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OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

Virginia is for Obama lovers

Raleigh, N.C. – The margin has tightened a bit in the last month and a half, but President Obama maintains his usual lead in PPP polling of Virginia. He tops Mitt Romney by five points (50-45) in the latest survey, the first among likely voters in this fall’s election. In the last one, in early July, Obama was up eight points (50-42). Romney has made up ground by bumping his lead among the GOP faithful from 86-9 to 92-5, essentially matching the president’s 93-5 dominance with his own party’s voters. Romney has also flipped a 36-47 disadvantage with independents to a nominal 46-43 lead.

The key to the emergence of Virginia as a blue-leaning swing state in recent cycles is that it is no longer the Old Dominion—about half of the likely electorate was born in another state, making it a considerably more non-native state than its southern neighbor North Carolina (38%). And unlike the Tar Heel State, where Romney enjoys a double-digit advantage with those born there, Obama leads by an identical margin with both natives and immigrants to Virginia. Like in N.C., however, Obama has two-thirds of the vote with the 12% who have moved to Virginia in the last decade, and a 56-38 lead with the 49% who moved here within the last 30 years.

As in most states, there is a huge age gap, with Obama up 63-35 with those under 30 and 52-40 among those aged 30 to 45, but Romney leading 54-41 with seniors. Obama is also bolstered by strong leads with his other most important voting blocs—women (55-41), African Americans (88-11), and other minorities (56-32).

Obama’s lead rises to eight points (50-42) if Constitution Party nominee Virgil Goode is mentioned as a candidate. Goode will be on the ballot in his home state, and at the moment pulls 4% of the vote. Goode does not touch Obama’s support with Democrats or either candidate’s support with independents, but he pulls Romney’s GOP backing down eight points.

“President Obama has consistently led by five or more points in Virginia, and it may prove to be his firewall,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Romney essentially cannot win without it.”

PPP surveyed 855 likely Virginia voters from August 16th to 19th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.4%. 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 49%
Disapprove..... 46%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable..... 46%
Unfavorable 49%
Not sure 5%

Q3 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 50%
Mitt Romney..... 45%
Undecided..... 5%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Virgil Goode?

Favorable..... 13%
Unfavorable 27%
Not sure 60%

Q5 If the candidates for President this fall were Democrat Barack Obama, Republican Mitt Romney, and Constitution Party candidate Virgil Goode, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 50%
Mitt Romney..... 42%
Virgil Goode 4%
Undecided..... 4%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Joe Biden?

Favorable..... 46%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure 7%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Paul Ryan?

Favorable..... 47%
Unfavorable 41%
Not sure 12%

Q8 If you were allowed to vote directly for Vice President, would you choose Democrat Joe Biden or Republican Paul Ryan?

Joe Biden..... 49%
Paul Ryan 46%
Not sure 5%

Q9 Do you support or oppose Paul Ryan's proposal for reforming Medicare?

Support 38%
Oppose 46%
Not sure 16%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 44%
Barack Obama..... 51%
Someone else/Don't remember 5%

Q11 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 12%
Somewhat liberal 16%
Moderate..... 32%
Somewhat conservative..... 25%
Very conservative 15%

Q12 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%





Q13 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 37%
Republican..... 30%
Independent/Other..... 33%

Q14 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 70%
African-American 17%
Other..... 12%

Q15 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..... 15%
30 to 45..... 28%
46 to 65..... 37%
Older than 65..... 20%

Q16 Were you born in Virginia or in another state?

Virginia..... 49%
Another state 51%

Q17 How long have you lived in Virginia: 10 years or less, 11 to 20 years, 21 to 30 years, 31 to 40 years, or more than 40 years?

