

Roanoke College Poll | August 6-15, 2023
Topline and Select Party Crosstabs

Hi, I'm _____ and I'm calling from Roanoke College. How are you? We're conducting a survey of Virginia residents regarding important issues and your opinion is very important to us; we're not selling anything and won't ask for any money. Your responses are anonymous and confidential. Are you 18 or older and a resident of Virginia?

Direction of US/VA and Approval Ratings

1. Do you think things in the country are generally going in the right direction or do you think things have gotten off on the wrong track?

	Right direction	Wrong track	Unsure	Refused
Aug. 2023	24%	73%	2%	1%
May 2023	25%	71%	3%	1%
Feb. 2023	27%	69%	2%	0%
Nov. 2022	28%	68%	4%	1%
Aug. 2022	25%	72%	3%	0%
May 2022	21%	77%	3%	0%
Feb. 2022	29%	67%	3%	1%
Nov. 2021	31%	66%	4%	0%
Sept. 2021	35%	58%	7%	1%
Aug. 2021	33%	58%	7%	2%
May 2021	42%	53%	5%	1%
Feb. 2021	39%	53%	8%	1%
Nov. 2020	28%	62%	9%	1%
Oct. 2020	30%	63%	6%	1%
Aug. 2020	16%	79%	4%	1%
May 2020	33%	61%	6%	0%
Feb. 2020	39%	53%	8%	0%
Nov. 2019	26%	65%	10%	0%
Aug. 2019	31%	61%	7%	1%
Feb. 2019	37%	56%	6%	1%
Nov. 2018	34%	58%	6%	2%
Aug. 2018	37%	56%	7%	1%
June 2018	30%	64%	6%	1%
Feb. 2018	31%	57%	10%	1%
Nov. 2017	24%	69%	7%	0%
Oct. 2017	30%	64%	6%	1%
Sept. 2017	30%	63%	7%	1%
Aug. 2017	29%	63%	8%	1%
Feb. 2017	31%	57%	10%	1%
Jan. 2017	32%	52%	16%	1%

2. Do you think things in the Commonwealth of Virginia are generally going in the right direction or do you think things have gotten off on the wrong track?

	Right direction	Wrong track	Unsure	Refused
Aug. 2023	49%	44%	6%	1%
May 2023	48%	45%	6%	1%
Feb. 2023	55%	39%	5%	0%
Nov. 2022	47%	48%	4%	1%
Aug. 2022	51%	45%	4%	0%
May 2022	50%	44%	5%	2%
Feb. 2022	47%	47%	5%	1%
Sept. 2021	52%	43%	5%	1%
Aug. 2021	52%	43%	4%	1%
May 2021	50%	40%	8%	2%
Feb. 2021	52%	40%	8%	1%
Nov. 2020	53%	37%	8%	2%
Aug. 2020	45%	49%	6%	0%
May 2020	57%	37%	6%	0%
Feb. 2020	49%	44%	6%	2%
Aug. 2018	58%	30%	10%	2%
Oct. 2017	48%	40%	12%	1%
Sept. 2017	52%	37%	11%	1%
Aug. 2017	46%	41%	11%	2%
Jan. 2017	52%	29%	18%	1%

3. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Glenn Youngkin is handling his job as Governor of Virginia?

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed	Refused
Aug. 2023	51%	40%	3%	6%
May 2023	51%	40%	4%	5%
Feb. 2023	57%	35%	2%	4%
Nov. 2022	52%	41%	2%	5%
Aug. 2022	55%	35%	2%	7%
May 2022	53%	35%	2%	10%
Feb. 2022	50%	41%	3%	7%

4. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as President of the United States?

