THE CITADEL
POLL

Survey October 15 – 25, 2026

Research Design: Interviewed 1,009 random registered voters in each South Carolina. This included 890 likely voters.

Sample gathered from the South Carolina registered voter file.

Survey Instrument

Once Informed Consent is Given

[If the respondent is not known to be a registered voter]
REG_VTE Are you a registered voter in South Carolina?
1 Yes
2 No

Q1 What County in South Carolina are you registered to vote?
[List all 46 counties, selecting the FIPS code] 1 = Abbeville, 3 = Aiken…

D1 In what year were you born?
####, year much be lower than 2008

Q2 Were you born in South Carolina?
1 Yes
2 No, born in another state
3 No, born in another country
9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

Q3A [If born in SC] Have you always lived in South Carolina or did you move back to South Carolina after living somewhere else?
1 Always in South Carolina
2 Moved back within the past 5 years
3 Moved back sometime between 5 and 10 years ago
4 Moved back more than 10 years ago
9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

Q3B [If not born in SC] Approximately how long have you lived in South Carolina?
1 Moved to South Carolina within the past 5 years
2 Moved to South Carolina sometime between 5 and 10 years ago
3 Moved to South Carolina more than 10 years ago
9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

Q4 [If Q2=No, born in another state or Q3A=Moved back] Did you move to South Carolina from one of the following states?

[List all 50 in alphabetical order, with Washington, D.C. listed] 1 = AL

D2 Are you:

1 Female
2 Male
3 Neither/Refused

D3 Are you Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin?

1 No
2 Yes, Mexican, Mexican American
3 Yes, Puerto Rican
4 Yes, Cuban
5 Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin [text]

D4 What is your race? Select <u>as many as</u> apply to you.

1 White
2 Black or African American
3 Asian or South Asian
4 American Indian or Alaska Native
5 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
6 Some other race [Open]

D5 What is the highest level of education you have attained?

1 Attended high school, but did not graduate
2 High school diploma or equivalency
3 High school graduation, some college
4 Completed Associates Degree
5 Completed Bachelor's Degree
6 Graduate or Professional Degree/Coursework
9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

<u>MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE</u>

Q5 Would you say you follow what's going on in politics most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?

1 Most of the time
2 Some of the time
3 Only now and then
4 Hardly at all

The next questions are about your political views

Q6 Do you consider yourself to be a Republican, Democrat, or neither?

1 Republican
2 Democrat
3 Neither

Q6P [If Republican or Democrat] Do you consider yourself to be a strong [Republican/Democrat] or not strong [Republican/Democrat]?

1 Strong
2 Not strong
3 Unsure

Q6N [If independent, no preference, or other party] Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?

1 Democratic
2 Republican
3 Neither

Q7 Using a 7-point scale where 1 is extremely liberal and 7 is extremely conservative, how would you rate your political views?

1 Extremely Liberal
2 Liberal
3 Slightly Liberal
4 Moderate, Middle of the Road
5 Slightly Conservative
6 Conservative
7 Extremely Conservative
8 Don't know

Q8 How confident are you that South Carolina and its counties will run a fair and accurate election this November?

1 Very confident
2 Somewhat confident
3 Not too confident
4 Not confident at all
5 Do not know enough to say

Participation in 2026 general election

Q9 There are many reasons people do or do not vote. Thinking about the November election, on a scale of zero to 10, where 10 means you're certain you will vote and zero means there is no chance you will vote, please tell me how likely it is you will vote. If you have already voted, either early or by sending in a mail or absentee ballot, please just say so.

