

This Washington Post-Schar School poll was conducted by telephone Sept. 25-30, 2019 among a random sample of 876 adults in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including 55 percent reached on cell phones and 45 percent on landlines. Overall results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus five percentage points, including design effects due to weighting. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt Associates of Rockville, MD.

(Full methodological details appended at the end.)

RV=Registered voters LV=Likely voters \*= less than 0.5 percent

1. How closely are you following the election this fall for General Assembly in Virginia: very closely, somewhat closely, not so closely, or not closely at all?

	----- Closely -----			---- Not closely ----			No opin.
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	At all	
9/30/19	45	11	33	55	23	32	*
9/30/19 RV	47	12	34	53	25	28	*
10/8/07 LV	38	10	28	62	34	27	*

Compare to governor's race:

	---- Closely ----			---- Not closely ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not so	At all	
10/29/17 RV	68	26	42	32	14	17	*
10/2/17 RV	58	18	40	41	18	23	*
5/14/17 RV	56	15	40	44	20	24	*
10/27/13 RV	79	33	46	21	10	10	*
9/22/13 RV	68	25	44	31	19	12	*
5/2/13 RV	48	10	38	52	27	25	*
10/25/09 LV	89	39	50	11	9	2	*
10/7/09 LV	87	33	54	13	11	2	*
9/17/09 LV	84	34	51	15	12	4	*
8/14/09 LV	67	25	42	32	23	9	1
8/14/09 RV	48	17	32	51	30	21	*
10/26/05 LV	87	31	56	13	10	2	*
9/9/05 LV	73	20	53	27	20	7	*
9/9/05 RV	59	15	44	41	26	15	*
8/23/01 RV	60	16	44	39	26	13	1
8/27/00 RV	61	21	40	38	25	13	*
6/23/94 RV	74	27	47	27	18	9	*
2/3/94	73	27	46	27	18	9	*
9/93 RV	68	21	47	31	21	10	*

\*2009 and earlier: Would you say you are following this year's governor's race in the state of

Virginia very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not closely at all?

2. (AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS) I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the Virginia elections for General Assembly this November: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

Compare to governor's race:

		Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than that	Don't think will vote (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No op.

10/29/17*	RV	63	15	11	8	1	2	*
10/2/17	RV	60	19	11	8	1	*	*
10/27/13	RV	64	14	11	8	1	1	*
9/22/13	RV	60	19	12	8	1	0	*
5/2/13	RV	67	15	11	6	1	0	*
10/25/09	RV	60	16	13	6	2	1	1
10/7/09	RV	53	20	15	9	3	*	1
9/17/09	RV	53	19	16	9	3	NA	1
8/14/09	RV	61	16	13	7	2	NA	*
9/9/05	RV	68	18	9	4	1	NA	0
10/25/01	RV	63	19	10	5	2	NA	1
8/23/01	RV	68	16	10	5	1	NA	*

\*10/29/17 and previous "governor's election"

3. (AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS) If the election for Virginia House of Delegates was being held today, would you vote for the (Republican) candidate or the (Democratic) candidate in your district? Which one are you leaning toward right now? the (Republican) candidate or the (Democratic) candidate?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - REG VOTERS

	Republican candidate	Democratic candidate	Other (Vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/30/19 RV	42	49	1	*	3	6

4. (AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS) For each item I name, please tell me how important it will be in your vote for the Virginia legislature this year - The first (is/are) [ITEM]. Will this be very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important in your vote for the Virginia legislature this year?

9/30/19 - Summary table - among registered voters

	-- More important -			----- Less important -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	
a. gun policy	91	75	16	8	6	2	1
b. abortion	71	46	25	27	14	12	2
c. health care	89	66	23	11	8	3	*
d. the economy	91	63	28	9	7	2	1
e. immigration	78	52	26	20	13	7	2
f. education	91	70	21	8	7	2	*

Question 5 held for release.

On another subject...

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ralph Northam is handling his job as governor of Virginia? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/30/19	47	15	32	29	12	17	23
2/8/19	43	18	24	44	15	30	13

Compare to:

Terry McAuliffe:

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
5/14/17	49	19	30	25	11	14	26

8/14/16 53 22 31 31 13 18 16

Bob McDonnell:

		----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/22/13	RV	49	13	36	39	22	17	11
5/2/13	RV	64	19	44	27	14	13	9
9/16/12	RV	58	24	34	27	13	14	15
5/2/12	RV	58	18	40	36	19	16	7
5/4/11	RV	64	23	41	26	12	13	11

Tim Kaine:

		----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
5/4/11*		58	24	34	30	14	15	12
10/25/09	LV	58	23	35	38	17	21	4
10/7/09	LV	60	25	36	37	19	19	2
9/17/09	LV	59	27	33	38	17	22	2
8/14/09		56	21	34	36	18	18	8
9/21/08	RV	66	NA	NA	25	NA	NA	9
10/8/07	All	63			25			12
10/12/06	LV	77			19			4

\*2011: Thinking back to when Tim Kaine was governor, would say you approve or disapprove of the way Kaine handled his job as governor?

