

Roanoke College Poll
2013 General Assembly
April 17, 2013

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. May I please speak to the youngest male in the household over the age of 18? [IF THERE IS NO MALE OR THEY ARE NOT HOME, ASK IF THE PERSON WHO ANSWERED THE PHONE WILL COMPLETE THE SURVEY]

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 | 11% |
| Shenandoah Valley | 8% |
| Southside | 7% |
| Central VA/Richmond | 23% |
| Northern VA | 29% |
| Tidewater | 23% |

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 | 46% |
| Wrong track | 37% |
| Unsure/mixed | 15% |
| No answer | 2% |

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 | 26% |
| Wrong track | 63% |
| Unsure/mixed | 10% |
| No answer | 1% |

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

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Approve | 49% |
|---------|-----|

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Disapprove | 21% |
| Mixed/unsure | 16% |
| Don't know/No answer | 14% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Approve | 44% |
| Disapprove | 47% |
| Mixed/unsure | 7% |
| Don't know/No answer | 2% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Approve | 12% |
| Disapprove | 77% |
| Mixed/unsure | 8% |
| Don't know/No answer | 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 | 48% |
| Unfavorable | 43% |
| Mixed/unsure | 5% |
| DK/NA | 4% |

8. Mark Warner

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Favorable | 49% |
| Unfavorable | 22% |
| Mixed/unsure | 8% |
| DK/NA | 22% |

9. Tim Kaine

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Favorable | 45% |
| Unfavorable | 30% |
| Mixed/unsure | 6% |
| DK/NA | 19% |

10. Bob McDonnell

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Favorable | 44% |
| Unfavorable | 22% |

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Mixed/unsure | 12% |
| DK/NA | 22% |

11. Ken Cuccinelli

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Favorable | 26% |
| Unfavorable | 24% |
| Mixed/unsure | 5% |
| DK/NA | 45% |

12. Terry McAuliffe

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Favorable | 12% |
| Unfavorable | 18% |
| Mixed/unsure | 9% |
| DK/NA | 61% |

13. In the election for governor of Virginia in 2013, are you likely to vote for [READ ONLY CHOICES 1 AND 2] [ROTATED] [N=572]

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Ken Cuccinelli, the Republican | 34% |
| Terry McAuliffe, the Democrat | 29% |
| Unsure | 38% |

14. From what you have heard or read, do you think that Terry McAuliffe is too liberal, too conservative or about right for Virginia or don't you know enough to have formed an opinion?

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Too liberal | 16% |
| Too conservative | 3% |
| About right | 14% |
| Don't know enough | 67% |

15. From what you have heard or read, do you think that Ken Cuccinelli is too liberal, too conservative or about right for Virginia or don't you know enough to have formed an opinion?

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Too liberal | 3% |
| Too conservative | 23% |
| About right | 22% |
| Don't know enough | 52% |

16. As you may know, automatic cuts in the federal budget, known as the sequester, went into effect on March 1. Overall, do you think this is good or bad for the country, or don't you know enough to have formed an opinion?

| | |
|------|-----|
| Good | 26% |
|------|-----|

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Bad | 48% |
| Don't know | 27% |

17. Which one of the following best describes the national debt? An immediate problem. A problem that can be handled several years down the road. Not a problem at all.

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Problem today | 72% |
| Problem in future | 18% |
| Not a problem | 8% |
| Unsure/NA | 2% |

18. Overall, do you favor or oppose a five percent across-the-board cut in overall federal spending this year?

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Favor | 57% |
| Oppose | 30% |
| Unsure | 13% |

19. Overall, do you favor or oppose an eight percent across-the-board cut in U.S. military spending this year?

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Favor | 27% |
| Oppose | 64% |
| Unsure | 10% |

20. The current federal tax rates range from 10 percent for those with low incomes up to 39.6 percent for those with incomes over \$450,000 per year. In general, do you think that 10 percent is too high, too low, or about right for those with low incomes?

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Too high | 31% |
| Too low | 6% |
| About right | 53% |
| DK/NA | 11% |

21. And do you think that 39.6 percent is too high, too low, or about right for those with high incomes?

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Too high | 31% |
| Too low | 21% |
| About right | 39% |
| DK/NA | 9% |

22. And do you think that the tax rate that you personally pay is too high, too low, or about right?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Too high | 41% |
| Too low | 3% |

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| About right | 51% |
| DK/NA | 5% |

23. Overall, who do you trust more to deal with the national economy—President Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Obama | 40% |
| Republicans | 29% |
| Both/Neither | 26% |
| DK/NA | 5% |

24. Which statement comes closest to your view about how the immigration system should deal with immigrants who are currently living in the U.S. illegally? The immigration system should allow them to become citizens provided they meet certain requirements; allow them to become permanent legal residents, but not citizens; or identify and deport them.

