

DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

From August 30 to September 6, 2023, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,014 likely voters in the Loudoun, Prince William, Hampton Roads, Stafford, Richmond, and Southwest regions of Virginia using SMS and web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, geography, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ±3 percentage points. NOTE: "Persuadable" voters as identified in the crosstabs include respondents who have stated that they have a consistent history of voting for candidates from both major parties.

N=1,014 unless otherwise specified. Some values may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

		D	I	R	
[1] Of the choices listed below, which do you think are the top three most important issues for Virginia state leaders to address?	Inflation / cost of living	47%	29%	49%	60%
	Jobs / economy	28	18	28	35
	Education / schools	27	22	29	28
	Government corruption	25	9	24	40
	Gun violence	24	54	22	4
	Threats to democracy	24	34	22	17
	Healthcare	21	32	18	16
	Immigration	19	4	15	36
	Abortion	19	32	17	9
	Crime	16	8	17	22
	Taxes	14	2	18	21
	Climate change / the environment	14	30	13	1
	Affordable housing	13	17	16	7
	Infrastructure	8	10	11	4
	None of the above	0	0	1	0

		D	I	R	
[2] Of your choices below, which do you think is the most important issue for Virginia state leaders to address? (N=1,011)	Abortion	7%	14%	5%	3%
	Gun violence	9	24	5	1
	Threats to democracy	9	12	12	5
	Infrastructure	2	2	3	1
	Taxes	4	0	4	6
	Crime	3	1	4	4
	Climate change / the environment	4	10	3	0
	Healthcare	4	5	4	4
	Inflation / cost of living	24	11	30	28
	Education / schools	9	5	9	12
	Jobs / economy	9	7	7	13
	Immigration	3	1	3	4
	Affordable housing	3	4	4	2
	Government corruption	9	3	8	15
	Don't know	0	1	0	0

[3] Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

		D	I	R
Elected officials generally can be trusted to act in my best interest ..	26%	42%	21%	19%
Elected officials generally cannot be trusted to act in my best interest	66	48	72	74
Don't know	8	10	7	7

[4] Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

		D	I	R
My state government generally runs effectively	56%	62%	56%	52%
My state government generally does not run effectively	36	30	36	40
Don't know	8	9	8	8

[5] Of the following, which issue do you think is **most important** for Virginia state leaders to address?

		D	I	R
Protecting our democracy	21%	35%	15%	16%
Stopping billionaires from buying our elections	17	19	13	18
Reducing the influence of corporations and lobbyists in politics	22	24	26	16
Ensuring elected officials are accountable to their constituents ..	28	14	30	36
Promoting transparency in government	11	5	14	13
Don't know	1	2	1	1

[6] For each of the following policies, please indicate if you would support or oppose your elected officials prioritizing that policy while in office.

— Passing legislation that would ban political candidates from using their campaign funds for personal uses

		D	I	R
Strongly support	86%	88%	86%	85%
Somewhat support	8	4	10	8
Somewhat oppose	1	3	0	1
Strongly oppose	2	3	2	2
Don't know	3	2	2	4
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	94%	92%	96%	93%
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	3	6	2	3
SUPPORT (NET)	+91	+86	+94	+90

[7] For each of the following policies, please indicate if you would support or oppose your elected officials prioritizing that policy while in office.

— Placing limitations on campaign contributions, so that individuals and corporations can only give so much to each candidate, to reduce the influence of money in politics

		D	I	R
Strongly support	78%	86%	75%	75%
Somewhat support	14	8	20	13
Somewhat oppose	2	1	2	4
Strongly oppose	2	1	1	3
Don't know	3	4	2	5
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	92%	94%	95%	88%
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	4	2	3	7
SUPPORT (NET)	+88	+92	+92	+81

[8] For each of the following policies, please indicate if you would support or oppose your elected officials prioritizing that policy while in office.

