



It *Didn't* Work For North Carolina

In North Carolina, Hope And Change Has Been Replaced By "Anger, Skepticism, And Disillusionment"

In North Carolina, "Hope, Change And Optimism Have Been Supplanted By Anger, Skepticism And Disillusionment." "North Carolina represented the high water mark for the great Obama wave in 2008 — but he's swimming against the tide there in 2012. No state better illustrates the challenge Obama faces in trying to consolidate the historic gains of his 2008 campaign at a time when hope, change and optimism have been supplanted by anger, skepticism and disillusionment." (Glenn Thrush, Donovan Slack, "For President Obama, Carolina No Longer So Sweet," [Politico](#), 4/24/12)

OBAMANOMICS HAS FAILED NORTH CAROLINA

Unemployment: Since Obama Took Office, North Carolina Has Lost 53,500 Jobs And The Unemployment Rate Has Increased From 9.0 Percent To 9.6 Percent. ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/17/12)

- North Carolina Has 444,694 Unemployed Seeking Work. ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/17/12)
- Since Obama Took Office, North Carolina Has Lost 37,800 Construction Jobs And 37,500 Manufacturing Jobs. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/17/12)

A UNC-Chapel Hill Global Research Institute Study Concluded That Economic Recovery "Is Still Shrouded In Shadows" For North Carolina. "After some very tough sledding, the American economy has been improving over recent months. The unemployment rate has fallen, the manufacturing sector has been picking up, the stock market has headed north and the savings rate is rising, along with consumer confidence... The picture in North Carolina, alas, is still shrouded in shadows. Not surprising, given the fact that the so-called Great Recession of 2007-2008 hit our already economically beleaguered state particularly hard. Borrowing from Robert Frost, we might say that for North Carolina, this recession proved extremely unlovely, dark, and deep." (Peter A. Coclanis & Daniel P. Gitterman, Op-Ed, "Hardship Lingers In North Carolina," [The News Observer](#), 3/12/12)

- **According To The Institute, Underemployment Averaged 17.9 Percent In 2011.** "Other measures of the labor market in North Carolina tell a similar story. For example, the labor underutilization rate - the unemployed, people working part-time but preferring full-time work, as well as individuals marginally attached to the labor force (discouraged workers and 'conditionally interested' workers) - averaged 17.9 percent during 2011." (Peter A. Coclanis & Daniel P. Gitterman, Op-Ed, "Hardship Lingers In North Carolina," [The News Observer](#), 3/12/12)

National Debt: Each North Carolinian's Share Of The National Debt Has Increased \$17,280 Since Obama Took Office. ([Treasury Direct](#), Accessed 8/21/12)

Median Income: Since 2008, North Carolina's Median Income Has Fallen \$3,223. ([U.S. Census Website](#), Accessed 10/17/11)

Food Stamps: Since Obama Took Office, The Number Of People In North Carolina Receiving Food Stamps Has Increased By 52 Percent. ("Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program: Number Of Persons Participating," [Food Research And Action Center](#), Accessed 8/10/12; "Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program: Number Of Persons Participating," [USDA Food And Nutrition Service](#), Accessed 8/10/12)

Poverty: Between 2008 To 2010, 325,673 More People In North Carolina Fell Into Poverty. ("Poverty: 2007 And 2008," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 10/11; "Poverty: 2009 And 2010," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 10/11)

- **UNC-Chapel Hill Global Research Institute: Poverty Rates In North Carolina Are "Grim."** "[T]here are large numbers of North Carolinians who do in fact fall beneath the federal poverty line. In 2010, 17.4 percent of the state's population was beneath that line - the third highest yearly figure since 1980 - and other statistics are equally grim. In the same year, 25 percent of all children in North Carolina, roughly 560,000, lived in poverty, and over 35 percent of the state's population lived precariously on the economic edge, with incomes less than 200 percent of the federal poverty line." (Peter A. Coclanis and Daniel P. Gitterman, Op-Ed, "Hardship Lingers In North Carolina," [The News Observer](#), 3/12/12)
- **Nearly 670,000 North Carolinians Were Pushed Into Poverty Between 2000 And 2010.** "According to a report last week from the Budget and Tax Center, a project of the North Carolina Justice Center, the Great Recession pushed nearly 670,000 North Carolinians into poverty between 2000 and 2010, and suburban areas were particularly hard hit. The poor population grew 13 times more in the suburbs than in urban areas. By 2010, the poverty rate in the suburbs was 13.2 percent." (Editorial, "Poverty Gave A Body Blow To N.C. Suburbs," [The Charlotte Observer](#), 8/13/12)