Mark Warner:

		----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
10/26/05	LV	80	NA	NA	17	NA	NA	3
9/9/05	RV	76	NA	NA	22	NA	NA	2

Jim Gilmore:

		-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	opinion
10/25/01	LV	62	25	37	33	18	16	5
8/23/01	RV	57	NA	NA	36	NA	NA	7
8/27/00	RV	70	25	45	20	8	12	10

George Allen:

		-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
10/21/97		66	NA	NA	27	NA	NA	6
9/16/97	RV	67	NA	NA	26	NA	NA	7

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Justin Fairfax is handling his job as lieutenant governor of Virginia?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
9/30/19	39	25	36

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Herring is handling his job as attorney general of Virginia?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
9/30/19	42	19	39

Compare to:

Ken Cuccinelli:

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
5/2/13	46	31	24
5/4/11	46	27	27

9. Do you think [ITEM] should or should not run for elected office again in Virginia?

9/30/19 - Summary table

	Should	Should not	No opinion
a. Governor Northam	39	43	18
b. Lieutenant Governor Fairfax	36	33	30
c. Attorney General Herring	40	26	33

Compare to:

Do you think former Governor Robert McDonnell should or should not run for elected office again in Virginia?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
8/14/16	21	67	12

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/30/19	39	26	13	58	7	51	3
9/30/19 RV	40	27	12	58	6	52	3
10/29/17 RV	36	24	12	60	10	50	5
10/2/17 RV	34	20	14	60	10	50	6
5/14/17 RV	36	21	15	60	7	53	4

11. (AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS) How important (is/was) your view of Trump in deciding your vote for the Virginia legislature this year? Very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important?

	-----Important-----			-----Less important-----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	
9/30/19 RV	70	51	19	28	9	19	2

Compare to:

(AMONG LIKELY VOTERS WHO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF TRUMP) How important (is/was) your view of Trump in deciding your vote in the Virginia governor's race? Very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important?

	-----Important-----			-----Less important-----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	
10/29/17 LV	57	38	19	43	14	28	1

12. (AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS) How important (is/was) your view of Northam in deciding your vote for the Virginia legislature this year? Very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important?

	-----Important-----			-----Less important-----			
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	No opinion
9/30/19 RV	56	28	28	38	22	16	5

Thinking about gun issues,  
13. Do you support or oppose stricter gun laws in Virginia?

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
9/30/19	58	37	5

Compare to:

Do you favor or oppose stricter gun control laws in this country?

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
8/14/16	57	40	3
5/2/12	53	44	2
6/3/07	58	38	4

14. Would you support or oppose [ITEM]? How about [NEXT ITEM]?

9/30/19 - Summary table

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
a. a statewide ban on the sale of assault weapons	57	41	2
b. requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers, including private sales and gun shows	88	10	1
c. a statewide ban on high-capacity ammunition clips, meaning those containing more than 10 bullets	56	39	4
d. a state law allowing the police to take guns away from people who have been found by a judge to be a danger to themselves or others	82	16	2
e. a state law barring an individual from buying more than one handgun per month	58	39	3

Trend where available:

a. a statewide ban on the sale of assault weapons

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
9/30/19	57	41	2

Compare to national:

Would you support or oppose a nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/5/19	56	46	10	41	8	33	4
4/11/18	62	51	12	35	8	26	3
2/18/18	50	38	12	46	11	36	4
6/23/16*	51	41	10	48	10	37	2
12/13/15	45	34	10	53	12	41	3
4/14/13	56	45	11	42	12	30	2
3/10/13	57	46	11	41	11	30	2
1/13/13	58	50	9	39	12	26	3
1/19/11**	63	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	3
4/26/09**	54	"	"	41	"	"	5
4/22/07***	67	54	13	30	10	21	3
5/10/00	71	60	11	27	11	16	2
9/2/99	77	68	9	22	8	14	1