11 Already voted
10 Certain to vote
.
.
3 Probably will vote
2 Not sure
1 Probably not
0 Won't vote

Q10 Do you plan to cast a ballot in-person early, on Election Day, or by absentee by mail?
3 Request an absentee ballot
2 Vote early in-person
1 Vote on Election Day
4 Unsure

Q10A [If already voted] Did you cast a ballot in-person early or absentee by mail?
2 In-person early
3 Absentee by mail
4 Unsure

Ballot

Q11 Annie Andrews, Darline Graham, Mark Hackett, and Kasie Whitener are competing for the senate, how much have you been hearing about the differences among the candidates running for the U.S. Senate in South Carolina?
1 Nothing at all
2 A little
3 A moderate amount
4 A lot
5 A great deal

Q12 In the U.S. Senate election, do you support Annie Andrews, Darline Graham, Kasie Whitener, or Mark Hackett?
1 Annie Andrews
2 Darline Graham
3 Kasie Whitener
4 Mark Hackett
5 Not sure

Q12_NS Would you say you are leaning towards Annie Andrews, Darline Graham, Kasie Whitener, or Mark Hackett?
1 Annie Andrews
2 Darline Graham
3 Kasie Whitener
4 Mark Hackett
5 Truly undecided

[Ask Q13# as a follow up to the answer selected in Q12 or Q12_NS]

Q13AA What is the reason you most prefer Annie Andrews to be a senator? Is it because:
1 Andrews has made a difference in health care
2 Andrews offers a new direction for the state
3 Andrews is focused on the issues you care about the most
4 or something else [enter text]

Q13DG What is the reason you most prefer Darline Graham to be a senator? Is it because:

1 Graham has been an effective senator
2 Graham is the best to carry on Lindsey Graham's legacy
3 Graham is focused on the issues you care about the most
4 or something else [enter text]

Q14C Do you believe the race for the US Senator from South Carolina will be a close election or not a close election?

1 A close election
2 A non-close election
3 Not sure

Q14E Who do you believe will win the race for US Senator from South Carolina?

1 Annie Andrews
2 Darline Graham
3 Kasie Whitener
4 Mark Hackett
5 Not sure

Q15 Have you seen, read, or heard stories about voters that plan to write-in Ralph Norman on the ballot for the Senate election?

1 Nothing at all
2 A little
3 A moderate amount
4 A lot
5 A great deal

Q16 Do you plan to write-in Ralph Norman for Senate in this election?

1 Yes, I will
2 No, I will not
3 I am undecided

Q17 How much have you been hearing about the differences among the candidates running for governor in South Carolina?

1 Nothing at all
2 A little
3 A moderate amount
4 A lot
5 A great deal

Q18 Of the candidates for governor, do you support Jermaine Johnson, Alan Wilson, Michael Addison, and Walid Hakim?

1 Jermaine Johnson
2 Alan Wilson
3 Michael Addison
4 Walid Hakim
5 Not sure

Q18_NS Would you say you are leaning towards Jermaine Johnson, Alan Wilson, Michael Addison, or Walid Hakim?

1 Jermaine Johnson
2 Alan Wilson
3 Michael Addison
4 Walid Hakim
5 (DO NOT READ) Truly undecided

[Ask Q19# as a follow up to the answer selected in Q18 or Q18_NS]

Q19JJ What is the reason you most prefer Jermaine Johnson to be governor? Is it because:

1 Johnson has been an effective state representative
2 Johnson offers a new direction for the state
3 Johnson is focused on the issues you care about the most
4 or something else [enter text]

Q19AW What is the reason you most prefer Alan Wilson to be governor? Is it because:

1 Wilson has been an effective Attorney General
2 Wilson fights for people like me
3 Wilson is focused on the issues you care about the most
4 or something else [enter text]

Q20C Do you believe the race for South Carolina Governor will be a close election or not a close election?

1 A close election
2 A non-close election
3 (DO NOT READ) Not sure

Q20E Who do you believe will win the South Carolina Governor election?

1 Jermaine Johnson
2 Alan Wilson
3 Someone else
7 (DO NOT READ) Not sure

Policies

Q21 Do you support or oppose the installation of automated license plate cameras in your local city?

1 Strongly oppose
2 Somewhat oppose
4 Somewhat support
5 Strongly support
3 (DO NOT READ) Neither

Q22 Given recent inflation, do you believe that the cost of living in South Carolina is better, worse, or staying the same as other states in the South today?

