

Roanoke College Poll
2013 General Assembly
Updated January 28, 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	12%
Shenandoah Valley	7%
Southside	8%
Central VA/Richmond	21%
Northern VA	27%
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	49%
Wrong track	35%
Unsure/mixed	16%
No answer	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	30%
Wrong track	61%
Unsure/mixed	8%
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	54%
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Disapprove	19%
Mixed/unsure	15%
Don't know/No answer	12%

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	46%
Mixed/unsure	9%
Don't know/No answer	1%

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

Approve	10%
Disapprove	81%
Mixed/unsure	7%
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	50%
Unfavorable	42%
Mixed/unsure	6%
DK/NA	3%

8. Mark Warner

Favorable	53%
Unfavorable	17%
Mixed/unsure	12%
DK/NA	18%

9. Tim Kaine

Favorable	44%
Unfavorable	31%
Mixed/unsure	10%
DK/NA	16%

10. Bob McDonnell

Favorable	48%
Unfavorable	17%

Mixed/unsure	17%
DK/NA	19%

11. Ken Cuccinelli

Favorable	22%
Unfavorable	24%
Mixed/unsure	8%
DK/NA	46%

12. Terry McAuliffe

Favorable	10%
Unfavorable	16%
Mixed/unsure	11%
DK/NA	62%

13. Bill Bolling

Favorable	18%
Unfavorable	9%
Mixed/unsure	13%
DK/NA	60%

14. In the election for governor of Virginia in 2013, are you likely to vote for [READ ONLY CHOICES 1 AND 2] [ROTATED] (N=545)

Ken Cuccinelli, the Republican	33%
Terry McAuliffe, the Democrat	26%
Unsure	41%

15. If Bill Bolling runs for governor as an independent, would you vote for [READ ONLY CHOICES 1, 2 AND 3] [ROTATED] (N=543)

Ken Cuccinelli, the Republican	25%
Terry McAuliffe, the Democrat	19%
Bill Bolling, the Independent	12%
Unsure	44%

16. Now, I'd like to ask you several questions related to issues currently being considered by the Virginia General Assembly. Not everyone will be familiar with all the issues, so if you don't know enough about an issue to have an opinion, please tell me, and we will move on to the next question. As you may know, Virginia is considering a law that would make sending a text message from their cell phone while driving a primary offense. That means that police could issue a ticket to anyone texting while driving even if they had not committed any other moving violation. In general, do you favor or oppose this bill?

Favor	82%
Oppose	15%
Unsure	2%
Don't know/No answer	2%

17. Do you favor or oppose a law that made talking on a cell phone while driving a primary offense unless you had a hands-free phone?

Favor	61%
Oppose	35%
Unsure	3%
Don't know/No answer	1%

18. Road improvement is a major issue in the Commonwealth. Which of the following proposals is closest to your view? We should not raise taxes and improve roads as current funds allow. We should raise taxes and designate those funds for road improvements. We should pay for road improvements through the use of tolls. Or we should shift funds from other areas in the budget to pay for road improvements?

No new taxes	18%
Raise taxes and designate for roads	24%
Tolls	19%
Shift funds from other areas	28%
Unsure	11%

19. Governor McDonnell has proposed funding transportation needs in the future through several measures. The gas tax would be eliminated, but the sales tax would be increased. Vehicle registration fees would also increase. The additional funds from the sales tax would go to transportation and a higher percentage of the existing sales tax revenue would go to transportation as well. In general, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

Favor	33%
Oppose	49%
Unsure	15%
Don't know/No answer	3%

Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following ways of raising revenue for transportation.