5/16/99 79 67 12 19 7 12 2  
 6/14/94 80 NA NA 18 NA NA 2  
 \*June 2016 and prior "Would you support or oppose a law requiring a nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons?"  
 \*\*CBS/NYT "Do you favor or oppose a nationwide ban on assault weapons"  
 \*\*\*ABC News

b. requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers, including private sales and gun shows

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
9/30/19	88	10	1

Compare to Virginia:

Would you support or oppose a law requiring background checks on people buying guns at gun shows or online?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
5/2/13	86	74	12	10	3	7	4

Compare to national:

Would you support or oppose requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers, including private sales and gun shows?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
9/5/19	89	9	1

c. a statewide ban on high-capacity ammunition clips, meaning those containing more than 10 bullets

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
9/30/19	56	39	4

Compare to national:

Would you support or oppose a nationwide ban on high-capacity ammunition clips, meaning those containing more than 10 bullets

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/5/19	60	NA	NA	36	NA	NA	4
4/14/13	56	44	12	41	10	31	3
1/13/13	65	53	12	32	11	21	3
12/16/12	59	47	12	38	9	29	2
1/16/11	57	46	11	39	10	29	3

d. a state law allowing the police to take guns away from people who have been found by a judge to be a danger to themselves or others

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
9/30/19	82	16	2

Compare to national:

Would you support or oppose a law allowing the police to take guns away from people who have been found by a judge to be a danger to themselves or others?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/5/19	86	NA	NA	12	NA	NA	2

4/11/18 85 72 13 12 5 7 3

e. a state law barring an individual from buying more than one handgun per month

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
9/30/19	58	39	3

15. Do you or does anyone in your house own a gun, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
9/30/19	49	50	1
8/14/16	48	50	2
5/2/13	49	50	1
5/2/12	43	56	1
8/23/01	45	55	*

Questions 16-18 held for release.

19. Earlier this year, there was news about Northam's personal yearbook page from medical school which showed a photo of a person in blackface next to a person in a white KKK robe and hood. Today, are you bothered by this photo or Northam's response to it, or are you not bothered? (IF BOTHERED) Would you say you are very bothered, or just somewhat bothered?

	NET	----- Bothered Very	----- Somewhat	Not bothered	No opinion
9/30/19	55	33	22	42	3

Party ID. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a...

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other	No op.
9/30/19	34	27	32	4	3
2/8/19	33	25	39	2	2
10/29/17	32	24	32	7	6
10/2/17	34	24	32	6	5
5/14/17	34	24	33	5	3
10/30/16	30	24	36	6	5
8/14/16	31	21	37	7	3
10/27/13	32	24	31	6	7
9/22/13	33	24	33	6	5
5/2/13	28	26	33	8	4
10/26/12	31	23	36	6	3
9/16/12	32	24	35	5	4
5/2/12	31	25	36	5	2

\*\*\*END\*\*\*

#### METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and the George Mason University Schar School of Policy and Government. The poll includes interviews in English and Spanish and is a random sample of Virginia adult residents.

A total of 218 interviews were completed using dual frame Random Digit Dialing (RDD) procedures of cellular phones in Virginia. The remaining 658 interviews were completed by sampling from a database of Virginia registered voters maintained by Aristotle, Inc., in which voters have been matched to landline and cellular phone numbers. The

sample frames were de-duplicated, such that phone numbers existing on the voter list frame were not eligible for selection through the RDD frame.

In the RDD sample, interviewers called landline and cellular phone numbers, first requesting to speak with the youngest adult male or female at home. In the voter file sample, interviewers asked for respondents names to be confirmed or matched to the voter file. The total sample included 394 interviews on landlines and 482 interviews completed via cellular phones, including 253 interviews with adults in cell phone-only households.

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for characteristics of the sample design and deviations in the survey sample from known population characteristics, which helps correct for differential survey participation and random variation in samples. The overall sample is weighted to correct for differential probabilities of selection among individuals who were interviewed through the RDD and voter list samples based on the size of each frame.

Weights correct for differential probability of selection for landline-only, cell phone-only and dual phone users. Results are also weighted to match the demographic makeup of the population according to the latest American Community Survey by age, race/ethnicity, sex, education and by region of the commonwealth, and the National Health Interview Survey by telephone usage.

This questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Voter registration, demographics and religious identity questions are not displayed. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the group asked.

Phrases surrounded by parentheses within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents. Results preceded by "RV" indicate results among registered voters, with "LV" indicating likely voters and other results are among adults overall.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 2.3 for this survey. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample, and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

Contact [polls@washpost.com](mailto:polls@washpost.com) for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Unweighted sample size</u>	<u>Error margin</u>
All adults	876	+/- 5 points
Registered voters	814	5

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