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Warner, Webb, McDonnell all fairly popular in Virginia

Raleigh, N.C. – New Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell has a 46-34 job approval margin less than two months into his term, putting him just above the middle of the pack of 41 governors on which PPP has polled in the last 14 months or so. Voters' views of McDonnell's job performance have improved slightly from the previous survey in November, when the spread was 44-36. Independents rate him identically to the overall electorate, and 21% of Democrats approve to only 55% disapproving, on top of his 76-8 with his own party. Despite his conservatism, he has managed to not alienate Democrats and independents as much as many Republicans have.

Voters are also looking at Jim Webb more fondly since he announced his impending retirement from the Senate. 48% approve of what he is doing in the upper chamber, with 35% disapproving, a boost from his 43-37 edge a few months ago. Webb now rates just below the upper quartile of senators. More Democrats (75%) approve than Republicans disapprove (63%), and independents rate him at 50-33.

Junior colleague Mark Warner has also become more popular by an identical seven points on the margin, up to a 2:1 approval-disapproval ratio, 58-29, better than his already quite high 54-32 in November. This ties him with New Mexico's Jeff Bingaman for the sixth most popular senator. Warner earns a 59-30 rating from independents, and he does even better among his own base and across the aisle than does McDonnell, getting a 26-56 from the GOP and an 86-5 from Democrats.

Lt. Governor Bill Bolling is decently well-liked, with a 33-26 approval rating. As with the aforementioned figures, he has the recipe for success: 58% of his party approves, and only 43% of Democrats disapprove, and he has a 27-21 grade with independents.

Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli has been more controversial, and therefore is in negative territory, 37-40. He polarizes the two parties, with 62% of the GOP approving and 61% of Democrats disapproving, and independents siding 37-41 against him.

PPP also tested two former statewide and national figures, 2009 gubernatorial primary loser and former DNC chairman Terry McAuliffe, who is pretty unpopular, with a 17-30 favorability rating. Former governor, Richmond mayor, and Senate candidate Doug Wilder has a decent 38-34 rating. Wilder has a -11 margin with independents, and McAuliffe a -21, but twice as many Democrats are fond of Wilder as McAuliffe.

PPP surveyed 524 Virginia voters from February 24th to 27th. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.5%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Virginia Survey Results

- Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Bob McDonnell's job performance?
- Approve 46%
- Disapprove..... 34%
- Not sure 19%
- Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling's job performance?
- Approve 33%
- Disapprove..... 26%
- Not sure 41%
- Q3** Do you approve or disapprove of Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's job performance?
- Approve 37%
- Disapprove..... 40%
- Not sure 23%
- Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Doug Wilder?
- Favorable 38% Not sure 27%
- Unfavorable..... 34%
- Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Terry McAuliffe?
- Favorable 17% Not sure 52%
- Unfavorable..... 30%
- Q6** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Mark Warner's job performance?
- Approve 58%
- Disapprove..... 29%
- Not sure 13%
- Q7** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jim Webb's job performance?
- Approve 48%
- Disapprove..... 35%
- Not sure 16%
- Q8** Who did you vote for President in 2008?
- John McCain..... 44%
- Barack Obama..... 50%
- Someone else/Don't remember 6%
- Q9** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?
- Very liberal..... 11%
- Somewhat liberal 16%
- Moderate..... 32%
- Somewhat conservative..... 25%
- Very conservative 16%
- Q10** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.
- Woman 51%
- Man..... 49%
- Q11** 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 39%
- Republican..... 34%
- Independent/Other..... 27%
- Q12** If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.
- White 76%
- African-American 20%
- Other..... 4%
- Q13** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.
- 18 to 29..... 9%
- 30 to 45..... 27%
- 46 to 65..... 41%
- Older than 65..... 22%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McDonnell Approval				
Approve	46%	78%	20%	41%
Disapprove	34%	11%	57%	14%
Not sure	19%	12%	23%	45%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bolling Approval				
Approve	33%	53%	17%	26%
Disapprove	26%	10%	41%	8%
Not sure	41%	36%	42%	65%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cuccinelli Approval				
Approve	37%	67%	12%	30%
Disapprove	40%	13%	66%	25%
Not sure	23%	20%	22%	45%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Wilder Favorability				
Favorable	38%	19%	57%	25%
Unfavorable	34%	52%	20%	26%
Not sure	27%	29%	23%	49%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McAuliffe Favorability				
Favorable	17%	7%	28%	8%
Unfavorable	30%	37%	25%	25%
Not sure	52%	56%	47%	66%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Warner Approval				
Approve	58%	29%	86%	40%
Disapprove	29%	54%	7%	35%
Not sure	13%	17%	7%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Webb Approval				
Approve	48%	19%	75%	33%
Disapprove	35%	62%	13%	25%
Not sure	16%	18%	12%	42%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McDonnell Approval						
Approve	46%	7%	16%	39%	70%	82%
Disapprove	34%	75%	62%	37%	14%	5%
Not sure	19%	18%	23%	24%	16%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bolling Approval						
Approve	33%	11%	14%	24%	51%	59%
Disapprove	26%	42%	55%	29%	9%	4%
Not sure	41%	47%	31%	47%	40%	37%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cuccinelli Approval						
Approve	37%	4%	11%	23%	60%	77%
Disapprove	40%	61%	73%	51%	17%	8%
Not sure	23%	34%	16%	26%	23%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Wilder Favorability						
Favorable	38%	67%	57%	37%	27%	19%
Unfavorable	34%	10%	25%	29%	46%	53%
Not sure	27%	24%	18%	34%	27%	28%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McAuliffe Favorability						
Favorable	17%	38%	22%	21%	7%	7%
Unfavorable	30%	15%	34%	23%	34%	44%
Not sure	52%	47%	44%	56%	59%	49%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Warner Approval						
Approve	58%	87%	79%	77%	30%	24%
Disapprove	29%	3%	14%	12%	52%	59%
Not sure	13%	10%	7%	11%	18%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Webb Approval						
Approve	48%	74%	65%	68%	24%	11%
Disapprove	35%	9%	24%	18%	57%	66%
Not sure	16%	17%	11%	14%	18%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McDonnell Approval			
Approve	46%	43%	50%
Disapprove	34%	35%	34%
Not sure	19%	22%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bolling Approval			
Approve	33%	29%	38%
Disapprove	26%	24%	27%
Not sure	41%	47%	35%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cuccinelli Approval			
Approve	37%	37%	38%
Disapprove	40%	37%	44%
Not sure	23%	26%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Wilder Favorability			
Favorable	38%	38%	39%
Unfavorable	34%	31%	38%
Not sure	27%	31%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McAuliffe Favorability			
Favorable	17%	15%	20%
Unfavorable	30%	26%	34%
Not sure	52%	59%	46%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Warner Approval			
Approve	58%	64%	52%
Disapprove	29%	24%	35%
Not sure	13%	13%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Webb Approval			
Approve	48%	52%	44%
Disapprove	35%	30%	41%
Not sure	16%	18%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McDonnell Approval				
Approve	46%	21%	76%	46%
Disapprove	34%	57%	8%	34%
Not sure	19%	22%	15%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bolling Approval				
Approve	33%	16%	58%	27%
Disapprove	26%	43%	9%	21%
Not sure	41%	41%	33%	52%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cuccinelli Approval				
Approve	37%	15%	62%	37%
Disapprove	40%	61%	16%	41%
Not sure	23%	24%	22%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Wilder Favorability				
Favorable	38%	60%	20%	29%
Unfavorable	34%	17%	50%	40%
Not sure	27%	23%	30%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McAuliffe Favorability				
Favorable	17%	30%	6%	14%
Unfavorable	30%	22%	38%	33%
Not sure	52%	49%	55%	54%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Warner Approval				
Approve	58%	86%	26%	59%
Disapprove	29%	5%	56%	30%
Not sure	13%	9%	18%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Webb Approval				
Approve	48%	75%	15%	50%
Disapprove	35%	13%	63%	33%
Not sure	16%	12%	21%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McDonnell Approval				
Approve	46%	52%	25%	43%
Disapprove	34%	31%	44%	41%
Not sure	19%	16%	31%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Bolling Approval				
Approve	33%	37%	19%	22%
Disapprove	26%	21%	44%	30%
Not sure	41%	42%	36%	49%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Cuccinelli Approval				
Approve	37%	42%	19%	32%
Disapprove	40%	37%	53%	46%
Not sure	23%	21%	28%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Wilder Favorability				
Favorable	38%	31%	69%	24%
Unfavorable	34%	40%	14%	27%
Not sure	27%	29%	17%	49%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McAuliffe Favorability				
Favorable	17%	15%	25%	19%
Unfavorable	30%	31%	31%	22%
Not sure	52%	54%	44%	59%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Warner Approval				
Approve	58%	53%	78%	62%
Disapprove	29%	34%	11%	24%
Not sure	13%	13%	11%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Webb Approval				
Approve	48%	43%	64%	59%
Disapprove	35%	40%	22%	24%
Not sure	16%	17%	14%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McDonnell Approval					
Approve	46%	41%	40%	50%	50%
Disapprove	34%	50%	32%	35%	30%
Not sure	19%	10%	28%	15%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bolling Approval					
Approve	33%	35%	24%	36%	37%
Disapprove	26%	34%	25%	27%	21%
Not sure	41%	32%	51%	36%	42%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cuccinelli Approval					
Approve	37%	32%	33%	40%	39%
Disapprove	40%	45%	42%	40%	37%
Not sure	23%	23%	25%	20%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Wilder Favorability					
Favorable	38%	41%	30%	41%	42%
Unfavorable	34%	33%	32%	38%	32%
Not sure	27%	26%	39%	21%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McAuliffe Favorability					
Favorable	17%	7%	16%	23%	14%
Unfavorable	30%	47%	24%	28%	34%
Not sure	52%	45%	60%	49%	53%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Warner Approval					
Approve	58%	66%	59%	54%	61%
Disapprove	29%	30%	28%	31%	27%
Not sure	13%	4%	13%	15%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Webb Approval					
Approve	48%	58%	45%	50%	45%
Disapprove	35%	33%	32%	37%	38%
Not sure	16%	8%	23%	14%	17%

