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QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

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VIRGINIA VOTERS KNOW LITTLE ABOUT GOV CANDIDATES, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; CUCCINELLI MORE EXPERIENCED, McAULIFFE LESS IDEOLOGICAL

Virginia State Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli is viewed as having better experience while voters see Terry McAuliffe as slightly less ideological, but neither is well-known to voters who are divided on who should be the next governor, with 40 percent for Republican Cuccinelli and 38 percent for Democrat McAuliffe according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

The decision by Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling that he would not run for governor as an independent has had no effect on the Cuccinelli-McAuliffe matchup as the current dead heat is the same as two previous surveys this year, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

For 37 percent of Virginia voters, the economy is the most important issue in the governor's race, while 19 percent list education, 15 percent cite taxes and 12 percent list the state budget.

"Neither candidate for governor is that well known to voters although Cuccinelli has a small edge in that department," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "Because of their relatively low profiles at this point, the horse race numbers pretty much reflect a generic Democratic-Republican race.

"The Cuccinelli-McAuliffe race features the kind of gender gap we are seeing in many races. The Democrat wins women 43 – 33 percent, while the Republican carries men 49 – 33 percent.

Voters say 44 – 22 percent that Cuccinelli, the attorney general and former state legislator, has the right kind of experience to be governor. Businessman McAuliffe, who has never held public office although he was Democratic National Chairman, has the right experience voters say 28 – 23 percent.

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Virginia voters still know little about either candidate. Cuccinelli gets a 30 – 24 percent favorability rating, with 44 percent who don't know enough about him to form an opinion. McAuliffe has a 20 – 16 percent favorability, with 63 percent who don't know enough about him.

Cuccinelli's political philosophy is "about right," 32 percent of Virginia voters say, while 29 percent say he is too conservative and 5 percent say he is too liberal, while 33 percent of voters do not have an opinion.

McAuliffe's philosophy is "about right," 29 percent of voters say, while 21 percent say he is too liberal and 4 percent say he is too conservative, while 45 percent of voters do not have an opinion.

"At this point in the race, the number of voters who see Cuccinelli as 'too conservative' is higher than the number who sees McAuliffe as 'too liberal.' But the general public does not see the GOP candidate as a far right kind of guy as some both inside and outside the Republican Party have suggested. It would not be surprising to see McAuliffe try to pin the ideologue label on Cuccinelli but as of now the label does not stick," said Brown.

Gov. Bob McDonnell gets a static 53 – 26 percent job approval rating, compared to his 53 – 28 percent in Quinnipiac University's February 20 survey. The State Legislature has a split 40 – 40 percent job approval, compared to a negative 38 – 46 percent rating last month.

"While the governor is treading water, the legislature seems to have benefitted from the recently concluded legislative session in the eyes of the public," said Brown.

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner gets a 56 – 26 percent approval rating, with 47 – 33 percent for first-term Sen. Tim Kaine.

Voters approve 45 – 27 percent of the job Cuccinelli is doing and give Lt. Gov. Bolling a 37 – 15 percent score.

From March 20 – 25, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,098 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 3 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 and the nation as a public service and for research.

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

1. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Terry McAuliffe the Democrat and Ken Cuccinelli the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
McAuliffe	38%	3%	86%	29%	33%	43%	30%	70%
Cuccinelli	40	83	2	37	49	33	49	7
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	3	-	3	3	2	2	3
DK/NA	18	10	10	29	14	21	16	18

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	ANNUAL HSHOLD No	INC <50K	INC 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	AGE IN YRS..... 35-54	AGE IN YRS..... 55+
McAuliffe	43%	35%	39%	38%	43%	38%	38%	39%
Cuccinelli	42	39	33	44	47	33	45	40
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	3	3	2	1	4	2	2
DK/NA	12	21	23	15	8	24	14	17

	North	East/ SthEst	West/ Rchmnd	West/ Shndh
McAuliffe	43%	37%	40%	29%
Cuccinelli	39	37	39	47
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	3	-	1	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	2	3	3
DK/NA	15	23	16	19

TREND: If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Terry McAuliffe the Democrat and Ken Cuccinelli the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 14 2012
McAuliffe	38	38	40	41
Cuccinelli	40	38	39	37
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	2	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	1	1
DK/NA	18	21	18	21

