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Voters back compromise on Medicaid expansion, support marijuana reform, minimum wage hike

Summary of Key Findings

- 1.** Voters support Medicaid expansion by a small majority overall. While Republicans oppose general Medicaid expansion, a majority of Republicans support a compromise partial expansion.
- 2.** Virginians support decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana, making it punishable by fines rather than jail.
- 3.** Voters support raising the \$7.25 minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2020.
- 4.** Two-thirds of voters know someone who has taken prescription opioid painkillers; they support treatment rather than prison for opioid abusers.
- 5.** Voters would prohibit sending or reading e-mails while driving, but they would not ban all cell phone use while driving. Texting is already illegal.
- 6.** A majority support amending Virginia's Constitution to put a non-partisan redistricting commission in charge of drawing new political districts.

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Analysis

The State of Things: Virginians are optimistic. Optimism about the direction of the Commonwealth (Q1) has reached a four-year high, with 56% of Virginia voters saying things in Virginia are moving in the right direction. This compares to 36% who say things in the country are heading in the right direction (Q2), an assessment similar to January 2017. Virginia voters are very optimistic about Governor Ralph Northam's term (Q4), with more than twice as many saying they are optimistic (63%) than pessimistic (27%). Voters give former governor Terry McAuliffe a positive assessment of his four-year term (Q3), with 55% saying they approve of how he handled his job as governor and 32% saying they disapprove. After the dramatic tie in last November's House of Delegates race in District 94, voters say they do not like breaking such a tie by drawing the winner's name by lot (Q5), with 62% saying they disapprove of this method and 34% saying they approve. By an overwhelming margin, voters say that despite the dramatic gains by Democrats in the House of Delegates in last November's election, they want Republicans and Democrats in the closely divided House (Q6) to work across party lines (79%) rather than represent their own party's voters on issues (18%).

Medicaid Expansion: Support for expansion, but compromise OK. Voters say they support Medicaid expansion (Q9), 58% to 38%. These numbers are similar to a very similarly worded question in January 2014 at the start of Governor Terry McAuliffe's term. Then, 56% of voters said they supported expanding the healthcare program. Support is stronger among women and black voters, and weaker though still a majority among men, white voters, and voters from Southwest/Southside. Republicans oppose expansion 66% to 30%, but in House of Delegates and Senate districts represented by Republicans, support for expansion stands at 54%. Democrats strongly support expansion, 85% to 11%, and in House of Delegates and Senate districts held by Democrats, support stands at 61% and 62% respectively.

If an across-the-board expansion cannot make it through the General Assembly, 53% of voters would support a compromise that results in a partial expansion (Q10). Importantly, support for a partial expansion among Republicans overall stands at 54% and support across House of Delegates and Senate districts controlled by either party stands in the mid-50% range. The question of a partial expansion creates a division among Democrats, with 51% saying they would support it and 44% saying they would support only a full expansion.

“While a majority of voters support a full expansion of Medicaid, Republican voters oppose it, and Republicans are still in charge in the General Assembly,” said Dr. Quentin Kidd, director of the Wason Center for Public Policy. “However, a partial expansion has the support of Republican voters, which may open a path to compromise this session.”

Criminal Justice: Decriminalize marijuana, raise the threshold for felony grand larceny, and put opioid abusers in treatment, not jail. Voters are very supportive of decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana (Q14) and increasing the dollar threshold at which a theft is a felony (Q15). Most voters know

someone who has taken an opioid painkiller (Q25) and support treatment rather than prison time for those who abuse opioid prescription drugs (Q26).

Support for decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana stands at 76% overall and crosses all demographic and partisan categories, dropping to its lowest level (60%) among self-identified Republicans. Overall, 59% of voters support increasing the threshold at which theft is a felony from the current \$200 to \$1,000. Self-identified Democrats support the proposal at 72% while 59% of self-identified Republicans oppose the proposal.

Just over two-thirds (68%) of Virginia voters know someone who has taken a prescription opioid painkiller in the last two years (Q25). Just over three-fourths (78%) favor providing treatment for individuals who abuse opioid prescription drugs without a prescription, while 13% favor sending them to prison (Q26).