— Creating a program that incentivizes candidates to raise small dollar contributions from within their own district

		D	I	R
Strongly support	52%	57%	53%	46%
Somewhat support	30	27	30	32
Somewhat oppose	4	3	5	3
Strongly oppose	2	2	2	3
Don't know	12	11	10	15
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	82%	84%	83%	78%
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	6	5	7	6
SUPPORT (NET)	+76	+79	+76	+72

[9] For each of the following policies, please indicate if you would support or oppose your elected officials prioritizing that policy while in office.

— Passing legislation that would allow Virginians to see clearly from whom candidates receive money

		D	I	R
Strongly support	83%	86%	84%	78%
Somewhat support	12	8	11	16
Somewhat oppose	2	2	2	1
Strongly oppose	1	2	1	1
Don't know	3	3	2	4
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	95%	94%	95%	94%
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	3	4	3	2
SUPPORT (NET)	+92	+90	+92	+92

[10] Now, of the policies you just read, please indicate which you would prefer your elected official pursuing **first**.

		D	I	R
Passing legislation that would ban political candidates from using their campaign funds for personal uses	22%	21%	24%	20%
Placing limitations on campaign contributions, so that individuals and corporations can only give so much to each candidate, to reduce the influence of money in politics	43	49	44	38
Creating a program that will use public funds to match small donations from district residents to participating candidates	3	1	3	3
Passing legislation that would create more disclosure around campaign contributions and allow Virginians to clearly see where candidates are raising their money	30	27	27	36
Don't know	2	2	2	3

[11] Below are some statements from potential candidates for state office. Please indicate the statements you find **most persuasive and least persuasive as a reason to vote for that candidate.**

You may see the same statements several times – don't worry about remembering how you responded earlier. Just pick which statements you find the most and least persuasive when you see them.

		D	I	R
I believe that receiving large campaign donations from special interests impacts the ability of politicians to make fair and ethical decisions.	11	11	11	10
I refuse to accept large corporate contributions because I will only represent my District, not special interests.	5	5	5	4
I refuse to use campaign donations for my own personal use. And I will work to change Virginia laws that allow campaign contributions to be used for personal gain.	4	4	4	3
I will always support legislation that makes Virginia's government more transparent.	3	4	3	3
Governing ethically is one of my top priorities.	0	0	-1	0
Corruption is a problem here in Virginia, but we can stop it by getting big money out of politics.	-1	0	-1	-1
I will always put my constituents' interests first.	-1	-1	-1	0
I am committed to limiting the power of money in Virginia politics.	-1	-2	-1	0
Restoring trust in politics is important to me.	-1	-1	-2	0
I raised a majority of my campaign funds from donors within my district.	-8	-9	-7	-9
I raised a majority of my campaign funds from small dollar donors (under \$25).	-10	-10	-9	-10

[12] Below is a series of statements about politics in Virginia.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

— Politicians in Virginia are influenced by the interests of wealthy donors.

		D	I	R
Strongly agree	48%	49%	49%	45%
Somewhat agree	36	36	38	34
Somewhat disagree	5	4	3	8
Strongly disagree	2	2	1	4
Don't know	9	8	9	9
AGREE (TOTAL)	84%	85%	87%	79%
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	7	6	4	12
AGREE (NET)	+77	+79	+83	+67

[13] Below is a series of statements about politics in Virginia.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

— When politicians are beholden to special interest donors, it costs me more money because they vote in favor of those interests, not my family budget.

		D	I	R
Strongly agree	64%	67%	64%	62%
Somewhat agree	26	25	27	25
Somewhat disagree	4	3	3	6
Strongly disagree	1	1	1	1
Don't know	5	4	5	7
AGREE (TOTAL)	90%	92%	91%	87%
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	5	4	4	7
AGREE (NET)	+85	+88	+87	+80

[14] Below is a series of statements about politics in Virginia.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

— It bothers me that large donors and corporations influence Virginia politics.

		D	I	R
Strongly agree	70%	74%	70%	66%
Somewhat agree	20	20	22	19
Somewhat disagree	4	2	3	7
Strongly disagree	1	1	1	1
Don't know	5	3	4	7
AGREE (TOTAL)	90%	94%	92%	85%
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	5	3	4	8
AGREE (NET)	+85	+91	+88	+77

[15] Below is a series of statements about politics in Virginia.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

— People who enter politics from fields I trust (veterans, faith leaders, nurses, or teachers) make better elected officials.

