



**Peter A. Brown, Assistant Director  
(203) 535-6203**

**Rubenstein  
Pat Smith (212) 843-8026**

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**VIRGINIA VOTERS BACK UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS 91-8,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
2-1 OPPOSITION TO REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE PLAN**

Virginia voters support 91 – 8 percent, including 88 – 11 percent among Republicans, requiring background checks for all gun buyers, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Voters support 51 – 45 percent stricter gun laws in Virginia, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds. It's "too easy" to buy a gun in the Old Dominion, 48 percent of voters say, while 3 percent say it's "too hard" and 40 percent say it's "about right."

New gun laws won't interfere with the right to own guns, voters say 60 – 30 percent.

If more people carried guns, Virginia would be "less safe," 51 percent of voters say, while 40 percent say it would be "safer."

Virginia voters support 55 – 41 percent a nationwide ban on high-capacity magazines for guns and support 56 – 37 percent a nationwide ban on assault weapons.

The way people talk about politics these days contributes to violent events, such as last week's mass shooting in Alexandria, voters say 76 – 17 percent. Voters in every listed party, gender, education, age and racial group agree.

"To reverse the childhood adage, Virginia voters think that not just sticks and stones, but words themselves can hurt you," said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

"While there aren't a lot of things that voters on both sides of the aisle agree upon, most believe that contemporary rhetoric contributes to violent events such as the shooting at the Republican baseball practice last week. Seventy percent or more of every demographic group shares the view that the nasty political rhetoric is having an effect on real world events."

Virginia voters give President Donald Trump a negative 40 – 57 percent job approval rating, compared to a negative 36 – 57 percent approval in an April 11 poll.

**-more-**

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“President Donald Trump is one unpopular dude in Virginia,” Brown added. “Only 40 percent of voters in the Old Dominion give the president a thumbs up job performance rating. That’s compared to 57 percent who give him a negative evaluation. Actually, the president’s approval rating has been lower in some state and national polls, but the 40 – 57 percent score may be another sign of the bluing of the state and its continuing drift from its conservative roots.”

Virginia voters disapprove 57 – 25 percent of the Republican health care plan to replace Obamacare. Republicans approve 61 – 16 percent and white voters with no college degree are divided, as 36 percent approve and 39 percent disapprove. Voters in every other listed party gender, education, age and racial group disapprove.

Under the Republican plan, their health insurances costs will increase, 42 percent of voters say, as 13 percent say their premiums will go down and 35 percent say they will remain the same.

Virginia voters oppose 61 – 33 percent decreasing federal funding for Medicaid. Republicans are divided 45 – 47 percent, while every other listed group is opposed.

From June 15 – 20, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,145 Virginia voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.8 percentage points, including design effect. Live interviewers call landlines and cell phones.

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

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8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							Yes	No
Approve	40%	86%	4%	42%	49%	33%	36%	61%
Disapprove	57	12	96	54	48	65	61	38
DK/NA	2	2	-	4	3	2	3	1
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Approve	38%	35%	43%	41%	56%	42%	49%	22%
Disapprove	59	64	55	56	41	57	49	76
DK/NA	2	1	2	3	3	1	2	2

22. There is a Republican health care plan to replace Obamacare, known as the American Health Care Act. Do you approve or disapprove of this Republican health care plan?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							Yes	No
Approve	25%	61%	2%	25%	31%	20%	26%	36%
Disapprove	57	16	94	54	51	62	61	39
DK/NA	18	23	4	22	19	18	13	25
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Approve	21%	22%	29%	27%	36%	27%	31%	13%
Disapprove	65	62	54	51	45	55	50	74
DK/NA	14	16	17	22	20	18	19	14

23. Under this Republican health care plan, do you think your health insurance costs would go up, go down, or do you think the costs would stay about the same as they are now?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							Yes	No
Go up	42%	12%	68%	39%	35%	47%	41%	29%
Go down	13	31	1	14	17	10	11	22
Stay the same	35	47	25	34	38	33	40	37
DK/NA	10	11	6	12	10	10	8	12
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Go up	42%	44%	39%	44%	28%	42%	35%	57%
Go down	14	15	16	9	22	12	17	7
Stay the same	37	36	35	34	40	37	38	29
DK/NA	7	6	10	14	11	9	10	7

