

Washington Post Poll 2005 Virginia Governors Race

This Washington Post poll is based on telephone interviews with 1,036 randomly selected Virginia registered voters, including 571 likely voters, and was conducted Sept. 6-9, 2005. The margin of sampling error for results based on registered voters is plus or minus 3 percentage points, and plus or minus 4 points for likely voters. Fieldwork by TNS of Horsham, PA.

* = Less than 0.5 percent

1. Do you happen to be registered to vote in the state of Virginia, or haven't you had time to register yet?

	Yes	No	No opinion
9/9/05	72	28	*

2. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the 2005 election for governor in November: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

		Certain to Vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than 50/50	Don't think will vote(vol.)	No opin.
9/9/05	RV	68	18	9	4	1	0
10/25/01	RV	63	19	10	5	2	1
8/23/01	RV	68	16	10	5	1	*
8/27/00	RV	76	14	7	2	1	*

3. Would you say you are following this year's governors race in the state of Virginia very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not closely at all?

		-----Closely-----			-----Not closely-----			No opin.
		NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	At all	
9/9/05	RV	59	15	44	41	26	15	*
8/23/01	RV	60	16	44	39	26	13	1
8/27/00	RV	61	21	40	38	25	13	*
6/23/94	RV	74	27	47	27	18	9	*
2/3/94		73	27	46	27	18	9	*
9/93	RV	68	21	47	31	21	10	*

4/5. As you may know, the candidates in November's election for governor include Jerry W. Kilgore, the Republican; Timothy M. Kaine, the Democrat; and H. Russ Potts Jr, who is running as an independent. Suppose the election were held today, for whom would you vote?

Net Leaned Vote:

		Kilgore	Kaine	Potts	Other (vol.)	None (vol.)	Wouldn't vote (vol.)	No opin.
9/9/05	RV	45	41	5	*	1	1	7
9/9/05	LV	51	44	4	0	0	*	2

6. Will you definitely vote for (CANDIDATE) in November, or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for someone else? (IF CHANCE CHANGE MIND ASK: Is there a good chance you'll change your mind or would you say it's pretty unlikely?)

Kilgore:

	Definitely vote	-----Change mind-----			No opinion
		NET	Good chance	Unlikely	
9/9/05 RV	48	48	21	27	4

Kaine:

	Definitely vote	-----Change mind-----			No opinion
		NET	Good chance	Unlikely	
9/9/05 RV	54	44	21	23	3

Potts: SAMPLE TOO SMALL TO ANALYZE

6a. As you may know, President Bush has endorsed Jerry Kilgore for governor. Does that make you more likely or less likely to support Kilgore?

	More likely	Less likely	No difference (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	28	45	27	1

6b. As you may know, Governor Warner has endorsed Tim Kaine for governor. Does that make you more likely or less likely to support Kaine?

	More likely	Less likely	No difference (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	37	27	35	2

7. Do you think things in the state of Virginia are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	Right direction	Wrong track	No opin.
9/9/05 RV	65	31	4
8/23/01 RV	59	34	7
8/27/00 RV	71	22	7
6/23/94 RV	53	38	8
2/3/94	55	36	9

8. Generally speaking, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of:

9/9/05 Summary Table* - Registered Voters

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opin.
a. Jerry Kilgore	55	30	15
b. Tim Kaine	55	25	21
c. Russ Potts	19	32	49
d. Mark Warner	69	23	8
e. George Allen	58	28	14
f. The Republican Party in Virginia	54	40	6
g. The Democratic Party in Virginia	53	37	9

*full sample asked items a-e, half asked item f and other half asked item g.

Trend where available:

a-c. No trend.

d. Mark Warner

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opin.
9/9/05 RV	69	23	8
10/25/01 LV	62	30	8
8/23/01 RV	65	23	12

e. George F. Allen

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opin.
9/9/05 RV	58	28	14
9/16/97	60	26	13

f. The Republican Party in Virginia

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opin.
9/9/05 RV	54	40	6
8/23/01 RV	53	38	8
8/27/00 RV	54	26	20

g. The Democratic Party in Virginia

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opin.
9/9/05 RV	53	37	9
8/23/01 RV	57	32	11
8/27/00 RV	45	30	25

9a. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/9/05 RV	47	NA	NA	51	NA	NA	2

Compare to National trend, General Population:

8/28/05	45	27	18	53	12	41	2
6/26/05	48	27	21	51	11	40	1
6/5/05	48	27	21	52	14	38	1
4/24/05	47	25	22	50	13	38	3
3/13/05	50	31	19	48	11	37	3
1/31/05	50	34	15	45	11	34	5
1/16/05	52	33	19	46	11	35	2

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Warner is handling his job as governor?

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	
9/9/05 RV	76	NA	NA	22	NA	NA	2

Compare to:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jim Gilmore is handling his job as governor? Is that approve/disapprove strongly, or only somewhat?

