

September 2008 Virginia Redistricting Study  
 Conducted by CNU Center for Public Policy  
 Final Topline  
 September 4-10, 2008  
 N=700

**Q.A First, are you registered to vote? (Screen - call terminated if not.)**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1	700	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Q.1 Overall, would you say right now that things in the Commonwealth of Virginia are headed more in the right direction or the wrong direction?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Wrong Direction	222	31.7	31.7	31.7
Mixed	114	16.3	16.3	48.0
Right Direction	302	43.1	43.1	91.1
DK/Refused	62	8.9	8.9	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.2 Ok, for each of the following tell me whether your view is positive, mixed, or negative.**

**Q.2A View of Governor Kaine.**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Negative	173	24.7	24.7	24.7
Mixed	176	25.1	25.1	49.9
Positive	328	46.9	46.9	96.7
DK/Refused	23	3.3	3.3	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.2B View of General Assembly.**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Negative	136	19.4	19.4	19.4
Mixed	336	48.0	48.0	67.4
Positive	163	23.3	23.3	90.7
DK/Refused	65	9.3	9.3	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.2C View of Democrats who control the state Senate.**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Negative	227	32.4	32.4	32.4
Mixed	204	29.1	29.1	61.6
Positive	233	33.3	33.3	94.9
DK/Refused	36	5.1	5.1	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.2D View of Republicans who control the House of Delegates.**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Negative	236	33.7	33.7	33.7
Mixed	195	27.9	27.9	61.6
Positive	227	32.4	32.4	94.0
DK/Refused	42	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

As you may know, Virginia like all states redraws its congressional and General Assembly district boundaries from time to time, normally after the census is taken every ten years. This process is known as REDISTRICTING, though some refer to it as gerrymandering.

**Q.3 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the debate over redistricting in Virginia - a lot, a little, or nothing at all?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Nothing at All	366	52.3	52.3	52.3
A Little	276	39.4	39.4	91.7
A Lot	55	7.9	7.9	99.6
DK/Refused	3	.4	.4	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.4 On a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being very confident and 1 being not confident at all, how confident would you be in describing the particular way in which redistricting is done in Virginia?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Not Confident at All	209	29.9	29.9	29.9
2	82	11.7	11.7	41.6
3	210	30.0	30.0	71.6
4	52	7.4	7.4	79.0
Very Confident	47	6.7	6.7	85.7
DK/Refused	100	14.3	14.3	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.5 As far as you know, who is normally in charge of redistricting in Virginia?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Elected officials such as members of the General Assembly	334	47.7	47.7	47.7
A non-partisan or bi-partisan committee or panel	116	16.6	16.6	64.3
DK/Refused	250	35.7	35.7	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Ok, so you know for sure, the Virginia law gives the General Assembly the power to redistrict in Virginia. In practice, this means that elected officials in the legislature set the boundaries of all the state's congressional and General Assembly districts.

**Q.6** Knowing this, would you say that you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way it is done in Virginia, or don't you have an opinion about it?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Satisfied	162	23.1	23.1	23.1
	Dissatisfied	211	30.1	30.1	53.3
	No Opinion	308	44.0	44.0	97.3
	DK/Refused	19	2.7	2.7	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.7 – IF: Q.6 is Dissatisfied...**

**Q.7 I** will now read through a list of reasons that some people are dissatisfied with the way redistricting is done in Virginia. Tell me which ONE you agree most with...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The process is too partisan	69	9.9	32.7	32.7
	The process is designed to protect incumbents	52	7.4	24.6	57.3
	The public has no say	58	8.3	27.5	84.8
	The process is too complicated and unclear	19	2.7	9.0	93.8
	The process reduces competition	13	1.9	6.2	100.0
	Total	211	30.1	100.0	
Missing	System	489	69.9		
Total		700	100.0		

**Q.8 – IF: Q.6 is Dissatisfied...**

**Q.8 And which one would be your SECOND choice?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The process is too partisan	39	5.6	18.5	18.5
	The process is designed to protect incumbents	58	8.3	27.5	46.0
	The public has no say	42	6.0	19.9	65.9
	The process is too complicated and unclear	39	5.6	18.5	84.4
	The process reduces competition	33	4.7	15.6	100.0
	Total	211	30.1	100.0	
Missing	System	489	69.9		
Total		700	100.0		

**Q.9 – resume all...**

**Q.9 Some people say it is a conflict of interest for legislators to gerrymander their own election districts. How do you feel about this? Do you think it IS a conflict of interest or is NOT a conflict of interest, or don't you have an opinion about it?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Is a conflict	432	61.7	61.7	61.7
	Is not a conflict	83	11.9	11.9	73.6
	No opinion	172	24.6	24.6	98.1
	DK/Refused	13	1.9	1.9	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.10 During the past session of the General Assembly, a bill was introduced to reform the way redistricting happens in Virginia, but a House Subcommittee would not allow it to come up for a vote. Would you like to see such a measure voted on by both chambers of the General Assembly, or don't you have an opinion about it?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes, I would like to see it voted on	429	61.3	61.3	61.3
No, I would not like to see it voted on	33	4.7	4.7	66.0
No opinion	218	31.1	31.1	97.1
DK/Refused	20	2.9	2.9	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

There are several ways that redistricting happens around the country. I'm going to read a brief description of three ways that people support it being done in Virginia and you tell me whether you think each is a fair or unfair way to do it, or if you don't have an opinion about it. Ok, here is the first description...

