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# QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

## POLL

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FOR RELEASE: MAY 15, 2013

### **VIRGINIA GOV'S JOB APPROVAL HITS NEW LOW, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; QUESTIONS OF IMPROPRIETY ARE 'JUST POLITICS,' VOTERS SAY**

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell has a 49 – 28 percent job approval rating, down slightly from his 53 – 26 percent score March 27 and his lowest score in two years, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Voters say 44 – 12 percent, however, that questions about Gov. McDonnell's ties to a campaign donor are "just politics" rather than a "major issue."

McDonnell's job approval is the lowest since the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University began polling Virginia voters on state matters two years ago, and it is the first time he has been below 50 percent in his job approval. The governor, however, still has positive job approval and favorability ratings.

"The relationship between Gov. Bob McDonnell and businessman Jonnie Williams Sr. has been a major story in the news media, but seems so far to have little impact on voters' views of the governor, which remain relatively positive," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "That could change depending on developments, but at this point many more voters see the matter as 'just politics' than as a major issue. The governor retains a favorable view in the eyes of Virginia voters."

McDonnell's job approval is 67 – 14 percent among Republicans and 54 – 27 percent among independent voters, while Democrats disapprove 41 – 31 percent. That reflects small movement downward among his fellow Republicans and among independent voters. On March 27 his approval rating was 73 – 14 among Republicans and 56 – 22 percent among independents, with Democratic disapproval at 42 – 33 percent.

[For a downloadable video of Quinnipiac University Assistant Polling Director Tim Malloy discussing today's survey on Gov. McDonnell, click here.](#)

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Among Republicans, 46 percent see the focus on the McDonnell-Williams relationship as just politics, while 7 percent see it as a major issue. Independent voters agree 51 – 12 percent, as do Democrats 35 – 16 percent.

While 57 percent of Virginia voters have read or heard about the McDonnell-Williams relationship, most still don't know much about it.

Among all Virginia voters, 12 percent think McDonnell engaged in serious wrongdoing while 6 percent said it was not serious and 16 percent say he has not engaged in wrongdoing at all. The remaining 63 percent do not know enough about the issue to make a judgment.

Voters' overall opinion of McDonnell is little changed. Currently it is 40 – 23 percent favorable, compared to 42 – 22 percent in March.

President Barack Obama's job approval rating has inched up a bit in the Old Dominion to a split 49 – 47 percent, compared to a negative 45 – 49 percent in March.

The most popular politician in Virginia remains U.S. Sen. Mark Warner who has a 59 – 22 percent approval rating, while U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, has a 46 – 33 percent score. The State Legislature has a slightly negative 38 – 42 percent approval rating and Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling has a 37 – 17 percent positive rating.

From May 8 – 13, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,286 registered 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 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](#).**

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	40%	63%	21%	44%	48%	34%	44%	25%
Unfavorable	23	8	35	25	21	24	25	19
Hvn't hrd enough	35	28	42	30	29	40	30	54
REFUSED	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3

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

	May 15 2013	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 15 2012	Jun 07 2012
Favorable	40	42	41	45	42	39
Unfavorable	23	22	24	23	22	25
Hvn't hrd enough	35	33	33	30	34	35
REFUSED	2	4	3	2	2	2

9. 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	49%	67%	31%	54%	53%	45%	50%	38%
Disapprove	28	14	41	27	26	30	29	28
DK/NA	23	18	28	19	21	24	21	34

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	COLLEGE DEG No	ANNUAL HSHOLD <50K	ANNUAL HSHOLD 50-100	ANNUAL HSHOLD >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-29	AGE IN YRS..... 30-44	AGE IN YRS..... 45-64	AGE IN YRS..... 65+
Approve	55%	45%	46%	50%	57%	40%	48%	47%	59%
Disapprove	30	27	26	31	29	25	27	35	21
DK/NA	15	28	28	20	14	34	25	18	20

	North	East/ SthEst	West/ Rchmnd	West/ Shndh
Approve	49%	48%	51%	44%
Disapprove	30	31	26	29
DK/NA	21	21	23	28

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

	May 15 2013	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 15 2012	APPROVE..... High Oct 12 2011	APPROVE..... Low May 15 2013
Approve	49	53	53	54	53	62	49
Disapprove	28	26	28	27	26	22	28
DK/NA	23	21	19	19	20	16	23

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Approve	38%	55%	22%	41%	42%	34%	40%	23%	
Disapprove	42	24	56	43	41	44	40	50	
DK/NA	20	21	22	15	17	23	20	26	
	COLLEGE	DEG	ANNUAL	HSOLD	INC	AGE IN	YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Approve	42%	35%	31%	40%	48%	44%	34%	35%	41%
Disapprove	43	42	46	43	39	33	44	51	33
DK/NA	15	23	23	17	13	24	22	14	26
	North	SthEst	East/ Rchmnd	West/ Shndh					
Approve	41%	37%	40%	30%					
Disapprove	40	45	39	49					
DK/NA	19	19	20	21					

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, Feb 2013)

	May 15 2013	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 15 2012	APPROVE..... High Sep 14 2011*	Low May 15 2013**
Approve	38	40	38	43	44	48	38
Disapprove	42	40	46	39	35	34	42
DK/NA	20	20	16	19	21	18	20

11. 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	59%	42%	78%	56%	57%	61%	54%	73%	
Disapprove	22	38	10	22	24	20	25	12	
DK/NA	18	20	13	22	18	19	21	15	
	COLLEGE	DEG	ANNUAL	HSOLD	INC	AGE IN	YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Approve	65%	56%	60%	58%	67%	62%	55%	61%	59%
Disapprove	21	23	22	23	20	15	23	24	26
DK/NA	14	21	18	19	14	23	23	15	15
	North	SthEst	East/ Rchmnd	West/ Shndh					
Approve	66%	54%	60%	53%					
Disapprove	16	25	23	26					
DK/NA	18	21	17	20					