10 years or less 12%
11 to 20 years 19%
21 to 30 years..... 18%
31 to 40 years..... 19%
More than 40 years..... 31%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	49%	11%	82%	42%
Disapprove	46%	86%	12%	47%
Not sure	5%	3%	6%	11%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	46%	86%	14%	29%
Unfavorable	49%	10%	83%	53%
Not sure	5%	4%	4%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	50%	11%	84%	38%
Mitt Romney	45%	86%	11%	30%
Undecided	5%	2%	4%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Goode Favorability				
Favorable	13%	18%	8%	20%
Unfavorable	27%	18%	35%	21%
Not sure	60%	64%	57%	59%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney/Goode				
Barack Obama	50%	9%	86%	38%
Mitt Romney	42%	82%	10%	20%
Virgil Goode	4%	5%	2%	18%
Undecided	4%	3%	2%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Biden Favorability				
Favorable	46%	8%	80%	36%
Unfavorable	47%	86%	15%	41%
Not sure	7%	6%	6%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Ryan Favorability				
Favorable	47%	83%	17%	41%
Unfavorable	41%	6%	71%	45%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Biden/Ryan				
Joe Biden	49%	10%	82%	52%
Paul Ryan	46%	86%	13%	35%
Not sure	5%	4%	5%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Support/Oppose Ryan Plan				
Support	38%	72%	9%	37%
Oppose	46%	9%	78%	46%
Not sure	16%	19%	13%	17%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	49%	82%	81%	65%	15%	11%
Disapprove	46%	9%	14%	27%	83%	89%
Not sure	5%	9%	5%	8%	2%	0%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	46%	13%	15%	27%	82%	86%
Unfavorable	49%	85%	83%	64%	15%	12%
Not sure	5%	2%	2%	9%	3%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	50%	88%	83%	64%	16%	11%
Mitt Romney	45%	5%	15%	26%	82%	87%
Undecided	5%	7%	2%	9%	2%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Goode Favorability						
Favorable	13%	10%	10%	13%	13%	20%
Unfavorable	27%	30%	33%	33%	19%	18%
Not sure	60%	60%	58%	54%	68%	62%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney/Goode						
Barack Obama	50%	87%	82%	65%	14%	12%
Mitt Romney	42%	7%	12%	25%	79%	79%
Virgil Goode	4%	5%	4%	4%	3%	6%
Undecided	4%	0%	2%	6%	4%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Biden Favorability						
Favorable	46%	82%	75%	60%	14%	10%
Unfavorable	47%	12%	15%	32%	80%	88%
Not sure	7%	6%	11%	8%	6%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Ryan Favorability						
Favorable	47%	15%	15%	31%	80%	84%
Unfavorable	41%	73%	77%	51%	10%	8%
Not sure	12%	11%	9%	18%	9%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Biden/Ryan						
Joe Biden	49%	83%	86%	63%	13%	12%
Paul Ryan	46%	13%	12%	29%	81%	87%
Not sure	5%	4%	2%	8%	6%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Support/Oppose Ryan Plan						
Support	38%	9%	13%	22%	66%	76%
Oppose	46%	81%	76%	62%	13%	9%
Not sure	16%	10%	11%	16%	21%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	49%	54%	43%
Disapprove	46%	41%	52%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	46%	42%	51%
Unfavorable	49%	53%	45%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	50%	55%	44%
Mitt Romney	45%	41%	50%
Undecided	5%	4%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Goode Favorability			
Favorable	13%	13%	13%
Unfavorable	27%	22%	32%
Not sure	60%	64%	56%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney/Goode			
Barack Obama	50%	56%	43%
Mitt Romney	42%	37%	48%
Virgil Goode	4%	4%	4%
Undecided	4%	3%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Biden Favorability			
Favorable	46%	52%	39%
Unfavorable	47%	40%	55%
Not sure	7%	7%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ryan Favorability			
Favorable	47%	42%	53%
Unfavorable	41%	45%	37%
Not sure	12%	13%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Biden/Ryan			
Joe Biden	49%	55%	42%
Paul Ryan	46%	39%	53%
Not sure	5%	6%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Support/Oppose Ryan Plan			
