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 JUDY FORD WASON
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***Virginians think McDonnell prison sentence fair;
back gift ban, redistricting reform, reporting
campus rape to police, looser marijuana laws***

Summary of Key Findings

1. Virginians think former Gov. Bob McDonnell's prison sentence is fair and are very skeptical that Virginia's political culture is honest and ethical. Strong majorities back a \$250 gift ban and an ethics commission.
2. Most Virginia voters say they aren't familiar with the way redistricting is done, but of those who are, more say the process is unfair. Majorities support creating an independent redistricting commission and prohibiting the use of partisan voting data in drawing districts.
3. By a large margin, Virginians support requiring that colleges report campus sexual assaults to local police, not handle them internally.
4. If further cuts have to be made to the state budget, transportation is the top choice; a large majority would exempt K-12 funding from cuts.
5. Very large majorities support legalizing marijuana for medical use and decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana.

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Analysis

The State of Things: Virginians are more optimistic about the state of things in the Commonwealth (Q1) than they are in the country (Q2). Just over half of registered voters say things in the Commonwealth are heading in the right direction, while only 34% say things in the country are moving in the right direction. Virginians give Governor Terry McAuliffe a 52% approval rating (Q4), the first time he has been above 50% in Wason Center polling; President Obama's approval rating stands at 44% among registered Virginia voters (Q3), with 50% disapproving.

Ethics and Ethics Reform: Ethics reform, prompted in large part by former Governor Bob McDonnell's conviction on public corruption, is a central issue in the General Assembly this session, and the views of Virginia voters suggest that it should be. A strong majority (62%) of Virginia voters approve of McDonnell's two-year sentence (Q5). Only 34% say that Virginia's political culture is exceptionally or mostly honest and ethical (Q6), while 64% say it is somewhat or not very honest and ethical. Almost nine in ten (85%) Virginians support a \$250 cap on gifts (Q7), including taking trips and attending events, while 36% would support a lower cap of \$100 (Q8). Finally, 71% support the creation of an independent ethics review commission to oversee ethics issues related to state and local government officials (Q9).

"The public is very sour on our elected officials, and on our larger political culture right now," said Dr. Quentin Kidd, director of the Wason Center for Public Policy. "Clearly the idea that Virginia has an exceptionally ethical and honest political culture is a figment of the imagination. The public simply doesn't buy it."

Redistricting: As in recent sessions of the General Assembly, several bills designed to reform the way Virginia redistricts its state legislative and congressional boundaries have been introduced in the current session. Virginia voters report being mostly unfamiliar with the way Virginia currently redistricts (Q12). Of those who say they are familiar (Q13), almost half (49%) say they think the way redistricting is currently done is unfair, while 41% say they think the current method is fair. A majority of Virginia voters (54%) support the proposed creation of an independent redistricting commission (Q14), although Democrats are far more supportive (68%) than Republicans (42%). Virginia voters also support prohibiting the use of partisan voting information – information on the number of votes cast for Democrats and Republicans in a given area – in redistricting (Q15), with 55% saying they support such a restriction. Support for prohibiting the use of partisan information is largely bipartisan, with 56% of Democrats and 52% of Republicans saying they support it.

Two-term Governor: Virginia voters are in favor of letting the governor run for reelection at least once (Q10), but they would apply term limits to members of the General Assembly. Just over six in ten (64%) support letting the governor run for reelection at least once, while 34% say we should leave things like they are. While majority support exists across all demographic categories, support is higher in Hampton Roads, and among voters under 45, liberals, and Democrats, and lower in Richmond and central Virginia, and among men, conservatives, and Republicans. Virginia voters

favor term-limiting members of the General Assembly (Q11), with 67% saying there should be limits on how many terms a member of the General Assembly can serve and 29% saying we should leave things like they are.

Campus Sexual Assault: Virginia voters overwhelmingly support proposals that would require colleges and universities to report campus sexual assaults to local police (Q17) rather than handle them as internal disciplinary matters. Overall, 9 out of 10 voters support such a requirement, with extremely high support across all demographic, regional and political categories.

