

INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312

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Republicans maintain slight edge for '13 VA Gov race

Raleigh, N.C. – In two and a half months since PPP last polled on it, the picture more than two years out from the next Virginia gubernatorial race is unsurprisingly stagnant. Republicans Bill Bolling, the lieutenant governor, and Ken Cuccinelli, the attorney general, have slightly improved voters' views of them, and still lead somewhat unpopular out-of-office Democrats Terry McAuliffe and Tom Perriello, albeit by slim margins.

Bolling is less known than the controversial Cuccinelli (two-thirds have no opinion of the former but only 35% of the latter), but leads each of the Democrats by two points more than Cuccinelli. Bolling tops McAuliffe, 38-33 (38-34 in May), and Perriello, 39-32 (39-34). But Cuccinelli bests McAuliffe only 41-38 (41-36), and Perriello, 41-36 (41-37).

The difference is that Cuccinelli is more polarizing than Bolling. McAuliffe and Perriello lock up more Democrats and perform five to seven points better with independents against the A.G. than against Bob McDonnell's number two. But Cuccinelli maintains more GOP support in both matchups than does Bolling, and both Republicans keep more of their party's voters in line than do the Democrats. Part of that is more undecided Democrats than Republicans, but part is also that in three of the four matchups, Cuccinelli and Bolling earn slightly more crossover support than do the Democrats.

In May, all four prospective candidates were seen negatively by voters, but since then, both Republicans have edged into positive favorability territory. Bolling has upped his marks from 14% favorable and 18% unfavorable to 19-16, and Cuccinelli from 31-39 to 34-32. Meanwhile, both Democrats remain equally as disliked as before, with Perriello at 16-20 from 17-21 and McAuliffe at 15-26 from 16-27.

“Obviously this race is a ways off but Republicans start with a modest advantage and that's about what you would expect in Virginia,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 500 Virginia voters from July 21st to 24th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.4%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



Virginia Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bill Bolling?

Favorable..... 19%
Unfavorable 16%
Not sure 66%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ken Cuccinelli?

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 32%
Not sure 35%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Terry McAuliffe?

Favorable..... 15%
Unfavorable 26%
Not sure 59%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tom Perriello?

Favorable..... 16%
Unfavorable 20%
Not sure 64%

Q5 If the candidates for Governor next time were Republican Bill Bolling and Democrat Terry McAuliffe, who would you vote for?

Bill Bolling 38%
Terry McAuliffe..... 33%
Not sure 29%

Q6 If the candidates for Governor next time were Republican Bill Bolling and Democrat Tom Perriello, who would you vote for?

Bill Bolling 39%
Tom Perriello..... 32%
Not sure 29%

Q7 If the candidates for Governor next time were Republican Ken Cuccinelli and Democrat Terry McAuliffe, who would you vote for?

Ken Cuccinelli 41%
Terry McAuliffe..... 38%
Not sure 22%

Q8 If the candidates for Governor next time were Republican Ken Cuccinelli and Democrat Tom Perriello, who would you vote for?

Ken Cuccinelli 41%
Tom Perriello..... 36%
Not sure 23%

Q9 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 47%
Barack Obama..... 47%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

Q10 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 11%
Somewhat liberal 18%
Moderate..... 30%
Somewhat conservative..... 21%
Very conservative 20%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q12 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 35%
Republican..... 36%
Independent/Other..... 30%





Q13 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	76%
<i>African-American</i>	19%
<i>Other</i>	5%

Q14 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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	12%
<i>30 to 45</i>	22%
<i>46 to 65</i>	44%
<i>Older than 65</i>	22%

