

Roanoke College Poll
2013 General Assembly
April 17, 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	11%
Shenandoah Valley	8%
Southside	7%
Central VA/Richmond	23%
Northern VA	29%
Tidewater	23%

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	46%
Wrong track	37%
Unsure/mixed	15%
No answer	2%

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	26%
Wrong track	63%
Unsure/mixed	10%
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	49%
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Disapprove	21%
Mixed/unsure	16%
Don't know/No answer	14%

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	47%
Mixed/unsure	7%
Don't know/No answer	2%

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

Approve	12%
Disapprove	77%
Mixed/unsure	8%
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	48%
Unfavorable	43%
Mixed/unsure	5%
DK/NA	4%

8. Mark Warner

Favorable	49%
Unfavorable	22%
Mixed/unsure	8%
DK/NA	22%

9. Tim Kaine

Favorable	45%
Unfavorable	30%
Mixed/unsure	6%
DK/NA	19%

10. Bob McDonnell

Favorable	44%
Unfavorable	22%

Mixed/unsure	12%
DK/NA	22%

11. Ken Cuccinelli

Favorable	26%
Unfavorable	24%
Mixed/unsure	5%
DK/NA	45%

12. Terry McAuliffe

Favorable	12%
Unfavorable	18%
Mixed/unsure	9%
DK/NA	61%

13. In the election for governor of Virginia in 2013, are you likely to vote for [READ ONLY CHOICES 1 AND 2] [ROTATED] [N=572]

Ken Cuccinelli, the Republican	34%
Terry McAuliffe, the Democrat	29%
Unsure	38%

14. From what you have heard or read, do you think that Terry McAuliffe is too liberal, too conservative or about right for Virginia or don't you know enough to have formed an opinion?

Too liberal	16%
Too conservative	3%
About right	14%
Don't know enough	67%

15. From what you have heard or read, do you think that Ken Cuccinelli is too liberal, too conservative or about right for Virginia or don't you know enough to have formed an opinion?

Too liberal	3%
Too conservative	23%
About right	22%
Don't know enough	52%

16. As you may know, automatic cuts in the federal budget, known as the sequester, went into effect on March 1. Overall, do you think this is good or bad for the country, or don't you know enough to have formed an opinion?

Good	26%
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Bad	48%
Don't know	27%

17. Which one of the following best describes the national debt? An immediate problem. A problem that can be handled several years down the road. Not a problem at all.

Problem today	72%
Problem in future	18%
Not a problem	8%
Unsure/NA	2%

18. Overall, do you favor or oppose a five percent across-the-board cut in overall federal spending this year?

Favor	57%
Oppose	30%
Unsure	13%

19. Overall, do you favor or oppose an eight percent across-the-board cut in U.S. military spending this year?

Favor	27%
Oppose	64%
Unsure	10%

20. The current federal tax rates range from 10 percent for those with low incomes up to 39.6 percent for those with incomes over \$450,000 per year. In general, do you think that 10 percent is too high, too low, or about right for those with low incomes?

Too high	31%
Too low	6%
About right	53%
DK/NA	11%

21. And do you think that 39.6 percent is too high, too low, or about right for those with high incomes?

Too high	31%
Too low	21%
About right	39%
DK/NA	9%

22. And do you think that the tax rate that you personally pay is too high, too low, or about right?

Too high	41%
Too low	3%

About right	51%
DK/NA	5%

23. Overall, who do you trust more to deal with the national economy—President Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

Obama	40%
Republicans	29%
Both/Neither	26%
DK/NA	5%

NOTE: Responses to the questions on immigration, gun control and gay marriage will be released at a later date.

24. Which statement comes closest to your view about how the immigration system should deal with immigrants who are currently living in the U.S. illegally? The immigration system should allow them to become citizens provided they meet certain requirements; allow them to become permanent legal residents, but not citizens; or identify and deport them.

25. Congress is currently debating immigration reform and many different ideas have been suggested. Please tell me whether you favor or oppose the following policies. First, do you favor or oppose...

Creating a database that would allow employers to verify the immigration status of new hires.

26. Allowing immigrants who get degrees from U.S. colleges or universities in math, science, or technology to work legally in the U.S.

27. Expanding guest worker programs that would give temporary visas to non-citizens who want to work legally in the U.S.

28. For children whose parents are not here legally, would you favor or oppose granting them citizenship if they have completed college and do not have a criminal record.

29. How much, if at all, do you think that immigrants today are changing American society and way of life? Would you say a lot, a little or not at all?

30. [IF A LOT OR A LITTLE] All in all, do you think that is a good thing or a bad thing?

31. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

32. a. [IF FAVOR OR STRONGLY FAVOR] Have you always favored same-sex marriage, or have you changed your mind on this issue?

32. b. [IF OPPOSE OR STRONGLY OPPOSE] Have you always opposed same-sex marriage, or have you changed your mind on this issue?

Now I'm going to read you some statements, some of which you will probably agree with, others you will probably disagree with. Do you agree or disagree that...

33. Same-sex marriage would go against my religious beliefs

34. Allowing gays and lesbians to legally marry would undermine the traditional American family

35. Same-sex couples can be as good parents as heterosexual couples

36. Same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples

37. [IF STRONGLY OPPOSED OR OPPOSED TO GAY MARRIAGE] Do you favor or oppose civil unions for gays?

38. Do you happen to know someone who is gay?

39. 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?

40. 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?

41. In general, do you favor or oppose the following regulations on firearms? Requiring background checks for all firearms sales at gun shows including those guns sold by private citizens.

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

43. Do you think that stricter gun control laws would make you personally more safe, less safe, or would they make no difference?

44. Do you favor or oppose banning the sale of the following: Assault rifles?

45. Do you favor or oppose banning all magazines that hold more than 10 bullets?

46. Some people think that background checks for all gun sales will help reduce violent crime and keep guns away from criminals and those who are mentally unstable. Others believe that expanding background checks will not impact crime because criminals will either purchase illegal guns or steal guns they use when committing crimes. Which of these is closer to your view?

47. Some people think that making it more difficult to purchase a gun will reduce violent crime because fewer people will have guns. Others think that it will increase crime because criminals will believe that fewer potential victims will have a gun to defend themselves. Which of these is closer to your view?

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

48. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?

Yes	91%
No	9%

49. Code respondent's sex

Male	48%
Female	52%

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

18-34	15%
35-49	23%
50-64	32%
65 or older	29%

51. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

Yes	4%
No	91%
No answer	5%

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

White	75%
African-American	15%
Other/multi-racial	7%
No answer	3%

53. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	2%
High School	20%
Some college/tech school	22%
Associate's degree	9%
Bachelor's degree	29%
Advanced degree	18%

54. 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	12%
\$35,001-\$50,000	14%
\$50,001-\$75,000	24%
\$75,001-\$100,000	21%
More than \$100,000	23%

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

Liberal	16%
Moderate	43%
Conservative	36%
Other	5%

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

Democrat	33%
Republican	29%
Independent	25%
Other/None	14%

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

58. 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?

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

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

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