Minimum Wage: There is strong support for gradually increasing the minimum wage in Virginia from \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10 per hour by 2017 (Q16), although support varies by demographic and political categories. Men are less supportive than women (66% to 81%), and white voters are less supportive than black voters (67% to 97%). Across the state, support is highest in Northern Virginia (77%) and lowest in Southwest (66%). Self-identified liberals and Democrats are more supportive (96% and 97%) than self-identified conservatives and Republicans (48% and 49%).

“The issue of the minimum wage is one area where Virginia voters and the majority of the General Assembly appear to be at odds,” said Kidd. “It’s hard for me to see how a minimum wage increase gets through the General Assembly, despite the widespread public support for it.”

Budget and Budget Cuts: A primary task of the current General Assembly session is to adjust the two-year budget passed last year, to reflect actual revenue and updated projections. Having had to make cuts to the state budget in September, Governor McAuliffe and Virginia lawmakers continue to watch the state budget closely in the event that further cuts are needed. Just over three-fourths (77%) of voters are willing to cut some part of the budget if necessary (Q18), with 34% picking transportation, 17% social services, and 10% health care. Transportation comes out as the top choice for budget cuts across all demographic, political, and regional categories. A small majority (51%) of Virginia voters are willing to support a general tax increase to avoid cuts to any of these areas of the budget (Q19), but clear political and demographic differences emerge, with men, older voters, conservatives, and Republicans more opposed than supportive of a general tax increase.

Virginia voters are strong in their support of keeping K-12 education off the budget-cutting block (Q20), with 86% saying it should not be cut like other parts of the budget. K-12 enjoys very strong support across all demographic, regional, and political divisions, with self-identified conservatives slightly less supportive than moderates and liberals. Virginians are not willing to support an increase in the gas tax, even with gas prices at a six-year low (Q21). Overall, a majority (55%) oppose raising the gas tax, with opposition highest in Hampton Roads, among those under 45, and self-identified Republicans. A majority of residents of Northern Virginia, self-identified liberals, and Democrats support a gas tax increase.

“The broad message from Virginia voters on the budget is one of balance: 77% say cuts of some sort are acceptable if necessary, more on transportation and social services and

far less on K-12 education. A slight majority would accept a general increase in taxes, but there is no appetite for an increase in the gas tax,” said Kidd.

Medical Marijuana and Marijuana Decriminalization: A strong majority (69%) of Virginia voters say they would support legalizing marijuana for medical purposes (Q22), with broad support across demographic and regional categories. Self-identified conservatives and Republicans are least supportive, but a majority of both (55% and 52%) say they support it. Overall, a similar majority (71%) support decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana, with similar broad support across demographic and regional categories, and less but still majority support among conservatives and Republicans. On both questions, there is a clear age difference in views toward marijuana, with voters under 45 about 15% more supportive of loosening state law than voters over 45; nevertheless, voters over 45 are still overwhelmingly supportive of relaxing the state’s marijuana laws.

“The Virginia electorate appears to be ready to move on from the drug wars, at least as it relates to marijuana: to accept medical marijuana and to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana. These views are in line with public opinion nationally, which sees the possession and use of marijuana as less a public policy problem than perhaps it once was,” said Kidd.

General Obligation Bond: One way Virginia finances public works projects is through general obligation bonds. The last general obligation bond was passed in 2002, and some members of the General Assembly have talked about the prospect of a new general obligation bond. A strong majority of Virginia voters say they would support having funds for higher education facilities (Q27), natural areas, forests, parks, and clean water projects (Q28), and transportation maintenance and construction (Q29) in a new general obligation bond if the General Assembly were to consider one this year.

