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## Onetime N&O pollster comes under attack

**John Drescher in  
The Editors' Blog:**

The polling firm Research 2000, which worked for The N&O several years ago, has done work recently for the blog Daily Kos, which was founded by Markos Moulitsas. But the liberal blog says it is ending its relationship with Research 2000 because it was "defrauded."

The blog says three statisticians re-



viewed Research 2000's work for Daily Kos and showed "that the weekly Research 2000 State of the Nation poll we ran the past year and half was likely bunk. ... We were defrauded by Research 2000, and while we don't know if some or all of the data was fabricated or manipulated beyond recognition, we know we can't trust it."

Del Ali, president of Research 2000, told me Thursday that he soon would have a detailed response to the Daily Kos allegations. Ali said he "100 percent, absolutely" stood by all of his

polling, including the work he did for The N&O. Of the dispute with Daily Kos, he said, "We're going to get this resolved soon."

Research 2000 worked for The N&O several times, most recently in 2006. That fall, a Research 2000 poll for The N&O and WRAL found that 54 percent of voters surveyed said they would vote against a Wake school bond issue and 35 percent would vote yes. In an Oct. 25 article, Ali said he would be "shocked" if the bond issue was approved. Less than two weeks later, Wake voters approved

the bond issue, 53 percent to 47 percent. Ali defended the poll, saying that his numbers were right when he polled and that voters shifted after the poll was taken.

We were not happy with Research 2000's work in 2006 and have not hired the firm since. We have published highlights of its work for other clients in our Under the Dome political column. But until Research 2000 offers a good explanation to the allegations raised by Daily Kos, we won't publish any of its findings.