2. Is your opinion of Terry McAuliffe favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	20%	5%	40%	15%	21%	19%	19%	27%
Unfavorable	16	30	3	13	23	10	19	4
Hvn't hrd enough	63	64	56	70	55	70	61	67
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2

TREND: Is your opinion of Terry McAuliffe favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 14 2012
Favorable	20	23	23	17
Unfavorable	16	16	16	13
Hvn't hrd enough	63	60	61	68
REFUSED	1	1	1	1

3. Is your opinion of Ken Cuccinelli favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	30%	58%	4%	29%	38%	23%	35%	11%
Unfavorable	24	6	41	26	23	24	23	26
Hvn't hrd enough	44	35	53	42	38	49	40	59
REFUSED	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	3

TREND: Is your opinion of Ken Cuccinelli favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 14 2012
Favorable	30	30	33	29
Unfavorable	24	25	25	24
Hvn't hrd enough	44	44	41	45
REFUSED	2	1	2	2

4. Is your opinion of Bob McDonnell favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	42%	67%	20%	44%	47%	37%	46%	26%
Unfavorable	22	11	34	19	23	21	21	24
Hvn't hrd enough	33	20	41	33	28	37	30	46
REFUSED	4	2	4	4	3	5	3	4

TREND: Is your opinion of Bob McDonnell favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 15 2012	Jun 07 2012
Favorable	42	41	45	42	39
Unfavorable	22	24	23	22	25
Hvn't hrd enough	33	33	30	34	35
REFUSED	4	3	2	2	2

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bob McDonnell is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	53%	73%	33%	56%	61%	46%	56%	43%
Disapprove	26	14	42	22	25	27	24	31
DK/NA	21	13	25	21	14	27	20	26

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	COLLEGE DEG No	ANNUAL HSHOLD <50K	ANNUAL HSHOLD 50-100	ANNUAL HSHOLD >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	AGE IN YRS..... 35-54	AGE IN YRS..... 55+
Approve	56%	51%	47%	55%	61%	41%	56%	58%
Disapprove	29	24	26	26	28	25	31	24
DK/NA	16	24	27	20	10	34	13	18

	North	East/ SthEst	West/ Rchmnd	West/ Shndh
Approve	55%	49%	53%	54%
Disapprove	26	25	28	24
DK/NA	19	26	19	22

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bob McDonnell is handling his job as Governor? (*Low also 53% Mar 2012, Jun 2012, Nov 2012, Feb 2013)

	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 15 2012	Jul 18 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Oct 12 2011	Low Mar 27 2013*
Approve	53	53	54	53	55	62	53
Disapprove	26	28	27	26	29	22	26
DK/NA	21	19	19	20	17	16	21

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	40%	55%	30%	37%	47%	34%	41%	35%
Disapprove	40	24	50	42	37	42	37	49
DK/NA	20	22	20	20	16	24	22	16

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL	HSHOLD	INC	AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	42%	38%	39%	39%	46%	36%	40%	43%
Disapprove	41	39	40	41	43	35	45	38
DK/NA	16	23	22	20	12	28	15	19

	North	SthEst	East/	West/
			Rchmnd	Shndh
Approve	42%	34%	40%	42%
Disapprove	36	42	41	41
DK/NA	22	24	19	17

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job? (*High also 48% Jun 2011, **Low also 38% Mar 2012)

	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 15 2012	Jul 18 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Sep 14 2011*	Low Feb 20 2013**
Approve	40	38	43	44	41	48	38
Disapprove	40	46	39	35	41	34	46
DK/NA	20	16	19	21	18	18	16

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Warner is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	56%	39%	75%	56%	54%	57%	53%	69%
Disapprove	26	42	8	25	32	21	30	15
DK/NA	18	19	17	18	14	21	17	16

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL	HSHOLD	INC	AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	62%	52%	57%	57%	58%	51%	59%	56%
Disapprove	25	27	24	28	28	21	28	28
DK/NA	13	21	19	16	14	28	13	16

Cont'd

7. (cont'd) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Warner is handling his job as United States Senator?

