



COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL 2012-2013

*A survey of Virginians conducted by the
Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute*

Contact:

William C. Boshier, Jr., Executive Director, Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute (CEPI),
Phone 804 828 8716 or 804 827 3290 Cell 804 304 2060/ E-mail: wcbosher@vcu.edu

Farrah Stone Graham, Ph.D., Survey Director, Phone 804 828 1989 Cell 804 305 3447/E-mail:
stonefn@vcu.edu

VCU Commonwealth Education Poll Finds Majority of Virginians Support Increased Spending for K-12 and Think Higher Education is Doing a Good Job Preparing and Producing Graduates

In yet another year of concerns over budget balancing, Virginians remain strongly supportive of funding for public schools. Sixty-four percent of Virginians say that Virginia schools do not have enough funds to meet their needs, while only 24% say schools have enough funding now. They are willing to pay more in taxes to support school funding levels. Almost seven-in-ten Virginians (69%) said they would be willing to pay more in taxes to keep public schools funded at the current level and 60% are willing to pay more so that school funding can be increased. Also, a majority of Virginians (56%) believes that spending to improve the education system is a more important governmental priority than reducing the deficit. While overall support is strong, partisan differences exist with Republicans splitting from Democrats and Independents on the questions.

“Even in tough budgetary times Virginians show consistent support for education funding and are willing to pay for it,” said William C. Boshier, Jr., executive director, Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute and distinguished professor of public policy in the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs.

For a second year, the poll asked Virginians whether they think Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job – majorities said yes in all four areas considered. Sixty-seven percent of Virginians say colleges and universities are doing a good job producing graduates in scientific fields and 65% say the same about providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job. Smaller majorities say the state schools do a good job preparing students for the workforce needs for the future (62%) and developing students’ writing and communication skills (59%).

There were differences in opinion depending on age, with younger respondents (aged 18-34) more likely to say colleges and universities were doing a good job in all categories. However, all age categories had a majority indicating higher education institutions were doing a good job.

Dr. Boshier noted, “Strong majorities of Virginians feel Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job preparing graduates for their careers and producing graduates in high-demand fields.”

After a clear shift toward opposition to test-based pay last year, Virginians' level of support has increased nine percentage points this year to 37%. Still most Virginians (51%) oppose paying teachers whose students perform well on tests more than those whose students perform poorly. Parents of public school students tend to be more opposed (59%) than others to including test scores in teacher pay. Proponents of linking test scores with teacher pay sometimes argue that such proposals will help schools retain high quality teachers. This year, we see another shift in opinion on this issue, with respondents being more divided on whether test-based pay will help retain good teachers. Forty-seven percent think that test-based pay will help with retention, while 44% think it will not help. There are sizeable differences of opinion by political party. Republicans were most likely to say test-based pay will help keep high quality teachers, with 57%. Half of Independents held the same view, while only 42% of Democrats thought test-based pay would help.

Job tenure is a concept unique to the educational sector. What does the public think about offering tenure to teachers? After a shift toward opposition to tenure last year, this year Virginians again are more divided on the issue. A plurality of respondents, 48%, opposes offering tenure, while 38% support it and 14% are undecided. School employees and retirees are more likely than other state residents to favor tenure, with 50% supporting. Partisan differences exist as well with 43% of Democrats favoring tenure, while only 37% of Independents and 34% of Republicans do.

"Virginians' opinions continue to shift on the issues of test-based pay and tenure with no clear majority for either in this year's poll," said Farrah Stone Graham, Ph.D., assistant professor in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs and director of the survey.

These findings are part of a new statewide survey conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University. The Commonwealth Education Poll was conducted by landline and cell telephone from December 27, 2012 to January 3, 2013 with a random sample of 827 adults in Virginia. The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus 4.3 percentage points. This poll is conducted annually by VCU's Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute (CEPI).

Other survey findings:

- **Which Cuts Hurt Education Quality?** Regardless of public desires for more school funding, most local school districts are in the process of making significant reductions, not increases, to budgets for the schools. The survey asked about the expected effect of six types of budget cuts on the quality of education in local schools. More than three-quarters of Virginians expect all of these cuts to hurt the quality of education either a lot or a little. Cuts expected to hurt the quality of education the most are those involving teacher layoffs and teacher pay cuts (75% say teacher layoffs and 64% say teach pay cuts would hurt a lot). The cuts seen as least likely to hurt education quality include layoffs of administrative staff (37% say these cuts would hurt a lot), followed by cuts in teacher training and professional development (54% say these cuts would hurt the quality of education a lot).
- **Willingness to Pay for Schools and Other State Programs.** Public schools and mental health services top the list of programs that Virginians are willing to support with increased tax dollars in order to keep funding levels stable but a majority of Virginians were willing to pay more for a number of programs. Sixty percent say they would pay more in taxes to keep programs for aid to low-income families at current levels. Fewer say the same about higher education funding (50%) and transportation (49%). About a fifth of state residents (21%) are willing to pay more to keep funding for prisons at current levels.

For a PDF of the 43-page report including complete question wording and detailed tables of results see http://www.cepi.vcu.edu/comm_ed_poll.html

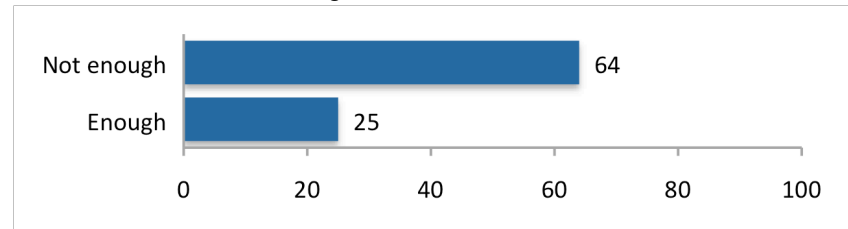
School Funding As A Priority

In yet another year of concerns over budget balancing, Virginians remain strongly supportive of funding for the public schools. Almost two-thirds of Virginians (64%) say that Virginia schools do not have enough funds to meet their needs, while only 25% say schools have enough funding now. This number has been consistent for the past five years the question has been asked.

Virginians also see the amount of funding on public schools affecting quality. Sixty-seven percent of respondents said that the amount of funding affects quality a great deal or quite a lot.

Do Schools Have Enough?

Overall, do you think the funding for public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?

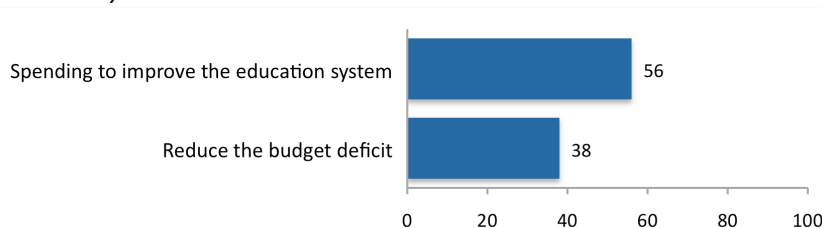


Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013
Don't know responses not shown

Partisan differences exist on both the issues. While still a majority, only 52% of Republicans think school funding is not enough, compared to 64% of Independents and 73% of Democrats. Republicans are also less likely to say the amount of funding affects quality a great deal with 41%, compared to 44% of Independents and 53% of Democrats. Parents of public school students also see these questions differently. Seventy-three percent of parents think that current funding is not enough (compared to 61% of non-parents) and that money has a greater effect on quality.

Education or the Deficit?

If you were setting government priorities these days, would you place a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit or spending more to improve the education system?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013
Don't know responses not shown

Virginians also see spending to improve the education system as an important government priority. A majority (56%) believes that spending to improve the education system is a more important priority than reducing the deficit. Partisan and age differences exist on

the issue. Those under 45 were more likely than those over 65 to see education spending as more important (60% versus 43%). And Republicans were more likely to see reducing the deficit as the more important priority, with 54% saying so.

Those who believe schools need more funding say state government sources, rather than local government sources, should provide the increase. A majority, 57%, thinks the state government should be responsible for increased funding for schools. This compares with just 13% of this group saying local government should provide the increased funding. About a quarter (26%) of this group volunteered that both state and local government should provide increased funding, which is a twelve percent decrease from last year. Of course, it's one thing to say more funds are needed and another to realize that such funding could entail a personal sacrifice in the form of paying more tax dollars.

Who Should Bear the Burden?

Do you think increased funding for the public schools should come from state government or local government?

