The Washington Post

SCHAR School of Policy and Government
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

This Washington Post-Schar School poll was conducted by telephone September 25-29, 2025, among a random sample of 1,002 registered voters in Virginia, with 65 percent reached by live callers on cellphones, 15 percent on landlines and 20 percent cellphone text-to-web. Results among both registered and likely voters have a margin of error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points, including design effects due to weighting. All registered voters were assigned a probability of voting to produce likely voter results. Sampling, field work and data processing by Braun Research or Princeton, N.J.; the sample was drawn from a database of Virginia registered voters maintained by Aristotle, Inc.

Full methodological details and sampling error margins for subgroups are appended at the end of this document.

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

1. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the Virginia election for governor and other offices this November: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

		Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than that	Will not vote (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No op.
9/29/25	RV	69	12	8	3	1	6	1
10/26/21*	RV	66	8	7	4	1	13	*
9/13/21	RV	70	14	11	4	2	NA	0
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	*
8/27/00	RV	76	14	7	2	1	NA	*

*10/26/21 and previous: "governor's race in the state of Virginia"

Compare to presidential years:

	Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than that	Don't think will vote (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No op./ Skip
10/23/24 RV	69	4	2	1	*	24	*

Date								
9/8/24	RV	92	4	3	1	1	NA	*
10/19/20	RV	77	2	3	1	1	16	*
10/30/16	RV	82	6	4	3	1	4	*
8/14/16	RV	80	9	6	3	1	NA	1
10/26/12	RV	88	4	2	1	1	3	*
9/16/12	RV	89	4	4	3	-	NA	*
10/25/08	RV	88	4	2	1	1	5	-
9/21/08	RV	88	6	5	2	*	NA	*

2. (AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ALREADY VOTED) How motivated are you to vote in Virginia's election for governor and other offices this November?

		--- More motivated ---			-- Less motivated --			Already voted	No opinion
		NET	Extremely	Very	NET	Somewhat	Not	(in Q1)	/Skipped
9/29/25	RV	73	57	16	20	16	4	6	1
10/23/24*	RV	66	55	11	9	5	4	24	*

*"presidential election"

3. If the election for Virginia governor were being held today and the candidates were (Winsome Earle-Sears, the Republican) and (Abigail Spanberger, the Democrat); for whom would you vote? Which one are you leaning toward right now? (If already voted:) Confidentially and for statistical purposes only, did you vote for (Winsome Earle-Sears, the Republican) or (Abigail Spanberger, the Democrat)?

		Winsome Earle-Sears	Abigail Spanberger	Would not vote (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion /Skipped
9/29/25	LV	43	55	*	1	2
9/29/25	RV	40	53	2	2	3

4. The candidates in November's election for Virginia Attorney General are (Jason Miyares, the Republican) and (Jay Jones, the Democrat). If that election were being held today would you vote for (Jason Miyares, the Republican) or (Jay Jones, the Democrat)? Which one are you leaning toward right now? (If already voted:) In the election for Virginia Attorney General, did you vote for (Jason Miyares, the Republican) or (Jay Jones, the Democrat)?

		Jason Miyares	Jay Jones	Would not vote (vol.)	Neither (vol.)*	No opinion /Skipped
9/29/25	LV	45	51	*	1	3
9/29/25	RV	42	48	2	4	3

*Includes respondents who volunteered "Other"

5. The candidates in November's election for Virginia Lieutenant Governor are (John Reid, the Republican) and (Ghazala Hashmi, the Democrat). If that election were being held today would you vote for (John Reid, the Republican) or (Ghazala Hashmi, the Democrat)? Which one are you leaning toward right now? In the election for Virginia Lieutenant Governor, did you vote for (John Reid, the Republican) **or** (Ghazala Hashmi, the Democrat)?

John Reid	Ghazala Hashmi	Would not vote (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion /Skipped

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9/29/25 LV    45        49          *           2           3
9/29/25 RV    42        47          2           4           4
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6. Please tell me if your general impression of each is favorable or unfavorable, or
if you don't really have an opinion. First, [ITEM]. [FOR NEXT ITEM:] Next, [ITEM].

9/29/25 – Summary table among registered voters in Virginia

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion	Skipped
a. Winsome Earle-Sears	38	42	19	1
b. Abigail Spanberger	50	37	13	*

7. In a few words or a short sentence, what is the most important issue in your choice
for Virginia governor? (Open-end)*

	9/29/25
Economy/Cost of living/Jobs/Housing	19
Anti-Republican/Trump/MAGA or pro-Democrat	12
NET Education/Schools	11
Education in general	7
Policies about transgender students	4
Honesty/Other personal positive qualities	8
Pro Republican/anti-Democratic	7
Civil rights and anti-discrimination	5
Abortion	5
Healthcare accessibility and affordability	4
Taxes	4
Immigration and border control	3
Democracy	3
Crime and safety	3
Gun policy	1
Other	12
Not sure/No answer	5

*See detailed methodology for information on coding procedures.

8. 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	/Skipped
9/29/25 RV	43	25	18	55	8	47	2
10/19/20 RV	41	30	11	57	7	50	2
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

9. (AMONG THOSE WHO APPROVE/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?