Q15

276.....	5%
434.....	9%
540.....	25%
703.....	21%
757.....	21%
804.....	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bolling Favorability				
Favorable	19%	32%	7%	6%
Unfavorable	16%	7%	25%	14%
Not sure	66%	61%	68%	80%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cuccinelli Favorability				
Favorable	34%	61%	9%	18%
Unfavorable	32%	7%	58%	16%
Not sure	35%	32%	33%	66%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McAuliffe Favorability				
Favorable	15%	7%	23%	7%
Unfavorable	26%	34%	20%	15%
Not sure	59%	59%	56%	78%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Perriello Favorability				
Favorable	16%	7%	26%	3%
Unfavorable	20%	28%	12%	12%
Not sure	64%	65%	61%	85%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bolling/McAuliffe				
Bill Bolling	38%	69%	9%	18%
Terry McAuliffe	33%	7%	62%	7%
Not sure	29%	25%	28%	74%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bolling/Perriello				
Bill Bolling	39%	76%	3%	22%
Tom Perriello	32%	2%	64%	12%
Not sure	29%	21%	32%	66%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe				
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	76%	5%	38%
Terry McAuliffe	38%	5%	74%	10%
Not sure	22%	19%	21%	52%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cuccinelli/Perriello				
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	80%	4%	28%
Tom Perriello	36%	4%	71%	13%
Not sure	23%	16%	25%	59%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bolling Favorability						
Favorable	19%	3%	6%	10%	28%	41%
Unfavorable	16%	34%	22%	16%	11%	7%
Not sure	66%	64%	72%	74%	62%	52%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cuccinelli Favorability						
Favorable	34%	4%	11%	17%	60%	68%
Unfavorable	32%	59%	56%	45%	4%	4%
Not sure	35%	36%	33%	38%	36%	28%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McAuliffe Favorability						
Favorable	15%	41%	14%	16%	9%	7%
Unfavorable	26%	9%	23%	22%	31%	40%
Not sure	59%	50%	63%	62%	61%	53%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perriello Favorability						
Favorable	16%	33%	22%	18%	10%	6%
Unfavorable	20%	14%	8%	17%	23%	35%
Not sure	64%	53%	70%	66%	67%	59%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bolling/McAuliffe						
Bill Bolling	38%	9%	13%	19%	65%	75%
Terry McAuliffe	33%	71%	61%	39%	8%	6%
Not sure	29%	20%	27%	42%	27%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bolling/Perriello						
Bill Bolling	39%	5%	6%	15%	76%	83%
Tom Perriello	32%	76%	60%	38%	4%	4%
Not sure	29%	20%	34%	46%	20%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe						
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	7%	11%	18%	74%	83%
Terry McAuliffe	38%	75%	69%	50%	6%	3%
Not sure	22%	18%	20%	32%	19%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cuccinelli/Perriello						
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	5%	9%	17%	79%	85%
Tom Perriello	36%	75%	68%	48%	4%	2%
Not sure	23%	20%	23%	35%	18%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bolling Favorability			
Favorable	19%	16%	21%
Unfavorable	16%	11%	21%
Not sure	66%	73%	58%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cuccinelli Favorability			
Favorable	34%	29%	40%
Unfavorable	32%	32%	31%
Not sure	35%	40%	29%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McAuliffe Favorability			
Favorable	15%	15%	15%
Unfavorable	26%	21%	32%
Not sure	59%	64%	53%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perriello Favorability			
Favorable	16%	15%	17%
Unfavorable	20%	17%	23%
Not sure	64%	68%	59%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bolling/McAuliffe			
Bill Bolling	38%	31%	45%
Terry McAuliffe	33%	38%	27%
Not sure	29%	31%	28%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bolling/Perriello			
Bill Bolling	39%	33%	46%
Tom Perriello	32%	35%	29%
Not sure	29%	32%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe			
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	35%	46%
Terry McAuliffe	38%	41%	34%
Not sure	22%	24%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cuccinelli/Perriello			
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	35%	48%
Tom Perriello	36%	39%	32%
Not sure	23%	26%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bolling Favorability				
Favorable	19%	5%	32%	17%
Unfavorable	16%	25%	7%	16%
Not sure	66%	70%	60%	67%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cuccinelli Favorability				
Favorable	34%	7%	62%	32%
Unfavorable	32%	54%	8%	34%
Not sure	35%	39%	31%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McAuliffe Favorability				
Favorable	15%	25%	8%	11%
Unfavorable	26%	16%	34%	30%
Not sure	59%	59%	58%	59%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perriello Favorability				
Favorable	16%	23%	7%	18%
Unfavorable	20%	11%	30%	19%
Not sure	64%	66%	63%	63%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bolling/McAuliffe				
Bill Bolling	38%	9%	75%	27%
Terry McAuliffe	33%	71%	6%	21%
Not sure	29%	20%	19%	52%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bolling/Perriello				
Bill Bolling	39%	5%	84%	26%
Tom Perriello	32%	72%	2%	21%
Not sure	29%	23%	14%	53%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe				
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	6%	82%	31%
Terry McAuliffe	38%	75%	6%	32%
Not sure	22%	19%	13%	37%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cuccinelli/Perriello				
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	5%	86%	29%
Tom Perriello	36%	75%	4%	29%
Not sure	23%	20%	10%	42%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Bolling Favorability				
Favorable	19%	22%	4%	19%
Unfavorable	16%	15%	20%	15%
Not sure	66%	63%	76%	67%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Cuccinelli Favorability				
Favorable	34%	41%	7%	34%
Unfavorable	32%	28%	44%	34%
Not sure	35%	31%	49%	31%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McAuliffe Favorability				
Favorable	15%	14%	14%	24%
Unfavorable	26%	28%	21%	24%
Not sure	59%	58%	65%	52%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perriello Favorability				
Favorable	16%	16%	17%	10%
Unfavorable	20%	21%	15%	15%
Not sure	64%	63%	67%	75%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Bolling/McAuliffe				
Bill Bolling	38%	46%	9%	19%
Terry McAuliffe	33%	28%	54%	34%
Not sure	29%	26%	37%	47%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Bolling/Perriello				
Bill Bolling	39%	48%	5%	27%
Tom Perriello	32%	26%	55%	31%
Not sure	29%	25%	40%	42%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe				
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	50%	5%	24%
Terry McAuliffe	38%	30%	67%	45%
Not sure	22%	20%	28%	31%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Cuccinelli/Perriello				
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	51%	4%	28%
Tom Perriello	36%	29%	64%	39%
Not sure	23%	20%	32%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bolling Favorability					
Favorable	19%	13%	21%	16%	24%
Unfavorable	16%	23%	14%	16%	12%
Not sure	66%	63%	64%	68%	64%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cuccinelli Favorability					
Favorable	34%	27%	30%	34%	42%
Unfavorable	32%	37%	29%	33%	29%
Not sure	35%	37%	41%	33%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McAuliffe Favorability					
Favorable	15%	17%	16%	14%	15%
Unfavorable	26%	33%	30%	24%	24%
Not sure	59%	50%	54%	63%	61%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perriello Favorability					
Favorable	16%	13%	13%	18%	18%
Unfavorable	20%	17%	25%	20%	16%
Not sure	64%	70%	63%	62%	67%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bolling/McAuliffe					
Bill Bolling	38%	23%	39%	37%	46%
Terry McAuliffe	33%	30%	30%	37%	30%
Not sure	29%	47%	30%	27%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bolling/Perriello					
Bill Bolling	39%	20%	41%	40%	46%
Tom Perriello	32%	27%	30%	35%	32%
Not sure	29%	53%	29%	26%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe					
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	33%	41%	39%	48%
Terry McAuliffe	38%	27%	39%	40%	36%
Not sure	22%	40%	20%	21%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cuccinelli/Perriello					
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	30%	41%	40%	48%
Tom Perriello	36%	27%	39%	39%	33%
Not sure	23%	43%	20%	21%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		276	434	540	703	757	804
Bolling Favorability							
Favorable	19%	13%	18%	19%	15%	8%	37%
Unfavorable	16%	9%	19%	14%	17%	18%	15%
Not sure	66%	77%	63%	67%	69%	74%	48%

