Roanoke College Poll Topline
State and National Politics
August 25, 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. 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
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%

2. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?
Yes	100%
No	[TERMINATE]

3. Generally speaking, would you say that you personally care a great deal who wins the
presidential election this fall or that you don't care very much who wins?

	Care great deal	Don't care very much	Refused
Aug 2020	94%	6%	0%
May 2020	91%	9%	0%

4. How likely is it that you will vote in the presidential election in November? Is it very likely,
somewhat likely or not very likely?
Very likely	97%
Somewhat likely	4%
Not very likely	[TERMINATE]
Refused	[TERMINATE]

5. If the election was held today and you had to decide right now, would you vote for [ROTATE
FIRST TWO]
Donald Trump, the Republican	39%
Joe Biden, the Democrat	53%
Some other candidate	3%
Undecided	5%

6. a. How certain are you that you that you will vote for Trump? Very certain, somewhat certain, not very certain, or not at all certain?

Very certain	88%
Somewhat certain	10%
Not very certain	1%
Not at all certain?	1%
Refused	0%

6. b. How certain are you that you that you will vote for Biden? Very certain, somewhat certain, not very certain, or not at all certain?

Very certain	89%
Somewhat certain	7%
Not very certain	4%
Not at all certain?	0%
Refused	0%

7. And if the election for U.S. Senator was held today, would you vote for [ROTATE FIRST TWO]

Daniel Gade, the Republican	34%
Mark Warner, the Democrat	55%
Unsure [VOLUNTERED ONLY]	10%
Refused [VOLUNTERED ONLY]	0%

8. Code respondent's sex [NOT ASKED]

Male	47%
Female	53%

9. 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
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%

10. 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
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%

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Mixed	Refused
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%

12. 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
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%

13. What is the most important issue to you in this election? [DO NOT READ CHOICES]

        Economy/taxes/budget deficit   26%
        COVID-19/Coronavirus   13%
        Preventing Donald Trump from winning/
                electing Democrats   7%
        Health care (general)   6%
        Race relations/social justice   5%
        Preventing Democrats from winning/
                electing Republicans   4%
        Education   4%
        Second Amendment/gun control   3%
        Honesty/character/integrity   3%
        Jobs/unemployment   2%
        Protests/riots/civil unrest   2%
        First Amendment/speech/religion   2%
        Environment   1%
        Unsure/Refused   4%
        Other_____   19%

14. Do you recall if you voted in the 2016 election or if you did not have a chance to vote?

        Voted in 2016   85%
        Did not vote   16%
        Refused   0%

15. [IF VOTED] Do you recall if you voted for Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, or some other candidate for President?

        Trump   42%
        Clinton   46%
        Other candidate   9%
        Don't recall/Refused   3%

16. Do you think this election is a referendum on Donald Trump or is it more of a question of the future direction of the country?

        Referendum on Trump   31%
        Future direction   58%
        Unsure/Refused   11%

17. Regardless of your vote intent, please tell me which candidate—Trump or Biden [ROTATE]—would do a better job dealing with the following issues [ROTATE]
a. The economy

        Trump   50%

Biden	46%
Unsure/Refused	4%

b. Race relations

Trump	29%
Biden	64%
Unsure/Refused	8%

c. Protests and civil unrest

Trump	36%
Biden	58%
Unsure/Refused	6%

d. The COVID-19 virus

Trump	38%
Biden	56%
Unsure/Refused	6%

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. [ROTATE]

18. Donald Trump

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
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%

19. Ralph Northam

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
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%

20. Joe Biden

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2020	51%	38%	7%	4%
May 2020	36%	39%	15%	10%
Feb. 2020	37%	37%	18%	8%

21. Mark Warner

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed/Unsure	DK/Refused
Aug. 2020	51%	26%	6%	17%
May 2020	37%	21%	12%	30%

22. Daniel Gade

Favorable	20%
Unfavorable	10%
Mixed	3%
Don't know/Refused	67%

23. National Rifle Association

Favorable	38%
Unfavorable	45%
Mixed	8%
Don't know/Refused	9%

24. Black Lives Matter

Favorable	51%
Unfavorable	30%
Mixed	12%
Don't know/Refused	7%

25. Switching topics, do you think the Founding Fathers, men like Washington, Jefferson, and Madison, were great men or do you think they were mostly looking out for their own interests, including protecting slavery?

Great men	56%
Looking out for own interests	21%
Both [VOL]	12%
Unsure/Refused	12%

26. In general, do you think race relations in the United States are very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good,	3%
Fairly good	27%

Fairly bad	39%
Very bad	27%
Unsure/Refused	5%

27. When it comes to improving race relations, do you think it is more important for people to focus on... [ROTATE] the unique experiences of different racial and ethnic groups or what different racial and ethnic groups have in common?

