



*Oct. 28, 2016*

## ***Clinton's lead over Trump drops to 7 points in Virginia, as holdout voters move toward major party candidates***

### Summary of Key Findings

1. Trump moves to 39 percent, but Clinton still leads with 46 percent on the full five-candidate ballot, as Virginia voters continue to leave Libertarian Gary Johnson.
2. Trump's support grows across regions as Republicans come home. Clinton remains strong in Northern Virginia, and gains in Southwest.
3. Clinton's lead among women is still solid (46-36 percent) but Trump has made significant gains from what had been a steady 20-point gap. Millennials strongly favor Clinton (53-33 percent). She holds a slight edge among men (44-43 percent).
4. Trump holds a very strong lead among white voters overall, 52-32 percent, while Clinton's lead among white college-educated voters continues, now 46-38 percent.
5. Trump continues to lead among voters in military households, 48-40 percent, but Clinton continues to lead in non-military households, 48-34 percent.

---

#### **For further information contact:**

**Dr. Quentin Kidd**, Director  
Wason Center for Public Policy

e-mail [qkidd@cnu.edu](mailto:qkidd@cnu.edu)

Office (757) 594-8499  
Mobile (757) 775-6932

**Dr. Rachel Bitecofer**, Assistant Director  
Wason Center for Public Policy

e-mail [rachel.bitecofer@cnu.edu](mailto:rachel.bitecofer@cnu.edu)

Office (757) 594-8997  
Mobile (541) 729-9824

## Analysis

While Democrat Hillary Clinton continues to inch toward the 50 percent mark in Virginia, Republican Donald Trump has pulled within 7 points in the Wason Center's weekly tracking survey of likely Virginia voters, 46-39 percent. Although Clinton has steadily increased her vote share, from 39 percent on Sept. 26, to 46 percent now, Trump has gained 10 points since his dip following the first debate. At 39 percent, he now stands at his highest point since tracking began in September. This survey was conducted Oct. 23-26 among 814 likely Virginia voters, with an overall margin of error of +/- 4.2 % at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error is higher for subgroups.

Trump's climb is driven by increased support from Republicans, now 84 percent, likely due to an extra boost from Republican women. The party loyalty gap has nearly closed, with Clinton's support from Democrats at 87 percent, about where it has been since Sept. 26. Independents support Clinton by a 7-point margin, 46-39, and have moved away from Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson steadily and dramatically since Sept. 26.

"True to form for the past several statewide elections in Virginia, Republican voters appear to be coming home late, but coming home," said Dr. Quentin Kidd, Director of the Wason Center. "That's good news for Trump, and especially good news for the Republican candidates down-ballot."

Regionally, Northern Virginia continues to anchor Clinton in the Commonwealth, with 51 percent of voters there saying they would vote for Clinton and 34 percent saying they would vote for Trump. Clinton has moved up to 48 percent in Hampton Roads, and in South-Southwest to 41 percent. While Trump's support in South-Southwest is down, it remains his strongest, and the only one where he leads Clinton. Trump's support in the three other regions is up, suggesting the consolidation of the Republican vote statewide.

While the gender gap in Clinton's favor has shrunk, she still enjoys a 10-point advantage among women, 46-36 percent. Men are evenly divided, 44 percent for Clinton and 43 percent for Trump. "Republican women who were holding back or even considering a vote for Clinton, appear to be making peace with Trump as the reality of a Clinton win sinks in," said Dr. Rachel Bitecofer, Assistant Director of the Wason Center. "That would explain the surge in women saying they will vote for Trump and the way the party loyalty gap has closed."

Trump has increased his lead among all white voters, now 52-32 percent, and especially white men, 55-31 percent. White women voters surged to 50 percent for Trump, having been no higher than 41 percent at other points in the tracking. Among white college-educated voters, Clinton continues to lead, 46-38 percent.

Clinton continues to hold a commanding lead among Millennials, 53-33 percent. Trump continues to lead among military households, 48-40 percent.