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed	Refused
Aug. 2023	40%	57%	1%	2%
May 2023	42%	55%	2%	2%
Feb. 2023	38%	56%	2%	1%
Nov. 2022	41%	55%	3%	2%
Aug. 2022	39%	57%	3%	1%
May 2022	37%	57%	4%	2%
Feb. 2022	41%	53%	4%	3%
Oct. 2021	44%	50%	4%	2%
Sept. 2021	50%	45%	3%	2%

Aug. 2021	48%	43%	7%	2%
May 2021	47%	39%	9%	5%
Feb. 2021	47%	30%	8%	15%

5. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed	Refused
Aug. 2023	18%	76%	3%	3%
May 2023	19%	75%	4%	2%
Feb. 2023	23%	69%	4%	2%
Nov. 2022	27%	68%	2%	2%
Aug. 2022	23%	68%	5%	4%
Feb. 2022	21%	72%	3%	4%
Aug. 2021	17%	71%	7%	5%
May 2020	20%	63%	13%	5%
Feb. 2020	20%	60%	16%	4%
Oct. 2017	10%	80%	8%	3%
Sept. 2017	11%	76%	10%	3%
Aug. 2017	7%	79%	10%	4%
Feb. 2017	20%	62%	12%	6%
Jan. 2017	19%	64%	12%	6%

6. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way the Virginia General Assembly is handling its job?

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed	Refused
Aug. 2023	44%	42%	5%	9%
May 2023	50%	38%	5%	8%
Feb. 2023	48%	37%	4%	9%
Feb. 2022	44%	37%	5%	14%
Aug. 2021	41%	35%	7%	16%

Favorability Ratings of Political Figures

Please tell me if you have a generally favorable or unfavorable impression of the following people and organizations or if you don't know enough about them to have formed an opinion.

7. Glenn Youngkin

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2023	48%	41%	3%	9%
May 2023	46%	42%	2%	10%
Feb. 2023	52%	35%	2%	9%
Nov. 2022	50%	40%	1%	9%
Aug. 2022	51%	37%	3%	10%
May 2022	46%	37%	3%	15%
Feb. 2022	46%	42%	1%	12%
Oct. 2021	45%	37%	16%	1%
Sept. 2021	40%	41%	17%	3%
Aug. 2021	27%	21%	3%	50%

8. Joe Biden

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2023	43%	53%	1%	3%
May 2023	43%	52%	2%	3%
Feb. 2023	40%	55%	1%	2%
Nov. 2022	44%	51%	2%	3%
Aug. 2022	41%	55%	3%	2%
May 2022	38%	56%	3%	3%
Feb. 2022	43%	52%	2%	3%
Sept. 2021	51%	46%	2%	1%
Aug. 2021	48%	43%	5%	4%
Feb. 2021	47%	29%	14%	10%
Nov. 2020	46%	36%	9%	9%
Oct. 2020	53%	43%	3%	1%
Aug. 2020	51%	38%	7%	4%
May 2020	36%	39%	15%	10%
Feb. 2020	37%	37%	18%	8%

9. Donald Trump

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2023	30%	65%	3%	3%
May 2023	31%	63%	3%	3%
Feb. 2023	33%	58%	3%	4%
Nov. 2022	33%	60%	3%	3%
Aug. 2022	37%	58%	3%	3%
May 2022	34%	59%	4%	3%
Feb. 2022	37%	56%	3%	4%
Oct. 2021	37%	54%	6%	3%
Feb. 2021	24%	58%	14%	4%
Nov. 2020	33%	53%	10%	5%
Oct. 2020	41%	56%	3%	1%
Aug. 2020	37%	55%	7%	2%
May 2020	36%	49%	12%	4%
Feb. 2020	32%	54%	10%	4%
Sept. 2017	35%	54%	8%	3%
Aug. 2017	31%	53%	13%	3%
Feb. 2017	29%	49%	13%	9%
Jan. 2017	30%	48%	18%	4%
Jan. 2016	22%	63%	13%	2%
Nov. 2015	23%	55%	13%	9%

10. U.S. Supreme Court

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK
Aug. 2023	42%	51%	2%	5%
Nov. 2022	40%	53%	3%	5%
Aug. 2022	37%	53%	3%	7%
May 2022	46%	42%	4%	9%