Support	38%	34%	42%
Oppose	46%	47%	45%
Not sure	16%	19%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	49%	89%	7%	42%
Disapprove	46%	6%	91%	50%
Not sure	5%	4%	2%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	46%	9%	90%	48%
Unfavorable	49%	88%	5%	46%
Not sure	5%	3%	4%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	50%	93%	5%	43%
Mitt Romney	45%	5%	92%	46%
Undecided	5%	2%	2%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Goode Favorability				
Favorable	13%	8%	19%	14%
Unfavorable	27%	35%	16%	26%
Not sure	60%	56%	65%	60%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney/Goode				
Barack Obama	50%	93%	5%	42%
Mitt Romney	42%	5%	84%	46%
Virgil Goode	4%	2%	5%	6%
Undecided	4%	0%	5%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Biden Favorability				
Favorable	46%	85%	5%	40%
Unfavorable	47%	8%	90%	51%
Not sure	7%	6%	5%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Ryan Favorability				
Favorable	47%	9%	85%	55%
Unfavorable	41%	76%	5%	35%
Not sure	12%	15%	10%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Biden/Ryan				
Joe Biden	49%	91%	5%	42%
Paul Ryan	46%	5%	90%	51%
Not sure	5%	4%	5%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Support/Oppose Ryan Plan				
Support	38%	7%	72%	41%
Oppose	46%	80%	7%	45%
Not sure	16%	14%	20%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	49%	38%	88%	54%
Disapprove	46%	56%	12%	38%
Not sure	5%	5%	-	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	46%	56%	16%	29%
Unfavorable	49%	39%	80%	63%
Not sure	5%	4%	3%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	50%	40%	88%	56%
Mitt Romney	45%	56%	11%	32%
Undecided	5%	4%	2%	12%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Goode Favorability				
Favorable	13%	15%	12%	5%
Unfavorable	27%	23%	38%	32%
Not sure	60%	62%	50%	64%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney/Goode				
Barack Obama	50%	39%	89%	58%
Mitt Romney	42%	53%	9%	28%
Virgil Goode	4%	5%	1%	4%
Undecided	4%	3%	1%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Biden Favorability				
Favorable	46%	37%	77%	53%
Unfavorable	47%	57%	15%	39%
Not sure	7%	6%	9%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Ryan Favorability				
Favorable	47%	54%	24%	37%
Unfavorable	41%	35%	65%	42%
Not sure	12%	11%	11%	21%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Biden/Ryan				
Joe Biden	49%	39%	82%	61%
Paul Ryan	46%	56%	13%	33%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Support/Oppose Ryan Plan				
Support	38%	47%	11%	24%
Oppose	46%	37%	75%	61%
Not sure	16%	16%	14%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	49%	50%	56%	47%	42%
Disapprove	46%	38%	39%	50%	56%
Not sure	5%	13%	6%	3%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	46%	38%	43%	48%	54%
Unfavorable	49%	63%	49%	48%	42%
Not sure	5%	-	8%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	50%	63%	52%	48%	41%
Mitt Romney	45%	35%	40%	48%	54%
Undecided	5%	3%	8%	4%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Goode Favorability					
Favorable	13%	18%	12%	10%	18%
Unfavorable	27%	30%	29%	24%	26%
Not sure	60%	53%	59%	66%	56%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney/Goode					
Barack Obama	50%	57%	54%	48%	41%
Mitt Romney	42%	33%	38%	44%	52%
Virgil Goode	4%	10%	3%	3%	3%
Undecided	4%	-	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Biden Favorability					
Favorable	46%	55%	49%	45%	38%
Unfavorable	47%	40%	43%	48%	57%
Not sure	7%	5%	8%	7%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ryan Favorability					
Favorable	47%	35%	48%	48%	53%
Unfavorable	41%	48%	39%	42%	38%
Not sure	12%	18%	13%	10%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Biden/Ryan					
Joe Biden	49%	57%	54%	45%	41%
Paul Ryan	46%	33%	42%	50%	54%
Not sure	5%	10%	3%	5%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Support/Oppose Ryan Plan					
Support	38%	29%	33%	43%	43%
Oppose	46%	50%	52%	43%	41%
Not sure	16%	21%	16%	13%	16%

