The Washington Post

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This Washington Post-Schar School poll was conducted by telephone Sept. 7-13, 2021, among a random sample of 987 adults in Virginia, including subsamples of 907 registered voters and 728 likely voters. The sample was drawn from a combination voter registration-based sampling and random sampling of Virginia phone numbers that do not exist on voter databases. Overall, 74 percent of respondents were reached on cellphones and 26 percent on landlines. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md.

	Unweighted sample size	Error margin*
Virginia adults	987	+/-4
Virginia registered voters	907	4
Virginia likely voters	728	4.5

*All error margins calculated including design effects due to weighting.

*= less than 0.5 percent
RV=Registered voters LV=Likely voters

(Full methodological details at the end.)

1. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) How closely are you following this year's governor's race in the state of Virginia: very closely, somewhat closely, not so closely, or not closely at all?

| | | ---- Closely ----- | | | ---- Not closely ----- | | | No |
		NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not so	At all	opinion
9/13/21	RV	65	26	39	35	18	17	*
10/29/17	RV	68	26	42	32	14	17	*
10/2/17	RV	58	18	40	41	18	23	*
5/14/17	RV	56	15	40	44	20	24	*
10/27/13	RV	79	33	46	21	10	10	*
9/22/13	RV	68	25	44	31	19	12	*
5/2/13	RV	48	10	38	52	27	25	*
10/25/09	LV	89	39	50	11	9	2	*
10/7/09	LV	87	33	54	13	11	2	*
9/17/09	LV	84	34	51	15	12	4	*
8/14/09	LV	67	25	42	32	23	9	1
8/14/09	RV	48	17	32	51	30	21	*
10/26/05	LV	87	31	56	13	10	2	*
9/9/05	LV	73	20	53	27	20	7	*
9/9/05	RV	59	15	44	41	26	15	*
8/23/01	RV	60	16	44	39	26	13	1
8/27/00	RV	61	21	40	38	25	13	*
6/23/94	RV	74	27	47	27	18	9	*
2/3/94		73	27	46	27	18	9	*
9/93	RV	68	21	47	31	21	10	*

*2009 and earlier: Would you say you are following this year's governor's race in the state of Virginia very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not closely at all?

2. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the Virginia governor's election on November 2nd: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

				Will	Already	
Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than that	not vote (vol.)	voted (vol.)	No op.

9/13/21 RV	70	14	11	4	2	NA	0
10/29/17 RV	63	15	11	8	1	2	*
10/2/17 RV	60	19	11	8	1	*	*
10/27/13 RV	64	14	11	8	1	1	*
9/22/13 RV	60	19	12	8	1	0	*
5/2/13 RV	67	15	11	6	1	0	*
10/25/09 RV	60	16	13	6	2	1	1
10/7/09 RV	53	20	15	9	3	*	1
9/17/09 RV	53	19	16	9	3	NA	1
8/14/09 RV	61	16	13	7	2	NA	*
9/9/05 RV	68	18	9	4	1	NA	0
10/25/01 RV	63	19	10	5	2	NA	1
8/23/01 RV	68	16	10	5	1	NA	*
8/27/00 RV	76	14	7	2	1	NA	*

3. (IF CERTAIN OR PROBABLE TO VOTE) Do you think you'll (vote in person at your polling place on Election Day), or (vote before Election Day by early voting or mail-in ballot)?

	Vote in person	Early voting/ mail-in ballot	Already voted (vol.)	No opinion
9/13/21 RV	67	27	NA	5
10/19/20 RV	46	33	20	1
10/26/12 RV*	54	41	4	1

*Among certain to vote

4. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) If the election were being held today and the candidates were (Glenn Youngkin, the Republican) and (Terry McAuliffe, the Democrat), for whom would you vote? Which one are you leaning toward right now?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE

	Glenn Youngkin	Terry McAuliffe	Other (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/13/21 LV	47	50	*	0	1	2
9/13/21 RV	43	49	*	*	3	4

5. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE) Will you definitely vote for (NAMED CANDIDATE), or is there, or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for someone else?