Cell Phones and Driving: Prohibit e-mail, but allow phone calls. A two-thirds majority (66%) of Virginia voters say that reading or sending e-mails on cell phones while driving should be prohibited (Q11a), but only 42% support banning making or receiving phone calls while driving (Q11b). Nearly two-thirds (61%) oppose banning the use of cell phones for any purpose while driving. These views show broad regional, demographic, and political agreement.

Voting and Election Reform: Allow no-excuse voting and reform the redistricting process. A small majority (55%) of Virginia voters say they are familiar with the once-a-decade process of redrawing General Assembly and Congressional districts (Q20), a slight increase from a year ago. Voters are very supportive of reducing legislators' power to draw their own districts. Only 29% of voters say they want to leave redistricting as it currently is done, with legislators drawing the district lines (Q20a), while 65% support the creation of an independent advisory commission to propose redistricting plans to the General Assembly (Q20b) and 61% support amending Virginia's Constitution to put a non-partisan commission in charge of redistricting. When asked to choose between the three options (Q24), 48% of voters say amend the Constitution, while 26% say create an advisory commission and 18% say leave the process like it is.

A strong majority (69%) of voters support the idea of allowing a 21-day no-excuse absentee voting period before Election Day (Q8). Support is highest among women (72%), African Americans (87%), younger voters (76%), and Democrats (88%), and lowest but still a majority among Republicans (55%) and residents of Southwest/Southside (57%). Interestingly, voters who live in House and Senate districts held by Democrats support this proposal only about 10% more than voters who live in House and Senate districts held by Republicans.

Gun Control: Support, but clear partisan differences. There is broad support for several gun control measures that have been introduced in the General Assembly in recent years. A strong majority of 84% of voters support background checks for private gun sales (Q16a). Support for this measure is strong across the board, with even 76% of self-identified Republicans saying they support it. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of voters say

they support banning assault-style weapons (Q16b), with support highest among women, African Americans and Democrats, and lower but still a majority among men and younger voters. Republicans are evenly split, with 49% supporting a ban and 49% opposing it. Just over three-fourths (76%) of voters oppose allowing anyone who owns a gun legally to conceal-carry that gun without a permit (Q16c). Opposition is highest among women, Richmond/Central Virginia voters and Democrats, and lower but still a strong majority among men, residents of Southwest/Southside, and Republicans.

Virginia voters say they generally think it is more important to control who can buy guns than it is to protect the rights of Virginians to own guns (Q19). Just over a majority (54%) say it is more important to control who can buy a gun, with 31% saying they feel that way strongly, while 41% say it is more important to protect the rights of Virginians to own guns, with 29% saying they feel that way strongly. A majority of men, residents of Southwest/Southside, and Republicans say that it is more important to protect the right to own guns.

“We see from these results why Democrats feel comfortable pushing for gun control in Virginia,” said Dr. Rachel Bitecofer, assistant director of the Wason Center. “Support for gun control is generally very strong among voters across the populous Golden Crescent, where Democrats win elections.”

Minimum Wage: Raise it. Virginia voters strongly support raising the minimum wage gradually from its current \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour by 2020 (Q7). Support stands at 74% overall, with women, African Americans, and Democrats the strongest supporters. A majority of Republicans and men support the proposal, but not as strongly. Voters who live in Democratic-controlled House and Senate districts support raising the minimum wage by an average of 12% more than voters who live in a Republican-controlled House or Senate district.

