

This Washington Post-Schar School poll was conducted by telephone Oct. 20-26, 2021, among a random sample of 1,209 adults in Virginia, including subsamples of 1,107 registered voters and 918 likely voters. The sample was drawn from a combination of voter registration-based sampling and random sampling of Virginia phone numbers. Overall, 73 percent of respondents were reached on cellphones and 27 percent on landlines. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md.

	Unweighted sample size	Error margin*
Virginia registered voters	1,107	+/- 3.5 points
Virginia likely voters	918	+/- 4 points

*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
10/21/21 RV	79	41	38	21	10	11	*
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 this fall: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

	Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than that	Will not vote (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No op.
10/26/21 RV	66	8	7	4	1	13	*
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	*

*"on November 2nd"

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
10/26/21 LV	56	23	18	3
10/26/21 RV	57	24	16	3
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), (Terry McAuliffe, the Democrat) and third-party candidate Princess Blanding, for whom would you vote? Which one are you leaning toward right now? Confidentially and for statistical purposes only, did you vote for...

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - LIKELY VOTERS

	Glenn Youngkin	Terry McAuliffe	Princess Blanding	Other (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	None of these (vol.)	No op.
10/26/21 LV	48	49	1	*	0	0	2

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - REGISTERED VOTERS

	Glenn Youngkin	Terry McAuliffe	Princess Blanding	Other (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	None of these (vol.)	No op.
10/26/21 RV	44	47	3	*	1	1	3

5. (IF SUPPORT BLANDING AND NOT AN EARLY VOTER) If the only candidates were (Glenn Youngkin, the Republican) and (Terry McAuliffe, the Democrat), for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - BASED ON ALL LIKELY VOTERS

	Glenn Youngkin	Terry McAuliffe	Other (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	48	49	*	*	*	2

9/13/21* LV 47 50 * 0 1 2

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

	Glenn Youngkin	Terry McAuliffe	Other (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/26/21 RV	45	49	*	1	2	4
9/13/21* RV	43	49	*	*	3	4

Results based on total sample. Respondents who named Youngkin or McAuliffe in Q4 assigned to initial preference.

*9/13/21 "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?"

6. (IF LIKELY 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?

	Educ- ation	The economy	The corona- virus	Abortion	Crime & public safety	Taxes	Something else	No op.
10/26/21 LV	24	23	10	9	7	6	16	5
9/13/21 LV	15	27	16	8	11	5	15	3
9/13/21 RV	14	25	17	9	11	7	13	3

7. (IF LIKELY VOTER) Whom do you trust to do a better job handling [ITEM] - (Youngkin) or (McAuliffe)?

10/26/21 - Summary table

	Youngkin	McAuliffe	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. abortion	38	48	*	3	10
b. education	46	47	*	2	5
c. the economy	49	45	*	2	5
d. the coronavirus	39	49	1	5	6
e. crime and public safety	48	43	1	3	6
f. how public schools teach the history of racism in America	43	45	*	5	8

Trend where available:

a. abortion

	Youngkin	McAuliffe	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	38	48	*	3	10
9/13/21 LV	36	46	1	5	11
9/13/21 RV	34	44	1	6	15

b. education

	Youngkin	McAuliffe	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	46	47	*	2	5
9/13/21 LV	42	47	1	2	8
9/13/21 RV	37	45	1	4	13

c. the economy

	Youngkin	McAuliffe	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	49	45	*	2	5
9/13/21 LV	47	43	*	2	7
9/13/21 RV	42	41	*	5	11

d. the coronavirus

	Youngkin	McAuliffe	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	39	49	1	5	6
9/13/21 LV	38	44	2	6	9
9/13/21 RV	35	44	1	8	12

e. crime and public safety

	Youngkin	McAuliffe	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	48	43	1	3	6
9/13/21 LV	45	42	1	3	9
9/13/21 RV	42	40	1	4	13

f. No trend.

8. (IF LIKELY VOTER) Do you think Glenn Youngkin's ideas and policies are (similar to) Donald Trump's or (different from) Trump's?

	Similar	Different	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	71	18	11

9. (IF LIKELY VOTER) Donald Trump has endorsed Glenn Youngkin for governor. Does Trump's endorsement make you (more) likely to support Youngkin, (less) likely to support Youngkin, or does it make no difference in your vote?

	More likely	Less likely	Makes no difference	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	9	37	53	1

10. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) As you may know, the candidates in November's election for Attorney General are (Jason Miyares, the Republican) and (Mark Herring, the Democrat). If that election were being held today would you vote for (Miyares, the Republican) or (Herring, the Democrat)? Which one are you leaning toward now? Confidentially and for statistical purposes only, did you vote for...

