



*April 9, 2019*

## Disapproval rises of top Democrats Northam, Fairfax and Herring, but Democrats still hold slight edge with Assembly control at stake

### Summary of Key Findings

1. In the wake of his “blackface” scandal, Governor Ralph Northam’s popularity among registered voters has plummeted 19 points since December. At 40%, Northam’s approval rating is lower than President Trump’s 44%.
2. Asked if Northam should resign, a slight majority says he should stay in office (52%-42%). In his own party, 29% of Democrats say he should resign.
3. With control of both Virginia Senate and House of Delegates on the line this November, Democrats hold a slight edge on the generic ballot test, 43% to 39%. Both parties will turn to their base, with Democrats still energized over Trump and Republicans fired up over abortion.
4. Northam, Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax and Attorney General Mark Herring have all been damaged by scandals, with their disapproval ratings rising. But 23% of voters appear unaware of even the highly publicized Northam scandal, so the “Top Three” scandals’ drag on Democratic candidates may be limited overall.
5. Downstream effects for Democrats may also be limited due to advantages Democrats hold in public perceptions. Asked which party cares about the middle class, the working class, the poor, African Americans, women, men, and children, voters choose Democrats in every category but one. Voters say Republicans care about men.
6. A question designed to carefully measure attitudes on abortion reveals both parties are out of the mainstream in their abortion positions, as a plurality of voters (32%) want neither fewer restrictions nor more restrictions on abortion.

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## Analysis

Virginia's 2019 state legislative elections promise to be fiercely fought, with razor-thin Republican majorities at risk in both houses of the General Assembly. Due to the combination of court-ordered redistricting in the House of Delegates and the enthusiasm advantage Democrats have enjoyed since the election of Donald Trump in 2016, which powered strong election performances for the party in 2017 and 2018, Democrats are within striking distance of picking up the seats they need to win majorities in both the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate. Democrats enjoy a 4-point advantage on the generic ballot question among likely voters, which asks voters if they would vote for a Republican or Democrat if the election were held today. That is just outside the survey's margin of error.

"While modest, any advantage here is significant because turnout in the pure state legislative cycle is always very low," said Dr. Rachel Bitecofer, the Wason Center assistant director. Historically, Democrats are generally less interested in elections with no statewide or presidential candidate on the ballot, and low turnout signals a Republican advantage. "If Democrats increase their participation rate significantly over the 2015 cycle, it could have a tremendous impact, as we saw in both 2017 and 2018," Bitecofer said.

Voters were also asked which party they would like to see in control of the General Assembly after the November election. Again, Democrats (46%) had a slight advantage over Republicans (42%), with only 5% saying they favor split control.

Voters were asked to say which party was best described by a series of statements, such as "Cares about the middle class." They could choose Republicans, Democrats, "Both" or "Neither." Democrats received the plurality on "Cares about the middle class" (44% to 38%), "Cares about the working class" (46% to 39%), and "Cares about children" (45% to 31%) and the majority on "Cares about the poor" (55% to 26%), "Cares about African Americans" (54% to 23%), and "Cares about women" (55% to 24%). Emphatically, voters felt one statement better described Republicans: "Cares about men" (53% to 13%). "Both" was chosen only rarely, averaging about 5% across all questions. There was greater variation on "Neither." Notably, 19% of voters indicated that they felt neither party cares about children or men, and 15% said the same regarding African Americans.

Rather than assume voters were aware of Gov. Ralph Northam's "blackface" scandal, the survey asks voters if they have "read, seen, or heard anything in the news recently about Governor Northam." This measures the salience of the issue and the political engagement of the electorate, given the extensive coverage the story received in national, state, and local media. Although most registered voters are aware of the scandal, 23% reported not having recently seen any news related to the governor.

Voters who indicated they had seen news about the governor were assumed to have seen coverage of the scandal and were asked if they wanted the governor to resign or stay in office. A slight majority, 52%, indicated they prefer he stay in office, while 42% felt he should resign. Although there is some evidence of partisanship in the resign data, 29%

of Democrats want Northam to resign, a concerning number in his own party. Independents polled 38% resign and 57% stay. African American voters polled 31% resign and 63% stay. These significant proportions indicate that, while not decried by a majority, Northam may be a political liability for Democrats in the fall among some black and Independent voters. Northam's approval ratings have declined sharply since our polling before the scandal, dropping from 59% in December to 40% in March. This leaves the governor 4 points below President Trump, who recorded 44%, one of his highest approval ratings in Virginia since taking office – up 4 points since December.

