
Boston, MA – A 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 five points, 49% to 44%. Libertarian nominee Cliff Hyra takes 2%. The margin is virtually unchanged from the results of the 2016 Presidential election in the state – Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump in the Old Dominion 50% to 44%. The poll, with a sample size of n = 318 and a margin of error of +/- 5.5%, was conducted from October 5 – October 7. Listen to the analysis here [bit.ly/2g1rZ4u](http://bit.ly/2g1rZ4u).

President Trump endorsed Gillespie on Twitter on Thursday night. Trump has a 42% favorable opinion and 53% unfavorable opinion in Virginia. The current Democratic Governor of Virginia, Terry McAuliffe, is also underwater with regards to favorability, with 39% viewing McAuliffe favorably compared to 41% who view him unfavorably, while 15% have no opinion of the outgoing Governor.

Northam and Gillespie hold similar approval numbers – Northam comes in at 42% favorable/39% unfavorable, while Gillespie scores a 43% favorable/42% unfavorable rating. These numbers are similar to the 2013 race between McAuliffe and Ken Cuccinelli where both candidates boosted high unfavorable ratings and the focus was to maximize turnout in the Northern part of the Commonwealth for McAuliffe and along the western region for Cuccinelli.

Democrats lead on a generic ballot for the Virginia House of Delegates as well. Statewide, a generic Democratic candidate defeats a generic Republican candidate 48% to 44%. Independents break for the Republican candidate 42% to 38%.

The recent events in Charlottesville continue to be divisive in Virginia. 38% of Virginians approve of President Trump’s response to the events, and 51% disapprove. Governor McAuliffe’s response to the events split the electorate down the middle – 36% approve of his response, while 36% also disapprove, while 22% have no opinion.

A plurality of Virginians, 44%, continue to support keeping Confederate monuments on public property – including 20% of Democrats, 73% of Republicans and 49% of independents. 37% believe that these monuments should be displayed only in museums or exhibits – including 57% of Democrats, 13% of Republicans and 32% of independents. Only 4% of Virginians say the monuments should never be displayed.
The Confederate flag appears to be less popular than the monuments with 30% supporting the display of the Confederate flag on public property, while 50% are opposed. Notably, the public display of the Confederate flag is opposed by 48% of White voters, and supported by 35%. Among African Americans, the flag is opposed by 66% and supported by 13%.

**Methodology**
The Virginia Emerson College poll was conducted October 5th through October 7th, 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 somewhat or very likely to vote, n=318, with a margin of error (MOE) of +/- 5.5 percentage points. The Virginia data was weighted by region 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.

*This and other Emerson College Polling releases are available on the web at [http://www.emerson.edu/communication-studies/emerson-college-polling-society](http://www.emerson.edu/communication-studies/emerson-college-polling-society).*

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**Survey Instrument**

Hello! This is public opinion research with a brief survey on an upcoming election in your area.

For English just stay on the line.
Para Español, oprime estrella.

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 sexo?
Oprime uno si identificas como hombre
Oprime dos si identificas como 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/other
   Press 4 if you are nrtv
2) Have you registered to vote? If you have registered, do you consider yourself part of a political party? 
Press 1 for Democrat 
Press 2 for Republican 
Press 3 for Independent/Other 
Press 4 if you have not registered

3. How likely are you to vote in the upcoming election for governor in November? 
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 to vote

3) ¿Cuál es tu probabilidad de votar en la elección para elegir el gobernador en Noviembre? 
Press 1 si ya has votado 
Press 2 si es muy probable que vas a votar 
Press 3 si es un poco probable que vas a votar 
Press 4 si estas cincuenta - cincuenta 
Press 5 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 Gary Johnson 
Press 4 for Jill Stein 
Press 5 if you did not vote

4) Para quien votaste en la elección presidencial del dos mil dieciséis? 
Press 1 para Donald Trump 
Press 2 para Hillary Clinton 
Press 3 para Gary Johnson 
Press 4 para Jill Stein 
Press 5 si no votaste

5. Great! I’m now going to read you a list of names, and for each name, I’d like you to tell me if your opinion of that person is generally favorable or generally unfavorable. First, take Donald Trump. 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) Ahora te voy a leer una lista de nombres. Para cada nombre me gustaría si me podrías describir si tu opinión de esa persona es generalmente favorable o generalmente desfavorable.
Primero es Donald Trump. Es tu opinión de Donald Trump Generalmente favorable o generalmente desfavorable?
Oprime uno para favorable
Oprime dos para desfavorable
Oprime tres para neutral o si no tienes opinión
Oprime cuatro si nunca has oído de esta persona

6. Next, take 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?
Oprime uno para favorable
Oprime dos para desfavorable
Oprime tres para neutral o si no tienes opinión
Oprime cuatro si nunca has oído de esta persona

