

Roanoke College Poll
2014 Senate Election and State Issues
September, 2014

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	11%
Shenandoah Valley	7%
Southside	8%
Central VA/Richmond	19%
Northern VA	29%
Tidewater	27%

2. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?

Yes	100%
No	Terminate interview

3. And how likely is it that you will vote in the election for U.S. Senator in November? Would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely?

Very likely	80%
Somewhat likely	20%
Not very likely	Terminate interview
Not likely	Terminate interview
Refused	Terminate interview

4. If the election for Senator of Virginia were held today would you vote for [ROTATE]

Ed Gillespie, the Republican	27%
Mark Warner, the Democrat	46%
Robert Sarvis, the Libertarian	5%
Someone else [VOL]	1%
Uncertain	22%
Refused	Terminate interview

5. [IF UNCERTAIN] Are you leaning toward voting for

Warner	12%
Gillespie	12%

Sarvis	3%
Uncertain	73%

6. If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your congressional district?

Democrat	42%
Republican	38%
Uncertain	19%
Refused	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/mixed	Refused
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%

8. 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
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%

9. 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
Sept. 2014	48%	20%	18%	15%
July 2014	38%	27%	18%	17%
Jan 2014	37%	16%	17%	30%

10. 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
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%

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
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.

12. Barack Obama

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
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%

13. Terry McAuliffe

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
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%

14. Mark Warner

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
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%

15. Tim Kaine

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
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%

16. Ed Gillespie

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Sept. 2014	20%	19%	10%	52%
July 2014	8%	10%	6%	75%
Jan 2014	6%	13%	6%	75%

17. Robert Sarvis

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	Refused
Sept. 2014	11%	9%	5%	75%

July 2014	8%	8%	4%	81%
Oct 2013	16%	13%	16%	55%

18. What is the most important problem facing the country today?

Economy (general)	22%
Foreign policy/ISIS/Terrorism	16%
Unemployment/jobs	10%
Health care	7%
Budget deficit/debt	7%
Taxes	1%
Energy/coal	0%
Environment	1%
Abortion/Women's issues	1%
Same sex marriage	0%
Gun control/violence	1%
Honesty/integrity	2%
Immigration	5%
Leadership/gridlock	7%
Govt. spending/size of govt.	3%
Other	16%
Refused	1%

I'm going to read several statements that have been used to describe Mark Warner? Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each.
[ROTATE]

19. Mark Warner is a person who is willing to work with both Democrats and Republicans to solve problems.

Agree	62%
Disagree	17%
Unsure/both/neutral	19%
Refused	2%

20. Mark Warner is just a rubber stamp for the positions of President Obama

Agree	24%
Disagree	56%
Unsure/both/neutral	17%
Refused	3%

21. Mark Warner has been an effective leader who does what's best for Virginia

Agree	55%
Disagree	21%
Unsure/both/neutral	22%

Refused	2%
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22. Mark Warner does what is best for the party and the President, not what is best for Virginia

Agree	31%
Disagree	44%
Unsure/both/neutral	23%
Refused	2%

Now I'm going to read some statements that have been made about Ed Gillespie. Please tell me if you agree to disagree with each of the following.

23. Ed Gillespie would represent the interests of the citizens of Virginia, not the interests of Washington

Agree	28%
Disagree	19%
Unsure/both/neutral	47%
Refused	7%

24. Ed Gillespie would represent special interests and lobbyists, not the interests of Virginia

Agree	24%
Disagree	24%
Unsure/both/neutral	46%
Refused	7%

Now I'm going to read a couple of statements made about Robert Sarvis. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each.

25. Robert Sarvis would bring a fresh perspective to governing that would benefit Virginia.

Agree	18%
Disagree	14%
Unsure/both/neutral	58%
Refused	10%

26. Robert Sarvis has too little experience in government and his views are too far outside the mainstream

Agree	21%
Disagree	11%
Unsure/both/neutral	58%
Refused	10%

27. As you may know, the General Assembly is meeting this week to continue discussing possible expansion of Medicaid. Gov. McAuliffe says that the state should provide health care for its poorest citizens.

The federal government will pay 100 percent of the cost for the first three years and 90 percent after that. Republicans say that the federal government will not be able to live up that promise and that Virginia cannot afford the additional costs. Do you think that Virginia should expand Medicaid coverage or leave it as it is?

