

*Field Dates: October 8-13*

*506 Likely Voters (registered to vote, plan to vote, and following race closely or very closely)*

[READ] Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling on behalf of Christopher Newport University, the *Virginian-Pilot*, and WVEC-TV to ask your views on some important issues. Your number was selected at random, and I assure you that your opinions are completely confidential and this is not a sales call.

### I. Assessment and Horse Race

q1. [READ] Overall, would you say the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA is heading more in the right direction or the wrong direction?

Right	35.1%
Mixed (vol.)	19.0%
Wrong	31.8%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	14.1%

q2. [READ] Overall, would you say the UNITED STATES is heading more in the right direction or the wrong direction?

Right	32.7%
Mixed (vol.)	12.3%
Wrong	49.2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	5.7%

q3. [READ] Thinking six months into the future, do you think the nation's economy will be better, about the same or worse than it is today?

Better	34.2%
About the same	41.2%
Worse	22.3%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	2.3%

q4. [READ] In last year's election for president, did you vote for Barack Obama?

Yes	41.9%
No	54.2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	4.0%

q5. [READ] Ok, changing topics, if the election for GOVERNOR were held today, for whom would you be most likely to vote, [Bob McDonnell, the Republican], [Creigh Deeds, (**pronounced Cree**) the Democrat], or haven't you decided? [Rotate Names...Interviewer accept only single response]

Bob McDonnell [go to q6]	44.7%
Creigh Deeds [go to q6]	30.9%
Other name (vol.) [go to q8]	1.8%
Not Voting (vol.) [go to q8]	.7%
Undecided (vol.) [go to q8]	21.9%

q6. Do you generally support him or is your support based upon his views on a single issue?

Generally support [go to q8]	81.3%
Support based upon single issue [go to q7]	16.0%
Don't know/refused (vol.) [go to q8]	2.6%

q7. Is that single issue his views on one of the following: [Interviewer read nine choices, accept only single response]

Abortion	11.5%
Gay rights/gay marriage	1.8%
Women in the workplace	16.4%
Taxation	17.2%
Transportation	3.2%
Education	23.0%
Environment	5.6%
Something else	15.0%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6.4%

q8. Recently the news media has reported on a thesis Bob McDonnell wrote as a graduate student in 1989. In the thesis McDonnell criticized working mothers and homosexuals as detrimental to families although he now says he no longer holds these views. In thinking about how you will vote in the governor's race, does news of McDonnell's thesis make you [more likely] or [less likely] to vote for him, or won't it affect your vote either way? [rotate]

More likely to vote for McDonnell	2.3%
Less likely to vote for McDonnell	18.4%
Won't affect vote either way	66.7%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	12.5%

q9. [READ] If the election for LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR were held today, for whom would you be most likely to vote, [Bill Bolling, the Republican], [Jody Wagner, the Democrat], or haven't you decided? [Rotate Names...Interviewer accept only single response]

Jody Wagner	25.2%
Bill Bolling	29.4%
Not Voting (vol.)	.3%
Undecided (vol.)	45.1%

q10. [READ] If the election for ATTORNEY GENERAL were held today, for whom would you be most likely to vote, [Ken Cuccinelli (**pronounced Kuchinelli**), the Republican], [Steve Shannon, the Democrat], or haven't you decided? [Rotate Names...Interviewer accept only single response]

Ken Cuccinelli	30.9%
Steven Shannon	26.1%
Other name (vol.)	.2%
Not Voting (vol.)	.1%
Undecided (vol.)	42.7%

**II. State Budget**

q11. [READ] Ok, on another subject, like most states Virginia has had to deal with a budget shortfall caused by the economic recession. Do you think the Governor and General Assembly are handling the state's budget shortfall well, or could they do a better job?

Handling budget cuts well	20.9%
Could do a better job	70.5%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	8.6%

q12. [READ] If more cuts have to be made to the state budget, in which area of the state budget should those cuts be made? [Interviewer read five choices]

Transportation	23.5%
Public safety	2.1%
Education	4.6%
Health care	2.8%
Social services to low-income Virginians	17.2%
Cut all equally (vol.)	20.5%
None/Don't cut (vol.)	13.7%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	15.5%

q13. [READ] Would you support laying off state workers to balance the state budget?

Yes	33.8%
No	55.5%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	10.7%

q14. [READ] Would you support raising taxes to balance the state budget?

Yes	36.2%
No	58.7%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	5.1%

q15. [READ] As you know, earlier this year the federal government began distributing economic stimulus money to states. Do you think the federal economic stimulus program has generally [helped] Virginia's economy, [hurt] Virginia's economy, or had no impact at all? [rotate]

Helped	20.2%
Hurt	7.5%
Had no impact	63.0%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	9.3%

**III. Transportation**

q16. [READ] Ok, shifting topics, for several years now Virginia has had a problem funding its transportation needs, including building new roads and bridges and maintaining current roads and bridges. Some people argue that to solve Virginia's transportation problems the state needs a new reliable source of revenue, or new taxes, while others argue that the state should pay for transportation without raising new taxes. What do you think? Do you think new taxes are needed or can transportation improvements be funded without new revenue sources?