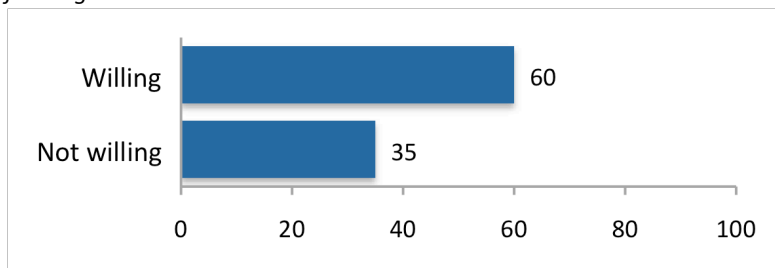
Among those saying not enough

	%
State government	57
Local government	13
Both (volunteered)	26
Don't know/Refused	3
	100

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013

Would You Pay for More School Funding?

Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?



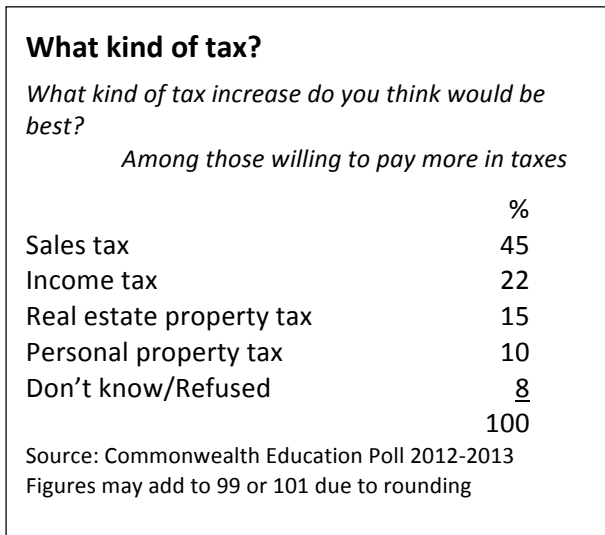
Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013

Don't know responses not shown

Six-in-ten Virginians indicate a personal willingness to pay higher taxes in order to increase school funding, while 35% say they are not willing to do so. The proportion willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose is approximately the same as last year.

Sixty-five percent of school employees or retirees would be willing to pay more in taxes for a funding increase. Similarly, almost three quarters (74%) of those who believe that the amount of money spent on schools affects education quality a great deal are willing to pay more in taxes in order to increase funding. By contrast, Republicans were less likely to be willing to pay more with only 46%, compared to 74% of Democrats and 59% of Independents.

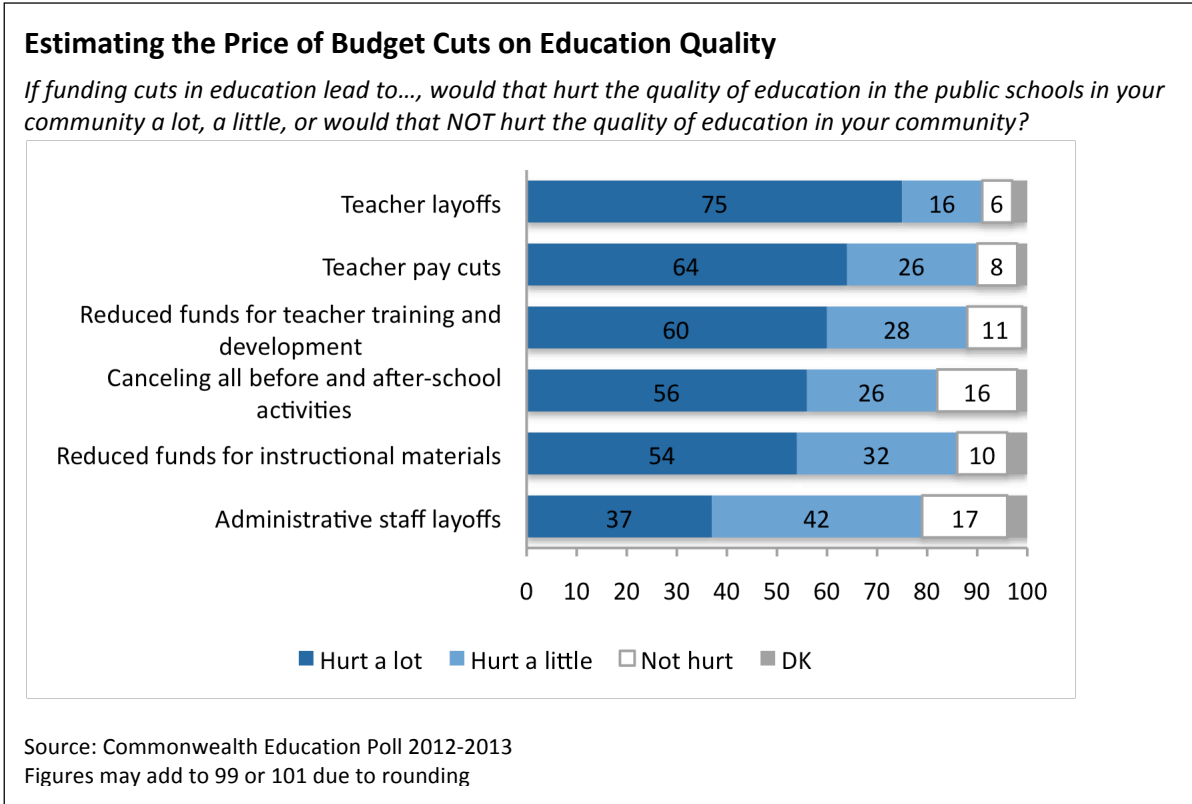
A plurality (45%) of those willing to pay more in taxes for a school funding increase say that a sales tax would be best; smaller proportions say an income tax (22%), real estate property tax (15%) or personal property tax (10%) would be best. These figures are similar to findings from past Commonwealth Education Polls.



Which School Budget Cuts Will Hurt the Least?

Local school divisions around the state are currently in the process of making significant reductions, not increases, to school budgets due to declining revenues from both state and local sources. Fifty-one percent of Virginians believe these cuts will bring major changes to schools in their community, while 39% believe the schools will continue pretty much as they are now.

The survey asked about the expected effect of six types of budget cuts on the quality of education in local schools. Three-quarters of Virginians expect all six types of cuts to hurt the quality of education either a lot or a little. The two cuts seen as the most harmful are teacher layoffs and teacher pay cuts,



with 75% and 64% respectively. The cuts seen as least likely to hurt the quality of education include layoffs of administrative staff; 37% believe these cuts would hurt the quality of education a lot; while 42% say these layoffs would hurt a little. These percentages are consistent with previous times the question was asked.

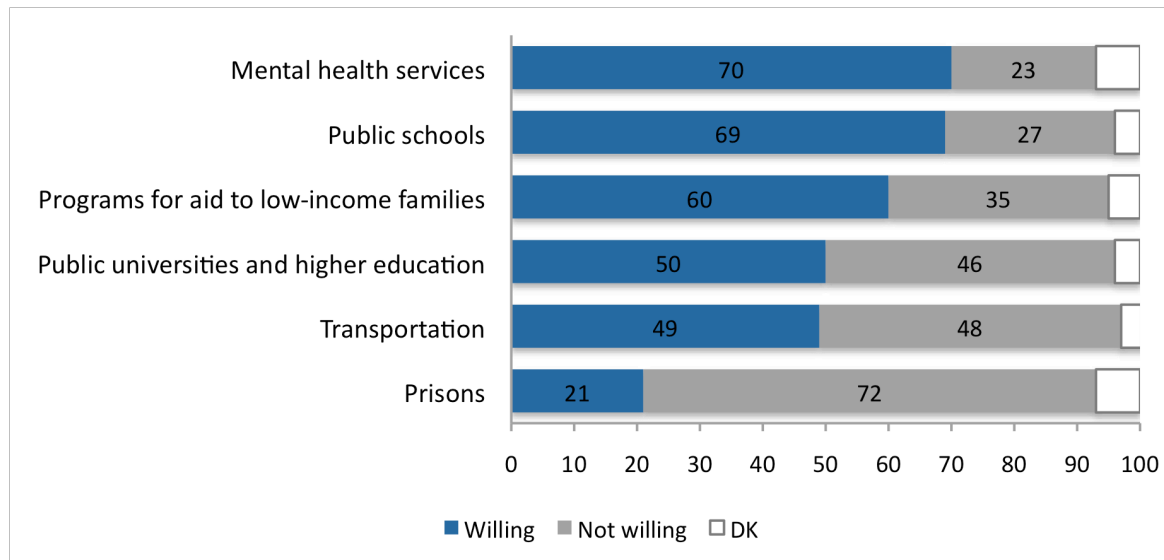
A majority believes that having reduced funds for instructional materials would hurt education quality a lot (60%) as would cancelling all before and after school activities (56%) and reducing funds for teacher training and development (54%).

