

**FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 18, 2017**

**DEMOCRAT HOLDS 14-POINT LIKELY VOTER LEAD IN VIRGINIA,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
INDEPENDENT VOTERS DISAPPROVE OF TRUMP 2-1**

With strong support from women and non-white voters and a double-digit lead among independent voters, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam holds a 53 – 39 percent likely voter lead over Republican Ed Gillespie in the Virginia governor’s race, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today. Libertarian Party candidate Cliff Hyra has 2 percent.

Today’s result compares to a 51 – 41 percent likely voter lead for Northam in a September 19 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

From October 12 – 17, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,088 Virginia likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.7 percentage points, including the design effect. Live interviewers call landlines and cell phones.

Women likely voters back Northam 61 – 31 percent, with 2 percent for Hyra. Men are divided as 47 percent back Gillespie and 44 percent back Northam, with 2 percent for Hyra.

Independent voters back the Democrat 53 – 39 percent, with 3 percent for Hyra. Democrats back Northam 93 – 2 percent, with 2 percent for Hyra. Republicans back Gillespie 92 – 5 percent, with 1 percent for Hyra.

White likely voters are divided with 48 percent for Gillespie, 47 percent for Northam and 2 percent for Hyra. Non-white voters go to Northam 71 – 15 percent, with 3 percent for Hyra.

The economy is the most important issue in deciding how they will vote for governor, 25 percent of Virginia voters say, while 23 percent say health care and 11 percent cite education.

“One number says it all. Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam’s 14-point lead among independent voters is all you need to know about the race to be Virginia’s next governor,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“The two major-party candidates do about the same among their respective party bases, but a candidate who carries independent voters by double-digits is almost always a winner.

**-more-**

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Virginia likely voters give Northam a 51 – 30 percent favorability rating.

Gillespie gets a negative 39 – 45 percent favorability rating.

For Hyra, 85 percent haven't heard enough to form an opinion.

### **President Trump's Approval**

Virginia likely voters disapprove 62 – 35 percent of the job President Donald Trump is doing. Republicans approve 81 – 15 percent and white voters with no college degree approve 55 – 41 percent. White men are divided 49 – 49 percent. Every other party, gender, education and racial group disapproves.

If a candidate for governor supports President Trump, 51 percent of Virginia likely voters say they are less likely to vote for that candidate, as 18 percent say more likely and 30 percent say Trump support makes no difference in their vote.

Virginia likely voters disagree 61 – 23 percent with Trump's tweet that Northam is fighting for MS-13 gangs and for sanctuary cities.

“The drag from President Donald Trump's unpopularity on Republican Gillespie is gigantic. President Trump has a 35 percent approval rating in the Old Dominion – a very low number by historical standards,” Brown added.

Likely voters approve 56 – 36 percent of the job Gov. Terry McAuliffe is doing.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys nationwide, and statewide polls 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..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Northam	53%	5%	93%	53%	44%	61%	55%	34%
Gillespie	39	92	2	39	47	31	40	62
Hyra	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
DK/NA	5	3	3	5	5	5	3	3
WHITE.....				Non-				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Northam	39%	54%	47%	71%				
Gillespie	57	41	48	15				
Hyra	2	2	2	3				
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-				
DK/NA	2	3	3	10				

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Favorable	51%	9%	87%	49%	44%	58%	57%	34%
Unfavorable	30	66	2	32	37	23	31	45
Hvn't hrd enough	16	23	9	17	16	17	11	19
REFUSED	3	2	2	1	2	3	1	2
WHITE.....				Non-				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Favorable	41%	54%	48%	62%				
Unfavorable	45	28	37	14				
Hvn't hrd enough	12	17	14	20				
REFUSED	1	2	2	4				

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	39%	83%	7%	40%	46%	32%	40%	58%
Unfavorable	45	5	78	44	37	52	51	29
Hvn't hrd enough	13	9	13	14	14	13	8	12
REFUSED	3	2	3	2	3	3	1	2
WHITE.....							Non-	
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Favorable	55%	39%	47%	21%				
Unfavorable	34	50	42	51				
Hvn't hrd enough	9	10	10	22				
REFUSED	2	1	1	6				

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	5%	3%	6%	5%	6%	5%	3%	6%
Unfavorable	7	7	8	6	9	5	8	9
Hvn't hrd enough	85	88	82	87	82	88	88	83
REFUSED	3	1	3	1	3	3	1	2
WHITE.....							Non-	
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Favorable	5%	4%	4%	8%				
Unfavorable	10	6	8	4				
Hvn't hrd enough	84	88	86	83				
REFUSED	1	2	1	5				

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Approve	56%	17%	88%	55%	48%	62%	58%	40%
Disapprove	36	73	6	38	42	30	36	50
DK/NA	9	10	6	7	10	8	6	10
	WHITE.....			Non-				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Approve	42%	59%	50%	70%				
Disapprove	50	33	42	19				
DK/NA	8	8	8	11				

6. 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	35%	81%	4%	34%	40%	31%	36%	55%
Disapprove	62	15	96	65	57	67	63	41
DK/NA	2	4	1	2	3	2	1	3
	WHITE.....			Non-				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Approve	49%	38%	44%	14%				
Disapprove	49	60	54	83				
DK/NA	2	2	2	3				

7. 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, gun policy, or immigration?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Taxes	6%	14%	3%	5%	7%	5%	8%	8%
Economy	25	34	12	31	31	20	24	31
Education	11	4	15	11	10	11	9	8
Health care	23	15	34	20	15	30	26	18
Race relations	6	2	9	8	7	6	4	4
Environment	6	-	7	6	6	6	6	5
Gun policy	8	7	11	6	10	7	9	10
Immigration	7	13	3	8	6	7	8	8
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	5	1	2	3	2	3	2
DK/NA	5	6	6	3	5	6	4	5

  

WHITE.....		Non- Wht	
Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Taxes	8%	7%	2%
Economy	34	19	21
Education	7	9	17
Health care	14	32	24
Race relations	4	3	14
Environment	6	6	4
Gun policy	12	7	6
Immigration	7	9	5
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	3	2	2
DK/NA	4	5	6

8. If a candidate for governor supports President Trump, does that make you more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them, or doesn't it have an impact either way?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
More likely	18%	49%	-	15%	20%	16%	16%	32%
Less likely	51	6	88	51	44	58	54	28
No impact	30	43	11	34	34	25	28	39
DK/NA	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2

  

WHITE.....		Non- Wht	
Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
More likely	25%	20%	8%
Less likely	36	51	71
No impact	38	27	21
DK/NA	1	1	-

9. As you may know, President Trump tweeted that Ralph Northam is fighting for MS-13 gangs and sanctuary cities. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	Yes
Agree	23%	51%	4%	23%	30%	17%	21%	36%
Disagree	61	23	89	60	54	67	64	44
DK/NA	16	26	7	17	17	16	15	20

	WHITE.....		Non-	
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Agree	35%	19%	27%	12%
Disagree	50	62	56	73
DK/NA	15	19	17	15