

Roanoke College Poll
October 2, 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	12%
Shenandoah Valley	8%
Southside	9%
Central VA/Richmond	22%
Northern VA	26%
Tidewater	25%

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	91%
Somewhat likely	9%
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	47%
Wrong track	35%
Unsure/mixed	18%

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	35%
Wrong track	56%
Unsure/mixed	9%

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

Approve	51%
Disapprove	25%
Mixed/unsure	15%
Don't know/No answer	10%

7. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President of the United States?

Approve	46%
Disapprove	45%
Mixed/unsure	8%
Don't know/No answer	1%

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

Approve	6%
Disapprove	81%
Mixed/unsure	10%
Don't know/No answer	3%

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

Economy (general)	41%
Unemployment/jobs	12%
Health care	11%
Budget deficit/debt	5%

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

Yes, voted	90%
No, didn't vote	10%
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	54%
McCain	43%
Someone else	2%
Unsure	1%

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

Barack Obama, the Democrat	47%
Mitt Romney, the Republican	39%
Gary Johnson, the Libertarian	2%
Virgil Goode, the Constitution Party	1%
Jill Stein, Green Party	2%
Unsure	10%

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

Obama	16%
Romney	14%
Johnson	0%
Goode	0%
Stein	0%
Uncertain	61%
No answer	2%

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

Obama	24%
Romney	29%
Someone else	5%
Unsure	24%
No answer	19%

15. [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	74%
Vote against Romney	15%
Unsure/Both/Neither	10%
No answer	1%

16. [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	48%
Vote against Obama	34%
Unsure/Both/Neither	16%
No answer	2%

17. If the election for United States Senate were held today and the two candidates were George Allen and Tim Kaine, would you vote for [ROTATED]

George Allen	37%
Tim Kaine	47%
Uncertain	17%

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.

18. Barack Obama

Favorable	50%
Unfavorable	41%
Mixed/unsure	6%
DK/NA	3%

19. Mitt Romney

Favorable	36%
Unfavorable	45%
Mixed/unsure	13%
DK/NA	7%

20. Bob McDonnell

Favorable	41%
Unfavorable	25%
Mixed/unsure	16%
DK/NA	18%

21. Tim Kaine

Favorable	49%
Unfavorable	29%
Mixed/unsure	9%
DK/NA	13%

22. George Allen

Favorable	38%
Unfavorable	34%
Mixed/unsure	14%
DK/NA	15%

23. As you may know, by 2014 nearly all Americans will be required to have health insurance. People who do not buy insurance will pay a penalty while people who cannot afford it will receive financial help from the government. Do you approve or disapprove of this policy?

Approve	42%
Disapprove	49%
Mixed/Neutral	6%
DK/NA	3%

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

Quite a lot	83%
Only a little	15%
DK/NA	2%

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

25. Reducing unemployment

Obama	46%
Romney	43%
Unsure/neither/both	11%

26. Reducing the budget deficit

Obama	39%
Romney	49%
Unsure/neither/both	12%

27. Taxes

Obama	49%
Romney	40%
Unsure/neither/both	11%

28. Dealing with foreign policy

Obama	52%
Romney	38%
Unsure/neither/both	11%

29. The War on Terror

Obama	50%
Romney	38%
Unsure/neither/both	13%

30. Social security

Obama	49%
Romney	38%
Unsure/neither/both	13%

31. Medicare

Obama	51%
Romney	38%
Unsure/neither/both	11%

32. Health care?

Obama	50%
Romney	39%
Unsure/neither/both	11%

33. Immigration

Obama	47%
Romney	39%
Unsure/neither/both	15%

34. Which candidate do you think is a stronger leader?

Obama	48%
Romney	36%
Unsure/neither/both	16%

35. 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	14%
Not at all well	27%
DK/NA	3%

36. 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	12%
Fairly well	29%
Not too well	19%
Not at all well	36%
DK/NA	4%

37. Do you think abortion should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstance, or illegal in all circumstances?

Legal—all	32%
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Legal—some	47%
Illegal all	15%
DK/NA	7%

38. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Strongly favor	18%
Favor	25%
Oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	20%
DK/NA	18%

39. Some people think that Americans are becoming too dependent on the government and are losing their sense of self-reliance and individual responsibility. Others think that government should provide its citizens with assistance in paying for their needs that they cannot afford themselves and that we should act more as a community. Which is closer to your view?

Losing self-reliance	49%
Act more as community	40%
Unsure	11%

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

40. Code respondent's sex

Male	45%
Female	55%

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

18-34	13%
35-49	19%
50-64	32%
65 or older	36%

42. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

Yes	3%
No	94%
DK/NA	3%

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

White	81%
African-American	15%

Other/multi-racial	5%
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44. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	2%
High School	16%
Some college/tech school	25%
Associate's degree	9%
Bachelor's degree	27%
Advanced degree	21%

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	6%
\$20,001-\$35,000	12%
\$35,001-\$50,000	17%
\$50,001-\$75,000	18%
\$75,001-\$100,000	17%
More than \$100,000	29%

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

Liberal	21%
Moderate	40%
Conservative	36%
Other	4%

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

Democrat	36%
Republican	27%
Independent	28%
Other/None	9%

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

Yes	24%
No	64%
DK/NA	12%

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.