Willingness to Pay for School Funding and Other State Programs

Mental health services and public schools top the list of programs that Virginians are willing to support

Support for School Funding Strong

As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the program going at its current level.



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013

Figures may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding

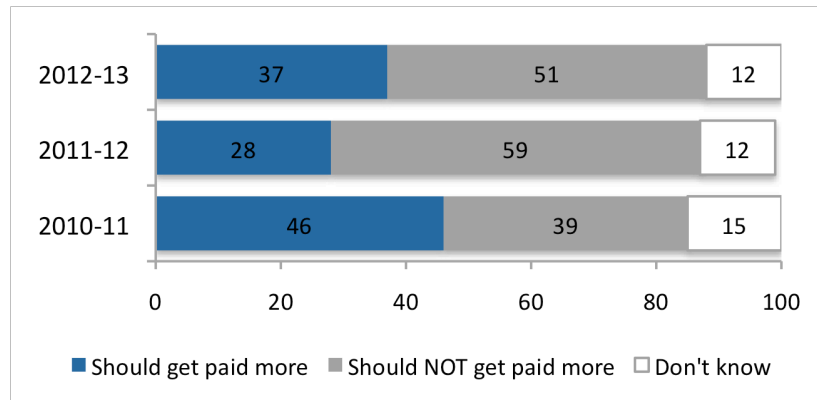
with increased tax dollars in order to keep funding levels stable. The Commonwealth Education Poll asked respondents whether or not they are willing to pay more in taxes in order to maintain current funding levels for each of six state programs. This year 70% of respondents said they would be willing to pay more taxes to keep mental health services at its current level; 23% said they would not be willing. Public schools followed closely with 69% being willing to pay more to maintain services at the current level. Six-in-ten Virginians are willing to pay more in taxes for programs that provide aid to low-income

families. Views about higher education funding are divided with half of respondents willing to pay more in taxes for higher education and 46% not willing to do so. Similarly, 49% would pay more in taxes for transportation while 48% would not pay more in taxes to keep these services at its current level. Prison funding garnered the least support; 72% say they are not willing to pay more in taxes to keep prison funding at its current level while 21% are willing to do so.

Teacher Compensation and Teacher Tenure

Pay Based on Test Scores?

Do you think that teachers whose students perform well on tests should or should not get paid more than teachers whose students perform poorly on those tests?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013

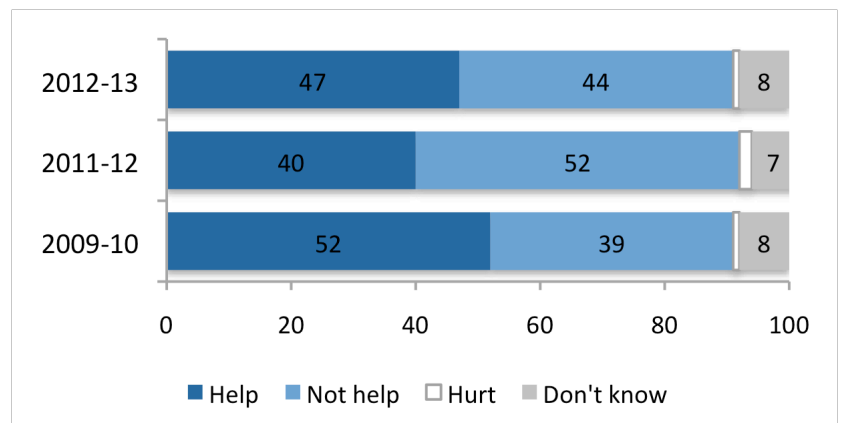
Pay for performance proposals are still being considered as a possible cure for ailing public schools in Virginia and nationally. After a clear shift toward opposition to test-based pay last year, Virginians' level of support increased nine percentage points this year, to 37%. Still most Virginians (51%) oppose paying teachers whose students perform well on tests more than those whose students perform poorly.

Parents of public school students tend to be more opposed than others to including test scores in teacher pay. Fifty-nine percent of parents say teachers should not be paid based on test scores.

Women are more opposed than men to test-based pay. Among women, 31% say teachers with higher performing students should get paid more than other teachers, 59% say they should not. Men are more divided with 44%

Benefits of Test-based Pay

Do you think basing part of a teacher's salary on his or her student's performance on state tests would help or not help the schools keep high quality teachers?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013

saying such teachers should get paid more and 43% saying they should not.

Proponents of linking test scores with teacher pay sometimes argue that such proposals will help schools retain high quality teachers. This year, we see another shift in opinion on this issue, with respondents being more divided on whether test-based pay will help retain good teachers. Forty-seven percent think that test-based pay will help with retention, while 44% think it will not help. This compares to a 40% (help) - 52% (not help) split last year on the same question.

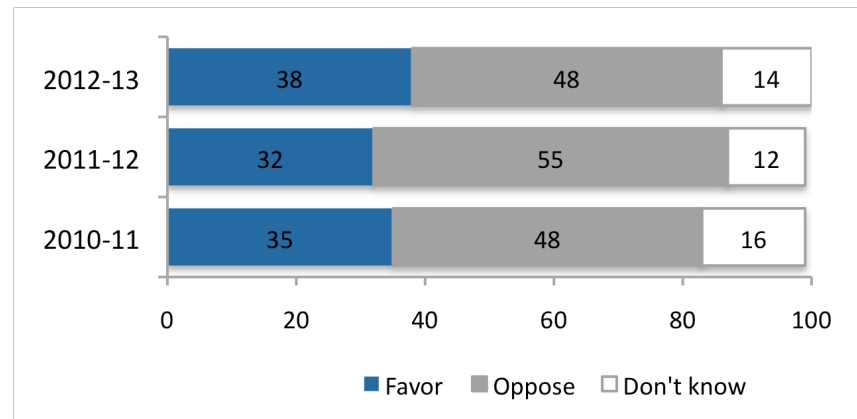
There are sizeable differences of opinion by political party. Republicans were most likely to say test-based pay will help keep high quality teachers, with 57%. Half of Independents held the same view, while only 42% of Democrats thought test-based pay would help. Parents of public school students were also more likely to think it would help, with 53%. And Public school employees and retirees were more likely to indicate test-based pay would not help, with 54%.

Teacher Tenure. Job tenure is a concept unique to the educational sector and has long been a topic of discussion and debate in education policy circles. What does the public think about teacher tenure? After a shift toward opposition to tenure last year, this year Virginians again are more divided on the issue. A plurality of respondents, 48%, opposes offering tenure, while 38% support it and 14% are undecided. School employees and retirees are more likely than other state

residents to favor tenure, with 50% supporting. Partisan differences exist as well with 43% of Democrats favoring tenure, while only 37% of Independents and 34% of Republicans do.

Opinion about Teacher Tenure

Teachers with tenure cannot be dismissed unless a school district follows detailed procedures. Some say that tenure protects teachers from being fired for arbitrary reasons. Others say that because of tenure, it is too difficult to replace ineffective teachers. What about you? Do you favor or oppose offering tenure to teachers?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013

The State of Higher Education?

A large majority of Virginians (80%) believes that Virginia’s college and university campuses are very or somewhat safe, while 16% say not very or not at all safe. This finding is similar to last year when 78% of respondents indicated campuses are very or somewhat safe. There were regional differences with the Northwest, Northern Virginia and West regions being more likely to say campuses are very safe than the Tidewater and South Central.

How Safe are College Campuses?

Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?

