

Roanoke College Poll
Virginia General Assembly
January 24, 2017

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. Your responses are anonymous and confidential.

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.]

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Southwest Virginia | 10% |
| Southside | 8% |
| Shenandoah Valley | 5% |
| Central Virginia/Richmond | 21% |
| Northern Virginia | 33% |
| Tidewater | 24% |

2. 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 | 32% |
| Wrong track | 52% |
| Unsure | 16% |
| No answer | 1% |

3. Code respondent's sex

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Male | 49% |
| Female | 51% |

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 | 52% |
| Wrong track | 29% |
| Unsure | 18% |
| No answer | 1% |

5. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Terry McAuliffe is handling his job as Governor of Virginia?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Approve | 52% |
| Disapprove | 20% |
| Mixed | 15% |
| Refused/Don't Know | 13% |

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

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Approve | 19% |
| Disapprove | 64% |
| Mixed | 12% |
| Refused/Don't Know | 6% |

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. Donald Trump

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Favorable | 30% |
| Unfavorable | 48% |
| Mixed | 18% |
| Don't know/Refused | 4% |

8. Terry McAuliffe

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Favorable | 46% |
| Unfavorable | 21% |
| Mixed | 13% |
| Don't know/Refused | 21% |

9. Ed Gillespie

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Favorable | 14% |
| Unfavorable | 10% |
| Mixed | 6% |
| Don't know/Refused | 70% |

10. Ralph Northam

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Favorable | 8% |
| Unfavorable | 5% |
| Mixed | 3% |
| Don't know/Refused | 84% |

11. Mark Warner

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Favorable | 50% |
| Unfavorable | 17% |
| Mixed | 7% |
| Don't know/Refused | 26% |

12. Tim Kaine

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Favorable | 48% |
| Unfavorable | 29% |
| Mixed | 7% |
| Don't know/Refused | 15% |

13. As Donald Trump begins his term as president, are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the country?

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Optimistic | 55% |
| Pessimistic | 37% |
| Unsure/both | 8% |
| Refused | 0% |

14. Now, I'm going to ask a series of questions related to the Virginia General Assembly session which begins this week. The first question deals with the \$1.26 billion deficit in this year's budget that must be closed. Raises for state employees that were included in the budget last year have already been canceled. One idea is giving those employees a 1.5 percent bonus that would not become part of their base salary for future raises. Another proposal is to target raises to certain groups of employees, such as the state police and mental health workers. Do you favor the idea of the bonus, the targeted raises, or do you think that no state employees should get any additional money?

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Bonus for state employees | 34% |
| Targeted raises | 28% |
| No raises for anyone | 21% |
| Raises for all (VOLUNTEER ONLY] | 10% |
| Unsure | 8% |
| Refused | 0% |

15. Last year's budget increased funding for education by \$1 billion. Should that amount be decreased this year to help close the budget deficit or should education be exempted from cuts?

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Cut | 13% |
| Do not cut | 82% |
| Unsure | 5% |
| Refused | 0% |

16. Several proposals in the General Assembly deal with improving mental health care in Virginia, including better training for law enforcement personnel for dealing the mentally ill, improved screening in jails, and providing support for housing for those with mental health issues who have been released from a mental hospital or jail and have no place to go. All of these proposals would require millions of dollars in funding. Should Virginia provide that funding now and find other ways to close the budget shortfall, should it wait until the budget improves to fund those initiatives, or should it leave mental health funding at its current levels?

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Increase now | 51% |
| Increase later | 30% |
| Do not increase | 15% |
| Unsure | 6% |
| Refused | 0% |

17. Changing our focus to criminal justice issues, Gov. McAuliffe has suggested raising the threshold for felony theft from \$200 to \$500. Others think the amount should be \$1,000. Do you think the dollar value of stolen goods for a felony charge should be \$200, \$500, or \$1,000?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| \$200 | 24% |
| \$500 | 31% |
| \$1,000 | 36% |
| Unsure/Refused | 10% |

18. On a related issue, the Governor has also proposed that the state stop the automatic suspension of driver's licenses of those people who fail to pay court costs and fines following a criminal conviction. Do you agree or disagree that a driver's license should be suspended if a person fails to pay their fines.

