

Roanoke College Poll
2014 Senate Election and State Issues
October, 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	7%
Central VA/Richmond	18%
Northern VA	29%
Tidewater	26%

2. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?

Yes	100%
No	Terminate interview

3. And how likely is it that you will vote in the election for U.S. Senator in November? Would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely?

Very likely	80%
Somewhat likely	21%
Not very likely	Terminate interview
Not likely	Terminate interview
Refused	Terminate interview

4. If the election for Senator of Virginia were held today would you vote for [ROTATE]

Ed Gillespie, the Republican	32%
Mark Warner, the Democrat	45%
Robert Sarvis, the Libertarian	3%
Someone else [VOL]	1%
Uncertain	19%
Refused	Terminate interview

5. [IF UNCERTAIN] Are you leaning toward voting for

Warner	12%
Gillespie	13%
Sarvis	5%

Uncertain 70%

5. a. [IF GILLESPIE, WARNER OR SARVIS] How certain are you that you will vote for ____? Are you very certain, somewhat certain, or not very certain?

	Warner	Gillespie	Sarvis
Very certain	77%	81%	50%
Somewhat certain	22%	18%	45%
Not very certain	2%	2%	5%
Refused	0%	0%	0%

6. If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your congressional district?

Democrat	39%
Republican	41%
Uncertain	17%
Refused	3%

7. 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
Oct. 2014	41%	45%	14%	1%
Sept. 2014	41%	41%	17%	2%
July 2014	43%	39%	16%	2%
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%

8. 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
Oct. 2014	22%	67%	11%	0%
Sept. 2014	21%	68%	10%	1%
July 2014	21%	68%	11%	0%
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%

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Oct. 2014	41%	26%	20%	14%
Sept. 2014	48%	20%	18%	15%
July 2014	38%	27%	18%	17%
Jan 2014	37%	16%	17%	30%

10. 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
Oct. 2014	32%	54%	13%	1%
Sept. 2014	36%	52%	11%	1%
July 2014	37%	53%	10%	1%
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%

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Oct. 2014	11%	71%	15%	3%
Sept. 2014	7%	79%	12%	2%
July 2014	7%	80%	11%	1%
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.

12. Barack Obama

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Oct. 2014	37%	50%	10%	3%
Sept. 2014	40%	48%	10%	2%
July 2014	40%	50%	9%	1%
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%

13. Terry McAuliffe

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Sept. 2014	37%	29%	15%	19%
Sept. 2014	45%	19%	17%	20%
July 2014	39%	27%	14%	20%
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%

14. Mark Warner

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Oct. 2014	51%	25%	13%	11%
Sept. 2014	58%	19%	13%	11%
July 2014	56%	17%	10%	17%
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%

15. Tim Kaine

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Oct. 2014	37%	29%	13%	22%
Sept. 2014	40%	24%	16%	21%
July 2014	42%	27%	9%	22%
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%

16. Ed Gillespie

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Oct. 2014	28%	26%	11%	35%
Sept. 2014	20%	19%	10%	52%
July 2014	8%	10%	6%	75%
Jan 2014	6%	13%	6%	75%

17. Robert Sarvis

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Oct. 2014	8%	14%	8%	71%
Sept. 2014	11%	9%	5%	75%
July 2014	8%	8%	4%	81%
Oct 2013	16%	13%	16%	55%

18. What is the most important problem facing the next Senator from Virginia?

Economy (general)	22%
Unemployment/jobs	13%
Health care	9%
Budget deficit/debt	6%
Leadership/gridlock	6%
Education	5%
Foreign policy/ISIS/Terrorism	4%
Taxes	3%
Other	11%
Refused	8%

19. Looking from a national perspective, do you have generally favorable or unfavorable view of the Democratic Party? [ROTATE]

Favorable	33%
Unfavorable	47%
Mixed	18%

Refused	1%
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20. Looking from a national perspective, do you have generally favorable or unfavorable view of the Republican Party? [ROTATE]

Favorable	28%
Unfavorable	46%
Mixed	24%
Refused	2%

21. Turning your attention to the outbreak of the Ebola virus, the Centers for Disease Control has stated that the virus can only be spread among humans if they come in contact with the bodily fluid of a person who is infected. Do you believe that this is the only way the disease can be spread among humans or not?