One In Four North Carolina Children Lives In Poverty. "North Carolina ranks 34th in the nation in terms of the overall wellbeing of its children, according to the Kids Count survey released today. The report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation finds that one in four North Carolina children lives in poverty. The percent of North Carolina children living in families where no parent has full-time, year round employment jumped to 35 percent in 2010." ("NC Ranks 34th In Overall Wellbeing Of Its Children," [The Associated Press](#), 7/25/12)

- **The Number Of North Carolina Children Living In High-Poverty Increased From 76,000 In 2000 To 212,000 In 2010.** "The number of North Carolina children living in high-poverty neighborhoods more than doubled over the past decade, increasing from 76,000 in 2000 to 212,000, the report showed. Overall, North Carolina ranked 35th in the nation when it comes to its children's economic wellbeing." (NC Ranks 34th In Overall Wellbeing Of Its Children," [The Associated Press](#), 7/25/12)

Obama's Tax Plan Would Devastate North Carolina's Economy

Obama's Plan To Raise Taxes Would Cost North Carolina 21,200 Jobs. (Drs. Robert Carroll and Gerald Prante, "Long-Run Macroeconomic Impact Of Increasing Tax Rates On High-Income Taxpayers In 2013," [Ernst & Young LLP](#), 7/12)

- **Obama's Plan To Raise Taxes Would Cost North Carolina \$5.9 Billion In Lost Economic Output.** (Drs. Robert Carroll and Gerald Prante, "Long-Run Macroeconomic Impact Of Increasing Tax Rates On High-Income Taxpayers In 2013," [Ernst & Young LLP](#), 7/12)

OBAMA ALSO FAILED NORTH CAROLINA'S YOUTH

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Youth Unemployment: From 2009 To 2011, North Carolina Unemployment For 16–19 Year Olds Increased From 25.7 Percent To 32 Percent. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/17/12; [Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/17/12)

- **From 2009 To 2011, North Carolina Unemployment For 20-24 Year Olds Increased From 18.3 Percent To 19.6 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/17/12; [Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), 8/17/12)

College Debt: From 2008 To 2010, College Students' Debt In North Carolina Has Risen From \$18,400 To \$20,959, An Increase Of 13.90 Percent. ([Project On Student Debt](#), 8/17/12; [Project On Student Debt](#), Accessed 8/17/12)

Higher Tuition Costs Have Resulted In An Increase In Registration Cancellations At North Carolina Colleges. "Higher tuition costs and changes to financial-aid programs have resulted in a big jump in registration cancellations, according to officials at some area colleges." (Lisa O'Donnell, "Some Students Not Able To Return To College," [Winston-Salem Journal](#), 8/22/12)

- **UNC Greensboro Canceled The Registration Of 1,300 Students Because They Had Not Paid Their Tuition Bills.** "UNC Greensboro canceled the registrations of about 1,300 students nearly two weeks ago because they had not paid their tuition bills." (Lisa O'Donnell, "Some Students Not Able To Return To College," [Winston-Salem Journal](#), 8/22/12)
- **N.C. A&T State Canceled The Registration Of 541 Students.** "At N.C. A&T State University, Akua Matherson, interim associate vice chancellor for enrollment management, said the university was scheduled to cancel the registrations of 541 students, a 2.5 percent increase from last year, as of last Friday." (Lisa O'Donnell, "Some Students Not Able To Return To College," [Winston-Salem Journal](#), 8/22/12)

