



October 6, 2025

***Spanberger Leads Earle-Sears by 10 Points in the Race for Governor;  
Hashmi Leads Reid by 9 points in Lt. Governor Contest; Jones Leads  
Miyares by 6 Points in Attorney General Race***

**Summary of Key Findings**

- 1. Democrat Abigail Spanberger leads Republican Winsome Earle-Sears by 10 points, 52% to 42% among Virginia likely voters; 6% remain undecided or don't know.**
- 2. In the Lieutenant Governor race, Democrat Ghazala Hashmi leads Republican John Reid by 9 points among Virginia likely voters, 48% to 39%; 12% say they are undecided or don't know.**
- 3. In the race for Attorney General, Democrat Jay Jones leads Incumbent Republican Jason Miyares by 6 points among Virginia likely voters, 49% to 43%; 9% say they are undecided or don't know.**
- 4. Top of mind issues for Virginia likely voters include threats to democracy (19%), inflation (18%), immigration (10%), and healthcare (10%).**
- 5. Virginia likely voters say Spanberger would do a better job than Earle-Sears handling climate change (+26), reproductive rights (+20), health care (+18), transgender policy (+13), K-12 education (+12), threats to democracy (+10), inflation (+9), federal workforce reductions (+8), and gun policy (+7), immigration (+6), taxes (+4) and crime (+2).**
- 6. 50% of Virginia likely voters approve of Governor Youngkin's job performance while 42% disapprove; 8% say they don't know. President Trump's approval remains underwater with 41% of Virginia likely voters saying they approve of President Trump's job performance while 56% disapprove; 3% say they don't know.**

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**Summary and Background:** Early voting is well underway in the Commonwealth of Virginia and Election Day is just over 4 weeks out, Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup>. We surveyed Virginia likely voters on their vote choice for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and a generic ballot for the VA House of Delegates. We also asked about top-of-mind policy issues and which gubernatorial candidate voters believe will handle a range of policy issues best.

14% of the Virginia likely voters we surveyed indicate they have already voted in the Virginia elections and there is some variation by partisanship; 19% of Democrats say they have already voted compared to 13% of Independents and 8% of Republicans. While Democrats have traditionally used early/mail in voting more frequently than Republicans, the Republican Party has promoted early voting more heavily in recent elections, which is likely reflected in these results. Overall, the statewide races have slightly tightened since our last survey, released September 18<sup>th</sup>, though differences generally remain within the margin of error (+/-3.9%). The Wason Center will survey these races one more time before Election Day to capture any final shifts in expected voting behavior and issue importance.

**Enthusiasm:** Virginia likely voters remain enthusiastic to vote in the upcoming elections, staying nearly steady from our last poll. 86% indicate they are either very enthusiastic (55%) or somewhat enthusiastic (31%). Enthusiasm between Republicans and Democrats has tightened since our last survey with 61% of Democrats indicating they are very enthusiastic compared to 59% of Republicans and 48% of Independents; September 18<sup>th</sup> numbers were 69% (D), 56% (R) and 42% (I) respectively.

**Favorability ratings for candidates running for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General:** We ask Virginia likely voters whether they have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the respective candidates running for statewide office in Virginia.

Looking to the candidates for Virginia governor, overall, Democratic candidate and former Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger has a +5 favorability rating (43% favorable to 38% unfavorable) with 18% indicating they have no opinion/don't know. Current Lieutenant Governor and Republican Winsome Earle-Sears has a -1 favorability rating (38% favorable to 39% unfavorable); 23% say no opinion/don't know.

Candidates for Lieutenant Governor are still not particularly well-known among Virginia likely voters, though awareness has increased slightly from our previous poll. Republican candidate John Reid has a -1 favorability rating (15% favorable to 16% unfavorable), though a large percentage (69%) say they do not know enough about him to have an opinion. State Sen. Ghazala Hashmi has a +3 favorability rating (19% favorable to 16% unfavorable); 65% say no opinion/don't know.

Incumbent Attorney General Jason Miyares has a +7 favorability rating (31% favorable to 24% unfavorable) with 46% saying no opinion/don't know. Democratic candidate Jay Jones has a +2 favorability rating (28% favorable to 26% unfavorable); 45% indicate no opinion/don't know.

