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**EITHER DEMOCRAT TOPS REPUBLICANS IN VIRGINIA GOV RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
BUT DEMS ARE LOCKED IN DEAD HEAT PRIMARY**

In an early look at the 2017 Virginia governor's race, Democrats Tom Perriello and Ralph Northam top any of four possible Republican contenders, but find themselves locked in a dead heat primary race with 61 percent of Democratic voters undecided, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Former Republican National Committee Chair Ed Gillespie leads the Republican primary pack with 24 percent, followed by Prince William County Supervisors Chair Corey Stewart with 7 percent, State Sen. Frank Wagner at 5 percent and businessman Denver Riggelman with 2 percent, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds. Most Republicans, 59 percent, are undecided.

In the Democratic primary, former U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello and Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam are tied 19 – 19 percent, with 61 percent undecided.

General election matchups show either Democrat leading any Republican:

- Perriello over Gillespie 43 – 36 percent;
- Perriello tops Stewart 44 – 31 percent;
- Perriello leads Riggelman 43 – 30 percent;
- Perriello beats Wagner 43 – 32 percent;
- Northam tops Gillespie 41 – 35 percent;
- Northam leads Stewart 42 – 31 percent;
- Northam tops Riggelman 42 – 31 percent;
- Northam over Wagner 41 – 33 percent.

“Although none of the candidates – Democrat or Republican – is very well known to the Virginia electorate, the Old Dominion obviously has a blue tinge at this point,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll. “The fact that relatively unknown Democrats are scoring better than relatively unknown Republicans indicates that for now at least this Democratic brand is more attractive to Virginia voters.”

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Quinnipiac University Poll/February 16, 2017 – page 2

“The most important numbers are 59 and 61, the percentages of Republican and Democratic voters who are undecided in their respective primaries,” Brown added.

Virginia voters know little about this year’s candidates for governor. The number of voters who don’t know enough about the candidates to form an opinion of them ranges from 54 percent to 89 percent.

In an open-ended question, allowing for any answer, 13 percent of Virginia voters list the economy as the most important issue in how they will vote for governor this year. Another 12 percent cite education.

Gov. McAuliffe’s Job Approval, Satisfaction

There is little gender gap as Old Dominion voters approve 51 – 34 percent of the job Gov. Terry McAuliffe is doing. Men approve 50 – 37 percent and women approve 52 – 32 percent. Approval is 82 – 6 percent among Democrats and 48 – 35 percent among independent voters. Republicans disapprove 69 – 17 percent.

White voters approve 46 – 41 percent and non-white voters approve 64 – 18 percent.

A total of 67 percent of Virginia voters are “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the way things are going in the state today, while 32 percent are “somewhat dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied.”

“The fact that two-thirds of Virginia voters are satisfied with the way things are going in the state probably helps the Democratic side in the governor’s race. But that two-thirds satisfaction translates to only a 51 percent job approval for Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe – solid but not spectacular,” Brown said.

From February 10 – 15, Quinnipiac University surveyed 989 Virginia voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points. The survey includes 419 Republicans with a margin of error of +/- 4.8 percentage points, and 462 Democrats with a margin of error of +/- 4.6 percentage points. Live interviewers call landlines 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.

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1. (If Republican or Republican Leaner) If the Republican primary for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ed Gillespie, Corey Stewart, Denver Riggleman, and Frank Wagner, for whom would you vote?

	REPUBLICANS/REPUBLICAN LEANERS.....								
	Tot	Wht	POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY			Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
		BrnAgn	CONSERVATIVE	Mod/	COLLEGE DEG			No	
	Evang	Very	Smwht	Lib			Yes		
Gillespie	24%	24%	29%	27%	18%	24%	24%	30%	22%
Stewart	7	6	9	5	7	10	4	9	6
Riggleman	2	-	1	-	4	4	-	1	2
Wagner	5	4	6	3	3	5	4	5	3
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	3	1	5	2	2	4	1	3
DK/NA	59	61	52	59	66	54	63	54	62

2. (If Democrat or Democratic Leaner) If the Democratic primary for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Tom Perriello and Ralph Northam, for whom would you vote?

