Roanoke College Poll  
2013 General Assembly  
January 24, 2013

Hi, I’m ____, and I’m calling from the Institute for Policy and Opinion Research at Roanoke College. How are you today/this evening? We’re conducting a survey regarding important issues in Virginia, and your opinion is very important to us. All of your responses are anonymous and confidential. May I please speak to the youngest male in the household over the age of 18? [IF THERE IS NO MALE OR THEY ARE NOT HOME, ASK IF THE PERSON WHO ANSWERED THE PHONE WILL COMPLETE THE SURVEY]

1. First, to be sure that we get a representative sample of Virginians, would you please tell me in what county do you live? [IF NOT IN COUNTY, THEN WHICH CITY. IF THERE IS A CITY AND COUNTY WITH THE SAME NAME, ASK IF THEY LIVE IN CITY OR COUNTY.] RECODED TO REGION
   - Southwest Virginia 12%
   - Shenandoah Valley 7%
   - Southside 8%
   - Central VA/Richmond 21%
   - Northern VA 27%
   - Tidewater 24%

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 49%
   - Wrong track 35%
   - Unsure/mixed 16%
   - No answer 1%

3. 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 30%
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<tr>
<td>Wrong track</td>
<td>61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsure/mixed</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No answer</td>
<td>1%</td>
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4. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Bob McDonnell is handling his job as Governor of Virginia?
   - Approve: 54%
   - Disapprove: 19%
   - Mixed/unsure: 15%
   - Don't know/No answer: 12%

5. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President of the United States?
   - Approve: 44%
   - Disapprove: 46%
   - Mixed/unsure: 9%
   - Don't know/No answer: 1%

6. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?
   - Approve: 10%
   - Disapprove: 81%
   - Mixed/unsure: 7%
   - Don't know/No answer: 3%

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

7. Barack Obama
   - Favorable: 50%
   - Unfavorable: 42%
   - Mixed/unsure: 6%
   - DK/NA: 3%

8. Mark Warner
   - Favorable: 53%
   - Unfavorable: 17%
   - Mixed/unsure: 12%
   - DK/NA: 18%

9. Tim Kaine
   - Favorable: 44%
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<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>Unfavorable</th>
<th>Mixed/unsure</th>
<th>DK/NA</th>
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<tr>
<td>10. Bob McDonnell</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Ken Cuccinelli</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Terry McAuliffe</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Bill Bolling</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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14. In the election for governor of Virginia in 2013, are you likely to vote for [READ ONLY CHOICES 1 AND 2] [ROTATED] (N=545)

- Ken Cuccinelli, the Republican 33%
- Terry McAuliffe, the Democrat 26%
- Unsure 41%

15. If Bill Bolling runs for governor as an independent, would you vote for [READ ONLY CHOICES 1, 2 AND 3] [ROTATED] (N=543)

- Ken Cuccinelli, the Republican 25%
- Terry McAuliffe, the Democrat 19%
- Bill Bolling, the Independent 12%
- Unsure 44%
16. Now, I'd like to ask you several questions related to issues currently being considered by the Virginia General Assembly. Not everyone will be familiar with all the issues, so if you don't know enough about an issue to have an opinion, please tell me, and we will move on to the next question. As you may know, Virginia is considering a law that would make sending a text message from their cell phone while driving a primary offense. That means that police could issue a ticket to anyone texting while driving even if they had not committed any other moving violation. In general, do you favor or oppose this bill?

- Favor 82%
- Oppose 15%
- Unsure 2%
- Don’t know/No answer 2%

17. Do you favor or oppose a law that made talking on a cell phone while driving a primary offense unless you had a hands-free phone?

- Favor 61%
- Oppose 35%
- Unsure 3%
- Don’t know/No answer 1%

18. Road improvement is a major issue in the Commonwealth. Which of the following proposals is closest to your view? We should not raise taxes and improve roads as current funds allow. We should raise taxes and designate those funds for road improvements. We should pay for road improvements through the use of tolls. Or we should shift funds from other areas in the budget to pay for road improvements?

- No new taxes 18%
- Raise taxes and designate for roads 24%
- Tolls 19%
- Shift funds from other areas 28%
- Unsure 11%

19. Governor McDonnell has proposed funding transportation needs in the future through several measures. The gas tax would be eliminated, but the sales tax would be increased. Vehicle registration fees would also increase. The additional funds from the sales tax would go to transportation and a higher percentage of the existing sales tax revenue would go to transportation as well. In general, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

- Favor 33%
- Oppose 49%
- Unsure 15%
- Don’t know/No answer 3%

Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following ways of raising revenue for transportation.

