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Tight races brewing in Virginia, though Dems have the edge

Raleigh, N.C.- PPP's most recent poll of Virginia voters shows a tight race for the governorship brewing in November. Democratic nominee and former chairman of the Democratic Party Terry McAuliffe leads Republican Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli 41% to 37%, with Libertarian nominee Robert Sarvis receiving 7% of the vote. Cuccinelli is viewed in a mostly negative light by the state, as 32% of the state has a favorable opinion but 47% has an unfavorable opinion, including 57% of independents. McAuliffe is less well known, as only 70% of Virginians have an opinion on him, and are rather evenly divided, 34% saying they had a favorable opinion versus 36% with an unfavorable view. In fact, more Democrats have an opinion on Cuccinelli than they do about their own nominee.

The Lieutenant Governor race appears to be more set, as Democrat Ralph Northam is leading Republican E.W. Jackson 42% to 35%, including a 45% to 28% lead with female voters. 28% of Virginia voters have an unfavorable rating of Jackson, who drew national attention for some of his more radical views, compared to just 15% with a favorable opinion.

The Attorney General race is looking to be the tightest of the year, with 38% of voters backing Democrat Mark Herring and 36% supporting Republican Mark Obenshain. The vote is largely split down party lines, with only 7% of both Democrats and Republicans supporting the candidate nominated by the opposing party, though Obenshain does hold a slight lead with independents, 34% to 27%.

Finally, Democrats hold a slight lead in the elections for the state legislature, 46% to 42%.

“Our polling in Virginia this year has consistently found Terry McAuliffe with a 4 or 5 point lead,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Ken Cuccinelli isn’t a very popular candidate and Bob McDonnell’s woes aren’t doing much to help the Republican brand in the state.”

PPP surveyed 601 registered voters between July 11-14, 2013. The margin of error was +/- 4.0%. This poll was not authorized or paid for by any campaign or political organization. PPP's surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



Virginia Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ken Cuccinelli?

Favorable..... 32%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure 22%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Terry McAuliffe?

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 36%
Not sure 30%

Q3 The candidates for Governor are Republican Ken Cuccinelli, Democrat Terry McAuliffe, and Libertarian Robert Sarvis. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Ken Cuccinelli 37%
Terry McAuliffe..... 41%
Robert Sarvis..... 7%
Undecided..... 15%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of E.W. Jackson?

Favorable..... 15%
Unfavorable 28%
Not sure 57%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ralph Northam?

Favorable..... 16%
Unfavorable 19%
Not sure 65%

Q6 The candidates for Lieutenant Governor are Republican E.W. Jackson and Democrat Ralph Northam. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

E.W. Jackson..... 35%
Ralph Northam..... 42%
Not sure 23%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mark Obenshain?

Favorable..... 17%
Unfavorable 16%
Not sure 67%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mark Herring?

Favorable..... 13%
Unfavorable 15%
Not sure 72%

Q9 The candidates for Attorney General are Republican Mark Obenshain and Democrat Mark Herring. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Mark Obenshain 36%
Mark Herring..... 38%
Not sure..... 25%

Q10 Generally speaking, if there was an election for the state legislature today, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate from your district?

Democrat 46%
Republican..... 42%
Not sure 12%





Q11 Who did you vote for President in 2012?

<i>Barack Obama</i>	49%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	48%
<i>Someone else/Don't remember</i>	3%

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

<i>Very liberal</i>	12%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	17%
<i>Moderate</i>	30%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	23%
<i>Very conservative</i>	18%

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

<i>Woman</i>	55%
<i>Man</i>	45%

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.

<i>Democrat</i>	37%
<i>Republican</i>	32%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	31%