	Definitely vote	Chance change mind	No opinion
9/13/21 RV	81	17	2
Support Younkin	81	18	1
Support McAuliffe	81	16	4

Compare to:

	Definitely vote	Chance change mind	No opinion
Northam:			
10/2/17 RV	68	28	3
Gillespie:			
10/2/17 RV	62	35	3
McAuliffe:			
10/27/13 LV	84	15	1
9/22/13 LV	73	24	3
5/2/13 LV	75	25	1

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Cuccinelli:
10/27/13 LV              74            23            3
9/22/13  LV              77            20            3
5/2/13   LV              59            37            4
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6. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) As it stands now, how much do you know about [INSERT NAME] and his qualifications to be governor: Do you know a lot about [INSERT NAME], a fair amount, just a little, or nothing at all?

9/13/21 – Summary table

| | -- Lot/Fair amt. -- | | -- Little/Nothing --- | | | |
	NET	A lot	Fair amount	NET	Just a little	Nothing at all	No opinion
a. Youngkin	52	12	40	48	27	20	1
b. McAuliffe	65	28	38	34	20	14	1

Trend:

a. McAuliffe

| | -- Lot/Fair amt -- | | -- Little/Nothing --- | | | |
	NET	A lot	A fair amount	NET	Just a little	Nothing at all	No opinion
9/13/21 RV	65	28	38	34	20	14	1
10/27/13 LV	81	23	58	18	15	4	*
9/22/13 LV	65	16	49	34	25	10	*
5/2/13 LV	38	9	29	61	38	23	1

Trend for comparison:

Cuccinelli:

	NET	A lot	A fair amount	NET	Just a little	Nothing at all	No opinion
10/27/13 LV	86	34	52	14	12	2	*
9/22/13 LV	72	24	48	28	20	8	0
5/2/13 LV	60	17	43	40	27	12	1

Sarvis:

	NET	A lot	A fair amount	NET	Just a little	Nothing at all	No opinion
10/27/13 LV	21	3	18	78	35	43	1

Deeds:

	NET	A lot	A fair amount	NET	Just a little	Nothing at all	No opinion
10/7/09 LV	67	13	55	32	28	5	*
8/14/09 RV	37	6	31	62	39	23	*

McDonnell:

	NET	A lot	A fair amount	NET	Just a little	Nothing at all	No opinion
10/7/09 LV	73	16	56	27	23	4	*
8/14/09 RV	37	7	30	62	38	25	*

7. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) What is the most important issue in your choice for governor – (taxes), (crime and public safety), (the coronavirus), (the economy), (education), (abortion) or something else (SPECIFY)?

	The economy	The coronavirus	Education	Crime & public safety	Abortion	Taxes	Something else	No op.
9/13/21 RV	25	17	14	11	9	7	13	3

8. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) Whom do you trust to do a better job handling [ITEM] – (Youngkin) or (McAuliffe)?

9/13/21 – Summary table

3

	Youngkin	McAuliffe	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. Taxes	43	38	*	6	13
b Crime and public safety	42	40	1	4	13
c. The coronavirus	35	44	1	8	12
d. The economy	42	41	*	5	11
e. Education	37	45	1	4	13
f. Abortion	34	44	1	6	15

Question 9 held for release.

10. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) If you vote in this November's election, how confident are you that your vote would be counted accurately? Very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not confident at all?

| | -- More confident --- | | | ----- Less confident ----- | | | No |
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	opinion
9/13/21 RV	80	54	26	19	11	8	1

Questions 11-12 held for release.

13. Have you personally received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion/Refused
9/13/21	78	18	4

Question 14 held for release.

15. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) Generally speaking, how would you rate the economy in your part of the state: excellent, good, not-so-good or poor?

| | ----Excellent/Good---- | | | ----Not so good/Poor---- | | | No |
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
9/13/21 RV	66	10	57	32	24	9	1
10/2/17 RV	68	12	56	31	23	9	1

16. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

| | -------- Approve ------- | | | ------- Disapprove ------ | | | No |
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/13/21 RV	46	25	20	51	8	43	3

17. (IF VOTED IN 2020) How confident are you that your vote in November's presidential election was counted accurately? Very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, not confident at all

| | -- More confident --- | | | ----- Less confident ----- | | | No |
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	opinion
9/13/21 RV	73	58	15	27	11	16	*

18. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) Do you believe Joe Biden won the 2020 election fair and square, or do you believe that he only won it due to voter fraud?

