

Roanoke College Poll Topline and Select Party Crosstabs
2021 Election and Politics
August 20, 2021

Hi, I'm _____ and I'm calling from Roanoke College. How are you today/this evening?
 We're conducting a survey of Virginia residents regarding important issues and your opinion is very important to us. Your responses are confidential.

1. In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the mass media--such as newspapers, TV and radio--when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly? A great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

	Great Deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None at all	Refused
Aug. 2021	8%	29%	28%	33%	2%
May 2021	5%	31%	30%	31%	3%
Feb. 2021	7%	31%	34%	25%	3%
Nov. 2020	9%	35%	24%	30%	3%
Aug. 2020	7%	37%	29%	24%	2%
May 2020	10%	37%	32%	20%	2%
Feb. 2020	8%	27%	32%	28%	4%
Nov. 2019	7%	29%	34%	26%	4%
Aug. 2019	10%	30%	31%	27%	3%
Feb. 2017	11%	31%	30%	26%	3%

2. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?

Yes	100%
No	0%

3. How likely is it that you will vote in the Virginia Governor's election in November? Is it almost certain, very likely, somewhat likely or not very likely or did you already vote?

Very likely	87%
Somewhat likely	13%
Not very likely	[TERMINATE]
Refused	[TERMINATE]

4. a. If the election for Governor of Virginia were held today and you had to decide right now, would you vote for [ROTATE FIRST THREE]

Glenn Youngkin, the Republican	38%
Terry McAuliffe, the Democrat	46%
Princess Blanding, the Liberation Party candidate	2%
Some other candidate	1%
Undecided	13%

4. a. If the election for Lieutenant Governor were held today and you had to decide right now, would you vote for [ROTATE FIRST TWO]

Winsome Sears, the Republican	36%
Hala Ayala, the Democrat	42%
Some other candidate	2%
Undecided	20%

4. a. If the election for Attorney General were held today and you had to decide right now, would you vote for [ROTATE FIRST TWO]

Jason Miyares, the Republican	37%
Mark Herring, the Democrat	45%
Some other candidate	1%
Undecided	17%

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

Economy/Jobs/Unemployment	26%
COVID	9%
Race relations/Social justice	7%
Education	7%
Healthcare	6%
Environment/Climate change	4%
Voting rights	4%
Gun Control/Second Amendment	3%
Abortion/Morality	3%
Immigration	2%
LGBTQ+ issues	1%
Transportation/Infrastructure	1%
Police	1%
Crime	1%
Unsure/Refused	10%
Other	16%

6. 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	Refused
Aug. 2021	33%	58%	7%	2%
May 2021	42%	53%	5%	1%
Feb. 2021	39%	53%	8%	1%
Nov. 2020	28%	62%	9%	1%
Oct. 2020	30%	63%	6%	1%
Aug. 2020	16%	79%	4%	1%
May 2020	33%	61%	6%	0%
Feb. 2020	39%	53%	8%	0%
Nov. 2019	26%	65%	10%	0%

Aug. 2019	31%	61%	7%	1%
Feb. 2019	37%	56%	6%	1%
Nov. 2018	34%	58%	6%	2%
Aug. 2018	37%	56%	7%	1%
June 2018	30%	64%	6%	1%
Feb. 2018	31%	57%	10%	1%
Nov. 2017	24%	69%	7%	0%
Oct. 2017	30%	64%	6%	1%
Sept. 2017	30%	63%	7%	1%
Aug. 2017	29%	63%	8%	1%
Feb. 2017	31%	57%	10%	1%
Jan. 2017	32%	52%	16%	1%

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	Refused
Aug. 2021	52%	43%	4%	1%
May 2021	50%	40%	8%	2%
Feb. 2021	52%	40%	8%	1%
Nov. 2020	53%	37%	8%	2%
Aug. 2020	45%	49%	6%	0%
May 2020	57%	37%	6%	0%
Feb. 2020	49%	44%	6%	2%
Aug. 2018	58%	30%	10%	2%
Oct. 2017	48%	40%	12%	1%
Sept. 2017	52%	37%	11%	1%
Aug. 2017	46%	41%	11%	2%
Jan. 2017	52%	29%	18%	1%

8. In general, do you think that public policy in Virginia is moving too far in the liberal direction, too far in the conservative direction, or is it just about right?

