

**Roanoke College Poll
2015 General Assembly
January, 2015 Topline Results**

* Not all poll results are directly comparable. Each January poll is comprised of a sample of all Virginia residents 18 or older and is weighted to reflect census data, and those results are comparable. Other polls may include only registered voters or likely voters and are weighted to reflect voter turnout models, which vary slightly from year to year.

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	10%
Shenandoah Valley	7%
Southside	9%
Central VA/Richmond	21%
Northern VA	30%
Tidewater	24%

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. 2015*	53%	30%	16%	2%
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%

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. 2015*	33%	52%	15%	1%
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%

4. 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
Jan. 2015*	47%	18%	16%	19%
Oct. 2014	41%	26%	20%	14%
Sept. 2014	48%	20%	18%	15%
July 2014	38%	27%	18%	17%
Jan. 2014	37%	16%	17%	30%

5. 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. 2015*	38%	46%	12%	4%
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%

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan. 2015*	14%	70%	11%	5%
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.

7. Barack Obama

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan. 2015*	42%	45%	10%	3%
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%

8. Terry McAuliffe

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan. 2015*	44%	18%	14%	24%
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%

9. Mark Warner

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan. 2015*	54%	19%	11%	16%
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%

10. Tim Kaine

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Jan. 2015*	41%	26%	10%	24%
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%

11. Now, I'm going to ask a series of questions related to the Virginia General Assembly session which begins this week. The first questions deal with ethics requirements for those who work in government. Stricter regulations regarding gifts given to elected officials and their families are being considered by the legislature. 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?

	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2014
Too low	14%	12%
Too high	22%	20%
About right	60%	60%
Unsure	3%	7%
Refused	1%	2%

12. 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?

	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2014
Yes, reported	81%	70%
No, not reported	13%	24%
Unsure	5%	5%
Refused	1%	2%

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

	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2014
Yes	72%	66%
No	19%	25%
Depends/unsure	8%	7%
Refused	1%	2%

14. It is relatively common for state lawmakers to resign their part-time positions and accept better paying jobs as judges or high-ranking state officials. Do you support or oppose a rule that would prevent state lawmakers from accepting such a position for two years after they leave office?

Support	53%
Oppose	34%
Unsure/Depends	13%
Refused	1%

15. Should the legislators' family members also be prevented from accepting such positions while the person is in office?

Prevent them	48%
Do not prevent them	39%
Unsure/depends	13%
Refused	0%

16. 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?

	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2014
Mean	43%	42%
Median	45%	40%

17. 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 and then the state would assume some of the costs. Some people think we should expand the program now; 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?

	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2014
Expand now	33%	30%
Expand when more efficient	39%	33%
Do not expand	22%	26%
Unsure	6%	8%
Refused	1%	4%

18. Currently, undocumented immigrants who can demonstrate they live in Virginia are eligible to pay in-state tuition rates at state universities. Do you think those undocumented residents should pay in-state or out-of-state tuition rates?

In state	42%
Out of state	43%
Unsure	7%
Should not attend at all [DO NOT READ]	8%
Refused	0%

19. A bill being considered by the General Assembly would require all colleges and universities to notify the police of all reports of sexual assault on campus, regardless of whether the victim presses charges or not. Some people support this because they think it would give a more accurate representation of what happens on college campuses. Others are afraid that some victims may not report the assaults to anyone because they fear the incident may become public when they are not ready to press charges. In general, do think colleges should be required to report all allegations of sexual assault or not?

Yes, report	81%
No, don't report	11%
Unsure/Depends	8%
Refused	0%

21. Another proposal would require high school students to pass the same civics test that immigrants must pass before they can become U.S. citizens. If students did not pass the test, then they would not graduate. Do you support or oppose this idea?

Support	58%
Oppose	38%
Unsure	4%
Refused	0%

22. As you may know, political district boundaries for U.S. Representatives and for state delegates and senators are drawn every 10 years after the Census. Currently, districts are drawn by the General Assembly. Some people would like an independent commission to be in charge of drawing the districts to minimize the political advantage to the party in power. Others think that such a commission might not be truly independent and that the current system should be left alone. Which is closer to your view?

Independent commission	43%
Leave as is	42%
Unsure	14%
Refused	1%

23. The General Assembly also appoints judges throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Other states elect judges, while some have bipartisan commissions that make recommendations to the governor or the legislature who then makes the appointments. Which system do you think is best--having the legislature appoint judges, elect judges, or have a commission that would make recommendations to either the governor or the legislature?

Legislature appoints	17%
Elect judges	44%
Commission recommends	32%
Unsure	7%
Refused	1%

24. As you know, two recent cases in which police officers were not formally charged following the deaths of suspects have been in the news. First, let me ask you about the case in Ferguson, Missouri. All things considered, do you think the grand jury made the right decision or the wrong decision not to charge Darren Wilson in the death of Michael Brown?

	All	White	Black
Right decision	49%	60%	9%
Wrong decision	29%	18%	71%
Unsure	19%	19%	18%
Refused	3%	3%	2%

25. Do you think race was a major factor, a minor factor or not a factor at all in the decision not charge Darren Wilson in the death of Michael Brown?

