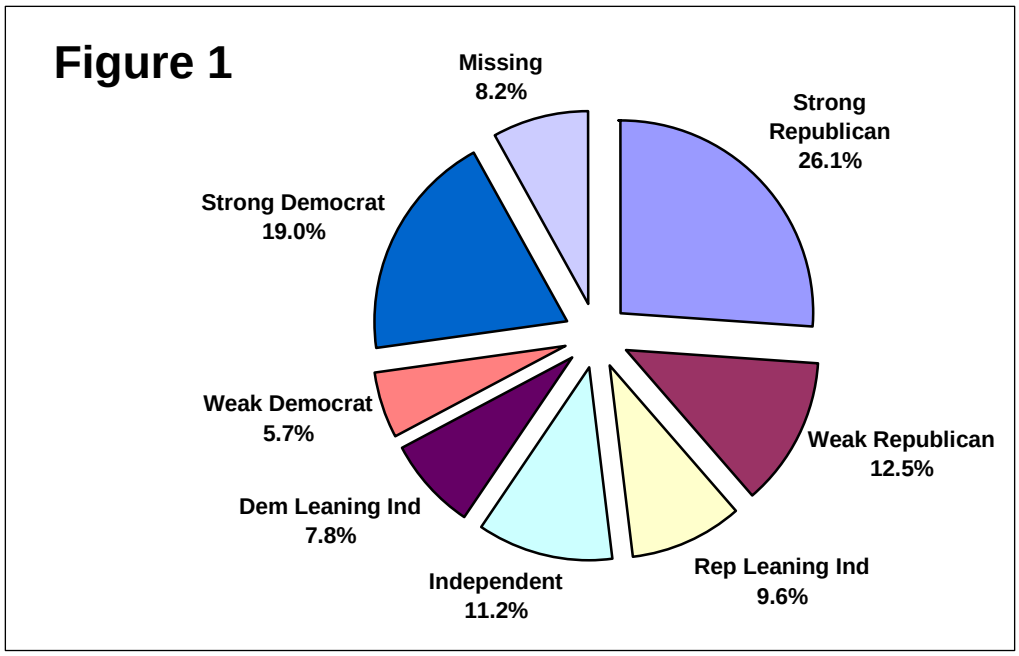
Statistical research is conducted to further understanding and to provide insight into some of the most pondering issues. Research comes in many forms, such as questionnaires and observation, and research can be done over a variety of mediums, for example phone, internet, or in person. According to Winthrop University's website, the Social and Behavioral Research Lab provides polling and data analysis for private and public organizations (Winthrop/ETV Poll 1). The Social and Behavioral Research Lab at Winthrop University conducted a phone survey in May of 2007, asking a variety of questions along the topic of politics. The research lab called a sample of the South Carolina's population of residents. Partisan identification, yearly household income, views on abortion, and money's role in government are just a few topics the research lab covered. From this research and data conducted by the Social and Behavioral Research Lab, results can be visually observed and analyzed.

All across the United States, household incomes vary from the richest of the rich, to the poorest of the poor. The state of South Carolina is no different that any other state with regards to the variation of household incomes. While surveying a sample of South Carolina's population, participants were asked to stop when the correct bracket for his or her total yearly combined household income was reached. This question regarding income was asked towards the end of the survey because participants taking surveys rarely respond to demographic questions at the beginning of surveys. Table 1 shows the variation of incomes throughout the state. The table shows 15.7 percent of respondents answered do not know or refused to answer which income bracket his or her household fell into. The category of $50,000 to 75,000 had the second highest percentage of respondents at 15.2 percent. Without taking into account the do not know and refusal to answer, one can conclude a majority South Carolinians fit into the $50,000 to 75,000 and $75,000 to 100,000 income brackets.

Table 1
Yearly Household Incomes

Income Levels	Percent of Respondents
Under $15K	7.5
$15-20K	5.8
$20-30K	8.1
$30-40K	10.1
$40-50K	10
$50-75K	15.2
$75-100K	14.5
Over $100K	12.5
Do not know/Refuse to answer	15.7

In addition to examining the income brackets of the sample of South Carolinians, one can also examine the respondents' identification to a political party. Participants were asked to choose which party he or she identified with on a seven point scale containing the choices of strong republican, weak republican, republican leaning independent, independent, democrat leaning independent, weak democrat, and strong democrat. Twenty-six percent of respondents identified themselves as strong republican, while nineteen percent of respondents identified themselves as strong democrat. Including all strong republicans, weak republicans, and republicans leaning toward independent, 48.2 percent identified his or herself as republican. Only 32.5 percent of participants identified themselves as democrats and this percentage includes strong democrats, weak democrats, and democrats leaning independent. Historically, South Carolina has a majority of republicans therefore it comes as no surprise a majority of respondents identified with republican. Figure 1 shows the variations of partisan identification throughout South Carolina.