*Field Dates: January 11-23
1,062 Registered Virginia Voters*

Q1: Overall, would you say things in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA are heading more in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45+	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Right	51	49	52	49	60	58	47	52	42	58	47	64	58	35	64	36	52
Mixed (vol)	14	13	16	14	15	12	20	14	13	13	15	13	12	17	13	14	16
Wrong	32	35	28	34	24	27	30	31	41	26	34	18	27	46	20	45	30
Dk/Ref (vol)	3	3	4	4	1	3	3	3	4	3	4	5	3	3	3	5	2

Trends:	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2013	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Dec. 2010
Right	50	48	46	46	49
Mixed (vol)	11	17	18	18	20
Wrong	34	30	30	31	28
Dk/ref (vol)	5	5	6	6	3

Q2: And how about the country...overall, would you say things in the UNITED STATES are heading more in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45+	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Right	34	33	34	28	55	36	34	35	28	36	32	56	38	14	54	12	34
Mixed (vol)	11	11	11	10	14	12	9	12	9	13	10	7	12	6	13	6	12
Wrong	54	55	53	62	28	50	56	51	62	49	57	34	50	79	30	82	53
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	3		1	3		1

Trends:	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2013	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Dec. 2010
Right	30	35	23	15	27
Mixed (vol)	10	11	12	13	17
Wrong	57	52	62	71	55
Dk/ref (vol)	2	1	3	1	2

Q3: [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?
[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Approve	44	40	48	34	83	45	44	48	39	48	42	80	50	13	84	8	40
Disapprove	50	56	45	62	9	50	49	45	57	42	54	17	45	85	11	91	52
Dk/Ref (vol)	6	4	7	4	8	5	7	7	4	10	4	3	5	1	4	1	8

Trends:	Feb. 2014	Jan. 2013	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Dec. 2010
Approve	46	51	43	44	44
Disapprove	48	43	53	52	49
Dk/ref (vol)	6	5	4	4	7

Q4: [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Terry McAuliffe is handling his job as Governor of Virginia? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Terry McAuliffe is handling his job as Governor? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Approve	52	49	54	49	67	53	48	56	49	50	52	74	58	33	75	34	48
Disapprove	25	30	20	28	11	25	23	23	28	23	26	15	19	43	11	40	25
Dk/Ref (vol)	24	21	26	23	22	22	29	21	23	27	22	11	24	24	14	26	27

Trends:	Sept. 2014	Apr. 2014
Approve	47	44
Disapprove	27	32
Dk/ref (vol)	26	24

Q5: Recently, former governor Bob McDonnell was sentenced to 2 years in prison for public corruption. In your view, was this sentence fair or unfair?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Fair	62	60	64	64	57	66	63	54	65	69	59	60	67	59	58	62	68
Not sure (vol)	7	7	7	6	9	8	6	6	7	7	7	9	5	7	6	8	7
Unfair	27	31	25	27	29	22	30	36	25	22	30	27	26	31	32	27	23
Ref (vol)	4	2	4	3	5	4	2	5	3	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	2

Q6: Virginia has long been regarded as having an exceptionally honest and ethical political culture with little or no public corruption. The term “*THE VIRGINIA WAY*” is often used to describe this political culture. However, some people say that the conviction of former governor McDonnell exposed a political culture that is not as honest and ethical as people thought it was. What is your view, do you think Virginia’s political culture is exceptionally honest and ethical, mostly honest and ethical, somewhat honest and ethical, or not very honest and ethical?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45+	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Exceptionally honest and ethical	3	5	1	3	2	4	1	3	3	1	4	2	3	4	2	5	2
Mostly honest and ethical	31	37	26	36	13	36	31	23	30	27	33	32	27	43	25	42	29
Somewhat honest and ethical	44	40	48	41	60	45	44	43	44	54	40	45	48	36	54	37	45
Not very honest and ethical	20	17	22	18	25	13	22	28	21	17	21	19	20	16	19	15	22
Not sure (vol)	2	1	2	2		2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2

