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**VIRGINIA VOTERS DISLIKE McAULIFFE LESS THAN CUCCINELLI,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
LIBERTARIAN COULD BE KEY IN TIGHT RACE**

With 7 percent of likely voters, Robert Sarvis, the Libertarian candidate in the too-close-to call Virginia governor's race, could hold the key to victory for Democrat Terry McAuliffe, who has 44 percent of likely voters, or Republican State Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, who has 41 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Democrat McAuliffe gets a split 38 – 38 percent favorability rating, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds, compared to Republican Cuccinelli's negative 34 – 51 percent rating. For Sarvis, 85 percent don't know enough about him to form an opinion.

There are measurable racial and gender gaps in the race for governor as Cuccinelli leads 48 – 38 percent among white voters while blacks go to McAuliffe 77 – 9 percent. Women back the Democrat 49 – 35 percent while men back the Republican 47 – 40 percent.

Only 6 percent of likely voters are undecided seven weeks before Election Day, but 12 percent of those who name a candidate say there is a "good chance" they will change their mind.

"Terry McAuliffe is less disliked than State Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli. Voters are not wild about either man, and that may be one reason why Libertarian Robert Sarvis is running so well," said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "History tells us that third-party candidates tend to experience shrinking support as Election Day nears. If Sarvis does get 7 percent of the actual vote, that would reflect not just his strength but the weakness of the major party candidates.

"Right now, we can't tell whether Sarvis' candidacy is hurting Cuccinelli more than McAuliffe," said Brown. "The Libertarian candidate is getting 3 percent of the Republican vote and 2 percent of the Democratic vote, but 14 percent of independent voters."

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“Since there are more people in Virginia who now consider themselves Democrats than Republicans, logic says that Cuccinelli needs a solid margin among independent voters. Instead, these voters are divided 37 – 37 percent between the Democrat and Republican,” Brown added.

Looking at important qualities in a candidate for governor, Virginia likely voters say:

- Honesty is extremely important, 59 percent, and very important 35 percent;
- Understanding problems of “people like you” is extremely important, 36 percent, and very important, 45 percent;
- Experience is extremely important, 18 percent, and very important, 42 percent.

Voters are divided on McAuliffe’s honesty, as 39 percent say he is honest and trustworthy and 42 percent say he isn’t.

Cuccinelli is not honest and trustworthy, voters say 49 – 39 percent. But Cuccinelli wins the support of 44 percent of voters who say honesty is extremely important, with 40 percent for McAuliffe.

Voters say 58 – 34 percent that Cuccinelli has the right experience to be governor, compared to 47 – 36 percent for McAuliffe.

Cuccinelli does not understand their problems, voters say 56 – 35 percent, compared to a slightly negative 40 – 44 percent for McAuliffe.

“Honesty remains the most desired quality in a candidate in voters’ eyes and McAuliffe has a small edge on Cuccinelli on that issue. The coverage of Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell’s relationship with a large campaign donor certainly isn’t helping Cuccinelli to be seen as Mr. Clean,” said Brown.

The candidates for lieutenant governor are virtually unknown: 72 percent of likely voters don’t know enough about Republican E.W. Jackson to form an opinion, and 87 percent don’t know enough about Democrat Ralph Northam. In the attorney general’s race, 88 percent don’t know enough about Democrat Mark Herring and 79 percent don’t know Republican Mark Obenshain.

From September 9 – 15, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,005 likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.1 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](#).

1. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Terry McAuliffe the Democrat, Ken Cuccinelli the Republican, and Robert Sarvis the Libertarian, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward McAuliffe, Cuccinelli, or Sarvis? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
McAuliffe	44%	5%	91%	37%	40%	49%	38%	77%
Cuccinelli	41	89	3	37	47	35	48	9
Sarvis	7	3	2	14	8	7	9	-
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	2
DK/NA	6	3	3	11	5	7	5	11

	WHITE.....						
	COLLEGE DEG		RELIGION.....				
	Yes	No	Prot	Cath	None	Men	Wom
McAuliffe	46%	31%	29%	31%	67%	33%	42%
Cuccinelli	42	53	57	52	16	52	43
Sarvis	6	11	9	7	12	10	8
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	5	5	5	10	6	5	6

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL	HS HOLD	INC	AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-49	50-64	65+
McAuliffe	51%	40%	46%	46%	47%	44%	49%	41%
Cuccinelli	36	45	40	37	42	42	37	45
Sarvis	6	9	7	8	7	7	8	6
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	1
DK/NA	7	6	6	8	5	7	5	7

	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO VOTE Q26, 27, 28		
	Experience	Understanding	Honesty
McAuliffe	39%	48%	40%
Cuccinelli	48	39	44
Sarvis	7	7	10
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	-	1
DK/NA	4	6	6

