservative attitudes. Meanwhile, New England generally grew more conservative over time, and by 2000, more New Englanders than Southerners — 72 percent versus 61 percent — said that the federal government was too strong.

Converging Public Opinion

These findings generally fit with other survey data. The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, for instance, has documented a steady narrowing in the public opinion dif-

Methodology and Limitations

Data from the American National Election Survey (ANES) were used to analyze the responses of Southerners and New Englanders to questions pertaining to race, gender and conservatism.

Differences in the area of race and gender were gauged by using a feeling thermometer. Feeling thermometer scores result from questions asking respondents to rate how they feel about an individual or a group. A score of zero represents the most negative or cold feeling, while a score of 50 indicates a neutral feeling. A score of 100 indicates the most positive or warm feeling.

Differences pertaining to conservatism, meanwhile, were judged by the number of respondents who agreed or disagreed with certain survey questions regarding the scope and purpose of government.

The data used in this analysis are limited by various methodological changes by ANES. In 2000, for instance, the scale used to measure some responses switched from a seven-point one to a five-point one. Also, 2002 marked the first time that the ANES was conducted entirely over the telephone, so caution is in order when comparing results over time.

ferences between the South and the rest of the nation. The differences that remain tend to cluster around issues of race, sexuality and religion. Similarly, the preceding analysis of ANES data suggests that, with respect to race, feminism and conservatism, regional differences regarding certain divisive political issues have abated. ■

Regional Differences between the South and New England

Year	Race ¹		Feminism ²		Conservatism ³	
	South ⁴	NE ⁵	South	NE	South	NE
1964	65.2	65.2	—	—	57%	40%
1968	65.2	65.2	—	—	64%	49%
1972	65.0	64.5	46.8	47.6	62%	53%
1976	63.3	61.4	54.7	55.0	77%	63%
1980	65.8	63.1	50.3	59.1	74%	81%
1984	64.0	65.9	56.7	55.1	60%	56%
1988	64.2	61.9	—	—	64%	64%
1992	67.1	64.5	63.3	62.1	69%	69%
1996	67.9	65.1	65.0	63.4	—	—
2000	68.0	69.0	55.0	57.0	61%	72%
2002 ⁶	66.0	70.0	53.0	58.0	—	—

SOURCE: Author's analysis of American National Election Study data

¹ Average feeling thermometer score based on a question asking respondents how they feel about African Americans. A score of zero is a cold rating; 50 is a neutral rating; 100 is a warm rating.

² Average feeling thermometer score based on a question asking respondents how they feel about feminists. A score of zero is a cold rating; 50 is a neutral rating; 100 is a warm rating.

³ Proportion of respondents who agreed that "the government is getting too powerful."

⁴ Southern states are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

⁵ New England States are Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

⁶ The 2002 ANES was conducted entirely over the phone, leading to the possibility of methodological error.

Counting the Hispanic Population

This analysis of Hispanic voters in North Carolina relies heavily on data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Such data, however, are limited in several ways.

First, it is important to understand that the term “Hispanic” is a Census Bureau term used to describe people who trace their roots to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central America, South America or another Spanish culture. Hispanic is not a racial classification, and Hispanics may be of any race. The overlap between race and Hispanic origin frequently causes problems with the interpretation of census data.

Second, Hispanics do not form a culturally homogenous group. Hispanics come from distinct countries that exhibit great cultural, historical, political and sociological differences. A Hispanic person with origins in Mexico therefore may differ greatly from someone with roots in Cuba.

Third, the Census Bureau figures likely are too low due to an undercount of Hispanics in 2000. Nationwide, the Census Bureau estimated that it missed 2.9 percent of the Hispanic population. This undercount resulted from such factors as the migratory lifestyle of some Hispanic workers and difficulties in counting illegal immigrants.

Thanks to Krista Perreira, assistant professor, Department of Public Policy, UNC-Chapel Hill for reviewing this article.