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Agree | 55% |
| Disagree | 40% |
| Unsure | 5% |
| Refused | 0% |

19. Also, the Governor would like to make it easier for those who have been convicted of a crime or have pleaded guilty to reopen their case if new or untested evidence is discovered. Do you agree or disagree that it should be easier to challenge a court decision if new evidence is discovered?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Agree | 90% |
| Disagree | 6% |
| Unsure | 4% |
| Refused | 0% |

20. It has also been proposed that felons who were convicted of a non-violent crime and have served their time, completed any probationary period and paid all fines should automatically have their voting rights restored. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Agree | 81% |
| Disagree | 16% |
| Unsure | 3% |
| Refused | 0% |

21. And do you agree or disagree that those non-violent felons should have their gun rights restored?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Agree | 36% |
| Disagree | 54% |
| Unsure | 10% |
| Refused | 0% |

22. On another gun-related issue, current law requires gun dealers to conduct background checks prior to selling a firearm. Individual citizens are not required to conduct background checks. Some people think that everyone who sells a firearm at a gun show should be required to conduct such a check, whether they are a dealer or not. Others think that dealers should be required to conduct background checks at gun shows but that individual citizens should not be required to conduct a check. What do you think?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Dealers conduct a check | 15% |
| Everyone does a check | 80% |
| No one does a check [VOLUNTEERED] | 2% |
| Unsure | 3% |
| Refused | 1% |

23. Would you favor or oppose a law that would raise the minimum wage in Virginia to \$10 an hour now and \$15 an hour by 2021?

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Favor | 63% |
| Oppose | 32% |
| Unsure | 5% |
| Refused | 0% |

24. Would you favor or oppose a state law that would ban most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except in cases of rape or incest?

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Favor | 53% |
| Oppose | 35% |
| Unsure | 8% |
| Refused | 3% |

25. In terms of policies governing public restrooms, do you think these policies should require transgender individuals to use the bathroom that corresponds with their birth gender or allow transgender individuals to use the bathroom that corresponds with their gender identity? [ROTATE]

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Birth gender | 43% |
| Gender identity | 39% |
| Unsure | 17% |
| Refused | 0% |

26. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or never?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Just about always | 3% |
| Most of the time | 17% |
| Only some of the time | 64% |
| Never | 15% |
| Unsure | 2% |
| Refused | 0% |

27. Which of the following statements is closer to your view: Ordinary citizens can do a lot to influence the government in Washington if they are willing to make the effort OR There's not much ordinary citizens can do to influence the government in Washington?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Citizens CAN influence government | 52% |
| Citizens can NOT influence government | 46% |
| Unsure | 2% |
| Refused | 0% |

28. Thinking about the way things are going in politics today ... on the issues that matter to you would you say your side has been winning more often than it's been losing, or losing more often than it's been winning?

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Winning more | 26% |
| Losing more | 52% |
| Wins some, lose some/Equal [VOL] | 11% |
| Unsure | 11% |
| Refused | 1% |

29. In general, would you say life in America today is better, worse, or about the same as it was fifty years ago for people like you?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Better | 48% |
| Worse | 16% |
| About the same | 30% |
| Unsure | 6% |
| Refused | 0% |

30. How worried are you that you or someone in your family will be a victim of a violent crime: very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Very worried | 13% |
| Somewhat worried | 32% |
| Not too worried | 36% |
| Not worried at all | 18% |
| Unsure | 1% |
| Refused | 0% |

31. How worried are you that you or someone in your family will be a victim of terrorism: very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Very worried | 10% |
| Somewhat worried | 30% |
| Not too worried | 34% |
| Not worried at all | 25% |
| Unsure | 0% |
| Refused | 0% |

32. When you think about the future of the United States, which do you agree with more: the country's best years are ahead of us or the country's best years are behind us?

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Best years ahead | 59% |
| Best years behind | 31% |
| Same/Unsure | 10% |
| Refused | 0% |

33. When children today in the U.S. grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off than people are now?

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Better off | 45% |
| Worse off | 42% |
| Same/Unsure | 13% |
| Refused | 0% |

34. Now thinking specifically about relations between blacks and whites, do you think that relations between blacks and whites will always be a problem for the United States, or that a solution will eventually be worked out?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Solution will be found | 51% |
| Always a problem | 42% |
| Unsure | 4% |
| Not a problem [VOL] | 2% |
| Refused | 1% |

35. Looking broadly at the important issues facing the United States, do you think that Americans are united in facing these challenges or is the nation divided?

| | |
|---------|-----|
| United | 12% |
| Divided | 83% |
| Unsure | 5% |
| Refused | 0% |

36. We're almost finished. Thanks so much for your patience. I have just a few more questions about you for statistical purposes. Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Married | 49% |
| Living with a partner | 8% |
| Divorced | 7% |
| Separated | 3% |
| Widowed | 5% |
| Never been married | 27% |
| Refused | 1% |

37. How much education have you completed?

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Less than high school | 3% |
| High School | 16% |
| Some college/technical school | 21% |
| Associate's Degree | 13% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 29% |
| Advanced Degree | 18% |
| Refused | 0% |

38. And in what year were you born? [RECODED TO GROUPS]

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| 18-29 | 22% |
| 30-44 | 27% |
| 45-64 | 35% |
| 65 or older | 15% |
| Refused | 1% |

39. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Spanish background?

