Boston, MA – The new Emerson College poll in Virginia finds Democratic Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam leading former Republican National Committee chair Ed Gillespie in the race for Governor by a margin of three points, 49% to 46%. Libertarian Cliff Hyra takes 1%. The previous Emerson poll had Northam up by five points, 49% to 44%, showing a tightening of the race since mid-October, and an improvement for Gillespie. The poll, with a sample size of n = 810 and a margin of error of +/- 3.4%, was conducted from November 2 – 4.

President Trump has a favorability rating of 43%/51% unfavorable among Virginia voters, a slight improvement over his 42%/53% rating in the last Emerson poll, taken in October 18. Incumbent Democratic Governor Terry McAuliffe scores a 40%/42% rating among voters, virtually the same as his 39%/41% rating in mid-October.

Northam’s 47%/46% rating and Gillespie’s 44%/45% shows that both candidates have made themselves better known to the electorate, as the election approaches. In the last Emerson poll, Northam was viewed neutrally or was unknown to 19% of voters, Today, he is unknown by 7%. Likewise, Gillespie has reduced his neutral/unknown number from 15% to 11%. With both candidates boosting high unfavorable numbers, the election will hinge on which candidate is able to maximize turnout his base.

Gillespie is attempting to do so by focusing his campaign on his opposition to “sanctuary cities.” This may be proven to be a winning
issue for him – 50% of Virginians oppose sanctuary cities, as compared to 32% who support them. Republicans in particular are opposed by a massive margin of 82% to 7% which could be Gillespie’s strategy for motivating his base. Gillespie may be picking off some Democrats who oppose sanctuary cities as Gillespie leads among voters opposed to sanctuary cities 80% to 14%.

Northam has his own winning issue with abortion, as 51% of Virginia voters are pro-choice while 36% are pro-life. Northam, who is pro-choice, wins these voters 77% to 21%, while Gillespie wins pro-life voters 83% to 11%. Voters who are mixed on this hot-button issue back Northam by a slim 46% to 45% margin.

The gubernatorial election is sharply divided along regional lines – Northam leads in Northern Virginia 63% to 35% while Gillespie carries Central/Western Virginia 55% to 39%. Eastern Virginia is battleground territory, with Northam currently leading by a razor-thin 47% to 46%. Maximizing turnout in each candidate’s base region will be key to winning this election.

In a generic ballot for the Virginia House of Delegates, Democrats hold a slim lead of 47% to 44%, virtually unchanged from the 48% to 44% margin they led by in mid-October. Independents break 45% to 34% for the Democratic candidate.

**Methodology**

The Virginia Emerson College poll was conducted November 2nd through November 4th, 2017, in both English and Spanish, under the Supervision of Professor Spencer Kimball. The sample consisted of early voters and registered voters who indicated that they are very likely to vote, n=810, with a margin of error (MOE) of +/- 3.4 percentage points. The Virginia data was weighted by age, gender, region, party affiliation, and 2016 vote results. It is important to remember that subsets based on gender, age, party breakdown and education carry with them higher margins of error, as the sample size is reduced. Data was collected using an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system of landlines only.

Emerson College Polling Weekly is the official podcast for the Emerson College poll. The podcast is available on iTunes, Stitcher and the CLNS Media Mobile App. Visit our website at [http://www.emersoncollegepollingsociety.com](http://www.emersoncollegepollingsociety.com). Follow us on Twitter @EmersonPolling.
Survey Instrument

For English just stay on the line, for spanish, press 0

1. To start, can you please tell me your gender?
Press 1 for male
Press 2 for female

1. Para comenzar, me puedes indicar tu género?
Oprima 1 para hombre
Oprima 2 para mujer

2. Are you currently registered to vote? If yes, do you consider yourself a member of a political party?
Press 1 for democrat
Press 2 for republican
Press 3 for independent or other
Press 4 if you are not registered to vote

2. En este momento estás registrado para votar con un partido político?
Oprima 1 para democrata
Oprima 2 para republicano
Oprima 3 para independiente o otro
Oprima 4 si no estas registrado para vota

3. How likely are you to vote in the upcoming election for governor this month?
Press 1 if you have already voted
Press 2 if you are very likely to vote
Press 3 if you are somewhat likely to vote
Press 4 if you are 50-50
Press 5 if you are not likely or not registered to vote

3. Que es tu probabilidad de votar en la elección para elegir el gobernador en Noviembre?
Oprima 1 si es muy probable que vas a votar
Oprima 2 si es un poco probable que vas a votar
Oprima 3 si estas cincuenta - cincuenta
Oprima 4 si no es probable que votes