Winston-Salem State University Spokeswoman Nancy Young: "Like The Other Schools, The Issues Are Connected To The Economy." "Winston-Salem State University has also experienced an increase in cancellations, though the total was not available, said spokeswoman Nancy Young. 'Like the other schools, the issues are connected to the economy,' Young said. 'We're seeing students not get the paperwork in by the deadlines, which creates issues in getting any financial aid packaged.'" (Lisa O'Donnell, "Some Students Not Able To Return To College," [Winston-Salem Journal](#), 8/22/12)

- **Young Said The Biggest Issue Was Related To Tuition Increases.** "Young said the biggest issue was related to tuition increases. 'With the reduction in state funding, schools were allowed to increase tuition and did not have a crystal ball to indicate the cuts that would be coming in financial aid at all levels. Therefore, we end up with situations where students just cannot find the dollars needed to fill the gap between what they receive from financial aid and the cost of attending the university,' she said." (Lisa O'Donnell, "Some Students Not Able To Return To College," [Winston-Salem Journal](#), 8/22/12)

Health Care: University Of North Carolina Students Will See Their Health Insurance Premiums Increase From \$460.50 A Semester To \$709 As A Result Of ObamaCare. "Students on the University-provided insurance plan recently saw their premiums increase from \$460.50 to \$709 per semester as insurance providers expanded coverage under the Affordable Care Act." (Katie Quine, "Effects Of Upheld Affordable Care Act Start To Emerge," [The Daily Tar Heel](#), 8/22/12)

According To Health Insurers, New Limits On Health Insurance Due To ObamaCare Will Require Higher Premiums That Colleges And Students Worry They Won't Be Able To Afford. "Insurers said the new limits will require higher premiums that colleges and students, particularly at smaller schools, are worried they can't afford. And while there's a chance the U.S. Supreme Court will throw out the law later this month — making the new limits irrelevant — college administrators said they've had to finalize

their coverage plans for the coming semesters assuming the law remains intact.” (Brienne Pfannenstiel, “Health Care Reform Law Dictates Changes For Student Insurance Coverage,” *Kansas City Star*, 6/13/12)

- **Douglas Penner Of The Kansas Independent College Association: Colleges Are Trying To Figure Out If They Can “Provide Anything Close To The Kind Of Coverage That’s Required And Is Economically Feasible For Students.”** “‘We’ve had a lot of discussion among the chief financial officers about the dilemma,’ said Douglas Penner of the Kansas Independent College Association. ‘I think they were all grappling with the implications of the new minimums for coverage and trying to figure out whether they could provide anything close to the kind of coverage that’s required and is economically feasible for students.’” (Brienne Pfannenstiel, “Health Care Reform Law Dictates Changes For Student Insurance Coverage,” *Kansas City Star*, 6/13/12)

OBAMACARE *DIDN’T* WORK FOR NORTH CAROLINA

According To The Kaiser Family Foundation, ObamaCare’s Medicaid Expansion Will Cost North Carolina \$1.02 Billion To \$1.8 Billion From 2014 To 2019. (John Holahan and Irene Headen, “Medicaid Coverage And Spending In Health Reform: National And State-By-State Results For Adults At Or Below 133% FPL,” [Kaiser Commission On Medicaid And The Uninsured](#), 5/2010)

North Carolinians Are Seeing Their Health Insurance Costs Climb

In 2012, North Carolina Will Receive An Average 5.2 Percent Health Insurance Premium Hike.

“Mercer, a human-resource consulting company in Charlotte, annually tracks health-insurance charges nationwide. The survey of 86 North Carolina employers — all with at least 10 employees — found an average projected premium increase of 5.2 percent over 2011 costs.” (Richard Craver, “Employee Health Care Costs Going Up In 2012,” [Winston-Salem Journal](#), 11/15/11)

- **In 2011, North Carolina Received An Average 5.7 Percent Health Insurance Premium Hike.** “[Mercer, a human-resource consulting company in Charlotte] determined that 2011 costs actually went up 5.7 percent for an average employee cost of \$9,412.” (Richard Craver, “Employee Health Care Costs Going Up In 2012,” [Winston-Salem Journal](#), 11/15/11)

