

Virginia Poll Report

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With Three Weeks until Election Obama leads McCain by 6%

(NEWPORT NEWS, VA) – With just under three weeks to go before Election Day, Senator Barack Obama leads Senator John McCain in Virginia by 6.0% among likely voters, 49.2% to 43.2%. Obama’s lead appears to be driven by voter concerns about the economy. Asked to name the top issue that they would like candidates to address between now and Election Day, just over six in ten likely voters say the economy. No other issue breaks double digits. These findings are from the Christopher Newport University *Virginia Poll* conducted October 11-14 of 500 likely voters.

When asked which would be the second issue that they would like the candidates to address between now and Election Day, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan top the list at 20.4%, followed

closely by health care at 18.5%

and then the economy, gas prices and energy policy, and terrorism. Fewer than 7% want the candidates to address the personal character and integrity of the candidates, suggesting that voters have not responded well to Senator McCain’s efforts to make Senator Obama’s character and integrity an issue in the final weeks of the election.

Nearly 50% of voters think that Joe Biden is the stronger Vice Presidential candidate, compared to just one in three who say Sarah Palin is the stronger Vice Presidential candidate.

If the election for president were held today, for whom would you be most likely to vote, [names rotated] Barack Obama the Democrat or John McCain the Republican?

49.2%Barack Obama
 43.2%John McCain
 7.6%Undecided

Who do you think is the stronger Vice Presidential candidate, [names rotated] Sarah Palin or Joe Biden, or do you think they are about the same?

32.8% Sarah Palin
 49.8% Joe Biden
 13.8% About the Same
 3.7% Don't Know/Refused

Top and second issue voters would like candidates to address between now and Election Day ...

	Top	Second
The economy	61.1%	15.5%
Terrorism	6.3%	12.4%
Health Care	8.7%	18.5%
Wars in Iraq/Afghanistan	6.9%	20.4%
Gas prices/energy policy	3.0%	14.2%
Illegal Immigration	4.0%	5.4%
Abortion	2.8%	1.8%
The environment	1.7%	5.1%
Personal character and Integrity of candidates	5.4%	6.6%

Survey Methodology

The Virginia Poll is provided as a public service to the citizens of Virginia. It is an omnibus public opinion survey of registered Virginia voters conducted by telephone between September 10-14, 2008. Results for the full sample have a margin of error of plus or minus 4.38% 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 4.38%. In addition to sampling error, the other potential sources of error include non-response, question wording, and interviewer error. Where percentages for subgroups are reported, the margin of error would be higher. The poll was designed by the Center for Public Policy at CNU and conducted for CNU by MSL TeleServices of Stamford, CT. For information or requests, contact Dr. Quentin Kidd, at (757) 594-8499 or qkidd@cnu.edu.