Expand	41%
Leave as is	49%
Unsure	9%
Refused	2%

28. If the General Assembly blocks Medicaid expansion, Governor McAuliffe has said he will issue an executive order to use \$40 million in funds left over from this year's budget to provide additional coverage to about 20,000 mental health patients and encourage enrolling people who are eligible for health coverage under existing programs but have not signed up for those programs. Beginning next year, this program would cost about \$80 million each year and would have to be approved by the General Assembly. Do you think that the governor should move ahead with this order or not?

Yes, act alone	41%
No	44%
Unsure	12%
Refused	3%

29. As you may know, the projected budget shortfall in Virginia will be even greater than expected for the next two years. Governor McAuliffe has directed state agencies to cut their budgets by 5 percent this year and 7 percent next year. State-supported colleges and universities will also have their budgets cut. In situations such as this do you think that Virginia should only reduce the budget, raise taxes and fees or some combination of the two?

Cut budget	24%
Raise taxes and fees	5%
Combination	61%
Unsure	7%
Refused	3%

30. In addition to cutting the budget or raising taxes, the state could freeze salaries of state workers to help make up the deficit. Do you favor or oppose freezing wages for state employees?

Favor	29%
Oppose	54%
Unsure	13%
Refused	4%

31. Former Governor Bob McDonnell was recently convicted on multiple counts of public corruption and will be sentenced in January.

Do you think he should be sentenced to time in prison or do you think the convictions and public humiliation are sufficient punishment?

Yes, should go to prison	56%
No, humiliation is sufficient	29%
Unsure	12%
Refused	3%

32. In general, do you think that what McDonnell did are uncommon events or do you think they are fairly typical behavior for elected officials?

Uncommon event	15%
Typical behavior	74%
Unsure	9%
Refused	2%

33. The 2016 presidential election is far away, but if the election for president were today, who would you vote for if the candidates were: [READ LIST] [IF NEEDED: "If you had to decide today?"]

Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line	47%
Chris Christie on the Republican line	37%
Don't Know/Refused [DO NOT READ]	15%

34. The 2016 presidential election is far away, but if the election for president were today, who would you vote for if the candidates were: [READ LIST] [IF NEEDED: "If you had to decide today?"]

Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line	51%
Rand Paul on the Republican line	35%
Don't Know/Refused	14%

35. The 2016 presidential election is far away, but if the election for president were today, who would you vote for if the candidates were: [READ LIST] [IF NEEDED: "If you had to decide today?"]

Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line	50%
Paul Ryan on the Republican line	37%
Don't Know/Refused	13%

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

36. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	2%
High School	13%
Some college/tech school	23%
Associate's degree	12%
Bachelor's degree	29%

Advanced degree	21%
Refused	1%

37. Code respondent's sex

Male	49%
Female	51%

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

18-29	12%
30-44	22%
45-64	44%
65+	17%
Refused	5%

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

Yes	5%
No	94%
Refused	0%

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

White/Hispanic	71%
African-American	19%
Other	4%
Refused	7%

41. 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	8%
\$35,001-\$50,000	15%
\$50,001-\$75,000	17%
\$75,001-\$100,000	14%
More than \$100,000	27%
Refused	14%

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

Liberal	20%
Moderate	37%
Conservative	37%
Other	2%
Refused	4%

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

Democrat	36%
Republican	28%
Independent	18%
Other/None	6%
Refused	12%

44. [IF INDEPENDENT] In elections in general, do you tend to lean more toward Democratic candidates or Republican candidates?

Democrats	25%
Republicans	41%
Both/Uncertain	32%
Refused	2%

45. Do you tend to agree or disagree with Tea Party movement or don't you know enough about them to have an opinion?

	Agree	Disagree	Neutral	Unsure	Refused
Sept. 2014	20%	48%	7%	13%	11%
July 2014	22%	47%	9%	13%	10%
Oct 2013	24%	46%	8%	21%	1%

46. Do you happen to recall if you voted in the Presidential election of 2012?

Yes, voted	93%
No, did not vote	6%
Don't recall/Refused	1%

47. Do you happen to recall if you voted in the election for Governor of Virginia last year?

Yes, voted	75%
No, did not vote	19%
Don't recall/Refused	6%

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