

This Washington Post-Schar School poll was conducted by telephone October 16-20, 2025, among a random sample of 927 registered voters in Virginia, with 69 percent reached by live callers on cellphones, 18 percent on landlines and 13 percent cellphone text-to-web. Results among both registered and likely voters have a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 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.
10/20/25	RV	62	13	7	3	2	12	1
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	*

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. 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
10/20/25	LV	42	54	1	1	2
9/29/25	LV	43	55	*	1	2
10/20/25	RV	40	53	2	3	3
9/29/25	RV	40	53	2	2	3

3. 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
10/20/25	LV	46	46	1	4	3
9/29/25	LV	45	51	*	1	3
10/20/25	RV	44	44	3	6	3
9/29/25	RV	42	48	2	4	3

*Includes respondents who volunteered "Other"

4. 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
10/20/25	LV	44	51	1	2	2
9/29/25	LV	45	49	*	2	3
10/20/25	RV	42	48	3	5	2

9/29/25 RV 42 47 2 4 4

5. 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].

10/20/25 - Summary table among registered voters in Virginia

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion	Skipped
a. Winsome Earle-Sears	37	44	19	*
b. Abigail Spanberger	51	36	13	*
c. Jason Miyares	38	32	29	*
d. Jay Jones	30	45	24	1

(Items shown first in random order, items c-d shown second in random order)

Trend:

a. Winsome Earle-Sears

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion	Skipped
10/20/25 RV	37	44	19	*
9/29/25 RV	38	42	19	1

b. Abigail Spanberger

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion	Skipped
10/20/25 RV	51	36	13	*
9/29/25 RV	50	37	13	*

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

	10/20/25	9/29/25
Economy/Cost of living/Jobs/Housing	18	19
Anti-Republican/Trump/MAGA or pro-Democrat	12	12
Honesty/Other personal positive qualities	10	8
NET Education/Schools	8	11
<i>Education in general</i>	4	7
<i>Policies about transgender students</i>	3	4
Pro Republican/anti-Democratic	5	7
Abortion	4	5
Taxes	4	4
Healthcare accessibility and affordability	3	4
Civil rights and anti-discrimination	3	5
Crime and safety	3	3
Democracy	3	3
Immigration and border control	2	3
Gun policy	2	1
Values/Morality/Family	2	NA
Focused on Virginia/Residents' well-being	2	NA
Helping poor/middle class instead of rich	1	NA
Government shutdown/Treatment of fed workers	1	NA

Effective governing/Moderation/Bipartisanship	1	NA
Jay Jones text messages	1	NA
Other	10	12
Not sure/No answer	5	5

7. 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
10/20/25 RV	42	24	18	57	9	47	1
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

8. Democratic attorney general candidate Jay Jones sent text messages in 2022 about Virginia Republican lawmaker Todd Gilbert. One message said "Three people, Two bullets. Gilbert, Hitler, and Pol Pot. Gilbert gets two bullets to the head." After the texts became public, Jones apologized and said he believes violent rhetoric has no place in our politics. Do you think Jones should (drop out of the race) for attorney general, or should he (continue his candidacy)?

	Should drop out	Continue his candidacy	No opinion/Skipped
10/20/25	51	41	8

9. Democratic candidate for governor Abigail Spanberger said Jones's text messages were "absolutely abhorrent" but has not called on Jones to drop out of the attorney general's race, saying it's up to voters to make their decision. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Spanberger has handled this situation?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion/Skipped
10/20/25	54	41	5

10. How much, if at all, do you think each of the following encourages politically-motivated violence in the U.S.?

10/20/25 - Summary table among registered voters in Virginia

	A lot	A little	Not much	No opinion/Skipped
a. Jay Jones's text messages	38	25	31	6
b. The way Democratic leaders talk about politics	38	21	38	3
c. The way Trump talks about politics	51	20	27	2
d. The way people talk about politics on social media	58	24	11	7

(Item a. was shown first and item d. was shown last; b and c shown in random order)

END

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

Demographics of weighted sample:

	% of Virginia registered voters
Men	47%
Women	52
Identify in another way	*
Age 18-39	35
Age 40-64	40
Age 65+	25
High school or less	27
Some college	25
Bachelor's degree	28
Post-graduate	19
White, non-Hispanic	67
Black, non-Hispanic	18
Asian	6
Hispanic	6
Other/Multiple	2
D.C. suburbs	17
Northern Va. exurbs	19
Central/West Va.	20
Richmond/East Va.	25
Tidewater	19
<i>Party self-identification</i>	
Democrat	27
Republican	29
Independent/Other	41
No opinion/Skipped	4
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 parentheses within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents.

A total of 927 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 (927).

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	2020-2024 Current Population Survey (CPS) voting and registration supplement
Gender by age group Inferred party identification 2024 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 Q6, 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.

