

Field Dates: October 3-8, 2011
1,027 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

A. 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?

Right	45.9%
Mixed (vol.)	17.6%
Wrong	30.8%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	5.8%

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?

Right	14.6%
Mixed (vol.)	12.8%
Wrong	71.3%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	1.3%

Q3. [READ] How about the future, do you think six months from now things in the nation will be better, about the same or worse than today?

Better	18.4%
About the same	44.2%
Worse	33.8%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	3.7%

[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.

Q4. [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]

Approve	44.2%
Disapprove	51.5%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	4.3%

Q5. [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]**

Approve	69.6%
Disapprove	18.0%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	12.3%

Q6. [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Warner is handling his job as U.S. Senator? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Warner is handling his job as U.S. Senator? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

Approve	65.6%
Disapprove	19.1%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	15.3%

Q7. [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]**

Approve	44.5%
Disapprove	26.7%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	28.8%

[READ] Ok, thanks. Now I'm going to mention the names of some people who are often in the news and I want to know how you feel about them...As I read each name, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the person.

Q8. [READ] First, **[INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE]**, would you say your overall opinion of **[REPEAT NAME]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

How about **[NEXT NAME]**...?

[IF “NOT SURE”, “DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, OR SIMILAR PROBE WITH: Generally would you say your opinion is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable? IF “HAVEN’T HEARD OF” OR SIMILAR DON’T PROBE]

	V. Favorable	M. Favorable	M. Unfavorable	V. Unfavorable	Dk/refused (Vol)
a. George Allen	12.9%	38.2%	17.0%	9.2%	22.7%
b. Tim Kaine	15.2%	36.8%	20.9%	10.4%	16.7%
c. Terry McAuliffe	2.7%	12.0%	11.8%	6.4%	67.0%
d. Eric Cantor	7.3%	21.2%	11.9%	13.9%	45.8%
e. Jamie Radtke	2.0%	6.9%	4.9%	2.1%	84.0%
f. Bill Bowling	5.2%	17.2%	4.8%	3.6%	69.1%

II. Elections

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

Q14. [READ] Elections for both the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate will be coming up next month...How much thought have you given to the coming November elections for the General Assembly, quite a lot or only a little?

Lot	13.5%
Some (vol.)	14.1%
Little	60.3%
None (vol.)	10.1%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	1.9%

Q15. [READ] Thinking about just the HOUSE OF DELEGATES, if the election for the HOUSE OF DELEGATES were held TODAY, would you vote for [**RANDOMIZE:** "the Republican Party's candidate" or "the Democratic Party's candidate"] for the House of Delegates in your district?

	<u>All Respondents</u>	<u>Respondents who report a LOT or SOME to Q14</u>
Republican	41.2%	49.0%
Democratic	38.2%	33.3%
Other/Undecided (vol.)	8.4%	10.0%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	12.3%	7.7%

Q16. [READ] Ok, now thinking about just the VIRGINIA SENATE, if the election for the VIRGINIA SENATE were held TODAY, would you vote for [**RANDOMIZE:** "the Republican Party's candidate" or "the Democratic Party's candidate"] for the Virginia Senate in your district?

	<u>All Respondents</u>	<u>Respondents who report a LOT or SOME to Q14</u>
Republican	41.5%	48.8%
Democratic	38.3%	34.1%
Other/Undecided (vol.)	7.8%	9.0%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	12.4%	8.1%

[READ] As you know, U.S. Senator Jim Webb has announced that he will not run for reelection in November 2012. Several other people are running for the seat.

Q17. [READ] If the November 2012 election for U.S. Senate 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?]

Kaine	43.9%
Allen	41.5%
Other (vol.)	.9%
Neither (vol.)	1.8%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	11.9%

Q18. [READ] If the November 2012 election for U.S. Senate 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?]

Kaine	45.8%
Radtke	31.6%
Other (vol.)	1.3%
Neither (vol.)	2.2%
Don’t know/refused (vol.)	19.1%

[READ] Thanks. Shifting to the 2012 presidential election...

Q19. [READ] As you know, Barack Obama has announced that he is running for re-election in 2012. Would you like to see Barack Obama re-elected president in 2012 or would you prefer that a Republican candidate win the election? [IF RESPONDENT SAYS “SOMEONE ELSE” OR “ANOTHER PARTY” OR “ANOTHER CANDIDATE,” PROBE ONCE WITH: If the choices were Barack Obama re-elected or a Republican candidate, which would you prefer?]