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Allow citizenship | 50% |
| Permanent resident | 21% |
| Deport | 21% |
| None of those/unsure | 8% |

25. Congress is currently debating immigration reform and many different ideas have been suggested. Please tell me whether you favor or oppose the following policies. First, do you favor or oppose...

Creating a database that would allow employers to verify the immigration status of new hires.

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Favor | 78% |
| Oppose | 15% |
| Unsure | 6% |
| NA | 1% |

26. Allowing immigrants who get degrees from U.S. colleges or universities in math, science, or technology to work legally in the U.S.

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Favor | 67% |
| Oppose | 24% |
| Unsure | 8% |
| NA | 1% |

27. Expanding guest worker programs that would give temporary visas to non-citizens who want to work legally in the U.S.

| | |
|-------|-----|
| Favor | 67% |
|-------|-----|

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Oppose | 27% |
| Unsure | 6% |
| NA | 1% |

28. For children whose parents are not here legally, would you favor or oppose granting them citizenship if they have completed college and do not have a criminal record.

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Favor | 73% |
| Oppose | 20% |
| Unsure | 7% |
| NA | 1% |

29. How much, if at all, do you think that immigrants today are changing American society and way of life? Would you say a lot, a little or not at all?

| | |
|------------|-----|
| A lot | 64% |
| A little | 31% |
| Not at all | 3% |
| Unsure/NA | 2% |

30. [IF A LOT OR A LITTLE] All in all, do you think that is a good thing or a bad thing?

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Good thing | 43% |
| Bad thing | 33% |
| Depends | 25% |

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

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Strongly favor | 20% |
| Favor | 25% |
| Oppose | 22% |
| Strongly Oppose | 19% |
| Unsure | 9% |
| NA | 4% |

32. a. [IF FAVOR OR STRONGLY FAVOR] Have you always favored same-sex marriage, or have you changed your mind on this issue?

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Always favored | 69% |
| Changed mind | 25% |
| Don't recall/NA | 6% |

32. b. [IF OPPOSE OR STRONGLY OPPOSE] Have you always opposed same-sex marriage, or have you changed your mind on this issue?

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Always opposed | 95% |
| Changed mind | 4% |
| Don't recall/NA | 1% |

Now I'm going to read you some statements, some of which you will probably agree with, others you will probably disagree with. Do you agree or disagree that...

33. Same-sex marriage would go against my religious beliefs

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Agree | 54% |
| Disagree | 38% |
| Unsure | 3% |
| NA | 5% |

34. Allowing gays and lesbians to legally marry would undermine the traditional American family

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Agree | 45% |
| Disagree | 46% |
| Unsure | 4% |
| NA | 5% |

35. Same-sex couples can be as good parents as heterosexual couples

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Agree | 60% |
| Disagree | 27% |
| Unsure | 9% |
| NA | 4% |

36. Same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Agree | 62% |
| Disagree | 28% |
| Unsure | 6% |
| NA | 5% |

37. [IF STRONGLY OPPOSED OR OPPOSED TO GAY MARRIAGE] Do you favor or oppose civil unions for gays?

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Favor | 28% |
| Oppose | 50% |
| Unsure | 12% |
| NA | 10% |

38. Do you happen to know someone who is gay?

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 85% |
|-----|-----|

| | |
|-----------|----|
| No | 9% |
| Unsure/NA | 6% |

39. Now I have several questions related to guns and gun violence. Which do you think is more likely to reduce gun violence--better enforcement of existing gun laws or tougher gun laws?

| | All | Gun owners (N=195) | Non-gun owners (N=365) |
|----------------------|-----|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Better enforcement | 53% | 64% | 45% |
| Tougher laws | 37% | 26% | 44% |
| Unsure | 8% | 9% | 7% |
| Don't know/No answer | 3% | 1% | 4% |

40. Do you think it is more likely that a gun in the possession of a law-abiding citizen would be used for self-defense purposes or that it would somehow accidentally injure or kill another person?

| | All | Gun owners | Non-gun owners |
|----------------------|-----|------------|----------------|
| Self-defense | 66% | 79% | 59% |
| Accidental shooting | 20% | 12% | 25% |
| Unsure | 12% | 7% | 14% |
| Don't know/No answer | 3% | 3% | 2% |

41. 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.

| | All | Gun owners | Non-gun owners |
|----------------------|-----|------------|----------------|
| Favor | 84% | 78% | 89% |
| Oppose | 11% | 15% | 7% |
| Unsure | 3% | 4% | 2% |
| Don't know/No answer | 2% | 3% | 2% |