	Jason Miyares	Mark Herring	Other (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	44	50	*	*	1	4
10/26/21 RV	43	48	*	1	2	6

11. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) As you may know, the candidates in November's election for Lieutenant Governor are (Winsome Sears, the Republican) and (Hala Ayala, the Democrat). If that election were being held today would you vote for (Winsome Sears, the Republican) or (Hala Ayala, the Democrat)?

	Winsome Sears	Hala Ayala	Other (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	46	50	*	0	1	3
10/26/21 RV	44	48	*	1	2	5

On another subject,

12. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) Have you personally received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion/Refused
10/26/21 RV	81	15	4
9/13/21 RV	77	17	6
9/13/21	78	18	4

13. (IF LIKELY VOTER) Please tell me if you support or oppose each of the following steps relating to the coronavirus pandemic. First is... [READ ITEM].

How about [NEXT ITEM]? IF NEEDED: Do you support or oppose [NEXT ITEM] relating to the coronavirus pandemic?

10/26/21 - Summary table among likely voters

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
a. school districts requiring teachers and staff to be vaccinated	61	36	3
b. businesses requiring employees who come into work to be vaccinated	54	41	5

Trend where available:

a. school districts requiring teachers and staff to be vaccinated

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	61	36	3
9/13/21 LV	66	32	2
9/13/21 RV	67	31	2

b. businesses requiring employees who come into work to be vaccinated

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
10/26/21 LV	54	41	5
9/13/21 LV	55	41	4
9/13/21 RV	55	41	4

Moving on,

14. (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 opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
10/26/21 LV	46	21	24	53	9	44	2
10/26/21 RV	43	20	23	53	11	41	4
9/13/21 RV	46	25	20	51	8	43	3

15. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ralph Northam is handling his job as governor of Virginia? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
10/26/21 LV	51	27	24	44	11	34	5
10/26/21 RV	52	24	28	41	11	30	7
9/30/19 RV	49	16	33	31	12	19	20
9/30/19	47	15	32	29	12	17	23
2/8/19	43	18	24	44	15	30	13

Compare to:

Terry McAuliffe:

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
5/14/17	49	19	30	25	11	14	26
8/14/16	53	22	31	31	13	18	16

Bob McDonnell:

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/22/13 RV	49	13	36	39	22	17	11
5/2/13 RV	64	19	44	27	14	13	9
9/16/12 RV	58	24	34	27	13	14	15
5/2/12 RV	58	18	40	36	19	16	7
5/4/11 RV	64	23	41	26	12	13	11

Tim Kaine:

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
5/4/11*	58	24	34	30	14	15	12
10/25/09 LV	58	23	35	38	17	21	4
10/7/09 LV	60	25	36	37	19	19	2
9/17/09 LV	59	27	33	38	17	22	2
8/14/09	56	21	34	36	18	18	8
9/21/08 RV	66	NA	NA	25	NA	NA	9
10/8/07	63			25			12
10/12/06 LV	77			19			4

*2011: Thinking back to when Tim Kaine was governor, would say you approve or disapprove of the way Kaine handled his job as governor?

Mark Warner:

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
10/26/05 LV	80	NA	NA	17	NA	NA	3
9/9/05 RV	76	NA	NA	22	NA	NA	2

Jim Gilmore:

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	opinion
10/25/01 LV	62	25	37	33	18	16	5
8/23/01 RV	57	NA	NA	36	NA	NA	7
8/27/00 RV	70	25	45	20	8	12	10

George Allen:

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
10/21/97	66	NA	NA	27	NA	NA	6
9/16/97 RV	67	NA	NA	26	NA	NA	7

16. (IF LIKELY 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
10/26/21	LV	56	10	47	42	28	14	2
9/13/21	LV	66	10	57	32	23	9	2
9/13/21	RV	66	10	57	32	24	9	1
10/2/17	RV	68	12	56	31	23	9	1

17. (IF REGISTERED VOTER) Would you like to see abortion laws in Virginia made (more strict), (less strict), or remain as they are?

		More	Less	Remain same	No opinion
10/26/21	LV	23	26	43	8
10/26/21	RV	21	25	46	8
2/8/19	RV	35	21	36	8
2/8/19		34	21	37	8

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
10/26/21	LV	34	27	33	5	1
10/26/21	RV	32	24	36	6	3
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 326 interviews were completed using dual frame Random Digit Dialing (RDD) procedures of landline and cellular phones in Virginia. The remaining 883 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 331 interviews on landlines and 878 interviews completed via cellular phones, including 611 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 (75 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, 79 percent of voters classified as inferred Democrats said they identified or leaned Democratic, while 80 percent of those classified as inferred Republicans.

Weighting factors	Source of weighting benchmarks	
	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 and surveys among registered voters

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 parentheses 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.

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.