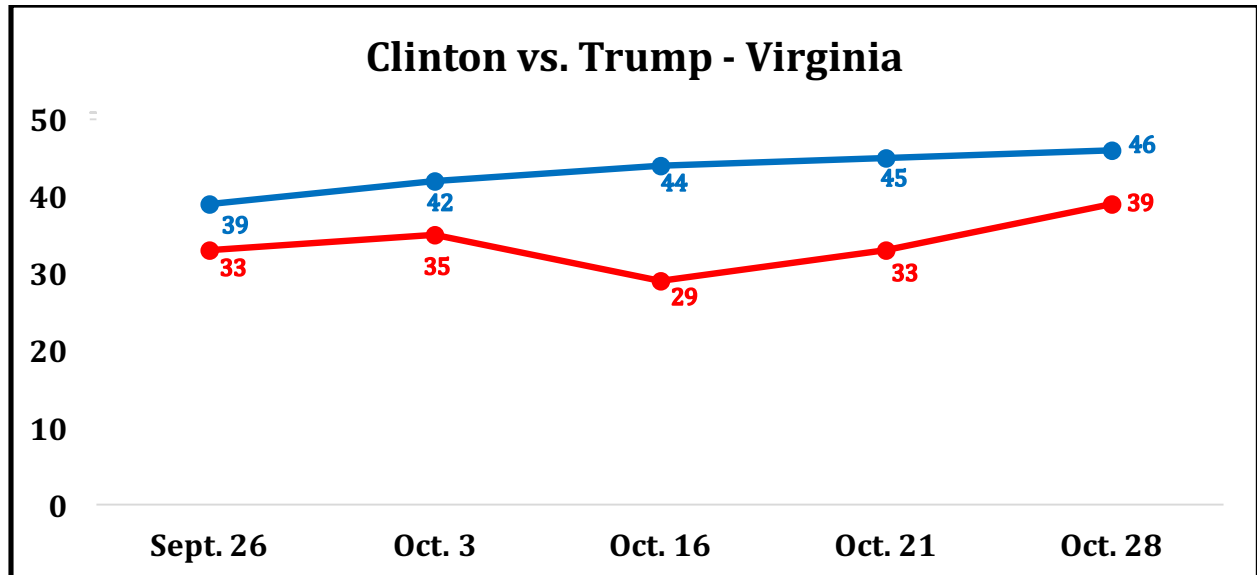
The Wason Center will release its final 2016 presidential tracking survey among likely Virginia voters on Nov. 7.

## 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?

\* If voter said undecided/none/don't know or refused, they were prompted up to two times to say if they were leaning toward a candidate.

Overall	10/28*	10/21	10/16	10/3	9/26
Clinton	46	45	44	42	39
Trump	39	33	29	35	33
Johnson	5	8	11	12	15
Stein	1	1	2	1	3
McMullin	1	3	3	2	3
Other/none	<1	2	2	1	1
Undecided	6	5	6	5	5
Dk/Ref	2	3	3	2	1



By party	10/28			10/28			10/28			10/3		
	Rep	Dem	Ind	Rep	Dem	Ind	Rep	Dem	Ind	Rep	Dem	Ind
Clinton	2	87	46	5	88	44	7	87	39	8	88	34
Trump	84	2	39	72	1	25	68	<1	24	73	2	28
Johnson	6	3	6	7	4	14	9	6	18	10	3	20
Stein	<1	4	<1	1	2	2	1	1	1	<1	2	2
McMullin	<1	1	3	3	<1	5	4	1	5	3	1	4
Other/none	1	<1	<1	4	1	1	3	<1	3	<1	1	1
Undecided	5	2	3	5	2	6	6	3	7	5	3	7
Dk/Ref	2	1	3	3	2	3	2	1	4	1	<1	3

9/26		
Rep	Dem	Ind
3	87	21
78	1	32
9	4	31
2	2	4
3	<1	5
1	<1	1
4	5	6
<1	1	<1

By sex	10/28		10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Clinton	44	46	42	47	37	50	36	46	32	46
Trump	43	36	41	25	32	26	42	28	42	26
Johnson	5	5	8	8	14	8	13	10	15	15
Stein	1	2	1	2	4	1	1	2	4	2
McMullin	1	2	1	4	3	3	2	3	2	3
Other/none	<1	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	<1
Undecided	4	7	3	7	7	6	3	8	4	7
Dk/Ref	2	1	3	4	2	3	2	2	<1	2

By age	10/28		10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	18-34	35+	18-34	35+	18-34	35+	18-34	35+	18-34	35+
Clinton	53	42	45	44	45	43	42	42	34	41
Trump	33	41	24	36	18	34	24	38	23	37
Johnson	6	5	14	6	20	7	24	7	27	10
Stein	4	<1	1	2	3	1	2	1	4	3
McMullin	<1	2	4	2	3	3	3	2	4	2
Other/none	<1	1	3	1	5	1	1	1	<1	1
Undecided	3	6	5	5	3	7	4	6	7	5
Dk/Ref	<1	3	4	3	2	4	<1	3	<1	1

By race	10/28		10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black
Clinton	32	85	32	81	32	79	32	74	30	74
Trump	52	1	44	3	40	3	44	7	41	4
Johnson	7	>1	9	5	12	4	13	7	17	4
Stein	1	3	2	<1	1	1	1	3	4	1
McMullin	1	2	3	3	4	3	3	1	2	4
Other/none	1	1	2	<1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Undecided	5	6	4	4	6	6	5	5	4	11
Dk/Ref	1	4	3	4	3	2	1	2	1	1