24. Do you support or oppose decreasing federal funding for Medicaid, a government program that helps pay for health care for low income Americans?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	33%	45%	22%	34%	37%	30%	31%	41%
Oppose	61	47	77	59	57	64	65	51
DK/NA	6	8	1	7	6	5	4	8
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Support	34%	36%	28%	34%	41%	32%	36%	28%
Oppose	61	61	67	58	52	63	58	68
DK/NA	6	3	5	8	7	5	6	4

25. Do you support or oppose stricter gun laws in Virginia?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	51%	17%	85%	46%	41%	59%	58%	38%
Oppose	45	80	10	49	56	36	40	59
DK/NA	4	2	4	5	3	5	2	3
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Support	45%	51%	52%	57%	36%	58%	48%	60%
Oppose	53	46	44	38	62	39	50	34
DK/NA	2	2	4	5	2	3	3	6

26. Do you support or oppose requiring background checks for all gun buyers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	91%	88%	97%	90%	87%	95%	93%	89%
Oppose	8	11	2	10	11	4	6	11
DK/NA	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	-
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Support	87%	91%	94%	95%	86%	95%	91%	95%
Oppose	13	9	6	4	13	5	9	3
DK/NA	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

27. Do you think it is too easy to buy a gun in Virginia today, too difficult to buy a gun in Virginia today, or about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Too easy	48%	17%	77%	45%	36%	58%	55%	38%
Too difficult	3	3	1	4	4	1	1	5
About right	40	71	15	41	53	30	37	48
DK/NA	9	9	7	10	7	11	7	9
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Too easy	42%	47%	53%	51%	34%	58%	46%	54%
Too difficult	8	2	1	2	5	2	3	2
About right	43	45	41	34	56	30	42	36
DK/NA	7	5	5	14	5	11	8	9

28. Do you think any new gun laws will interfere with the right to own guns, or do you think it's possible to make new gun laws without interfering with gun rights?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Will interfere	30%	47%	21%	27%	33%	27%	25%	33%
Won't interfere	60	42	72	62	56	63	70	52
NO RIGHT TO OWN (VOL)	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
DK/NA	10	11	6	10	10	10	4	14
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Will interfere	36%	30%	27%	26%	33%	25%	29%	31%
Won't interfere	61	66	64	51	57	65	61	59
NO RIGHT TO OWN (VOL)	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
DK/NA	4	4	8	22	9	10	9	10

29. If more people carried guns, do you think Virginia would be safer or less safe?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Safer	40%	74%	10%	41%	53%	29%	35%	54%
Less safe	51	16	85	49	40	62	58	36
DK/NA	9	9	5	10	7	10	6	9
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Safer	49%	45%	38%	32%	59%	32%	45%	29%
Less safe	41	51	55	59	34	59	47	62
DK/NA	10	4	7	9	7	9	8	9

30. As you may know, high-capacity magazines or clips can hold many rounds of ammunition, so a shooter can fire more rounds without manually reloading. Would you support or oppose a nationwide ban on the sale of high-capacity magazines that hold many rounds of ammunition?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	55%	33%	82%	51%	44%	65%	66%	46%
Oppose	41	64	14	44	52	31	30	51
DK/NA	4	3	3	5	4	4	4	4
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Support	43%	54%	58%	66%	42%	68%	56%	55%
Oppose	55	43	40	29	54	28	40	42
DK/NA	2	3	2	6	4	4	4	3

31. Would you support or oppose a nationwide ban on assault weapons?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	56%	31%	82%	55%	44%	67%	66%	45%
Oppose	37	63	12	39	51	26	31	49
DK/NA	6	6	6	6	5	7	3	7
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Support	47%	53%	61%	68%	41%	68%	55%	61%
Oppose	49	42	37	23	55	26	40	32
DK/NA	4	5	3	8	4	6	5	7

32. Do you think that the way people talk about politics these days is contributing to violent events, such as the recent shooting of a U.S. Congressman and others in Virginia, or don't you think that the way people talk about politics is contributing to violent events?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Talk contributes	76%	88%	70%	79%	75%	77%	81%	76%
Doesn't contribute	17	9	23	13	17	16	15	16
DK/NA	7	3	7	8	8	6	4	8
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Talk contributes	76%	72%	79%	79%	77%	80%	79%	71%
Doesn't contribute	20	23	15	11	18	13	15	20
DK/NA	4	4	6	11	6	6	6	9