9/29/25 - Summary table among registered voters who approve or disapprove of Trump

	- More important --			----- Less important -----			No op.
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	/Skip
All approve/disapprove	67	45	21	33	15	17	1
Approvers	59	36	23	39	22	18	2
Disapprovers	72	53	19	27	11	17	*

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?

10/29/17 – Summary table among likely voters who approved or disapproved of Trump

	---- Important ----			----- Less important -----			
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	No opinion
All approve/disapprove	57	38	19	43	14	28	1
Approvers	51	34	17	49	15	34	*
Disapprovers	61	41	20	38	14	25	1

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Glenn Youngkin 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	/Skipped
9/29/25 RV	50	28	23	46	21	25	4
10/23/24 RV	56	34	22	37	18	19	7
9/8/24 RV	57	30	28	34	14	20	8
10/16/23 RV	54	33	21	38	15	22	8
3/26/23 RV	52	31	21	39	15	24	9

Compare to:

Ralph Northam:

	-------- Approve --------			------ Disapprove -------			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
10/26/21 RV	52	24	28	41	11	30	7
9/30/19 RV	49	16	33	31	12	19	20
9/30/19	47	15	32	29	12	17	23
2/8/19	43	18	24	44	15	30	13

Terry McAuliffe:

	-------- Approve -------			------- Disapprove ------			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
5/14/17 RV	51	21	31	27	11	16	22
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 opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/22/13 RV	49	13	36	39	22	17	11

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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
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Tim Kaine:

| | -------- Approve -------- | | | ------- Disapprove ------ | | | No |
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
5/4/11* RV	58	25	33	31	15	16	11
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	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 LV	66	NA	NA	27	NA	NA	6
9/16/97 RV	67	NA	NA	26	NA	NA	7

11. Which party do you trust more to handle each issue – (the Democrats), (the Republicans) or neither party?

9/29/25 – Summary table among registered voters in Virginia

	The Democrats	The Republicans	Neither party	No opinion /Skipped
a. Crime	37	45	17	2
b. The economy	45	40	14	1
c. Health care	50	32	16	2
d. Immigration	39	45	14	2

e. Discouraging political violence	43	36	18	3
f. Education	48	38	11	2
g. Public school policies relating to transgender students	41	42	15	2

(Items all randomized; "public school" item always runs after "education")

Trend where available:

a. Crime

	Democrats	Republicans	Neither	No opinion /Skipped
9/29/25 RV	37	45	17	2
10/16/23 RV*	36	49	9	6

*2023 "Crime and public safety;" "Neither" was volunteered.

b. The economy

	Democrats	Republicans	Neither	No opinion /Skipped
9/29/25 RV	45	40	14	1
10/16/23 RV*	37	49	9	4

*2023 "Neither" was volunteered

c. No trend.

d. Immigration

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither	No op.
9/29/25 RV	39	45	NA	14	2
10/8/07*	41	33	3	17	5

*2007 "Immigration issues;" "Neither" was volunteered.

e. No trend.

f. Education

	Democrats	Republicans	Neither	No opinion /Skipped
9/29/25 RV	48	38	11	2
10/16/23 RV*	47	41	8	5

*2023 "Neither" was volunteered

g. No trend.

12. Would you say you, yourself, are better off financially than you were when Trump became president in January, not as well off, or in about the same shape financially?

	Better off	Not as well off	About the same	No opinion /Skipped
9/29/25 RV	24	38	37	1

Compare to U.S.:

	Better off	Not as well off	About the same	Skip
4/22/25*	10	41	48	1

*Post-ABC-Ipsos

13. Thinking about the job situation in Virginia today, would you say that it is now a (good time) or a (bad time) to find a quality job?

	Good time	Bad time	No opinion /Skipped
9/29/25 RV	33	55	12

14. Overall, do you support or oppose each of the following?

9/29/25 – Summary table among registered voters in Virginia

	Support	Oppose	No opinion /Skipped
a. Cutting staff at federal government agencies	39	56	5
b. Finding and deporting undocumented immigrants in Virginia	49	44	7
c. Placing new tariffs on goods imported from other countries	36	59	5

15. How much, if at all, do you think Virginia state and local governments should help the federal government deport undocumented immigrants who live in Virginia?

	-- Should help more --			- Should help less -			No opinion /Skipped
	NET	A great deal	A good amount	NET	Not much	Not at all	
9/29/25 RV	50	28	22	47	19	28	3

Compare to Washington, D.C.:
How much, if at all, do you think the D.C. police should help the federal government deport undocumented immigrants who live in D.C.?

