

Under current NC law, you cannot text or e-mail while driving. Would you support the state legislature also passing a ‘hands free’ driving law that would prohibit holding a device while you are behind the wheel (you could make phone calls, or use apps for navigation or music, if the device was mounted and not being held while driving)?

Meredith College Poll Jan 26 – 31, 2024 N = 760	Strongly support	Somewhat support	TOTAL SUPPORT	Somewhat opposed	Strongly opposed	Don't know
Democrat	53.3	40	93.3	0	6.7	0
Republican	61.8	32.4	94.2	2.9	2.9	0
Unaffiliated	50	33.3	83.3	0	0	16.7
Very liberal	50	25	75	0	0	25
Somewhat liberal	80	20	100	0	0	0
Somewhere in the middle	52.6	36.8	89.4	0	10.5	0
Somewhat conservative	55.6	38.9	94.5	5.6	0	0
Very conservative	63.6	27.3	90.9	0	9.1	0
High school diploma	62.5	37.5	100	0	0	0
Some college	53.6	39.3	92.9	0	7.1	0
Bachelor's degree	69.2	23.1	92.3	7.7	0	0
Graduate or professional degree	57.1	28.6	85.7	0	0	14.3
Urban	42.9	28.6	71.5	14.3	14.3	0
Suburban	53.6	42.9	96.5	0	0	3.6
Rural	68.2	22.7	90.9	0	9.1	0

Meredith College Polling Summary: Half of North Carolina drivers feel somewhat unsafe on the state’s roads and highways, feeling like there is a small chance that they will be involved in an accident. 19% of drivers feel that there is a good chance they will be involved in an accident while driving, while about 16 percent feel very safe while driving with little chance of being in an accident. Those in suburban and rural areas felt relatively less safe. Women were more likely than men to identify distracted driving as a cause for making them feel unsafe.

In terms of dealing with the issue of distracted driving, **91 percent of respondents indicated that they supported the General Assembly passing a bill that prohibits drivers from holding a mobile device while driving. Support for this change in the law was consistent across all groups.**

“A hands-free law may have more bipartisan support than any other single piece of legislation in recent history,” said David McLennan, Director of the Meredith College Poll. “We have polled on this for several years now and the support has only grown for passage of such legislation. There is such strong awareness that phones and safe driving do not go together.”