Along with examining the partisan identification of respondents, one can investigate and identify any possible correlations between partisan identification and total household yearly income. Typically, republicans are assumed to be in the higher income brackets, while most democrats are placed into lower income brackets. This assumption is supported by the figures displayed in Table 1. Table 1 showed the variation of incomes throughout the state, and Table 2 shows a crosstabulation between partisan identification and total household yearly income. In analyzing Table 2, a majority of strong republicans identified themselves belonging to the total household yearly income bracket of over $100,000. A majority of strong democrats either refused to identify his or her total household yearly income or responded, "Don't know." The second highest income brackets for strong democrats were between $50,000 to 75,000 and $75,000 to 100,000, with 17 respondents in each bracket. A small majority of independents identified to having a $50,000 to 75,000 total household yearly incomes.

Table 2

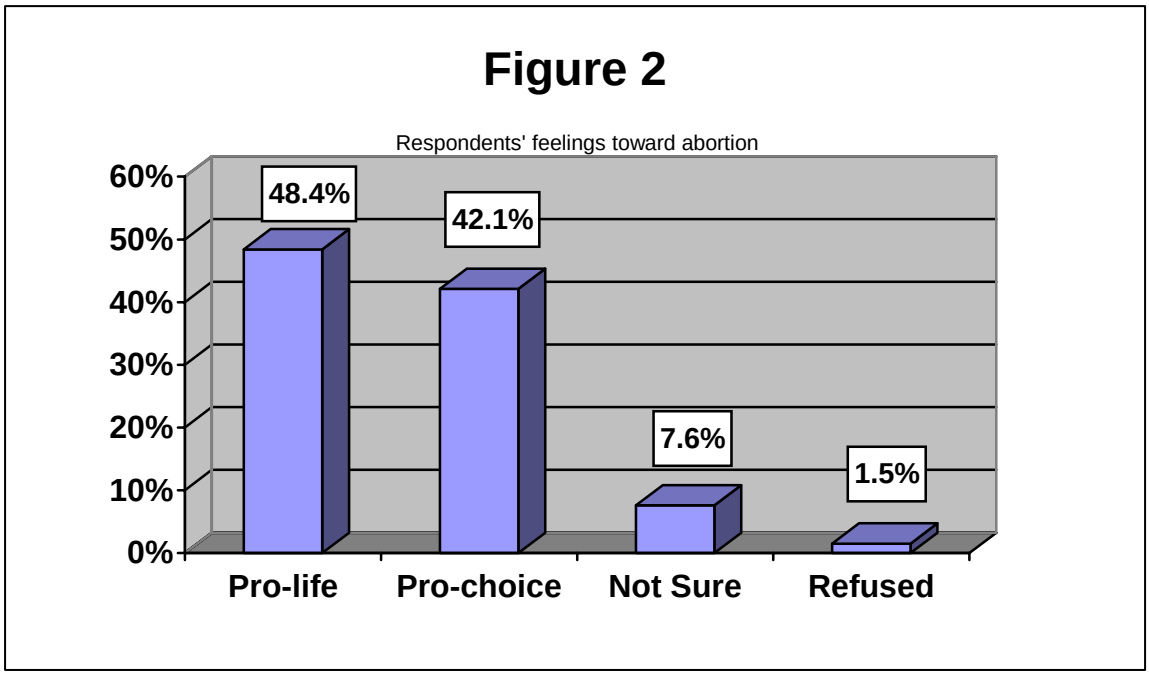
Party Identification and Total Household Yearly Income

