

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Obama expands lead in Virginia**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – For the first time in any of PPP’s Virginia polling this year the race is something other than a two point lead for Barack Obama. He now leads 51-43 in the state.

As it is everywhere, Obama’s movement in the state is being fueled by the economy. 63% of Virginia voters name it as their top issue, and within that group the Democrat has a 59-36 advantage.

Demographically the major shift for Obama over the last three weeks has been among white voters. He’s reduced what was a 60-35 deficit there to just a 52-42 one.

Since the last survey Joe Biden’s stock in the state has risen while Sarah Palin’s has fallen. Biden’s gone from a +11 net favorability to +17 in the week following the Vice Presidential debate, while Palin has dropped from a +2 to a -9.

“Virginia is showing the same trends as pretty much every other battleground state,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Voters are turning toward the Democrats as concern over the economy mounts, and they’re also a lot less enamored with Sarah Palin than they were shortly after the Republican convention.”

The race for the state’s open Senate seat continues to be a romp for Mark Warner. He leads fellow former Governor Jim Gilmore 58-31 while winning independents at a remarkable 66-20 clip. He’s also capturing 26% of the Republican vote, making it nearly impossible for Gilmore to even bring the race within 20 points.

PPP surveyed 917 likely voters on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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## Virginia Poll

**Q1** The candidates for President are Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama. If the election was today, who would you vote for? If John McCain, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*McCain*.....43% *Undecided*..... 6%

*Obama*.....51%

**Q2** Are you firmly committed to your choice for President, or could you change your mind between now and the election? If you are firmly committed, press 1. If you could change your mind, press 2.

*Firmly Committed*.....94%

*Could Change Mind*..... 6%

**Q3** Did Barack Obama's selection of Joe Biden as his running mate make you more or less likely to vote for him? If it makes you more likely to vote for him, press 1. If it makes you less likely to vote for him, press 2. If it makes no difference, press 3.

*More Likely*..... 43% *No Difference*..... 31%

*Less Likely* ..... 26%

**Q4** Did John McCain's selection of Sarah Palin as his running mate make you more or less likely to vote for him? If it makes you more likely to vote for him, press 1. If it makes you less likely to vote for him, press 2. If it makes no difference, press 3.

*More Likely* .....37% *No Difference*.....17%

*Less Likely*.....46%

**Q5** The candidates for Senate are Republican Jim Gilmore and Democrat Mark Warner. If the election was today, who would you vote for? If Jim Gilmore, press 1. If Mark Warner, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Gilmore* ..... 31%

*Warner* .....58%

*Undecided*..... 11%

**Q6** I am going to name 7 issues. Which of these is most important to you? The War in Iraq, education, the economy and jobs, taxes, moral or family values, health care, or immigration. If the War in Iraq is most important, press 1. If education, press 2. If the economy and jobs, press 3. If taxes, press 4. If moral and family values, press 5. If health care, press 6. If immigration, press 7. If some other issue is most important, press 8.

*War in Iraq* ..... 14%

*Education*..... 3%

*Economy and Jobs* ..... 63%

*Taxes*..... 5%

*Moral and Family Values* ..... 8%

*Health Care*..... 3%

*Immigration*..... 2%

*Other*..... 2%

**Q7** Would you describe the community you live in as urban, suburban, rural, or a small town? If urban, press 1. If suburban, press 2. If rural, press 3. If a small town, press 4.

*Urban*..... 18%

*Suburban* .....46%

*Rural*.....22%

*Small Town*..... 15%

**Q8** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* .....53%

*Man*.....47%

**Q9** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

*Democrat*..... 40%

*Republican*.....35%

*Other*.....25%





**Q10** If you are white, press 1. If you are African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 73%  
*African American* ..... 20%  
*Other*..... 7%

**Q11** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 15%  
*30 to 45*..... 29%  
*46 to 65*..... 39%  
*Older than 65*..... 17%





	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>McCain/Obama</b>					
<b>McCain</b>	43%	35%	42%	52%	42%
<b>Obama</b>	51%	60%	53%	41%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	6%	6%	5%	7%	7%

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Change Mind</b>					
<b>Firmly Committed</b>	94%	95%	92%	96%	97%
<b>Could Change Mind</b>	6%	5%	8%	4%	3%

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Biden Pick</b>					
<b>More Likely</b>	43%	47%	42%	38%	49%
<b>Less Likely</b>	26%	24%	25%	29%	24%
<b>No Difference</b>	31%	29%	33%	33%	28%

	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Palin Pick</b>					
<b>More Likely</b>	37%	27%	35%	47%	41%
<b>Less Likely</b>	46%	54%	48%	34%	46%
<b>No Difference</b>	17%	20%	16%	19%	13%