Blue Cross Blue Shield Of North Carolina Has Requested A 9.94 Percent Increase On Health Care Premiums And Health Savings Accounts. “Blue Cross and Blue Shield of N.C. is asking for approval of a nearly 10 percent rate increase for health plans for individuals, and those who choose a health savings account would feel the pain as much as those with other plans. The insurer filed a 9.94 percent rate increase request with the N.C. Insurance Department on Friday. The increase would end four years of progressively lower rate increases for individual HSAs, as well as two years for individuals' preferred-provider organizations (PPO).” (Richard Craver, “Blue Cross Files For 10 Percent Rate Increase,” [Winston-Salem Journal](#), 8/4/12)

- **Nearly 220,000 North Carolinians Will Be Impacted By The Premium Increase.** “If the rate increases are approved, 61 percent of the insurer's 365,000 individual product customers, or about 220,000, would see premium increases of 10 percent or less.” (Richard Craver, “Blue Cross Files For 10 Percent Rate Increase,” [Winston-Salem Journal](#), 8/4/12)
- **Employer-Based Plans Will Also See Increases Between 7 And 10 Percent.** “This particular rate increase is only for the individual market, which are those customers who do not purchase health insurance through an employer. Most employer-based plans will see increases in the 7 percent to 10 percent range, said Patrick Getzen, chief actuary for BCBSNC, which is headquartered in Chapel Hill.” (Jason deBruyn, “Blue Cross Files For 10% Rate Increase,” [Triangle Business Journal](#), 8/3/12)

The Number Of North Carolinians Without Health Insurance Is Increasing

The Amount Of North Carolinians Without Health Insurance Has Grown 22.5 Percent, Or Twice As Quickly As The State's Population. "The number of North Carolina residents younger than 65 who don't have health insurance jumped 22.5 percent in a five-year stretch ending in 2010, according to an independent state health agency." (Jay Price, "The Number Of Uninsured North Carolinians Has Jumped More Than Twice As Quickly As The Population," [The Charlotte Observer](#), 4/16/12)

- **Nearly 1.6 Million North Carolinians Had No Health Insurance in 2010, Up From 1.3 Million In 2005.** "About 1.6 million people, or almost one in five state residents, didn't have health insurance, up from about 1.3 million, according to a report released Monday by the N.C. Institute of Medicine, a quasi-governmental group created by the legislature to study health issues facing the state." (Jay Price, "The Number Of Uninsured North Carolinians Has Jumped More Than Twice As Quickly As The Population," [The Charlotte Observer](#), 4/16/12)

North Carolina Democrats See The Problem With ObamaCare

North Carolina Democrat Representatives Heath Shuler And Mike McIntyre Supported Repeal Of ObamaCare's Tax On Insurance Policies. "A bill to repeal part of the healthcare reform law has picked up another Democratic co-sponsor — Rep. Mike Ross (D-Ark.). The bill, sponsored by Reps. Charles Boustany Jr. (R-La.) and Dan Boren (D-Okla.), would repeal the healthcare law's tax on insurance policies. The tax does not take effect until 2014. Ross joins a small group of conservative Democrats who have co-sponsored the repeal bill, including Reps. Heath Shuler (N.C.) and Mike McIntyre (N.C.)." (Sam Baker, "Ross Backs Bill To Repeal Health Care Tax," [The Hill's "Health Watch"](#), 7/29/11)

Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC): "Health Care Reform Is Needed, But The Bill Before Us Is Too Expensive, Does Not Adequately Address Rising Medical Costs And Skyrocketing Insurance Premiums, And Tries To Do Too Much Too Soon. We Simply Cannot Afford To Create A New Federal Bureaucracy That Costs Nearly \$1 Trillion When Our National Debt Is \$12 Trillion And There Is No Plan In Place To Address It. I Will Not Vote For It." (Press Release, "McIntyre Says, "Yes To Jobs, No To Proposed Health Care Reform Bill," [Rep. Mike McIntyre](#), 3/19/10)