Too far in LIBERAL direction	41%
Too far in CONSERVATIVE direction	6%
About right	44%
Unsure/Refused	10%

9. In general, when you're voting, do you prefer a candidate with more experience in government or a candidate with more experience in business?

Government experience	48%
Business experience	38%
Unsure/Refused	14%

10. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Ralph Northam is handling his job as Governor of Virginia?

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed	Refused
Aug. 2021	52%	38%	6%	5%
May 2021	47%	35%	6%	12%
Feb. 2021	49%	33%	10%	8%
Nov. 2020	53%	33%	9%	5%
Aug. 2020	53%	41%	5%	2%
May 2020	59%	29%	6%	6%
Feb. 2020	40%	41%	11%	9%
Nov. 2019	35%	28%	23%	13%
Aug. 2019	37%	29%	21%	14%
Feb. 2019	32%	39%	16%	13%
Aug. 2018	54%	18%	13%	15%
June 2018	43%	36%	14%	7%
Feb. 2018	32%	50%	11%	7%

Last measurement for Gov. Terry McAuliffe:

Oct. 2017	43%	36%	14%	7%
Oct. 2017	48%	35%	11%	6%
Aug. 2017	49%	30%	15%	6%
Jan. 2017	52%	20%	15%	13%

11. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as President of the United States?

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed	Refused
Aug. 2021	48%	43%	7%	2%
May 2021	47%	39%	9%	5%
Feb. 2021	47%	30%	8%	15%

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed	Refused
Aug. 2021	17%	71%	7%	5%
May 2020	20%	63%	13%	5%
Feb. 2020	20%	60%	16%	4%
Oct. 2017	10%	80%	8%	3%
Sept. 2017	11%	76%	10%	3%
Aug. 2017	7%	79%	10%	4%
Feb. 2017	20%	62%	12%	6%
Jan. 2017	19%	64%	12%	6%

13. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way the Virginia General Assembly is handling its job?

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed	Refused
Aug. 2021	41%	35%	7%	16%

Please tell me if you have a generally favorable or unfavorable impression of the following people and organizations or if you don't know enough about them to have formed an opinion.

14. Ralph Northam

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2021	48%	37%	4%	11%
Feb. 2021	41%	31%	13%	15%
Nov. 2020	43%	31%	9%	17%
Aug. 2020	45%	38%	10%	8%
May 2020	46%	31%	11%	12%
Feb. 2020	27%	34%	14%	25%
Sept. 2017	32%	25%	9%	34%
Aug. 2017	25%	15%	8%	53%
Jan. 2017	8%	5%	3%	84%

15. Joe Biden

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2021	48%	43%	5%	4%
Feb. 2021	47%	29%	14%	10%
Nov. 2020	46%	36%	9%	9%
Oct. 2020	53%	43%	3%	1%
Aug. 2020	51%	38%	7%	4%
May 2020	36%	39%	15%	10%
Feb. 2020	37%	37%	18%	8%

16. Terry McAuliffe

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2021	44%	32%	3%	21%
Feb. 2021	21%	21%	14%	45%

17. Glenn Youngkin

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2021	27%	21%	3%	50%

18. The Democratic Party

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2021	41%	47%	7%	6%

19. The Republican Party				
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2021	29%	50%	10%	11%

20. The National Rifle Association				
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2021	33%	43%	7%	17%
Aug. 2020	38%	45%	8%	9%

21. Black Lives Matter				
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2021	45%	36%	8%	11%
Aug. 2020	51%	30%	12%	7%

22. And how much have you heard about critical race theory? A lot, a little, or mostly nothing?

A lot	43%
A little	29%
Mostly nothing	26%
Unsure/Refused	2%

22. a. Do you have a good idea of what critical race theory is? [ASKED IF RESPOND A LOT OR A LITTLE TO Q.22]

Yes	73%
No	21%
Unsure/Refused	6%

22. b. And do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of critical race theory? FOLLOW-UP: Would that be very or somewhat? [ASKED IF RESPOND YES TO Q.22.a]

Very favorable	28%
Somewhat favorable	12%
Mixed	10%
Somewhat unfavorable	8%
Very unfavorable	39%
Unsure/Refused	3%

22. c. And do you believe that teaching critical race theory is good for America or bad for America? [ASKED IF RESPOND YES TO Q. 22.a]

Good for America	44%
Bad for America	47%
Unsure/Refused	9%

23. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or never?