Gauging the Size of the Hispanic Electorate

JOHN QUINTERNO, assistant director, Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life

North Carolina’s Hispanic population grew by 394 percent between 1990 and 2000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This expansion has yet to exert a significant statewide political impact, but over time Hispanics should become an influential segment of the electorate.

Hispanic Growth, 1990-2000

The 2000 U.S. Census reported that 378,963 Hispanics lived in North Carolina in 2000, up from 76,726 in 1990. Roughly 85 percent of this growth resulted from the movement of Hispanics into North Carolina from other states and from abroad, while the remainder of the growth came from a natural population increase. Overall, Hispanics contribute five percent of the state’s total population.

All 100 North Carolina counties recorded an increase in the Hispanic population between 1990 and 2000, and 93 counties posted triple-digit growth rates. Cabarrus County’s 1,271 percent growth rate was the state’s highest, while Scotland County’s 33 percent growth rate was the state’s lowest. In absolute numbers, Mecklenburg County posted the highest gain (38,178), while Camden County had the smallest increase (25). Table 1 lists the ten counties that gained the most Hispanics in absolute terms between 1990 and 2000.

While Hispanics live across the state, they are concentrated in metropolitan areas (Table 2). Almost 21 percent of Hispanics live in Mecklenburg and Wake counties, and just over a quarter live in those two counties and Cumberland County. Together, 10 counties contain half of the Hispanic population, and 26 counties contain three-fourths of the population.

Sixty-five percent of North Carolina’s Hispanics trace their roots to Mexico. Another eight percent of the Hispanic population originated in Puerto Rico, an American commonwealth whose residents are U.S. citizens. The rest of North Carolina’s Hispanics have origins in other countries.

Estimating the Hispanic Electorate

To vote in North Carolina, a person must be at least 18 years of age, an American citizen and registered with the board of elections in the county where the person lives. The exact size of North Carolina’s Hispanic electorate currently is unknown due to limitations in the two major sources of voting data — registration information collected by the State Board of Elections and the results of exit polls.

The registration forms that North Carolina voters must submit to county board of elections in order to vote historically have not asked voters to identify themselves as Hispanic. Consequently, the statewide data compiled by the State Board of Elections can not be disaggregated by Hispanic origin. While the Board began in 2003 to request this information from registering voters, voters who had previously registered would need to re-register to be counted as Hispanic. Therefore, the total number of registered Hispanic voters reported by the Board in February 2004 — 8,894 — is a likely undercount.

Exit polling also is of limited value due to the small sample size of Hispanic voters in North Carolina. For example, the statewide exit poll conducted by the Voter News Service during the 2000 general election did not contain enough Hispanics to permit meaningful analysis.

A rough estimate of the size of North Carolina’s Hispanic electorate can be generated through Census data. The number of Hispanic voters in North Carolina in 2000 would break down as follows:

- ◆ The Census Bureau reported that the number of Hispanics of voting age (18+) was 255,793.
- ◆ Of these Hispanics of voting age, 90,726 were citizens and therefore eligible Hispanic voters.
- ◆ If, like the national Hispanic rate, 45 percent of eligible Hispanic voters cast ballots, the number of Hispanic votes cast in 2000 would have totaled 40,827.
- ◆ If Hispanics cast 40,827 votes, the statewide Hispanic vote would have accounted for 1.4 percent of all the votes cast in the state.

Gauging Hispanic Turnout

Even if a voter is eligible to vote and registered to vote, the voter still needs to cast a ballot. Statewide in 2000, North Carolina’s turnout expressed as a percentage of the voting age population equaled 50 percent.

Table 1: Ten Fastest Growing Hispanic Populations by County, 1990–2000

(Ranked by Absolute Numbers)

County	2000 Hisp. Pop. ¹	1990 Hisp. Pop. ²	+/- 1990-2000	% Increase
Mecklenburg	44,871	6,693	38,178	570.4
Wake	33,985	5,396	28,589	529.8
Forsyth	19,577	2,102	17,475	831.4
Durham	17,039	2,054	14,985	729.6
Guilford	15,985	2,887	13,098	453.7
Johnston	9,440	1,262	8,178	648.0
Alamance	8,835	736	8,099	1,100.0
Randolph	8,646	734	7,912	1,077.9
Cumberland	20,919	13,298	7,612	57.3
<i>Statewide</i>	<i>378,963</i>	<i>76,726</i>	<i>302,237</i>	<i>393.9</i>

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

¹ “2000 Total Hisp. Pop.” is the total of Hispanics of all ages who lived in the county in 2000.