2024 Republican Nomination and Presidential Election Match-Ups

11. If you had to choose, who would you most prefer to be the Republican nominee for president in 2024?¹

Among Republican respondents:

Donald Trump	47%
Nikki Haley	2%
Ron DeSantis	13%
Mike Pence	7%
Tim Scott	6%
Chris Christie	3%
Vivek Ramaswamy	5%
Glenn Youngkin	9%
Someone else	6%
Unsure	2%

12. If you had to choose, who would be your second choice to be the Republican nominee for president in 2024?²

Among Republican respondents:

Donald Trump	17%
Nikki Haley	6%
Ron DeSantis	19%
Mike Pence	8%
Tim Scott	9%
Chris Christie	1%
Vivek Ramaswamy	17%
Glenn Youngkin	14%
Someone else	8%
Unsure	2%

13. Are you registered to vote in Virginia

Yes	90%
No	10%

13a. If no, how likely is it that you will register to vote in Virginia for the November 2024 election?

Very Likely	23%
Somewhat Likely	23%
Not Very Likely	16%
Not Likely at All	38%
Refused	1%

14. The 2024 presidential election is far away, but if the election for president were today, who would you vote for if the candidates were:

(All respondents)	Joe Biden	Donald Trump	Unsure/Refused
Aug. 2023	51%	42%	7%
May 2023	54%	38%	8%
Feb. 2023	47%	45%	6%

15. If Donald Trump were the Republican nominee and Joe Biden the Democratic nominee, would you consider voting for an independent candidate running for president in 2024 or not?³

(All respondents)	Consider	Not Consider	Unsure/Refused
August 2023	47%	50%	3%

Issues in U.S. and Virginia Politics

16. How much have you heard or read about former President Trump being indicted...⁴

16a. ...in a federal case involving allegations that he kept classified documents at his Florida home and obstructed the Justice Department's efforts to get them back?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	Nothing at all	No answer/Refused
Aug. 2023	57%	25%	13%	5%	1%

16b. ...in a case involving allegations that he covered up hush money payments to a woman who said he had an affair with her?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	Nothing at all	No answer/Refused
Aug. 2023	46%	31%	14%	8%	1%

16c. ...in a federal case involving allegations that he attempted to overturn the 2020 election?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	Nothing at all	No answer/Refused
Aug. 2023	60%	24%	10%	5%	1%

17. When it comes to each of the following, do you think former President Trump has done something illegal, or he has done something unethical but not illegal, or do you think he has not done anything wrong? If you don't know enough to say, you can say that too.⁵

17a. The classified documents found at his Florida home.

	Illegal	Unethical, not illegal	Nothing wrong	DK Enough	NA/Refused
Aug. 2023	54%	11%	16%	16%	2%

17b. Allegations he covered up hush money payments to a woman who said he had an affair with her.

	Illegal	Unethical, not illegal	Nothing wrong	DK Enough	NA/Refused
Aug. 2023	34%	34%	14%	16%	3%

17c. Allegations that he attempted to overturn the 2020 election, including his role in what happened.

	Illegal	Unethical, not illegal	Nothing wrong	DK Enough	NA/Refused
Aug. 2023	51%	16%	19%	12%	2%

18. How much, if at all, do you think global climate change is a major threat to the country's well-being?⁶

	A great deal	Some	Not too much	Not at all	No answer/Refused
Aug. 2023	53%	21%	11%	14%	1%

19. How much, if at all, do you think global climate change is currently affecting your local community?⁷

	A great deal	Some	Not too much	Not at all	No answer/Refused
Aug. 2023	29%	35%	18%	16%	1%

20. Changing topics, do you think abortion should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

	Legal – All	Legal – Some	Illegal All	Unsure/Refused
Aug. 2023	36%	50%	12%	3%
Nov. 2022	42%	45%	11%	2%
Aug. 2022	40%	48%	10%	3%
May 2022	35%	53%	11%	1%
Aug. 2015	31%	46%	17%	6%
July 2013	30%	46%	18%	3%
Oct. 2012	32%	47%	15%	0%

21. Would you say that K through 12 schools are having a positive or negative effect on the way things are going in the country?