Field Dates: January 14-February 4, 2018
 870 Registered Virginia Voters
 Overall Toplines Margin of Error = +/- 3.6%

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+	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Right	56	53	59	57	58	59	56	60	49	59	54	46	70	55	58	54	58
Mixed (vol)	11	11	11	11	7	10	10	13	12	10	12	11	10	12	11	11	12
Wrong	28	33	23	27	31	27	30	25	32	26	29	37	15	30	26	31	25
Dk/Ref (vol)	5	3	6	5	4	5	4	2	8	5	5	6	5	4	6	4	6

Trends:	<u>Jan. 2017</u>	<u>Jan. 2016</u>	<u>Sept. 2015</u>	<u>Jan. 2015</u>	<u>Jan. 2014</u>
Right	53	40	46	51	50
Mixed (vol)	12	15	15	14	11
Wrong	30	41	35	32	34
Dk/ref (vol)	6	4	4	3	5

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+	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Right	36	43	30	44	9	34	32	45	36	28	40	75	5	42	30	42	30
Mixed (vol)	10	11	10	9	13	9	14	10	10	13	8	9	9	11	10	11	9
Wrong	53	45	60	46	79	56	54	45	53	58	50	15	86	46	59	46	61
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	1	1	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1

Trends:	<u>Jan. 2017</u>	<u>Jan. 2016</u>	<u>Sept. 2015</u>	<u>Jan. 2015</u>	<u>Jan. 2014</u>
Right	37	24	28	34	30
Mixed (vol)	7	9	9	11	10
Wrong	52	66	61	54	57
Dk/ref (vol)	4	1	2	2	2

Q3: As you know, Terry McAuliffe’s term as Governor of Virginia ended in the last few days. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Terry McAuliffe has handled his job as Governor over the last four years?

[INTERVIEWER: 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 has handled 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 +	Rep	Dem	HOD - R	HOD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Approve	55	49	61	52	71	54	61	59	45	56	54	30	82	51	59	51	59
Disapprove	32	41	24	38	11	33	32	27	37	27	35	61	5	34	30	35	29
Dk/Ref (vol)	13	10	15	11	18	13	7	14	18	17	11	9	13	15	11	13	13

Trends:	<u>Jan. 2017</u>	<u>Jan. 2016</u>	<u>Jan. 2015</u>	<u>April 2014</u>
Approve	57	45	52	44
Disapprove	38	32	25	32
Dk/ref (vol)	5	24	24	24

Q4: Ralph Northam has just been sworn in as Governor of Virginia in the last few days. Which of the following best describes your feelings as you look ahead to Ralph Northam’s term as Governor, would you say that you are mostly optimistic or mostly pessimistic? **[INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you feel mostly optimistic or mostly pessimistic? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HOD - R	HOD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Optimistic	63	58	67	57	87	65	66	65	53	70	59	34	91	57	69	56	70
Mixed (vol)	5	6	5	7	1	4	8	6	4	7	5	6	3	6	5	6	5
Pessimistic	27	32	22	32	7	27	23	25	33	20	31	54	5	31	23	31	22
Dk/Ref (vol)	5	4	6	5	5	4	3	4	10	3	5	6	1	6	4	7	3

Q5: As you know recent elections for the House of Delegates resulted in several close races where judges and courts had to decide whether to order recounts or new races. One race was ruled a tie which, under state law, must be decided by drawing the winner’s name by lot. Do you approve or disapprove of using this method to settle ties in state and local races?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HOD - R	HOD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Approve	34	38	30	36	29	34	37	27	39	31	35	47	19	38	30	38	30
No view (vol)	3	4	2	3	-	3	2	1	3	2	3	2	1	2	3	2	3
Disapprove	62	57	67	60	69	62	60	68	58	64	61	50	78	58	67	59	66
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	-	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1

Q6. The results of the November 8th election produced significant changes in the partisan distribution in the Virginia House of Delegates. Before the election, Republicans had a large majority but now, the House is almost evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. In light of this, how would you like lawmakers to behave in this session? Should they make an effort to work across party lines or should they represent their own party's voters on issues?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Work	79	79	78	80	77	78	79	82	76	72	82	70	83	77	80	77	80
Not sure (vol)	2	3	1	2	2	3	-	1	3	4	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Partisan	18	16	20	17	21	18	21	15	19	24	15	27	15	19	18	19	17
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	2	1	1	-	2	-	1	2	-	2	2	-	2	1	1	1

Q7: There are proposals before the General Assembly to gradually raise the minimum wage in Virginia from \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour by 2020. Do you support or oppose these proposals?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	74	66	83	71	87	74	75	76	73	76	74	57	94	69	80	68	82
Oppose	24	32	16	27	13	23	25	23	25	24	24	42	6	29	18	31	17
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	2	1	2	-	3	-	1	2	-	2	1	-	2	2	2	1

