

**Peter A. Brown, Assistant Director,  
(203) 535-6203  
Tim Malloy, Assistant Director  
(203) 645-8043**

**Rubenstein Associates, Inc.,  
Public Relations  
Pat Smith (212) 843-8026**



---

**FOR RELEASE: JULY 27, 2015**

**VIRGINIA VOTERS SPLIT ON CONFEDERATE FLAG,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY SWING STATE POLL FINDS;  
COLORADO VOTERS BACK DEATH FOR HOLMES 2-1**

Virginia voters are divided 46 – 45 percent on whether the Confederate flag should be removed from state license plates, according to a Quinnipiac University Swing State Poll released today.

Colorado voters support 63 – 32 percent the death penalty rather than life in prison with no chance of parole for James Holmes, convicted of killing 12 people in a movie theatre in 2012, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds. The Swing State Poll focuses on key states in the presidential election.

Governors in all three states get modest approval ratings, 51 – 40 percent for Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, 48 – 43 percent for Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad and 50 – 31 percent for Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

In Virginia, support for eliminating the option of ordering a license plate with a Confederate flag is 73 – 19 percent among Democrats and 48 – 42 percent among independent voters, with Republicans standing by the Stars & Bars 71 – 24 percent.

Black voters say 73 – 16 percent eliminate the Confederate flag option, while white voters say 55 – 37 percent keep it.

“Not surprisingly, there are wide partisan and racial differences among Virginians on the Confederate flag on license plate question, but there is very little gender gap on the issue,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

**Colorado**

Colorado voters approve 51 – 40 percent of the job Gov. John Hickenlooper is doing. Approval is 85 – 9 percent among Democrats and 47 – 42 percent among independent voters, while Republicans disapprove 59 – 30 percent.

**-more-**

## **Quinnipiac University Poll/July 27, 2015 – page 2**

U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet gets a 41 – 34 percent approval rating and voters say 40 – 32 percent that he does not deserve reelection in 2016.

Voters give U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner a 48 – 28 percent approval rating.

With wide partisan and gender gaps, Colorado voters oppose 56 – 39 percent tougher gun control laws. Opposition is 80 – 18 percent among Republicans and 59 – 35 percent among independent voters, while Democrats support tougher laws 76 – 19 percent.

Men oppose tougher laws 69 – 27 percent, while women support them 51 – 44 percent.

Only 26 percent of Colorado voters say the death penalty should be abolished and replaced with life in prison with no chance of parole, while 67 percent say continue the death penalty.

“With James Holmes awaiting sentencing for the movie theater massacre, there is barely a thread of sentiment in Colorado for abolishing the death penalty,” said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

### **Iowa**

Iowa voters approve 48 – 43 percent of the job Gov. Terry Branstad is doing, the lowest approval rating for the long-time governor since Quinnipiac University began surveys there in 2013. Republicans approve 75 – 15 percent, while Democrats disapprove 70 – 23 percent. Independent voters are divided as 47 percent approve and 44 percent disapprove.

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley gets a healthy 68 – 21 percent approval rating and voters say 54 – 33 percent that he deserves reelection in 2016.

Newly-elected U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst gets a 52 – 32 percent approval rating.

“Iowans seem to like their political leaders, with U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley looking like a strong reelection bet and U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst off to a good start. Even four in 10 Democrats think Grassley deserves another term,” Brown said.

“Gov. Terry Branstad’s approval rating is down, after winning reelection last November with 59 percent of the vote.”

### **Virginia**

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe’s 50 – 31 percent overall approval rating includes 77 – 11 percent backing from Democrats and 49 – 31 percent approval from independent voters. Republicans disapprove 46 – 33 percent.

**-more-**

### **Quinnipiac University Poll/July 27, 2015 – page 3**

Voters approve 59 – 26 percent of the job U.S. Sen. Mark Warner is doing and give first-term U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine a 52 – 30 percent approval rating.

“All three of Virginia’s top state officials, Gov. Terry McAuliffe, U.S. Sen. Mark Warner and U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine rate 50 percent or higher in job approval,” said Brown.

From July 9 – 20 Quinnipiac University surveyed:

- 1,231 Colorado voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points;
  - 1,236 Iowa voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points;
  - 1,209 Virginia voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points.
- Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

**For more information, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#) @QuinnipiacPoll.**

33. Do you approve or disapprove of the way - (CO) John Hickenlooper / (IA) Terry Branstad / (VA) Terry McAuliffe - is handling his job as Governor?

	CO Hickenlooper	IA Branstad	VA McAuliffe
Approve	51%	48%	50%
Disapprove	40	43	31
DK/NA	9	9	19

34-35. Do you approve or disapprove of the way - (CO) Cory Gardner, Michael Bennet / (IA) Joni Ernst, Chuck Grassley / (VA) Tim Kaine, Mark Warner - is handling (his/her) job as United States Senator?

	CO.....		IA.....		VA.....	
	Gardner	Bennet	Ernst	Grassley	Kaine	Warner
Approve	48%	41%	52%	68%	52%	59%
Disapprove	28	34	32	21	30	26
DK/NA	24	25	16	11	18	15

35a. (CO & IA only) Looking ahead to the 2016 election for United States Senator, do you feel that - (CO) Michael Bennet / (IA) Chuck Grassley - deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	CO Bennet	IA Grassley	VA
Yes/Deserves	32%	54%	-
No/Does not	40	33	-
DK/NA	28	13	-

66a. (CO only) Do you support or oppose the stricter new gun control laws in Colorado?

	CO	IA	VA
Support	39%	-	-
Oppose	56	-	-
DK/NA	5	-	-

66b. (CO only) Do you think the death penalty should be abolished in Colorado and replaced with life in prison with no chance of parole or do you think Colorado should continue to have the death penalty?

	CO	IA	VA
Abolished	26%	-	-
Continue	67	-	-
DK/NA	6	-	-

66c. (CO only) As you may know, James Holmes was accused of opening fire on a packed movie theater in Aurora, Colorado in July, 2012 killing 12 people and injuring 70. Holmes was convicted of murder. Which punishment do you prefer for him; the death penalty or life in prison with no chance of parole? (\* Prior to conviction asked: If Holmes is convicted ...?)

	CO	IA	VA
Death penalty	63%	-	-
Life/No parole	32	-	-
DK/NA	5	-	-

66d. (VA only) Do you support or oppose removing the confederate flag from Virginia license plates?

	CO	IA	VA
Support	-	-	46%
Oppose	-	-	45
DK/NA	-	-	9