Q7: Governor McAuliffe recently established a commission on integrity and public confidence in state government that made several recommendations for reform. One recommendation would prohibit public officials and their families – including members of the General Assembly and Governor’s staff, local elected officials, and people appointed to boards and commissions - from taking any gifts worth more than \$250, including taking trips or attending events. Do you [RANDOMIZE: “support” or “oppose”] this proposal?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45+	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Support	85	82	86	88	79	89	81	84	83	83	85	83	88	84	86	83	88
No view (vol)	3	2	5	3		5	2	3	3	2	4	2	4	1	1	3	4
Oppose	11	14	9	9	21	5	16	12	14	15	10	15	8	13	14	12	8
Ref (vol)	1	1	1			1	1	1	1		1			1		1	

Q8: And what if the restriction was \$100, would you support a restriction on any gifts worth more than \$100, including taking trips and attending events, or do you think a \$250 restriction is good enough?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45+	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Support	36	40	33	34	44	34	38	30	44	32	39	39	27	44	29	30	45
No view (vol)	3	1	4	4		2	4	2	3	3	2	2	2	4	1	1	5
\$250 good enough	60	58	61	60	56	64	54	67	52	63	58	55	70	53	68	68	49
Ref (vol)	1	1	2	2			4	2	2	2	1	4	1		2	1	2

Q9: Another one would create an independent ethics review commission to oversee ethics issues related to executive and legislative branch officials, local government officials, and members of boards and commissions. Do you [RANDOMIZE: “support” or “oppose”] this proposal?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Support	71	67	75	72	73	70	72	73	71	76	69	79	70	70	78	67	72
No view (vol)	7	7	7	12	12	5	10	8	7	6	7	4	8	6	5	7	7
Oppose	20	23	17	14	14	23	17	17	21	16	22	17	22	21	16	24	20
Ref (vol)	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2		1	3		2	1

Q10: Virginia is the only state that does not allow the Governor to run for consecutive terms. Do you think [RANDOMIZE: “governors should be allowed to run for reelection at least once” or “we should leave it like it is”]?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Run for reelection	64	57	69	64	66	62	59	71	64	71	60	71	65	59	73	57	64
No view (vol)	1		1	1				4	1	1	1		1	1		1	2
Leave like is	34	42	28	35	31	37	40	22	35	27	38	29	34	40	26	42	33
Ref (vol)	1	1	1		3	1	1	3		1	1				1		1

Q11: Currently members of the General Assembly can run for reelection as many times as they want. Do you think [RANDOMIZE: “there should be limits on how many terms a member of the General Assembly can serve” or “we should leave it like it is”]?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
There should be limits	67	65	69	67	69	61	72	67	70	67	67	67	67	66	67	64	70
No view (vol)	3	2	4	3	4	3	2	3	5	3	3	4	3	3	5	3	2
Leave like is	29	32	26	30	28	35	25	29	26	30	29	29	30	31	28	33	24
Ref (vol)	1	1	1			1	1	1			1						

Q12: Legislative district boundaries for the General Assembly and Congress are redrawn every ten years after the census, a process known as REDISTRICTING. How familiar are you with the redistricting process in Virginia, would you say...

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Familiar	47	52	41	52	30	50	45	46	43	33	53	48	51	45	44	49	49
Not sure (vol)	2	2	2	1	4	1	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	3	2	1
Unfamiliar	51	46	56	47	66	48	52	51	55	64	44	48	47	53	52	49	50
Ref (vol)	1		1			1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1		

Q13: [Of those who say “Generally familiar in Q11] In your view, is the way redistricting is done in Virginia mostly fair or mostly unfair?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Fair	41	39	44	43	28	41	45	36	44	47	39	30	41	50	29	58	36
Not sure (vol)	9	8	11	10	8	9	10	9	9	9	10	5	9	13	6	12	9
Unfair	49	52	44	46	64	49	43	55	47	43	51	65	49	36	66	29	54
Ref (vol)	1	1	1	1		1	2			1			1	1		1	1