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	
10/25/01 LV	62	25	37	33	18	16	5
8/23/01 RV	57	NA	NA	36	NA	NA	7
8/27/00 RV	70	25	45	20	8	12	10

Compare to:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George F. Allen is handling his job as Governor?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
10/21/97 LV	66	27	6
9/16/97 RV	67	26	7

11. How much responsibility does Tim Kaine have for the successes and failures of the Warner administration: a lot, some, only a little or none at all?

	----Responsible----			-----Not Responsible-----			
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Only a little	None at all	No op.
9/9/05 RV	51	8	43	38	25	12	11

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Allen is handling his job as U.S. Senator?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	67	23	10

Compare to:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George F. Allen is handling his job as Governor?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
10/21/97 LV	66	27	6
9/16/97 RV	67	26	7

14. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own views:

- A. We need a governor who can get the state going in a new direction
- or
- B. We need a governor who can keep the state moving in the same direction we're going.

	New direction	Same direction	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	49	49	3
10/25/01 LV	58	38	4
8/23/01 RV	55	42	4
9/16/97 RV	48	48	5
9/93 RV	76	21	3
9/89 RV	58	34	8

15. As it stands now, how much do you know about (CANDIDATE) and his qualifications to be governor: Do you know a lot about (CANDIDATE), a fair amount, just a little, or nothing at all?

Kilgore:

	-----Lot/Fair Amt----			-----Little/None-----			
	NET	A lot	A fair amount	NET	Just a little	Nothing at all	No opin.
9/9/05 RV	47	8	40	52	33	19	*

Kaine:

	-----Lot/Fair Amt----			-----Little/None-----			
	NET	A lot	A fair amount	NET	Just a little	Nothing at all	No opin.
9/9/05 RV	43	7	36	55	35	20	2

16. Now I'm going to read to you some statements people have made about the candidates for governor. For each, please tell me if you agree or disagree.

Jerry Kilgore

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know enough yet*	No opinion
a. Has been honest in his political dealings	49	24	19	7
b. He would work to hold taxes down	52	25	19	4
c. Shares your values	42	33	19	5
d. Would keep the state's economy strong	49	26	19	5
e. Would say anything to get elected	36	41	19	4
f. Would improve transportation and roads	46	29	19	6
g. Is too far out of the political mainstream	19	58	19	4
h. Would improve public education	48	28	19	5

Tim Kaine

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know enough yet*	No opinion
a. Has been honest in his political dealings	51	19	22	8
b. He would work to hold taxes down	39	35	22	4
c. Shares your values	41	30	22	7
d. Would keep the state's economy strong	49	25	22	5
e. Would say anything to get elected	31	44	22	4
f. Would improve transportation and roads	47	24	22	7
g. Is too far out of the political mainstream	19	55	22	4
h. Would improve public education	53	21	22	4

**"Don't know enough yet" respondents are those who said they knew "Nothing at all" about the candidate at Q11. They were not asked Q16, but are shown as part of the base.*

17. Do you think (NAME) views on most issues are (too liberal for you), (too conservative for you), or just about right?

a. Jerry Kilgore's

	Too liberal	Too conservative	Just about right	Don't know enough yet	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	8	26	43	19	4

b. Tim Kaine's

	Too liberal	Too conservative	Just about right	Don't know enough yet	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	27	7	41	22	4

18. Do you think (NAME) would rely on his religious beliefs too much, too little or about the right amount when making policy decisions?

a. Jerry Kilgore

	Too much	Too little	About the right amount	Don't know enough yet	No opinion.
9/9/05 RV	17	9	47	19	7

b. Tim Kaine

	Too much	Too little	About the right amount	Don't know enough yet	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	7	15	48	22	8

19. As you may know, last year the state legislature passed a tax package proposed by Governor Warner that generated \$1.5 billion in new money by raising some taxes and lowering others. Do you think the budget package was mainly a good thing or mainly a bad thing?

	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	62	28	5	5

ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAID TAX PACKAGE WAS GOOD

20a. Opponents of the tax plan say that the current state budget surplus shows the state didn't need the money and it's better to cut the budget than raise taxes. Keeping this in mind, would you say the tax plan was mainly a good thing or mainly a bad thing?

	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	77	21	1	1

ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAID TAX PACKAGE WAS BAD

20b. Supporters of the tax plan say that it put the state on a sound financial footing for the future while giving needed support to services like education and police. Keeping this in mind, would you say the tax plan was mainly a good thing or mainly a bad thing?

	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	35	60	5	0

21. Do you think (state tax increases should have to be approved by a full statewide vote), or do you think (the state legislature should be responsible for making tax decisions on its own)?