		D	I	R
Strongly agree	27%	20%	20%	41%
Somewhat agree	42	41	48	37
Somewhat disagree	14	15	17	10
Strongly disagree	5	9	5	3
Don't know	11	16	10	9
AGREE (TOTAL)	69%	61%	68%	78%
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	19	24	22	13
AGREE (NET)	+50	+37	+46	+65

[16] Below is a series of statements about politics in Virginia.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

— Virginians should be able to trust their elected officials.

		D	I	R
Strongly agree	89%	87%	90%	89%
Somewhat agree	6	8	5	6
Somewhat disagree	0	0	0	1
Strongly disagree	2	2	3	2
Don't know	2	2	1	3
AGREE (TOTAL)	95%	95%	95%	95%
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	2	2	3	3
AGREE (NET)	+93	+93	+92	+92

[17] Below is a series of statements about politics in Virginia.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

— Virginians can't trust their elected officials to represent their interests.

		D	I	R
Strongly agree	21%	19%	23%	21%
Somewhat agree	44	46	42	44
Somewhat disagree	23	25	23	22
Strongly disagree	5	4	4	6
Don't know	7	7	8	7
AGREE (TOTAL)	65%	65%	65%	65%
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	28	29	27	28
AGREE (NET)	+37	+36	+38	+37

[18] Below is a series of statements about politics in Virginia.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

— Virginia needs to elect leaders who will fight back against special interests.

		D	I	R
Strongly agree	69%	73%	69%	67%
Somewhat agree	23	19	23	25
Somewhat disagree	4	3	4	4
Strongly disagree	1	2	1	2
Don't know	3	4	3	3
AGREE (TOTAL)	92%	92%	92%	92%
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	5	5	5	6
AGREE (NET)	+87	+87	+87	+86

[19] Below is a series of statements about politics in Virginia.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

— Protecting our democracy means making sure our elected officials are not beholden to anyone other than the people they represent.

		D	I	R
Strongly agree	79%	80%	79%	78%
Somewhat agree	15	12	16	16
Somewhat disagree	2	1	2	2
Strongly disagree	1	2	0	1
Don't know	3	5	2	3
AGREE (TOTAL)	94%	92%	95%	94%
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	3	3	2	3
AGREE (NET)	+91	+89	+93	+91

[20] Below is a series of statements about politics in Virginia.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

— I have seen how unethical politics negatively impact my community

		D	I	R
Strongly agree	50%	47%	54%	50%
Somewhat agree	31	32	32	29
Somewhat disagree	6	6	5	9
Strongly disagree	2	2	2	2
Don't know	10	14	8	11
AGREE (TOTAL)	81%	79%	86%	79%
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	8	8	7	11
AGREE (NET)	+73	+71	+79	+68

[21] Below is a series of statements about politics in Virginia.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

— Corporations have far too much power over Virginia's government and use it to benefit themselves—at the expense of Virginians.

		D	I	R
Strongly agree	53%	56%	52%	51%
Somewhat agree	32	28	37	30
Somewhat disagree	6	6	5	7
Strongly disagree	1	1	1	2
Don't know	8	10	5	10
AGREE (TOTAL)	85%	84%	89%	81%
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	7	7	6	9
AGREE (NET)	+78	+77	+83	+72

[22] Even if you don't agree with any completely, which of the following messages from **potential candidates running for state office** would make you **most likely** to vote for them.

		D	I	R
I am running for office because we need a representative who will be transparent and accountable in the Virginia state legislature.	24%	23%	25%	23%
I am running for office because we need a representative who will fight to protect democracy in the Virginia state legislature.	21	29	16	18
I am running for office because we need a representative who will fight to reduce the influence of corporations and lobbyists in the Virginia state legislature.	24	28	29	16
I am running for office because we need a representative who will fight to ensure elected officials are held accountable in the Virginia state legislature.	20	12	19	26
I am running for office because we need a representative who will fight to ensure elected officials are transparent with their constituents.	8	6	8	9
Don't know	4	2	3	7