

Lyndsey Beam
Writing Assignment
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Residents in Chapel Hill may decide to change their trash collection services based on a recent poll conducted by the Institute for Research in Social Science and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The latest Public Pulse Poll found that 62 percent (plus or minus 5 percent) of the 652 residents interviewed in Chapel Hill said they would favor rollout garbage collection once a week versus sanitation workers picking up garbage behind their houses twice a week.

The poll was conducted by students via telephone April 5-7. A computer selection process randomly selected the phone numbers used. The Public Pulse Poll is conducted once each year in the spring.

“We have been considering rollout collection for several years,” said Mayor Kevin Foy. “We estimate it will save us \$600,000 a year in workers’ time because we would pick up trash once a week instead of twice a week.”

Of those surveyed, 24 percent disapproved of the rollout collection-- most of them being 45 years of age or older.

“Carrboro has used rollout garbage cans for five years, and there seems to be no complaint. We would give waivers to individuals who are not physically able to roll the cans to the street,” Foy said.

Of the residents surveyed, 40 percent had lived in Chapel Hill more than ten years, 17 percent for one to five years and 18 percent for 6-10 years. Half of the respondents were 25-44 years old; 10 percent were 18-24; 27 percent 45-64; and 13 percent were 65 or older. Fifty percent were working full-time. Fifty-two percent of respondents were women and 48 percent were men.

Note: The story would be more interesting if the writer had more information. Quotes from Chapel Hill citizens about their opinion would be interesting. Comments from the town would also be valuable concerning the likelihood of the trash collection process changing and/or when that would happen. It would also be beneficial to know why the students were conducting this particular poll.