

Results of SurveyUSA Election Poll #15300



Geography: Virginia  
Data Collected: 04/25/2009 - 04/27/2009  
Release Date: 04/28/2009  
Percentaes

Sponsors:  
WDBJ-TV (Roanoke), WJLA-TV (Washington DC)

**6 Weeks to VA Democratic Primary -- Former DNC Chair McAuliffe Atop 2 Rivals; Statehouse May Flip to GOP in November** Former Democratic National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe is today positioned to defeat two opponents in the bid to be Virginia's Democratic nominee for Governor, according to a SurveyUSA poll conducted exclusively for WDBJ-TV Roanoke and WJLA-TV Washington DC. In a vote today, 04/28/09, 42 days to the election, McAuliffe takes 38%, Creigh Deeds and Brian Moran each get 22%. 64% of likely Democratic Primary voters say they may change their mind -- making any outcome possible. McAuliffe, who ran Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign, runs strongest in Southeast VA, weaker elsewhere. Moran, who represented a Northern Virginia district in the state House of Delegates for 12 years, leads 2:1 in Northeast VA. The older the primary-voter turnout, the better for McAuliffe. The more gun owners who turn-out, the better for Deeds. Virginia voters do not register with party affiliations, and any voter may vote in the Democratic primary. Among the 1 in 5 likely voters who say they are independents, McAuliffe trails by 7 points; among Democratic primary voters who say they are Republicans, McAuliffe leads by 3. The greater the turnout of self-described Democrats, the better McAuliffe's chances.

**Republican Bob McDonnell Leads All Democrat Rivals in November General Election Match-ups:** In hypothetical November general election match-ups for the open Virginia Governor's seat, Republican Bob McDonnell today defeats each of the 3 Democrats. Among registered VA voters, McDonnell defeats Deeds by 5, defeats McAuliffe by 7, defeats Moran by 12. Virginia's incumbent Democratic Governor, Tim Kaine, is term limited, and not seeking re-election.

**Filtering:** SurveyUSA interviewed 1,600 Virginia adults 04/25/09 through 04/27/09. Of them, 1,396 were registered to vote. Of the registered voters, 409 were determined by SurveyUSA to be likely voters in the June 9 Democratic Primary.

**1** If the Democratic Primary for Virginia Governor were today, who would you vote for? (candidate names rotated) Creigh Deeds? Terry McAuliffe? Or Brian Moran?

409 Likely Democratic Primary Voter	All	Gender		Age				<50 / 50+		Race				Party Affiliation			Ideology			College Grad		Attend Religious Service			Abortion		Own a Gun?		Income	
Credibility Interval: +/-4.9 pct points		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-49	50+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepe	Conser	Modera	Liberal	Yes	No	Regular	Occasi	Almost	Pro-life	Pro-cho	Yes	No	< \$50K	> \$50K
Deeds	22%	34%	13%	41%	13%	18%	15%	26%	17%	20%	27%	**	**	33%	17%	31%	27%	19%	27%	18%	28%	20%	25%	20%	27%	18%	34%	13%	22%	20%
McAuliffe	38%	38%	38%	23%	35%	50%	44%	30%	47%	37%	46%	**	**	36%	43%	24%	37%	43%	28%	39%	37%	41%	37%	35%	45%	38%	33%	41%	39%	37%
Moran	22%	20%	24%	19%	34%	16%	19%	27%	17%	26%	7%	**	**	21%	20%	31%	19%	18%	31%	25%	18%	16%	22%	35%	11%	27%	18%	25%	16%	26%
Other / Undecided	18%	8%	25%	17%	18%	16%	22%	17%	19%	17%	20%	**	**	10%	21%	14%	17%	20%	14%	19%	17%	23%	16%	10%	18%	16%	14%	20%	22%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Likely Democratic Pri	100%	43%	57%	25%	27%	28%	20%	52%	48%	63%	29%	4%	4%	13%	64%	22%	14%	54%	26%	57%	43%	49%	25%	25%	25%	65%	35%	62%	36%	64%

**1** If the Democratic Primary for Virginia Governor were today, who would you vote for? (candidate names rotated) Creigh Deeds? Terry McAuliffe? Or Brian Moran?