	Always	Most of the time	Sometimes	Never	Unsure/Refused
Aug. 2021	1%	18%	63%	17%	2%
Feb. 2021	2%	16%	63%	16%	3%
Nov. 2020	1%	17%	60%	18%	4%
May 2020	0%	16%	64%	17%	2%
Nov. 2019	3%	13%	61%	20%	4%
Feb. 2019	1%	11%	70%	16%	2%
Nov. 2018	1%	13%	61%	22%	2%
May 2018	1%	11%	70%	18%	0%
Feb. 2018	2%	17%	62%	18%	2%
Nov. 2017	2%	14%	60%	24%	1%
Oct. 2017	1%	11%	72%	17%	0%
Aug. 2017	1%	14%	61%	23%	2%

24. Which of the following statements is closer to your view: Ordinary citizens can do a lot to influence the government in Washington if they are willing to make the effort OR There's not much ordinary citizens can do to influence the government in Washington?

	Citizens can influence govt.	Cannot	Unsure/Refused
Aug. 2021	55%	41%	4%
Feb. 2021	52%	45%	3%
Nov. 2020	61%	35%	4%
May 2020	47%	49%	4%
Nov. 2019	58%	38%	5%
Feb. 2019	56%	38%	6%
Nov. 2018	63%	30%	8%
May 2018	57%	41%	2%
Feb. 2018	65%	32%	4%
Nov. 2017	63%	34%	3%
Oct. 2017	57%	41%	2%
Aug. 2017	60%	37%	4%

25. Thinking about the way things are going in politics today ... on the issues that matter to you would you say your side has been winning more often than it's been losing, or losing more often than it's been winning?

	Winning	Losing	Both	Unsure/Refused
Aug. 2021	30%	49%	7%	14%
Feb. 2021	26%	50%	11%	14%
Nov. 2020	33%	42%	10%	15%
May 2020	29%	50%	11%	10%
Nov. 2019	28%	43%	12%	18%
Feb. 2019	27%	44%	16%	14%
Nov. 2018	34%	42%	14%	10%
May 2018	23%	60%	11%	7%
Feb. 2018	29%	51%	11%	9%

Nov. 2017	27%	53%	10%	10%
Oct. 2017	23%	61%	10%	6%
Aug. 2017	22%	57%	13%	8%

26. Which comes closest to your feelings about how the federal government is working? Are you enthusiastic, satisfied, dissatisfied, or angry?

	Enthusiastic	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Angry	Unsure/Refused
Aug. 2021	2%	28%	45%	21%	5%
Feb. 2021	6%	32%	41%	14%	8%
Nov. 2020	2%	24%	49%	19%	6%
May 2020	3%	25%	49%	19%	5%
Nov. 2019	3%	21%	50%	19%	8%
Feb. 2019	1%	21%	49%	20%	8%
Nov. 2018	2%	25%	49%	18%	7%
May 2018	3%	15%	54%	26%	3%
Feb. 2018	3%	23%	45%	21%	8%
Nov. 2017	2%	19%	60%	14%	5%
Oct. 2017	3%	15%	55%	24%	3%
Aug. 2017	1%	15%	57%	22%	5%

27. When you think about the future of the United States, which do you agree with more: the country's best years are ahead of us or the country's best years are behind us?