	Which of the following categories best describes your total household yearly income?								
Party Identification	Under $15K	$15-20K	$20-30K	$30-40K	$40-50K	$50-75K	$75-100K	Over $100K	dk/r
Strong Republican	**2**	**2**	**17**	**18**	**17**	**23**	**29**	**41**	**26**
Weak Republican	**10**	**6**	**4**	**5**	**8**	**15**	**13**	**5**	**18**
Republican Leaning Independent	**3**	**4**	**4**	**8**	**6**	**13**	**10**	**11**	**5**
Independent	**8**	**7**	**4**	**10**	**9**	**13**	**9**	**6**	**9**
Democratic Leaning Independent	**6**	**3**	**2**	**5**	**7**	**4**	**10**	**8**	**6**
Weak Democrat	**4**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**6**	**7**	**4**	**2**	**6**
Strong Democrat	**12**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**10**	**17**	**17**	**9**	**21**

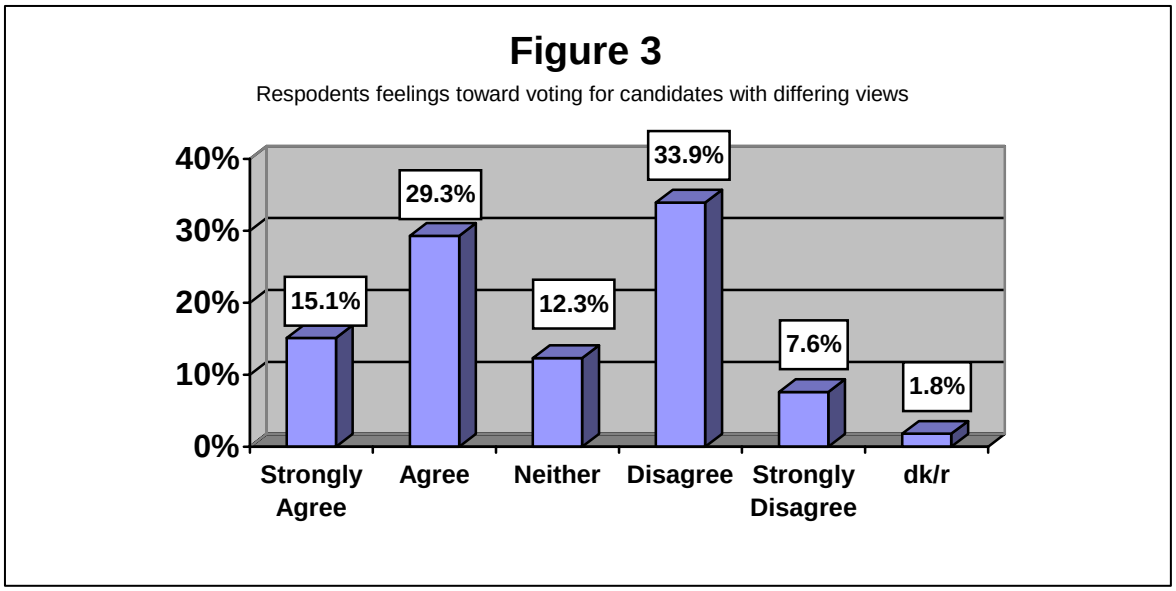
Upon taking more information from the crosstabulation between party identification and total household yearly income, the majority of strong republicans and strong democrats were found in the top income brackets. From this information, assumptions and hypotheses can be constructed. Most assume republicans are found in higher income brackets while democrats are found in the lower income brackets. The null hypothesis in this situation would be no statistically significant difference exists between strong republicans and strong democrats' income brackets. The alternative hypothesis is strong republicans have a significantly higher income bracket than strong democrats. The mean for strong republicans was 6.38, the standard deviation was 2.042, and the sample size was 175. The mean for strong democrats was 5.30, the standard deviation was 2.628, and the sample size was 125. The significance of the test was .000, which allows the alternative hypothesis to be accepted, and the null hypothesis to be

rejected. In other words, the amount of strong republicans found in higher income brackets (M=6.38) differed significantly from the amount of strong democrats found in higher income brackets (M=5.30), $t(298)=3.999$, and $p \leq .05$.