New taxes are needed	29.1%
New taxes are not needed	59.2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	11.8%

q17. [READ] There are many different proposals for increasing transportation funding. I'm going to read a list of them. For each one, tell me whether you support it, oppose it, or have no view? Ok, here is the first one [rotate list]

	S	O	NV	Dk/r (vol.)
a. Sell state owned ABC stores and spend the proceeds on transportation	58.4%	21.8%	15.1%	4.7%
b. Increase the state gas tax	25.3%	68.7%	4.8%	1.2%
c. Add tolls to high traffic highways, bridges, and tunnels	50.3%	40.0%	6.5%	3.2%
d. Add tolls to I-85 and I-95 on the North Carolina boarder	45.6%	42.8%	6.6%	5.1%
e. Divert future increases in revenue from Virginia's ports to transportation	40.4%	24.0%	22.1%	13.6%

q22. [READ] Can you tell me about how much Virginia's current state gasoline tax rate is? If you're not sure or don't know that's ok. Is it about:

\$.18 per gallon	12.5%
\$.28 per gallon	11.4%
\$.45 per gallon	7.1%
\$.72 per gallon	1.5%
Not Sure/Don't know	67.3%
Refused (vol.)	.3%

Correct answer: about  
\$.18 per gallon

q23. [READ] Certain parts of the state, such as Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia, have more pressing transportation needs than other parts of the state. Some people argue that Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia should pay for their own transportation needs while others argue that transportation is a state responsibility and everyone should pay for it. What do you think? Should Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia pay for their own transportation needs or is transportation a state responsibility that everyone should pay for?

They should pay for their own transportation needs	39.6%
Transportation is a state responsibility that everyone should pay for	53.6%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6.8%

**IV. Other State Issues**

q24. [READ] Ok, thanks. Let me ask you about a few other issues. Virginia like all states redraws its congressional and General Assembly district boundaries from time to time, normally after the census is taken every ten years. This process is known as REDISTRICTING. Currently, Virginia law gives the General Assembly the power to redistrict in Virginia. In practice, this means that elected officials in the legislature set the boundaries of all the state's congressional and General Assembly districts. There is a proposal to remove this power from the General Assembly and instead have a bipartisan commission set these boundaries. What is your view, should a bipartisan commission set the boundaries or should the General Assembly continue to set the boundaries?

General Assembly should continue to set boundaries	21.9%
Bipartisan commission should set boundaries	63.2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	14.8%

q25. [READ] Under Virginia law, in order for an individual to be able to purchase a firearm at a gun show from a licensed firearms dealer, that individual must first pass a criminal background check. However, that same individual could purchase a firearm at that same gun show from an unlicensed seller without first having to pass a criminal background check. This is known as the GUNSHOW LOOPHOLE. Do you support changing the law to close this loophole so that anyone purchasing a firearm at a gun show has to pass a criminal background check first or should the law remain as it is?

Change law	80.8%
Keep law as is	16.7%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	2.6%

q26. [READ] The General Assembly has twice passed a bill allowing people with concealed weapons permits to bring their weapons into restaurants that sell alcohol, but each time the governor has vetoed it. Do you think people with concealed weapons permits should be allowed to bring their weapons into restaurants that sell alcohol or should weapons be kept out of restaurants that sell alcohol?

Allows concealed weapons permit holders to bring weapons into restaurants that sell alcohol	26.3%
Keep weapons out of restaurants that sell alcohol	68.4%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	5.3%

q27. [READ] Earlier this year, it was revealed that a state legislator negotiated a \$40,000-a-year job for himself at Old Dominion University while seeking state aid for the university. Currently, ethics complaints against state legislators are handled by advisory panels and often are not made public. Some have proposed making all such ethics investigations public. What is your view, should all ethics investigations against state legislators be made public or should the process remain as it currently is?

Investigations should be made public	83.4%
Process should remain as it is	9.0%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	7.7%

**V. Demographics**

[READ] Thank you. I have just a few questions to make sure we've included a good mix of people in the study:

q28. [READ] Could you please indicate the group that includes your age:

18 – 29	21.2%
30 – 44	29.0%
45 – 59	28.3%
60 or older	21.6%

Q29. [READ] What is the last grade of school or college you had the opportunity to complete?

High school or less	19.5%
Some college	18.7%
Vocational or technical training	5.3%
College graduate	33.3%
Graduate study or more	22.8%
Refused (vol.)	.4%

q30. [READ] Would you consider yourself to be:

White	77.0%
Black	12.0%
Hispanic/Latino	1.9%
Asian	2.9%
Multi-racial	1.4%
Other	2.4%
Refused (vol.)	2.4%

q31. [READ] Do you consider yourself to be a:

Democrat	29.0%
Republican	32.8%
Independent	32.5%
Other	5.7%

Sex: [interviewer code]

Male	48.3%
Female	51.7%

Region of state [interviewer code]

Northern Virginia	30.1%
Richmond	19.5%
Hampton Roads	21.9%
Western/South	28.5%

Thank you very much for your help with this survey.

### Survey Methodology:

This Christopher Newport University/*Virginian Pilot*/WVEC-TV poll is a public opinion survey of 506 randomly selected registered Virginia voters who are likely to vote (registered to vote, plan to vote, and are following the race closely or very closely) in the November 3 election. It was conducted by live telephone callers between October 8-13, 2009. The data reported here are weighted on sex, age, and region of residence to reflect as closely as possible the demographic composition of Virginia adults 18 and older. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. Results for the full sample have a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4% at the 95% confidence level. This means for the full sample we can be 95% confident that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 4.4%. In addition to sampling error, the other potential sources of error include non-response, question wording, and interviewer error. For subgroups the margin of error would be higher. The poll was designed by the Wason Center for Public Policy at CNU and conducted by the Institute of Public Opinion at Muhlenberg College. For information or requests, contact Dr. Quentin Kidd, at (757) 594-8499 or [qkidd@cnu.edu](mailto:qkidd@cnu.edu).