1a. (If candidate chosen q1) Will you definitely vote for (Candidate of choice q1), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for another of the candidates? IF CHANGE MIND: Would you say there's a good chance you'll change your mind, or would you say it's pretty unlikely? (* Subgroup size less than 75, additional caution should be taken when interpreting findings of this group because of the large margin of error)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....			
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1.....			
	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1.....			
	Tot	McAuliffe	Cuccinelli	Sarvis*
Def vote for cand	77%	81%	78%	50%
Unlikely to change	8	8	8	9
Good chance change	12	9	12	38
DK/NA	2	2	3	3

1b. (If candidate chosen q1) Would you say you are very enthusiastic about supporting (Candidate chosen), somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all? (* Subgroup size less than 75, additional caution should be taken when interpreting findings of this group because of the large margin of error)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....			
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1.....			
	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1.....			
	Tot	McAuliffe	Cuccinelli	Sarvis*
Very enthusiastic	27%	27%	30%	15%
Smwht enthusiastic	49	49	49	50
Not so enthusiastic	13	14	12	14
Not enthus at all	10	10	8	18
DK/NA	1	-	2	3

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	38%	10%	76%	30%	35%	41%	34%	59%
Unfavorable	38	61	9	45	41	36	45	11
Hvn't hrd enough	22	28	14	23	22	22	19	29
REFUSED	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2

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

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Favorable	38	34
Unfavorable	38	33
Hvn't hrd enough	22	31
REFUSED	2	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	34%	67%	4%	34%	38%	30%	39%	11%
Unfavorable	51	14	86	50	49	53	47	68
Hvn't hrd enough	13	17	9	14	12	15	12	18
REFUSED	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2

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

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Favorable	34	35
Unfavorable	51	41
Hvn't hrd enough	13	22
REFUSED	1	2

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	8%	7%	6%	11%	8%	8%	9%	2%
Unfavorable	6	2	8	5	8	4	5	6
Hvn't hrd enough	85	89	86	84	82	88	85	90
REFUSED	1	2	-	-	2	-	1	2

6. Is your opinion of E.W. Jackson favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	10%	12%	4%	10%	11%	8%	10%	6%
Unfavorable	18	6	32	17	20	16	18	25
Hvn't hrd enough	72	82	63	73	68	76	72	68
REFUSED	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TREND: Is your opinion of E.W. Jackson favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Favorable	10	8
Unfavorable	18	16
Hvn't hrd enough	72	75
REFUSED	-	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	9%	3%	16%	7%	9%	9%	9%	5%
Unfavorable	4	3	3	5	5	3	4	3
Hvn't hrd enough	87	93	81	88	85	88	86	92
REFUSED	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-

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

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Favorable	9	8
Unfavorable	4	4
Hvn't hrd enough	87	87
REFUSED	1	1

8. Is your opinion of Mark Herring favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	8%	2%	17%	5%	9%	7%	9%	6%
Unfavorable	4	5	1	4	5	3	4	-
Hvn't hrd enough	88	93	82	91	86	90	87	93
REFUSED	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18 2013	Aug 21 2013
Favorable	8	8
Unfavorable	4	3
Hvn't hrd enough	88	88
REFUSED	-	1

9. Is your opinion of Mark Obenshain favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	12%	14%	7%	14%	12%	11%	13%	8%
Unfavorable	9	3	15	6	11	6	9	6
Hvn't hrd enough	79	81	78	80	76	82	78	85
REFUSED	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18 2013	Aug 21 2013
Favorable	12	12
Unfavorable	9	6
Hvn't hrd enough	79	82
REFUSED	1	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	42%	81%	7%	39%	45%	38%	48%	16%
Disapprove	49	10	85	51	48	51	44	72
DK/NA	9	9	8	10	7	11	8	12

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

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Approve	42	42
Disapprove	49	46
DK/NA	9	11

26. (INTRO Q26-28: Thinking about this year's election for governor, for each personal quality I name, please tell me how important it is in your decision of who to support in the election for governor.) How about the candidate's - experience, would you say this is extremely important in your choice for governor, very important, somewhat important, not so important or not important at all?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Extremely important	18%	19%	20%	16%	18%	18%	15%	30%
Very important	42	53	40	39	40	45	44	38
Somewhat important	33	23	33	37	33	34	34	30
Not so important	4	4	4	6	6	3	5	1
Not important at all	2	2	3	1	3	2	2	1
DK/NA	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

TREND: (INTRO: Thinking about this year's election for governor, for each personal quality I name, please tell me how important it is in your decision of who to support in the election for governor.) How about the candidate's experience, would you say this is extremely important in your choice for governor, very important, somewhat important, not so important or not important at all?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Extremely important	18	19
Very important	42	42
Somewhat important	33	32
Not so important	4	4
Not important at all	2	2
DK/NA	-	-

