

This Washington Post-Schar School poll was conducted by telephone Feb. 6-8, 2019 among a random sample of 706 adults in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including 62 percent reached on cell phones and 38 percent on landlines. Overall results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points, including design effects due to weighting. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by SSRS of Glen Mills, Pa.

(Full methodological details appended at the end.)

*= less than 0.5 percent

Results among Virginia adults unless specified. RV=Registered voters LV=Likely voters

1. 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
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
2/8/19	43	18	24	44	15	30	13
2/8/19 RV	43	20	23	45	15	31	12

Compare to:

Terry McAuliffe:

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
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

2. Northam has been governor for about one year. Would you say he has accomplished a great deal during that time, a good amount, not very much, or just a little?

		--- Accomplished ---			----- Less accomplished -----			No	
		NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Not very much	Just a little	Nothing (vol.)	opinion
2/8/19		33	7	25	57	26	28	4	10

3. As you may know, this past week there has been news about Northam's yearbook page from medical school in 1984. His page shows a photo of a person in blackface next to a person in a white KKK robe with a hood. How much have you seen or heard about this - a lot, some, only a little, or nothing at all?

		--- A lot/some ---			--- A little/Nothing ---			No
		NET	A lot	Some	NET	A little	Nothing	opinion
2/8/19		85	74	12	14	7	7	*

4. (ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Northam has responded to the photo's discovery?

		Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
2/8/19		22	71	8

5. (ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE) Were you offended by the photo that appeared on Northam's yearbook page, or were you NOT offended by the photo? (IF OFFENDED) Were you very offended or somewhat offended?

		----- Offended -----				Not	No
		NET	Very	Somewhat	No op.	offended	opinion
2/8/19		55	34	20	*	42	3

6. Northam first said that he appeared in the yearbook photo, but the next day he said that after further examination, he was NOT one of the people in the photo. Do you find Northam's explanation believable, or not believable?

		Believable	Not believable	No opinion
2/8/19		20	73	7

7. Northam has apologized to Virginians for the photo appearing on his personal yearbook page. Do you accept his apology, or not?

	Accept apology	Do not accept apology	No opinion
2/8/19	53	42	5

8. Do you think the Northam's yearbook photo is (an isolated incident) or is it (a sign of broader racial prejudice in his life)?

	An isolated incident	A sign of broader racial prejudice	No opinion
2/8/19	51	34	15

9. Considering everything, do you think Northam should step down as Governor of Virginia, or not?

	Should step down	Should not step down	No opinion
2/8/19	47	47	6
2/8/19 RV	48	46	5

Compare to:

(AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS) Considering everything, do you think Bob McDonnell should step down as the Governor of Virginia, or not?

	Should step down	Should not step down	No opinion
9/22/13 RV	26	67	8

10. If Northam stays in office, do you think it is possible for him to be an effective governor for the remainder of his term, or not?

	Yes, possible for him to be effective	No, not possible	No opinion
2/8/19	50	46	4

11. Separately, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring admitted that he wore blackface and dressed as a rapper at a party in 1980, when he was in college. Herring apologized and called his actions insensitive. Do you think Herring should step down as Attorney General, or not?

	Should step down	Should not step down	No opinion
2/8/19	34	60	6

12. To the best of your knowledge, have you or someone you know personally ever worn blackface, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
2/8/19	11	88	1

13. As you may know, Virginia was a slave state and fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War and Virginia's leaders resisted integration of white and black schools

in the 1960s. Do you think Virginia's elected leaders have or have not done enough to address the history of racial discrimination against blacks in Virginia?

	Have done enough	Have not done enough	No opinion
2/8/19	38	53	9

14. If Northam steps down, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax would become governor. How much confidence, if at all, do you have that Fairfax would govern effectively - a great deal of confidence, a good amount, just some, or none at all?

	----- Confident -----			----- Less confident -----			No op.
	NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Just some	None at all	
2/8/19	25	9	16	62	34	27	13

15. Fairfax would be the second African American to become governor of Virginia. Do you think Fairfax becoming governor would or would not help in healing racial divisions in Virginia?

	Would help	Would not help	No opinion
2/8/19	45	45	10

16. As you may know, on Monday Fairfax denied an allegation of sexual assault in 2004 which appeared on a conservative website. Fairfax says the encounter was consensual. How much have you seen or heard about this - a lot, some, only a little, or nothing at all?

	--- A lot/some ---			--- A little/Nothing ---			No opinion
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	A little	Nothing	
2/8/19	57	36	21	42	21	21	1

17. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with Fairfax's response to the allegation, or don't you know enough to say?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Don't know enough to say	No opinion
2/8/19	18	16	65	1

18. Switching topics, please tell me how important the issue of abortion is to you. Is it one of the single most important issues, very important, somewhat important or less important?

	----- Important -----			- Not as important -			No opinion
	NET	Single most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	
2/8/19	58	10	48	41	27	15	1

19. Would you like to see abortion laws in Virginia made (more strict), (less strict), or remain as they are?

	More	Less	Remain same	No opinion
2/8/19	34	21	37	8

20. Do you think abortion should or should not be legal in the third trimester of pregnancy if the woman's health is at risk?

	Should	Should not	No
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	be legal	be legal	opinion
2/8/19	60	33	7

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

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other	No op.
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 sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government and is a random sample of adults in Virginia.

This questionnaire was administered in English with the exact questions in the exact order as appears in this document unless otherwise noted. Voter registration, demographics, religious identity questions are not shown. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the group asked. Phrases surrounded by parentheticals within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents.

A dual frame landline and cellular phone telephone sample was generated by Marketing Systems Group (MSG) using Random Digit Dialing procedures. Interviewers called landlines phone numbers, first requesting to speak with the youngest adult male or female at home. For cellular numbers, interviews were conducted with an answering adult. In addition to the random landline and cell sample, an additional 63 interviews with respondents were completed by re-contacting households from previous random-sample SSRS surveys in which a respondent identified as African American. The final sample was adjusted to ensure the share of African Americans and other racial/ethnic groups aligned with Census Bureau benchmarks. The final sample included 267 interviews completed on landlines and 439 interviews completed via cellular phones, including 239 interviews with adults in cell phone-only households.

This survey uses statistical weighting to compensate for sample design and patterns of non-response that might bias results. The sample was weighted to match adult population parameters for the commonwealth of Virginia. A two-stage weighting procedure was used to weight this dual-frame sample. The first stage of weighting corrects for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns (whether they have only a landline phone, only a cell phone, or both). This weighting also adjusts for the overlapping landline and cell sample frames and the relative sizes of each frame and each sample.

The second stage of weighting balances sample demographics to target population benchmarks. The sample is balanced to match population benchmarks for the commonwealth of Virginia for sex, age, race/ethnicity, education, telephone use and region of the commonwealth. The weighting parameters were derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017

American Community Survey (ACS) data. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of National Health Interview Survey data.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.34 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 for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.

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