Q14: Virginia’s Constitution gives the General Assembly the sole power to redistrict. There is a proposal before the General Assembly to change the Virginia Constitution by taking authority over redistricting away from the General Assembly and establishing an independent redistricting commission to draw new district boundaries. Do you [RANDOMIZE: “support” or “oppose”] this proposal?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Support	54	54	54	52	60	58	50	54	53	54	54	59	64	42	68	42	56
No view (vol)	13	11	15	13	13	12	17	13	12	13	14	13	10	14	8	15	14
Oppose	31	34	29	33	27	29	32	32	34	32	31	27	25	41	24	41	29
Ref (vol)	2	1	2	2		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3		2	1

Q15: There is another proposal before the General Assembly to prohibit the use of partisan voting information – that is information on the number of votes cast for Democrats and Republicans in a given area – when drawing new district boundaries. Do you [RANDOMIZE: “support” or “oppose”] this proposal?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Support	55	57	53	55	56	61	56	47	55	57	54	55	62	49	56	52	60
No view (vol)	9	8	9	9	7	7	10	10	8	9	9	11	5	9	8	9	8
Oppose	35	34	37	35	37	31	34	42	36	33	36	34	33	41	35	39	32
Ref (vol)	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1			1	1	1	

Q16: There is a proposal before the General Assembly to gradually raise the minimum wage in Virginia from \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour by 2017. Do you [RANDOMIZE: “support” or “oppose”] this proposal?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Support	73	66	81	67	97	77	76	73	66	78	71	96	80	48	97	49	71
No view (vol)	2	2	1	2	1	1		1	5	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2
Oppose	25	31	18	31	1	22	24	25	30	20	27	2	19	49	2	49	27
Ref (vol)		1			1			1			1	1					

Q17: There has been a lot of news recently about sexual assaults on college campuses in Virginia and across the nation. While a victim of sexual assault always has the option to file charges with local police, colleges and universities typically handle allegations of sexual assault as an internal disciplinary matter. There is a proposal before the General Assembly to require universities to report allegations of sexual assault to local police rather than handle them internally. What is your view, do you think universities [RANDOMIZE: “should be required to report allegations of sexual assault to local police” or “should be allowed to handle allegations of sexual assault as internal disciplinary matters”]?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Required to report	90	88	92	90	91	89	90	95	88	86	92	88	90	94	89	93	90
No view (vol)	2	3	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	4	1	4	1	2	3	1	2
Handle as internal matter	7	8	6	8	7	9	7	2	10	9	6	9	9	3	8	5	8
Ref (vol)	1	1				1				1				1		1	

Q18: As you know, recently Virginia has had to deal with budget cuts. If more cuts have to be made to the state budget, in which area of the state budget do you think those cuts should be made? Should they be made in...[RANDOMIZE FIVE CHOICES]

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Transportation	34	29	41	29	52	31	41	34	36	39	32	29	38	32	41	29	33
Public safety	5	7	3	6	4	5	3	4	8	7	4	7	5	4	6	3	7
Education	4	5	4	5	2	8	2	2	4	3	5	1	3	7	2	7	4
Health care	10	12	8	11	6	11	10	8	8	12	8	9	9	12	10	14	5
Social services	17	19	15	20	9	17	12	23	17	20	16	10	15	29	6	28	21
All equally (vol)	7	7	6	7	4	7	9	5	6	3	8	9	8	4	8	5	5
No cuts (vol)	17	15	19	17	16	16	16	19	16	12	19	27	19	6	21	10	19
Dk/ref (vol)	6	6	5	5	8	6	6	5	6	4	7	7	3	7	6	5	7

Q19: Would you be willing to support a general increase in taxes to avoid budget cuts in any of these areas?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	51	46	57	50	62	55	54	51	45	56	49	75	59	30	78	32	44
No	45	50	41	47	36	42	44	48	49	42	47	25	40	66	21	63	53
Ref (vol)	4	4	3	3	2	3	2	1	6	2	4		1	4	1	5	2