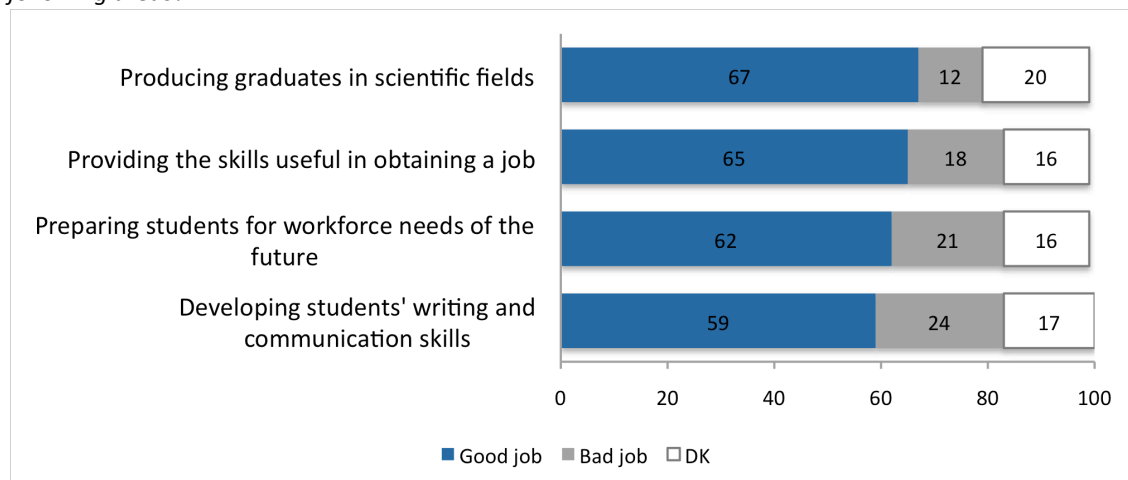
	%
Very safe	22
Somewhat safe	58
Not very safe	12
Not safe at all	4
Don’t know/Refused	<u>4</u>
	100

Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013

Higher Education Outcomes. When it comes to specific outcomes, majorities say the Virginia colleges and universities are doing a good job in all four areas considered. Sixty-seven percent of Virginians say colleges and universities are doing a good job producing graduates in scientific fields and 65% in providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job. Smaller majorities say the state schools do a good job preparing students for the workforce needs for the future (62%) and developing students’ writing and communication skills (59%). These findings are similar to last year. There were differences in opinion depending on age, with younger respondents (aged 18-34) more likely to say colleges and universities were doing a good job in all categories. However, all age categories had a majority indicating higher education institutions were doing a good job.

How are Virginia’s Colleges and Universities Doing?

Overall, do you think the colleges and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or a bad job in following areas?



Source: Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013

METHOD OF THE COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION POLL

The Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013, sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), obtained telephone interviews with a representative sample of 827 adults living in Virginia. Telephone interviews were conducted by landline (558) and cell phone (269, including 95 without a landline phone). The survey was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI). Interviews were done in English by Princeton Data Source from December 27, 2012 to January 3, 2013. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is ± 4.3 percentage points.

A combination of landline and cellular random digit dial (RDD) samples was used to represent all adults in Virginia who have access to either a landline or cellular telephone. Both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC (SSI) according to PSRAI specifications. Numbers for the landline sample were drawn with probabilities in proportion to their share of listed telephone households from active blocks (area code + exchange + two-digit block number) that contained three or more residential directory listings. The cellular sample was not list-assisted, but was drawn through a systematic sampling from dedicated wireless 100-blocks and shared service 100-blocks with no directory-listed landline numbers.

The data are weighted to adjust for unequal probabilities of selection due to multiple adults living in landline households and for frame size of the landline and cell phone sampling frames. In addition, the data are weighted on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region of residence and population density to reflect the demographic composition of the adult population in Virginia. Percentages reported in the text and tables are weighted, while the number of cases shown in the tables for various subgroups is the actual number of respondents.

Questions answered by the full sample of adults are subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 4.3 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples like the one used here, the results obtained should be no more than 4.3 percentage points above or below the figure that would be obtained by interviewing all Virginian residents with telephones. Where the answers of subgroups are reported, the sampling error would be higher. Because of non-response (refusals to participate, etc.), standard calculations of sampling error are apt to understate the actual extent to which survey results are at variance with the true population values. Surveys are also subject to errors from sources other than sampling. While every effort is made to identify such errors, they are often difficult or impossible to measure. Readers making use of the results are urged to be mindful of the limitations inherent in survey research.

Commonwealth Education Poll 2012-2013State-wide survey of Virginians¹

December 27, 2012-January 3, 2013

Number of Respondents: 827

Q1. In your opinion, how much does the amount of money spent on the public schools affect the quality of students' education – a great deal, quite a lot, not too much, or not at all?

	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	2003	2002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	45	51	42	39	43	42	45
Quite a lot	22	20	26	30	27	31	26
Not much	23	16	20	18	20	18	19
Not at all	4	4	4	4	4	2	4
Don't Know/Refused	6	9	7	10	7	7	5

Q2. Overall, do you think the funding for public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?

	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Enough	25	29	31	27	28	26	20	27	23	21
Not enough	64	60	59	63	62	64	69	64	67	70
Don't know/Refused	11	11	10	11	10	9	9	9	9	10

ASK IF NOT ENOUGH (Q10=2):

Q3. Do you think increased funding for the public schools should come from [ROTATE ORDER] state government or local government?

	Among those saying not enough			
	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10
	%	%	%	%
State government	57	44	58	54
Local government	13	12	12	12
Both (VOLUNTEERED)	26	38	27	26
Don't Know/Refused	3	6	4	7

ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

Q4A. If you were setting government priorities these days, would you place a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit or spending more to improve the education system?

	Virginia	
	12-13	11-12
	%	%
Reducing the budget deficit	39	29
Spending to improve the education system	55	61
Don't know/Refused	6	10

¹ Percentages may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding. Cells that are blank contain no cases. Cells with a zero percent entry contain cases, but the percentage is less than 0.5%.

ASK FORM 2:

Q4B. If you were setting government priorities today, would you place a higher priority on spending more to improve the education system or reducing the budget deficit?

	Virginia	
	12-13	11-12
	%	%
Spending to improve the education system	57	50
Reducing the budget deficit	36	39
Don't know/Refused	7	11

COMBINED Q4a AND Q4b

	Virginia		<i>National trend for comparison: Pew Research 2009²</i>
	12-13	11-12	
	%	%	
Spending to improve the education system	56	55	57
Reducing the budget deficit	38	34	38
Don't know/Refused	7	11	5

ASK ALL:

Q5. Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?

	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Willing	60	61	55	53	55	55	57	61	60	57
Not willing	35	35	39	41	37	38	36	34	34	36
Don't know/Refused	5	5	7	6	8	6	7	5	6	7

ASK IF WILLING (Q5=1):

Q6. What kind of tax increase do you think would be best – sales tax, income tax, real estate property tax, or personal property tax? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 through 4]**

(IF R SELECTS MORE THAN ONE, PROBE: "Which ONE do you think would be BEST?" IF STILL COMBO, CODE AS DK/REF.)

(NOTE FOR INTERVIEWERS: Real estate property tax is the tax based on the value of a home or other property that you own. Personal property tax is often called the "car tax" because it is based on the value of any cars or other vehicles that you own.)

	-----Among those willing to pay higher taxes-----									
	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	08-09	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sales tax	45	40	48	49	48	49	58	54	58	47
Income tax	22	32	20	18	18	15	13	14	14	16
Real estate property tax	15	9	15	12	14	13	15	13	10	16
Personal property tax	10	10	9	12	10	14	7	10	11	13
Don't know/Refused	8	10	8	9	9	9	7	10	6	9

² Pew Research Center for People and the Press Political Survey, Jul 22-26 2009. N=1,506 adults.

ASK ALL:

Q7. Local school districts are cutting budgets this year. Do you think the schools in your community will be able to continue pretty much as they are now, OR do you think these cuts will bring major changes to the schools in your community?³

	12-13	11-12	09-10
	%	%	%
Will continue as they are now	39	40	36
Will bring major changes	51	50	51
Don't know/Refused	9	10	13

³ In 2003 through 2008-2009, a similar question was asked about a hypothetical situation, "Suppose state funding for education were cut, do you think the schools in your community would be able to continue pretty much as they are now, OR do you think this would bring major changes to the schools in your community?"

Q8. As you may know, funding for a variety of state government programs and services is likely to be cut due to the economic downturn. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the program going at its current level. (First, / Next,)

[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]... READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN IF NECESSARY: Would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep this program going at its current level?

	Willing	Not willing	DK
	%	%	%
a. Public schools	69	27	4
11-12	79	19	2
10-11	69	27	4
09-10	66	31	3
08-09	68	28	3
b. Mental health services	70	23	7
11-12	68	27	5
10-11	60	34	6
09-10	61	34	5
08-09	62	31	8
c. Public universities and higher education ⁴	50	46	4
11-12	49	47	4
10-11	50	44	6
09-10	48	49	3
08-09	46	49	5
d. Prisons	21	72	7
11-12	26	68	6
10-11	23	71	7
09-10	25	69	6
08-09	24	68	7
e. Programs for aid to low-income families	60	35	5
11-12	63	34	3
10-11	60	35	5
09-10	59	36	4
08-09	61	33	7
f. Transportation	49	48	4
11-12	50	47	4
10-11	48	47	5
09-10	46	50	4
08-09	48	46	5

⁴ "Public" added to the 2010-2011 wording.