	----- Help more ------			---- Help less ----			No opinion /Skipped
	NET	A great deal	A good amount	NET	Not much	Not at all	
8/17/25	25	12	12	71	14	57	4

Compare to Maryland:
How much, if at all, do you think Maryland local governments should help the federal government deport undocumented immigrants who live in Maryland?

```
             ----------- Help more ------------   -------- Help less --------   No op.
             NET   A great deal   A good amount   NET   Not much   Not at all   /Skip
1/28/25 RV   43        23              20          51      22          29          6
```

16. Do you support or oppose Trump ordering the National Guard into U.S. cities in an effort to reduce crime?

```
                               No opinion
            Support   Oppose    /Skipped
9/29/25 RV     44       53          3
```

17. Do you support or oppose the Trump administration pressuring Virginia public universities to end DEI initiatives, also known as diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives?

```
                               No opinion
            Support   Oppose    /Skipped
9/29/25 RV     40       56          4
```

18. Thinking about public school sports in Virginia, do you think ...

```
             Transgender girls should   Transgender girls should only be
             be allowed to compete in   allowed to play on sports teams    No opinion
             sports with other girls     that match their birth gender      /Skipped
9/29/25 RV           20                            69                           10
```
(Rotated with Q19)

19. And thinking about Virginia public schools, do you think ...

```
                  Transgender              Transgender students
             students should be allowed to   should be required to use
             use bathrooms and locker rooms  bathrooms and locker rooms   No opinion
             matching their gender identity  that match their birth sex    /Skipped
9/29/25 RV             28                            62                         9
```
(Rotated with Q18)

20. Would you support or oppose Virginia schools providing transgender students access to single-user bathrooms?

```
                               No opinion
            Support   Oppose    /Skipped
9/29/25 RV     68       25          8
```

21. At this time, which of the following are you more concerned in this country – (politically motivated violence), (threats to freedom of speech) or are you equally concerned about both?

```
             Politically   Threats to    Equally
```

```
             motivated    freedom    concerned    No opinion
             violence    of speech   about both   /Skipped
9/29/25 RV      17          13          68            2
```

22. As of January 1, 2025, was anyone in your household employed by [INSERT ITEM]?

9/29/25 – Summary table among registered voters in Virginia

```
                                          No opinion
                                Yes   No   /Skipped
a. The federal government        14   85      1
b. A federal government contractor 11  87     2
```

NET Q22a/Q22b

```
          --- Federal worker/contractor ---   No federal
              Federal    Federal              worker or    No opinion
          NET  worker    contractor   Both    contractor   /Skipped
9/29/25   20     9          7          4          78          2
```

23. (AMONG THOSE IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH FED OR CONTRACTOR) Since January 1, 2025, has anyone in your household been laid off, fired or put on leave from a job with the federal government or a federal government contractor?

```
            Yes, someone in my          No, no one in my
          household was laid off,     household was laid off,    No opinion
           fired or put on leave       fired or put on leave     /Skipped
9/29/25 RV         18                          79                   3
```

Q22/Q23 NET:

```
          ---- Households with fed worker/contractor in January ----   No fed    No
              Yes, someone in HH    No, no one in HH        No       worker or   op/
          NET  laid off/fired/leave  laid off/fired/leave  answer   contractor   skp
9/29/25   20          4                    16                1          78        2
```

END

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

Demographics of weighted sample:

	% of Virginia registered voters
Men	47%
Women	53
Identify in another way	*
Age 18-39	32
Age 40-64	40
Age 65+	28

High school or less	28
Some college	26
Bachelor's degree	28
Post-graduate	18
White, non-Hispanic	67
Black, non-Hispanic	18
Asian	7
Hispanic	6
Other/Multiple	2
D.C. suburbs	17
Northern Va. exurbs	19
Central/West Va.	20
Richmond/East Va.	25
Tidewater	19
Party self-identification	
Democrat	31
Republican	32
Independent/Other	35
Voted Harris 2024	37
Voted Trump 2024	33
Other/Did not vote	29

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government. The poll was conducted in English among a random sample of registered voters in Virginia.

This questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Demographic 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 total of 1,002 interviews were completed through a stratified random sample from a database of Virginia registered voters maintained by Aristotle, Inc., in which voters were matched to landline and cellular phone numbers. All registered voters were assigned a probability of voting to produce results among likely voters based on analysis of past election polls estimating the relationship between past turnout and self-reported likelihood of voting and future election turnout. The overall sample size for likely voters is the same as registered voters (1,002).

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for deviations in the survey sample from known population characteristics, which helps correct for differential survey participation and random variation in samples.

The sample was weighted to match population estimates for the demographic makeup of Virginia registered voters, as detailed in the table below.

	Source of weighting benchmarks
Weighting factors	**Registered voter sample**

Education Race/Ethnicity White X College degree	2020-2022 Current Population Survey (CPS) voting and registration supplement
Gender by age group Inferred party identification 2020 Presidential turnout by vote method Frequent general election turnout vs. others (2020, 2022 and 2024)	Aristotle voter file
Virginia regions 2024 Presidential vote choice	Virginia Dept. of Elections

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.2. 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.

For Q7, open-ended responses were combined and coded by BTInsights, an AI open-end coding software that sorted responses into similar categories. Each response was then reviewed by a Post polling team member to ensure it was accurately categorized, if necessary, recategorized. Category names were also edited after a review of all codes within each group.

Contact polls@washpost.com for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.

The Washington Post is a charter member of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative, which recognizes organizations that disclose key methodological details on the research they produce.