



Oct. 21, 2016

Trump recovers slightly from ‘Access Hollywood’ low, but Clinton still holds 12-point lead among Va. voters

Summary of Key Findings

1. Trump rebounds slightly, but Clinton still leads, 45-33 percent, on the full five-candidate ballot, as Virginia voters continue to leave Libertarian Gary Johnson.
2. Clinton’s hold on Northern Virginia rises to 57 percent; Trump’s position in rural South/Southwest tops 50 percent for the first time.
3. Clinton continues to lead big among women (47-25 percent) and Millennials (45-24 percent) and maintains a slight edge among men (42-41 percent).
4. Trump maintains his lead among white voters overall, 44-32 percent, but Clinton’s lead among white college-educated voters continues to grow, now 41-33 percent.
5. Trump recovers his lead among voters in military households, 45-32 percent, but Clinton leads in non-military households, 50-27 percent.

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Analysis

Democrat Hillary Clinton maintains a double-digit lead over Republican Donald Trump in the Wason Center's weekly tracking survey of likely Virginia voters, 45-33 percent. Clinton has steadily increased her vote share as the campaign progressed, from 39 percent on September 26, to 45 percent now. Trump's vote share has ranged from 29 percent to 35 percent over the same period, seeming to fluctuate depending upon campaign events and news. This survey was conducted Oct. 16-19 among 834 likely Virginia voters, with an overall margin of error of +/- 3.9 % at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error is higher for subgroups.

“While Trump appears to have recovered a little of the support he lost after the release of the ‘Access Hollywood’ tape, his reach continues to be no higher than the mid-30s,” said Dr. Quentin Kidd, Director of the Wason Center. “That ceiling is far too low to win, especially as Clinton's share continues to rise.”

The party loyalty gap persists, as Clinton continues to draw more support from Democrats (88 percent) than Trump does from Republicans (72 percent). Independents appear to be slowly edging toward Clinton, with 44 percent saying they would vote for her if the election were held today, compared with 21 percent in late September. That swing has come mostly at the expense of Libertarian Gary Johnson, who had the support of 32 percent of Independents in September, compared to 14 percent now.

Regionally, Northern Virginia continues to drive Clinton's lead, with 57 percent of voters there saying they would vote for Clinton and only 21 percent saying they would vote for Trump. While the Clinton vote continues to grow in Northern Virginia, her lead in Hampton Roads and the Richmond region, while still solid, has returned to its pre-‘Access Hollywood’ margins. For Trump, rural and Appalachian South-Southwest Virginia continues to be his stronghold, where he has a 51-30 percent lead over Clinton.

Clinton continues to enjoy a massive advantage over Trump among women, nearly doubling his vote share, 47-25 percent. Men are divided, 42 percent for Clinton and 41 percent for Trump. Clinton nearly doubles Trump among Millennials, 45-24 percent. She also leads among voters 35 and older, 44-36 percent. Trump still leads among all white voters, 44-32 percent, and especially white men, 52-32 percent. Clinton trails among white women, 32-37 percent. Among white college-educated voters Clinton leads, 41-33 percent. Clinton's already overwhelming lead among African-American voters grows slightly in this survey to 81-3 percent. Finally, Clinton and Trump have traded the lead among military households, with Trump now leading Clinton, 45-32.

