

**FOR RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

**DEM TOPS 50 PERCENT, UP 10 PTS IN VA GOVERNOR'S RACE,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
TRUMP HAS BIG DISAPPROVAL RATING**

In the Virginia governor's race, Democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam tops the magic 50 percent mark among likely voters, leading Republican Ed Gillespie 51 – 41 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today. Libertarian Party candidate Cliff Hyra gets 3 percent.

Northam leads Gillespie 95 – 3 percent among Democrats, with 1 percent for Hyra, and 50 – 37 percent among independent voters, with 7 percent for Hyra. Gillespie takes Republicans 94 – 4 percent, with no measurable support for Hyra, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds.

This survey of likely voters can not be compared to earlier surveys of registered voters.

There are wide gender and racial gaps as men back the Republican 49 – 39 percent while women back the Democrat 61 – 34 percent. White voters back Gillespie 49 – 44 percent while non-white voters back Northam 74 – 16 percent.

Northam gets a 47 – 31 percent favorability rating among Virginia likely voters. Gillespie gets 40 percent favorable and 39 percent unfavorable.

For Hyra, 84 percent of likely voters don't know enough about him to form an opinion of him.

“Virginians were just getting used to the idea that the Old Dominion was no longer that tried-and-true, rock-solid Republican bastion that had been the case since the civil rights era of the 1960s and was now a swing state. But as these poll numbers demonstrate, politics in Virginia may be moving further leftward,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“If Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam can keep his lead over Republican Ed Gillespie in the race for governor, it won't be long before the state is considered part of the reliably Democratic Blue Wall in the East.”

**-more-**

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“After all, the state has voted Democratic for president the last three times and reliably Democratic in most statewide elections over the past decade,” Brown added.

“Moreover, Republican President Donald Trump is deeply unpopular while Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe is popular. Of course, a come from behind victory by Gillespie would throw a monkey wrench in the Blue Wall talk. At this point, the 3 percent showing by Libertarian Cliff Hyra is not enough to make much of a difference in the race unless Gillespie stages a rally.”

For 27 percent of Virginia likely voters, the economy is the most important issue in deciding how they will vote for governor. Another 21 percent cite health care, as 12 percent list education, 11 percent say taxes and 10 percent say immigration.

### **Approval for President Trump, Gov. McAuliffe, U.S. Senators**

Virginia likely voters disapprove 58 – 39 percent of the job President Donald Trump is doing. Democrats disapprove 97 – 3 percent and independent voters disapprove 64 – 32 percent, as Republicans approve 88 – 8 percent.

Voters approve 56 – 37 percent of the job Gov. Terry McAuliffe is doing, including 91 – 3 percent among Democrats and 60 – 32 percent among independent voters. Republicans disapprove 82 – 10 percent.

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine gets a 55 – 40 percent approval rating among likely voters, with a 62 – 33 percent approval rating for U.S. Sen. Mark Warner.

From September 14 – 18, Quinnipiac University surveyed 850 Virginia likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.2 percentage points, including the 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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1. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ralph Northam the Democrat, Ed Gillespie the Republican, and Cliff Hyra the Libertarian, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Ralph Northam the Democrat, Ed Gillespie the Republican or Cliff Hyra the Libertarian?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Northam	51%	4%	95%	50%	39%	61%	52%	35%
Gillespie	41	94	3	37	49	34	42	57
Hyra	3	-	1	7	6	1	2	5
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	5	2	1	7	6	4	4	3
WHITE.....				Non-				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Northam	32%	54%	44%	74%				
Gillespie	58	41	49	16				
Hyra	6	1	3	3				
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-				
DK/NA	4	3	4	7				

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	47%	10%	80%	48%	37%	55%	52%	35%
Unfavorable	31	63	5	29	39	23	32	41
Hvn't hrd enough	21	26	14	21	22	20	14	23
REFUSED	2	2	-	2	2	1	2	1
WHITE.....				Non-				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Favorable	34%	53%	44%	56%				
Unfavorable	48	26	36	13				
Hvn't hrd enough	17	19	18	30				
REFUSED	2	1	2	1				