4. For whom did you vote in the 2016 presidential election?
Press 1 for Donald Trump
Press 2 for Hillary Clinton
Press 3 for someone else or if you did not vote
4. Por quien votastes in la elección presidencial del dos mil dieciséis?
Oprima 1 para Donald Trump
Oprima 2 para Hillary Clinton
Oprima 3 para otros candidatos o si no votastes

5. Is your opinion of Donald Trump generally favorable or generally unfavorable?
Press 1 for favorable
Press 2 for unfavorable
Press 3 for neutral or no opinion
Press 4 if you have never heard of this person

5. Es tu opinión de Donald Trump generalmente favorable o generalmente desfavorable?
Oprima 1 para favorable
Oprima 2 para desfavorable
Oprima 3 para neutral o si no tienes opinión
Oprima 4 si nunca has oído de esta persona

6. What about Terry McAuliffe. Is your opinion of Terry McAuliffe generally favorable or generally unfavorable?
Press 1 for favorable
Press 2 for unfavorable
Press 3 for neutral or no opinion
Press 4 if you have never heard of this person

6. Ahora, Terry McAuliffe. Es tu opinión de Terry McAuliffe generalmente favorable o generalmente desfavorable?
Oprima uno para favorable
Oprima dos para desfavorable
Oprima tres para neutral o si no tienes opinión
Oprima cuatro si nunca has oído de esta persona

7. Next, take Ralph Northam? Is your opinion of Ralph Northam generally favorable or generally unfavorable?
Press 1 for favorable
Press 2 for unfavorable
Press 3 for neutral or no opinion
Press 4 if you have never heard of this person
7. Y cual es tu opinión de Ralph Northam? Es tu opinión de Ralph Northam generalmente favorable o generalmente desfavorable?
   Oprima uno para favorable
   Oprima dos para desfavorable
   Oprima tres para neutral o si no tienes opinión
   Oprima quatro si nunca has oído de esta persona

8. Finally, how about Ed Gillespie? Is your opinion of Ed Gillespie generally favorable or generally unfavorable?
   Press 1 for favorable
   Press 2 for unfavorable
   Press 3 for neutral or no opinion
   Press 4 if you have never heard of this person

8. Finalmente, Ed Gillespie. Es tu opinión de Ed Gillespie generalmente favorable o generalmente desfavorable?
   Oprima uno para favorable
   Oprima dos para desfavorable
   Oprima tres para neutral o si no tienes opinión
   Oprima quatro si nunca has oído de esta persona

9. If the election for Governor were held today, for whom would you vote or lean towards voting among the following candidates?
   Press 1 for the Democrat Ralph Northam
   Press 2 for the Republican Ed Gillespie
   Press 3 for the Libertarian Cliff Hyra
   Press 4 if you are unsure

9. Si la elección para gobernador fuera hoy, por quien votarias de los candidatos siguientes?
   Oprima uno para el democrata Ralph Northam
   Oprima dos para el republicano Ed Gillespie
   Oprima tres para el libertarian Cliff Hyra
   Oprima 4 si no estas seguro

10. For statistical purposes only, can you please tell me your ethnicity?
    Press 1 for White or Caucasian
    Press 2 for Black or African-American
    Press 3 for Hispanic or Latino of any race
    Press 4 for Asian or Indian American
    Press 5 for Other or multiple races
10. Para razones estadísticas solamente, me podrías decir tu etnicidad?
Oprima uno para Blanco o Cacasico
Oprima dos para Moreno o Africano Americano
Oprima tres para Hispano o Latino de cualquier raza
Oprima cuatro para Asiatico o Indio Americano
Oprima cinco para otras o múltiple razas

12. What is your age range?
Press 1 for 18-34 years
Press 2 for 35-54 years
Press 3 for 55-74 years
Press 4 for 75 or more years

12. Cuál es tu rango de edad?
Oprima 1 para 18-34 años
Oprima 2 para 35-54 años
Oprima 3 para 55-74 años
Oprima 4 para 75 o más años

13. What is the highest level of education you have attained?
Press 1 for high school or less
Press 2 for some college
Press 3 for college graduate
Press 4 for postgrad or higher

13. Que es el nivel de educación más alta que has estudiado?
Oprima 1 para escuela secundaria o menos
Oprima 2 para un poco de la universidad
Oprima 3 si te graduaste de la universidad
Oprima 4 para postgrado

