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**Wason Center for Public Policy /
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Virginia Statewide Survey

Republican Voters Not Happy With Primary Choices
Romney Leads Obama By 3 In Statistical Tie

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Summary of Key Findings

1. Nearly six in ten Republicans and Independents are not satisfied with the choices of Mitt Romney and Ron Paul on the Republican primary ballot and would like to see other candidates on the ballot.
2. Romney leads Paul in the Republican primary 53%-23%.
3. Obama trails Romney and Santorum, beats Gingrich, and ties Paul; struggles with support from independents.
4. Allen leads Kaine by 2% in statistical tie.

About the Survey

The results of this poll are based on 1018 landline telephone (810) and cell phone (208, including 93 who had no landline telephone) interviews conducted February 4-13, 2012 of registered Virginia voters. Live interviewing and sampling was conducted by the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion. The margin of error for the whole survey is +/- 3.1% at the 95% level of confidence; however, the margin of error for sub groups (see below) is larger due to smaller sample sizes. 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 27%. Four callbacks were employed in the fielding process. The data reported here are weighted on sex, age, race and region of residence to reflect as closely as possible the demographic composition of adults 18 and older in Virginia. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. The poll was designed and analyzed by Dr. Quentin Kidd of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University and *Richmond Times-Dispatch* staff.

Republicans Not Happy With Primary Choices

When Virginians go to vote in the Republican primary on March 7, they will have two choices: Mitt Romney and Ron Paul. Several other candidates, including Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum failed to turn in enough valid signatures to qualify for the ballot. In polling conducted by the Wason Center for Public Policy among 1018 registered voters between February 4-13, Republican and Independent voters expressed dismay at the lack of choices. A solid majority (57%) said they would like to see other names on the Republican primary ballot. Only 38% indicated general satisfaction with the choices of Romney and Paul.

Satisfaction with Primary Choices	Percent Responding
Generally satisfied	38%
Would like to see other names	57%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6%

While nearly a third of Republicans and Independents say they are not likely to vote in the Republican primary, among those who are very or somewhat likely to vote, Romney leads Paul 53% to 23%.

Republican Primary Vote Choice	Percent Responding
Mitt Romney	53%
Ron Paul	23%
Other/Undecided (vol.)	12%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	12%

Obama Struggles With Independents Against Potential Republican Challengers

In head-to-head match-ups between potential Republican challengers, Barack Obama struggles. Against Romney, Obama trails by a statistically insignificant 3% (margin of error is +/- 3.1%). Against Santorum, Obama trails by 4%. Obama is tied with Paul 43% to 43%, and beats Gingrich 45% to 40%.

While the intensity of Democratic support for Obama is greater than the intensity of Republican support for any of the Republican candidates, Obama struggles with Independents. Independents break for Romney over Obama by 13% (48% to 35%), and for Santorum over Obama by 23% (54%

to 31%). Independents side with Paul over Obama by 12% (46% to 35%) and with Gingrich by 4% (41% to 37%).

2012 Presidential Vote Choice	All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Barack Obama	43%	90%	8%	35%
Mitt Romney	46%	5%	86%	48%
Other/neither (vol.)	7%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	4%			
Barack Obama				
Barack Obama	45%	93%	10%	37%
Newt Gingrich	40%	2%	78%	41%
Other/neither (vol.)	10%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	5%			
Barack Obama				
Barack Obama	42%	91%	10%	31%
Rick Santorum	46%	2%	79%	54%
Other/neither (vol.)	6%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6%			
Barack Obama				
Barack Obama	43%	90%	9%	35%
Ron Paul	43%	6%	76%	47%
Other/neither (vol.)	8%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6%			

U.S. Senate Race A Statistical Tie

The race to replace Senator Jim Webb in the U.S. Senate remains a contest between former senator George Allen and former governor Tim Kaine. As has been the case in all public polling in the last six months, the latest Wason Center poll finds the race to be a statistical tie, with Allen holding a statistically insignificant 2% lead over Kaine 42% to 40%. Currently 16% of voters say they are unsure for whom they will vote.

The entry of Prince William County Republican Delegate Bob Marshall into the race appears not to have altered the dynamics of the contest much. Kaine holds a commanding 11% lead (39% to 28%) over Marshall, which is similar to the lead Kaine holds against Chesterfield County Republican Jamie Radtke (40% to 26%), who rose to political prominence after organizing Virginia's first Tea Party convention in 2010.

2012 U.S. Senate Choices		Percent Respondents
Tim Kaine		40%
George Allen		42%
Other/neither (vol.)		2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)		16%
Tim Kaine		39%
Bob Marshall		28%
Other/neither (vol.)		4%
Don't know/refused (vol.)		29%
Tim Kaine		40%
Jamie Radtke		26%
Other/neither (vol.)		3%
Don't know/refused (vol.)		31%

Field Dates: February 4-13

1,018 Registered Virginia Voters

[READ] Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling on behalf of Christopher Newport University and the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* to ask your views on some important issues. Your number was selected at random, and I assure you that your opinions are completely confidential and this is not a sales call.

Screen

[READ] Just to make sure we are interviewing the right people, are you registered to vote in Virginia?