20. Linking the gas tax to inflation

Favor	29%
Oppose	52%
Unsure	11%
Don't know/No answer	8%

21. Imposing tolls on major highways like interstates

Favor	32%
Oppose	60%

Unsure	6%
Don't know/No answer	2%

22. Taking some funding from the general revenue fund

Favor	49%
Oppose	36%
Unsure	11%
Don't know/No answer	4%

23. Increasing fees for driver's licenses and vehicle registration

Favor	41%
Oppose	48%
Unsure	9%
Don't know/No answer	3%

24. Would you favor or oppose increasing state financial support to expand passenger train service in Virginia?

Favor	55%
Oppose	34%
Unsure	9%
Don't know/No answer	3%

25. Would you favor or oppose increasing state financial support to expand freight train service in Virginia?

Favor	42%
Oppose	41%
Unsure	11%
Don't know/No answer	5%

26. Governor McDonnell has proposed giving teachers raises, but tying those raises to teacher performance in the classroom. In general, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

Favor	70%
Oppose	23%
Unsure	5%
Don't know/No answer	2%

27. Tenure is a system in which teachers are hired for a probationary period of several years. Then a decision is made to retain the teacher or terminate their employment. After tenure is granted, it is difficult, but not impossible, to fire teachers. Some people think this system should be eliminated to make it easier to fire teachers who are not effective. Others think teachers need this protection in order to be able to effectively teach children even if they are not always popular. Which is closer to your view?

Eliminate tenure	54%
Keep tenure	34%
Unsure	8%

Don't know/No answer 4%

28. Schools in Virginia are not permitted to begin the school year until after Labor Day unless they are granted a waiver due to a large number of days canceled due to bad weather. Do you favor or oppose allowing local schools to begin the school year before Labor Day for any reason if they choose to?

Favor	66%
Oppose	29%
Unsure	3%
Don't know/No answer	3%

29. 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?

Favor	83%
Oppose	13%
Unsure	3%
Don't know/No answer	1%

30. The General Assembly is considering lifting a ban on uranium mining in Virginia. Some people think that the mining would provide jobs and economic benefits to the state, while others are very concerned about possible environmental impacts. In general, do you favor or oppose allowing uranium mining in Virginia?

Favor	39%
Oppose	38%
Unsure	16%
Don't know/No answer	8%

31. As you may know, Virginia has decided not to set up its own health insurance exchange and to allow its residents to purchase insurance from the national exchange when it is set up. In general, do you think the state should set up its own exchange or use the federal government's exchange?

VA exchange	36%
USA exchange	32%
Unsure	20%
Don't know/No answer	12%

32. Current state law prohibits hunting on Sunday. Do you favor or oppose allowing hunters to hunt on Sundays?

Favor	48%
Oppose	39%
Unsure	7%
Don't know/No answer	6%

33. At present, Virginia is the only state that does not allow its governor to run for a second term in office. Would you favor or oppose allowing governors to run for a second four-year term?

Favor	69%
Oppose	27%
Unsure	3%
Don't know/No answer	1%

34. Some people think that we should require welfare recipients to pass drug tests in order to receive benefits. Other think this is an invasion of privacy and a waste of money. Which is closer to your view?

Use drug tests	76%
No drug tests	19%
Unsure	4%
Don't know/No answer	2%

35. 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=163)	Non-gun owners (N=349)
Better enforcement	53%	66%	46%
Tougher laws	38%	24%	46%
Unsure	6%	5%	6%
Don't know/No answer	4%	5%	2%

36. Which of the following do you think is MOST responsible for mass shootings like those in Newtown, CT and Virginia Tech--weak gun laws, poor enforcement of gun laws, violent media such as movies and video games, poor policies to deal with mental illness, or that we simply cannot stop those who want to kill others? You may choose up to two. [PERCENTS ADD TO OVER 100]

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Weak gun laws	21%	16%	24%
Poor enforcement of laws	26%	24%	26%
Violent media	28%	26%	29%
Mental illness	56%	57%	54%
Can't stop killers	38%	45%	33%
Unsure/other	6%	6%	7%
Don't know/No answer	1%	2%	0%

37. One proposal to make schools safer is to have armed police or security guards at each school. Do you favor or oppose this idea?

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Favor	62%	69%	58%
Oppose	30%	25%	34%

Unsure	6%	5%	7%
Don't know/No answer	2%	1%	2%

38. Another idea is to allow those teachers and administrators who are trained and willing to carry firearms in schools. Do you favor or oppose this idea?