27. How about the candidate's - understanding of the problems of people like you, would you say this is extremely important in your choice for governor, very important, somewhat important, not so important or not important at all?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Extremely important	36%	34%	37%	37%	32%	39%	34%	52%
Very important	45	44	44	44	43	46	43	44
Somewhat important	17	21	15	16	22	12	20	4
Not so important	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	-
Not important at all	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-
DK/NA	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

TREND: How about the candidate's understanding of the problems of people like you, would you say this is extremely important in your choice for governor, very important, somewhat important, not so important or not important at all?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Extremely important	36	44
Very important	45	38
Somewhat important	17	16
Not so important	1	2
Not important at all	1	1
DK/NA	-	1

28. How about the candidate's - honesty and trustworthiness, would you say this is extremely important in your choice for governor, very important, somewhat important, not so important or not important at all?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Extremely important	59%	67%	55%	58%	57%	63%	60%	60%
Very important	35	30	37	35	37	33	34	31
Somewhat important	5	3	7	5	6	4	4	8
Not so important	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Not important at all	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-

TREND: How about the candidate's honesty and trustworthiness, would you say this is extremely important in your choice for governor, very important, somewhat important, not so important or not important at all?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Extremely important	59	58
Very important	35	35
Somewhat important	5	6
Not so important	-	-
Not important at all	-	1
DK/NA	-	-

29. (INTRO Q29-34: Now, I'd like to ask whether you think each of these qualities describes each candidate in the election for governor.) Do you think Ken Cuccinelli - has the right kind of experience to be Governor of Virginia or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	58%	82%	35%	58%	61%	55%	63%	35%
No	34	7	59	35	33	35	28	58
DK/NA	8	11	6	7	6	10	9	7

TREND: (INTRO: Now, I'd like to ask whether you think each of these qualities describes each candidate in the election for governor.) Do you think Ken Cuccinelli has the right kind of experience to be Governor of Virginia or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Yes	58	56
No	34	31
DK/NA	8	13

30. Would you say that Ken Cuccinelli - understands the problems of people like you or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	35%	66%	10%	32%	38%	31%	40%	15%
No	56	19	84	62	53	58	49	77
DK/NA	10	15	6	7	9	11	11	8

TREND: Would you say that Ken Cuccinelli understands the problems of people like you or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Yes	35	37
No	56	51
DK/NA	10	11

31. Would you say that Ken Cuccinelli - is honest and trustworthy or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	39%	72%	12%	37%	44%	33%	44%	13%
No	49	17	76	52	47	52	44	69
DK/NA	12	12	11	11	9	15	11	18

TREND: Would you say that Ken Cuccinelli is honest and trustworthy or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Yes	39	42
No	49	43
DK/NA	12	15

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	47%	26%	72%	44%	46%	47%	43%	60%
No	36	51	16	40	38	34	39	18
DK/NA	17	23	12	16	16	18	18	23

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

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18 2013	Aug 21 2013
Yes	47	46
No	36	34
DK/NA	17	21

33. Would you say that Terry McAuliffe - understands the problems of people like you or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	40%	17%	72%	33%	37%	42%	37%	58%
No	44	57	17	54	49	39	46	23
DK/NA	16	25	11	13	14	19	17	19

TREND: Would you say that Terry McAuliffe understands the problems of people like you or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18 2013	Aug 21 2013
Yes	40	38
No	44	42
DK/NA	16	20

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	39%	15%	70%	33%	37%	41%	35%	56%
No	42	58	17	49	47	38	45	21
DK/NA	19	27	13	18	17	22	20	22

TREND: Would you say that Terry McAuliffe is honest and trustworthy or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18 2013	Aug 21 2013
Yes	39	39
No	42	36
DK/NA	19	25

36. What do you think Ken Cuccinelli is spending more time doing in his campaign explaining what he would do if elected Governor or attacking Terry McAuliffe?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Explaining	24%	32%	14%	25%	25%	24%	24%	24%
Attacking	60	48	73	62	62	57	61	61
DK/NA	16	20	13	13	13	19	16	15

TREND: What do you think Ken Cuccinelli is spending more time doing in his campaign, explaining what he would do if elected Governor or attacking Terry McAuliffe?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Explaining	24	32
Attacking	60	52
DK/NA	16	16

37. What do you think Terry McAuliffe is spending more time doing in his campaign explaining what he would do if elected Governor or attacking Ken Cuccinelli?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Explaining	19%	8%	33%	16%	17%	20%	15%	37%
Attacking	68	75	55	73	70	66	72	52
DK/NA	13	16	12	11	13	14	13	11

TREND: What do you think Terry McAuliffe is spending more time doing in his campaign, explaining what he would do if elected Governor or attacking Ken Cuccinelli?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Sep 18	Aug 21
	2013	2013
Explaining	19	25
Attacking	68	56
DK/NA	13	19