	Won fair and square	Won due to voter fraud	No opinion
9/13/21 RV	64	29	6

Party ID. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other (vol.)	No opinion
9/13/21 RV	30	24	39	4	2
10/19/20 RV	30	25	29	15	1
9/30/19	34	27	32	4	3
2/8/19	33	25	39	2	2
10/29/17	32	24	32	7	6
10/2/17	34	24	32	6	5
5/14/17	34	24	33	5	3
10/30/16	30	24	36	6	5
8/14/16	31	21	37	7	3
10/27/13	32	24	31	6	7
9/22/13	33	24	33	6	5
5/2/13	28	26	33	8	4
10/26/12	31	23	36	6	3
9/16/12	32	24	35	5	4
5/2/12	31	25	36	5	2

END

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

Demographics of weighted sample

	% of Virginia registered voters
Men	47
Women	53
Age 18-39	34
Age 40-64	42
Age 65+	24
High school or less	26
Some college	31
Bachelor's degree	24
Post-graduate	19
White, non-Hispanic	72
Black, non-Hispanic	18
Hispanic	3
Other/Multiple	7

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and the George Mason University Schar School of Policy and Government. The poll includes interviews in English and Spanish and is a random sample of Virginia adult residents.

A total of 270 interviews were completed using dual frame Random Digit Dialing (RDD) procedures of landline and cellular phones in Virginia. The remaining 717 interviews were completed by sampling from a database of Virginia registered voters maintained by Aristotle, Inc., in which voters have been matched to landline and cellular phone numbers, including phones with out-of-state area codes. The sample frames were de-duplicated, such that phone numbers existing on the voter list frame were not eligible for selection through the RDD frame. The total sample included 253 interviews on landlines and 734 interviews completed via cellular phones, including 494 interviews with adults in cell phone-only households.

In the RDD sample, interviewers calling landline phone numbers first requested to speak with the youngest adult male or female at home, while on cellphones interviewers asked screening questions on age and state residency of the person answering the phone. In the voter file sample, interviewers calling landlines asked for respondents' names to be confirmed or matched to the voter file. Voter-file respondents reached on cellphones were interviewed if they confirmed they were registered to vote in Virginia. For cell voter-file interviews, where a voter did not confirm the name on the database, as well for all RDD interviews with registered voters, Abt Associates attempted to match respondents to the Aristotle database after data collection.

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for characteristics of the sample design and deviations in the survey sample from known population characteristics, which helps correct for differential survey participation and random variation in samples.

Weights correct for differential probability of selection for landline-only, cell phone-only and dual phone users. Results are also weighted to match the demographic makeup of the population, as detailed in the table below. The sample of registered voters who were matched to the Aristotle voter file (68 percent) were weighted to match the distribution of all voters on a measure of inferred partisanship, which is based on voters' participation in partisan primaries, political donations and other indicators. In the survey, 78 percent of voters classified as inferred Democrats said they identified or leaned Democratic, while 75 percent of those classified as inferred Republicans.

	Source of weighting benchmarks	
Weighting factors	Adult sample	Registered voter sample
Sex Age Education Race/Ethnicity White X College degree	2019 American Community Survey (ACS)	2019 ACS/2018-2020 Current Population Survey (CPS) voter supplement
Virginia regions	2015-2019 ACS	Va. Dept. of Elections
Covid-19 vaccination	Virginia Dept. of Health	Virginia Dept. of Health
Voter registration	2020 CPS voting and voting and registration supplement, adjusted for turnout	N/A
Inferred party identification	N/A	Aristotle voter registration database

This questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Voter registration and demographics and religious identity questions are not displayed. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the group asked.

Phrases surrounded by parentheticals within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents. Results preceded by "RV" indicate results among registered voters, with "LV" indicating likely voters and other results are among adults overall.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.6 for this survey. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

Group	Unweighted sample size	Error margin
Virginia residents	987	+/- 4 points
Registered voters	907	4
Likely voters	728	4.5
Half sample	488-491	5.5

The Washington Post is a charter member of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative, which recognizes organizations that disclose key methodological details on the research they produce.

Contact polls@washpost.com for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.