20. Linking the gas tax to inflation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21.</th>
<th>Imposing tolls on major highways like interstates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Favor</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<th>22.</th>
<th>Taking some funding from the general revenue fund</th>
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<td>Favor</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<th>23.</th>
<th>Increasing fees for driver's licenses and vehicle registration</th>
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<td>Favor</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<th>24.</th>
<th>Would you favor or oppose increasing state financial support to expand passenger train service in Virginia?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Favor</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<th>25.</th>
<th>Would you favor or oppose increasing state financial support to expand freight train service in Virginia?</th>
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<td>Favor</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<th>26.</th>
<th>Governor McDonnell has proposed giving teachers raises, but tying those raises to teacher performance in the classroom. In general, do you favor or oppose this proposal?</th>
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<td>Favor</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<td>Oppose</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
<td>2%</td>
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27. Tenure is a system in which teachers are hired for a probationary period of several years. Then a decision is made to retain the teacher or terminate their employment. After tenure is granted, it is difficult, but not impossible, to fire teachers. Some people think this system should be eliminated to make it easier to fire teachers who are not effective. Others think teachers need this protection in order to be able to effectively teach children even if they are not always popular. Which is closer to your view?

- Eliminate tenure: 54%
- Keep tenure: 34%
- Unsure: 8%
- Don’t know/No answer: 4%

28. Schools in Virginia are not permitted to begin the school year until after Labor Day unless they are granted a waiver due to a large number of days canceled due to bad weather. Do you favor or oppose allowing local schools to begin the school year before Labor Day for any reason if they choose to?

- Favor: 66%
- Oppose: 29%
- Unsure: 3%
- Don’t know/No answer: 3%

29. In order to vote in Virginia now a person must show a voter registration card, a driver's license, or a valid ID card from DMV. Otherwise, they must cast a provisional ballot and election officials will check to see if they are registered voters before counting their vote. In general, do you favor or oppose this law?

- Favor: 83%
- Oppose: 13%
- Unsure: 3%
- Don’t know/No answer: 1%

30. The General Assembly is considering lifting a ban on uranium mining in Virginia. Some people think that the mining would provide jobs and economic benefits to the state, while others are very concerned about possible environmental impacts. In general, do you favor or oppose allowing uranium mining in Virginia?

- Favor: 39%
- Oppose: 38%
- Unsure: 16%
- Don’t know/No answer: 8%

31. As you may know, Virginia has decided not to set up its own health insurance exchange and to allow its residents to purchase insurance from the national exchange when it is set up. In general, do you think the state should set up its own exchange or use the federal government's exchange?

- VA exchange: 36%
- USA exchange: 32%
- Unsure: 20%
- Don’t know/No answer: 12%
32. Current state law prohibits hunting on Sunday. Do you favor or oppose allowing hunters to hunt on Sundays?
   Favor  48%
   Oppose 39%
   Unsure  7%
   Don't know/No answer  6%

33. At present, Virginia is the only state that does not allow its governor to run for a second term in office. Would you favor or oppose allowing governors to run for a second four-year term?
   Favor  69%
   Oppose 27%
   Unsure  3%
   Don't know/No answer  1%

34. Some people think that we should require welfare recipients to pass drug tests in order to receive benefits. Other think this is an invasion of privacy and a waste of money. Which is closer to your view?
   Use drug tests  76%
   No drug tests  19%
   Unsure  4%
   Don't know/No answer  2%

35. Now I have several questions related to guns and gun violence. Which do you think is more likely to reduce gun violence--better enforcement of existing gun laws or tougher gun laws?
   Better enforcement  
   Tougher laws  
   Unsure  
   Don't know/No answer  

36. Which of the following do you think is MOST responsible for mass shootings like those in Newtown, CT and Virginia Tech--weak gun laws, poor enforcement of gun laws, violent media such as movies and video games, poor policies to deal with mental illness, or that we simply cannot stop those who want to kill others? You may choose up to two.
   Weak gun laws  
   Violent media  
   Mental illness  
   Can’t stop killers  
   Unsure  
   Don’t know/No answer  
37. One proposal to make schools safer is to have armed police or security guards at each school. Do you favor or oppose this idea?