- **McIntyre: "The Critical Issue Facing Our Nation Is Jobs. ... After We Help Jump Start Our Economy, We Should Again Turn Our Attention To Health Care Reform – But With A Clean Slate."** (Press Release, "McIntyre Says, "Yes To Jobs, No To Proposed Health Care Reform Bill," [Rep. Mike McIntyre](#), 3/19/10)

Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC): "There Is No Question That Our Current Health Care System Is Broken And That We Need To Make Significant Reforms To Improve It In An Equitable, Fiscally Responsible And Sustainable Manner. In My Opinion The Bill As Written Does Not Meet Those Criteria..." (Bill Theobald, "Shuler Says He Will Vote No On Health Care Reform," [The Asheville Citizen-Times](#), 3/19/10)

Rep. Larry Kissell (D-NC): "I Voted Against It Originally And I Will Vote To Repeal It." "North Carolina Rep. Larry Kissell told the the Charlotte Observer on Monday that he plans to buck his party and side with the GOP on their first vote to repeal the law since the Supreme Court upheld it last month. 'I've heard from hundreds and hundreds of people from my district about their opposition to the health care law,' he told the newspaper. 'I voted against it originally and I will vote to repeal it.'" (Paige Winfield Cunningham, "One House Dem To Join Health Care Repeal Drive," [The Washington Times](#), 7/3/12)

- **Kissell: "I Made A Promise And Commitment That I Would Look Out For Medicare, And I'm Doing That...The Method Of Funding Makes It Impossible For Me To Change My Vote On That Bill."** (Jim Morrill, "Kissell Faces Pressure On Health Care," [The Charlotte Observer](#), 3/03/10)

Rep. Brad Miller (D-NC): “We Would Have Been Better Off ... If We Had Dealt First With The Financial System And The Other Related Economic Issues And Then Come Back To Healthcare.” “‘I think we would all have been better off — President Obama politically, Democrats in Congress politically, and the nation would have been better off — if we had dealt first with the financial system and the other related economic issues and then come back to healthcare,’ said Rep. Brad Miller (D-N.C.), who is retiring at the end of this Congress.” (Julian Pecquet, Same Baker, “Democrats Expressing Buyers’ Remorse On Obama’s Healthcare Law,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 4/19/12)

OBAMA’S DEFENSE BUDGET *DIDN’T* WORK FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Obama FY2013 Defense Spending Cuts Will Drive North Carolina’s Small Businesses “Out Of The Market.” “An estimated \$487 billion in defense spending cuts over 10 years could include reductions in forces at the Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune. The ripple effect is expected to drive some small contractors and small businesses that depend on the military out of the market.” (Franco Ordoñez, “What’s At Stake For North Carolina?” [The News Observer](#), 2/14/12)

- **North Carolina Has Six Major Military Bases And “The Fourth Highest Number Of Military Personnel In The Country.”** “With six major military bases and the fourth highest number of military personnel in the country, North Carolina created the NCMBC to leverage more of this business for firms in the state.” ([North Carolina Military Business Center](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

Obama’s Inaction On Sequestration Will Cost North Carolina Jobs

Sequestration’s Defenses Cuts Could Cost North Carolina 34,000 Jobs. “North Carolina’s chamber of commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers estimate that the defense spending cuts, part of an across-the-board budget balancing law, could cost 34,000 jobs in the state.” (“NC Business Groups Warn Of Pending US Budget Cuts,” [WRAL](#), 7/11/12)

- **North Carolina Will Lose 20,000 Civilian Jobs As A Result Of Sequestration.** “It is estimated there are 30,000 civilian employees at Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station and the Coast Guard Air Station. These jobs are not only vital to those employees but also essential to our state’s economy. Unless something happens before December 31, we stand to lose as many as 20,000 of those jobs.” (Tom Campbell, “Sequestration Could Cost NC Thousands Of Jobs,” [Ashville’s Citizen-Times](#), 7/27/12)