**Gubernatorial Vote Choice:** Among Virginia likely voters Spanberger leads Earle-Sears by 10 points, 52% to 42%, with 6% saying they are undecided/don't know.

Spanberger's support is currently driven by Democratic voters (98%), Independents (49% to 37%), Black voters (80% to 12%), women (60% to 34%), voters aged 18-44 (50% to 41%), and voters with college degrees (61% to 33%).

Earle-Sears' support within her own party sits at 95% and she holds a lead among white voters (52% to 43%), male voters (51% to 42%), and voters without college degrees (50% to 44%).

**Lieutenant Governor Vote Choice:** Virginia State Sen. Ghazala Hashmi holds a 9-point lead among Virginia likely voters against Republican John Reid (48% to 39%); 12% remain undecided/don't know, while 1% say they will vote for someone else.

Hashmi has an advantage among Independents (+12), women (+25), Black voters (+60), and voters with a college degree (+27). Reid's support comes primarily from fellow Republicans at 91%, white voters (+8), male voters (+11), and voters without college degrees (+9).

**Attorney General Vote Choice:** Democrat Jay Jones holds a 6 point lead over Incumbent Attorney General Jason Miyares among Virginia likely voters (49% to 43%); 9% remain undecided/don't know.

Jones' lead is bolstered by support from Democrats (96%), Independents (45% to 40%), women voters (58% to 34%), Black voters (77% to 13%), younger voters (47% to 44%), and voters with college degrees (58% to 33%). Miyares has support among Republicans (94%), Male voters (52% to 39%), white voters (52% to 41%), and voters without college degrees (52% to 41%).

**Generic Ballot Vote Choice, House of Delegates:** We asked Virginia likely voters which party's candidate they are more likely to vote for in their House of Delegates district. The Democratic Party has a 7-point advantage over the Republican Party (51% to 44%) on this generic ballot question.

**Key issues:** Virginia likely voters are asked which issue is top of mind when they think about voting in the upcoming elections. 19% say threats to democracy, followed by 18% who say inflation/cost of living and an even split between healthcare (10%) and immigration (10%).

There have been some shifts on top issues since our last survey with threats to democracy very narrowly overtaking inflation as the top issue and healthcare overtaking K-12 education and crime.

Top of mind issues vary by party with Republicans fairly split between inflation/cost of living (21%), immigration (21%) and crime (15%). Top issues among Democrats include threats to democracy (36%), healthcare (16%), and inflation/cost of living (15%). Most

Independents say threats to democracy (20%), followed by inflation/cost of living (19%), and healthcare (11%).

**Handling of key issues:** We also ask Virginia likely voters whether they think gubernatorial candidates Winsome Earle-Sears or Abigail Spanberger would do a better job handling a series of policy issues. Spanberger comes out ahead of Earle-Sears on all 12 policy issues, albeit very narrowly on some. More specifically, Virginia likely voters say Spanberger would do a better job than Earle-Sears handling climate change (+26), reproductive rights (+20), health care (+18), transgender policy (+13), K-12 education (+12), threats to democracy (+10), inflation (+9), federal workforce reductions (+8), and gun policy (+7), immigration (+6), taxes (+4) and crime (+2).

**Gubernatorial and Presidential Approval:** Governor Youngkin's job approval among Virginia likely voters is a net +8 with 50% saying they approve of his job performance while 42% disapprove; 8% say they don't know. Gubernatorial approval falls largely along partisan lines, with 94% of Republicans saying they approve of Governor Youngkin's job performance, while 81% of Democrats disapprove; 50% of Independents say they approve relative to 38% who disapprove.

President Trump's approval rating remains underwater (-15) with 41% saying they approve of the way he is handling his job as president compared to 56% who disapprove; 3% say they don't know.

PLAN: As you may know, elections for governor and other Virginia races are coming up. Do you yourself plan to vote in the general election this November, have you already voted, or do you not plan to vote?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Plan to vote	85	90	87	81
Already voted	14	8	13	19
DK/ref (vol)	1	2	0	0

ENTH: And how enthusiastic would you say you are about voting in the elections this fall? Would you say you are...