Q8: Currently in order to vote absentee, Virginia residents have to provide a reason why they can't make it to the polls on Election Day, such as a work responsibility, travel, or a health issue. There are proposals before the General Assembly to allow 21 days of no-excuse absentee voting before Election Day to make it easier to vote. Do you support or oppose these proposals?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	69	66	72	64	87	72	70	73	57	76	65	55	88	64	74	63	75
Oppose	29	32	26	33	13	26	29	26	37	21	33	43	11	34	24	34	23
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	3	2	3	-	2	1	1	6	3	2	2	1	2	2	3	2

Q9: Medicaid is a health care program for families and individuals with low incomes that is funded by both federal and state tax dollars. Virginia currently has the option to expand the program. Supporters of expanding Medicaid say it would cover nearly 400,000 additional people who are uninsured using mostly federal dollars. Those who oppose expanding it say they worry that if future federal funding is cut Virginia will have to pay for the difference, which could be hundreds of millions of dollars. What is your view, do you support Medicaid expansion or oppose it?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	58	52	63	53	76	60	58	58	53	61	56	30	85	54	61	54	62
Oppose	38	42	34	42	22	35	40	38	41	36	39	66	11	42	35	43	33
Dk/Ref (vol)	4	6	3	5	2	5	2	3	6	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	5

Similar Question in January 2014: “Medicaid is a health care program for families and individuals with low income that is funded by both federal and state tax dollars. Currently, Virginia is faced with a decision about whether to expand the Medicaid program to cover an additional 400,000 mostly working poor Virginians who are uninsured. In general, do you support Medicaid expansion or oppose it?”

Support	56
Oppose	38
Dk/Ref (vol)	6

Q10: In the past Republicans and Democrats in the General Assembly have not been able to agree on a full expansion of Medicaid that would cover all of the nearly 400,000 additional people who are uninsured. Some think this year the General Assembly may be able to agree on something that covers fewer people and costs less, but isn't a full Medicaid expansion. What is your view, would you support a partial expansion of Medicaid, only a full expansion, or no expansion at all? **[ROTATE CHOICES]**

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Partial	53	48	58	55	53	52	57	54	50	56	52	54	51	54	53	53	53
Only full	23	24	22	18	40	22	23	26	21	21	24	6	44	19	27	20	27
No expansion	19	23	16	23	5	22	19	17	18	18	20	38	2	21	18	21	17
Dk/Ref (vol)	5	5	4	5	1	4	1	2	11	5	5	3	3	6	3	6	3

Q11: Currently Virginia law prohibits texting while driving, but there are proposals before the General Assembly to prohibit other uses of cell phones while driving. I'm going to read some of these proposals and I'd like you to tell me if you support or oppose them.

A. Reading or sending e-mail:

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	66	66	66	69	58	71	63	63	63	59	70	67	67	65	67	63	69
Oppose	33	34	33	30	42	27	36	37	37	40	29	33	33	35	32	36	30
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1

B. Making or receiving phone calls:

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HOD - R	HOD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	42	41	44	42	45	39	46	41	46	37	45	40	41	49	36	47	38
Oppose	55	56	54	56	53	58	52	57	52	61	52	59	54	49	61	51	60
Dk/Ref (vol)	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	1	4	2	3	2	3

C. Any cell phone use while driving

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HOD - R	HOD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	36	34	39	36	38	36	36	34	42	27	42	34	39	39	34	38	34
Oppose	61	63	59	62	58	63	62	63	54	70	56	65	58	57	65	58	64
Dk/Ref (vol)	3	3	3	2	5	1	2	4	4	3	2	2	3	4	1	4	1