Will Austin, Director Of Government Affairs For Lord Corp., A Cary N.C. Company: Sequestration Is “Just Putting A Huge Chill On Business.” “‘It’s just putting a huge chill on business,’ said Will Austin, director of government affairs for Lord Corp., a Cary-based company with 2,800 employees worldwide making adhesives, coatings, electronics and other items. Fifteen to 20 percent of the company’s \$789 million business last year was with the military. How much it will be this year or next remains to be seen.” (Martha Quillin, “N.C. Businesses Sweat Looming Defense Cuts,” [The News Observer](#), 8/10/12)

- **In 2011, North Carolina Companies Secured \$4 Billion In Defense Contracts And Millions More As Subcontractors.** “Last year was the best ever for North Carolina companies competing for defense contracts; companies here secured more than \$4 billion in defense contracts and untold millions more as subcontractors performing work for companies based in other states. While companies in Cumberland and Onslow counties, home to Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune, bagged the most federal money, businesses in 87 of the state’s 100 counties got defense contracts last year. Many of those were founded by or employ former service members.” (Martha Quillin, “N.C. Businesses Sweat Looming Defense Cuts,” [The News Observer](#), 8/10/12)

In Fayetteville, North Carolina, Home To Fort Bragg, The Unemployment Rate Has Soared And The Local Economy Will Get Worse If Sequestration Goes Into Effect. “Here in the military town home to Fort Bragg, long fighting off its nickname ‘Fayette-nam,’ the unemployment rate has soared above that in the rest of the country for years. And things could get much worse, military officials, contractors and voters here fear, if Congress doesn’t work out a deal before Jan. 2, when \$500 billion in automatic defense cuts will take effect.” (Stephanie Gaskell, “Sequester Ground Zero: ‘Fayette-nam,’” [Politico](#), 8/20/12)

- **Fayetteville, North Carolina, Could Lose \$640 Million In Government Contracts If Sequestration Takes Effect.** “In Fayetteville alone, that could take a bite out of \$640 million in government contracts that flow into companies here, like major contractors Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Booz Allen Hamilton.” (Stephanie Gaskell, “Sequester Ground Zero: ‘Fayette-nam,’” [Politico](#), 8/20/12)
- **Fayetteville Gets \$12.9 Billion A Year From Defense-Related Spending.** “The economy in Fayetteville gets \$12.9 billion a year from defense-related spending, according to Fayetteville State University economics professor Dr. Inder Nijhawan.” (Stephanie Gaskell, “Sequester Ground Zero: ‘Fayette-nam,’” [Politico](#), 8/20/12)

Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC) Is “Gravely Concerned” About Sequestration. “Democratic Rep. Mike McIntyre of Fayetteville is facing one of the toughest reelection battles of his 16-year career — and he’s in the same spot. ‘I did not vote for sequestration, and Congress must act to avoid sequestration,’ he said. ‘If not, there will be massive defense cuts that, as a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am gravely concerned.’” (Stephanie Gaskell, “Sequester Ground Zero: ‘Fayette-nam,’” [Politico](#), 8/20/12)

OBAMA’S RE-ELECTION EFFORT IS IN TROUBLE IN THE STATE HE SELECTED TO “SHOWCASE” HIS PRESIDENCY

North Carolina Is A “Political Migraine” For Obama

The Associated Press: “Once A Bright Spot For President Barack Obama, North Carolina Is Now More Like A Political Migraine.” “Once a bright spot for President Barack Obama, North Carolina is now more like a political migraine less than four months before Democrats open the party’s national convention in Charlotte.” (“Their Convention In Charlotte Just Months Away, Democrats Cope With Political Headaches In NC,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/12/12)

Roll Call: “Simply Put: North Carolina Looks Like A Mess For Democrats.” “Simply put: North Carolina looks like a mess for Democrats. The state’s Democratic governor, Beverly Perdue, is so unpopular — her job approval has been fluctuating from 30 percent to 40 percent for months — that she wisely decided not to seek re-election this year.” (Stuart Rothenberg, “On Second Thought, Maybe N.C. Was A Mistake,” [Roll Call](#), 4/30/12)