1 Better
2 Worse
3 Staying the same

Q23 Thinking of life in your town or city in the next 30 years, how concerned are you about:

	Not concerned at all	Not too concerned	Somewhat concerned	Extremely concerned	Neither concerned nor unconcerned
More severe hurricanes	1	2	4	5	3
Prolonged droughts					
More frequent heatwaves					

Q24 Have you purchased additional insurance to protect your property from extreme events (e.g. flood insurance)?

1 Yes
2 No, I have not considered doing this
3 No, but I have considered buying additional insurance in the past two years

Q25 Do you approve or disapprove of the way
[RANDOMIZE order of names displayed]

	Strongly Approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Neither
Donald Trump is handling his job as president?	1	2	4	5	3
Darline Graham is handling her job as senator? (SC)					
Tim Scott is handling his job as senator? (SC)					
Henry McMaster is handling his job as governor? (SC)					

Q26 Is your impression of:

	Very Favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Neither
Alan Wilson	1	2	4	5	3
Jermaine Johnson					
Annie Andrews					

Q27 In the November 2024 presidential election between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump, who did you vote for?

0 Did not vote
1 Democrat Kamala Harris
2 Republican Donald Trump
3 Someone else
9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

Q28 South Carolina has had three governors in the past 24 years. Which governor of South Carolina has done the best job:

	Nikki Haley	Henry McMaster	Mark Sanford
Responding to catastrophes	1	2	3
Generating economic growth			
Maintaining fiscal responsibility			
Respecting the ideas and feelings of the public			

Q29NH [Ask if Haley was selected in Q28_1]
Governor Haley led the state through floods in 2015 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016. What was the primary reason you think she did such a good job responding to catastrophes? Was it:

1 her ability to project calm
2 the rapid mobilization of resources
3 creating what became the SC Office of Resilience to lessen the impact of future disasters

Q29HM [Ask if McMaster was selected in Q28_1]
Governor McMaster led the state through the pandemic, wildfires in 2025, as well as Hurricanes like Florence (2018) and Helene (2024). What was the primary reason you think he did such a good job responding to catastrophes? Was it:

1 his ability to project calm
2 the rapid mobilization of resources
3 making state relief funds available to those who were denied federal assistance

Q29MS [Ask if Sanford was selected in Q28_1]
Governor Sanford led the state for eight years. What was the primary reason you think he did such a good job responding to catastrophes? Was it:

1 his ability to project calm
2 the rapid mobilization of resources
3 the fiscal restraint in how state and federal dollars were used

Demographics Questionnaire

D6 What is your marital status?

1 Married
2 Divorced
3 Separated
4 Single/Never Married
5 Widowed
9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

D7 Did you ever serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?

0 No
1 Active duty now
2 Active duty in the past

D7_F [If Active Duty Now or in the Past] When did you serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces? [Select all that apply]

1 Gulf War era II (September 2001–present)
2 Gulf War era I (August 1990–August 2001)
3 Vietnam era (August 1964–April 1975)
4 Korean War (July 1950–January 1955)
5 World War II (December 1941–December 1946)
6 Other service periods (all other time periods)

D8 How many children under 18 are currently living with you, if any?

0 None
1 One
2 Two
3 Three
4 Four or more
9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

D9 In the last calendar year, what was your total household income, including wages, salaries, Social Security, and retirement benefits before taxes?

1 Less than $30,000
2 $30,000-$49,999
3 $50,000-$74,999
4 $75,000-$99,999
5 $100,000-$149,999
6 $150,000-$199,999
7 $200,000 or more
9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

D10 Thinking about your family's financial situation, would you say you are living comfortably, just getting by, or struggling to make ends meet?

1 Living comfortably
2 Just getting by
3 Struggling to make ends meet
9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

D11 What is your present religion, if any? Are you:

1 Protestant
2 Roman Catholic
3 Mormon
4 Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox
5 Jewish
6 Muslim
7 Buddhist
8 Hindu
9 Atheist
10 Agnostic
11 Something else
12 or nothing in particular

D12 [If protestant, something else, or nothing in particular] Do you consider yourself a born-again Christian?

1 Yes
2 No
3 Unsure

D13 Are you willing to be contacted again to share your opinions in the future?

1 Yes
2 No
3 No answer given