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

	May 15 2013	Mar 27 2013	Feb 21 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 14 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Feb 09 2012*	Low Mar 27 2013
Approve	59	56	58	59	60	64	56
Disapprove	22	26	28	27	25	22	26
DK/NA	18	18	14	13	16	14	18

12. 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	46%	23%	67%	45%	43%	48%	41%	62%
Disapprove	33	55	12	34	38	29	38	17
DK/NA	21	22	20	21	20	23	21	22

  

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL	HS HOLD	INC	AGE IN YRS.....			
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Approve	56%	40%	43%	47%	56%	45%	49%	45%	43%
Disapprove	25	37	35	34	26	25	28	38	36
DK/NA	18	23	22	19	18	29	23	16	21

  

	North	East/ SthEst	West/ Rchmnd	Shndh
Approve	58%	47%	41%	37%
Disapprove	21	32	37	43
DK/NA	21	21	22	21

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

	May 15 2013	Mar 27 2013	Feb 21 2013	Jan 09 2013
Approve	46	47	50	48
Disapprove	33	33	33	30
DK/NA	21	20	17	22

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	49%	10%	87%	43%	43%	53%	38%	85%
Disapprove	47	87	10	52	52	42	58	11
DK/NA	4	3	4	5	4	5	4	4

  

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL	HS HOLD	INC	AGE IN YRS.....			
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Approve	52%	47%	52%	48%	49%	57%	50%	49%	38%
Disapprove	44	48	44	47	48	37	44	49	56
DK/NA	4	5	5	5	3	7	6	2	6

Cont'd

13. (Cont'd) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	North	East/ SthEst	West/ Rchmnd	Shndh
Approve	58%	51%	47%	37%
Disapprove	39	45	49	56
DK/NA	4	4	4	7

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? (\*High also 52% Nov 2012)

	May 15 2013	Mar 28 2013	Feb 21 2013	Jan 10 2013	Nov 14 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Jan 10 2013*	Low Sep 15 2011
Approve	49	45	51	52	52	52	40
Disapprove	47	49	46	44	44	44	54
DK/NA	4	6	4	3	4	3	6

14. 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%	47%	31%	39%	42%	34%	37%	40%
Disapprove	17	15	21	13	17	17	15	19
DK/NA	46	38	48	48	41	50	48	41

  

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-29	YRS..... 30-44	45-64	65+
Approve	39%	36%	41%	35%	41%	36%	36%	38%	41%
Disapprove	17	17	17	18	17	17	16	20	12
DK/NA	44	47	42	47	42	47	49	42	47

	North	East/ SthEst	West/ Rchmnd	Shndh
Approve	33%	33%	44%	33%
Disapprove	17	19	15	19
DK/NA	50	47	41	47

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

	May 15 2013	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 09 2013	Nov 14 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Jan 09 2013	Low Dec 22 2011*
Approve	37	37	36	40	38	40	35
Disapprove	17	15	18	16	15	16	18
DK/NA	46	48	45	44	47	44	46

16. 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	8%	15%	4%	7%	10%	7%	9%	5%
Smwht satisfied	54	59	52	53	55	53	53	54
Smwht dissatisfied	26	16	29	31	24	27	27	22
Very dissatisfied	11	9	15	9	11	12	10	18
DK/NA	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	Rep No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-29	YRS..... 30-44	45-64	65+
Very satisfied	10%	8%	7%	8%	11%	5%	8%	8%	14%
Smwht satisfied	58	52	51	56	59	61	50	52	55
Smwht dissatisfied	24	27	28	26	24	24	27	29	22
Very dissatisfied	8	13	13	11	7	10	16	11	7
DK/NA	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2

	North	East/ SthEst	West/ Rchmnd	Shndh
Very satisfied	10%	5%	10%	5%
Smwht satisfied	60	54	52	49
Smwht dissatisfied	23	28	24	32
Very dissatisfied	6	13	12	13
DK/NA	-	-	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)

	May 15 2013	Mar 27 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 10 2013	Nov 15 2012	VERY+SMWHT SAT High Sep 14 2011*	Low Feb 20 2013
Very satisfied	8	7	8	8	10	13	8
Smwht satisfied	54	57	50	57	57	55	50
Smwht dissatisfied	26	25	29	24	22	24	29
Very dissatisfied	11	10	12	10	11	7	12
DK/NA	1	2	1	1	1	1	1

23. How much have you heard or read about the relationship between Governor McDonnell and a campaign donor who paid for the food at a wedding for the governor's daughter; a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
A lot	24%	23%	25%	26%	26%	22%	27%	19%
A little	33	36	29	35	35	31	34	28
Nothing at all	42	40	45	39	38	45	39	53
DK/NA	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1

24. Do you think Governor McDonnell was involved in any wrong-doing or not, or haven't you heard enough about this? IF YES: Do you think this is serious or not serious?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes/Serious	12%	4%	18%	14%	10%	14%	12%	15%
Yes/Not serious	6	5	5	9	6	6	7	2
No, not involved	16	27	7	16	22	12	20	6
Hvn't hrd enough	63	63	68	59	60	66	58	75
REFUSED	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2

25. Which of these comes closest to your own view: this is a major issue or this is just politics, or haven't you heard enough about this?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Major issue	12%	7%	16%	12%	9%	15%	12%	15%
Just politics	44	46	35	51	47	41	47	30
Hvn't hrd enough	42	43	48	35	41	43	39	53
DK/NA	2	3	1	2	3	1	3	1