	DEMOCRATS/DEMOCRATIC LEANERS.....						
	Tot	POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY				Men	Wom
		LIBERAL.....	Mod/	Cons			
	Very	Smwht					
Perriello	19%	21%	19%	17%	22%	16%	
Northam	19	25	21	15	19	19	
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	2	-	-	1	
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	2	2	2	1	
DK/NA	61	53	57	66	56	64	

3. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ralph Northam the Democrat and Ed Gillespie the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Northam	41%	2%	87%	29%	38%	44%	45%	25%
Gillespie	35	80	1	34	39	31	34	48
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	-	1	2	2	2	-	3
DK/NA	22	18	10	35	20	23	20	23

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Northam	49%	42%	40%	41%	31%	38%	35%	57%
Gillespie	24	36	40	38	46	38	42	18
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	-	3	2	1	2	2	3
DK/NA	23	22	17	19	21	22	22	21

4. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ralph Northam the Democrat and Corey Stewart the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Northam	42%	3%	87%	30%	40%	44%	47%	24%
Stewart	31	75	1	26	34	28	30	45
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3
DK/NA	24	19	10	42	23	25	22	27

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Northam	50%	43%	40%	41%	33%	38%	35%	59%
Stewart	19	32	36	35	42	34	38	15
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	5	-	4	1	2	3	2	3
DK/NA	25	25	20	23	23	25	24	22

5. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ralph Northam the Democrat and Denver Riggleman the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Northam	42%	3%	87%	28%	39%	44%	47%	23%
Riggleman	31	78	1	24	33	28	28	46
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	3
DK/NA	25	19	11	44	25	26	23	28

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Northam	47%	43%	41%	41%	31%	38%	35%	58%
Riggleman	23	31	34	34	41	35	38	14
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	-	4	1	2	2	2	3
DK/NA	27	25	21	24	26	25	25	24

6. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ralph Northam the Democrat and Frank Wagner the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Northam	41%	3%	85%	28%	38%	44%	47%	22%
Wagner	33	79	2	29	36	30	31	49
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	-	1	2	2	1	1	2
DK/NA	24	18	11	40	24	24	22	27
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Northam	48%	42%	39%	39%	30%	38%	34%	58%
Wagner	22	35	37	36	44	36	40	16
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	-	3	1	1	2	1	2
DK/NA	26	23	20	23	24	24	24	22

7. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Tom Perriello the Democrat and Ed Gillespie the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Perriello	43%	3%	89%	30%	38%	47%	45%	26%
Gillespie	36	82	1	34	41	32	36	51
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	1	1	2	1	1	-	2
DK/NA	20	14	9	35	19	20	19	21
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Perriello	50%	42%	40%	45%	31%	40%	36%	61%
Gillespie	27	37	39	42	49	39	44	19
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	-	2	1	-	1	1	2
DK/NA	21	21	18	12	20	20	20	18

8. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Tom Perriello the Democrat and Corey Stewart the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Perriello	44%	4%	90%	33%	41%	47%	47%	29%
Stewart	31	79	-	26	35	28	31	45
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	2
DK/NA	22	16	9	38	21	23	22	23
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Perriello	53%	44%	42%	44%	35%	40%	38%	60%
Stewart	20	33	36	36	43	34	38	16
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	-	4	1	2	2	2	3
DK/NA	23	22	18	19	20	24	22	20

9. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Tom Perriello the Democrat and Denver Riggleman the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Perriello	43%	4%	88%	32%	39%	47%	45%	28%
Riggleman	30	75	1	25	35	27	30	44
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	1	3	3	2	1	3
DK/NA	24	20	10	40	23	24	24	25
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Perriello	49%	43%	43%	43%	31%	41%	36%	59%
Riggleman	21	32	34	34	42	32	37	15
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	4	-	4	1	2	2	2	3
DK/NA	25	25	19	21	24	24	24	22

10. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Tom Perriello the Democrat and Frank Wagner the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Perriello	43%	3%	88%	32%	39%	46%	46%	27%
Wagner	32	80	1	26	36	29	31	46
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	-	1	2	2	2	1	3
DK/NA	23	16	9	39	23	23	22	24

