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**IF YOU HAVE BASIC METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL [information@publicpolicypolling.com](mailto:information@publicpolicypolling.com), OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

## Obama leads by 3 in Virginia

**Raleigh, N.C.** -- PPP's newest Virginia poll finds Barack Obama leading Mitt Romney 50-47 in the state, down from a 51-46 advantage three weeks ago. This is the closest we've found the race in Virginia the entire cycle, but Obama continues to find himself at the critical 50% mark in a state where Romney probably can't afford to lose.

Romney's performance in the debate on Wednesday seems to have helped his image with Virginia voters. They think he won the debate by a 61/28 margin, including 71/17 with independents. Compared to our last poll he's seen a 10 point gain in his net favorability rating from -2 at 47/49 in mid-September to now +8 at 52/44. The problem for Romney is that most of that gain has come with Democrats, from 6/90 to 21/76. But still only 8% of those Democrats are actually *voting* for Romney. Much of the improvement in Romney's image is people going from hating Romney and voting for Obama to respecting Romney but still voting for Obama.

The reason the race hasn't moved much despite the improvement in Romney's image is that Obama's held steady over the last three weeks in spite of his poor debate performance. 3 weeks ago 50% of Virginians approved of him and 48% disapproved. Now 50% of Virginians approve of him and 48% disapprove. There's been no movement whatsoever in perceptions of his job performance.

Obama leads Romney 52-44 with women while keeping things about equal with men, trailing Romney just 49-48. Romney's up 57-40 with white voters, but would need to win them by a lot more than that to overcome Obama's 90-8 lead with African Americans and 59-34 advantage with other nonwhite voters. The future is looking bright for Democrats in Virginia with voters under 45 supporting Obama 59-38. The race is only close overall because of a 55-43 advantage for Romney with seniors.

"We've been calling Virginia Obama's firewall state the entire cycle and this is just more evidence for it," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "Even after one of his worst weeks of the campaign Obama continues to hold the lead there."

PPP surveyed 725 likely Virginia voters from October 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error for the overall survey is +/-3.7%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



## Virginia Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 50%  
*Disapprove*..... 48%  
*Not sure* ..... 2%

**Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

*Favorable*..... 52%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 44%  
*Not sure* ..... 4%

**Q3** The candidates for President are Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

*Barack Obama*..... 50%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 47%  
*Undecided*..... 3%

**Q4** Do you trust Barack Obama or Mitt Romney more on the issue of the economy?

*Barack Obama*..... 50%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 47%  
*Not sure* ..... 3%

**Q5** Do you trust Barack Obama or Mitt Romney more on the issue of foreign policy?

*Barack Obama*..... 51%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 46%  
*Not sure* ..... 3%

**Q6** Who do you think won the debate between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney this week?

*Barack Obama*..... 28%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 61%  
*Not sure*..... 11%

**Q7** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Virgil Goode?

*Favorable*..... 13%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 29%  
*Not sure* ..... 58%

**Q8** If the candidates for President this fall were Democrat Barack Obama, Republican Mitt Romney, Libertarian Gary Johnson, Constitution Party candidate Virgil Goode, and Green Party candidate Jill Stein, who would you vote for?

*Barack Obama*..... 48%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 44%  
*Gary Johnson* ..... 4%  
*Virgil Goode* ..... 1%  
*Jill Stein* ..... 0%  
*Undecided*..... 2%

**Q9** Are you very excited, somewhat excited, or not at all excited about voting in the 2012 elections?

*Very excited* ..... 65%  
*Somewhat excited* ..... 23%  
*Not at all excited* ..... 12%

**Q10** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Big Bird?

*Favorable*..... 56%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 10%  
*Not sure*..... 34%





**Q11** Do you support or oppose federal funding for PBS?

*Support*..... 55%  
*Oppose*..... 35%  
*Not sure*..... 11%

**Q12** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

*Very liberal*..... 15%  
*Somewhat liberal*..... 19%  
*Moderate*..... 27%  
*Somewhat conservative*..... 27%  
*Very conservative*..... 13%

**Q13** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman*..... 53%  
*Man*..... 47%

**Q14** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

*Democrat*..... 38%  
*Republican*..... 32%  
*Independent/Other*..... 30%

**Q15** If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

*White*..... 75%  
*African-American*..... 18%  
*Other*..... 7%

**Q16** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45 years old, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 12%  
*30 to 45*..... 24%  
*46 to 65*..... 42%  
*Older than 65*..... 22%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>						
<b>Approve</b>	50%	73%	85%	60%	20%	15%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	25%	11%	37%	79%	85%
<b>Not sure</b>	2%	2%	4%	3%	1%	-