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No	
Favorable	40%	82%	8%	38%	49%	32%	42%	55%
Unfavorable	39	5	69	41	30	46	44	27
Hvn't hrd enough	19	11	22	20	18	20	12	17
REFUSED	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1
WHITE.....				Non-				
Men	Wom	Wht	Wht					
Favorable	58%	38%	48%	18%				
Unfavorable	26	46	36	48				
Hvn't hrd enough	14	15	15	33				
REFUSED	2	1	2	2				

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No	
Favorable	7%	5%	5%	8%	9%	5%	4%	6%
Unfavorable	8	13	6	6	10	6	8	8
Hvn't hrd enough	84	81	88	85	81	88	87	86
REFUSED	1	1	-	2	1	1	1	1
WHITE.....				Non-				
Men	Wom	Wht	Wht					
Favorable	7%	3%	5%	12%				
Unfavorable	9	6	8	7				
Hvn't hrd enough	83	90	86	80				
REFUSED	1	1	1	1				

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No	
Approve	56%	10%	91%	60%	50%	61%	58%	41%
Disapprove	37	82	3	32	43	30	36	50
DK/NA	8	8	7	7	7	9	6	9
WHITE.....				Non-				
Men	Wom	Wht	Wht					
Approve	43%	56%	50%	75%				
Disapprove	51	36	43	16				
DK/NA	6	8	7	9				

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
	Approve	43%	41%	44%	46%	47%	40%	44%
Disapprove	43	44	43	41	43	44	43	51
DK/NA	13	15	13	13	10	16	13	12
	WHITE.....			Non-				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Approve	46%	37%	41%	52%				
Disapprove	45	49	47	34				
DK/NA	10	15	12	15				

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
	Approve	62%	25%	92%	63%	55%	68%	65%
Disapprove	33	68	5	31	42	25	31	48
DK/NA	5	7	3	6	4	7	4	5
	WHITE.....			Non-				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Approve	47%	65%	57%	79%				
Disapprove	49	29	39	13				
DK/NA	4	5	5	8				

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
	Approve	55%	6%	92%	61%	47%	63%	58%
Disapprove	40	88	5	35	49	33	38	54
DK/NA	5	6	3	5	5	5	4	5
	WHITE.....			Non-				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Approve	41%	58%	50%	74%				
Disapprove	55	36	45	22				
DK/NA	4	5	5	5				

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		
							Yes	No	
Approve	39%	88%	3%	32%	45%	33%	35%	56%	
Disapprove	58	8	97	64	52	64	62	40	
DK/NA	3	4	-	3	3	3	3	4	
	WHITE.....			Non-					
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht					
Approve	52%	38%	45%	18%					
Disapprove	44	59	52	81					
DK/NA	4	3	3	1					

10. Which of these is the most important issue to you in deciding how to vote for governor this year: taxes, the economy, education, health care, race relations, the environment, or immigration?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		
							Yes	No	
Taxes	11%	17%	5%	12%	14%	8%	9%	16%	
Economy	27	39	13	29	34	20	29	27	
Education	12	8	12	13	13	12	13	10	
Health care	21	10	34	18	17	25	23	17	
Race relations	8	2	14	8	6	10	5	5	
Environment	5	1	10	5	3	7	6	8	
Immigration	10	17	6	9	8	11	9	13	
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	4	-	2	3	1	2	2	
DK/NA	4	2	6	4	3	5	3	3	
	WHITE.....			Non-					
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht					
Taxes	15%	9%	12%	7%					
Economy	35	22	28	21					
Education	12	12	12	14					
Health care	17	24	21	25					
Race relations	2	7	5	18					
Environment	4	10	7	1					
Immigration	9	12	11	6					
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	3	1	2	2					
DK/NA	3	3	3	8					