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HPU POLL: NC RESIDENTS SOUR ON DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY, PRESIDENT OBAMA, CONGRESS AND STATEWIDE OFFICIALS

HIGH POINT, N.C., Sept. 26, 2011 – The Survey Research Center at High Point University finds in its most recent poll that more North Carolina residents disapprove of how leaders in Washington and Raleigh are handling their jobs than any time since HPU began fielding its polls.

The most recent HPU survey finds that 41 percent of people in the state approve of President Obama while 53 percent report disapproval and six percent expressed no opinion on the matter. Seventy-nine percent disapproved of the job that Congress is doing, while 11 percent approved and 11 did not express an opinion.

The survey also continued to track the general mood of North Carolinians and relative approval of other federal and state officials. It found that more people in the state believe the country is on the wrong track since HPU began fielding its polls:

- A large proportion of the state – 77 percent - continued to believe that the country is on the wrong track, while 15 percent said that the country is going in the right direction and 8 percent did not express an opinion.
- Forty-six percent disapproved of how Gov. Beverly Perdue is doing her job while 37 percent approved and 17 percent had no opinion.
- Thirty-two percent disapproved of how Senator Richard Burr is doing his job while 31 percent approved and 37 percent had no opinion.
- Thirty-three percent disapproved of how Senator Kay Hagan is doing her job while 31 percent approved and 36 percent had no opinion.

According to the results, Dr. Martin Kifer, Director of the Survey Research Center, says, “We have seen in our surveys over the last two years that the public is increasingly frustrated with the performance of elected officials and pessimistic about the future of the country. For a President and members of Congress facing re-election, these are troubling trends.”

The High Point University Survey Research Center fielded the survey from September 18 – September 22, 2011. The responses came from 413 adults with landline and cellular telephones in North Carolina selected by a Random Digit Dial (RDD) method giving the survey a margin of sampling error of approximately 5 percentage points. In addition to sampling error, factors such as question wording and other methodological choices in conducting survey research can introduce additional error into the findings of opinion polls.

Full results and methodological details from the survey and can be found at the Survey Research Center Web site, <http://src.highpoint.edu/>, or from Dr. Martin Kifer, the center's director, at mkifer@highpoint.edu or 336-841-9333.

At High Point University, every student receives an extraordinary education in an inspiring environment with caring people.SM HPU, located in the Piedmont Triad region of North Carolina, is a liberal arts institution with over 4,200 undergraduate and graduate students from 51 countries and 46 states at campuses in High Point and Winston-Salem. It is ranked by US News and World Report at No. 3 among Regional Colleges in the South. Forbes.com ranks HPU in the top 7 percent among "America's Best Colleges." Parade Magazine lists HPU in the top 25 private schools in the nation. HPU was selected in the 2010-2011 list of "Colleges of Distinction," as well as one of the top green schools in the country by the Sierra Club. The university offers 50 undergraduate majors, 43 undergraduate minors and 10 graduate degree programs. It is accredited by the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and is a member of the NCAA, Division I and the Big South Conference. Visit High Point University on the Web at highpoint.edu.

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