

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)

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

Obama continues to lead narrowly in Virginia

Raleigh, N.C. – Public Policy Polling has surveyed Virginia voters three months in a row and three months in a row the result has been the same: Barack Obama leads the state by two points. This time it's 47-45.

Although he is more competitive with the white vote here than in some other Southern states, there's no doubt he's counting on the state's significant black population to turn out in order to win. He leads among blacks 89-11 while trailing 55-36 with whites.

One thing propelling him to the lead here is that he's doing a better job of keeping Democrats voting with the party than he is in some other states. He leads 84-12 with voters of his own party, a stronger performance than in places like Ohio and Missouri where that figure is in the 70s.

“Election night could well come down to Virginia and Colorado,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Polls are showing them as the tightest in the nation, and more than likely if Barack Obama can win just one of them he'll get the keys to the White House. They should continue to be closely contested all the way until November.”

The traditional gender and age gaps are shown in the results- Obama's up nine points with women while McCain has a five point advantage with men. Obama's up 23 with respondents under 30, McCain's up 24 with those over 65.

Mark Warner continues to hold a dominating lead over Jim Gilmore in the race to replace John Warner in the Senate. It's now 55-32 and Warner leads with every demographic subgroup of the population.

PPP surveyed 1,036 likely voters from August 20th to 22nd. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.0%. 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.

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.....45% *Undecided*..... 8%

Obama.....47%

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.....90%

Could Change Mind..... 10%

Q3 The candidates for US 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..... 32%

Warner.....55%

Undecided..... 13%

Q4 Were you born in Virginia, or somewhere else? If you were born in Virginia, press 1. If you were born somewhere else, press 2.

Born in Virginia..... 48% *Born Elsewhere*.....52%

Q5 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.....20% *Moral and Family Values*.....11%

Education..... 5% *Health Care*..... 6%

Economy and Jobs 46% *Immigration*..... 5%

Taxes..... 5% *Other*..... 2%

Q6 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman52%

Man.....48%

Q7 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

Democrat..... 40%

Republican.....34%

Other.....26%

Q8 If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

White75%

African-American20%

Hispanic/Other..... 5%

Q9 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.....28%

46 to 65.....41%

Older than 65..... 15%





Virginia

	Base	Change Mind	
		Firmly Committed	Could Change Mind
McCain/Obama			
McCain	49%	50%	42%
Obama	51%	50%	58%

	Base	Native	
		Born in Virginia	Born Elsewhere
McCain/Obama			
McCain	45%	42%	47%
Obama	47%	49%	45%
Undecided	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCain/Obama			
McCain	45%	42%	48%
Obama	47%	51%	43%
Undecided	8%	8%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
McCain/Obama				
McCain	45%	12%	89%	39%
Obama	47%	84%	7%	41%
Undecided	8%	4%	4%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Hispanic/Other
McCain/Obama				
McCain	45%	55%	11%	34%
Obama	47%	36%	89%	51%
Undecided	8%	10%	1%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCain/Obama					
McCain	45%	34%	47%	43%	57%
Obama	47%	57%	45%	49%	33%
Undecided	8%	9%	7%	8%	10%





Virginia

	Base	Native	
		Born in Virginia	Born Elsewhere
Change Mind			
Firmly Committed	90%	90%	90%
Could Change Mind	10%	10%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Change Mind			
Firmly Committed	90%	91%	89%
Could Change Mind	10%	9%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Change Mind				
Firmly Committed	90%	92%	92%	82%
Could Change Mind	10%	8%	8%	18%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Hispanic/Other
Change Mind				
Firmly Committed	90%	88%	96%	89%
Could Change Mind	10%	12%	4%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Change Mind					
Firmly Committed	90%	86%	94%	90%	86%
Could Change Mind	10%	14%	6%	10%	14%





Virginia

	Base	Native	
		Born in Virginia	Born Elsewhere
Senate			
Gilmore	32%	31%	32%
Warner	55%	53%	57%
Undecided	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Senate			
Gilmore	32%	30%	34%
Warner	55%	56%	55%
Undecided	13%	14%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Senate				
Gilmore	32%	6%	69%	24%
Warner	55%	86%	19%	56%
Undecided	13%	9%	13%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Hispanic/Other
Senate				
Gilmore	32%	38%	8%	28%
Warner	55%	50%	78%	48%
Undecided	13%	12%	13%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Senate					
Gilmore	32%	23%	38%	29%	36%
Warner	55%	65%	47%	58%	53%
Undecided	13%	12%	15%	12%	11%





Virginia

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and Family Values	Health Care	Immigration	Other
McCain/Obama									
McCain	45%	34%	26%	38%	82%	82%	22%	79%	35%
Obama	47%	56%	66%	54%	8%	16%	67%	13%	48%
Undecided	8%	10%	8%	8%	10%	3%	11%	9%	18%

	Base	Issues							
		War in Iraq	Education	Economy and Jobs	Taxes	Moral and Family Values	Health Care	Immigration	Other
Senate									
Gilmore	32%	24%	12%	24%	65%	67%	14%	68%	23%
Warner	55%	65%	58%	65%	21%	19%	68%	23%	51%
Undecided	13%	10%	30%	11%	14%	14%	18%	9%	26%