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Perriello	52%	42%	42%	42%	32%	40%	37%	60%
Wagner	22	34	37	36	43	35	39	16
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	4	-	4	1	2	2	2	2
DK/NA	22	24	17	22	22	23	23	22

11. What is the most important issue to you in deciding how to vote for Governor this year?

	Tot
Economy Total	13%
Economy general	9
Unemployment/Jobs	3
Minimum wage too low	1
Education Total	12%
Education general	10
Funding education	2
Political affiliation/philosophy	7%
Healthcare Total	6%
Healthcare/Costs/Ins/HMO's	4
Medicaid/Costs/Abuse	1
Medicare	1
Immigration	4%
Taxes general	4%
Budget Total	3%
Budget general	2
Gov too big/Gov spending	1
Civil Rights and Human Rights	3%
Integrity/Morality/Character	3%
Women's issues	3%
Abortion	2%
Environment/Pollution	2%
Gun control	2%
Security/Safety	2%
Work against Trump	2%
Working together	2%
Election/Voting reform	1%
Governor/State leadership/Legisltr	1%
Mass/public transportation	1%
Social issues	1%
Work with Trump	1%
Other	16%
DK/NA	9%

12. Is your opinion of Ralph Northam favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	19%	4%	34%	18%	19%	19%	25%	13%
Unfavorable	6	12	2	6	9	3	5	8
Hvn't hrd enough	74	82	64	76	71	76	69	78
REFUSED	1	2	-	-	1	1	1	1
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Favorable	22%	19%	18%	23%	16%	21%	19%	22%
Unfavorable	6	6	4	9	9	5	7	5
Hvn't hrd enough	72	74	77	68	74	73	73	74
REFUSED	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-

13. Is your opinion of Tom Perriello favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	23%	5%	39%	20%	20%	24%	24%	18%
Unfavorable	10	21	4	7	14	7	10	13
Hvn't hrd enough	66	70	56	71	64	68	66	67
REFUSED	1	3	-	1	2	1	1	2
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Favorable	33%	19%	19%	26%	19%	23%	21%	27%
Unfavorable	14	5	11	12	15	8	12	7
Hvn't hrd enough	51	74	68	61	63	69	66	64
REFUSED	2	2	1	1	3	-	1	2

14. Is your opinion of Ed Gillespie favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	24%	48%	6%	22%	29%	20%	26%	30%
Unfavorable	21	3	42	15	21	20	27	13
Hvn't hrd enough	54	47	50	63	48	59	46	55
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Favorable	14%	24%	26%	34%	31%	25%	28%	15%
Unfavorable	23	18	22	22	20	20	20	23
Hvn't hrd enough	63	56	51	44	47	54	51	62
REFUSED	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	-

15. Is your opinion of Corey Stewart favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	11%	22%	3%	12%	14%	9%	10%	15%
Unfavorable	11	3	22	7	13	10	15	8
Hvn't hrd enough	76	72	75	81	71	80	74	75
REFUSED	1	2	-	-	2	1	1	2
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Favorable	6%	14%	13%	13%	16%	10%	13%	9%
Unfavorable	10	11	12	12	11	12	11	10
Hvn't hrd enough	81	74	74	74	71	78	74	79
REFUSED	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1

16. Is your opinion of Denver Riggleman favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	5%	10%	2%	3%	6%	4%	3%	5%
Unfavorable	5	2	9	4	6	5	7	4
Hvn't hrd enough	89	86	89	92	87	90	89	89
REFUSED	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	2
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Favorable	8%	4%	5%	3%	5%	3%	4%	7%
Unfavorable	8	5	6	5	5	6	6	5
Hvn't hrd enough	83	89	88	92	88	91	89	87
REFUSED	1	2	1	-	2	-	1	1

17. Is your opinion of Frank Wagner favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	10%	17%	4%	10%	10%	10%	7%	12%
Unfavorable	9	5	16	6	10	8	8	9
Hvn't hrd enough	80	76	80	84	78	81	84	77
REFUSED	1	2	-	-	2	1	1	2
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Favorable	10%	8%	12%	11%	10%	9%	9%	12%
Unfavorable	15	8	9	7	9	8	8	10
Hvn't hrd enough	74	83	77	81	79	82	81	78
REFUSED	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	-