Voters were asked similar questions for Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax and Attorney General Mark Herring. Fairfax has been accused by two women of sexual assault, one at the 2004 Democratic national convention in Boston and the other from 2000, when he was an undergraduate at Duke University. Fairfax vehemently denies both allegations. Herring admitted to wearing blackface to portray a favorite rapper at a party in 1980, when he was an undergraduate at the University of Virginia. Coming at the same time as the Northam scandal, the Fairfax and Herring scandals received extensive national, state and local media coverage, so we expected an increase in their very low name recognition from our December survey. That is evident in this survey, and in both cases the increase in name recognition translated to an increase in disapproval. However, a third of registered voters (34%) still say they do not know enough about either Fairfax or Herring to express an opinion on their job approval.

“Probably because of the nature of the sexual assault allegations against him, Justin Fairfax appears more damaged than Mark Herring,” said Dr. Quentin Kidd, director of the Wason Center. Of the 665 voters who had heard about Fairfax's scandal, 45% said he should stay in office, while 42% said he should resign. Of Herring, 64% say he should stay in office, while 28% think he should resign. Fairfax's job disapproval went from 13% in December to 39% in this survey; Herring's disapproval went from 17% to 28%. Fairfax was especially hurt among African American voters (9% disapproval in December, 18% in this survey) and women (15% disapproval in December, 29% in this survey).

Due to the salience of the abortion issue in the recently concluded General Assembly session, and the expectation that abortion will be heavily emphasized by both parties this fall, we included a question that reflects the growing legal nuances of the abortion debate. Our survey asked voters to weigh 5 statements before choosing the one that best described their own position on abortion. The options ranged from “abortion should be unrestricted and legal in all cases” to “abortion should be illegal in all cases with no exceptions for rape, incest, or health of the mother.” Just 12% of Virginia votes agree with the first statement and just 9% agree with the last. In between, 20% of voters agree with the statement that “abortion should be legal in all cases, but with some limitations on it in late stages of pregnancy;” 32% agree with “abortion should be legal in the 1st trimester, but only legal in the 2nd and 3rd trimesters due to rape, incest, or the health of the mother;” and 24% agree with “abortion should be illegal at any stage of pregnancy except in cases of rape, incest, or the health of the mother.” The classic bell curve in these data reveals that both Democrats' push for fewer abortion restrictions and Republicans' push for more abortion restrictions are out of step with the median voter's preference on this contentious policy issue.

Q1: Overall, would you say things in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA are heading more in the right direction or the wrong direction?

- 1. Right 46
- 2. Mixed (vol) 14
- 3. Wrong 40
- 98. Dk/ref (vol) 0

Q2: And how about the country...overall, would you say things in the UNITED STATES are heading more in the right direction or the wrong direction?

- 1. Right 31
- 2. Mixed (vol) 11
- 3. Wrong 58
- 98. Dk/ref (vol) 0

WARNER. [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Warner is handling his job as U.S. Senator? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Warner is handling his job as U.S. Senator? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

- 1. Strongly Approve 27
- 2. Somewhat Approve 23
- 3. Somewhat Disapprove 13
- 4. Strongly Disapprove 27
- 98. Dk/ref (vol) 10

KAINE [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Tim Kaine is handling his job as U.S. Senator? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Tim Kaine is handling his job as U.S. Senator? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

- 1. Strongly Approve 23
- 2. Somewhat Approve 25
- 3. Somewhat Disapprove 15
- 4. Strongly Disapprove 21
- 98. Dk/ref (vol) 17

Q3: [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Strongly Approve	28	63	23	0	36	22	35	7	17	32	66	3	34	21	35	20	25	28	29	35
Somewhat Approve	16	28	17	3	18	14	18	5	15	16	20	3	17	15	16	15	15	17	17	14
Somewhat Disapprove	8	3	14	7	8	7	7	7	10	7	5	5	6	10	6	9	8	8	9	5
Strongly Disapprove	46	3	42	89	36	54	37	77	56	43	9	89	40	52	39	55	48	47	43	42
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	3	4	1	2	3	3	3	4	2	0	0	3	2	4	1	4	0	2	4

