

**Roanoke College Poll**  
**2014 Virginia General Assembly**  
**January, 2014**

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.

1. First, to be sure that we get a representative sample of Virginians, would you please tell me in what county do you live? [RECODED TO REGION]

Southwest Virginia	12%
Shenandoah Valley	8%
Southside	8%
Central VA/Richmond	19%
Northern VA	29%
Tidewater	26%

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/mixed	Refused
Jan. 2014	47%	36%	15%	3%
Sept. 2013	45%	35%	19%	1%
July 2013	50%	33%	15%	1%
April 2013	46%	37%	15%	2%
Jan. 2013	49%	35%	16%	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	Wrong track	Unsure/mixed	Refused
Jan. 2014	25%	66%	8%	1%
Sept. 2013	25%	63%	11%	1%
July 2013	30%	60%	9%	1%
April 2013	26%	63%	10%	1%
Jan. 2013	30%	61%	8%	1%

4. With his term of office now over, in general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Bob McDonnell handed his job as Governor of Virginia?

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	45%	24%	18%	12%
Oct 30, 2013	41%	33%	21%	5%
Oct. 8, 2013	43%	29%	21%	7%
Sept 2013	46%	31%	16%	7%
July 2013	49%	26%	12%	13%
April 2013	49%	21%	16%	14%
Jan 2013	54%	19%	15%	12%

5. With his term of office just beginning, in general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Terry McAuliffe is handling his job as Governor of Virginia?

Approve	37%
Disapprove	16%
Mixed/unsure	17%
Refused	30%

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	38%	47%	14%	2%
Oct 30, 2013	43%	45%	12%	0%
Oct. 8, 2013	39%	49%	11%	1%
Sept 2013	40%	49%	10%	1%
July 2013	40%	50%	8%	3%
April 2013	44%	47%	7%	2%
Jan 2013	44%	46%	9%	1%

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	14%	75%	9%	3%
Oct 30, 2013	4%	88%	7%	1%
Oct.8, 2013	6%	85%	7%	2%
Sept 2013	10%	78%	11%	2%
July 2013	11%	76%	11%	2%
April 2013	12%	77%	8%	3%
Jan 2013	10%	81%	7%	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.

8. Barack Obama

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	47%	43%	8%	3%
Oct 30, 2013	50%	42%	7%	1%
Oct. 8, 2013	46%	46%	6%	2%
Sept 2013	46%	43%	8%	3%
July 2013	45%	48%	5%	2%
April 2013	48%	43%	5%	4%
Jan 2013	50%	42%	6%	3%

9. Mark Warner

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	47%	16%	11%	26%
Sept 2013	57%	18%	12%	14%
July 2013	56%	17%	9%	18%
April 2013	49%	22%	8%	22%
Jan 2013	53%	17%	12%	18%

10. Tim Kaine

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	40%	25%	11%	24%
Sept 2013	48%	27%	12%	14%
July 2013	44%	32%	8%	16%
April 2013	45%	30%	6%	19%
Jan 2013	44%	31%	10%	16%

11. Terry McAuliffe

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	36%	22%	16%	26%
Oct 30, 2013	36%	33%	20%	12%
Oct.8, 2013	32%	36%	15%	16%
Sept 2013	27%	31%	18%	24%
July 2013	24%	20%	10%	45%
April 2013	12%	18%	9%	61%
Jan 2013	10%	16%	11%	62%

12. Ed Gillespie

Favorable	6%
Unfavorable	13%
Mixed/unsure	6%
Refused	75%

13. Bob McDonnell

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	43%	23%	15%	19%
Oct 30, 2013	40%	33%	18%	9%
Oct.8, 2013	42%	30%	18%	11%
Sept 2013	42%	28%	18%	12%
July 2013	46%	24%	12%	18%
April 2013	44%	22%	12%	22%
Jan 2013	48%	17%	17%	19%

14. Stricter regulations regarding gifts given to elected officials and their families are also being considered. One proposal is to limit any gift to an elected official to a value of \$250. Do you think that limit is too low, too high, or just about right?

Too low	12%
Too high	20%
About right	60%
Unsure	7%
Refused	2%

15. Regarding gifts to members of the official's family, it is being proposed that they must be reported but that there be no limits on the value of those gifts. First, do you think those gifts should be reported or do you think that gifts to family members are private and should not have to be reported?

Yes, reported	70%
No, not reported	24%
Unsure/Depends	5%
Refused	2%

16. Should the value of gifts to family members be limited in any way?

Yes	66%
No	25%
Unsure/Depends	7%
Refused	2%

17. Regarding immigration reform, do you favor or oppose granting in-state tuition rates to state universities to undocumented students who have graduated from a Virginia high school and lived in Virginia for at least three years?

Favor	46%
Oppose	41%
Unsure	11%
Refused	2%

18. As you may know, we recently passed the 50th anniversary of President Johnson's War on Poverty which began in 1964. Overall, do you think the government's efforts to reduce poverty in the U.S. have been very successful, somewhat successful, not very successful or not at all successful?

Very successful	3%
Somewhat successful	33%
Not very successful	31%
Not at all successful	32%
Unsure	2%
Refused	1%

19. Most people recognize that some people are poor through no fault of their own while others may be poor because of choices they have made. What percentage of the poor do you think are in poverty through no fault of their own?

