

**Roanoke College Poll
2016 General Assembly
January, 2016 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	7%
Central VA/Richmond	21%
Northern VA	30%
Tidewater	25%

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. 2016*	48%	36%	15%	1%
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. 2016*	31%	58%	10%	1%
Nov. 2015	26%	63%	9%	1%
Aug. 2015	29%	62%	8%	1%
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. 2016*	47%	22%	16%	15%
Nov. 2015	38%	25%	15%	23%
Aug. 2015	44%	15%	23%	18%
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. 2016*	45%	45%	9%	1%
Nov. 2015	43%	43%	11%	3%
Aug. 2015	42%	42%	12%	4%
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. 2016*	7%	77%	12%	4%
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. 2016*	46%	44%	8%	2%
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. 2016*	38%	24%	14%	24%
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. 2016*	44%	21%	11%	23%
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. 2016*	32%	26%	11%	32%
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%

Questions 11 through 17 will be released separately

18. 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 reforms that have been suggested a commission appointed by the governor. Under current Virginia law, elected officials can use money they raised for a political campaign for their personal expenses until they close the account. Do you agree or disagree with the Commission recommendation that the law be changed to prohibit the use of those funds for personal expenses at any time.

Agree	72%
Disagree	20%
Unsure	7%
Refused	1%

19. Currently, members of the House of Delegates receive salaries of \$17,600 per year, and state senators are paid \$18,000 per year. They also get \$15,000 to be spent for office and staff or for personal use. Do you agree or disagree that legislators' pay should be increased by \$15,000 and give them an additional \$15,000 that may only be spent for staff?

Agree	33%
Disagree	57%
Unsure	10%
Refused	1%

20. The commission also recommended treating gifts to officials differently if they come from friends and relatives or from other persons. Gifts from relatives would be unregulated. Gifts from personal friends valued at more than \$1,000 would have to be reported and those valued at over \$5,000 would generally be prohibited. Generally, do you agree or disagree with these recommendations?

Agree	67%
Disagree	25%
Unsure	7%
Refused	1%

21. As you may know, for two years Governor McAuliffe has argued that Virginia should expand the Medicaid program that provides health care to those who are poor. With federal funding, he argues that it would save money for the Commonwealth. Republicans in the General Assembly argue that federal government payments will be

reduced in future years and the state cannot afford the increased costs at that time. Do you think that Virginia should or should not expand Medicaid coverage?

Should expand	58%
Should not expand	34%
Unsure	8%
Refused	1%

NOTE: THE ROANOKE COLLEGE POLL ASKED A MEDICAID EXPANSION QUESTION WITH DIFFERENT WORDING THE PAST TWO YEARS. THOSE RESULTS ARE BELOW:

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?

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

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?

	<i>Jan. 2016</i>	<i>Jan. 2015</i>
<i>Independent commission</i>	47%	43%
<i>Leave as is</i>	38%	42%
<i>Unsure</i>	14%	14%
<i>Refused</i>	1%	1%

Regardless of who draws the boundaries, please tell me if you think they should consider the following factors: [Q 23 TO 28 ROTATED]

23. Ensuring appropriate representation between political parties

Yes	58%
No	29%
Unsure	12%
Refused	1%

24. Protecting current office holders

Yes	22%
No	61%
Unsure	16%
Refused	1%

25. Ensuring appropriate racial representation

Yes	66%
No	22%
Unsure	12%
Refused	1%

26. Advantaging the political party that currently holds power

Yes	12%
No	75%
Unsure	13%
Refused	1%

27. Keeping together communities of interest, that is, people who probably think alike

Yes	35%
No	50%
Unsure	14%
Refused	2%

28. Drawing the most compact district possible

Yes	41%
No	31%
Unsure	26%
Refused	2%

29. And which of those factors should be the most important?

Ensuring appropriate representation between political parties	17%
Protecting current office holders	3%
Ensuring appropriate racial representation	29%
Advantaging the political party that currently holds power	2%

Keeping together communities of interest, that is, people who probably think alike	15%
Drawing the most compact district possible	17%
Unsure	13%
Refused	4%

30. 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?