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Favor	35%	46%	29%
Oppose	58%	49%	65%
Unsure	5%	5%	5%
Don't know/No answer	1%	0%	1%

39. 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	59%	77%	51%
Accidental shooting	26%	14%	32%
Unsure	13%	7%	16%
Don't know/No answer	2%	2%	1%

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

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

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Favor	86%	84%	89%
Oppose	10%	12%	7%
Unsure	3%	2%	4%
Don't know/No answer	2%	3%	0%

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

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Favor	75%	65%	84%
Oppose	19%	27%	12%
Unsure	4%	6%	3%
Don't know/No answer	2%	2%	1%

42. Registration of all guns with government.

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Favor	61%	46%	71%
Oppose	34%	50%	23%
Unsure	4%	3%	5%
Don't know/No answer	2%	2%	1%

43. Requiring all gun owners to get a license from the government.

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
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Favor	59%	37%	73%
Oppose	35%	59%	21%
Unsure	4%	3%	6%
Don't know/No answer	2%	1%	1%

44. 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	34%	21%	43%
Less safe	12%	22%	5%
No difference	50%	56%	48%
Unsure	3%	2%	3%
Don't know/No answer	1%	0%	1%

Do you favor or oppose banning the sale of the following:

45. Semi-automatic rifles

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Favor	48%	33%	58%
Oppose	46%	62%	35%
Unsure	4%	5%	4%
Don't know/No answer	3%	0%	3%

46. Semi-automatic shotguns

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Favor	41%	22%	54%
Oppose	50%	73%	38%
Unsure	5%	4%	6%
Don't know/No answer	3%	1%	3%

47. Assault rifles

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Favor	58%	46%	66%
Oppose	35%	48%	28%
Unsure	4%	4%	4%
Don't know/No answer	3%	2%	3%

48. Semi-automatic handguns

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Favor	42%	25%	54%
Oppose	50%	72%	38%
Unsure	5%	3%	6%
Don't know/No answer	3%	0%	3%

49. All guns

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Favor	16%	6%	21%
Oppose	78%	91%	73%
Unsure	4%	3%	4%
Don't know/No answer	3%	1%	2%

50. Magazines that hold more than 10 bullets

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Favor	53%	42%	61%
Oppose	40%	53%	32%
Unsure	4%	3%	5%
Don't know/No answer	3%	2%	2%

51. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.

	All	Gun owners	Non-gun owners
Agree	44%	59%	36%
Disagree	49%	36%	56%
Unsure	6%	5%	6%
Don't know/No answer	2%	0%	1%

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

52. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?

Yes	93%
No	7%

53. Code respondent's sex

Male	48%
Female	52%

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

18-34	13%
35-49	26%
50-64	35%
65 or older	26%

55. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

Yes	3%
No	97%

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

White	78%
African-American	15%

Other/multi-racial 7%

57. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	3%
High School	16%
Some college/tech school	21%
Associate's degree	11%
Bachelor's degree	28%
Advanced degree	21%

58. 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	11%
\$20,001-\$35,000	14%
\$35,001-\$50,000	13%
\$50,001-\$75,000	20%
\$75,001-\$100,000	15%
More than \$100,000	27%

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

Liberal	20%
Moderate	37%
Conservative	40%
Other	4%

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

Democrat	33%
Republican	32%
Independent	26%
Other/None	8%

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

Yes	74%
No	25%
No answer	1%

62. 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	42%
Somewhat familiar	29%

Not very familiar	13%
Not at all familiar	15%
Unsure	0%
No answer	2%

63. Would you describe the area in which you grew up as urban, rural or suburban?

Urban	22%
Rural	35%
Suburban	39%
Unsure	3%
No answer	1%

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

Yes	58%
No	39%
Don't recall/unsure	2%
No answer	1%

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

Yes	44%
No	50%
Unsure	1%
No answer	5%

66. [IF YES TO GUN IN HOUSE] Do you personally own any of those firearms or do they belong to someone else?

R owns	64%
Someone else owns	31%
Both own	3%
No answer	3%

67. 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.