**Q.11 The General Assembly draws new boundary lines and approves them by majority vote just like they would any other bill. The Governor must sign the bill into law before the new boundary lines become effective.**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Fair	372	53.1	53.1	53.1
Unfair	159	22.7	22.7	75.9
No opinion	156	22.3	22.3	98.1
DK/Refused	13	1.9	1.9	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.12 The leaders of the legislature and the two major political parties appoint a seven-member bipartisan commission of public officials including both Republicans and Democrats. This commission proposes new boundary lines to the General Assembly, which then must vote for or against the proposal before it can come effective**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Fair	406	58.0	58.0	58.0
Unfair	116	16.6	16.6	74.6
No opinion	165	23.6	23.6	98.1
DK/Refused	13	1.9	1.9	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.13 A constitutionally-mandated Redistricting Commission - independent of the General Assembly or Governor - draws new boundary lines. Members of the redistricting commission vote to approve the new boundary lines before they can become effective**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Fair	275	39.3	39.3	39.3
Unfair	168	24.0	24.0	63.3
No opinion	242	34.6	34.6	97.9
DK/Refused	15	2.1	2.1	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.14 Now, I'm going to read each plan again in short hand. Tell me which ONE you think would be MOST fair for Virginia?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid General Assembly draws and approves new boundaries	148	21.1	21.1	21.1
Bipartisan commission proposes new boundaries to the General Assembly for approval	290	41.4	41.4	62.6
Redistricting commission draws and approves new boundaries	186	26.6	26.6	89.1
DK/Refused	76	10.9	10.9	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Next, I'm going to read several statements related to the redistricting and electoral process. For each statement, tell me whether you **STRONGLY AGREE**, **AGREE**, **DISAGREE**, or **STRONGLY DISAGREE** that the statement reflects your views. Here's the first one [list rotated]...

**Q.15 I think the redistricting process should promote electoral competition**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	109	15.6	15.6	15.6
	Agree	371	53.0	53.0	68.6
	Disagree	107	15.3	15.3	83.9
	Strongly disagree	12	1.7	1.7	85.6
	DK/Refused	101	14.4	14.4	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.16 I think voter participation would go up if there were more candidates to choose from in elections**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	109	15.6	15.6	15.6
	Agree	289	41.3	41.3	56.9
	Disagree	217	31.0	31.0	87.9
	Strongly disagree	16	2.3	2.3	90.1
	DK/Refused	69	9.9	9.9	100.0
	Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.17 I do not think the redistricting process should be designed to protect incumbents in the General**

**Assembly**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	210	30.0	30.0	30.0
Agree	352	50.3	50.3	80.3
Disagree	73	10.4	10.4	90.7
Strongly disagree	14	2.0	2.0	92.7
DK/Refused	51	7.3	7.3	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.18 I do not think the redistricting process should be designed to protect the party in power in the General**

**Assembly**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	231	33.0	33.0	33.0
Agree	352	50.3	50.3	83.3
Disagree	55	7.9	7.9	91.1
Strongly disagree	22	3.1	3.1	94.3
DK/Refused	40	5.7	5.7	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.19 I think the redistricting process should be as open and transparent as possible**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	252	36.0	36.0	36.0
Agree	403	57.6	57.6	93.6
Disagree	13	1.9	1.9	95.4
Strongly disagree	6	.9	.9	96.3
DK/Refused	26	3.7	3.7	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.20 I do not think the redistricting process is as open and transparent as it could be**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	138	19.7	19.7	19.7
Agree	400	57.1	57.1	76.9
Disagree	71	10.1	10.1	87.0
Strongly disagree	8	1.1	1.1	88.1
DK/Refused	83	11.9	11.9	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

Now, just a few questions for classification purposes...

**Q.21 Could you please tell me if your age is between:**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 18-29	37	5.3	5.3	5.3
30-39	67	9.6	9.6	14.9
40-49	145	20.7	20.7	35.6
50-59	200	28.6	28.6	64.1
60-64	69	9.9	9.9	74.0
65 and older	179	25.6	25.6	99.6
DK/Refused	3	.4	.4	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.22 Could you please tell me if you have a:**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Four-year university degree or higher	343	49.0	49.0	49.0
Some college or two-year associates degree	209	29.9	29.9	78.9
High school diploma or GED	120	17.1	17.1	96.0
Did not finish high school	24	3.4	3.4	99.4
DK/Refused	4	.6	.6	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.23 Could you please tell me if your income is:**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid \$75,000 or higher	255	36.4	36.4	36.4
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	148	21.1	21.1	57.6
Between \$25,000 and \$49,999	126	18.0	18.0	75.6
Less than \$25,000	68	9.7	9.7	85.3
DK/Refused	103	14.7	14.7	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.24 Do you consider yourself to be a:**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Democrat	213	30.4	30.4	30.4
Republican	233	33.3	33.3	63.7
Independent	219	31.3	31.3	95.0
DK/Refused	35	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Q.25 And just to make sure we have a representative sample - could you please tell me your race or ethnic background? Standard categories include:**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid African American	73	10.4	10.4	10.4
White	557	79.6	79.6	90.0
Hispanic/Latino	8	1.1	1.1	91.1
Asian American	28	4.0	4.0	95.1
Other	21	3.0	3.0	98.1
DK/Refused	13	1.9	1.9	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Sex of respondent**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	350	50.0	50.0	50.0
Female	350	50.0	50.0	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	

**Respondent's Region**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Northern Virginia	197	28.1	28.1	28.1
Hampton Roads	152	21.7	21.7	49.9
Richmond	116	16.6	16.6	66.4
C'ville/Valley	160	22.9	22.9	89.3
Roanoke/SW/Southside	75	10.7	10.7	100.0
Total	700	100.0	100.0	