	Base	Community Type			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Senate</b>					
<b>Gilmore</b>	31%	28%	29%	37%	31%
<b>Warner</b>	58%	61%	62%	49%	55%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	10%	9%	13%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>McCain/Obama</b>			
<b>McCain</b>	43%	38%	48%
<b>Obama</b>	51%	57%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	6%	5%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Change Mind</b>			
<b>Firmly Committed</b>	94%	96%	92%
<b>Could Change Mind</b>	6%	4%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Biden Pick</b>			
<b>More Likely</b>	43%	47%	39%
<b>Less Likely</b>	26%	22%	30%
<b>No Difference</b>	31%	31%	31%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Palin Pick</b>			
<b>More Likely</b>	37%	34%	42%
<b>Less Likely</b>	46%	50%	42%
<b>No Difference</b>	17%	17%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Senate</b>			
<b>Gilmore</b>	31%	29%	33%
<b>Warner</b>	58%	60%	56%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>McCain/Obama</b>				
<b>McCain</b>	43%	6%	89%	37%
<b>Obama</b>	51%	91%	8%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	6%	3%	3%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Change Mind</b>				
<b>Firmly Committed</b>	94%	97%	94%	90%
<b>Could Change Mind</b>	6%	3%	6%	10%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Biden Pick</b>				
<b>More Likely</b>	43%	69%	15%	40%
<b>Less Likely</b>	26%	7%	44%	31%
<b>No Difference</b>	31%	24%	41%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Palin Pick</b>				
<b>More Likely</b>	37%	9%	70%	36%
<b>Less Likely</b>	46%	78%	10%	44%
<b>No Difference</b>	17%	13%	19%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Senate</b>				
<b>Gilmore</b>	31%	6%	69%	20%
<b>Warner</b>	58%	86%	20%	66%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	8%	12%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>McCain/Obama</b>				
<b>McCain</b>	43%	52%	11%	33%
<b>Obama</b>	51%	42%	88%	46%
<b>Undecided</b>	6%	6%	1%	21%





	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Change Mind</b>				
<b>Firmly Committed</b>	94%	94%	97%	95%
<b>Could Change Mind</b>	6%	6%	3%	5%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Biden Pick</b>				
<b>More Likely</b>	43%	38%	64%	32%
<b>Less Likely</b>	26%	30%	9%	25%
<b>No Difference</b>	31%	32%	27%	43%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Palin Pick</b>				
<b>More Likely</b>	37%	43%	17%	34%
<b>Less Likely</b>	46%	42%	61%	46%
<b>No Difference</b>	17%	15%	22%	21%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Senate</b>				
<b>Gilmore</b>	31%	37%	12%	24%
<b>Warner</b>	58%	53%	79%	44%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	9%	10%	32%







	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>McCain/Obama</b>					
<b>McCain</b>	43%	37%	47%	42%	43%
<b>Obama</b>	51%	55%	48%	54%	47%
<b>Undecided</b>	6%	7%	6%	4%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Change Mind</b>					
<b>Firmly Committed</b>	94%	92%	93%	95%	97%
<b>Could Change Mind</b>	6%	8%	7%	5%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Biden Pick</b>					
<b>More Likely</b>	43%	45%	37%	46%	46%
<b>Less Likely</b>	26%	31%	24%	23%	29%
<b>No Difference</b>	31%	24%	39%	31%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Palin Pick</b>					
<b>More Likely</b>	37%	37%	37%	35%	43%
<b>Less Likely</b>	46%	51%	42%	48%	42%
<b>No Difference</b>	17%	12%	21%	17%	15%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Senate</b>					
<b>Gilmore</b>	31%	27%	39%	25%	34%
<b>Warner</b>	58%	48%	52%	66%	58%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	25%	8%	9%	8%





	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and Family Values	Health Care	Immigration	Other
<b>McCain/Obama</b>									
<b>McCain</b>	43%	37%	31%	36%	82%	81%	36%	45%	42%
<b>Obama</b>	51%	54%	58%	59%	10%	15%	58%	32%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	6%	9%	11%	4%	7%	5%	6%	23%	19%

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and Family Values	Health Care	Immigration	Other
<b>Change Mind</b>									
<b>Firmly Committed</b>	94%	93%	93%	94%	98%	100%	85%	93%	100%
<b>Could Change Mind</b>	6%	7%	7%	6%	2%	-	15%	7%	-

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and Family Values	Health Care	Immigration	Other
<b>Biden Pick</b>									
<b>More Likely</b>	43%	46%	40%	49%	8%	25%	34%	27%	24%
<b>Less Likely</b>	26%	25%	26%	20%	46%	42%	38%	69%	37%
<b>No Difference</b>	31%	30%	34%	31%	47%	33%	28%	5%	39%





	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and Family Values	Health Care	Immigration	Other
<b>Palin Pick</b>									
More Likely	37%	30%	50%	32%	67%	64%	39%	55%	32%
Less Likely	46%	53%	47%	53%	8%	8%	44%	35%	33%
No Difference	17%	17%	3%	15%	26%	28%	17%	10%	35%

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and Family Values	Health Care	Immigration	Other
<b>Senate</b>									
Gilmore	31%	40%	18%	21%	67%	72%	28%	45%	32%
Warner	58%	51%	60%	68%	26%	20%	55%	40%	49%
Undecided	11%	9%	22%	11%	7%	9%	17%	15%	19%

