

Field Dates: February 4-13
1,018 Registered Virginia Voters

[READ] Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling on behalf of Christopher Newport University and the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* to ask your views on some important issues. Your number was selected at random, and I assure you that your opinions are completely confidential and this is not a sales call.

Screen

[READ] Just to make sure we are interviewing the right people, are you registered to vote in Virginia?

Yes – continue to Q1

No/DK/Refused – **TERMINATE**

[RESPONDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN VIRGINIA; ELSE TERMINATE]

I. Assessment

[READ] Ok, thank you. I want to start by asking your thoughts about the general state of things today...

Q1: [READ] Overall, would you say things in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA are heading more in the right direction or the wrong direction?

		Oct. 11	Dec. 10	Oct. 09
Right	46%	46%	49%	35%
Mixed (vol.)	18%	18%	20%	19%
Wrong	30%	31%	28%	32%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6%	6%	3%	14%

Q2: [READ] How about the country...overall, would you say things in the UNITED STATES are heading more in the right direction or the wrong direction?

		Oct. 11	Dec. 10	Oct. 09
Right	23%	15%	27%	33%
Mixed (vol.)	12%	13%	17%	12%
Wrong	62%	71%	55%	49%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	3%	1%	2%	6%

[READ] Thinking about public officials...I'm going to read some names of a few elected officials and I want to know if you approve or disapprove of their job performance.

Q3: [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]

		Oct. 11	Dec. 10
Approve	43%	44%	44%
Disapprove	53%	52%	49%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	4%	4%	7%

Q4: [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bob McDonnell is handling his job as Governor of Virginia?

[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Bob McDonnell is handling his job as Governor? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]

		Oct. 11	Dec. 10
Approve	59%	70%	51%
Disapprove	21%	18%	25%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	20%	12%	24%

Q5: [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Bolling is handling his job as Lieutenant Governor of Virginia? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Bolling is handling his job as Lieutenant Governor? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

Approve	30%
Disapprove	17%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	53%

Q6: [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ken Cuccinelli (**pronounced *Coo-Chin-Elly***) is handling his job as Attorney General of Virginia? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Ken Cuccinelli is handling his job as Attorney General of Virginia? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

		Oct. 11	Dec. 10
Approve	40%	45%	35%
Disapprove	26%	27%	26%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	34%	29%	39%

II. Elections

[READ] Ok, thanks. I want to shift to upcoming elections and the people who might be running for office...

d5: [READ] In politics today, do you generally consider yourself to be a Democrat, Republican, or Independent?

Democrat	28%
Republican	28%
Independent	41%
Other party (vol.)	2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	1%

[ASK IF ANSWERED “REPUBLICAN” OR “INDEPENDENT” ON d5]

Q7: [READ] The 2012 Republican primary for president in Virginia is coming up on March 6. Two candidates - Mitt Romney and Ron Paul - will be on the ballot but several others including Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum will not be on the ballot. Would you say that you are generally satisfied with the choices of Mitt Romney and Ron Paul or would you like to see some of the other candidates on the ballot as well?

Generally satisfied	38%
Would like to see other candidates	57%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6%

[ASK IF ANSWERED “REPUBLICAN” OR “INDEPENDENT” ON d5]

Q8: [READ] How likely are you to vote in the upcoming March 6 Republican primary for president, would you say you are very likely, somewhat likely, or not likely to vote in it?

Very likely	40%
Somewhat likely	31%
Not likely	27%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	2%

[ASK IF ANSWERED “VERY LIKELY” OR “SOMEWHAT LIKELY” ON Q8]

Q9: [READ] If that Republican primary for president were being held TODAY, would you vote for **[RANDOMIZE: “Mitt Romney” or “Ron Paul”]**?

Mitt Romney	53%
Ron Paul	23%
Other/Undecided (vol.)	12%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	12%

[ASK ALL]

Q10: [READ] Thinking about the 2012 presidential election... if the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Barack Obama the Democrat" and "Mitt Romney the Republican"], for whom would you vote?

[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independents</u>
Obama	43%	90%	8%	35%
Romney	46%	5%	86%	48%
Other (vol.)	2%			
Neither (vol.)	5%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	4%			

Q11: [READ] Still thinking about the 2012 presidential election... if the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Barack Obama the Democrat" and "Newt Gingrich the Republican"], for whom would you vote?

[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independents</u>
Obama	45%	93%	10%	37%
Gingrich	40%	2%	78%	41%
Other (vol.)	2%			
Neither (vol.)	8%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	5%			

Q12: [READ] Still thinking about the 2012 presidential election...if the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Barack Obama the Democrat" and "Rick Santorum the Republican"], for whom would you vote?

[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independents</u>
Obama	42%	91%	10%	31%
Santorum	46%	2%	79%	54%
Other (vol.)	2%			
Neither (vol.)	4%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6%			

Q13: [READ] Still thinking about the 2012 presidential election...if the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Barack Obama the Democrat" and "Ron Paul the Republican"], for whom would you vote?

[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independents</u>
Obama	43%	90%	9%	35%
Paul	43%	6%	76%	47%
Other (vol.)	1%			
Neither (vol.)	7%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6%			

[READ] Ok, thank you. As you know, Virginia will also have an election for the U.S. Senate in 2012...

Q14: [READ] Thinking about the 2012 election for the U.S. Senate...if the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Tim Kaine the Democrat" and "George Allen the Republican"], for whom would you vote?