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015
Legislature appoints	14%	17%
Elect judges	45%	44%
Commission recommends	31%	32%
Unsure	9%	7%
Refused	1%	1%

31. As you may know, Governor McAuliffe appointed a justice to the state supreme court last summer when the General Assembly was not in session and he wants the Assembly to formally appoint the justice this year. The General Assembly says the justice is qualified but they will appoint a different person to the position because McAuliffe did not appropriately confer with them. Who do you think is more correct in this situation, the governor, the General Assembly, or neither?

McAuliffe correct	16%
General Assembly correct	46%
Neither	32%
Unsure	6%
Refused	0%

32. On a related matter, in 1994, the Commonwealth of Virginia reformed its criminal sentencing laws to abolish parole and force those sentenced to prison to serve about 85 percent of the time they received at sentencing. Virginia is now considering reinstating parole, in which those convicted of certain crimes could serve less of their sentence but have to report periodically to a parole officer who would monitor them. Do you think that Virginia should reinstate parole or leave the system as it is?

	Reinstate parole	Leave as is	Don't know/Refused
Jan. 2016	55%	37%	8%
Nov. 2015	60%	32%	8%

33. In order to vote in Virginia now a person must show a voter registration card, a driver's license, or a valid ID card from DMV. Otherwise, they must cast a provisional ballot and election officials will check to see if they are registered voters before counting their vote. In general, do you favor or oppose this law?

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2013
Favor	82%	83%
Oppose	15%	13%
Unsure	3%	3%
Refused	0%	1%

34. One proposed bill in General Assembly would allow county clerks to refuse to issue marriage licenses if they had moral or religious objections, but the couple could get a license at the local DMV office. Do you think that the clerks should not be permitted to refuse to issue licenses if they object or should they be required to issue a license to any couple that may legally marry?

Can refuse to issue licenses	25%
Must issue to legal couples	71%
Unsure	3%
Refused	1%

35. 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?

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015
Protect gun ownership	50%	50%
Control gun ownership	41%	42%
Unsure/depends	9%	7%
Refused	1%	2%

36. As you may know, Attorney General Mark Herring recently announced that Virginia would no longer recognize concealed handgun carry permits from states, including several states that border Virginia, arguing that those states standards are not as strict as those required to obtain a permit in Virginia. Many of those states will now not recognize permits issued by Virginia. Do you agree or disagree with Mr. Herring's decision?

Agree	42%
Disagree	49%
Unsure	8%
Refused	1%

37. Governor McAuliffe recently issued an Executive Order banning firearms from state-owned executive buildings. Do you agree or disagree with Mr. McAuliffe's decision?

Agree	59%
Disagree	34%
Unsure	6%
Refused	1%

38. In response to McAuliffe's order, a state senator plans to introduce legislation that would take funding away from the armed unit that protects the Governor. Do you agree or disagree with taking the funding away from those guards?

Agree	22%
Disagree	72%
Unsure	5%
Refused	1%

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

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

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan. 2016*	86%	11%	2%	1%
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%

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

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Refused
Jan. 2016*	75%	21%	3%	1%
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%

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

41. Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Married	52%
Living with a partner	6%
Divorced	10%
Separated	2%
Widowed	6%
Never been married	24%
Refused	1%

42. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	3%
High School	16%
Some college/tech school	27%
Associate's degree	9%
Bachelor's degree	23%
Advanced degree	22%
Refused	1%

43. Code respondent's sex

Male	49%
Female	51%

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

18-29	22%
30-44	27%
45-64	34%
65+	15%
Refused	1%

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

Yes	6%
No	93%
Refused	1%

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

White/Hispanic	75%
African-American	18%
Other	5%
Refused	2%

47. 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	10%
\$20,001-\$35,000	11%
\$35,001-\$50,000	16%
\$50,001-\$75,000	16%
\$75,001-\$100,000	11%
More than \$100,000	27%
Refused	9%

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

Liberal	28%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	31%
Other	4%
Refused	4%

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

Democrat	32%
Republican	27%
Independent	24%
Other/None	8%
Refused	9%

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

Yes	37%
No	55%
Unsure/Don't recall	1%
Refused	7%

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

Respondent owns	66%
Someone else owns	25%
Both own	9%
Refused	0%

52. Where there any guns in the home when you were growing up?

Yes	52%
No	42%
Unsure/Don't recall	3%
Refused	3%

Questions 53 through 60 will be released separately

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