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

| | All | Gun owners | Non-gun owners |
|----------------------|-----|------------|----------------|
| Favor | 73% | 59% | 83% |
| Oppose | 22% | 36% | 12% |
| Unsure | 3% | 3% | 3% |
| Don't know/No answer | 2% | 2% | 2% |

43. Do you think that stricter gun control laws would make you personally more safe, less safe, or would they make no difference?

| | All | Gun owners | Non-gun owners |
|-----------|-----|------------|----------------|
| More safe | 31% | 17% | 40% |

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Less safe | 10% | 19% | 5% |
| No difference | 55% | 63% | 51% |
| Unsure | 2% | 0% | 3% |
| Don't know/No answer | 2% | 2% | 1% |

44. Do you favor or oppose banning the sale of the following: Assault rifles?

| | All | Gun owners | Non-gun owners |
|----------------------|-----|------------|----------------|
| Favor | 56% | 44% | 63% |
| Oppose | 36% | 50% | 29% |
| Unsure | 5% | 3% | 5% |
| Don't know/No answer | 3% | 3% | 3% |

45. Do you favor or oppose banning all magazines that hold more than 10 bullets?

| | All | Gun owners | Non-gun owners |
|----------------------|-----|------------|----------------|
| Favor | 52% | 38% | 61% |
| Oppose | 38% | 55% | 29% |
| Unsure | 6% | 4% | 7% |
| Don't know/No answer | 4% | 3% | 4% |

46. Some people think that background checks for all gun sales will help reduce violent crime and keep guns away from criminals and those who are mentally unstable. Others believe that expanding background checks will not impact crime because criminals will either purchase illegal guns or steal guns they use when committing crimes. Which of these is closer to your view?

| | All | Gun owners | Non-gun owners |
|----------------------|-----|------------|----------------|
| Reduce crime | 36% | 23% | 43% |
| No impact on crime | 54% | 65% | 48% |
| Unsure | 9% | 10% | 9% |
| Don't know/No answer | 1% | 2% | 1% |

47. Some people think that making it more difficult to purchase a gun will reduce violent crime because fewer people will have guns. Others think that it will increase crime because criminals will believe that fewer potential victims will have a gun to defend themselves. Which of these is closer to your view?

| | All | Gun owners | Non-gun owners |
|----------------------|-----|------------|----------------|
| Reduce crime | 39% | 24% | 47% |
| Increase crime | 32% | 38% | 30% |
| No difference [Vol.] | 23% | 32% | 18% |
| Don't know/No answer | 6% | 5% | 5% |

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

48. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 91% |
| No | 9% |

49. Code respondent's sex

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Male | 48% |
| Female | 52% |

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

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| 18-34 | 15% |
| 35-49 | 23% |
| 50-64 | 32% |
| 65 or older | 29% |

51. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 4% |
| No | 91% |
| No answer | 5% |

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

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| White | 75% |
| African-American | 15% |
| Other/multi-racial | 7% |
| No answer | 3% |

53. How much education have you completed?

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Less than high school | 2% |
| High School | 20% |
| Some college/tech school | 22% |
| Associate's degree | 9% |
| Bachelor's degree | 29% |
| Advanced degree | 18% |

54. 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 | 5% |
| \$20,001-\$35,000 | 12% |
| \$35,001-\$50,000 | 14% |
| \$50,001-\$75,000 | 24% |
| \$75,001-\$100,000 | 21% |
| More than \$100,000 | 23% |

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

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Liberal | 16% |
| Moderate | 43% |
| Conservative | 36% |
| Other | 5% |

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

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Democrat | 33% |
| Republican | 29% |
| Independent | 25% |
| Other/None | 14% |

57. Have you ever fired a gun of any type?

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 71% |
| No | 30% |

58. How familiar are you with how guns actually work? Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar or not at all familiar?

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Very familiar | 40% |
| Somewhat familiar | 28% |
| Not very familiar | 17% |
| Not at all familiar | 14% |
| Unsure | 0% |
| No answer | 0% |

59. Were there any guns in the household when you were a child?

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Yes | 58% |
| No | 40% |
| Don't recall/unsure | 1% |
| No answer | 1% |

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

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 46% |
| No | 50% |
| Unsure | 1% |
| No answer | 4% |

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

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| R owns | 67% |
| Someone else owns | 27% |
| Both own | 6% |
| No answer | 0% |

62. 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.

Note:

* Some the gay rights questions were asked on a national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Their results may be found here. <http://www.people-press.org/2013/03/20/growing-support-for-gay-marriage-changed-minds-and-changing-demographics/>

* Some of the immigration questions were asked on a national survey by the Public Religion Research Institute. Their results may be found here. <http://publicreligion.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/2013-Religion-Values-and-Immigration-Reform-Survey-Topline1.pdf>