By white, sex	10/28		10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Clinton	31	33	32	32	26	36	29	36	27	34
Trump	55	50	52	37	44	36	50	41	48	34
Johnson	7	7	8	10	15	9	12	8	15	20
Stein	1	1	1	4	3	1	1	1	4	3
McMullin	1	2	2	4	3	5	2	2	2	2
None	<1	1	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	<1
Neither	3	5	2	6	6	7	4	8	3	5
Dk/Ref	1	1	1	4	1	3	2	2	<1	2

By white, college degree	10/28		10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Clinton	46	24	41	17	37	23	39	24	37	18
Trump	38	61	33	62	32	51	37	55	33	57
Johnson	7	7	9	9	13	11	13	7	17	17
Stein	2	<1	3	<1	1	2	2	1	4	3
McMullin	2	1	3	2	5	3	1	2	2	1
Undecided	1	<1	2	3	3	2	1	1	1	<1
None	4	5	5	3	6	6	5	7	5	2
Dk/Ref	1	2	3	4	3	2	1	3	1	1

By military	10/28		10/21		10/16		10/3		9/26	
	Mil	Non-Mil	Mil	Non-Mil	Mil	Non-mil	Mil	Non-Mil	Mil	Non-mil
Clinton	40	48	32	50	38	47	36	44	32	42
Trump	48	34	45	27	32	28	37	34	39	31
Johnson	5	5	8	8	15	8	13	12	19	13
Stein	2	1	2	2	<1	2	1	1	2	3
McMullin	<1	2	3	2	5	3	4	2	2	3
Undecided	<1	1	3	2	3	2	1	<1	1	1
Neither	3	7	5	6	4	7	7	5	4	6
Dk/Ref	2	2	3	4	3	3	1	2	1	1

By region	10/28				10/21				10/16			
	Nova	Rich	HR	S'west	Nova	Rich	HR	S'west	Nova	Rich	HR	S'west
Clinton	51	45	48	41	57	44	40	30	55	47	42	27
Trump	34	39	36	44	21	33	33	51	21	27	25	48
Johnson	3	7	5	5	5	12	10	6	8	8	20	6
Stein	<1	2	2	2	1	<1	4	1	3	1	1	1
McMullin	2	1	2	1	6	<1	<1	3	2	6	4	2
Undecided	<1	<1	1	1	1	3	2	1	3	1	2	2
Neither	7	4	6	5	6	6	5	5	5	8	4	10
Dk/Ref	3	2	2	1	3	2	6	2	3	2	2	4

10/3				9/26			
Nova	Rich	HR	S'west	Nova	Rich	HR	S'west
50	41	40	31	45	42	38	29
27	35	34	46	27	31	31	47
9	13	15	11	16	12	17	13
1	2	1	2	3	4	3	3
3	2	2	2	3	2	2	4
1	<1	1	1	1	2	<1	<1
9	3	4	4	5	6	8	3
<1	4	2	3	1	1	1	1

## Demographic Toplines

### EDUC:

High school or less	16
Some college	20
Vocational or technical training	3
College graduate	38
Graduate study or more	22
Dk/ref (vol)	1

### HISPANIC:

Yes	4
No	96

### 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	33
No	65
Dk/ref (vol)	2

### PARTYID:

Republican	31
Democrat	31
Independent	31
No preference (vol)	4
Other party (vol)	<1
Dk/ref (vol)	3

### [IF OTHER THAN REP OR DEM ABOVE]

#### PARTLEAN:

Republican	30
Democratic	34
Independent	30
Dk/ref (vol)	6

### RELIG:

Protestant	30
Christian (non-specific) (vol)	16
Catholic	14
Jewish	1
Other	15
None	20
Dk/ref (vol)	4

### IDEOL:

Strong liberal	6
Liberal	11
Moderate, leaning liberal	16
Moderate, leaning conservative	16
Conservative	25
Strong Conservative	12
Dk/ref (vol)	14

### REGION:

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

### INCOME:

Under \$25,000	7
\$25-\$49,999	14
\$50-\$74,999	14
\$75-\$99,999	14
\$100,000-\$149,999	17
Over \$150,000	14
Dk/ref (vol)	20

### SEX: [INTERVIEWER CODE]

Male	45
Female	55

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

The results of this poll are based on 814 interviews of likely Virginia voters, including 597 on landline and 217 on cell phone, conducted Oct. 23-26, 2016. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. The margin of error for the whole survey is +/- 4.2 % at the 95% level of confidence. All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.5 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 24%. 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.