	Positive	Negative	Mixed/Unsure
Aug. 2023	38%	51%	11%
Feb. 2023	41%	47%	11%

22. Would you say that K through 12 schools are having a positive or negative effect on the way things are going in Virginia?

	Positive	Negative	Mixed/Unsure
Aug. 2023	44%	43%	13%
Feb. 2023	49%	39%	10%

23. Do you believe that people who owe student debt should be paying their debt now or be deferred from paying it now?⁸

	Paying now	Deferred	No answer/Refused
Aug. 2023	47%	49%	4%

24. The following questions will ask for your opinions on recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court. For each, please tell me if you approve of the decision, disapprove of the decision, or don't know enough to say.⁹

24a. ... striking down the Biden administration's student loan forgiveness program.

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know Enough	NA/Refused
Aug. 2023	34%	44%	22%	0%

24b. ... restricting the use of race as a factor in college admissions.

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know Enough	NA/Refused
Aug. 2023	46%	33%	20%	1%

24c. ... that a website designer can deny services to same-sex customers seeking a wedding website.

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know Enough	NA/Refused
Aug. 2023	34%	45%	20%	1%

25. How closely would you say you are following the upcoming legislative elections for the Virginia General Assembly? Very closely, somewhat closely, or not too closely?

	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not too closely	Unsure/No answer
Aug. 2023	14%	41%	45%	0%

Satisfaction with Democracy and the Election Campaign

With 10 being the most satisfied, please tell me on a score of 0 to 10, on the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in:

	Average score
26. The United States	5.1
27. Your City or County	6.3
28. Virginia	6.2

29. Do you recall seeing any campaign advertisements on television or social media posts during the past few months?

Yes	55%
No	43%
Unsure/Refused	2%

29a. [IF YES] Was the tone of the posts or advertisements primarily positive or negative, or do you not recall?

Positive	22%
Negative	50%
Do not recall	25%
No answer	1%

29b. [IF YES] Were the posts or advertisements you saw primarily about specific political issues or policies or where they primarily focused on the character or competency of the candidate?

Issues/Policies	30%
Character/Competency	60%
Both	7%
Unsure	3%

Demographics

30. Gender

Male	48%
Female	50%

31. Region

Central Virginia/Richmond	19%
Northern Virginia	31%
Shenandoah Valley	7%
Southside	8%
Southwest Virginia	10%
Tidewater	24%

32. Thanks so much for your patience. I have a few questions about you for statistical purposes. Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married?

Married	44%
Living with partner	9%
Divorced	9%
Separated	3%
Widowed	5%
Never married	30%

33. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	2%
High School	18%
Some college/technical school	25%
Associate's Degree	10%
Bachelor's Degree	24%
Advanced Degree	21%

34. In what year were you born? [CODED INTO CATEGORIES]

18-29	20%
30-44	26%
45-64	32%
65 or older	21%
Refused	1%

35. Are you of Hispanic origin or descent, such as Mexican, Dominican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

Yes, Hispanic	9%
No, not Hispanic	90%
Refused	1%

36. Would you consider yourself Caucasian or white, African-American or Black, Asian or some other race?

White / Caucasian	61%
African-American	18%
Asian/Other/multi-racial	18%
No response	3%

37. I'm going to read several income groups. When I come to the group that includes your annual family income, please stop me.

Less than \$20,000	7%
\$20,000-\$35,000	13%
\$35,000-\$50,000	12%
\$50,000-\$75,000	17%
\$75,000-\$100,000	18%
More than \$100,000	27%
Refused	6%

38. Politically speaking, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate or conservative?

Liberal	22%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	34%
Other/Unsure	6%
Don't know/No answer	4%

39. And would you describe your political party affiliation as Democrat, Republican, Independent, some other party or no affiliation?

