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QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

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OPTIMISTIC VIRGINIA VOTERS GIVE McAULIFFE OK GRADES, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; SUPPORT FOR MINIMUM WAGE HIKE TOPS 2-1

Virginia voters say 57 – 32 percent that they are optimistic about the next four years with their new governor, Terry McAuliffe, and give him a cautious 44 – 29 percent approval rating, with 27 percent undecided, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

A total of 56 percent of voters are “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the way things are going in the Commonwealth, while 43 percent are “somewhat dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied,” the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

Gov. McAuliffe’s approval rating is 69 – 12 percent among Democrats and 41 – 28 percent among independent voters, with a negative 22 – 50 percent among Republicans. Men approve 42 – 33 percent and women approve 46 – 27 percent.

Many Virginia voters remain undecided about McAuliffe as they give him modest grades on his personal characteristics:

- 44 – 34 percent that he is honest and trustworthy;
- 53 – 31 percent that he has strong leadership qualities;
- 46 – 41 percent that he cares about their needs and problems.

“Gov. Terry McAuliffe’s initial report card from Virginia voters is good, but not great. A plurality – but not a majority – approves of his early days in the governor’s mansion and for the most part he gets similar ratings when voters are asked about his personal characteristics. The exception is that a majority see him as a strong leader,” said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll. “His support has the expected partisan skew – he does very well among Democrats, poorly among Republicans, while his 13-point margin among independent voters gets him his positive overall rating. His approval rating among women is only slightly better than his approval among men.”

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“Virginians are optimistic about the future under their new governor, and a majority is satisfied with the way things are going in their state, better than the voter outlook in some other parts of the country,” Brown added.

In an open-ended question, allowing for any answer, a total of 27 percent of Virginia voters list the economy and jobs as the top priority for the governor and State Legislature, with 13 percent citing education and 9 percent listing health care. Only 4 percent list taxes, lower than in most other states surveyed by Quinnipiac University.

Voters approve 41 – 33 percent of the way McAuliffe is handling the economy and jobs. A total of 57 percent of voters say the state’s economy is excellent or good, while 41 percent say the economy is not so good or poor.

Minimum Wage

Virginia voter’s support 66 – 31 percent raising the state’s \$7.25 per hour minimum wage. Support is 96 – 3 percent among Democrats and 60 – 36 percent among independent voters. Republicans are opposed 56 – 41 percent. Women want a higher wage 73 – 25 percent while men support it 59 – 39 percent.

Offered four choices:

- 26 percent want to increase the minimum wage to \$9.25 per hour;
- 6 percent want to increase it to something less than \$9.25 per hour;
- 32 percent want to increase it to more than \$9.25 per hour;
- 31 percent oppose any increase.

Increasing the minimum wage would help the state economy, 49 percent of voters say, while 33 percent say it would hurt the economy and 15 percent say it would have no effect.

“Virginia voters feel good about the Commonwealth’s economy, but still say it is the top priority in Richmond,” Brown said. “The number of voters who cite taxes as a priority is low.

“Support for hiking the minimum wage is consistent with what Quinnipiac University has seen in surveys of other states.”

From March 19 – 24, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,288 voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.7 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, Colorado, Iowa 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](#).

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Terry McAuliffe is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Approve	44%	22%	69%	41%	42%	46%	39%	46%	47%	41%
Disapprove	29	50	12	28	33	27	30	26	30	33
DK/NA	27	28	19	31	26	27	31	28	23	26

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Approve	37%	36%	34%	41%	41%	34%	46%	40%	35%	31%
Disapprove	45	42	48	44	41	47	36	43	48	48
DK/NA	18	21	18	15	17	19	18	17	17	21

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job? (*High also 48% Jun 2011)

	APPROVE.....						
				High		Low	
	Mar 26 2014	Sep 19 2013	Aug 22 2013	Jul 17 2013	May 15 2013	Sep 14 2011*	Mar 26 2014
Approve	37	42	40	41	38	48	37
Disapprove	45	41	46	42	42	34	45
DK/NA	18	17	14	18	20	18	18

20. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Virginia today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Very satisfied	6%	4%	9%	5%	7%	5%	5%	7%	6%	4%
Smwht satisfied	50	36	63	50	50	50	44	52	52	48
Smwht dissatisfied	31	42	21	32	31	31	41	29	28	31
Very dissatisfied	12	18	5	13	12	12	8	10	13	16
DK/NA	1	-	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1

TREND: In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Virginia today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied? (*High also 68% Jun 2011)

	VERY+SMWHT SAT						
				High		Low	
	Mar 26 2014	Sep 19 2013	Aug 22 2013	Jul 17 2013	May 15 2013	Sep 14 2011*	Mar 26 2014
Very satisfied	6	8	8	8	8	13	6
Smwht satisfied	50	52	52	54	54	55	50
Smwht dissatisfied	31	30	29	26	26	24	31
Very dissatisfied	12	11	11	11	11	7	12
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

21. Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the next four years with Terry McAuliffe as governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Optimistic	57%	33%	84%	54%	55%	59%	58%	61%	58%	52%
Pessimistic	32	55	7	35	36	29	28	31	32	35
DK/NA	11	13	8	10	9	12	13	9	10	13

22. What do you think should be the top priority for Governor McAuliffe and the State Legislature in 2014?

	Tot
Economy (General)	7%
Jobs/Unemployment	19
Economy (Other Specific)	1
Wages/Minimum Wage	1
Income inequality	1
Budget (General)	3
Government spending	1
Taxes (General)	4
Education (General)	12
Education (Other Specific)	1
Healthcare	9
Medicaid	4
Lack/Quality of Publ Transp	3
Roads/Traffic/Infrastructure	3
Elderly Issues	2
Abortion	1
Environment	1
Gay marriage/Gay Issues	1
Gun Issues/Policy/Control	1
Immigration Issues	1
Marijuana	1
Caring about people	1
Other	10
DK/NA	12

23. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Terry McAuliffe is handling the economy and jobs?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Approve	41%	16%	65%	39%	41%	42%	45%	42%	42%	37%
Disapprove	33	58	14	31	35	31	30	34	34	30
DK/NA	26	26	20	30	24	28	25	24	24	33

24. Would you say that Terry McAuliffe - is honest and trustworthy or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	44%	22%	71%	39%	42%	46%	42%	45%	45%	44%
No	34	54	10	38	38	31	39	35	33	31
DK/NA	22	24	19	23	20	24	19	21	22	25

25. Would you say that Terry McAuliffe - has strong leadership qualities or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	53%	32%	80%	48%	51%	56%	59%	54%	54%	50%
No	31	50	11	33	35	27	26	33	30	32
DK/NA	16	18	9	19	13	17	15	13	16	18

26. Would you say that Terry McAuliffe - cares about the needs and problems of people like you or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	46%	23%	75%	41%	46%	47%	45%	50%	46%	45%
No	41	61	17	46	43	40	43	41	41	41
DK/NA	12	16	9	13	11	13	12	10	13	15

27. Do you think Terry McAuliffe is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Liberal	36%	69%	8%	38%	42%	31%	28%	36%	36%	41%
Conservative	7	4	11	4	5	8	12	7	7	3
About right	44	13	73	43	41	46	40	46	44	44
DK/NA	14	14	8	15	12	15	20	11	13	13

TREND: Do you think Terry McAuliffe is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

	Mar 26 2014	Jul 18 2013	May 16 2013	Mar 27 2013
Liberal	36	26	22	21
Conservative	7	4	4	4
About right	44	36	33	29
DK/NA	14	35	41	45

28. Would you describe the state of Virginia's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Excellent	4%	2%	7%	2%	4%	3%	9%	5%	2%	2%
Good	53	44	59	56	55	52	47	57	55	51
Not so good	31	39	27	32	31	32	34	30	30	34
Poor	10	14	6	9	8	11	10	9	11	9
DK/NA	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	-	1	3

29. Do you think Virginia's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Better	28%	11%	43%	28%	29%	27%	28%	33%	25%	22%
Worse	18	32	7	19	17	20	15	20	19	17
The same	51	57	46	52	52	51	53	46	55	56
DK/NA	3	1	4	1	2	3	3	2	1	4

30. Would you support or oppose raising Virginia's minimum wage, which is now \$7.25 an hour?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Support	66%	41%	96%	60%	59%	73%	60%	66%	68%	68%
Oppose	31	56	3	36	39	25	40	31	29	29
DK/NA	3	3	1	4	2	3	1	3	3	3

31. (If support q30) Do you think that Virginia's minimum wage should be \$9.25 an hour, should be less than \$9.25 an hour, or should be more than \$9.25 an hour?

	SUPPORTS INCREASE Q30.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Exactly \$9.25	40%	52%	33%	45%	38%	41%
Less than \$9.25	10	20	4	14	9	10
More than \$9.25	49	25	61	40	50	48
DK/NA	2	3	2	1	2	2

31a. (COMBINED Q30 & Q31) Would you support or oppose raising Virginia's minimum wage, which is now \$7.25 an hour? IF SUPPORT: Do you think that Virginia's minimum wage should be \$9.25 an hour, should be less than \$9.25 an hour, or should be more than \$9.25 an hour?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Increase to \$9.25	26%	21%	32%	27%	23%	30%	24%	26%	29%	25%
Increase < \$9.25	6	8	4	8	5	7	9	6	5	7
Increase > \$9.25	32	10	58	24	30	35	26	33	33	35
Oppose increase	31	56	3	36	39	25	40	31	29	29
DK/NA	4	4	3	4	3	4	1	4	4	4

32. Do you think an increase in Virginia's minimum wage would help the state's economy, hurt the state's economy, or wouldn't affect the state's economy?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Help	49%	22%	77%	45%	44%	52%	54%	47%	47%	50%
Hurt	33	59	6	35	39	28	35	34	32	30
Wouldn't affect	15	15	14	17	14	15	9	16	16	16
DK/NA	4	4	3	3	2	5	2	3	5	5