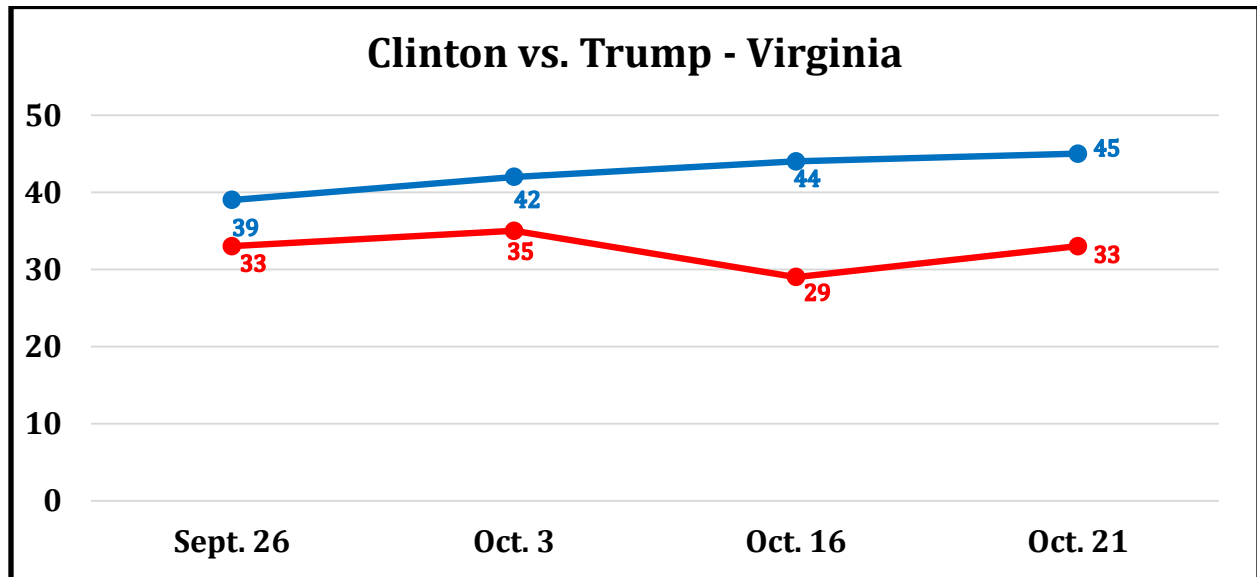
“Clinton's continued rise in Northern Virginia tells the larger story of political change in Virginia,” said Dr. Rachel Bitecofer, Assistant Director of the Wason Center. “Bluer and bluer voters in suburban Washington, and their like in Richmond and Hampton Roads, far outweigh rural voters' preference for Trump.”

The Wason Center will release two more tracking surveys among likely Virginia voters leading up to the Nov. 8 election. The releases are set for Oct. 28 and Nov. 7.

Tables

Q4: If the election for president were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: “Hillary Clinton the Democrat,” “Donald Trump the Republican”, “Gary Johnson the Libertarian”, “Jill Stein the Green”, or “Evan McMullin the Independent”], for whom would you vote?

Overall	10/21	10/16	10/3	9/26
Clinton	45	44	42	39
Trump	33	29	35	33
Johnson	8	11	12	15
Stein	1	2	1	3
McMullin	3	3	2	3
Undecided	2	2	1	1
None	5	6	5	5
Dk/Ref	3	3	2	1



By party	10/21			10/16			10/3			9/26		
	Rep	Dem	Ind	Rep	Dem	Ind	Rep	Dem	Ind	Rep	Dem	Ind
Clinton	5	88	44	7	87	39	8	88	34	3	87	21
Trump	72	1	25	68	<1	24	73	2	28	78	1	32
Johnson	7	4	14	9	6	18	10	3	20	9	4	31
Stein	1	2	2	1	1	1	<1	2	2	2	2	4
McMullin	3	<1	5	4	1	5	3	1	4	3	<1	5
Undecided	4	1	1	3	<1	3	<1	1	1	1	<1	1
Neither	5	2	6	6	3	7	5	3	7	4	5	6
Dk/Ref	3	2	3	2	1	4	1	<1	3	<1	1	<1

By sex	10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Clinton	42	47	37	50	36	46	32	46
Trump	41	25	32	26	42	28	42	26
Johnson	8	8	14	8	13	10	15	15
Stein	1	2	4	1	1	2	4	2
McMullin	1	4	3	3	2	3	2	3
Undecided	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	<1
Neither	3	7	7	6	3	8	4	7
Dk/Ref	3	4	2	3	2	2	<1	2

By age	10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	18-34	35+	18-34	35+	18-34	35+	18-34	35+
Clinton	45	44	45	43	42	42	34	41
Trump	24	36	18	34	24	38	23	37
Johnson	14	6	20	7	24	7	27	10
Stein	1	2	3	1	2	1	4	3
McMullin	4	2	3	3	3	2	4	2
Undecided	3	1	5	1	1	1	<1	1
Neither	5	5	3	7	4	6	7	5
Dk/Ref	4	3	2	4	<1	3	<1	1

By race	10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black
Clinton	32	81	32	79	32	74	30	74
Trump	44	3	40	3	44	7	41	4
Johnson	9	5	12	4	13	7	17	4
Stein	2	<1	1	1	1	3	4	1
McMullin	3	3	4	3	3	1	2	4
Undecided	2	<1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Neither	4	4	6	6	5	5	4	11
Dk/Ref	3	4	3	2	1	2	1	1