	Best ahead	Best behind	Same/Unsure	Refused
Aug. 2021	54%	40%	5%	2%
Feb. 2021	59%	30%	9%	2%
Nov. 2020	62%	29%	8%	2%
May 2020	60%	31%	7%	1%
Nov. 2019	55%	32%	10%	3%
Feb. 2019	55%	35%	10%	0%
Nov. 2018	57%	33%	8%	2%
May 2018	56%	37%	7%	1%
Feb. 2018	56%	34%	10%	1%
Nov. 2017	57%	37%	6%	1%
Oct. 2017	57%	37%	6%	1%
Aug. 2017	56%	32%	11%	1%

28. Looking broadly at the important issues facing the United States, do you think that Americans are united in facing those challenges or is the nation divided?

	United	Divided	Both/Unsure	Refused
Aug. 2021	8%	89%	3%	1%
Feb. 2021	5%	91%	3%	1%
Nov. 2020	8%	88%	3%	1%
May 2020	10%	86%	4%	0%
Nov. 2019	7%	90%	4%	0%
Feb. 2019	8%	88%	4%	0%

Nov. 2018	6%	89%	3%	2%
May 2018	11%	87%	2%	0%
Feb. 2018	13%	84%	3%	0%
Nov. 2017	10%	86%	3%	1%
Oct. 2017	11%	88%	2%	0%
Aug. 2017	8%	88%	4%	0%

29. Code respondent's sex [NOT ASKED]

Male	51%
Female	49%

30. Region

Southwest Virginia	11%
Southside	7%
Shenandoah Valley	7%
Central Virginia/Richmond	20%
Northern Virginia	31%
Tidewater	24%

31. Thanks so much for your patience. I have a few questions about you for statistical purposes. Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married?

Married	55%
Living with partner	8%
Divorced	10%
Separated	2%
Widowed	5%
Never married	17%
Refused	2%

32. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	1%
High School	11%
Some college/technical school	23%
Associate's Degree	7%
Bachelor's Degree	31%
Advanced Degree	27%
Refused	1%

33. In what year were you born? [CODED INTO CATEGORIES]

18-29	13%
30-44	23%
45-64	42%
65 or older	20%
Refused	2%

34. Are you of Hispanic origin or descent, such as Mexican, Dominican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

Yes, Hispanic	6%
No, not Hispanic	91%
Refused	4%

35. Would you consider yourself Caucasian or white, African-American or Black, Asian or some other race?

White / Hispanic / Latino	69%
African-American	18%
Asian/Other/multi-racial	7%
Refused	6%

36. 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%
\$20,000-\$35,000	5%
\$35,000-\$50,000	10%
\$50,000-\$75,000	18%
\$75,000-\$100,000	20%
More than \$100,000	30%
Refused	11%

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

Liberal	23%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	36%
Other/Unsure	3%
Refused	6%

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

Democrat	39%
Republican	30%
Independent	14%
Other/None	14%
Refused	3%

38. a. [IF INDEPENDENT, OTHER OR REFUSED] As of today, do you lean more toward the Democratic party or toward the Republican party? [RESULTS ARE COMBINED WITH THOSE IN Q. 42]

Democrat	50%
Republican	40%
Independent/Neither/Refused	10%

Thank you for your time and have a nice <HOUR1>.

Party Crosstabs

	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>
Politics		
Trust media great deal + fair amount	68%	8%
Very likely to vote	88%	91%
Vote for McAuliffe	90%	5%
Vote for Youngkin	0%	87%
Country right direction	60%	4%
VA right direction	83%	17%
VA policy too liberal	9%	85%
VA policy too conservative	9%	1%
Prefer candidate with govt. experience	83%	13%
Approve Biden	87%	8%
Approve Northam	86%	12%
Approve Congress	33%	4%
Approve VA General Assembly	65%	13%
Favorable view Northam	82%	12%
Favorable view Biden	92%	8%
Favorable view McAuliffe	81%	12%
Favorable view Youngkin	3%	62%
Favorable view Democratic party	81%	3%
Favorable view Republican party	4%	73%
Favorable view NRA	8%	67%
Favorable view BLM	82%	11%
Favorable view critical race theory	78%	10%
Trust federal govt. always/most of the time	36%	6%
Winning more than losing	51%	6%
Enthusiastic/Satisfied with federal govt.	51%	12%
Country's best years ahead	77%	33%