Along with examining responses to income levels and party identification, one can also examine attitudes toward abortion. Respondents were asked "On the issue of abortion, do you consider yourself pro-life or pro-choice?" Respondents could either respond pro-life or pro-choice. If the respondent did not know which to identify with, he or she could voluntarily respond "Do not know," and if the respond chose to not respond, then his or her response would be a refusal to respond. Figure 2 reports the percentages of respondents' answers to the question regarding abortion. Exactly 48.4 percent of the respondents identified themselves as pro-life, while 42.1 percent identified with pro-choice. Almost eight percent of respondents were not sure of his/her stance on the issue, and 1.5 percent refused to answer. According to Leon Felkins in his article "How to Tell a Democrat from a Republican," democrats are generally for abortion while republican typically oppose abortion (Felkins 1). It is not surprising that a strong majority or almost fifty percent of respondents identified with pro-life because South Carolina is a majority of republicans, and since 38.6 percent of respondents identifying themselves as either weak or strong Republican (reference to Figure 1).



Along with questioning the participants on his or her view on the issue of abortion, the respondents were also asked to respond to the following statement: "I would have trouble voting for a candidate whose views on abortion were different from mine." The respondents were to respond with strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, or to strongly disagree. A majority of respondents, 33.9 percent, disagreed with this statement. The respondents who disagreed felt as if they could vote for a candidate who felt differently on the issue of abortion. The second highest percentage, 29.3 percent of people agreed with this statement. These respondents felt as if he or she would be some what troubled when voting for a candidate whose views on abortion were different. The respondents who did not know or refused to answer was low at 1.8 percent. Figure 3 reports the respondents' feelings on the issue.



With examining respondents' stance on the feelings towards abortion, it is possible to examine these stances on abortion through yearly household income. Table 3 is a crosstabulation that reports the respondents' feelings toward abortion by total yearly household income. A majority of respondents identifying themselves as pro-life were also found in the category of $50,000 to 75,000 of total yearly income. A majority of respondents who identified with pro-choice also found themselves in the $75,000 to 100,000 category of total yearly income; but the same amount of pro-life respondents found his or herself in the same category. This finding is significant because pro-life supporters who are typically republican fall in high income brackets. This finding is also significant because it may lead one to confusion because democrats are typically pro-choice but democrats tend to fall into the lower income brackets. All together, pro-choice respondents varied among each category of total yearly income. Since most of South Carolina identifies themselves as Republican and most of the respondents identified themselves in the higher income brackets, it comes by no surprise a slight majority of respondents identified with pro-life.

Table 3

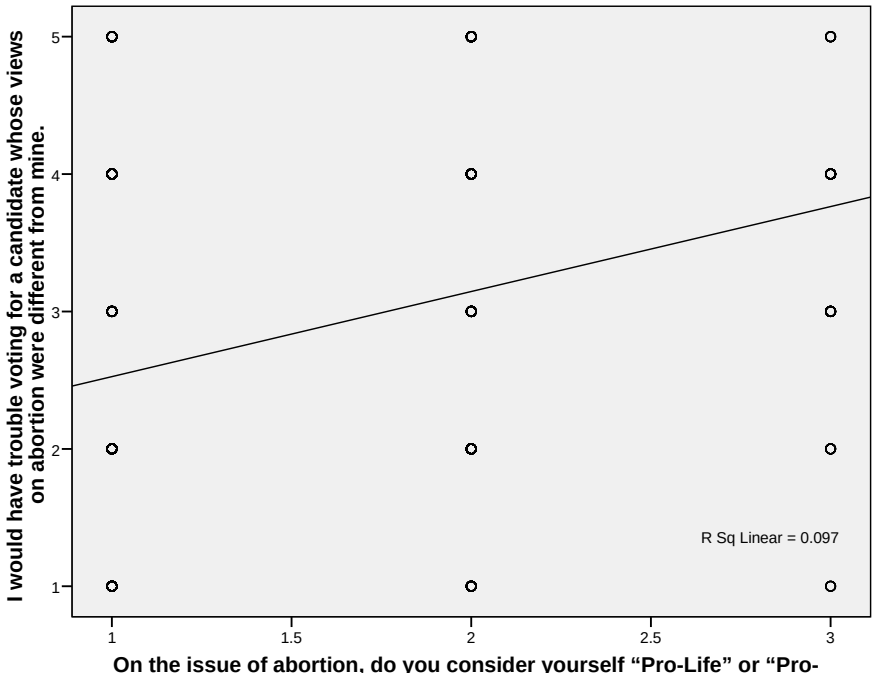
Respondents Feelings Toward Abortion by Yearly Household Income