	North	SthEst	East/ Rchmnd	West/ Shndh
Approve	60%	45%	59%	56%
Disapprove	23	29	25	29
DK/NA	16	26	16	15

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Warner is handling his job as United States Senator? (*High also 64% Sep 2011)

	Mar 27 2013	Feb 21 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 14 2012	Jul 18 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Feb 09 2012*	Low Mar 27 2013
Approve	56	58	59	60	57	64	56
Disapprove	26	28	27	25	24	22	26
DK/NA	18	14	13	16	19	14	18

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Tim Kaine is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	47%	23%	81%	44%	45%	50%	40%	73%
Disapprove	33	57	6	32	39	28	39	14
DK/NA	20	21	13	24	16	23	21	13

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+
Approve	54%	43%	48%	47%	52%	49%	53%	45%
Disapprove	31	34	31	35	35	25	34	37
DK/NA	15	22	21	18	13	26	14	19

	North	SthEst	East/ Rchmnd	West/ Shndh
Approve	50%	46%	50%	40%
Disapprove	31	31	34	36
DK/NA	18	23	16	24

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Tim Kaine is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Mar 27 2013	Feb 21 2013	Jan 09 2013
Approve	47	50	48
Disapprove	33	33	30
DK/NA	20	17	22

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Bolling is handling his job as Lieutenant Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	37%	42%	39%	33%	40%	34%	37%	37%
Disapprove	15	13	14	19	19	12	15	15
DK/NA	48	45	47	49	41	53	48	48

	COLLEGE Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+
Approve	37%	37%	37%	40%	36%	34%	38%	39%
Disapprove	15	16	15	15	16	18	16	13
DK/NA	48	48	48	45	48	48	45	48

	North	SthEst	East/ Rchmnd	West/ Shndh
Approve	31%	37%	37%	44%
Disapprove	12	16	19	13
DK/NA	56	47	44	44

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Bolling is handling his job as Lieutenant Governor? (*Low also 35% Oct 2011)

	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 14 2012	Jul 18 2012	APPROVE..... High Jan 09 2013	Low Dec 22 2011*
Approve	37	36	40	38	36	40	35
Disapprove	15	18	16	15	19	16	18
DK/NA	48	45	44	47	45	44	46

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ken Cuccinelli is handling his job as Virginia Attorney General?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	45%	68%	25%	44%	53%	38%	47%	32%
Disapprove	27	9	45	27	27	28	27	32
DK/NA	28	23	30	29	20	34	26	36

	COLLEGE Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+
Approve	44%	46%	42%	48%	46%	42%	47%	47%
Disapprove	36	22	25	26	34	18	30	31
DK/NA	20	32	33	26	20	40	23	23

	North	SthEst	East/ Rchmnd	West/ Shndh
Approve	44%	44%	47%	44%
Disapprove	31	24	28	24
DK/NA	25	31	25	32

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ken Cuccinelli is handling his job as Virginia Attorney General?

	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 14 2012	Jul 18 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Jun 29 2011	Low Feb 20 2013
Approve	45	41	48	43	44	49	41
Disapprove	27	32	27	29	31	31	32
DK/NA	28	26	25	28	25	20	26

12. 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	Wht	Blk
Very satisfied	7%	10%	4%	5%	8%	5%	7%	2%
Smwht satisfied	57	63	56	54	60	54	55	66
Smwht dissatisfied	25	19	32	25	21	29	25	24
Very dissatisfied	10	7	7	13	9	11	11	7
DK/NA	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL	HS HOLD	INC	AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Very satisfied	9%	5%	5%	5%	9%	6%	7%	7%
Smwht satisfied	59	55	53	58	61	56	58	57
Smwht dissatisfied	23	26	27	26	22	27	27	22
Very dissatisfied	9	11	13	10	7	10	7	12
DK/NA	1	2	2	-	2	1	1	2

	North	SthEst	East/	West/
			Rchmnd	Shndh
Very satisfied	10%	3%	6%	8%
Smwht satisfied	62	51	61	47
Smwht dissatisfied	19	35	21	31
Very dissatisfied	8	10	10	14
DK/NA	2	2	2	-

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)