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Non-College	College
Very Enthusiastic	55	59	48	61	54	56	57	55	39	61	52	59
Somewhat Enthusiastic	31	27	34	28	30	32	31	28	39	28	32	29
Less Enthusiastic	6	8	6	5	6	6	6	8	7	6	6	6
Not Enthusiastic	7	5	11	5	8	6	6	9	13	5	9	4
Dk/ref (vol)	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2

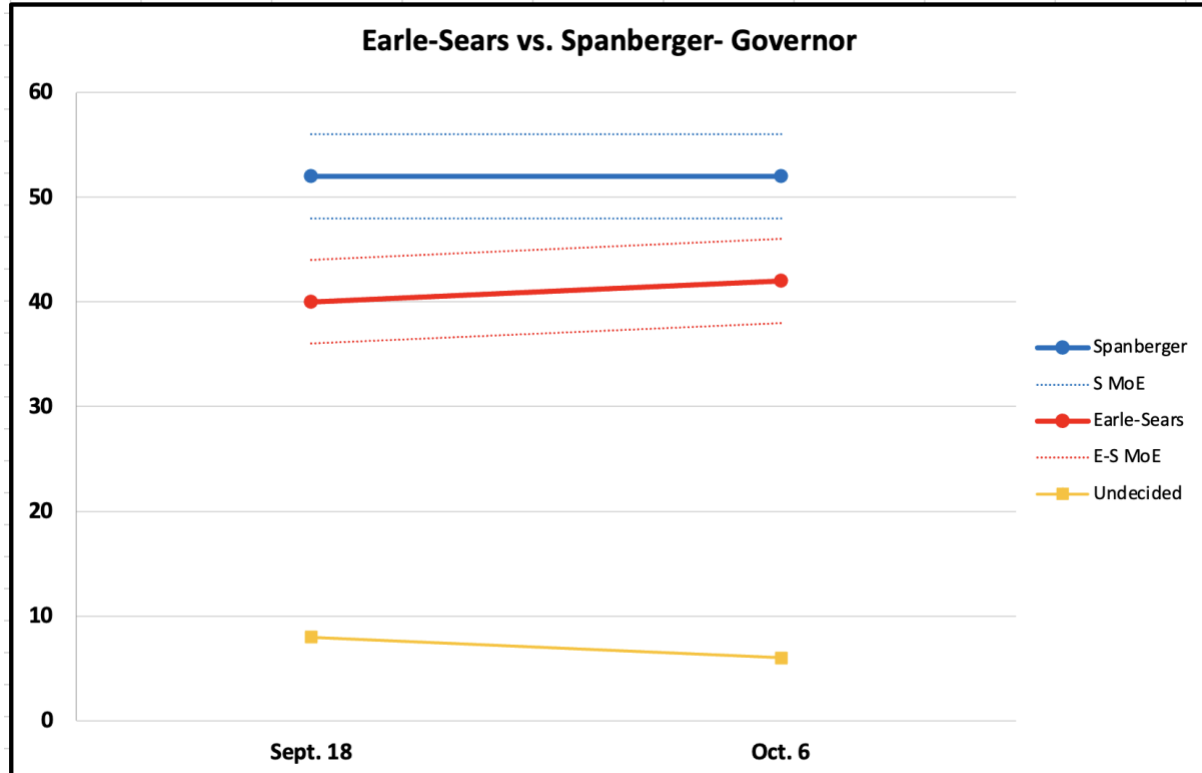
Q4: Two candidates are running for governor of Virginia. As I read their names, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of them, or if you don't know enough about them to have an opinion [ROTATE A-B].

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No Opinion	Don't Know
Winsome Earle-Sears	38	39	15	8
Abigail Spanberger	43	38	12	6

Q6: Thinking about the election for governor ... if the election were held TODAY would you vote for [INSERT NAME, RANDOMIZE]? [INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	White	Black	18-44	45+	Non-College	College
Winsome Earle-Sears, the Republican	42	95	37	0	51	34	52	12	41	42	50	33
Abigail Spanberger, the Democrat	52	3	49	98	42	60	43	80	50	53	44	61
Someone else (vol)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Undecided (vol)	4	2	7	1	5	3	3	7	8	2	4	4
Dk/Ref (vol.)	2	1	6	0	2	3	2	1	0	3	3	2

This figure tracks any changes in vote choice from our first survey on September 18 through this second survey, with margin of error bands placed around each candidate's share of the vote.