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Romney Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	52%	27%	27%	41%	79%	79%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	44%	70%	68%	53%	18%	19%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	2%	5%	6%	3%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Romney</b>						
<b>Barack Obama</b>	50%	81%	85%	60%	18%	13%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	47%	17%	10%	38%	79%	84%
<b>Undecided</b>	3%	2%	5%	2%	3%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Trust More on Econ.?</b>						
<b>Barack Obama</b>	50%	75%	85%	59%	19%	12%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	47%	22%	9%	37%	79%	86%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	3%	6%	4%	2%	1%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Trust More on Foreign Policy?</b>						
Barack Obama	51%	74%	86%	61%	21%	13%
Mitt Romney	46%	21%	9%	37%	75%	86%
Not sure	3%	5%	4%	2%	4%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Who Won Debate?</b>						
Barack Obama	28%	52%	41%	28%	12%	12%
Mitt Romney	61%	34%	40%	57%	83%	87%
Not sure	11%	15%	19%	15%	6%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Goode Favorability</b>						
Favorable	13%	15%	11%	12%	13%	15%
Unfavorable	29%	31%	32%	26%	28%	32%
Not sure	58%	54%	56%	62%	60%	53%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Romney/Johnson/Goode/Stein</b>						
Barack Obama	48%	75%	81%	58%	18%	10%
Mitt Romney	44%	17%	10%	35%	76%	78%
Gary Johnson	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%
Virgil Goode	1%	1%	-	0%	1%	5%
Jill Stein	0%	-	1%	-	0%	-
Undecided	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>						
<b>Very excited</b>	<b>65%</b>	68%	73%	52%	67%	76%
<b>Somewhat excited</b>	<b>23%</b>	18%	15%	37%	23%	12%
<b>Not at all excited</b>	<b>12%</b>	13%	12%	11%	10%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Big Bird Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>56%</b>	66%	75%	59%	49%	24%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>10%</b>	3%	6%	5%	14%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>34%</b>	31%	19%	36%	37%	49%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Support/Oppose Fed. PBS Funding</b>						
<b>Support</b>	<b>55%</b>	73%	83%	65%	32%	18%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>35%</b>	18%	10%	19%	58%	69%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>11%</b>	9%	7%	16%	10%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	<b>50%</b>	53%	47%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>48%</b>	46%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>2%</b>	2%	2%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	52%	50%	53%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	44%	45%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	4%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	50%	52%	48%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	47%	44%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	3%	3%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Trust More on Econ.?</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	50%	51%	47%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	47%	45%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	4%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Trust More on Foreign Policy?</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	52%	49%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	46%	44%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	4%	3%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Who Won Debate ?</b>			
Barack Obama	28%	32%	22%
Mitt Romney	61%	54%	69%
Not sure	11%	13%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Goode Favorability</b>			
Favorable	13%	11%	15%
Unfavorable	29%	24%	35%
Not sure	58%	65%	50%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Romney/Johnson/Goode/Stein</b>			
Barack Obama	48%	51%	45%
Mitt Romney	44%	42%	47%
Gary Johnson	4%	4%	4%
Virgil Goode	1%	0%	2%
Jill Stein	0%	-	1%
Undecided	2%	2%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>			
Very excited	65%	65%	66%
Somewhat excited	23%	22%	25%
Not at all excited	12%	13%	10%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Big Bird Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	56%	55%	57%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	10%	9%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	35%	32%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Support/Oppose Fed. PBS Funding</b>			
<b>Support</b>	55%	57%	52%
<b>Oppose</b>	35%	31%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	11%	12%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	50%	88%	8%	47%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	10%	91%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	2%	1%	1%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	52%	21%	87%	51%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	44%	76%	9%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	3%	3%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	50%	91%	7%	46%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	47%	8%	92%	46%
<b>Undecided</b>	3%	1%	1%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Trust More on Econ.?</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	50%	89%	7%	46%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	47%	10%	91%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	2%	2%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Trust More on Foreign Policy?</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	89%	8%	49%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	46%	9%	89%	46%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	3%	3%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Who Won Debate?</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	28%	56%	4%	17%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	61%	26%	93%	71%