² “1990 Total Hisp. Pop.” is the total of Hispanics of all ages who lived in the county in 1990.

If the turnout rate in 2000 among eligible Hispanic voters (those who were over 18 and citizens) equaled 45 percent, the Hispanic turnout would have been lower than the statewide level.

If the preceding analysis is correct, the apparently low turnout for the entire Hispanic population might result from several factors. First, a sizable percentage of the Hispanic population is ineligible to vote due to a lack of American citizenship. Second, the Hispanic population possesses certain demographic traits that decrease the likelihood of turnout. Research suggests, for example, that turnout rates increase with age, with older people more apt to vote than younger ones. Yet North Carolina's Hispanic population is young. Statewide, 51 percent of North Carolina's 2000 population was 35 or older, but only 22 percent of Hispanics were in that age range. The bulk of the state's Hispanic population is younger, with 47 percent between the ages of 18 and 34.

Political Significance of Hispanic Voters

Currently, the Hispanic vote in North Carolina likely contributes a small part of the statewide electorate, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage. Yet the number of Tar Heel Hispanics should continue to increase as a result of continued immigration and in-migration into the state and the natural population increase that should flow from the Hispanic population's relative youth. The size of the Hispanic electorate also should increase as current residents acquire citizenship and become eligible to vote and as Hispanics younger than 18 — a group that accounts for

32 percent of the state's total Hispanic population — age into the electorate.

Besides being a growing part of the electorate, Hispanic voters also should attract political attention due to the concentration of Hispanics in metropolitan areas, North Carolina's main

political battlegrounds. The challenge facing ambitious politicians of both political parties, consequently, is to invest in the outreach and research strategies needed to engage Hispanic voters and understand different parts of the Hispanic population and connect those segments to broader electoral coalitions. ■

Table 2: Counties Accounting for 50.19% of the 2000 Hispanic Population

# ¹	County	1999 MSA ²	Total Hisp. Pop. ³	Total Pop. ⁴	Hispanic Pop. as % of Total Pop.	% of Total Hispanic Pop.
1	Mecklenburg	Charlotte	44,871	695,494	6.45	11.84
2	Wake	Raleigh	33,985	627,846	5.41	8.97
3	Cumberland	Fayetteville	20,919	302,963	6.90	5.52
4	Forsyth	Greensboro	19,557	306,067	6.39	5.17
5	Durham	Durham	17,039	223,314	7.63	4.50
6	Guilford	Greensboro	15,985	421,048	3.80	4.22
7	Onslow	Jacksonville	10,896	150,355	7.25	2.88
8	Johnston	Raleigh	9,440	121,965	7.74	2.49
9	Alamance	Greensboro	8,835	130,800	6.75	2.33
10	Randolph	Greensboro	8,646	130,454	6.63	2.28
10 County Total			190,173	3,110,306	6.11	50.19
90 County Total			188,790	4,939,007	1.89	49.81
State Total (100 Counties)			378,963	8,049,303	3.93	100.00