	All	White	Black
Major factor	22%	14%	50%
Minor factor	20%	20%	23%
No factor	44%	51%	19%
Unsure	12%	13%	7%
Refused	3%	2%	1%

26. Now, regarding the case in New York City in which a man choked to death, All things considered, do you think the grand jury made the right decision or the wrong decision not to charge a police officer in the death of Eric Garner?

	All	White	Black
Right decision	27%	32%	6%
Wrong decision	53%	46%	80%
Unsure	18%	20%	14%
Refused	2%	2%	1%

27. Do you think race was a major factor, a minor factor or not a factor at all in the decision not charge a police officer in the death of Eric Garner?

	All	White	Black
Major factor	22%	15%	44%
Minor factor	20%	19%	27%
No factor	38%	43%	19%
Unsure	18%	20%	8%
Refused	2%	3%	1%

28. How much confidence do you have in police officers in your community to treat blacks and whites equally--a great deal, a fair amount, just some, or very little?

	All	White	Black
Great deal	46%	54%	19%
Fair amount	31%	30%	29%
Just some	9%	5%	22%
Very little	11%	8%	28%
Unsure	3%	4%	1%
Refused	1%	0%	1%

29. How much confidence do you have in police officers in your community to not use excessive force on suspects--a great deal, a fair amount, just some, or very little?

	All	White	Black
Great deal	47%	53%	30%
Fair amount	31%	31%	29%
Just some	7%	5%	16%
Very little	9%	7%	19%
Unsure	5%	4%	7%
Refused	0%	0%	1%

30. Former Governor Bob McDonnell was recently sentenced to two years in prison for his conviction on multiple counts of public corruption for accepting gifts from a businessman in exchange for promoting his product. Do you think he should have been sentenced to time in prison or do you think several years of community service would have been a more appropriate punishment?

	All	Democrat	Republican
Yes, should go to prison	57%	67%	51%
No, community service was appropriate	34%	26%	39%
Unsure	8%	6%	9%
Refused	1%	1%	2%

31. Overall, looking back at the years from 2010 to 2014 when Bob McDonnell was governor and considering everything, do you think he was generally a good governor or a bad governor?

	All	Democrat	Republican
Good	57%	50%	71%
Bad	16%	18%	13%
Unsure/Mixed	26%	31%	17%
Refused	1%	1%	0%

32. Regardless of your opinion of former governor McDonnell, do you think that Virginia was better off in 2014 when his term ended or were things better in 2010?

	All	Democrat	Republican
Better in 2014	45%	44%	52%
Better in 2010	26%	25%	28%
Unsure/same	28%	30%	20%
Refused	2%	2%	1%

33. Now, I'm going to ask a few questions about guns and gun control. What do you think is more important - to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

Protect gun ownership	50%
Control gun ownership	42%
Unsure/depends	7%
Refused	2%

34. As you may know, in 1993 Virginia adopted a law that limited a person to buying only one handgun per month. That law was repealed in 2012. Do you think that Virginia should once again adopt a one-handgun-per month restriction or leave the law as it currently is?

Adopt one a month	47%
Leave as is	47%
Unsure	5%
Refused	1%

In general, do you favor or oppose the following regulations on firearms?

35. Requiring background checks for all firearms sales at gun shows including those guns sold by private citizens?

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan. 2015*	88%	8%	3%	1%
Jan. 2014	85%	14%	1%	1%
July 2013	84%	11%	2%	3%
April 2013	84%	11%	3%	2%
Jan. 2013	86%	10%	3%	2%

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

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan. 2015*	75%	17%	6%	2%
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:

37. Assault rifles

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan. 2015*	59%	34%	4%	3%
Jan. 2014	55%	41%	3%	2%
April 2013	56%	36%	5%	3%
Jan. 2013	58%	35%	4%	3%

38. Magazines that hold more than 10 bullets

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan. 2015*	57%	35%	5%	4%
Jan. 2014	49%	46%	3%	2%
April 2013	52%	38%	6%	4%
Jan. 2013	53%	40%	4%	3%

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	2%
High School	21%
Some college/tech school	25%
Associate's degree	10%
Bachelor's degree	26%
Advanced degree	16%
Refused	1%

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%
Refused	1%

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

Yes	7%
No	91%
Refused	3%

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

White/Hispanic	74%
African-American	18%
Other	5%
Refused	3%

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	9%
\$20,001-\$35,000	11%
\$35,001-\$50,000	17%
\$50,001-\$75,000	16%
\$75,001-\$100,000	11%
More than \$100,000	22%
Refused	14%

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

Liberal	19%
Moderate	38%
Conservative	30%
Other	6%
Refused	7%

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

Democrat	32%
Republican	23%
Independent	24%
Other/None	7%
Refused	14%

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

Yes	37%
No	55%
Unsure/Don't recall	1%
Refused	8%

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

Respondent owns	55%
Someone else owns	35%
Both own	8%
Refused	3%

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