	On the issue of abortion, do you consider yourself "Pro-Life" or "Pro-Choice?"			
Yearly Household Income	Pro-Life	Pro-Choice	Not Sure	Refused
Under $15K	29	16	4	1
$15-20K	19	19	1	0
$20-30K	30	20	4	0
$30-40K	38	26	4	0
$40-50K	31	32	4	0
$50-75K	53	41	7	1
$75-100K	45	45	7	0
Over $100K	34	42	7	1
Don't Know/Refuse	45	40	13	7

Through further analysis, assumptions regarding partisan identification and stance on abortion can be identified. On the issue of abortion, most people hypothesize strong republicans identify with pro-life, while strong democrats consider themselves pro-choice. In other words, strong republicans are against abortion, and strong democrats are for abortion. The null hypothesis to this statement is no significant difference exists between strong republicans and strong democrats on the two parties' polar stances on abortion. The mean for strong republicans identifying with pro-life was 1.41, the standard deviation was .578, and the sample size was 175. The mean for strong democrats was 1.88, the standard deviation was 1.255, and the sample size was 125. The significance of the test, which is equal to .000, allows the alternative hypothesis to be accepted, and the null hypothesis to be rejected. The amount of strong republicans identifying themselves as pro-life (M=1.41) differed significantly from that of strong democrats (M=1.88), $t(298)=-4.392$, and $p \leq .05$.

Hypothesis testing can be further supported by simple correlation and regression. Causality between two variables can be interpreted as the first variable causing a change in the second variable. The participants in the study were asked his or her stance on abortion, and responses could include pro-life, pro-choice, not sure, or refusal to answer the question. The results of this question are visually displayed in Figure 2. The participants were also asked to respond to the following statement: "I would have trouble voting for a candidate whose views on abortion were different from mine." Figure 3 displays the results to this statement. The stance on abortion would be the independent variable and voting for a candidate with opposing views on abortion would be the dependent variable. The scattergram, Figure 4, shows the relationship, or correlation, between the two variables.

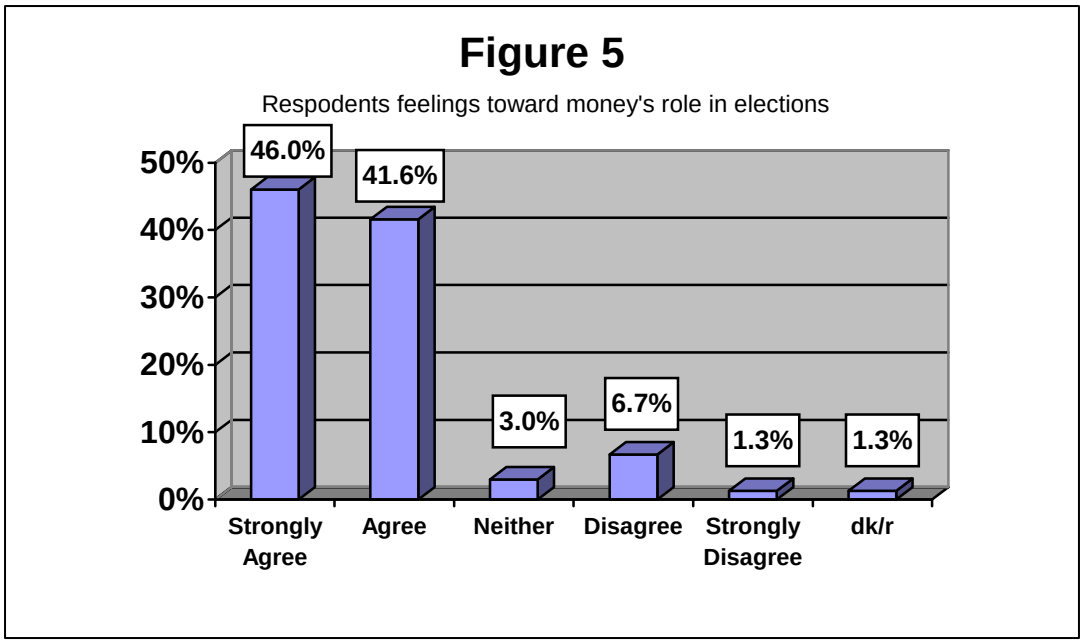
Figure 4



The scattergram, Figure 4 shows the relationship between respondents' feelings toward abortion and respondents' feelings toward voting for a candidate who has different views on

abortion. The scattergram does not show a significant relationship between the two variables. The line fitted at the total has an equation of y = .619x + 1.908. If one's belief on abortion is known, then the same person's response to voting for a candidate with different views on abortion can be predicted. The only fault with this prediction is the r^2 value is low, r^2=0.097. With further support from the r^2 value, one can not be completely confident with predicting this relationship.