<b>Not sure</b>	11%	18%	3%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Goode Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	12%	13%	14%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	29%	29%	29%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	58%	59%	59%	56%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Romney/Johnson/Goode/Stein</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	48%	88%	6%	44%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	44%	7%	90%	41%
<b>Gary Johnson</b>	4%	4%	2%	7%
<b>Virgil Goode</b>	1%	-	-	3%
<b>Jill Stein</b>	0%	-	-	1%
<b>Undecided</b>	2%	1%	2%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>				
<b>Very excited</b>	65%	70%	70%	55%
<b>Somewhat excited</b>	23%	21%	19%	31%
<b>Not at all excited</b>	12%	10%	11%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Big Bird Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	56%	67%	41%	58%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	10%	6%	15%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	28%	44%	32%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Support/Oppose Fed. PBS Funding</b>				
<b>Support</b>	55%	82%	20%	55%
<b>Oppose</b>	35%	10%	64%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	11%	8%	16%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	50%	40%	90%	60%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	58%	8%	39%
<b>Not sure</b>	2%	2%	2%	1%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	52%	62%	13%	40%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	44%	35%	80%	57%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	3%	7%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	50%	40%	90%	59%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	47%	57%	8%	34%
<b>Undecided</b>	3%	3%	2%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Trust More on Econ.?</b>				
Barack Obama	50%	39%	87%	59%
Mitt Romney	47%	58%	10%	34%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	7%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Trust More on Foreign Policy?</b>				
Barack Obama	51%	41%	90%	57%
Mitt Romney	46%	56%	9%	35%
Not sure	3%	3%	1%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Who Won Debate?</b>				
Barack Obama	28%	17%	62%	47%
Mitt Romney	61%	72%	24%	45%
Not sure	11%	11%	14%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Goode Favorability</b>				
Favorable	13%	12%	16%	11%
Unfavorable	29%	29%	26%	41%
Not sure	58%	59%	58%	48%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Romney/Johnson/Goode/Stein</b>				
Barack Obama	48%	37%	90%	56%
Mitt Romney	44%	54%	8%	34%
Gary Johnson	4%	4%	2%	9%
Virgil Goode	1%	1%	1%	-
Jill Stein	0%	0%	-	-
Undecided	2%	3%	-	2%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>				
Very excited	65%	63%	73%	71%
Somewhat excited	23%	25%	20%	13%
Not at all excited	12%	12%	7%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Big Bird Favorability</b>				
Favorable	56%	56%	60%	49%
Unfavorable	10%	9%	15%	12%
Not sure	34%	36%	25%	39%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Support/Oppose Fed. PBS Funding</b>				
Support	55%	50%	77%	47%
Oppose	35%	40%	12%	37%
Not sure	11%	10%	11%	16%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>50%</b>	55%	56%	50%	42%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>48%</b>	43%	39%	49%	56%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>2%</b>	2%	4%	1%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>52%</b>	66%	39%	51%	58%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>44%</b>	32%	54%	45%	40%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>4%</b>	2%	6%	4%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Romney</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>50%</b>	61%	57%	47%	43%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>47%</b>	36%	39%	49%	55%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>3%</b>	2%	3%	4%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Trust More on Econ.?</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>50%</b>	57%	56%	47%	42%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>47%</b>	41%	40%	50%	53%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>3%</b>	2%	3%	3%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Trust More on Foreign Policy?</b>					
Barack Obama	51%	52%	60%	49%	44%
Mitt Romney	46%	41%	39%	48%	52%
Not sure	3%	7%	1%	3%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Who Won Debate?</b>					
Barack Obama	28%	41%	37%	24%	16%
Mitt Romney	61%	45%	52%	66%	71%
Not sure	11%	14%	11%	10%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Goode Favorability</b>					
Favorable	13%	19%	17%	11%	9%
Unfavorable	29%	23%	29%	29%	32%
Not sure	58%	58%	54%	60%	58%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Romney/Johnson/Goode/Stein</b>					
Barack Obama	48%	55%	54%	45%	43%
Mitt Romney	44%	32%	35%	49%	53%
Gary Johnson	4%	11%	6%	3%	1%
Virgil Goode	1%	-	2%	1%	-
Jill Stein	0%	-	-	1%	0%
Undecided	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Voter Enthusiasm</b>					
<b>Very excited</b>	<b>65%</b>	57%	68%	68%	62%
<b>Somewhat excited</b>	<b>23%</b>	32%	21%	22%	22%
<b>Not at all excited</b>	<b>12%</b>	11%	11%	10%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Big Bird Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>56%</b>	63%	66%	59%	36%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>10%</b>	6%	14%	9%	9%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>34%</b>	31%	20%	33%	55%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Support/Oppose Fed. PBS Funding</b>					
<b>Support</b>	<b>55%</b>	66%	58%	55%	43%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>35%</b>	22%	37%	36%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>11%</b>	13%	5%	9%	21%