6: [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ralph Northam is handling his job as Governor of Virginia? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Terry McAuliffe is handling his job as Governor? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Strongly Approve	12	4	10	21	10	14	10	23	9	13	4	21	11	13	11	14	11	12	13	12
Somewhat Approve	28	14	30	41	24	32	26	34	25	29	13	37	26	31	26	31	27	30	29	29
Somewhat Disapprove	17	17	17	18	17	17	18	15	21	16	18	20	17	17	18	15	18	17	15	19
Strongly Disapprove	32	54	31	11	40	25	36	19	24	34	57	12	36	26	35	27	30	35	33	31
Dk/Ref (vol)	11	11	12	9	9	12	11	8	21	8	8	10	10	13	10	13	14	6	10	9

Q7. [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Justin Fairfax is handling his job as Lieutenant Governor? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Ralph Northam is handling his job as Lieutenant Governor? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Strongly Approve	8	4	7	14	8	9	6	16	11	8	4	12	7	10	8	8	9	8	7	8
Somewhat Approve	23	11	23	35	19	26	20	31	21	23	11	34	21	25	22	24	19	31	23	23
Somewhat Disapprove	15	16	15	14	16	14	15	11	11	16	16	16	16	14	16	14	14	16	16	15
Strongly Disapprove	20	36	17	8	26	15	24	7	13	22	37	12	21	18	22	17	22	20	18	20
Dk/Ref (vol)	34	34	38	29	31	36	35	35	44	31	32	26	35	33	32	37	36	25	36	34

Q8. [READ] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Herring is handling his job as Attorney General of Virginia? **[IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON’T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: OVERALL do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Herring is handling his job as Attorney General of Virginia? IF STILL UNSURE ENTER AS DON’T KNOW]**

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Strongly Approve	11	6	11	18	12	11	10	21	12	11	5	21	12	11	11	12	12	10	11	11
Somewhat Approve	27	19	25	38	22	32	25	33	25	28	16	34	24	31	25	31	27	29	27	27
Somewhat Disapprove	13	17	13	10	15	11	14	9	6	13	16	11	14	12	14	12	13	16	13	13
Strongly Disapprove	15	27	15	4	21	10	17	5	45	17	31	6	17	12	18	11	12	18	16	15
Dk/Ref (vol)	34	31	36	30	30	36	34	32	12	31	32	28	33	34	32	34	36	27	33	34

VOTEPLAN: Do you yourself plan to vote in the General Assembly elections this November? Would you say you...

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Definitely Will Vote	82	82	83	85	84	81	84	80	71	85	85	87	86	78	84	81	82	84	84	80
Probably Will Vote	12	11	13	11	11	13	11	16	17	11	11	8	10	15	11	14	12	11	12	14
Probably Won't Vote	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	0	3	1	3	2	2	3	4	1	1
Definitely Won't Vote	3	4	1	2	2	3	3	1	8	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	3	1	2	4
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	1

GENERIC [READ] Thinking about the upcoming elections for the General Assembly in November. If the election were held TODAY, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE: "the Republican Party's candidates" or "the Democratic Party's candidates"]? [Likely Voters Only N=854]

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Republican candidates	39	93	29	1	47	32	48	8	27	42	82	24	5	45	32	46	45	37	41	39	42
Democratic candidates	43	1	32	92	32	52	35	69	55	40	8	52	87	37	50	36	37	46	45	40	39
Ind/3 <sup>rd</sup> Party candidates	4	1	11	1	5	4	4	6	5	4	2	5	2	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
Undecided	12	4	26	5	14	11	11	15	13	12	6	17	6	13	12	12	12	12	9	15	13
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2

CONTROL. After the elections for the General Assembly are completed, which party would you like to see in control of the House of Delegates and the state Senate? Would it be for [RANDOMIZE: "the Republican Party" or "the Democratic Party"]? [Likely Voters Only N=854]