National Journal: “Can Obama Really Take North Carolina?” (Michael Hirsh, “Can Obama Really Take North Carolina,” [National Journal](#), 6/26/12)

- **“But The More Important Question Is Whether Barack Obama's Whole Re-Election Effort Is In Trouble In North Carolina, The State He Selected To Showcase His Presidency.”** “But the more important question is whether Barack Obama's whole re-election effort is in trouble in North Carolina, the state he selected to showcase his presidency. While Democrats boast they have 16 campaign offices statewide, and Mitt Romney has just four so far, state GOP spokesman Rob Lockwood counters that the Republican candidate's campaign is only just getting under way here and he's already edging ahead. The latest survey by Public Policy Polling, which leans Democratic, has Romney leading Obama 48-to 46 percent, the GOP candidate's first lead since October. ‘We

had to wait until we had a presumptive nominee,' said Lockwood. 'Now that the campaign is here, we're very confident the numbers are moving in our direction.'" (Michael Hirsh, "Can Obama Really Take North Carolina," [National Journal](#), 6/26/12)

News: "Charlotte Looking Like Worse And Worse DNC Pick." (Mary Papenfuss, "Charlotte Looking Like Worse And Worse DNC Pick," [News](#), 5/24/12)

- **Democratic Organizers Preparing For The DNC Convention Have A "Nagging Distraction" – Second-Guessing About Putting The Convention In The State In The First Place.**
"Preparations for the Democratic National Convention are humming along in this model city of the New South. But unlike their Republican counterparts in Tampa, Democratic organizers have a nagging distraction: constant second-guessing about the decision to put their convention in North Carolina." (Adam C. Smith, "North Carolina Poses Uphill Battle For Obama, Though Charlotte Is DNC Host City," [Tampa Bay Times](#), 6/17/12)

It's Hard To Find Democrats Optimistic About Obama's Prospects In North Carolina. "It's hard to find Democrats optimistic about Obama's prospects here, even with the latest poll by the Raleigh-based Democratic firm Public Policy Polling showing a neck-and-neck race: 48 percent of voters for Mitt Romney and 46 percent for Obama. But every dollar Romney spends competing for North Carolina is good news for the president's re-election." (Adam C. Smith, "North Carolina Poses Uphill Battle For Obama, Though Charlotte Is DNC Host City," [Tampa Bay Times](#), 6/17/12)

Obama Will Have "A Very Difficult Time Winning" North Carolina In November. "But the public angst over negative developments in the Tarheel State demonstrates why President Obama will have a very difficult time winning it again in 2012." (Josh Kraushaar, "N2K Presidential Race: Does Obama Have A Chance In N. Carolina?," [National Journal](#), 5/11/12)

- **North Carolina "Barely Voted" To Elect Obama In 2008.** "Keep in mind that North Carolina, under ideal circumstances for the president, barely voted to elect him in 2008 — by a 14,000-vote margin. His job-approval rating has dropped significantly there since then. Furthermore, Obama needed a significant spike in youth and minority turnout to win. Enthusiasm among those demographic groups has ebbed, and the white vote in the state is still deeply conservative (64 percent voted for McCain), consistent with its Southern roots." (Josh Kraushaar, "N2K Presidential Race: Does Obama Have A Chance In N. Carolina?," [National Journal](#), 5/11/12)

Democrat Consultant Gary Pearce: "He Was Hope And Change. That Has Worn Off Now. The Glow Is Gone. It's Going To Be Tough For Him To Catch Magic In The Bottle Again." "My heart says he will win here, but my head says it's going to be awfully tough for him," said Gary Pearce, a longtime Democratic consultant and adviser to former Gov. Jim Hunt. "This is a tight state for him. Race is part of it. The economy is a big problem. Four years ago he was new, he was exciting. He was hope and change. That has worn off now. The glow is gone. It's going to be tough for him to catch magic in the bottle again." (Peter Hamby, "Obama's North Carolina Math Problem," [CNN](#), 5/18/12)