Q20: In recent budget cuts the governor and General Assembly have not cut funding for K-12 education. Do you think K-12 education funding should be [RANDOMIZE: “cut like other parts of the budget” or “Not cut like other parts of the budget if possible”]?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Cut like other parts	12	14	9	13	9	11	10	12	13	9	14	5	8	21	4	16	14
No view (vol)	2	2	1	2		2	2			2	1	2		3	2	2	1
Not cut	86	84	90	85	91	86	88	88	87	89	85	93	92	76	94	82	85
Ref (vol)						1											

Q21: The primary way transportation is funded in Virginia is through a tax on the wholesale price of gas. With gas prices at a six-year low, some people have suggested that Virginia should raise its gas tax to ensure adequate transportation funding for maintenance and new construction. Would you [RANDOMIZE: “support” or “oppose”] increasing the gas tax?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Support	43	47	40	45	43	52	43	32	45	36	47	62	50	28	62	28	41
No view (vol)	2	2	2	2			3	2	2	2	1		1	3	2	3	
Oppose	55	51	59	52	57	48	54	66	53	62	51	38	49	69	36	68	59
Ref (vol)				1												1	

Q22: In recent years twenty-two states have legalized marijuana for medical purposes. Would you [RANDOMIZE: “support” or “oppose”] legalizing marijuana for medical use in Virginia?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Support	69	66	73	69	67	72	68	75	60	80	64	81	72	55	77	52	75
No view (vol)	2	2	2	2	1	1	4	1	3	2	2	3	1	2	2	3	2
Oppose	29	32	25	29	32	27	28	24	37	18	34	16	27	43	21	45	23

Q23: In recent years seventeen states have decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana by replacing the possibility of a criminal record and jail time with a civil fine. Would you [RANDOMIZE: “support” or “oppose”] decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana like this in Virginia?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Support	71	73	70	70	77	81	68	68	65	83	65	83	79	54	85	52	77
No view (vol)	2	2	2	2	1	1	4	2	3	4	3	4		2	2	3	1
Oppose	26	25	28	28	21	18	28	30	31	13	32	13	21	44	12	46	22
Ref (vol)	1				1				1						1		

The General Assembly has limited revenue with which to fund many public policy areas. Among those public policy areas is conservation of Virginia’s natural resources. I’m going to read a few statements about Virginia’s natural resources and the budget, and I’d like you to tell me if you agree strongly, agree, have no view, disagree, or disagree strongly with each statement. Ok, here’s the first one...

Q 24: Protecting Virginia’s natural lands and parks, rivers and streams, and the Chesapeake Bay, should be a top funding **priority**...

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 & ^	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Agree strongly	29	31	29	31	27	36	25	31	24	27	31	37	31	25	39	25	26
Agree	52	51	55	53	52	50	56	49	57	54	52	50	54	51	47	54	57
No view	6	4	7	6	7	5	6	7	6	6	6	5	6	8	6	7	6
Disagree	10	12	8	9	14	8	11	10	12	12	9	7	8	14	6	13	10
Disagree strongly	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1
Ref (vol)	1						1	1			1						

Q25: Even with tight budgets, **funding** for restoring Virginia’s rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay, and conserving forests and parkland should be protected...

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 & ^	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Agree strongly	30	30	31	31	25	35	27	32	25	29	31	38	33	24	38	25	30
Agree	59	58	61	58	66	55	61	61	66	60	59	55	58	65	54	62	63
No view	4	4	4	4	5	3	7	1	4	5	3	3	5	3	5	3	3
Disagree	6	7	4	6	4	7	4	5	5	7	5	4	4	8	3	9	4
Disagree strongly	1	1		1							1					1	
Ref (vol)							1	1			1						

Q26: Restoring the Commonwealth’s rivers, the Chesapeake Bay, and protecting its land will help strengthen Virginia’s **economy**...