Obama	39.8%
Republican	46.2%
Other (vol.)	4.6%
Don’t know/refused (vol.)	9.4%

Q20. [READ] I’m going to read the names of some people who have announced that they are running as a Republican candidate for president in 2012. Please tell me which ONE, if any, you would most like to see nominated as the Republican Party’s candidate? [RANDOMIZE LIST OF NAMES] [PROBE ONCE AS NECESSARY: As of today, who are you leaning toward?]

Q21. [READ]...and which ONE would be your second choice? [READ LIST OF NAMES AGAIN AS NECESSARY]

[Among Republicans only...]

	1 st choice	2 nd choice	1 st & 2 nd combined
Mitt Romney	43.8%	12.0%	55.8%
Rick Perry	10.2%	17.0%	27.2%
Michelle Bachmann	4.1%	6.1%	10.2%
Ron Paul	6.1%	7.6%	13.7%
Newt Gingrich	4.6%	9.7%	14.3%
Jon Huntsman	1.1%	3.3%	4.4%
Herman Cain	11.7%	15.1%	26.8%
Rick Santorum	2.0%	2.9%	4.9%
Other (vol.)	2.1%	2.4%	4.5%
Don’t know/refused (vol.)	14.3%	24.0%	38.3%

Q22. [READ] If the 2012 presidential 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?]

Obama	42.3%
Romney	45.8%
Other (vol.)	2.0%
Neither (vol.)	2.7%
Don’t know/refused (vol.)	7.2%

Q23. [READ] If the 2012 presidential election were held today and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: “Barack Obama the Democrat” and “Rick Perry 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?]

Obama	42.7%
Perry	43.0%
Other (vol.)	2.0%
Neither (vol.)	3.2%
Don’t know/refused (vol.)	9.0%

III. Policy

[READ] Ok, thanks. Just a few more questions about policy issues...

Q24. [READ] If you were helping set priorities for the government in Washington, would you place a higher priority on cutting government spending or on creating jobs?

Cutting spending	31.5%
Both (vol.)	14.3%
Creating jobs	52.0%
Don’t know/refused (vol.)	2.2%

Q25. [READ] The debt ceiling agreement reached by President Obama and Congress in August created a new Congressional committee - sometimes referred to as the ‘Super Committee’ - to recommend a deficit-reduction proposal. This committee must make its recommendations by late November. From what you know so far, do you think the deficit-reduction proposal should include some increases in tax revenue or should it include only cuts in government spending?

Some tax increases	37.6%
Only cuts in spending	55.3%
Don’t know/refused (vol.)	7.2%

Q26. Recently some of the candidates running for president in 2012 have described the Social Security system as a ‘monstrous lie’ and as a failure. Do you think those phrases are an accurate description of the Social Security system, or do you think they are not very accurate?

Accurate	21.3%
Not accurate	70.8%
Don’t know/refused (vol.)	7.9%

Demographics

[READ] Thanks. 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	10.8%
25-34	18.2%
35-44	18.3%
45-54	20.1%
55-older	32.5%

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

High school or less	20.9%
Some college	22.0%
Vocational or technical training	4.8%
College graduate	32.6%
Graduate study or more	19.6%

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

Yes	3.7%
No	96.3%

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

White	74.5%
Black or African American	16.9%
Asian	2.3%
Other (vol.)	6.3%

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

Democrat	29.7%
Republican	32.5%
Independent	33.5%
No preference (vol.)	3.0%
Other party (vol.)	.2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	1.2%

d6. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement?

Yes	26.1%
No	66.3%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	7.6%

Sex: [Interviewer coded]

Male	49.9%
Female	50.1%

Region of State [Post-interview code]

Northern Virginia	30.8%
Richmond/Central	20.3%
Hampton Roads/Southeast	21.1%
Western/Southwestern/Southside	27.8%

Thank you very much for your help with this survey.

Methodology Statement:

The results of this poll are based on landline telephone (75.0%) and cell phone (25.0%) interviews conducted October 3-8, 2011 of registered Virginia voters. Live interviewing and sampling was conducted by the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion. The final number of completed surveys in the sample was 1,027 with a resulting margin of error of +/- 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 30%. Ten 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.

Margins of Error for Party and Region:

Democrat = +/- 5.6%	Northern Virginia = +/-5.5%
Republican = +/-5.4%	Richmond/Central = +/- 6.8%
Independent = +/- 5.3%	Hampton Roads/Southeast = +/- 6.7%
	Western/Southwestern/Southside = +/- 5.8%