Q9. If funding cuts in education lead to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community a lot, a little, or would that NOT hurt the quality of education in your community? What about if funding cuts lead to **[INSERT ITEM]**? **READ IF NECESSARY:** Would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community a lot, a little, or would that NOT hurt the quality of education in your community?

	Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know
	%	%	%	%
a. Teacher layoffs	75	16	6	3
11-12	76	16	6	2
09-10	74	16	6	3
b. Teacher pay cuts	64	26	8	2
11-12	61	29	8	2
09-10	63	25	8	3
c. Administrative staff layoffs	37	42	17	5
11-12	36	42	21	2
09-10	37	42	17	4
d. Canceling all before and after-school activities	56	26	16	3
11-12	62	22	13	3
09-10	59	26	13	3
e. Reduced funds for teacher training and professional development	54	32	10	4
11-12	50	34	13	3
09-10	49	35	12	4
f. Reduced funds for instructional materials such as books, computers, and library resources	60	28	11	2
11-12	61	31	6	2
09-10	60	28	8	3

ASK ALL:

Thinking about teacher pay...

Q10. Do you think that teachers whose students perform well on tests should or should not get paid more than teachers whose students perform poorly on those tests?

	Virginia				National trend for comparison CNN 2009⁵
	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10	
	%	%	%	%	%
Should get paid more	37	28	46	36	50
Should not get paid more	51	59	39	52	48
Don't Know/Refused	12	12	15	12	2

⁵ CNN survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation, March 12-15, 2009. N= 1,019 adults.

Q11. Do you think basing part of a teacher's salary on his or her student's performance on state tests would help or not help the schools keep high quality teachers?

	12-13	11-12	09-10
	%	%	%
Help	47	40	52
Not help	44	52	39
Hurt school's ability to keep high quality teachers (VOLUNTEERED)	1	2	1
Don't Know/Refused	8	7	8

Q12. Teachers with tenure [ten-yur] cannot be dismissed unless a school district follows detailed procedures. Some say that tenure [ten-yur] protects teachers from being fired for arbitrary reasons. Others say that because of tenure [ten-yur], it is too difficult to replace ineffective teachers. What about you? Do you favor or oppose offering tenure [ten-yur] to teachers?

	12-13	11-12	10-11	09-10
	%	%	%	%
Favor	38	32	35	37
Oppose	48	55	48	48
Don't Know/Refused	15	12	16	16

Q13 THROUGH Q17 ARE HELD FOR SEPARATE RELEASE

Now, thinking about colleges and universities in Virginia...

Q18. Overall do you think that colleges and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job...

	Good job	Bad job	Don't know
	%	%	%
a. In providing the skills that will be useful in obtaining a job	65	18	16
11-12	68	19	13
b. In developing students' writing and communication skills	59	24	17
11-12	57	25	18
c. In producing graduates in scientific fields, such as engineering, math and technology	67	12	20
11-12	68	12	21
d. In preparing students for the workforce needs of the future	62	21	16
11-12	66	20	14

Q19. Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?

	12-13	11-12
	%	%
Very safe	22	25
Somewhat safe	58	53
Not very safe	12	13
Not at all safe	4	4
Don't Know/Refused	4	5

QUESTIONS 20 AND 21 ARE HELD FOR SEPARATE RELEASE

Tables of Results by Selected Subgroups⁶

		Q1. In your opinion, how much does the amount of money spent on the public schools affect the quality of students' education – a great deal, quite a lot, not too much, or not at all?					Number of cases
		A great deal	Quite a lot	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know	
All adults		45%	22%	23%	4%	6%	827
VA Region	Northwest	40%	23%	22%	9%	6%	112
	Northern VA	42%	24%	23%	4%	6%	243
	West	45%	20%	23%	2%	10%	144
	South Central	47%	26%	21%	3%	4%	142
	Tidewater	53%	19%	22%	2%	5%	186
Gender	Men	42%	22%	25%	4%	6%	420
	Women	48%	22%	20%	3%	6%	407
Age	18-34	44%	26%	18%	5%	8%	131
	35-44	54%	19%	24%	2%	7%	131
	45-64	51%	15%	23%	5%	5%	335
	65 and older	29%	34%	25%	2%	10%	202
Education	H.S. or less	37%	24%	26%	4%	9%	183
	Some college	48%	19%	25%	2%	7%	220
	College grad or more	53%	23%	17%	4%	3%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	46%	18%	27%	3%	6%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	46%	24%	23%	2%	5%	217
	\$100,000 or more	52%	20%	18%	4%	5%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	43%	30%	19%	3%	5%	181
	No	46%	20%	24%	4%	6%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	50%	20%	26%	1%	3%	222
	No	44%	23%	21%	5%	7%	605
Party identification	Democrat	53%	19%	20%	3%	6%	246
	Republican	41%	21%	28%	4%	7%	205
	Independent	44%	25%	22%	3%	6%	309

⁶ In the following tables, cells that are blank contain no cases. Cells with a zero percent entry contain cases, but the percentage is less than 0.5%. Percentages may add to 99 or 101 due to rounding.

Q2. Overall, do you think the funding for public schools in Virginia is enough to meet their needs, or not enough to meet their needs?

		Enough	Not enough	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		25%	64%	11%	827
VA Region	Northwest	36%	59%	5%	112
	Northern VA	33%	50%	17%	243
	West	18%	73%	8%	144
	South Central	20%	69%	11%	142
	Tidewater	17%	75%	7%	186
Gender	Men	29%	58%	13%	420
	Women	22%	69%	9%	407
Age	18-34	20%	65%	16%	131
	35-44	23%	70%	7%	131
	45-64	26%	66%	8%	335
	65 and older	33%	56%	11%	202
Education	H.S. or less	23%	68%	9%	183
	Some college	21%	65%	14%	220
	College grad or more	30%	59%	11%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	19%	70%	11%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	28%	62%	10%	217
	\$100,000 or more	28%	64%	8%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	22%	72%	5%	181
	No	26%	62%	12%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	21%	73%	6%	222
	No	27%	61%	13%	605
Party identification	Democrat	16%	73%	10%	246
	Republican	32%	52%	15%	205
	Independent	27%	64%	9%	309

		Q3. Do you think increased funding for the public schools should come from [ROTATE ORDER:] state government or local government?				
		State government	Local government	Both [VOLUNTEERED]	Don't know	Number of cases
All answering not enough		57%	13%	26%	3%	510
VA Region	Northwest	45%	14%	41%	0%	66
	Northern VA	62%	17%	20%	1%	119
	West	60%	9%	26%	6%	105
	South Central	63%	13%	21%	3%	91
	Tidewater	54%	14%	29%	4%	129
Gender	Men	56%	21%	21%	3%	230
	Women	59%	8%	30%	3%	280
Age	18-34	46%	21%	30%	2%	85
	35-44	69%	15%	16%	1%	84
	45-64	59%	8%	28%	4%	222
	65 and older	57%	12%	27%	4%	106
Education	H.S. or less	66%	16%	15%	3%	121
	Some college	45%	16%	33%	5%	145
	College grad or more	57%	8%	34%	1%	242
Family Income	Under \$50,000	61%	14%	23%	2%	169
	50K to under \$100,000	56%	14%	27%	3%	138
	\$100,000 or more	54%	14%	31%	1%	128
Parent of public school student?	Yes	54%	14%	30%	2%	156
	No	59%	13%	25%	3%	354
Party identification	Democrat	60%	9%	29%	2%	185
	Republican	57%	18%	25%	0%	101
	Independent	57%	17%	22%	4%	183

		Q4Com.If you were setting government priorities these days, would you place a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit or spending more to improve the education system.			
Q4aForm1 and Q4bForm2 COMBINED		Reducing the budget deficit	Spending to improve the education system	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		38%	56%	7%	827
VA Region	Northwest	39%	52%	9%	112
	Northern VA	38%	57%	5%	243
	West	29%	63%	8%	144
	South Central	44%	50%	6%	142
	Tidewater	38%	56%	6%	186
Gender	Men	42%	53%	5%	420
	Women	34%	59%	8%	407
Age	18-34	36%	60%	4%	131
	35-44	36%	60%	5%	131
	45-64	37%	57%	5%	335
	65 and older	41%	43%	16%	202
Education	H.S. or less	39%	53%	7%	183
	Some college	36%	58%	6%	220
	College grad or more	36%	58%	6%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	27%	66%	6%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	47%	49%	4%	217
	\$100,000 or more	43%	52%	5%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	32%	59%	9%	181
	No	39%	55%	6%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	35%	60%	6%	222
	No	39%	54%	7%	605
Party identification	Democrat	22%	72%	6%	246
	Republican	54%	41%	5%	205
	Independent	39%	53%	7%	309

