

**Roanoke College Poll Topline**  
**Politics and COVID**  
**November 23, 2020**

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. Have you or anyone you know gotten the coronavirus?

	Nov 2020	Aug 2020	May 2020
Yes	61%	42%	31%
No	38%	58%	70%
Refused	1%	0%	0%

1.a. [IF YES] How do you know this person? [TOTALS MORE THAN 100% IN NOVEMBER DUE TO ALLOWING MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE]

	Nov 2020	Aug 2020	May 2020
I have/had it [SKIP TO 3. a]	7%	4%	3%
Family member [SKIP TO 3]	38%	31%	25%
Friend/relative	56%	42%	48%
Co-worker	22%	18%	11%
Other	5%	4%	14%
Refused	0%	0%	0%

2. How concerned are you about you or someone in your household catching the coronavirus?

	Nov 2020	Aug 2020	May 2020
Very concerned	38%	39%	34%
Somewhat concerned	30%	32%	33%
Not very concerned	19%	19%	25%
Not concerned at all	12%	10%	8%
Refused	1%	0%	0%

3. [IF R HAS NOT HAD THE VIRUS] If you personally were infected with the virus, do you think you would have no symptoms, be slightly ill, be very ill, or be extremely sick and perhaps die?

	Nov 2020	Aug 2020	May 2020
No symptoms	10%	10%	10%
Slightly ill	49%	46%	49%
Very ill	16%	14%	14%
Extremely sick and perhaps die	11%	12%	14%
Unsure/Don't Know	15%	17%	12%
Refused	1%	0%	1%

3.a. [IF R HAD THE VIRUS] I hope that you are feeling better now. How sick were you? Did you have no symptoms, were you slightly ill, very ill, or extremely sick? (N=26)

	Nov 2020	Aug 2020	May 2020
No symptoms	2%	0%	0%
Slightly ill	65%	70%	20%
Very ill	23%	20%	80%
Extremely sick	10%	0%	0%
Unsure/Don't Know	0%	0%	0%
Refused	0%	10%	0%

4. Have the measures taken by the federal government to slow the spread of the virus been appropriate, have they gone too far, or have they not gone far enough?

	Nov 2020	Aug 2020	May 2020
Appropriate	32%	28%	43%
Gone too far	11%	10%	8%
Not gone far enough	52%	58%	46%
Unsure	4%	3%	3%
Refused	1%	0%	1%

5. Have the measures taken by the government of Virginia to slow the spread of the virus been appropriate, have they gone too far, or have they not gone far enough?

	Nov 2020	Aug 2020	May 2020
Appropriate	48%	49%	62%
Gone too far	21%	20%	17%
Not gone far enough	27%	26%	18%
Unsure	4%	4%	2%
Refused	1%	0%	0%

6. When do you think the coronavirus will be contained in the United States to the point that the economy can return to normal and businesses can re-open and people can go back to work? It has already has, in the next few weeks, in the next few months, in the next year, longer than the next year, or never?

	Nov 2020	Aug 2020	May 2020
Already has	4%	4%	4%
Weeks	2%	2%	6%
Months	14%	19%	36%
Next year	42%	42%	28%
More than a year	27%	25%	18%
Never	5%	5%	3%
Refused	7%	4%	5%

7. Which of the following concerns you more? That the federal government will spend too much money to try to boost the economy and as a result will drive up the budget deficit, OR That the

federal government will spend too little money to try to boost the economy and as a result the recession will be longer?

	Nov 2020	Aug 2020	May 2020
Spend too much	42%	38%	40%
Spend too little	44%	49%	46%
Unsure	12%	13%	13%
Refused	1%	1%	1%

8. In general, do you think the news media coverage of the coronavirus has been accurate, made things seem better than they really are, or worse than they really are?

	Nov 2020	Aug 2020	May 2020
Accurate	33%	28%	28%
Better than things are	9%	10%	10%
Worse than things are	49%	49%	49%
Unsure	9%	13%	12%
Refused	1%	1%	0%

9. 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
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%

10. 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
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%

11. 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
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%

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed	Refused
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%

13. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President of the United States?

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed	Refused
Nov. 2020	35%	53%	9%	3%
Oct. 2020	41%	56%	3%	1%
Aug. 2020	37%	58%	4%	1%
May 2020	36%	54%	8%	2%
Feb. 2020	36%	52%	11%	1%

Nov. 2019	32%	51%	14%	3%
Aug. 2019	27%	53%	17%	3%
Feb. 2019	38%	48%	11%	3%
Aug. 2018	32%	53%	12%	3%
June 2018	36%	53%	9%	2%
Feb. 2018	32%	50%	11%	7%
Oct. 2017	36%	53%	9%	2%
Oct. 2017	35%	58%	6%	2%
Sept. 2017	36%	56%	8%	1%
Aug. 2017	27%	58%	13%	2%
Feb. 2017	32%	50%	11%	7%

14. 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
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%

15. 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
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%

16. 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
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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%

17. 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
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%

18. 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
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%

19. 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
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%

20. Which do you think is more important - to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

	Protect owners	Control guns	Unsure/Refused
Nov. 2020	52%	40%	8%
Jan. 2020	48%	41%	11%
Nov. 2019	47%	43%	10%
Feb. 2019	44%	47%	9%
Nov. 2018	44%	46%	10%
Aug. 2018	44%	48%	8%
May 2018	46%	44%	9%
Jan. 2016	50%	41%	9%
Jan. 2015	50%	42%	7%

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.