	Base	Born in VA or Oth. St.?	
		Virginia	Another state
Obama Approval			
Approve	49%	50%	48%
Disapprove	46%	45%	47%
Not sure	5%	5%	5%

	Base	Born in VA or Oth. St.?	
		Virginia	Another state
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	46%	47%	45%
Unfavorable	49%	49%	50%
Not sure	5%	4%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Born in VA or Oth. St.?	
		Virginia	Another state
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	50%	50%	50%
Mitt Romney	45%	45%	45%
Undecided	5%	5%	5%

	Base	Born in VA or Oth. St.?	
		Virginia	Another state
Goode Favorability			
Favorable	13%	18%	9%
Unfavorable	27%	31%	23%
Not sure	60%	51%	69%

	Base	Born in VA or Oth. St.?	
		Virginia	Another state
Obama/Romney/Goode			
Barack Obama	50%	50%	50%
Mitt Romney	42%	42%	43%
Virgil Goode	4%	6%	2%
Undecided	4%	3%	5%

	Base	Born in VA or Oth. St.?	
		Virginia	Another state
Biden Favorability			
Favorable	46%	45%	47%
Unfavorable	47%	49%	45%
Not sure	7%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Born in VA or Oth. St.?	
		Virginia	Another state
Ryan Favorability			
Favorable	47%	47%	47%
Unfavorable	41%	39%	43%
Not sure	12%	14%	10%

	Base	Born in VA or Oth. St.?	
		Virginia	Another state
Biden/Ryan			
Joe Biden	49%	48%	50%
Paul Ryan	46%	45%	47%
Not sure	5%	7%	4%

	Base	Born in VA or Oth. St.?	
		Virginia	Another state
Support/Oppose Ryan Plan			
Support	38%	36%	40%
Oppose	46%	43%	49%
Not sure	16%	20%	11%

	Base	Length of VA Residence				
		10 years or less	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 to 40 years	More than 40 years
Obama Approval						
Approve	49%	63%	56%	42%	43%	47%
Disapprove	46%	33%	37%	52%	54%	49%
Not sure	5%	4%	7%	7%	3%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Length of VA Residence				
		10 years or less	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 to 40 years	More than 40 years
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	46%	29%	35%	53%	53%	52%
Unfavorable	49%	65%	56%	46%	45%	43%
Not sure	5%	5%	8%	2%	2%	5%

	Base	Length of VA Residence				
		10 years or less	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 to 40 years	More than 40 years
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	50%	67%	59%	46%	42%	46%
Mitt Romney	45%	29%	35%	49%	55%	49%
Undecided	5%	4%	7%	6%	3%	5%

	Base	Length of VA Residence				
		10 years or less	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 to 40 years	More than 40 years
Goode Favorability						
Favorable	13%	11%	10%	14%	12%	16%
Unfavorable	27%	26%	22%	28%	27%	29%
Not sure	60%	63%	67%	58%	61%	55%

	Base	Length of VA Residence				
		10 years or less	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 to 40 years	More than 40 years
Obama/Romney/Goode						
Barack Obama	50%	70%	58%	43%	43%	45%
Mitt Romney	42%	24%	29%	46%	55%	48%
Virgil Goode	4%	4%	6%	6%	1%	3%
Undecided	4%	2%	7%	4%	1%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Length of VA Residence				
		10 years or less	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 to 40 years	More than 40 years
Biden Favorability						
Favorable	46%	60%	53%	45%	40%	41%
Unfavorable	47%	35%	36%	47%	57%	53%
Not sure	7%	5%	11%	8%	3%	7%

	Base	Length of VA Residence				
		10 years or less	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 to 40 years	More than 40 years
Ryan Favorability						
Favorable	47%	38%	37%	53%	53%	49%
Unfavorable	41%	54%	50%	30%	41%	38%
Not sure	12%	7%	13%	17%	6%	14%

	Base	Length of VA Residence				
		10 years or less	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 to 40 years	More than 40 years
Biden/Ryan						
Joe Biden	49%	65%	58%	43%	44%	44%
Paul Ryan	46%	33%	36%	47%	54%	52%
Not sure	5%	3%	6%	10%	2%	5%

	Base	Length of VA Residence				
		10 years or less	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 to 40 years	More than 40 years
Support/Oppose Ryan Plan						
Support	38%	23%	31%	40%	47%	42%
Oppose	46%	67%	54%	43%	39%	40%
Not sure	16%	10%	15%	18%	14%	18%