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Republican Party	42	96	36	0	51	34	52	10	29	45	86	27	4	48	35	48	34	39	42	39	50
Democratic Party	46	1	38	94	36	54	37	77	59	42	8	56	90	40	53	40	52	46	47	45	43
Split Control	5	1	12	3	6	5	5	4	6	5	2	8	4	6	4	5	5	7	4	5	4
Undecided	6	1	12	2	5	6	5	8	6	6	2	7	2	5	7	4	8	7	5	8	2
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	2	2	0	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1

Q11. I am going to ask you a series of statements and have you tell me which party, the Republican or Democratic Party, is best described by the statement. The first one is [options will be: Republican Party, Democratic Party, Both (vol), Neither (vol) Don't know/refused (vol.) [RANDOMIZE]

A. Cares about the middle class

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Republican Party	38	77	33	6	45	31	44	16	36	38	70	29	6	43	31	42	31	37	33	36	46
Democratic Party	44	5	38	87	36	51	34	73	55	41	10	52	87	39	49	38	51	44	46	45	39
Both	7	5	14	3	9	6	8	5	3	9	7	8	3	7	8	8	7	7	7	9	7
Neither	10	12	13	4	9	10	12	3	6	11	12	10	4	9	11	10	10	11	12	8	8
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	1	2	0	1	2	2	3	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	0

B. Care about the working class

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Republican Party	39	76	38	4	49	29	46	15	35	40	72	28	8	44	32	43	33	33	36	36	47
Democratic Party	46	9	37	89	36	55	37	75	55	43	11	55	86	41	52	40	53	53	47	47	42
Both	6	3	12	3	7	5	6	4	5	6	5	6	6	6	5	7	5	5	6	6	6
Neither	8	10	12	3	8	9	9	4	5	9	10	9	0	7	10	8	8	8	9	9	5
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	2	1	1	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	1	2	2	0	2	2	0

C. Cares about the poor

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Liberal	Moderate	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Republican Party	26	57	23	2	35	19	33	8	17	29	57	3	15	31	21	31	21	25	26	22	35
Democratic Party	55	18	52	95	47	63	48	80	67	52	21	90	68	51	61	50	63	57	55	59	50
Both	7	6	13	1	8	6	7	6	7	7	6	6	7	7	7	8	6	7	6	8	7
Neither	10	16	11	1	9	10	10	4	7	10	14	1	10	8	8	9	9	10	11	9	7
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	3	3	2	1	2	1	2	1

D. Cares about African Americans

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Republican Party	23	50	20	1	31	16	29	5	15	25	51	12	2	26	19	27	18	24	22	20	26
Democratic Party	54	18	48	92	47	59	47	76	67	50	21	64	91	50	58	49	59	54	51	55	53
Both	6	5	10	3	6	6	6	8	4	6	5	6	3	6	5	6	5	4	6	7	6
Neither	15	23	18	3	14	15	16	7	13	15	20	14	3	15	14	16	13	13	20	14	13
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	4	4	1	2	4	2	4	1	4	3	4	1	3	4	4	5	5	1	4	2

E. Cares about women

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Republican Party	24	52	20	1	30	18	30	5	15	26	52	14	3	28	18	27	20	24	22	21	30
Democratic Party	55	17	52	93	48	61	46	82	71	50	19	65	93	51	59	50	61	56	55	55	53
Both	5	5	7	2	5	5	5	6	3	5	5	4	2	4	6	5	4	4	6	6	4
Neither	14	23	18	3	15	13	16	5	10	15	21	15	2	14	15	15	13	15	15	15	11
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	3	2	1	2	3	3	2	1	4	3	2	0	3	2	3	2	1	2	3	2

F. Cares about men

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Republican Party	58	67	55	54	60	56	60	52	65	56	65	57	55	59	56	58	58	58	56	57	59
Democratic Party	13	4	8	25	13	13	9	28	11	13	6	13	22	11	15	12	14	12	15	13	12
Both	5	5	8	1	6	4	5	2	0	6	5	4	2	5	4	6	4	5	5	6	5
Neither	19	18	24	16	18	21	20	12	23	19	17	22	18	18	21	19	20	22	20	18	17
Dk/Ref (vol)	5	6	5	3	4	6	6	6	1	6	7	4	4	6	4	5	4	3	4	6	7