Uniqueness	37%
Commonalities	47%
Unsure/Refused	16%

28. In your daily life, when you see a person of another race in a public place, how often do you see acts of discrimination? Would you say always, often, sometimes, rarely, or never?

Always	0%
Often	5%
Sometimes	32%
Rarely	38%
Never	23%
Unsure/Refused	2%

29. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statements about racial discrimination in America today. [ROTATE]

a. People of color experience racial discrimination because it is built into our society, including into our policies and institutions.

Agree	61%
Disagree	33%
Unsure/Refused	6%

b. The racial discrimination people of color experience comes from individuals who hold racist views, not from our society and institutions.

Agree	60%
Disagree	32%
Unsure/Refused	8%

c. What may seem like intentional discrimination often is just something bad that can and does happen to people of all colors.

Agree	58%
Disagree	36%
Unsure/Refused	6%

30. [ASKED ON AUGUST 17 AND AFTER] Have you watched or do you plan to watch any of the Democratic National Convention this week?

Yes	61%

No	35%
Unsure/Refused	3%

31. [ASKED ON AUGUST 17 AND AFTER] Do you plan to watch any of the Republican National Convention next week?

Yes	56%
No	40%
Unsure/Refused	4%

32. Region

Southwest Virginia	11%
Southside	8%
Shenandoah Valley	7%
Central Virginia/Richmond	20%
Northern Virginia	31%
Tidewater	24%

33. 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	53%
Living with partner	6%
Divorced	10%
Separated	3%
Widowed	5%
Never married	23%
Refused	0%

34. How much education have you completed?

Less than high school	2%
High School	12%
Some college/technical school	25%
Associate's Degree	7%
Bachelor's Degree	31%
Advanced Degree	24%
Refused	0%

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

18-29	19%
30-44	25%
45-64	41%
65 or older	16%
Refused	1%

36. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

Yes, Hispanic	3%

No, not Hispanic	96%
No answer	1%

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

White / Hispanic / Latino	72%
African-American	20%
Asian/Other/multi-racial	6%
Refused	3%

38. 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	6%
$20,000-$35,000	7%
$35,000-$50,000	9%
$50,000-$75,000	16%
$75,000-$100,000	13%
More than $100,000	40%
Refused	9%

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

Liberal	26%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	39%
Other/Unsure	3%
Refused	3%

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

Democrat	41%
Republican	33%
Independent	15%
Other/None	11%
Refused	1%

40. 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. 32]

Democrat	51%
Republican	42%
Independent/Neither/Refused	7%

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

Crosstabs

	Trump	Biden
Male	46%	44%
Female	33%	61%
White	49%	43%
African-American	9%	87%
Democrat	2%	93%
Republican	89%	7%
Liberal	2%	95%
Moderate	21%	65%
Conservative	78%	20%
18-29	31%	57%
30-44	37%	50%
45-64	45%	51%
65 and older	37%	56%
SW VA	54%	44%
Southside	39%	50%
Shen. Valley	63%	22%
Central/Richmond	38%	51%
NoVA	26%	67%
Tidewater	44%	50%

Addendum: Because we were polling prior to, during, and after the Democratic National Convention, but prior to the Republican National Convention, we offer a breakdown of results before the convention began and after it began. As you can see below, the sample during and after the convention is more heavily Democratic and more likely to vote for Biden. It is also less conservative and more liberal. It is unlikely that many registered voters would change their party affiliation or ideology as the result of a political convention. We controlled for political party, so we simply polled a higher percentage of Democrats during and after the convention. We also completed a higher percentage of the youngest and oldest voters (the two groups most pro-Biden) and a lower percentage of residents of Southwest Virginia and Shenandoah Valley (the two regions most pro-Trump) during and after the convention. In short, we think the convention had little effect on the results. That is *not* to say that it had *no* effect.

	Before Dem. Convention	During/after Dem. Convention
N	360	206
Vote for Trump	40%	37%
Vote for Biden	49%	60%
Democrat	39%	43%
Republican	37%	27%
Liberal	24%	29%
Moderate	29%	31%
Conservative	41%	35%
18-29	16%	23%
30-44	28%	19%
45-64	42%	39%
65 and older	14%	19%
Male	47%	48%
Female	53%	52%
White	72%	73%
African American	20%	18%
SW VA	12%	9%
Southside	8%	8%
Shen. Valley	8%	6%
Central/Richmond	19%	21%
NoVA	32%	28%
Tidewater	21%	28%