Q14: Under current Virginia law the use and possession of small amounts of marijuana is treated as a major felony that requires jail time. There are proposals before the General Assembly to “decriminalize” the possession of small amounts of marijuana by making it a small offense with fines and fees but no jail time, rather than a major felony with possible jail time. Do you support or oppose these proposals?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HOD - R	HOD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	76	76	76	76	81	75	78	79	72	84	72	60	87	74	78	76	77
Oppose	21	21	22	21	18	23	18	18	25	15	25	35	12	23	20	21	22
Dk/Ref (vol)	3	3	2	3	1	2	4	2	3	1	4	5	1	3	2	3	1

Q15: Under current Virginia law, stealing an item worth \$200 or more qualifies as grand larceny, a felony that can result in serious criminal charges. This amount has not changed since 1980, and there are proposals before the General Assembly to raise it to \$1,000. Do you support or oppose these proposals?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HOD - R	HOD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	59	56	61	57	66	61	65	58	50	65	55	41	72	55	62	54	64
Oppose	39	42	37	41	33	36	33	41	49	35	42	59	26	44	35	44	34
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	1	1	-	3	-	2	1	3	2	2

Q16: There are several bills before the General Assembly related to guns and gun safety. As I describe each one, please tell me if you support or oppose it.

A. Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks:

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	84	79	89	84	89	85	85	86	80	83	85	76	96	83	86	81	88
Oppose	15	21	9	15	12	13	15	14	19	16	14	23	4	17	13	19	11
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	1	1	1	1

B. A ban on assault-style weapons:

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	65	55	74	63	73	64	69	66	60	58	68	49	84	61	68	59	71
Oppose	34	45	24	35	27	36	30	31	38	41	30	49	16	37	31	39	29
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	-	2	2	-	-	1	3	2	1	2	2	-	2	1	2	-

C. Allow anyone who legally owns a gun to conceal carry without a permit:

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	22	30	14	23	16	21	16	20	31	25	20	26	10	24	19	26	17
Oppose	76	69	84	76	83	77	83	79	65	75	77	72	88	73	80	72	82
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	-	3	2	1	2	1	2	1

Q19: Generally speaking, what do you think is more important – to protect the rights of Virginians to own guns OR to control who can buy guns? Do you feel strongly about that view, or is that just a general view?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Strg protect	29	36	22	32	18	24	31	26	37	24	31	49	7	34	23	35	22
Protect	12	16	8	13	6	12	10	11	14	10	13	15	6	12	12	12	12
Control	23	19	28	22	26	25	25	23	19	30	20	15	30	23	23	21	26
Strg control	31	27	36	28	44	36	31	37	24	30	32	17	52	26	37	27	36
Dk/Ref (vol)	5	3	6	5	6	6	4	3	6	6	4	4	5	5	5	6	4

Q20: Legislative election 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 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Familiar	55	58	51	57	40	60	58	53	45	43	61	57	59	53	57	51	59
Not sure	3	3	4	3	3	-	1	6	9	4	4	5	3	5	2	7	1
Unfamiliar	41	38	44	39	47	39	41	41	45	52	35	38	38	41	41	42	40
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Trends:	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015
Familiar	54	52	47
Not sure (vol)	2	1	2
Unfamiliar	43	47	51
Dk/ref (vol)	1	-	1

Q21: I'm going to describe three different ways redistricting could be done, and for each one please tell me if you support or oppose it. [ROTATE Q21A-Q21C]

A. Leave redistricting like it currently is, with legislators in the General Assembly drawing their own lines:

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	29	29	29	28	29	26	31	33	28	29	29	42	22	32	26	29	29
Oppose	61	61	62	62	65	65	58	62	59	59	63	48	71	59	64	60	63
Dk/Ref (vol)	10	10	9	10	7	9	11	5	13	12	8	10	7	9	10	11	8

B. Create an independent advisory commission to propose redistricting plans to legislators in the General Assembly:

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	65	65	65	64	66	70	67	63	57	67	64	56	73	62	69	61	70
Oppose	24	25	24	25	26	22	24	27	26	20	27	35	18	27	22	27	22
Dk/Ref (vol)	11	10	11	11	8	7	9	10	17	13	9	10	9	11	10	13	8

C. Amend Virginia's constitution to create a non-partisan commission to be in charge of redistricting without any input from legislators in the General Assembly:

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HoD - R	HoD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Support	61	62	61	62	62	68	56	59	58	60	62	51	73	56	66	58	66
Oppose	29	29	30	29	29	23	36	35	26	27	31	42	19	33	26	31	28
Dk/Ref (vol)	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	6	16	13	7	7	8	11	8	12	6

Q24: If you could choose one of these three methods of redistricting for Virginia, which ONE would you choose?
[INTERVIEWER: PROMPT RESPONDEND FOR ONLY ONE CHOICE AS NECESSARY]

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HOD - R	HOD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Leave like it currently is	18	18	18	18	16	18	15	22	17	17	18	28	9	19	17	17	19
Create advisory commission	26	24	28	26	26	27	27	25	23	27	25	28	23	24	28	25	27
Amend constitution	48	50	46	49	46	48	49	48	48	44	50	39	61	49	47	48	48
Dk/Ref (vol)	8	8	8	7	11	8	9	5	12	12	6	5	8	8	8	10	6

Q25: Ok, thank you. Now I'd like to ask you some questions about prescription painkillers, sometimes called opioids, such as Percocet, OxyContin, or Vicodin. During the past two years, do you personally know anyone who has taken a strong prescription painkiller, like the ones I just mentioned?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HOD - R	HOD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Yes	68	67	69	71	62	67	71	69	68	77	64	73	63	71	66	71	66
DK (vol)	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	-	1	1	1	1	1
No	30	30	30	27	37	31	27	30	30	21	35	26	36	27	32	27	32
Ref (vol)	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1

Q26: In general, do you believe that individuals caught abusing opioid prescription drugs without a prescription should be given **[ROTATE: "treatment" or "prison time"]**?

	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Nova	Rich	HR	S/west	18-44	45 +	Rep	Dem	HOD - R	HOD - D	Sen - R	Sen - D
Treatment	78	76	80	78	84	79	83	80	70	80	78	65	88	76	81	75	82
DK (vol)	7	7	7	8	2	6	6	3	13	6	8	9	5	9	5	8	6
Prison	13	14	12	13	14	13	9	15	14	14	13	25	6	13	13	14	12
Ref (vol)	2	3	1	1	-	1	2	10	3	1	2	1	1	2	1	3	1

Demographics

EDUC:

High school or less	13
Some college	19
Vocational or technical training	2
College graduate	37
Graduate study or more	27

HISPANIC:

Yes	4
No	96

RACE:

White	72
Black or African American	19
Other	9

RELIG:

Protestant	27
Christian (non-specific) (vol)	26
Catholic	15
Jewish	2
Other	13
None (vol)	14
Dk/ref (vol)	3

PARTYID:

Republican	29
Democrat	33
Independent	33
No preference (vol)	2
Other party (vol)	1
Dk/ref (vol)	2

[IF OTHER THAN REP OR DEM ABOVE]

PARTLEAN:

Republican	39
Democratic	43
Independent	14
Dk/ref (vol)	5

IDEOL:

Strong liberal	6
Liberal	13
Moderate, leaning liberal	24
Moderate, leaning conservative	18
Conservative	18
Strong Conservative	12
Dk/ref (vol)	8

AGE:

18-24	9
25-34	12
35-44	15
45-54	23
55 & older	41

INCOME:

Under \$25,000	6
\$25-\$49,999	12
\$50-\$74,999	14
\$75-\$99,999	17
\$100,000-\$149,999	16
Over \$150,000	24
Dk/ref (vol)	11

REGION:

Northern Virginia	34
Richmond/Central	21
Hampton Roads	24
South/Southwest	21

SEX:

Male	49
Female	51

How the survey was conducted:

The results of this poll are based on 870 interviews of registered Virginia voters, including 372 on landline and 498 on cell phone, conducted Jan. 14-Feb. 4, 2018. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. The margin of error for the whole survey is +/- 3.6 % at the 95% level of confidence. **This means that if 50% of respondents indicate a topline view on an issue, we can be 95% confident that the population's view on that issue is somewhere between 46.4% and 53.6%.** All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.2 in 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. Sub-samples have a higher margin of error. 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 18%. 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 Virginia.