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

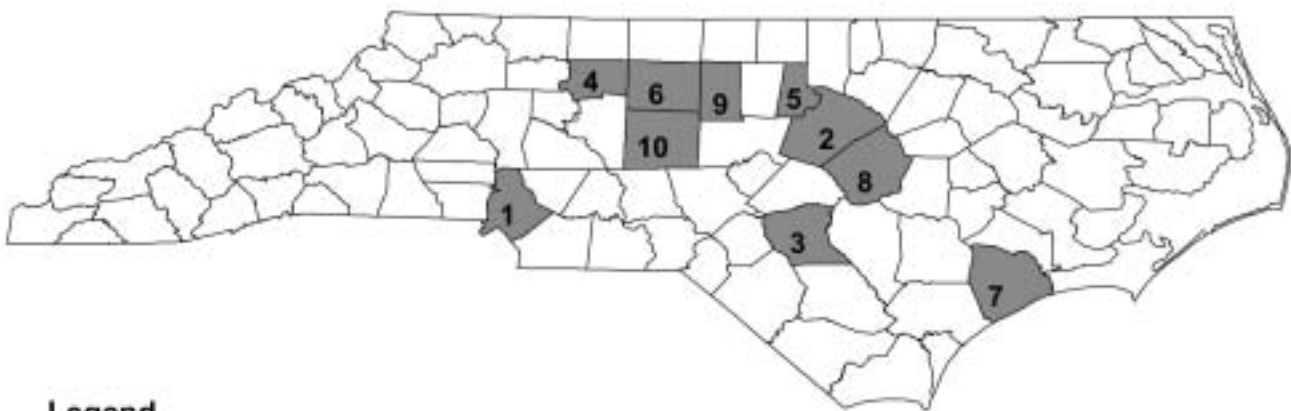
¹ “#” refers to the numbers on the adjacent map.

² “1999 MSA” refers to the Metropolitan Statistical Areas in effect in 1999. Only the first city is listed for areas with multiple central cities.

³ “Total Hisp. Pop.” is the total of Hispanics of all ages who lived in the county in 2000.

⁴ “Total Pop.” is the county's total population in 2000.

2000 North Carolina Hispanic Population, By County



Legend

- 10 Counties Accounting for 50.19% of the Total Hispanic Population
- 90 Counties Accounting for 49.81% of the Total Hispanic Population

→ **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** FROM PAGE 1

three months, both in printed form and in PDF format electronically. Recent issues have been devoted to such themes as "The South's Media Landscape" and "New Politics in a Metropolitan South." We have a circulation of 2,500 for *NC DataNet* and 2,100 for *SouthNow*. Also, twice a month, we distribute *SouthNow Update*, an email sent to a listserv of academics, journalists, public officials and friends.

In addition, under the guidance of Thad Beyle and John Quinterno, our Web site is regularly updated with survey research and other political data. In recent weeks the Web site, www.southnow.org, has been cited as a principal source for information on Southern politics — by the PBS program "NOW with Bill Moyers" and by *The Boston Globe*. The Program's data and research also have been featured in numerous magazine and newspaper articles around the country.

Upcoming Events: In collaboration with the UNC Kenan Institute for Private Enterprise, the Program plans a Southern Journalists Roundtable in Washington, D.C., in mid-June for the Washington correspondents of Southern newspapers. Topics include trade and the economy, and the political outlook for the 2004 general election.

The Program has also assisted a coordinating committee of recent university graduates in North Carolina in organizing a day-long assembly in mid-June of young adults interested

in involvement in North Carolina's public affairs. This assembly, to take place in Chapel Hill, is part of an effort to build a proposed Emerging Tar Heels Leadership Network.

Words of Thanks: We remain deeply grateful to Progress Energy, the Raleigh-based utility company, for a two-year grant that supports the *SouthNow* and *NC DataNet* publications and allows us to distribute without charge to a state and regional audience.

Our thanks go to Larry Tarleton, a UNC-Chapel Hill graduate who is publisher of the *Post and Courier* in Charleston, for a grant that supported the Southern Journalists Roundtable there in January.

We also thank Tony Waldrop, UNC-Chapel Hill vice chancellor for research and economic development, for funding for the economic seminars, as well as Harry Watson, director of the Center for the Study of the American South, and philanthropist Kathy Brittain White, for additional funding for the seminars.

In addition to its generous grant that supports the programming of the Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation also funded the seminars for first-term North Carolina legislators. Special thanks go to Tom Ross, the foundation's executive director, to Tom Lambeth, his predecessor and a long-standing adviser to our Program, and to the foundation's trustees. ■