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

<i>White</i>	75%
<i>African-American</i>	18%
<i>Other</i>	8%

Q16 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>	10%
<i>30 to 45</i>	20%
<i>46 to 65</i>	41%
<i>Older than 65</i>	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Cuccinelli Favorability				
Favorable	32%	9%	57%	3%
Unfavorable	47%	74%	17%	66%
Not sure	22%	17%	25%	30%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
McAuliffe Favorability				
Favorable	34%	57%	11%	18%
Unfavorable	36%	16%	57%	33%
Not sure	30%	27%	32%	50%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe/Sarvis				
Ken Cuccinelli	37%	9%	67%	21%
Terry McAuliffe	41%	74%	8%	19%
Robert Sarvis	7%	6%	7%	16%
Undecided	15%	10%	17%	45%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Jackson Favorability				
Favorable	15%	7%	25%	-
Unfavorable	28%	39%	17%	27%
Not sure	57%	54%	58%	73%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Northam Favorability				
Favorable	16%	26%	7%	8%
Unfavorable	19%	11%	25%	27%
Not sure	65%	63%	68%	64%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Northam/Jackson				
E.W. Jackson	35%	6%	66%	8%
Ralph Northam	42%	77%	8%	19%
Not sure	23%	17%	26%	73%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Obenshain Favorability				
Favorable	17%	8%	27%	-
Unfavorable	16%	24%	8%	19%
Not sure	67%	68%	65%	81%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Herring Favorability				
Favorable	13%	22%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	15%	9%	22%	16%
Not sure	72%	69%	73%	79%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Obenshain/Herring				
Mark Obenshain	36%	7%	68%	13%
Mark Herring	38%	70%	7%	8%
Not sure	25%	23%	24%	78%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	46%	84%	7%	20%
Republican	42%	4%	83%	13%
Not sure	12%	11%	9%	66%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cuccinelli Favorability						
Favorable	32%	11%	11%	13%	54%	66%
Unfavorable	47%	67%	73%	66%	23%	8%
Not sure	22%	22%	16%	21%	24%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McAuliffe Favorability						
Favorable	34%	60%	51%	44%	15%	6%
Unfavorable	36%	11%	18%	26%	54%	63%
Not sure	30%	29%	30%	30%	30%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe/Sarvis						
Ken Cuccinelli	37%	9%	15%	20%	66%	68%
Terry McAuliffe	41%	70%	66%	59%	12%	7%
Robert Sarvis	7%	10%	8%	5%	5%	10%
Undecided	15%	11%	11%	16%	17%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Jackson Favorability						
Favorable	15%	6%	4%	8%	24%	30%
Unfavorable	28%	41%	41%	34%	18%	12%
Not sure	57%	52%	55%	58%	58%	58%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Northam Favorability						
Favorable	16%	35%	20%	20%	10%	2%
Unfavorable	19%	12%	15%	12%	23%	31%
Not sure	65%	53%	65%	68%	67%	68%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Northam/Jackson						
EW. Jackson	35%	3%	8%	19%	64%	68%
Ralph Northam	42%	88%	68%	53%	14%	9%
Not sure	23%	9%	24%	28%	23%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obenshain Favorability						
Favorable	17%	10%	6%	13%	25%	28%
Unfavorable	16%	25%	27%	15%	11%	9%
Not sure	67%	65%	68%	72%	64%	64%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Herring Favorability						
Favorable	13%	28%	16%	16%	7%	3%
Unfavorable	15%	7%	14%	10%	23%	21%
Not sure	72%	65%	70%	74%	69%	76%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obenshain/Herring						
Mark Obenshain	36%	6%	12%	20%	63%	70%
Mark Herring	38%	83%	61%	47%	10%	10%
Not sure	25%	11%	27%	33%	27%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Generic Leg. Ballot						
Democrat	46%	90%	77%	54%	15%	13%
Republican	42%	2%	12%	25%	76%	82%
Not sure	12%	8%	11%	21%	9%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cuccinelli Favorability			
Favorable	32%	27%	37%
Unfavorable	47%	47%	46%
Not sure	22%	26%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McAuliffe Favorability			
Favorable	34%	33%	34%
Unfavorable	36%	31%	42%
Not sure	30%	35%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe/-Sarvis			
Ken Cuccinelli	37%	35%	40%
Terry McAuliffe	41%	42%	40%
Robert Sarvis	7%	6%	8%
Undecided	15%	17%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Jackson Favorability			
Favorable	15%	12%	18%
Unfavorable	28%	25%	32%
Not sure	57%	63%	49%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Northam Favorability			
Favorable	16%	13%	20%
Unfavorable	19%	16%	22%
Not sure	65%	71%	58%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Northam/Jackson			
E.W. Jackson	35%	28%	43%
Ralph Northam	42%	45%	39%
Not sure	23%	28%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obenshain Favorability			
Favorable	17%	15%	18%
Unfavorable	16%	14%	19%
Not sure	67%	71%	63%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Herring Favorability			
Favorable	13%	12%	14%
Unfavorable	15%	11%	20%
Not sure	72%	76%	65%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obenshain/Herring			
Mark Obenshain	36%	29%	45%
Mark Herring	38%	41%	35%