	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 10 2013	Nov 15 2012	Feb 09 2012	VERY+SMWHT SAT	
						High Sep 14 2011*	Low Feb 20 2013
Very satisfied	7	8	8	10	11	13	8
Smwht satisfied	57	50	57	57	55	55	50
Smwht dissatisfied	25	29	24	22	25	24	29
Very dissatisfied	10	12	10	11	9	7	12
DK/NA	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

13a. What is the most important issue to you in deciding how to vote for governor this year? COMBINED WITH: 13b. And what is the next most important issue to you in deciding how to vote for governor this year? (Note: Percentages add to more than 100%)

	Tot
Economy total	37%
Economy	20
Jobs/Unemployment	17
Education total	19%
Education (General)	14
Education (Funding/Spending)	2
Education (Other)	3
Taxes total	15%
Taxes (General)	14
Taxes (Other)	1
Budget total	12%
Budget (General)	7
Budget (Government spending)	3
Budget (Other)	2
Gun Issues	9
Healthcare	8
Transportation	8
Roads/Infrastructure	5
Women's Issues	4
Social Issues/Social Services	4
Party/Political Philosophy	4
Abortion	3
Gay marriage/Gay Issues	3
Cares about the people	2
Military Issues/Benefits	2
Elderly Issues	2
Crime/Safety/Terrorism	1
Other	20
DK/NA	14

14. Do you think Terry McAuliffe has the right kind of experience to be Governor of Virginia or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	28%	14%	46%	24%	30%	27%	26%	37%
No	23	41	6	22	28	18	27	9
DK/NA	49	45	48	53	42	55	47	54

	COLLEGE DEG	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC	AGE IN YRS.....
	Yes No	<50K 50-100 >100K	18-34 35-54 55+
Yes	36%	24%	29%
No	26	20	18
DK/NA	38	56	52

	North	East/ SthEst Rchmnd	West/ Shndh
Yes	32%	25%	31%
No	25	21	24
DK/NA	43	54	45

15. Do you think Ken Cuccinelli has the right kind of experience to be Governor of Virginia or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	44%	66%	23%	44%	54%	35%	47%	31%
No	22	9	33	22	20	23	21	22
DK/NA	35	25	44	35	26	42	32	47

	COLLEGE DEG	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC	AGE IN YRS.....
	Yes No	<50K 50-100 >100K	18-34 35-54 55+
Yes	50%	40%	39%
No	29	17	21
DK/NA	22	43	40

	North	East/ SthEst Rchmnd	West/ Shndh
Yes	49%	36%	45%
No	22	22	23
DK/NA	29	42	31

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Liberal	21%	40%	5%	19%	28%	16%	25%	10%
Conservative	4	4	4	4	6	2	4	4
About right	29	11	49	29	28	31	26	41
DK/NA	45	45	41	47	38	51	45	46

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	COLLEGE DEG No	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC <50K	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC 50-100	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	AGE IN YRS..... 35-54	AGE IN YRS..... 55+
Liberal	29%	17%	15%	24%	29%	14%	23%	25%
Conservative	2	5	7	3	2	6	4	3
About right	37	25	29	30	36	28	32	30
DK/NA	32	53	49	43	33	52	41	42

	North	SthEst	East/ Rchmnd	West/ Shndh
Liberal	28%	15%	22%	20%
Conservative	4	4	4	4
About right	30	31	33	21
DK/NA	39	50	41	55

17. Do you think Ken Cuccinelli is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Liberal	5%	4%	7%	3%	5%	5%	5%	8%
Conservative	29	14	45	30	31	28	29	34
About right	32	56	9	33	39	26	35	16
DK/NA	33	26	38	34	25	41	31	42

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	COLLEGE DEG No	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC <50K	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC 50-100	ANNUAL HSHOLD INC >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	AGE IN YRS..... 35-54	AGE IN YRS..... 55+
Liberal	3%	6%	8%	5%	3%	7%	6%	4%
Conservative	44	21	24	31	43	22	34	32
About right	31	32	29	35	32	24	34	35
DK/NA	22	40	39	30	22	46	26	29

	North	SthEst	East/ Rchmnd	West/ Shndh
Liberal	6%	4%	6%	2%
Conservative	36	22	34	20
About right	31	31	32	34
DK/NA	27	42	28	44