7. What about 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 Ralph Northam? Es tu opinión de Ralph Northam Generalmente favorable o generalmente desfavorable?
Oprime uno para favorable
Oprime dos para desfavorable
Oprime tres para neutral o si no tienes opinión
Oprime cuatro si nunca has oído de esta persona

8. 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) Y que opinas de Ed Gillespie? Es tu opinión de Ed Gillespie Generalmente favorable o generalmente desfavorable?
Oprime uno para favorable
Oprime dos para desfavorable
Oprime tres para neutral si no tienes opinión
Oprime cuatro si nunca has oído de esta persona
9. Finally, take Cliff Hyra. Is your opinion of Cliff Hyra 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

9) Finalmente, Cliff Hyra. Es tu opinión de Cliff Hyra Generalmente favorable o generalmente desfavorable?
   Oprime uno para favorable
   Oprime dos para desfavorable
   Oprime tres para neutral o si no tienes opinión
   Oprime cuatro si nunca has oído de esta persona

10. 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

10) Si la elección para gobernador fuera hoy, por quien votarías de los candidatos siguientes?
    Oprime uno para el democrata Ralph Northam
    Oprime dos para el republicano Ed Gillespie
    Oprime tres para el libertario Cliff Hyra
    Oprime cuatro si no has decidido

11. If the election for the Virginia House of Delegates in your district was 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

11) Si la elección para la casa de delegados de Virginia en tu distrito fuera hoy, por cuál candidato votarías basado en partido político
    Oprime uno para el candidato demócrata
    Oprime dos para el candidato republicano
    Oprime tres si no estás seguro

12. Do you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump’s response to the events in Charlottesville in August?
    Press 1 for approve
    Press 2 for disapprove
    Press 3 if you have no opinion
    Press 4 if you are unsure
12) apruebas o desapruebas de la reacciones de Donald Trump cuando se tratan de los eventos en Charlottesville en Agosto? 
Oprime uno si apruebas
Oprime dos si desapruebas
Oprime tres si no tienes opinión
Oprime quatro si no estas seguro

13. Do you approve or disapprove of Terry McAuliffe’s response to the events in Charlottesville in August?
Press 1 for approve
Press 2 for disapprove
Press 3 if you have no opinion
Press 4 if you are unsure

13) apruebas o desapruebas de la reacciones de Terry McAuliffe cuando se tratan de los eventos en Charlottesville en Agosto? 
Oprime uno si apruebas
Oprime dos si desapruebas
Oprime tres si no tienes opinión
Oprime quatro si no estas seguro

14. Which of the following, if any, do you believe is the most appropriate setting for Confederate monuments?
Press 1 if you believe they should be displayed on public property
Press 2 if you believe they should be displayed only in museums and exhibits
Press 3 if you believe they should never be displayed
Press 4 for other
Press 5 for no opinion
Press 6 if you are unsure

14) Cuál de los siguientes crees que son las escenas más apropiadas, si alguna aye, para monumentos Confederados.
Oprime uno si crees que deberían ser colocadas en propiedad pública
Oprime dos si crees que solo deben existir en los museos
Oprime tres si crees que nunca deben de ser enseñadas
Oprime quatro para otra opinión
Oprime cinco si no tienes opinión
Oprime seis si no estas seguro

15. Do you support or oppose the display of the Confederate flag on public property?
Press 1 for support
Press 2 for oppose
Press 3 for no opinion
Press 4 if you are unsure
15) Soportas que la bandera Confederada seiya enseñada en público?
Oprime uno si lo soportas
Oprime dos si no lo soportas
Oprime tres si no tienes opinión
Oprime quatro so no estas seguro

16. Do you have a valid government-issued photo ID such as a driver's' license or passport, or a school-issued photo student ID?
Press 1 for yes
Press 2 for no
Press 3 if you are unsure

16) Tienes edificación federal o del estado tan como una licencia, pasaporte o edificación escolar.
Oprime uno par si
Oprime dos para no
Oprime tres si no estas seguro

17. 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
Press 4 for Asian or Indian American
Press 5 for other or multiple races

17) Para razones estadísticas solamente, me podrias decir tu etnicidad?
Oprime uno para Blanco o Cocasico
Oprime dos para Moreno o Africano Americano
Oprime tres para Hispano o Latino
Oprime Quatro para Asiatico o Indio Americano
Oprime cinco para otras o múltiple razas

18. 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+ years

18) Que edad tienes
Oprime uno si tienes edad entre 18 a 34
Oprime dos si tienes edad entre 35 a 54
Oprime tres si tienes edad entre 55 a 74
Oprime quatro si tienes edad entre 75 o mas