		Q5. Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that school funding could be increased?			
		Willing	Not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		60%	35%	5%	827
VA Region	Northwest	44%	50%	6%	112
	Northern VA	63%	32%	5%	243
	West	67%	29%	3%	144
	South Central	61%	34%	5%	142
	Tidewater	60%	35%	5%	186
Gender	Men	61%	34%	4%	420
	Women	59%	35%	5%	407
Age	18-34	65%	32%	3%	131
	35-44	61%	34%	5%	131
	45-64	63%	34%	3%	335
	65 and older	47%	42%	11%	202
Education	H.S. or less	58%	37%	5%	183
	Some college	64%	31%	6%	220
	College grad or more	61%	35%	4%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	64%	31%	5%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	63%	31%	6%	217
	\$100,000 or more	62%	36%	2%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	65%	29%	6%	181
	No	59%	36%	5%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	62%	35%	3%	222
	No	60%	35%	6%	605
Party identification	Democrat	74%	22%	4%	246
	Republican	46%	52%	2%	205
	Independent	59%	35%	6%	309

		Q7. Local school districts are cutting budgets this year. Do you think the schools in your community will be able to continue pretty much as they are now, OR do you think these cuts will bring major changes...?			
		Will continue as they are now	Will bring major changes	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		39%	51%	9%	827
VA Region	Northwest	46%	47%	7%	112
	Northern VA	43%	44%	13%	243
	West	34%	60%	7%	144
	South Central	43%	48%	10%	142
	Tidewater	33%	60%	7%	186
Gender	Men	44%	46%	9%	420
	Women	35%	56%	9%	407
Age	18-34	37%	56%	7%	131
	35-44	38%	53%	9%	131
	45-64	38%	52%	10%	335
	65 and older	49%	40%	11%	202
Education	H.S. or less	36%	57%	7%	183
	Some college	38%	52%	10%	220
	College grad or more	44%	46%	10%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	32%	60%	8%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	42%	49%	9%	217
	\$100,000 or more	49%	39%	12%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	29%	63%	9%	181
	No	42%	49%	9%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	41%	53%	6%	222
	No	39%	51%	11%	605
Party identification	Democrat	36%	54%	9%	246
	Republican	53%	38%	9%	205
	Independent	34%	58%	9%	309

		Q8a. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Public schools - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		69%	27%	4%	827
VA Region	Northwest	55%	39%	6%	112
	Northern VA	75%	22%	3%	243
	West	68%	25%	7%	144
	South Central	67%	30%	2%	142
	Tidewater	72%	26%	3%	186
Gender	Men	67%	30%	2%	420
	Women	71%	24%	5%	407
Age	18-34	79%	18%	3%	131
	35-44	72%	23%	5%	131
	45-64	68%	29%	3%	335
	65 and older	56%	39%	5%	202
Education	H.S. or less	65%	29%	5%	183
	Some college	73%	24%	3%	220
	College grad or more	71%	26%	3%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	73%	21%	5%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	74%	23%	3%	217
	\$100,000 or more	70%	29%	1%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	76%	21%	4%	181
	No	68%	28%	4%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	73%	20%	6%	222
	No	68%	30%	3%	605
Party identification	Democrat	85%	12%	2%	246
	Republican	50%	48%	2%	205
	Independent	72%	26%	3%	309

		Q8b. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Mental health services - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		70%	23%	7%	827
VA Region	Northwest	69%	23%	8%	112
	Northern VA	72%	22%	6%	243
	West	59%	31%	10%	144
	South Central	76%	21%	3%	142
	Tidewater	72%	22%	7%	186
Gender	Men	72%	23%	5%	420
	Women	68%	24%	8%	407
Age	18-34	74%	17%	9%	131
	35-44	66%	31%	3%	131
	45-64	70%	26%	4%	335
	65 and older	69%	18%	13%	202
Education	H.S. or less	70%	22%	8%	183
	Some college	71%	23%	6%	220
	College grad or more	70%	24%	6%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	73%	21%	6%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	75%	20%	5%	217
	\$100,000 or more	69%	25%	6%	217
Party identification	Democrat	87%	11%	2%	246
	Republican	51%	37%	12%	205
	Independent	71%	25%	4%	309

Q8c. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Universities and higher education - going at its current level.

		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		50%	46%	4%	827
VA Region	Northwest	41%	54%	5%	112
	Northern VA	55%	41%	4%	243
	West	49%	47%	4%	144
	South Central	44%	53%	3%	142
	Tidewater	54%	42%	3%	186
Gender	Men	49%	48%	2%	420
	Women	51%	44%	5%	407
Age	18-34	57%	39%	5%	131
	35-44	42%	55%	3%	131
	45-64	51%	45%	3%	335
	65 and older	44%	51%	5%	202
Education	H.S. or less	46%	49%	6%	183
	Some college	50%	46%	4%	220
	College grad or more	55%	43%	2%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	53%	43%	4%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	52%	45%	2%	217
	\$100,000 or more	52%	47%	2%	217
Party identification	Democrat	69%	28%	3%	246
	Republican	34%	64%	2%	205
	Independent	47%	49%	4%	309

		Q8d. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Prisons - program going at its current level.			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes			
		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		21%	72%	7%	827
VA Region	Northwest	16%	79%	5%	112
	Northern VA	25%	69%	7%	243
	West	20%	72%	8%	144
	South Central	19%	76%	5%	142
	Tidewater	23%	71%	6%	186
Gender	Men	21%	74%	5%	420
	Women	22%	71%	8%	407
Age	18-34	19%	78%	3%	131
	35-44	23%	70%	7%	131
	45-64	21%	72%	7%	335
	65 and older	25%	64%	11%	202
Education	H.S. or less	25%	69%	6%	183
	Some college	17%	78%	5%	220
	College grad or more	20%	71%	8%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	21%	71%	7%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	20%	75%	5%	217
	\$100,000 or more	23%	71%	6%	217
Party identification	Democrat	24%	71%	5%	246
	Republican	15%	78%	7%	205
	Independent	23%	70%	8%	309

Q8e. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Programs for aid to low-income families - going at its current level.

		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		63%	34%	3%	827
VA Region	Northwest	59%	34%	7%	112
	Northern VA	65%	30%	5%	243
	West	56%	38%	6%	144
	South Central	59%	39%	2%	142
	Tidewater	57%	38%	5%	186
Gender	Men	58%	38%	5%	420
	Women	62%	33%	5%	407
Age	18-34	66%	29%	5%	131
	35-44	61%	37%	2%	131
	45-64	58%	36%	5%	335
	65 and older	54%	39%	7%	202
Education	H.S. or less	64%	30%	5%	183
	Some college	59%	36%	5%	220
	College grad or more	57%	39%	4%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	70%	27%	3%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	60%	34%	6%	217
	\$100,000 or more	56%	40%	4%	217
Party identification	Democrat	81%	16%	3%	246
	Republican	35%	57%	8%	205
	Independent	60%	37%	2%	309

Q8f. As I mention a few areas that receive money from the state government, tell me if you would be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes in order to keep the - Transportation - program going at its current level.