14. What is your religion?
Press 1 for Baptist
Press 2 for Roman Catholic
Press 3 for Evangelical Christian
Press 4 for other Christian
Press 5 for no religious affiliation or atheist
Press 6 for other
14. Cual es tu religion?
Oprima 1 para Baptist
Oprima 2 para catolico
Oprima 3 para cristiano evangélico
Oprima 4 para otro cristiano
Oprima 5 si no tienes afiliación religioso o ateo
Oprima 6 para otra religion

15. With respect to the issue of abortion, would you consider yourself to be pro-choice or pro-life?
Press 1 for pro-choice
Press 2 for pro-life
Press 3 for mixed or neither
Press 4 if you do not know what these terms mean
Press 5 if you are unsure

15. Con respeto a la discusión sobre abortion, tu te consideras pro-choice or pro-life?
Oprima 1 para pro-choice
Oprima 2 para pro-life
Oprima 3 para un mexlo o ninguno
Oprima 4 si no sabes que estas palabras significan
Oprima 5 si no estas seguro

16. Which term do you feel best describes the views of President Donald Trump?
Press 1 for progressive
Press 2 for liberal
Press 3 for establishment
Press 4 for conservative
Press 5 for libertarian
Press 6 for something else
Press 7 if you are unsure

16. Cual palabra tu piensas describe los puntos de vistas de Presidente Donald Trump mejor?
Oprima 1 para progresivo
Oprima 2 para liberal
Oprima 3 para establecimiento
Oprima 4 para conservativo
Oprima 5 para libertario
Oprima 6 para otro que no esta aqui
Oprima 7 si no estas seguro
17 v1. Do you think the National Football League should forbid protesting during the National Anthem?
Press 1 for yes
Press 2 for no

17 v1. Tu piensas que la liga de football americano national debe prohibir protestando durante el himno nacional
Oprima 1 para si
Oprima 2 para no

17 v2. Do you think the National Football League should allow protesting during the National Anthem?
Press 1 for yes
Press 2 for no

17 v2. Tu piensas que la liga de football americano national debe dejar protestando durante el himno nacional
Oprima 1 para si
Oprima 2 para no

18. Do you support or oppose allowing undocumented immigrants to stay in Virginia through “sanctuary city” legislation?
Press 1 for support
Press 2 for oppose
Press 3 if you have no opinion
Press 4 if you don’t know what this means
Press 5 if you are unsure

18. Tu soportas o opones dejando inmigrantes sin documentos quedarse en Virginia por la legislation “ciudad santuario”
Oprima 1 para soportar
Oprima 2 para oponer
Oprima 3 si no tienes opinión
Oprima 4 si no estas seguro

19. Do you believe the U.S. Supreme Court should overturn its 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade?
Press 1 for yes
Press 2 for no
Press 3 if you have no opinion
Press 4 if you don’t know what this is
Press 5 if you are unsure
19. Tu piensas que el Corte Suprema de los estados unidos debe anular su 1973 decisión en Roe v. Wade?

Oprima 1 para si
Oprima 2 para no
Oprima 3 si no tienes opinión
Oprima 4 si no sebas que esto es
Oprima 5 si no estas seguro

20. In addition to the election for Governor, the election for the Lieutenant Governor race is also being held on November 7th. If the election were held today, for whom would you vote or lean towards voting?
Press 1 for the Democrat Justin Fairfax
Press 2 for the Republican Jill Vogel
Press 3 if you are unsure

20. Encima de la elección para gobernador, la elección para gobernador teniente también va estar en Noviembre 7. Si elección fue hoy, por quien votaras o piensas en votar?

Oprima 1 para democrata Justin Fairfax
Oprima 2 para republicano Jill Vogel
Oprima 3 si no estas seguro

21. The election for Attorney General is also being held. If the election were held today, for whom would you vote or lean towards voting?
Press 1 for the Democrat Mark Herring
Press 2 for the Republican John Adams
Press 3 if you are unsure

21. La elección por abogado general también está pensando. Si elección fue hoy, por quien votaras o piensas en votar?

Oprima 1 para democrata Mark Herring
Oprima 2 para republicano John Adams
Oprima 3 si no estas seguro

22. Lastly, if the election for the Virginia House of Delegates in your district were held today, would you vote or lean towards voting for the Democratic or Republican candidate?
Press 1 for the Democratic candidate
Press 2 for the Republican candidate
Press 3 if you are unsure
22. Finalmente, si la elección para la Cámara de Delegados de Virginia en tu distrito fueron hoy, tu votarás o piensas en votar por un candidato democrata o republicano?

Oprima 1 para democrata
Oprima 2 para republicano
Oprima 3 si no estas seguro

Thank you for participating in our survey! Have a lovely day.