	Base	Area Code					
		276	434	540	703	757	804
Cuccinelli Favorability							
Favorable	34%	16%	24%	36%	29%	30%	53%
Unfavorable	32%	13%	23%	29%	43%	35%	28%
Not sure	35%	71%	53%	35%	29%	35%	20%

	Base	Area Code					
		276	434	540	703	757	804
McAuliffe Favorability							
Favorable	15%	18%	17%	13%	24%	9%	12%
Unfavorable	26%	23%	19%	18%	32%	27%	35%
Not sure	59%	60%	64%	69%	44%	64%	53%

	Base	Area Code					
		276	434	540	703	757	804
Perriello Favorability							
Favorable	16%	3%	32%	26%	10%	4%	21%
Unfavorable	20%	23%	29%	24%	16%	10%	26%
Not sure	64%	73%	39%	51%	75%	86%	54%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		276	434	540	703	757	804
Bolling/McAuliffe							
Bill Bolling	38%	28%	42%	41%	33%	27%	51%
Terry McAuliffe	33%	38%	30%	28%	47%	31%	27%
Not sure	29%	33%	28%	31%	20%	42%	22%

	Base	Area Code					
		276	434	540	703	757	804
Bolling/Perriello							
Bill Bolling	39%	33%	44%	43%	30%	30%	53%
Tom Perriello	32%	27%	36%	31%	47%	26%	22%
Not sure	29%	41%	20%	26%	22%	43%	25%

	Base	Area Code					
		276	434	540	703	757	804
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe							
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	29%	44%	45%	33%	35%	52%
Terry McAuliffe	38%	34%	30%	34%	52%	39%	28%
Not sure	22%	37%	27%	21%	15%	26%	19%

	Base	Area Code					
		276	434	540	703	757	804
Cuccinelli/Perriello							
Ken Cuccinelli	41%	32%	42%	44%	34%	36%	53%
Tom Perriello	36%	27%	38%	39%	47%	33%	25%
Not sure	23%	42%	20%	17%	19%	31%	23%