G. Cares about children

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Republican Party	31	64	28	2	40	23	37	12	25	32	60	22	3	36	24	36	24	28	32	27	37
Democratic Party	45	9	37	87	37	52	37	71	54	42	14	50	89	40	51	40	52	46	45	45	43
Both	3	3	6	1	4	3	3	3	1	4	2	4	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	1
Neither	19	22	26	10	18	20	20	12	19	19	21	23	6	18	20	18	20	20	19	20	16
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	2	3	0	1	2	3	2	1	3	3	1	0	3	1	2	1	2	1	4	3

Q16. Thinking about Virginia's current Governor Ralph Northam, have you seen, read, or heard anything in the news about him recently? [INTERVIEWER: If respondent says no, but asks you to tell them you CANNOT do so. Please explain that it might bias the results of the survey and move on] [N=1067]

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Yes	76	75	77	76	80	72	79	67	62	80	76	75	79	77	74	77	74	74	80	75	76
No	23	22	23	24	20	25	20	31	34	20	23	24	21	22	24	23	23	25	18	23	23
Dk/Ref (vol)	1	3	0	0	0	3	1	2	4	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	3	1	2	2	1



Q16B. In your opinion, should Governor Northam resign his position or should he stay in office?  
 [INTERVIEWER: don't accept initial don't knows! If respondent is unsure, ask them if they lean towards one option or the other, or probe with, "which option would you pick if you could only pick one?" [N=808]

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Resign	42	59	38	29	45	38	43	31	53	39	58	35	35	46	36	43	39	41	41	41	43
Stay in Office	52	35	57	65	48	56	51	63	37	55	37	59	58	49	56	50	55	51	53	54	51
Dk/Ref (vol)	6	6	5	6	7	6	6	6	10	6	5	6	7	5	8	7	6	8	6	5	6

Q17. Thinking about Virginia's current Lieutenant Governor, Justin Fairfax, have you seen, read, or heard anything in the news about him recently? [INTERVIEWER: If respondent says no, but asks you to tell them you CANNOT do so. Please explain that it might bias the results of the survey and move on] [N=808]

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Yes	82	79	85	85	88	77	85	77	66	86	86	81	82	83	81	85	79	82	87	80	80
No	16	19	13	14	12	21	14	21	30	14	13	18	16	16	17	14	20	15	13	20	19
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	2	2	1	0	2	1	2	4	0	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	0	0	1

Q17B. In your opinion, should Lieutenant Governor Fairfax resign his position or should he stay in office?  
 [INTERVIEWER: don't accept initial don't knows! If respondent is unsure, ask them if they lean towards one option or the other, or probe with, "which option would you pick if you could only pick one?" [N=665]

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Resign	42	55	42	33	46	38	44	36	43	42	40	37	56	43	42	43	42	47	44	39	38
Stay in Office	45	37	45	52	41	50	43	56	44	45	44	50	37	45	45	46	43	41	42	48	51
Dk/Ref (vol)	13	8	13	15	13	12	13	8	13	13	16	13	7	12	13	11	15	12	14	13	11

Q18. Thinking about Virginia's current Attorney General Mark Herring, have you seen, read, or heard anything in the news about him recently? [INTERVIEWER: If respondent says no, but asks you to tell them you CANNOT do so. Please explain that it might bias the results of the survey and move on] [N=808]

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Yes	62	61	61	64	71	52	64	57	42	66	64	60	67	62	61	63	60	59	66	62	62
No	36	36	37	32	27	45	34	40	55	32	34	38	30	35	36	34	37	37	31	37	37
Dk/Ref (vol)	2	3	2	4	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	1	1

Q18B. In your opinion, should Attorney General Herring resign his position or should he stay in office?  
 [INTERVIEWER: don't accept initial don't knows! If respondent is unsure, ask them if they lean towards one option or the other, or probe with, "which option would you pick if you could only pick one?" [N=568]

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Resign	28	46	31	8	32	22	27	25	27	27	52	19	10	29	25	30	25	31	29	26	23
Stay in Office	64	49	62	83	59	71	65	69	66	64	43	74	79	62	67	62	67	61	64	65	68
Dk/Ref (vol)	8	5	7	9	9	7	8	7	7	9	5	7	11	9	8	8	10	8	7	9	9

Q22. Great, we're just about done! I am going to read you a series of statements offering different viewpoints on abortion. Please listen to each one before you decide which best reflects your position.