Democrat	30%
Republican	26%
Independent	26%
Other/None	15%
Don't know/No answer	2%

39a. [IF INDEPENDENT, OTHER OR REFUSED] As of today, do you lean more toward the Democratic party or toward the Republican party?

Democratic Party	19%
Republican Party	33%
Independent/Neither	48%
Don't know/No answer	0%

Select Party Crosstabs

	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>	<i>Independent</i>
USA Right Direction	43%	8%	25%
VA Right Direction	46%	57%	48%
Job Approval Youngkin	32%	79%	49%
Job Approval Biden	77%	7%	42%
Job Approval U.S. Congress	24%	17%	16%
Job Approval VA General Assembly	49%	48%	41%
Favorability Youngkin	26%	80%	47%
Favorability Biden	83%	8%	43%
Favorability Trump	3%	70%	20%
Favorability U.S. Supreme Court	30%	66%	36%
2024 Presidential Election Match-Ups (all respondents)			
Biden / Trump			
Aug. 2023	95% / 5%	9% / 88%	55% / 34%
May 2023	88% / 11%	7% / 85%	56% / 35%
Feb. 2023	88% / 10%	6% / 90%	50% / 40%
Consider Independent candidate	40%	38%	54%
Trump Indictments Think has done something illegal			
Classified documents case	87%	17%	64%
Hush money payments case	63%	9%	33%
2020 election case	84%	12%	58%
Climate change major threat to country a great deal	81%	19%	55%
Climate change affecting local community a great deal	42%	11%	28%
Abortion legal in some or all cases	92%	79%	88%
K-12 schools having positive effect on country	54%	25%	39%
K-12 schools having positive effect on Virginia	59%	34%	45%
Student loan borrowers should be paying now	28%	65%	48%
Approve of U.S. Supreme Court decision to			
Strike down Biden student loan plan	13%	55%	39%
Restrict use of race in college admissions	28%	64%	45%
Allow web designer to deny service to same-sex couple	15%	55%	33%
2023 Virginia General Assembly elections			
Very or somewhat closely following	58%	63%	53%
On a scale of 0-10, satisfaction with how democracy works in:			
The United States	5.7	4.8	5.1
Your City or County	6.8	6.2	6.4
Virginia	6.5	6.3	6.3

Notes

¹ Frankovic, K., & Taylor, O. (2022, December 1). Whom do Republicans want as their 2024 nominee? *YouGov America*. <https://today.yougov.com/topics/politics/articles-reports/2022/12/01/who-republicans-want-as-2024-presidential-nominee>.

² UNH Survey Center. (2023, January 26). DeSantis opens lead over Trump in New Hampshire in race for 2024 GOP nomination. *All UNH Survey Center Polls*, 727, https://scholars.unh.edu/survey_center_polls/727.

³ NBC News. (2023, June 28). More Democrats than Republicans are open to a third-party presidential candidate. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-election/dems-republicans-are-open-third-party-presidential-candidate-rcna91368>

⁴ AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. (2023, June 29). Half the public views Trump's handling of classified documents as illegal. <https://apnorc.org/projects/half-the-public-views-trumps-handling-of-classified-documents-as-illegal/>

⁵ Marist Poll. (2023, July 28). More trouble for Trump. <https://maristpoll.marist.edu/polls/more-trouble-for-trump/>

⁶ Tyson, A., Funk, C., & Kennedy, B. (2023, August 9). What the data says about Americans' views of climate change. *Pew Research Center*. <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/08/09/what-the-data-says-about-americans-views-of-climate-change/>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ USA Today/Ipsos. (2023, May 10). Support for student loan forgiveness varies across different amounts. <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/support-student-loan-forgiveness-varies-across-different-amounts>

⁹ Jackson, C., & Rollason. (2023, July 2). Americans split on recent Supreme Court decisions. ABC News/Ipsos Poll. <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/americans-split-recent-supreme-court-decisions#:~:text=About%20the%20Study,%2C%20Hispanic%2C%20and%20Asian%20respondents>.