	Approved by full statewide vote	State legislature should make tax decisions	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	65	34	2

ASKED ONLY IF SUPPORT STATEWIDE VOTE

22a. Those who OPPOSE putting taxes to a statewide vote say voters elect LEGISLATORS to make informed decisions on difficult issues such as taxes. Keeping this in mind, would you say (state tax increases should have to be approved by a full statewide vote), or do you think (the state legislature should be able to make tax decisions on its own)?

	Approved by full statewide vote	State legislature should make tax decisions	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	89	9	1

ASKED ONLY IF OPPOSE STATEWIDE VOTE

22b. (IF LEGISLATURE) Those who SUPPORT putting taxes to a statewide vote say it's the VOTERS who should decide whether to raise taxes. Keeping this in mind, would you say (state tax increases should have to be approved by a full statewide vote), or do you think (the state legislature should be able to make tax decisions on its own)?

	Approved by full statewide vote	State legislature should make tax decisions	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	14	85	1

23. Would you support or oppose a plan to use public funds to make preschool available to all Virginia 4 year olds?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	70	29	1

ASK ONLY IF SUPPORT PRESCHOOL PLAN

24a. Opponents say the state cannot afford the \$300 million a year it would take to implement the plan. Keeping this in mind, would you support or oppose using public funds to make preschool available to all 4 year olds?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	86	12	2

ASK ONLY IF OPPOSE PRESCHOOL PLAN

24b. Supporters of the plan say this would make valuable pre-kindergarten education available to families who couldn't normally afford it. Keeping this in mind, would you support or oppose using public funds to make preschool available to all 4 year olds?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	11	87	1

25. Please tell me how important the following issues are in deciding how you'll vote for governor this year.

9/9/05 Summary table - Registered Voters

	-----Important-----			----Not important---			No opin.
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	At all	
a. Property taxes	89	56	33	11	8	2	*
b. Taxes in general/ Other kinds of taxes	91	55	36	9	8	1	*
c. Transportation and roads	89	60	30	10	9	2	*
d. Public education	95	76	19	5	3	1	*
e. Job creation	92	64	29	7	6	1	*
f. Reducing gang violence	90	68	22	10	7	3	*
g. Abortion issues	70	44	26	29	16	13	1
h. Handling of the state budget	97	71	27	3	2	*	*
i. Immigration issues	78	49	29	22	16	6	*

26. Which of these would you say is THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE in deciding how you'll vote for governor this year?

	9/9/05 RV
Property taxes	7
Taxes in general/Other kinds of taxes	14
Transportation and roads	9
Public education	21
Job creation	13
Reducing gang violence	7
Abortion issues	7
Handling the state budget	13
Immigration issues	6
None	3
No opinion	1

27 Generally speaking, how would you rate the overall economy of Virginia: excellent, good, not-so-good or poor?

	----Excellent/Good----			----Not so good/Poor----			No opin.
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
9/9/05 RV	83	12	70	17	14	3	*
10/25/01 LV	76	8	68	23	20	3	1
8/23/01 RV	78	9	69	21	18	4	1
8/27/00 RV	87	21	67	12	10	2	1
10/27/97 LV	83	16	67	16	13	3	1
9/16/97 RV	82	15	68	17	13	4	1

Compare to National trend, General Population:

	----Excellent/Good----			----Not so good/Poor----			No op.
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
6/5/05	44	3	40	56	38	19	*

28. Would you support or oppose raising Virginia's 17.5 cent gasoline tax, if the money is used for transportation projects such as building roads, traffic management or public transportation?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	36	63	1

31. Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?

	NET	-----Legal-----		NET	-----Illegal-----		No opin.
		All cases	Most cases		All cases	Most cases	
9/9/05 RV	55	21	35	43	28	15	2
10/25/01 LV	57	21	36	39	11	28	4
8/23/01 RV	57	21	37	39	12	27	3
10/26/00 LV	58	18	40	38	12	27	4
8/27/00 LV	57	16	40	38	12	26	5
8/27/00 RV	57	18	39	38	12	26	5

Compare to National trend, General Population:

	NET	-----Legal-----		NET	-----Illegal-----		No opin.
		All cases	Most cases		Most cases	All cases	
4/24/05	56	20	36	42	27	14	3

32. (HALF SAMPLE) Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	76	22	2

Compare to National trend, General Population:

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
6/26/05	66	32	2

33. (HALF SAMPLE) How confident are you that the death penalty is administered fairly in Virginia - very confident, fairly confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

	-----Confident-----			----Not confident---			No
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	At all	opin.
9/9/05 RV	60	23	37	38	17	21	2
8/23/01 RV	62	20	42	33	17	16	5

34. Kaine is personally opposed to the death penalty, but says he will enforce it because it is state law. Do you believe he will enforce the death penalty despite his personal opposition, or don't you think he will do that?

	Will enforce	Will not enforce	No opinion
9/9/05 RV	63	30	7

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as:

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other	No op.
9/9/05 RV	32	34	29	4	*

901/904 Leaned Party:

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other	No op.
9/9/05 RV	45	47	5	2	*