Yes	45%
No	31%
Unsure	24%
Refused	1%

22. How concerned are you that there will be a major outbreak of the Ebola virus in the U.S.? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	27%
Somewhat concerned	31%
Not very concerned	23%
Not at all concerned	17%
Refused	1%

23. How concerned are you that someone in your family will contract the Ebola virus? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	20%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not very concerned	28%
Not at all concerned	30%
Refused	1%

24. In general, do you think that President Obama is doing enough to fight the spread of the Ebola virus?

Yes	48%
No	39%

Unsure	13%
Refused	1%

25. Thinking about the terrorist threat from the group known as the Islamic State or ISIS, how concerned are you that ISIS will stage an attack or a killing in the U.S.? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	53%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not very concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	6%
Refused	1%

26. How concerned are you that ISIS will become a serious threat throughout the world? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	53%
Somewhat concerned	30%
Not very concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	5%
Refused	2%

27. In general, do you think that President Obama is doing enough to fight the group known as the Islamic State or ISIS?

Yes	38%
No	47%
Unsure	13%
Refused	1%

28. As you may know, former state senator Philip Puckett resigned his seat in June, shifting the balance of power in the state senate from the Democrats to the Republicans. Several stories related to his resignation have been reported, and they are being investigated by the U.S. Justice Department. How closely have you followed this news story? Would you say very closely, somewhat closely, not very closely or not at all?

Very closely	6%
Somewhat closely	18%
Not very closely	27%
Not at all	45%
Refused	3%

29. It has been reported that Republican state delegate Terry Kilgore suggested that senator Puckett might be able to get a job with the state tobacco commission and that Puckett's daughter, who was an interim circuit court judge, could be confirmed to a permanent judgeship by the Senate if Puckett resigned. Do you think that Kilgore did anything wrong in this conversation?

Yes	36%
No	15%
Unsure/Don't know	43%
Refused	6%

30. Do you think that other statewide Republicans were aware of the details of Kilgore's conversation?

Yes	31%
No	17%
Unsure/Don't know	47%
Refused	6%

31. Shortly after this conversation, Puckett was called by Governor McAuliffe's Chief of Staff, who suggested that Puckett's daughter could be named Secretary of some state agency, such as Mines, Minerals, and Energy, if Puckett did NOT resign. Do you think that the Chief of Staff did anything wrong in this conversation?

Yes	42%
No	12%
Unsure/Don't know	39%
Refused	7%

32. Governor McAuliffe has said that he was UNAWARE of this conversation. Do you think that McAuliffe WAS AWARE of the details of this conversation?

Yes	35%
No	17%
Unsure/Don't know	42%
Refused	7%

33. Around this same time, Senator Mark Warner had a one-hour conversation with Puckett's son, during which they discussed possible employment for Puckett's daughter in the private sector. Puckett's son has claimed they also discussed a possible federal judgeship. Warner says that he never made any job offer. Do you think that Warner did anything wrong in this conversation?

Yes	33%
No	21%

Unsure/Don't know	40%
Refused	7%

34. Does knowing that Mark Warner had this conversation make you more likely to vote for him for the Senate, less likely, or does it make no difference?

More likely	3%
Less likely	20%
No difference	65%
Refused	12%

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

35. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	2%
High School	15%
Some college/tech school	21%
Associate's degree	13%
Bachelor's degree	33%
Advanced degree	15%
Refused	1%

36. Code respondent's sex

Male	49%
Female	51%

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

18-29	12%
30-44	21%
45-64	43%
65+	17%
Refused	7%

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

Yes	4%
No	90%
Refused	5%

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

White/Hispanic	71%
African-American	19%
Other	4%

Refused	7%
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40. 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	4%
\$20,001-\$35,000	7%
\$35,001-\$50,000	13%
\$50,001-\$75,000	17%
\$75,001-\$100,000	16%
More than \$100,000	23%
Refused	21%

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

Liberal	17%
Moderate	36%
Conservative	38%
Other	4%
Refused	5%

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

Democrat	30%
Republican	29%
Independent	20%
Other/None	6%
Refused	14%

43. [IF INDEPENDENT] In elections in general, do you tend to lean more toward Democratic candidates or Republican candidates?

Democrats	27%
Republicans	33%
Both/Uncertain	36%
Refused	5%

44. Do you tend to agree or disagree with Tea Party movement or don't you know enough about them to have an opinion?

	Agree	Disagree	Neutral	Unsure	Refused
Oct. 2014	20%	40%	13%	12%	15%
Sept. 2014	20%	48%	7%	13%	11%
July 2014	22%	47%	9%	13%	10%

Oct 2013 24% 46% 8% 21% 1%

45. Do you happen to recall if you voted in the Presidential election of 2012?

Yes, voted	91%
No, did not vote	6%
Don't recall/Refused	3%

45.a. And who did you vote for in 2012—Barack Obama, Mitt Romney or someone else?

Obama	47%
Romney	40%
Someone else	4%
Refused	8%

46. Do you happen to recall if you voted in the election for Governor of Virginia last year?

Yes, voted	74%
No, did not vote	19%
Don't recall/Refused	7%

46.a. And who did you vote for in 2013—Terry McAuliffe, Ken Cuccinelli, Robert Sarvis or someone else?

McAuliffe	40%
Cuccinelli	40%
Sarvis	5%
Someone else	2%
Refused	12%

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