#### 21. Donald Trump

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Nov. 2020	33%	53%	10%	5%
Oct. 2020	41%	56%	3%	1%
Aug. 2020	37%	55%	7%	2%
May 2020	36%	49%	12%	4%
Feb. 2020	32%	54%	10%	4%
Sept. 2017	35%	54%	8%	3%
Aug. 2017	31%	53%	13%	3%
Feb. 2017	29%	49%	13%	9%
Jan. 2017	30%	48%	18%	4%
Jan. 2016	22%	63%	13%	2%
Nov. 2015	23%	55%	13%	9%

#### 22. Joe Biden

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
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%

### 23. Ralph Northam

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
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%

### 24. National Rifle Association

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Nov. 2020	31%	40%	11%	18%
May 2020	38%	45%	8%	9%

### 25. Black Lives Matter

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Nov. 2020	49%	30%	11%	11%
May 2020	51%	30%	12%	7%

26. Thinking about the country as a whole, would you say you are excited about the next four years, worried about the next four years, or are you somewhere between those two?

Excited	22%
Worried	37%
Between	36%
Unsure/Refused	4%

27. Do you think it is better for the country to have a president who comes from the same party that controls Congress, does it make no difference either way, or do you think it is better to have a president from one political party and Congress controlled by another?

Same party	24%
No difference	33%
Different party	33%
Unsure/Refused	10%

28. Do you favor or oppose allowing all voters in Virginia to vote by mail in all elections?

Favor	45%
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Oppose	47%
Unsure/Refused	8%

29. Referring to the recent election, do you think that the counting of the votes across the country was very accurate, mostly accurately, or not very accurate?

Very accurate	39%
Mostly accurate	25%
Not very accurate	31%
Unsure/Refused	5%

30. And do you think that all the candidates declared as winners truly won the election, most of them won, or only some of them truly won the election?

All	41%
Most	24%
Some	29%
Unsure/Refused	7%

31. In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the polls that measure support for candidates leading up to an election-- a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

Great deal	9%
Fair amount	25%
Not very much	33%
None at all	30%
Unsure/Refused	3%

32. And do you think those polls are trying to accurately report how people say they will vote or do you think the polls report results that favor the candidate they want to win?

Report accurately	41%
Favor preferred candidates	47%
Unsure/Refused	12%

33. Code respondent's sex [NOT ASKED]

Male	49%
Female	51%

34. Region

Southwest Virginia	12%
Southside	9%
Shenandoah Valley	6%
Central Virginia/Richmond	20%
Northern Virginia	30%
Tidewater	24%

35. 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	46%
Living with partner	8%
Divorced	9%
Separated	1%
Widowed	5%
Never married	30%
Refused	1%

36. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	5%
High School	15%
Some college/technical school	23%
Associate's Degree	10%
Bachelor's Degree	29%
Advanced Degree	19%
Refused	0%

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

18-29	22%
30-44	27%
45-64	35%
65 or older	15%
Refused	1%

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

Yes, Hispanic	7%
No, not Hispanic	93%
Refused	1%

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

White / Hispanic / Latino	74%
African-American	18%
Asian/Other/multi-racial	5%
Refused	3%

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	7%
\$20,000-\$35,000	9%
\$35,000-\$50,000	12%
\$50,000-\$75,000	17%

\$75,000-\$100,000	17%
More than \$100,000	29%
Refused	9%

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

Liberal	24%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	32%
Other/Unsure	4%
Refused	7%

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

Democrat	34%
Republican	31%
Independent	17%
Other/None	16%
Refused	4%

42. 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	46%
Republican	40%
Independent/Neither/Refused	14%

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

### Party Crosstabs

	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>
<b>COVID</b>		
Very concerned catching COVID	56%	19%
If caught, would be extremely sick	14%	7%
Would be asymptomatic	7%	13%
Fed response not enough	87%	17%
VA response not enough	37%	14%
COVID contained now	0%	9%
Contained in over a year	35%	17%
Fed will spend too little	61%	31%
Media makes it seem worse	20%	81%

## Politics

Trust media great deal + fair amount	72%	15%
Country right direction	29%	25%
Approve Trump	2%	78%
Trust D.C. always + most of the time	20%	17%
Citizens CAN influence Washington	72%	53%
Your side losing more than winning	42%	46%
Enthusiastic + satisfied with federal govt.	23%	30%
Angry with federal govt.	24%	14%
Nation's best years ahead	83%	41%
Nation divided	88%	91%
Protect gun ownership	24%	88%
NRA—favorable	10%	61%
BLM—favorable	79%	19%
Worried about next four years	16%	64%
Prefer divided government	23%	45%
Favor mail voting in VA	78%	6%
Vote counting not very accurate	4%	76%
Declared winners truly won All + Most	90%	28%
Trust Polls great deal + fair amount	57%	11%
Polls try to report accurately	67%	12%
Polls favor their preferred candidates	20%	80%