1. Abortion should be unrestricted and legal in all cases
2. Abortion should be legal in all cases, but with some limitations on it in late stages of pregnancy
3. Abortion should be legal in the 1st trimester, but only legal in the 2nd and 3rd trimesters due to rape, incest, or the health of the mother
4. Abortion should be illegal at any stage of pregnancy except in cases of rape, incest, or the health of the mother
5. Abortion should be illegal in all cases with no exceptions for rape, incest, or health of the mother

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem	Males	Females	White	Black	18-44	45 +	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	R House	D House	R Senate	D Senate	Nova	Richmond	HR	S/Southwest
Unrestricted-always	12	3	11	21	12	12	13	10	9	13	2	10	30	11	14	10	14	13	10	10	13
Legal w late restrictions	20	8	20	32	18	23	19	27	28	19	6	24	37	20	20	18	23	22	20	23	13
Legal 1 <sup>st</sup> trim, exceptions only in 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup>	32	27	38	32	30	34	33	26	30	32	25	41	25	31	33	34	29	35	27	39	24
Illegal w exceptions	24	40	24	9	27	21	23	29	30	24	45	19	5	25	24	27	21	19	34	19	29
Illegal, no exceptions	9	16	7	3	9	8	11	1	2	10	19	5	0	12	5	9	8	6	6	7	18
Dk/Ref (vol)	3	6	0	3	4	2	0	7	0	2	3	1	3	1	4	2	5	5	3	2	3

## Demographics

### EDUC:

High school or less	12
Some college	21
Vocational or technical training	4
College graduate	35
Graduate study or more	29

### HISPANIC:

Yes	5
No	95

### RACE:

White	75
Black or African American	17
Other	8

### AGE:

18-24	7
25-34	14
35-44	14
45-54	18
55 & older	47

### PARTYID:

Republican	33
Democrat	34
Independent	29
No preference (vol)	3
Other party (vol)	0
Dk/ref (vol)	1

### PARTLEAN:

Republican	39
Democratic	33
Independent	20
DK/Refused	9

### REGION:

NOVA	34
Richmond	21
Hampton Roads	24
South/Southwest	21

### RELIG:

1. Christian	69
2. Jewish	2
3. Other	13
4. None	15
98. Dk/ref (vol)	2

### IDEOL:

Strong liberal	7
Liberal	10
Moderate, leaning liberal	25
Moderate, leaning conservative	19
Conservative	20
Strong Conservative	11
Dk/ref (vol)	8

### INCOME:

Under \$25,000	3
\$25-\$49,999	10
\$50-\$74,999	16
\$75-\$99,999	17
\$100,000-\$149,999	18
Over \$150,000	22
Dk/ref (vol)	14

### SEX (interviewer coded):

Male	47
Female	53

### MODE

Cell	68
Landline	32

### **How the survey was conducted:**

The results of this poll are based on 1,067 interviews of registered voters, including 342 on landline and 725 on cell phone, conducted March 11-March 31, 2019. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. The margin of error for the whole survey is +/-3% at the 95% level of confidence. **This means that if 50% of respondents indicate a topline view on an issue, we can be 95% confident that the population's view on that issue is somewhere between 47% and 53%.\*** All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.1 in this survey. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample, and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Sub-samples have a higher margin of error. In addition to sampling error, the other potential sources of error include non-response, question wording, and interviewer error. The response rate (AAPOR RRI Standard Definition) for the survey was 17%. Five callbacks were employed in the fielding process. Live calling was conducted by trained interviewers at the Wason Center for Public Policy Survey Research Lab at Christopher Newport University. The data reported here are weighted using an iterative weighting process on sex, age, race, and region to reflect as closely as possible the population of likely voters in Virginia's 2019 state legislative elections.

\*For two questions, CONTROL and GENERIC, a "Likely Voter" model is deployed to account for historically low turnout in state legislative elections, resulting in a N size of 854 and a margin of error of +/-3.46%