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Winthrop Poll Shows Hillary Clinton Leads Trump in Virginia

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Winthrop Poll Shows Hillary Clinton Leads Trump in Virginia

Quick Facts

- Forty-four percent of those surveyed said they were leaning toward voting for the former Secretary of State. Republican nominee Donald Trump followed with 39% of support.
- The presidential race has fluctuated with several unprecedented happenings this year. Winthrop Poll Director Scott Huffman noted, "With several negative 'October surprises' coming out and affecting both candidates, we have seen a tightening of the race in national polls. However, while Clinton's lead in Virginia has shrunk from its highest point, she still leads Donald Trump in the Commonwealth."



Scott Huffman

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – With the Nov. 8 election approaching quickly, likely voters in Virginia support **Hillary Clinton** to become the 45th president, according to the latest **Winthrop Poll**.

Forty-four percent of those surveyed said they were leaning toward voting for the former Secretary of State. Republican nominee **Donald Trump** followed with 39% of support, while third-party candidates garnered single-digit support.

The presidential race has fluctuated with several unprecedented happenings this year. **Winthrop Poll Director Scott Huffman** noted, "With several negative 'October surprises' coming out and affecting both candidates, we have seen a tightening of the race in national polls. However, while Clinton's lead in Virginia has shrunk from its highest point, she still leads Donald Trump in the Commonwealth."

The poll shows a significant divide between partisans in Virginia. According to Huffman, "Deep divisions emerge between Democratic and Republican likely voters in Virginia. Huge differences in the job approval numbers for Obama and McAuliffe, the favorability ratings for Trump, Clinton, and McAuliffe, and attitudes about Muslim immigration reveal a gulf between partisan attitudes and starkly different views of the nation and state."

For this **latest Winthrop Poll**, callers surveyed 712 likely voters in Virginia by landline and cell phones between Oct. 23-30. Results which use all respondents have a margin of error of approximately +/- 3.6% at the 95% confidence level. Subgroups have higher margins of error.

Information about the poll methodology can be found here.

See the questions and responses.

CANDIDATE VIBES

Likely voters also shared how they would describe these three politicians:

- **Hillary Clinton**, 83% of Democrats said favorable, only 6% of Republicans gave her that mark.
- **Donald Trump**, 68% of Republicans rated him favorable, 96% of Democrats said unfavorable.
- **Va. Governor Terry McAuliffe**, 76% of Democrats said favorable, 66% of Republicans said unfavorable.

According to Huffman, "Virginia voters don't have a particularly favorable view of either Trump or

Clinton. While Clinton's favorability with her base is stronger than Trump's, Republicans aren't likely to cross party lines to vote for someone who 93% of them view unfavorably."

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE

President Barack Obama's approval rating in Virginia is at 52%. The two-term president's ratings are split along party lines – Democratic leaning voters give him a 95% approval rating, while Republican-leaning voters disapprove of him at an 89% rate.

Governor McAuliffe's approval rating stands at 44% while 42% of all respondents disapproved of the job he is doing as governor. Three out of four Democratic leaning voters approve of McAuliffe, now in his second year of office. Republicans think differently: only 14% approve of him, while 73% do not.

ECONOMY

Nearly 60% of the Virginia likely voters said the country is headed in the wrong direction. Republicans have a bleak view – 95% reported a negative impression. Poll respondents all together cited the economy, 15.3%; politicians/government, 10.9%; racism, 8.4%; jobs/unemployment, 7.1%; and terrorism, 5.2%, as the most pressing problems for the country. Still, 48% said the country's economy is either very or fairly good.

Sixty-one percent said the Old Dominion's economy was either very or fairly good. As for the most important problems facing the state, the economy, 14.6%; education, 11.7%; jobs/unemployment, 10.5%; politicians/government, 6.3%; and roads/bridges/infrastructure, 6%, was cited.

When asked about their personal financial situation, 60% of all respondents said their finances were excellent or good.

DRUGS, AMENDMENTS AND MUSLIM IMMIGRATION

Three out of five likely Virginia voters feel that **marijuana** should be legalized for medical purposes. They are more cautious though about the drug for recreational uses: 45% said to legalize it, while 48% opposed it.

As for **prescription drugs** such as pain medications, sleep aids, treatment for ADHD, etc., likely voters overwhelmingly (69%) felt like there was abuse of pills in their area.

Huffmon said, "Prescription drug abuse is a growing national concern and Virginia is no different. Likely voters see this as a real problem."

In addition to the presidential election, Virginia voters will see **two constitutional amendments** on their ballots. One amendment would put provisions of Virginia's right-to-work law into the state constitution. Half of the poll respondents said they oppose the amendment because it would make it illegal for workplaces to require labor union membership for employment.

A second proposed constitutional amendment on the Virginia ballot is meant to aid the families of first responders killed in the line of duty. It would allow local governments to exempt a surviving spouse's property from taxation, a move that 82% of likely voters said they would support.

Immigration is another area where major differences between the nation's two parties surface. Sixty-four percent of Democrats said that they strongly believe that the United States should not restrict immigration of Muslims to this country. On the Republican side, 54% said the nation strongly should, while 14% said the nation somewhat should.

According to Huffmon, "Trump made a ban on Muslim immigration a key talking point of his campaign. This is clearly something that splits the parties in Virginia, but while a majority of Republicans favor the ban, the sentiment is not universal with more than 1 in 5 saying they oppose such a ban."

Meanwhile, half of the Republican respondents said they approve of the **Tea Party movement**. About one quarter of both Democrats and Republicans said they were not familiar enough with the movement to comment. Only six percent of all likely voters said they consider themselves part of the movement.

POLL FUNDING AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The **Winthrop Poll** is paid for by Winthrop University with additional support from **The West Forum on Politics and Policy** at Winthrop University. For additional information, or to set up an interview with

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