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Yes | 10% |
| No | 90% |
| Refused | 1% |

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

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| White / Hispanic / Latino | 76% |
| African-American | 18% |
| Other/multi-racial | 5% |
| Refused | 1% |

41. 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 | 10% |
| \$20,001-\$35,000 | 12% |
| \$35,001-\$50,000 | 14% |
| \$50,001-\$75,000 | 14% |
| \$75,001-\$100,000 | 13% |
| More than \$100,000 | 30% |
| Refused | 6% |

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

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Liberal | 23% |
| Moderate | 38% |
| Conservative | 28% |
| Other | 4% |
| Refused | 6% |

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

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Democrat | 33% |
| Republican | 26% |
| Independent | 25% |
| Other | 6% |
| Refused | 10% |

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

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Democrat | 32% |
| Republican | 35% |
| Neither | 28% |
| Refused | 5% |

44. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Yes | 89% |
| No/Refused | 11% |

45. a. [IF REGISTERED AND NOT DEMOCRAT] How likely is it that you will vote in the Republican gubernatorial primary election in June? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely at all?

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Very likely | 52% |
| Somewhat likely | 22% |
| Not very likely | 7% |
| Not likely at all | 17% |
| Refused | 2% |

45. b. [IF REGISTERED AND NOT REPUBLICAN] How likely is it that you will vote in the Democratic gubernatorial primary election in June? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely at all?

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Very likely | 59% |
| Somewhat likely | 20% |
| Not very likely | 5% |
| Not likely at all | 14% |
| Refused | 3% |

46. [IF VERY OR SOMEWHAT LIKELY TO VOTE IN REPUBLICAN PRIMARY] If that election was held today, would you vote for ROTATE

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Ed Gillespie | 24% |
| Corey Stewart | 4% |
| Frank Wagner | 8% |
| Denver Riggleman | 1% |
| Unsure | 62% |
| Refused | 1% |

47. [IF VERY OR SOMEWHAT LIKELY TO VOTE IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY] If that election was held today, would you vote for ROTATE

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Ralph Northam | 12% |
| Tom Perriello | 12% |
| Unsure | 74% |
| Refused | 2% |

48. How likely is it that you will vote in the gubernatorial general election in November 2017? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely at all?

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Very likely | 75% |
| Somewhat likely | 15% |
| Not very likely | 5% |
| Not likely at all | 4% |
| Refused | 1% |

49. a. [IF VERY OR SOMEWHAT LIKELY] In the November election for governor, if the candidates were Ed Gillespie, the Republican and Ralph Northam, the Democrat [ROTATE], for who would you vote?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Ed Gillespie | 29% |
| Ralph Northam | 32% |
| Undecided | 38% |
| Would not vote/Refused | 1% |

49. b. If the candidates in November were Corey Stewart, the Republican and Ralph Northam, the Democrat [ROTATE], for who would you vote?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Corey Stewart | 24% |
| Ralph Northam | 35% |
| Undecided | 40% |
| Would not vote/Refused | 1% |

49. c. If the candidates in November were Frank Wagner, the Republican and Ralph Northam, the Democrat [ROTATE], for who would you vote?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Frank Wagner | 25% |
| Ralph Northam | 35% |
| Undecided | 38% |
| Would not vote/Refused | 2% |

50. a. And if the candidates in November were Ed Gillespie, the Republican and Tom Perriello, the Democrat [ROTATE], for who would you vote?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Ed Gillespie | 30% |
| Tom Perriello | 33% |
| Undecided | 37% |
| Would not vote/Refused | 1% |

50. b. And if the candidates in November were Corey Stewart, the Republican and Tom Perriello, the Democrat [ROTATE], for who would you vote?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Corey Stewart | 26% |
| Tom Perriello | 32% |
| Undecided | 41% |
| Would not vote/Refused | 1% |

50. c. If the candidates in November were Frank Wagner, the Republican and Tom Perriello, the Democrat [ROTATE], for who would you vote?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Frank Wagner | 27% |
| Ralph Northam | 32% |
| Undecided | 40% |
| Would not vote/Refused | 2% |

Thank you for your time and have a nice day/evening. If you have any questions or comments about this survey, you may contact Dr. Harry Wilson at (540)375 -2415. You may also contact the Roanoke College Institutional Review Board at (540) 375-xxxx.