Average (Mean)	42.3%
Midpoint (Median)	40%

20. As you may know, Medicaid is a program that provides health care to those who are poor. Under federal legislation, the national government will pay the full cost of adding new people to Medicaid through 2016 when the state would assume the costs. Some people think we should expand the program now to insure up to 400,000 additional people; others think we should expand only when the current system has been made more efficient to cover the costs after 2016, and some people think we should not expand it all. Which is closer to your view?

Expand now	30%
Expand after more efficient	33%
Do not expand	26%
Unsure	8%
Refused	4%

21. Mental health care is another important issue in Virginia. At present, a person judged a danger to themselves or others may be held for four hours until an appropriate facility can be located. If none is found, then the person must be released. One proposal would extend that time period to six hours while another would extend it to 24 hours? Do you favor increasing the time to six hours, 24 hours or do you think it should stay at four hours?

Extend to six hours	7%
Extend to 24 hours	81%
Leave as is	8%
Unsure	3%
Refused	2%

22. Do you favor or oppose creating an electronic registry to available beds in psychiatric facilities?

Favor	81%
Oppose	10%
Unsure	5%
Refused	5%

23. Gov. McDonnell proposed adding \$38 million for mental health care in the next two-year budget for Virginia. Do you favor or oppose adding these funds to the budget?

Favor	70%
Oppose	15%
Unsure	12%
Refused	3%

24. Switching topics to education, some people think that standardized tests should be eliminated because they do not accurately measure what students know and may actually interfere with learning because teachers must cover the material that will be on those test. Others think that such testing is necessary because it is the only way to effectively measure what students know and that there are basic facts and ideas that all students should know. Which of these is closer to your view?

Eliminate testing	45%
Keep testing	46%
Unsure	9%
Refused	1%

25. It has also been suggested that non-violent felons who have completed their sentences should automatically have their voting rights restored. Do you favor or oppose this idea?

Favor	69%
Oppose	22%
Unsure	7%
Refused	2%

26. Some people think government functions better when one political party controls both the executive branch and the legislature. Others think that things are better when one party controls one branch and the other party controls the other. Which is closer to your view?

One party control	23%
Divided government	60%
Unsure	13%
Refused	4%

27. Some think that elected officials need to compromise so that the government can get things done. Others think that elected officials should stick to their principles even if that means the government does not function smoothly. Which is closer to your view?

Compromise	71%
No compromise	19%
Mixed/ unsure	9%
Refused	2%

28. At present, Virginia is the only state that does not allow its governor to run for a second consecutive term in office. Would you favor or oppose allowing governors to run for a second four-year term?

Favor	69%
Oppose	26%
Unsure	4%
Refused	1%

29. In general, do you favor or oppose the following regulations on firearms? Requiring background checks for all firearms sales at gun shows including those guns sold by private citizens.

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	85%	14%	1%	1%
July 2013	84%	11%	2%	3%
April 2013	84%	11%	3%	2%
Jan 2013	86%	10%	3%	2%

30. Requiring background checks for all firearms sales including those between two private citizens.

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	75%	23%	1%	0%
July 2013	69%	23%	5%	3%
April 2013	73%	22%	3%	2%
Jan 2013	75%	19%	4%	2%

Do you favor or oppose banning the sale of the following:

31. Semi-automatic rifles

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	47%	48%	3%	1%
Jan 2013	48%	46%	4%	3%

32. Semi-automatic shotguns

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	45%	50%	4%	2%
Jan 2013	41%	50%	5%	3%

33. Assault rifles

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	55%	41%	3%	2%
April 2013	56%	36%	5%	3%
Jan 2013	58%	35%	4%	3%

34. Semi-automatic handguns

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	43%	52%	4%	2%
Jan 2013	42%	50%	5%	3%

35. All guns

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	26%	70%	2%	2%
Jan 2013	16%	78%	4%	3%

36. Magazines that hold more than 10 bullets

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan 2014	49%	46%	3%	2%
April 2013	52%	38%	6%	4%
Jan 2013	53%	40%	4%	3%

37. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?

Yes	87%
No [SKIP TO EDUC]	13%



38. If the election for U.S. Senator from Virginia were held today and the candidates were Mark Warner, the Democrat and Ed Gillespie, the Republican, for whom would you vote? [ROTATE] [N=553 registered voters]

Ed Gillespie	21%
Mark Warner	50%
Someone else [VOL]	3%
Uncertain	24%
Refused	2%

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

39. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	3%
High School	19%
Some college/tech school	30%
Associate's degree	6%
Bachelor's degree	26%
Advanced degree	16%

40. Code respondent's sex

Male	49%
Female	51%

41. And in what year were you born? [CODED INTO CATEGORIES]

18-29	22%
30-44	27%
45-64	35%
65+	15%

42. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

Yes	5%
No	95%

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

White/Hispanic	70%
African-American	19%
Other	12%

44. 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	8%
\$20,001-\$35,000	13%
\$35,001-\$50,000	18%
\$50,001-\$75,000	17%
\$75,001-\$100,000	16%
More than \$100,000	28%

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

Liberal	21%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	35%
Other	5%
REFUSED	5%

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

Democrat	31%
Republican	21%
Independent	29%
Other/None	9%
Refused	10%

47. At the present time, are there any guns in your home or garage?

Yes	37%	(Jan. 2013 44% said Yes)
No	57%	
Unsure	1%	
Refused	6%	

48. [IF YES] Do you personally own any of those firearms or do they belong to someone else?

R owns	60%	(Jan. 2013 64% owned)
Someone else owns	30%	
Both own	9%	
Refused	0%	

49. Thank you for your time and have a nice evening/day.