Not sure	25%	30%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Leg. Ballot			
Democrat	46%	52%	38%
Republican	42%	37%	49%
Not sure	12%	11%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cuccinelli Favorability				
Favorable	32%	12%	58%	29%
Unfavorable	47%	66%	14%	57%
Not sure	22%	23%	28%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McAuliffe Favorability				
Favorable	34%	55%	9%	33%
Unfavorable	36%	16%	57%	39%
Not sure	30%	29%	34%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe/Sarvis				
Ken Cuccinelli	37%	9%	75%	33%
Terry McAuliffe	41%	73%	5%	40%
Robert Sarvis	7%	6%	7%	8%
Undecided	15%	12%	13%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Jackson Favorability				
Favorable	15%	10%	20%	16%
Unfavorable	28%	35%	18%	31%
Not sure	57%	55%	63%	53%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Northam Favorability				
Favorable	16%	25%	6%	16%
Unfavorable	19%	12%	23%	21%
Not sure	65%	63%	70%	63%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Northam/Jackson				
E.W. Jackson	35%	10%	66%	32%
Ralph Northam	42%	77%	9%	35%
Not sure	23%	14%	25%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obenshain Favorability				
Favorable	17%	9%	26%	16%
Unfavorable	16%	22%	9%	18%
Not sure	67%	69%	65%	66%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Herring Favorability				
Favorable	13%	23%	5%	9%
Unfavorable	15%	8%	19%	20%
Not sure	72%	68%	76%	71%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obenshain/Herring				
Mark Obenshain	36%	8%	72%	34%
Mark Herring	38%	74%	7%	27%
Not sure	25%	18%	21%	39%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	46%	88%	5%	36%
Republican	42%	5%	89%	39%
Not sure	12%	6%	6%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Cuccinelli Favorability				
Favorable	32%	34%	21%	30%
Unfavorable	47%	45%	51%	51%
Not sure	22%	20%	28%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McAuliffe Favorability				
Favorable	34%	33%	32%	41%
Unfavorable	36%	38%	27%	39%
Not sure	30%	28%	41%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe/-Sarvis				
Ken Cuccinelli	37%	41%	23%	36%
Terry McAuliffe	41%	39%	51%	38%
Robert Sarvis	7%	6%	12%	2%
Undecided	15%	14%	14%	25%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Jackson Favorability				
Favorable	15%	14%	17%	23%
Unfavorable	28%	28%	28%	26%
Not sure	57%	58%	55%	51%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Northam Favorability				
Favorable	16%	15%	18%	18%
Unfavorable	19%	17%	20%	27%
Not sure	65%	67%	61%	55%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Northam/Jackson				
E.W. Jackson	35%	37%	23%	37%
Ralph Northam	42%	39%	57%	41%
Not sure	23%	24%	20%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obenshain Favorability				
Favorable	17%	17%	11%	26%
Unfavorable	16%	15%	20%	18%
Not sure	67%	68%	69%	56%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Herring Favorability				
Favorable	13%	13%	16%	10%
Unfavorable	15%	13%	17%	30%
Not sure	72%	74%	67%	61%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obenshain/Herring				
Mark Obenshain	36%	40%	18%	39%
Mark Herring	38%	34%	57%	37%
Not sure	25%	26%	25%	24%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	46%	39%	72%	52%
Republican	42%	48%	21%	33%
Not sure	12%	13%	7%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cuccinelli Favorability					
Favorable	32%	28%	24%	30%	41%
Unfavorable	47%	45%	47%	50%	42%
Not sure	22%	28%	29%	20%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McAuliffe Favorability					
Favorable	34%	28%	35%	35%	33%
Unfavorable	36%	38%	40%	32%	39%
Not sure	30%	34%	25%	33%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cuccinelli/McAuliffe/Sarvis					
Ken Cuccinelli	37%	31%	33%	36%	44%
Terry McAuliffe	41%	41%	37%	46%	37%
Robert Sarvis	7%	14%	9%	5%	5%
Undecided	15%	14%	21%	13%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Jackson Favorability					
Favorable	15%	21%	17%	12%	16%
Unfavorable	28%	39%	24%	30%	25%
Not sure	57%	39%	59%	58%	59%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Northam Favorability					
Favorable	16%	14%	12%	18%	17%
Unfavorable	19%	24%	24%	15%	18%
Not sure	65%	62%	64%	67%	66%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Northam/Jackson					
E.W. Jackson	35%	43%	40%	29%	36%
Ralph Northam	42%	36%	41%	48%	37%
Not sure	23%	21%	19%	23%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obenshain Favorability					
Favorable	17%	14%	18%	13%	22%
Unfavorable	16%	28%	18%	16%	12%
Not sure	67%	59%	65%	72%	65%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Herring Favorability					
Favorable	13%	7%	10%	15%	15%
Unfavorable	15%	31%	21%	11%	12%
Not sure	72%	62%	69%	74%	73%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obenshain/Herring					
Mark Obenshain	36%	31%	40%	34%	40%
Mark Herring	38%	41%	40%	39%	34%
Not sure	25%	28%	19%	27%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Leg. Ballot					
Democrat	46%	41%	40%	51%	43%
Republican	42%	48%	41%	36%	49%
Not sure	12%	10%	19%	12%	8%