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 & ^	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Agree strongly	25	26	23	26	20	29	20	27	19	22	26	31	24	21	32	18	24
Agree	47	44	50	47	54	38	54	47	55	42	50	45	50	47	48	51	46
No view	14	14	15	15	11	18	13	12	12	19	12	12	17	12	14	13	15
Disagree	13	14	11	12	16	14	12	12	13	17	11	12	9	19	6	18	15
Disagree strongly	1	2	1			1		2	1		1			1			
Ref (vol)							1										

Somemembers of the General Assembly would like to consider a general obligation bond, which is a way the state can borrow money to finance public works projects. general obligation bonds have to be approved by voters, and the last time one was approved was in 2002. I'm going to name several things that could be in a general obligation bond if the General Assembly considers one this year. For each one, please tell me if you think it should or should not be included.

Q27: Funding for higher education facilities...

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Should	72	69	75	68	92	70	72	78	71	81	68	87	73	73	88	60	71
Not sure (vol)	2	2	2	2	1	1	4	1	3	2	2	1	2	1		2	3
Should not	25	28	22	30	6	29	23	20	26	17	29	12	25	26	12	38	26
Ref (vol)	1	1	1		1		1	1			1						

Q28: Funding for protection of natural areas, forests, parks and clean water in Virginia...

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Should	82	78	87	82	88	84	83	81	81	87	80	92	84	77	91	79	80
Not sure (vol)	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	3	1	1	3	1	2	2
Should not	15	19	11	16	11	14	14	16	17	12	16	7	15	20	8	19	17
Ref (vol)	1						1	1			1						1

Q29: Funding for transportation maintenance and construction

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Lib	Mod	Cons	Dem	Rep	Ind
Should	70	69	71	70	77	75	63	67	72	70	70	79	74	63	81	70	65
Not sure (vol)	4	3	4	3	4	2	5	5	4	5	3	4	3	3	4	2	4
Should not	25	27	24	27	19	23	31	27	23	25	26	17	23	34	15	28	30
Ref (vol)	1	1	1				1	1	1		1						1

Demographics

EDUC:

High school or less	15
Some college	22
Vocational or technical training	3
College graduate	35
Graduate study or more	24
Dk/ref (vol)	1

HISPANIC:

Yes	4
No	96

RACE:

White	72
Black or African American	19
Other	9

PARTYID:

Democrat	31
Republican	29
Independent	34
Other/none (vol)	2
Dk/ref (vol)	4

IDEOL:

Strong liberal	6
Liberal	13
Moderate, leaning liberal	20
Moderate, leaning conservative	20
Conservative	20
Strong Conservative	10
Dk/ref (vol)	11

AGE:

18-24	8
25-34	11
35-44	14
45-54	24
55 & older	43

INCOME:

Under \$25,000	8
\$25-\$49,999	17
\$50-\$74,999	17
\$75-\$99,999	12
\$100,000-\$149,999	14
Over \$150,000	15
Dk/ref (vol)	17

REGION:

Northern Virginia	33
Richmond/Central	21
Hampton Roads	24
South/Southwest	22

SEX:

Male	49
Female	51

How the survey was conducted:

The results of this poll are based on 1,062 interviews of registered Virginia voters, including 575 on landline and 487 on cell phone, conducted January 11-23, 2015. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. The margin of error for the whole survey is +/- 3.0% at the 95% level of confidence. Questions 5-11 and 16-23 were asked of randomized half samples (n=531), and the margin of error for these questions is +/- 4.3 at the 95% level of confidence. In addition to sampling error, the other potential sources of error include non-response, question wording, and interviewer error. The response rate (AAPOR RRI Standard Definition) for the survey was 17%. Five callbacks were employed in the fielding process. Live calling was conducted by trained interviewers at the Wason Center for Public Policy Survey Research Lab at Christopher Newport University. The data reported here are weighted using an iterative weighting process on sex, age, race and region of residence to reflect as closely as possible the demographic composition of registered voters in Virginia. The survey was designed by Dr. Quentin Kidd of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University.