[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Oct. 11</u>
Kaine	40%	44%
Allen	42%	42%
Neither (vol.)	2%	2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	16%	12%

Q15: [READ] Still thinking about the 2012 U.S. Senate election...If the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Tim Kaine the Democrat" and "Bob Marshall the Republican"], for whom would you vote?

[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

Kaine	39%
Marshall	28%
Other (vol.)	2%
Neither (vol.)	2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	29%

Q16: [READ] Still thinking about the 2012 U.S. Senate election...If the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Tim Kaine the Democrat" and "Jamie Radtke the Republican"], for whom would you vote?

[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Oct. 11</u>
Kaine	40%	46%
Radtke	26%	32%
Other (vol.)	1%	1%
Neither (vol.)	2%	2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	31%	19%

III. General Assembly/Policy

[READ] Ok, thanks. I have a few questions about issues that are before the General Assembly right now....

Q17: Currently when Virginians register to vote they do not register by political party. The General Assembly is considering allowing Virginians to voluntarily register by political party. What is your view, [RANDOMIZE: "should people have the option to register by political party" or "should voter registration rules remain like they are"]?

Allow voluntary registration by political party	32%
Keep voter registration rules like they are	62%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	7%

Q18: The General Assembly is considering a proposal that would require state employees to pay more into their retirement. Proponents say it is necessary to shore up the Virginia Retirement System, which is currently underfunded. Opponents say that this would effectively be a pay cut for state employees. What is your view, [RANDOMIZE: “should state employees be required to pay more into their retirement” or “should state employees not be required to pay more into their retirement”]?

Employees should be required to pay more	36%
Employees should not be required to pay more	51%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	13%

Q19: Since 1993 Virginia law has limited the number of handguns a person can purchase to one per month. Some people want the General Assembly to lift the ban. Supporters of the law say it cuts down on the number of handguns purchased for criminal use. Opponents say that there is little evidence that the law has worked to reduce handgun purchases for criminal use. What is your view, [RANDOMIZE: “should the one-gun-per-month ban be lifted” or “should the one-gun-per-month limit remain”]?

Ban should be lifted	31%
Ban should remain	66%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	3%

Q20: Virginia law allows state colleges and universities to ban anyone except law enforcement officials from bringing a gun onto campus. Supporters of the law say allowing guns on campuses would create a dangerous environment. Opponents of the law say that allowing people to carry guns on campuses will deter crime. What is your view, [RANDOMIZE: “should people be able to bring guns on campuses” or “should colleges and universities be able to ban guns on campus”]?

People should be able to bring guns on campuses	18%
Colleges should be able to ban guns on campuses	80%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	2%

Q21: Some members of the General Assembly want to require any woman seeking an abortion in Virginia to first undergo an ultrasound procedure. What is your view, [RANDOMIZE: “do you generally support requiring women to have an ultrasound procedure before seeking an abortion” or “do you generally oppose requiring women to have an ultrasound procedure before seeking an abortion”]?

Support ultrasound requirement	36%
Oppose ultrasound requirement	55%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	9%

Q22: Some members of the General Assembly want define life as beginning at conception, which would effectively restrict abortions in Virginia. What is your view, [RANDOMIZE: “do you support defining life as beginning at conception” or “do you oppose defining life as beginning at conception”]?

Support defining life as beginning at conception	41%
Oppose defining life as beginning at conception	52%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	7%

Questions 23-29 held for future release

Demographics

[READ] Thank you. I have just a few questions about you to make sure we are hearing from a wide range of Virginians.

d1: [READ] Could you please tell me the year in which you were born: [INTERVIEWER RECORD YEAR]

18-24	13%
25-34	18%
35-44	19%
45-54	19%
55 and older	32%

d2: [READ] What is the last grade of school or college you had the opportunity to complete?

High school or less	23%
Some college	26%
Vocational or technical training	5%
College graduate	33%
Graduate study or more	14%

d3: [READ] Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino?

Yes	3%
No	97%

d4: [READ] Do you consider yourself to be:

White	75%
Black or African American	19%
Asian	3%
Other (vol.)	3%

d6: [READ] Do you consider yourself to be a “born again” or evangelical Christian?

Yes	35%
No	63%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	3%

d7: [READ] Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement?

Yes	24%
No	70%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6%

[READ] Thank you very much for your help with this survey.

Sex: [INTERVIEWER CODE]

Male	49%
Female	51%

Methodology Statement:

The results of this poll are based on 1018 landline telephone (810) and cell phone (208, including 93 who had no landline telephone) interviews conducted February 4-13, 2012 of registered Virginia voters. Live interviewing and sampling was conducted by the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion. The margin of error for the whole survey is +/- 3.1% at the 95% level of confidence; however, the margin of error for sub groups (see below) is larger due to smaller sample sizes. In addition to sampling error, the other potential sources of error include non-response, question wording, and interviewer error. The response rate (AAPOR RRI Standard Definition) for the survey was 27%. Four callbacks were employed in the fielding process. The data reported here are weighted on sex, age, race and region of residence to reflect as closely as possible the demographic composition of adults 18 and older in Virginia. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. The poll was designed and analyzed by Dr. Quentin Kidd of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University and *Richmond Times-Dispatch* staff.

Unweighted frequencies and Margins of Error (plus or minus) for Party ID and Region:

Democrat = 267 (6.0%)	Northern Virginia = 268 (6.0%)
Republican = 273 (6.0%)	Richmond/Central = 145 (8.1%)
Independent = 445 (4.6%)	Hampton Roads/Southeast = 210 (6.8%)
	Western/Southwestern/Southside = 395 (4.9%)