Yes – continue to Q1

No/DK/Refused – **TERMINATE**

[RESPONDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN VIRGINIA; ELSE TERMINATE]

Questions 1 through 6 released earlier

II. Elections

[READ] Ok, thanks. I want to shift to upcoming elections and the people who might be running for office...

d5: [READ] In politics today, do you generally consider yourself to be a Democrat, Republican, or Independent?

Democrat	28%
Republican	28%
Independent	41%
Other party (vol.)	2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	1%

[ASK IF ANSWERED "REPUBLICAN" OR "INDEPENDENT" ON d5]

Q7: [READ] The 2012 Republican primary for president in Virginia is coming up on March 6. Two candidates - Mitt Romney and Ron Paul - will be on the ballot but several others including Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum will not be on the ballot. Would you say that you are generally satisfied with the choices of Mitt Romney and Ron Paul or would you like to see some of the other candidates on the ballot as well?

Generally satisfied	38%
Would like to see other candidates	57%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6%

[ASK IF ANSWERED “REPUBLICAN” OR “INDEPENDENT” ON d5]

Q8: [READ] How likely are you to vote in the upcoming March 6 Republican primary for president, would you say you are very likely, somewhat likely, or not likely to vote in it?

Very likely	40%
Somewhat likely	31%
Not likely	27%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	2%

[ASK IF ANSWERED “VERY LIKELY” OR “SOMEWHAT LIKELY” ON Q8]

Q9: [READ] If that Republican primary for president were being held TODAY, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE: “Mitt Romney” or “Ron Paul”]?

Mitt Romney	53%
Ron Paul	23%
Other/Undecided (vol.)	12%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	12%

[ASK ALL]

Q10: [READ] Thinking about the 2012 presidential election... if the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: “Barack Obama the Democrat” and “Mitt Romney the Republican”], for whom would you vote? [IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE (“DON'T KNOW”, “DEPENDS”, “NOT SURE”, ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independents</u>
Obama	43%	90%	8%	35%
Romney	46%	5%	86%	48%
Other (vol.)	2%			
Neither (vol.)	5%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	4%			

Q11: [READ] Still thinking about the 2012 presidential election... if the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Barack Obama the Democrat" and "Newt Gingrich the Republican"], for whom would you vote? [IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independents</u>
Obama	45%	93%	10%	37%
Gingrich	40%	2%	78%	41%
Other (vol.)	2%			
Neither (vol.)	8%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	5%			

Q12: [READ] Still thinking about the 2012 presidential election... if the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Barack Obama the Democrat" and "Rick Santorum the Republican"], for whom would you vote? [IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independents</u>
Obama	42%	91%	10%	31%
Santorum	46%	2%	79%	54%
Other (vol.)	2%			
Neither (vol.)	4%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6%			

Q13: [READ] Still thinking about the 2012 presidential election... if the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Barack Obama the Democrat" and "Ron Paul the Republican"], for whom would you vote? [IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independents</u>
Obama	43%	90%	9%	35%
Paul	43%	6%	76%	47%
Other (vol.)	1%			
Neither (vol.)	7%			
Don't know/refused (vol.)	6%			

[READ] Ok, thank you. As you know, Virginia will also have an election for the U.S. Senate in 2012...

Q14: [READ] Thinking about the 2012 election for the U.S. Senate...if the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Tim Kaine the Democrat" and "George Allen the Republican"], for whom would you vote? [IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Oct. 11</u>
Kaine	40%	44%
Allen	42%	42%
Neither (vol.)	2%	2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	16%	12%

Q15: [READ] Still thinking about the 2012 U.S. Senate election...If the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Tim Kaine the Democrat" and "Bob Marshall the Republican"], for whom would you vote? [IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

Kaine	39%
Marshall	28%
Other (vol.)	2%
Neither (vol.)	2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	29%

Q16: [READ] Still thinking about the 2012 U.S. Senate election...If the election were held TODAY and the candidates were [RANDOMIZE: "Tim Kaine the Democrat" and "Jamie Radtke the Republican"], for whom would you vote? [IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE ("DON'T KNOW", "DEPENDS", "NOT SURE", ETC.) PROBE ONCE WITH: Which one are you leaning toward right now?]

		<u>Oct. 11</u>
Kaine	40%	46%
Radtke	26%	32%
Other (vol.)	1%	1%
Neither (vol.)	2%	2%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	31%	19%

Questions 17 through 22 released earlier

Questions 22-29 held for future release

Demographics

[READ] Thank you. I have just a few questions about you to make sure we are hearing from a wide range of Virginians.

d1: [READ] Could you please tell me the year in which you were born: **[INTERVIEWER RECORD YEAR]**

18-24	13%
25-34	18%
35-44	19%
45-54	19%
55 and older	32%

d2: [READ] What is the last grade of school or college you had the opportunity to complete?

High school or less	23%
Some college	26%
Vocational or technical training	5%
College graduate	33%
Graduate study or more	14%

d3: [READ] Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino?

Yes	3%
No	97%

d4: [READ] Do you consider yourself to be:

White	75%
Black or African American	19%
Asian	3%
Other (vol.)	3%

d6: [READ] Do you consider yourself to be a “born again” or evangelical Christian?

Yes	35%
No	63%
Don't know/refused (vol.)	3%

d7: [READ] Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement?

Yes 24%

No 70%

Don't know/refused (vol.) 6%

[READ] Thank you very much for your help with this survey.

Sex: [INTERVIEWER CODE]

Male 49%

Female 51%