		Yes, willing to pay more in taxes	No, not willing	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		49%	48%	4%	827
VA Region	Northwest	41%	52%	7%	112
	Northern VA	51%	46%	3%	243
	West	37%	58%	4%	144
	South Central	55%	43%	2%	142
	Tidewater	53%	44%	3%	186
Gender	Men	53%	44%	3%	420
	Women	44%	52%	4%	407
Age	18-34	50%	46%	4%	131
	35-44	50%	50%	1%	131
	45-64	48%	48%	4%	335
	65 and older	46%	49%	5%	202
Education	H.S. or less	52%	44%	4%	183
	Some college	45%	49%	5%	220
	College grad or more	48%	49%	2%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	57%	40%	4%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	43%	52%	5%	217
	\$100,000 or more	46%	53%	1%	217
Party identification	Democrat	65%	32%	2%	246
	Republican	28%	67%	5%	205
	Independent	48%	49%	2%	309

		Q9a. If funding cuts in education lead to - Teacher layoffs -, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		75%	16%	6%	3%	827
VA Region	Northwest	67%	23%	8%	2%	112
	Northern VA	76%	17%	4%	3%	243
	West	79%	12%	7%	2%	144
	South Central	74%	15%	5%	6%	142
	Tidewater	75%	16%	5%	3%	186
Gender	Men	70%	20%	6%	5%	420
	Women	80%	13%	5%	2%	407
Age	18-34	83%	14%	2%	2%	131
	35-44	77%	17%	4%	2%	131
	45-64	74%	16%	7%	4%	335
	65 and older	64%	18%	12%	6%	202
Education	H.S. or less	77%	14%	6%	3%	183
	Some college	73%	20%	4%	3%	220
	College grad or more	74%	17%	5%	4%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	75%	17%	6%	2%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	78%	15%	5%	2%	217
	\$100,000 or more	75%	15%	5%	5%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	82%	13%	3%	3%	181
	No	73%	17%	6%	3%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	80%	17%	3%	1%	222
	No	73%	16%	7%	4%	605
Party identification	Democrat	86%	11%	1%	2%	246
	Republican	60%	23%	12%	5%	205
	Independent	75%	18%	5%	2%	309

		Q9b. If funding cuts in education lead to - Teacher pay cuts -, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		64%	26%	8%	2%	827
VA Region	Northwest	56%	29%	13%	1%	112
	Northern VA	61%	32%	5%	2%	243
	West	66%	25%	6%	3%	144
	South Central	61%	26%	11%	2%	142
	Tidewater	74%	17%	8%	1%	186
Gender	Men	58%	30%	10%	3%	420
	Women	70%	23%	6%	1%	407
Age	18-34	65%	32%	2%	0%	131
	35-44	71%	22%	7%	0%	131
	45-64	62%	24%	11%	3%	335
	65 and older	57%	25%	13%	5%	202
Education	H.S. or less	65%	25%	8%	2%	183
	Some college	70%	23%	5%	2%	220
	College grad or more	60%	29%	9%	2%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	69%	20%	9%	2%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	65%	27%	7%	1%	217
	\$100,000 or more	59%	32%	6%	3%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	74%	19%	6%	2%	181
	No	62%	28%	8%	2%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	66%	28%	5%	1%	222
	No	63%	25%	9%	2%	605
Party identification	Democrat	74%	21%	4%	1%	246
	Republican	56%	29%	11%	4%	205
	Independent	60%	30%	8%	2%	309

		Q9c. If funding cuts in education lead to - Administrative staff layoffs -, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		37%	42%	17%	5%	827
VA Region	Northwest	35%	32%	27%	6%	112
	Northern VA	27%	54%	14%	5%	243
	West	36%	44%	14%	5%	144
	South Central	38%	34%	22%	5%	142
	Tidewater	50%	33%	15%	2%	186
Gender	Men	32%	44%	21%	3%	420
	Women	41%	39%	14%	6%	407
Age	18-34	43%	47%	8%	3%	131
	35-44	40%	44%	14%	1%	131
	45-64	35%	39%	21%	6%	335
	65 and older	27%	37%	28%	9%	202
Education	H.S. or less	46%	34%	13%	6%	183
	Some college	41%	41%	15%	3%	220
	College grad or more	24%	50%	23%	4%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	47%	37%	12%	4%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	27%	46%	21%	5%	217
	\$100,000 or more	31%	48%	18%	3%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	34%	43%	16%	6%	181
	No	37%	41%	18%	4%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	44%	43%	12%	2%	222
	No	34%	41%	20%	6%	605
Party identification	Democrat	43%	41%	11%	5%	246
	Republican	32%	38%	25%	5%	205
	Independent	33%	48%	17%	2%	309

		Q9d. If funding cuts in education lead to - Canceling all before and after-school activities -, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		56%	26%	16%	3%	827
VA Region	Northwest	49%	28%	21%	3%	112
	Northern VA	55%	28%	14%	3%	243
	West	52%	27%	19%	3%	144
	South Central	59%	21%	15%	5%	142
	Tidewater	63%	23%	12%	2%	186
Gender	Men	52%	27%	19%	2%	420
	Women	59%	24%	13%	4%	407
Age	18-34	69%	22%	9%	0%	131
	35-44	58%	25%	15%	2%	131
	45-64	53%	24%	18%	4%	335
	65 and older	38%	34%	24%	4%	202
Education	H.S. or less	60%	20%	18%	2%	183
	Some college	57%	26%	13%	3%	220
	College grad or more	52%	30%	15%	3%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	62%	18%	17%	3%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	55%	29%	15%	1%	217
	\$100,000 or more	54%	25%	19%	2%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	55%	27%	15%	3%	181
	No	56%	25%	16%	3%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	54%	24%	20%	2%	222
	No	57%	26%	14%	3%	605
Party identification	Democrat	68%	18%	11%	3%	246
	Republican	45%	29%	23%	3%	205
	Independent	55%	29%	14%	2%	309

		Q9e. If funding cuts in education lead to - Reduced funds for teacher training and professional development-, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				Number of cases
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	
All adults		54%	32%	10%	4%	827
VA Region	Northwest	41%	40%	10%	8%	112
	Northern VA	54%	32%	11%	3%	243
	West	48%	38%	9%	5%	144
	South Central	59%	27%	11%	3%	142
	Tidewater	63%	24%	10%	3%	186
Gender	Men	53%	32%	11%	4%	420
	Women	55%	32%	9%	4%	407
Age	18-34	64%	30%	5%	1%	131
	35-44	58%	29%	11%	2%	131
	45-64	52%	32%	12%	4%	335
	65 and older	39%	36%	15%	10%	202
Education	H.S. or less	57%	27%	11%	4%	183
	Some college	53%	36%	7%	4%	220
	College grad or more	52%	33%	11%	4%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	61%	24%	12%	4%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	50%	38%	9%	2%	217
	\$100,000 or more	50%	38%	9%	3%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	52%	34%	10%	4%	181
	No	55%	31%	10%	4%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	53%	36%	9%	3%	222
	No	55%	30%	11%	4%	605
Party identification	Democrat	66%	23%	9%	2%	246
	Republican	40%	37%	16%	7%	205
	Independent	53%	36%	8%	4%	309

		Q9f. If funding cuts in education lead to - Reduced funds for instructional materials such as books, computers, and library resources-, would that hurt the quality of education in the public schools in your community...?				
		Hurt a lot	Hurt a little	Not hurt	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		60%	28%	11%	2%	827
VA Region	Northwest	51%	35%	12%	3%	112
	Northern VA	56%	30%	13%	2%	243
	West	67%	23%	7%	3%	144
	South Central	60%	27%	11%	2%	142
	Tidewater	64%	25%	10%	2%	186
Gender	Men	57%	32%	11%	1%	420
	Women	62%	24%	11%	3%	407
Age	18-34	70%	22%	8%	0%	131
	35-44	62%	27%	10%	1%	131
	45-64	57%	28%	14%	2%	335
	65 and older	49%	34%	10%	7%	202
Education	H.S. or less	62%	23%	12%	3%	183
	Some college	65%	29%	6%	1%	220
	College grad or more	55%	30%	12%	2%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	67%	21%	10%	1%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	57%	31%	11%	1%	217
	\$100,000 or more	57%	29%	12%	2%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	65%	24%	9%	2%	181
	No	59%	28%	11%	2%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	65%	24%	10%	1%	222
	No	57%	29%	11%	3%	605
Party identification	Democrat	71%	23%	4%	2%	246
	Republican	50%	30%	17%	3%	205
	Independent	57%	30%	12%	1%	309

		Q10. Do you think that teachers whose students perform well on tests should or should not get paid more than teachers whose students perform poorly on those tests?			
		Should get paid more	Should NOT get paid more	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		37%	51%	12%	827
VA Region	Northwest	42%	49%	8%	112
	Northern VA	30%	56%	15%	243
	West	45%	39%	15%	144
	South Central	35%	53%	12%	142
	Tidewater	37%	55%	8%	186
Gender	Men	44%	43%	13%	420
	Women	31%	59%	11%	407
Age	18-34	33%	58%	9%	131
	35-44	34%	55%	10%	131
	45-64	40%	50%	11%	335
	65 and older	38%	42%	20%	202
Education	H.S. or less	37%	50%	13%	183
	Some college	44%	47%	10%	220
	College grad or more	31%	56%	12%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	36%	52%	11%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	39%	50%	11%	217
	\$100,000 or more	40%	50%	10%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	36%	51%	13%	181
	No	37%	52%	12%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	34%	59%	8%	222
	No	38%	48%	14%	605
Party identification	Democrat	30%	56%	14%	246
	Republican	45%	43%	12%	205
	Independent	40%	50%	10%	309

