

**Roanoke College Poll**  
**October 31, 2012**  
**2012 Election**

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	11%
Shenandoah Valley	7%
Southside	8%
Central VA/Richmond	20%
Northern VA	31%
Tidewater	24%

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2. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?

Yes	100%
No [SKIP TO END]	

3. How likely is it that you will vote in the Presidential election in November? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely at all?

Very likely	97%
Somewhat likely	3%
Not very likely [SKIP TO END]	
Not likely at all [SKIP TO END]	

4. 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	56%
Wrong track	32%
Unsure/mixed	12%

5. 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	38%
Wrong track	58%
Unsure/mixed	4%

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<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, all percentages may not add to 100%.

6. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Bob McDonnell is handling his job as Governor of Virginia?

Approve	51%
Disapprove	24%
Mixed/unsure	15%
Don't know/No answer	9%

7. 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	50%
Mixed/unsure	5%
Don't know/No answer	1%

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

Approve	8%
Disapprove	80%
Mixed/unsure	10%
Don't know/No answer	3%

9. What is the most important issue to you in this election?

Economy (general)	51%
Unemployment/jobs	9%
Health care	8%
Women's issues/abortion	6%
Budget deficit/debt	4%
All other issues	22%

10. Not everyone is able to vote in every election. Do you recall if you voted in the Presidential election in 2008?

Yes, voted	89%
No, didn't vote	11%
Unsure/Don't recall	0%

11. [IF YES] Do you recall if you voted for Barack Obama or John McCain for President in 2008 or did you vote for someone else?

Obama	48%
McCain	48%
Someone else	3%
Unsure	1%

12. And if the election for President were held today would you vote for [ROTATED]

Barack Obama, the Democrat	44%
Mitt Romney, the Republican	49%
Gary Johnson, the Libertarian	2%
Virgil Goode, the Constitution Party	1%
Jill Stein, Green Party	1%
Unsure	5%

13. [IF UNSURE] Are you leaning toward voting for a particular candidate--Obama, Romney, Johnson, Goode, or Stein?

Obama	9%
Romney	27%
Johnson	4%
Goode	0%
Stein	0%
Uncertain	49%
No answer	12%

14. [IF UNSURE] When you have voted in past elections, have you usually voted for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

Democratic candidate	16%
Republican candidate	37%
Depends/both/neither	39%
Haven't voted previously	9%

15. [IF JOHNSON OR GOODE] If the choices were only Obama and Romney, for whom would you vote?

Obama	56%
Romney	15%
Someone else	8%
Unsure	21%

16. [IF OBAMA] Would you say that your vote for Obama is more of a vote for him or a vote against Romney?

Vote for Obama	77%
Vote against Romney	15%
Unsure/Both/Neither	8%
No answer	0%

17. [IF ROMNEY] Would you say that your vote for Romney is more of a vote for him or a vote against Obama?

Vote for Romney	55%
Vote against Obama	22%
Unsure/Both/Neither	23%
No answer	1%

18. If the election for United States Senate were held today would you vote for [ROTATED]

George Allen, the Republican	47%
Tim Kaine, the Democrat	42%
Uncertain	10%
No answer/won't vote	1%

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.

19. Barack Obama

Favorable	48%
Unfavorable	46%
Mixed/unsure	5%
DK/NA	1%

20. Mitt Romney

Favorable	49%
Unfavorable	39%
Mixed/unsure	9%
DK/NA	3%

21. Joe Biden

Favorable	42%
Unfavorable	47%
Mixed/unsure	6%
DK/NA	6%

22. Paul Ryan

Favorable	47%
Unfavorable	38%
Mixed/unsure	7%
DK/NA	8%

23. Bob McDonnell	
Favorable	46%
Unfavorable	25%
Mixed/unsure	15%
DK/NA	14%

24. Tim Kaine	
Favorable	44%
Unfavorable	41%
Mixed/unsure	8%
DK/NA	7%

25. George Allen	
Favorable	45%
Unfavorable	33%
Mixed/unsure	11%
DK/NA	11%

26. How much thought have you given to the coming presidential election . . . Quite a lot or only a little?

Quite a lot	88%
Only a little	10%
None at all	2%
DK/NA	0%

Regardless of you are voting for, which candidate, Obama or Romney, do you think would do a better job dealing with the following issues?

27. Reducing unemployment	
Obama	41%
Romney	53%
Unsure/neither/both	6%

28. Reducing the budget deficit	
Obama	36%
Romney	55%
Unsure/neither/both	9%

29. Taxes	
Obama	44%
Romney	48%
Unsure/neither/both	7%

30. Dealing with foreign policy	
Obama	49%
Romney	43%
Unsure/neither/both	9%
31. Social security	
Obama	45%
Romney	44%
Unsure/neither/both	11%
32. Medicare	
Obama	48%
Romney	44%
Unsure/neither/both	9%
33. Health care?	
Obama	47%
Romney	47%
Unsure/neither/both	7%
34. Immigration	
Obama	42%
Romney	46%
Unsure/neither/both	12%
35. Which candidate do you think is a stronger leader?	
Obama	44%
Romney	48%
Unsure/neither/both	8%
36. Just in general, how well do you think Barack Obama understands the needs of people like you? Very well, fairly well, not too well, or not at all well?	
Very well	33%
Fairly well	23%
Not too well	12%
Not at all well	33%
DK/NA	0%
37. Just in general, how well do you think Mitt Romney understands the needs of people like you? Very well, fairly well, not too well, or not at all well?	
Very well	23%
Fairly well	30%
Not too well	19%
Not at all well	27%
DK/NA	1%

38. Did you watch any of the Presidential debates?

Yes	91%
No	9%

39. Did you decide who to vote for after the debates or had you already decided before the debates?

Before debates	80%
After any or all debates	19%
Don't recall	2%

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

40. Code respondent's sex

Male	48%
Female	53%

41. And in what year were you born? [RECODED TO AGE]

18-34	17%
35-49	24%
50-64	39%
65 or older	20%

42. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

Yes	3%
No	92%
DK/NA	5%

43. What is your race? Are you White, African-American, or some other race?

White	77%
African-American	16%
Other/multi-racial	6%
No answer	1%

44. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	2%
High School	15%
Some college/tech school	20%
Associate's degree	11%
Bachelor's degree	31%
Advanced degree	20%

45. 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	5%
\$20,001-\$35,000	10%
\$35,001-\$50,000	15%
\$50,001-\$75,000	19%
\$75,001-\$100,000	18%
More than \$100,000	33%

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

Liberal	23%
Moderate	35%
Conservative	38%
Other	4%

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

Democrat	35%
Republican	31%
Independent	30%
Other/None	4%

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

Yes	27%
No	62%
DK/NA	11%

49. 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.