By white, sex	10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Clinton	32	32	26	36	29	36	27	34
Trump	52	37	44	36	50	41	48	34
Johnson	8	10	15	9	12	8	15	20
Stein	1	4	3	1	1	1	4	3
McMullin	2	4	3	5	2	2	2	2
None	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	<1
Neither	2	6	6	7	4	8	3	5
Dk/Ref	1	4	1	3	2	2	<1	2

By white, college degree	10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Clinton	41	17	37	23	39	24	37	18
Trump	33	62	32	51	37	55	33	57
Johnson	9	9	13	11	13	7	17	17
Stein	3	<1	1	2	2	1	4	3
McMullin	3	2	5	3	1	2	2	1
Undecided	2	3	3	2	1	1	1	<1
None	5	3	6	6	5	7	5	2
Dk/Ref	3	4	3	2	1	3	1	1

By military	10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	Mil	Non-Mil	Mil	Non-mil	Mil	Non-Mil	Mil	Non-mil
Clinton	32	50	38	47	36	44	32	42
Trump	45	27	32	28	37	34	39	31
Johnson	8	8	15	8	13	12	19	13
Stein	2	2	<1	2	1	1	2	3
McMullin	3	2	5	3	4	2	2	3
Undecided	3	2	3	2	1	<1	1	1
Neither	5	6	4	7	7	5	4	6
Dk/Ref	3	4	3	3	1	2	1	1

By region	10/21				10/16				10/3			
	Nova	Rich	HR	S'west	Nova	Rich	HR	S'west	Nova	Rich	HR	S'west
Clinton	57	44	40	30	55	47	42	27	50	41	40	31
Trump	21	33	33	51	21	27	25	48	27	35	34	46
Johnson	5	12	10	6	8	8	20	6	9	13	15	11
Stein	1	<1	4	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
McMullin	6	<1	<1	3	2	6	4	2	3	2	2	2
Undecided	1	3	2	1	3	1	2	2	1	<1	1	1
Neither	6	6	5	5	5	8	4	10	9	3	4	4
Dk/Ref	3	2	6	2	3	2	2	4	<1	4	2	3

9/26			
Nova	Rich	HR	S'west
45	42	38	29
27	31	31	47
16	12	17	13
3	4	3	3
3	2	2	4
1	2	<1	<1
5	6	8	3
1	1	1	1

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EDUC:

High school or less	15
Some college	21
Vocational or technical training	3
College graduate	35
Graduate study or more	25
Dk/ref (vol)	1

HISPANIC:

Yes	6
No	93

RACE:

White	68
Black or African American	20
Other	12

AGE: (Recorded as exact year of birth)

18-24	12
25-34	17
35-44	17
45-54	21
55 & older	33

MILITARY HOUSEHOLD:

Yes	29
No	70
Dk/ref (vol)	1

PARTYID:

Republican	30
Democrat	32
Independent	30
No preference (vol)	4
Other party (vol)	<1
Dk/ref (vol)	4

[IF OTHER THAN REP OR DEM ABOVE]

PARTLEAN:

Republican	29
Democratic	40
Independent	25
Dk/ref (vol)	6

RELIG:

Protestant	29
Christian (non-specific) (vol)	16
Catholic	14
Jewish	1
Other	15
None	21
Dk/ref (vol)	4

IDEOL:

Strong liberal	6
Liberal	14
Moderate, leaning liberal	24
Moderate, leaning conservative	19
Conservative	15
Strong Conservative	11
Dk/ref (vol)	11

REGION:

Northern Virginia	34
Richmond/Central	21
Hampton Roads	24
South/Southwest	21

INCOME:

Under \$25,000	6
\$25-\$49,999	11
\$50-\$74,999	18
\$75-\$99,999	15
\$100,000-\$149,999	17
Over \$150,000	20
Dk/ref (vol)	12

SEX: [INTERVIEWER CODE]

Male	46
Female	54

How the survey was conducted:

The results of this poll are based on 834 interviews of likely Virginia voters, including 336 on landline and 498 on cell phone, conducted Oct. 16-19, 2016. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. The margin of error for the whole survey is +/- 3.9 % at the 95% level of confidence. All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.3 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 18%. 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 of residence to reflect as closely as possible the demographic composition of likely 2016 voters in Virginia.