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<td>Favor</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
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<td>Unsure</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
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38. Another idea is to allow those teachers and administrators who are trained and willing to carry firearms in schools. Do you favor or oppose this idea?

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Favor</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
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39. Do you think it is more likely that a gun in the possession of a law-abiding citizen would be used for self-defense purposes or that it would somehow accidentally injure or kill another person?

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<tr>
<td>Self-defense</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Accidental shooting</td>
<td>%</td>
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<td>Unsure</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
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In general, do you favor or oppose the following regulations on firearms:
40. Requiring background checks for all firearms sales at gun shows including those guns sold by private citizens?

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<tr>
<td>Favor</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>%</td>
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<td>Unsure</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
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41. Requiring background checks for all firearms sales including those between two private citizens?

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Favor</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
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42. Registration of all guns with government.

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<tr>
<td>Favor</td>
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<td>Oppose</td>
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<td>Unsure</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
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43. Requiring all gun owners to get a license from the government.

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<tr>
<td>Favor</td>
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<td>Oppose</td>
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<td>Unsure</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Don't know/No answer</td>
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Do you favor or oppose banning the sale of the following:

44. Semi-automatic rifles
   Favor %
   Oppose %
   Unsure %
   Don’t know/No answer %

45. Semi-automatic shotguns
   Favor %
   Oppose %
   Unsure %
   Don’t know/No answer %

46. Semi-automatic handguns
   Favor %
   Oppose %
   Unsure %
   Don’t know/No answer %

47. All guns
   Favor %
   Oppose %
   Unsure %
   Don’t know/No answer %

48. Magazines that hold more than 10 bullets
   Favor %
   Oppose %
   Unsure %
   Don’t know/No answer %

49. Do you think that stricter gun control laws would make you personally more safe, less safe, or would they make no difference?
   More safe %
   Less safe %
   No difference %
   Unsure %
   Don’t know/No answer %

50. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.
Agree %
Disagree %
Unsure %
Don't know/No answer %

We’re almost finished. Thanks for your patience. Now, I just have a few questions about you.

51. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?
    Yes 93%
    No 7%

52. Code respondent's sex
    Male 48%
    Female 52%

53. And in what year were you born? [RECODED TO AGE]
    18-34 13%
    35-49 26%
    50-64 35%
    65 or older 26%

54. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?
    Yes 3%
    No 97%

55. What is your race? Are you White, African-American, or some other race?
    White 78%
    African-American 15%
    Other/multi-racial 7%

56. How much education have you completed?
    Less than high school 3%
    High School 16%
    Some college/tech school 21%
    Associate’s degree 11%
    Bachelor’s degree 28%
    Advanced degree 21%

57. 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 11%
    $20,001-$35,000 14%
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$35,001-$50,000</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,001-$75,000</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,001-$100,000</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than $100,000</td>
<td>27%</td>
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58. Politically speaking, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate or conservative?
   - Liberal: 20%
   - Moderate: 37%
   - Conservative: 40%
   - Other: 4%

59. And would you describe your political party affiliation as Democrat, Republican, Independent, some other party or no affiliation?
   - Democrat: 33%
   - Republican: 32%
   - Independent: 26%
   - Other/None: 8%

60. Have you ever fired a gun of any type?
   - Yes: %
   - No: %
   - No answer: %

61. How familiar are you with how guns actually work? Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar or not at all familiar?
   - Very familiar: %
   - Somewhat familiar: %
   - Not very familiar: %
   - Not at all familiar: %
   - Unsure: %
   - No answer: %

62. Would you describe the area in which you grew up as urban, rural or suburban?
   - Urban: %
   - Rural: %
   - Suburban: %
   - Unsure: %
   - No answer: %

63. Were there any guns in the household when you were a child?
   - Yes: %
   - No: %
   - Don’t recall/unsure: %
64. At the present time, are there any guns in your home or garage?
   Yes %
   No %
   Unsure %
   No answer %

65. [IF YES] Do you personally own any of those firearms or do they belong to someone else?
   R owns %
   Someone else owns %
   No answer %

66. Thank you for your time and have a nice evening/day. If you have any questions about this survey, you may contact Dr. Harry Wilson at (540) 375-2415.