Q7: Two candidates are running for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. As I read their names, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of them, or if you don't know enough about them to have an opinion [ROTATE A-B].

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No Opinion	Don't Know
John Reid	15	16	46	23
Ghazala Hashmi	19	16	43	22

Q9: Thinking about the election for lieutenant governor ... if the election were held TODAY would you vote for [INSERT NAME, RANDOMIZE 1-2]? [INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH]: Which one are you leaning toward right now?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Non-College	College
John Reid, the Republican	39	91	31	1	49	31	49	11	38	40	48	30
Ghazala Hashmi, the Democrat	48	1	43	96	38	56	41	71	47	48	39	57
Someone else (vol)	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Undecided (vol)	8	4	17	3	8	8	6	13	10	7	8	8
Don't know/refuse (vol)	4	3	8	0	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	3

Q10: Two candidates are running for Attorney General of Virginia. As I read their names, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of them, or if you don't know enough about them to have an opinion [ROTATE A-B].

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No Opinion	Don't Know
Jason Miyares	31	24	30	16
Jay Jones	28	26	30	15

Q12: Thinking about the election for attorney general ... if the election were held TODAY would you vote for [RANDOMIZE 1-2]? [INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH]: Which one are you leaning toward right now?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Non-College	College
Jason Miyares, the Republican	43	94	40	1	52	34	52	13	44	42	52	33
Jay Jones, the Democrat	49	2	45	96	39	58	41	77	47	50	41	58
Someone else (vol)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Undecided (vol)	5	2	9	1	5	4	4	5	5	4	3	6
Don't know/refuse	4	2	5	2	3	4	3	5	4	3	4	3

Q13: As you may know, all of Virginia's House of Delegates seats are up for election this fall. If the election were held TODAY, which party's candidate are you more likely to vote for in your district [ROTATE 1 and 2]?

The Republican Party's candidate	44
The Democratic Party's candidate	51
Other (vol)	1
Don't know/refuse (vol)	5

Q14: From the following list of issues, which is top of mind for you when you think about voting in the upcoming elections? [RANDOMIZE 1-11]

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Non-College	College
Cost of living/Inflation	18	21	19	15	19	18	18	25	21	17	22	15
Health care	10	2	11	16	8	12	7	20	9	10	12	8
K-12 Education	8	8	8	10	6	10	8	10	12	7	6	11
Immigration	10	21	7	3	11	9	12	3	11	10	13	8
Crime	7	15	6	3	8	7	7	5	6	8	7	7
Climate change	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
Gun policy	5	7	4	4	8	2	6	3	6	5	6	3
Reproductive rights	5	2	6	5	2	7	5	4	7	4	2	7
Threats to democracy	19	2	20	36	19	20	21	13	16	21	12	28
Taxes	6	9	7	1	6	5	6	6	4	6	7	5
Federal workforce reductions	3	1	4	4	3	2	1	6	2	3	3	2
Transgender policy	3	6	3	0	5	1	4	1	1	3	4	1
Other (vol): _____	3	3	3	3	2	5	3	2	2	4	4	3
Don't know/ref (vol)	2	1	3	1	3	2	1	3	3	2	3	2

Q15: Regardless of how you intend to vote, which candidate for governor do you think would do a better job handling each of the following issues: Do you think Winsome Earle-Sears or Abigail Spanberger would do a better job handling... [RANDOMIZE A-L]

A. Cost of living/inflation

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	40	88	39	1
Abigail Spanberger	49	2	47	95
Dk/Ref (vol.)	11	9	14	4

B. Health care

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	36	82	32	1
Abigail Spanberger	54	9	53	98
Dk/Ref (vol.)	10	9	15	1

C. K-12 education

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	39	87	37	2
Abigail Spanberger	51	7	48	96
Dk/Ref (vol.)	10	7	15	3

D. Immigration

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	43	93	42	2
Abigail Spanberger	49	3	46	96
Dk/Ref (vol.)	8	5	12	2

E. Crime

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	45	93	48	3
Abigail Spanberger	47	4	41	93
Dk/Ref (vol.)	8	3	11	4

F. Climate change

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	31	71	25	1
Abigail Spanberger	57	17	58	96
Dk/Ref (vol.)	12	12	17	3