		Q11. Do you think basing part of a teacher's salary on his or her student's performance on state tests would help or not help the schools keep high quality teachers?				
		Help	Not help	Hurt schools' ability to keep high quality teachers (VOLUNTEERED)	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		47%	44%	1%	8%	827
VA Region	Northwest	43%	49%	0%	8%	112
	Northern VA	43%	46%	2%	9%	243
	West	60%	35%	0%	5%	144
	South Central	49%	39%	0%	12%	142
	Tidewater	45%	50%	0%	4%	186
Gender	Men	49%	42%	1%	8%	420
	Women	45%	47%	1%	7%	407
Age	18-34	45%	48%	0%	7%	131
	35-44	48%	46%	2%	4%	131
	45-64	49%	43%	0%	8%	335
	65 and older	48%	40%	1%	11%	202
Education	H.S. or less	56%	35%	0%	9%	183
	Some college	53%	39%	0%	7%	220
	College grad or more	34%	58%	1%	7%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	51%	42%	0%	7%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	47%	44%	1%	8%	217
	\$100,000 or more	47%	47%	1%	5%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	34%	54%	1%	11%	181
	No	50%	42%	1%	7%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	53%	44%	0%	4%	222
	No	45%	45%	1%	10%	605
Party identification	Democrat	42%	49%	1%	8%	246
	Republican	57%	35%	0%	8%	205
	Independent	50%	44%	0%	6%	309

Q12. Teachers with tenure cannot be dismissed unless a school district follows detailed procedures. Some say that tenure protects teachers from being fired for arbitrary reasons... Do you favor or oppose offering tenure to teachers?

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		38%	48%	15%	827
VA Region	Northwest	36%	49%	16%	112
	Northern VA	39%	47%	14%	243
	West	38%	51%	11%	144
	South Central	31%	52%	17%	142
	Tidewater	43%	42%	15%	186
Gender	Men	40%	49%	11%	420
	Women	36%	46%	18%	407
Age	18-34	34%	44%	22%	131
	35-44	39%	51%	10%	131
	45-64	41%	51%	8%	335
	65 and older	37%	42%	21%	202
Education	H.S. or less	39%	40%	21%	183
	Some college	39%	47%	14%	220
	College grad or more	37%	55%	8%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	44%	37%	19%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	36%	54%	10%	217
	\$100,000 or more	34%	58%	8%	217
School employee or retiree?	Yes	50%	38%	12%	181
	No	35%	50%	15%	643
Parent of public school student?	Yes	34%	50%	16%	222
	No	39%	47%	14%	605
Party identification	Democrat	43%	39%	18%	246
	Republican	34%	59%	7%	205
	Independent	37%	51%	12%	309

		Q18a.Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in providing skills that will be useful in obtaining a job?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		65%	18%	18%	827
VA Region	Northwest	61%	22%	16%	112
	Northern VA	66%	18%	16%	243
	West	63%	18%	19%	144
	South Central	65%	21%	14%	142
	Tidewater	68%	15%	17%	186
Gender	Men	64%	21%	15%	420
	Women	66%	16%	17%	407
Age	18-34	71%	18%	11%	131
	35-44	69%	14%	16%	131
	45-64	60%	23%	17%	335
	65 and older	63%	14%	22%	202
Education	H.S. or less	64%	21%	15%	183
	Some college	66%	16%	18%	220
	College grad or more	66%	18%	16%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	70%	15%	15%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	59%	28%	13%	217
	\$100,000 or more	72%	14%	14%	217
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	65%	21%	13%	319
	No	65%	17%	18%	508
Party identification	Democrat	69%	18%	12%	246
	Republican	65%	16%	19%	205
	Independent	67%	18%	15%	309

		Q18b.Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in developing students' writing and communication skills?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		59%	24%	17%	827
VA Region	Northwest	63%	24%	13%	112
	Northern VA	59%	24%	17%	243
	West	55%	20%	24%	144
	South Central	62%	21%	17%	142
	Tidewater	57%	29%	14%	186
Gender	Men	60%	23%	16%	420
	Women	58%	25%	18%	407
Age	18-34	74%	18%	8%	131
	35-44	62%	22%	16%	131
	45-64	53%	29%	18%	335
	65 and older	49%	22%	29%	202
Education	H.S. or less	62%	21%	18%	183
	Some college	61%	23%	16%	220
	College grad or more	56%	28%	16%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	69%	13%	18%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	54%	36%	10%	217
	\$100,000 or more	59%	24%	17%	217
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	57%	29%	14%	319
	No	60%	22%	18%	508
Party identification	Democrat	71%	14%	15%	246
	Republican	51%	29%	19%	205
	Independent	56%	27%	17%	309

		Q18c. Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in producing graduates in scientific fields?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		67%	12%	20%	827
VA Region	Northwest	70%	11%	20%	112
	Northern VA	70%	12%	18%	243
	West	59%	15%	26%	144
	South Central	72%	10%	17%	142
	Tidewater	65%	13%	22%	186
Gender	Men	66%	16%	18%	420
	Women	68%	9%	23%	407
Age	18-34	74%	8%	17%	131
	35-44	61%	16%	23%	131
	45-64	66%	13%	20%	335
	65 and older	65%	12%	23%	202
Education	H.S. or less	63%	11%	26%	183
	Some college	69%	14%	18%	220
	College grad or more	71%	13%	16%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	67%	14%	18%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	68%	12%	19%	217
	\$100,000 or more	72%	12%	17%	217
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	72%	11%	17%	319
	No	65%	13%	22%	508
Party identification	Democrat	66%	12%	21%	246
	Republican	71%	9%	20%	205
	Independent	70%	14%	16%	309

		Q18d. Overall do you think the college and universities in Virginia are doing a good job or bad job... in preparing students for the workforce needs of the future?			
		Good job	Bad job	Don't know	Number of cases
All adults		62%	21%	16%	827
VA Region	Northwest	63%	20%	16%	112
	Northern VA	62%	21%	18%	243
	West	60%	22%	18%	144
	South Central	61%	23%	16%	142
	Tidewater	65%	21%	14%	186
Gender	Men	60%	25%	15%	420
	Women	64%	18%	18%	407
Age	18-34	71%	20%	9%	131
	35-44	55%	26%	19%	131
	45-64	59%	23%	18%	335
	65 and older	58%	17%	24%	202
Education	H.S. or less	58%	23%	18%	183
	Some college	64%	21%	15%	220
	College grad or more	65%	19%	16%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	64%	20%	16%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	60%	29%	11%	217
	\$100,000 or more	67%	17%	17%	217
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	60%	26%	14%	319
	No	63%	20%	18%	508
Party identification	Democrat	66%	22%	12%	246
	Republican	61%	21%	18%	205
	Independent	65%	19%	15%	309

		Q19. Based on what you know, how safe are college and university campuses in Virginia?					Number of cases
		Very Safe	Somewhat Safe	Not Very Safe	Not At All Safe	Don't know	
All adults		22%	58%	12%	4%	4%	827
VA Region	Northwest	29%	52%	7%	6%	6%	112
	Northern VA	28%	54%	13%	1%	4%	243
	West	22%	60%	11%	4%	4%	144
	South Central	12%	69%	13%	4%	2%	142
	Tidewater	17%	59%	14%	5%	4%	186
Gender	Men	26%	55%	12%	4%	3%	420
	Women	18%	61%	12%	3%	5%	407
Age	18-34	20%	60%	17%	2%	1%	131
	35-44	19%	62%	11%	3%	5%	131
	45-64	25%	55%	10%	5%	5%	335
	65 and older	23%	57%	11%	5%	5%	202
Education	H.S. or less	21%	56%	15%	5%	3%	183
	Some college	15%	67%	13%	2%	4%	220
	College grad or more	28%	54%	9%	3%	6%	419
Family Income	Under \$50,000	20%	59%	12%	4%	4%	252
	50K to under \$100,000	20%	64%	11%	3%	2%	217
	\$100,000 or more	32%	51%	9%	4%	5%	217
Parent of VA college student?	Yes	22%	60%	11%	4%	3%	319
	No	22%	58%	13%	4%	5%	508
Party identification	Democrat	22%	58%	12%	4%	4%	246
	Republican	23%	59%	12%	3%	3%	205
	Independent	24%	59%	12%	2%	3%	309