Along with examining South Carolina's residents' feelings toward party identification and abortion, the respondents were also asked to strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree to the following statement: "I think money plays too big a role in who gets elected." Forty-six percent of respondents strongly agreed, and 41.6 percent agreed to money playing too big of a role in who gets elected. Only 1.3 percent of respondents strongly disagreed to this statement, and 6.7 percent disagreed. Figure 5 reports the respondents' feelings toward the statement regarding money playing too big of a role in who gets elected.



With further analysis, preference over big money in elections and within the government by strong democrats and strong republicans can be determined by inferring from money's role in government. According to the results from the survey of a sample of South Carolina's population, nearly 50 percent of the state believed money plays too big of a role in who gets elected. This information can be visually seen in Figure 5. Most assume strong democrats are against big money's role in elections, while strong republicans are for big money's role in elections. Leon Felkins stated democrats believe in the equal distribution of wealth (Felkins 8), which could also lead to the assumption of strong democrats being against big money in elections. From this assumption, one would hypothesize strong democrats are against big money in elections, while strong republicans are for the role big money plays in elections. The null hypothesis to the above statement would be no significant difference exists between strong democrats and strong republicans in preference over money's role in elections. The mean for strong democrats' preference of money's role in elections was 1.89, the standard deviation was 1.544, and the sample size was 127. The mean for strong republicans was 1.91, the standard deviation was .993, and the sample size was 175. The statistical significance of the test was .867. The significance of the test allows for the alternative hypothesis to be rejected, and the null hypothesis to be accepted. The amount of strong democrats believing money plays too big of a role in elections (M=1.89) did not differ significantly from strong republicans (M=1.91), $t(300)=.168$, and $p \leq .05$. Table 4 shows the statistical data for the two groups.

Table 4

Statistical data for hypothesis testing

Strong Democrats	Strong Republicans
Mean = 1.89	Mean = 1.91
$s_1 = 1.544$	$s_2 = .993$
$n_1 = 127$	$n_2 = 175$
(alpha level .05)	

Statistics provide the very basis for understanding and analyzing data. Through statistical data analysis, the survey conducted by the Social and Behavioral Research Lab at Winthrop University was explored. The survey conduced by the lab in May of 2007 provided information on a variety of questions asked of a sample of South Carolina's population. The data showed a slight majority of respondents to the survey either did not answer or refused to answer what total yearly household income bracket he or she fell into. The next highest percentage of respondents fell into the $50,000 to 75,000 income bracket. The data can also be crunched to show a majority of the sample identifying with strong republican. The high income bracket, strong presence of republicans, and the crosstabulation of Table 2 helped to support the hypothesis and assumption of republican being found in higher income brackets. Statistical data was also crunched to show a majority of respondents were found in the pro-life stance on abortion, but the pro-choice percentage was not far behind pro-life. Data also allowed for the hypothesis of a significant difference existing between strong republicans and strong democrats on stances for abortion. Participants were also asked if he or she would have a problem with voting for a candidate whose views on abortion were different from his or her own. A majority of the respondents felt as if they could vote for a candidate whose views were different from their own. No strong correlation was found between respondents' feelings toward abortion and trouble voting for a candidate whose stance on the abortion issue differed from his or her own. Money's role in election also got a strong response from the participants to the survey, and a majority agreed money does play too big of a role in elections. Each question asked of the participants helped to provide answer to pondering issues, even issues in which political parties have become interested. South Carolina is a main player in presidential primaries, and the data provided helpful insight into the state's feelings toward a variety of issues.

Works Cited

Felkins, Leon. "How to Tell a Democrat from a Republican." March 1999. 26 Nov. 2007. <http://perspicuity.net/politics/rep-dem.html>.

"Winthrop/ETV Poll, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina." Winthrop University Web Site. 27 Nov. 2007. <http://www.winthrop.edu/sbrl/winthroppoll/sbrl.htm>.