G. Gun policy

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	42	89	44	3
Abigail Spanberger	49	4	46	94
Dk/Ref (vol.)	9	7	11	4



#### H. Reproductive rights

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	35	78	32	1
Abigail Spanberger	55	13	55	97
Dk/Ref (vol.)	10	9	14	2

#### I. Threats to democracy

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	40	89	38	3
Abigail Spanberger	50	5	50	95
Dk/Ref (vol.)	9	6	12	3

#### J. Taxes

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	43	91	44	3
Abigail Spanberger	47	3	46	92
Dk/Ref (vol.)	10	6	10	6

#### K. Federal workforce reductions

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	39	83	37	5
Abigail Spanberger	47	5	46	90
Dk/Ref (vol.)	13	12	17	6

#### L. Transgender policy

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Winsome Earle-Sears	37	80	36	3
Abigail Spanberger	50	12	47	91
Dk/Ref (vol.)	13	9	18	6

Q16: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Glenn Youngkin is handling his job as Governor of Virginia? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Glenn Youngkin is handling his job as Governor? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Non-College	College
Approve	50	94	50	13	59	43	58	29	52	50	59	41
Disapprove	42	3	38	81	35	48	36	58	39	43	33	52
Don't know/refused (vol)	8	3	11	7	5	10	6	13	9	7	8	8

Q17: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Non-College	College
Approve	41	94	33	0	50	32	50	9	37	42	50	30
Disapprove	56	5	59	100	46	65	47	84	59	55	47	66
Don't know/refused (vol)	3	2	8	0	4	3	2	7	3	3	3	4

## Demographics Full Survey n= 805

EDUC: Could you tell me the highest level of school or college you had the opportunity to complete:

High school or less	52
College or more	48

HISPANIC: Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino?

Yes	5
No	93
DK/ref	1

RACE: Do you consider yourself to be:

White	72
Black or African American	19
Other	9

RELIG: What is your religious preference, are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, another religion, or no religion?

Protestant	41
Christian (non-specific)	18
Catholic	14
Jewish	2
Muslim	1
Other	4
None	18
Dk/ref (vol)	3

IDEOL: When it comes to your ideology, would you consider yourself to be a...

Very liberal	7
Liberal	19
Moderate	32
Conservative	29
Very Conservative	9
Dk/ref(vol)	4

PARTY: In politics today, do you generally consider yourself to be a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

Republican	32
Democrat	35
Independent	28
Other Party	0
No Preference (vol)	2
DK/ref (vol)	2

PARTYLN

Lean Republican	13
Lean Democrat	13
Independent	5
Dk/ref (vol)	3

AGE: (Recorded as exact year of birth)

18-24	3
25-34	6
35-44	18
45-54	13
55+	61

INCOME: And, just for statistical purposes, in which of the following categories does your family income fall?

Under \$25,000	4
\$25-\$49,999	11
\$50-\$74,999	16
\$75-\$99,999	15
\$100,000-\$149,999	20
Over \$150,000	25
Dk/ref (vol)	9

SEX:

Male	47
Female	53

CELL/LANDLINE

Cell	80
Landline	20

REGION

Northern	30
Richmond-Central	21
Hampton Roads-East	22
South/Southwest/West	27

## **How the survey was conducted**

The results of this survey are based on 805 interviews of registered Virginia voters who are likely general election voters, including 165 on landline and 640 on cell phone, conducted Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, 2025. A likely general election voter is one who has voted in at least two of the last four general elections and indicates they plan to vote in the upcoming elections. The margin of error for the whole survey is  $\pm 3.9\%$  at the 95% level of confidence. This means that if 50% of respondents indicate a topline view on an issue, we can be 95% confident that the population's view on that issue is somewhere between 46.1% and 53.9%. The margin of error for subgroups may be higher. All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.3 in 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. In addition to sampling error, the other potential sources of error include non-response, question wording, and interviewer error. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. Five callbacks were employed in the fielding process. Live calling was conducted by Dynata interviewers. The data reported here are weighted using an iterative (raked) weighting process on region, age, race, sex, and education to reflect as closely as possible the expected makeup of the November 4, 2025 Virginia electorate. Parameters for the weights used in this survey come from the 2020 Census, the 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, and the last two gubernatorial-year exit polls.