409 Likely Democratic Primary Voter	All	2008 Vote		Mind Made Up?		Region			
Credibility Interval: +/-4.9 pct points		Obama	McCain	Mind Is	Might C	Shenan	Northea	Southe	Central
Deeds	22%	16%	36%	33%	15%	31%	12%	11%	33%
McAuliffe	38%	41%	26%	34%	40%	33%	24%	62%	40%
Moran	22%	23%	20%	29%	18%	19%	47%	4%	11%
Other / Undecided	18%	20%	18%	4%	26%	17%	17%	22%	17%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Likely Democratic Pri	100%	77%	20%	36%	64%	19%	31%	20%	30%

**2** Regardless of what you told us about the June 9th primary, thinking ahead now to the GENERAL election in November... If the only two names on the ballot for Governor of Virginia were Republican Bob McDonnell and ... Democrat Creigh Deeds, who would you vote for?

1396 Registered Voters	All	Gender		Age				<50 / 50+		Race				Party Affiliation			Ideology			College Grad		Attend Religious Service			Abortion		Own a Gun?		Income	
Credibility Interval: +/-2.7 pct points		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-49	50+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepe	Conser	Modera	Liberal	Yes	No	Regular	Occasi	Almost	Pro-life	Pro-cho	Yes	No	< \$50K	> \$50K
McDonnell (R)	44%	54%	36%	40%	50%	44%	41%	46%	43%	51%	21%	**	**	82%	13%	44%	75%	39%	14%	45%	43%	50%	41%	38%	63%	31%	53%	38%	38%	48%
Deeds (D)	39%	32%	45%	43%	34%	39%	41%	38%	40%	33%	64%	**	**	10%	74%	28%	16%	45%	73%	40%	38%	35%	42%	45%	22%	54%	30%	48%	44%	37%
Undecided	17%	14%	19%	17%	16%	17%	18%	17%	17%	16%	15%	**	**	8%	13%	28%	9%	16%	13%	15%	19%	15%	17%	17%	16%	15%	18%	14%	18%	15%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Registered Voters	100%	47%	53%	25%	32%	25%	18%	57%	43%	76%	17%	3%	5%	33%	37%	28%	29%	47%	15%	60%	40%	48%	28%	24%	40%	50%	44%	52%	33%	67%

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2 Regardless of what you told us about the June 9th primary, thinking ahead now to the GENERAL election in November... If the only two names on the ballot for Governor of Virginia were Republican Bob McDonnell and ... Democrat Creigh Deeds, who would you vote for?

1396 Registered Voters	All	2008 Vote		Mind Made Up?		Region			
Credibility Interval: +/-2.7 pct points		Obama	McCain	Mind Is	Might C	Shenan	Northea	Southe	Central
McDonnell (R)	44%	15%	76%	22%	17%	45%	43%	50%	42%
Deeds (D)	39%	69%	11%	66%	68%	36%	39%	35%	44%
Undecided	17%	16%	13%	12%	15%	19%	19%	14%	14%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Registered Voters	100%	48%	46%	36%	64%	27%	26%	19%	27%

3 What if the only two names on the November ballot were ... Bob McDonnell and Democrat Terry McAuliffe?

1396 Registered Voters	All	Gender		Age				<50 / 50+		Race				Party Affiliation			Ideology			College Grad		Attend Religious Service			Abortion		Own a Gun?		Income	
Credibility Interval: +/-2.7 pct points		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-49	50+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepe	Conser	Modera	Liberal	Yes	No	Regular	Occasi	Almost	Pro-life	Pro-cho	Yes	No	< \$50K	> \$50K
McDonnell (R)	46%	57%	36%	51%	47%	43%	41%	49%	43%	51%	24%	**	**	87%	12%	45%	81%	36%	23%	46%	45%	48%	41%	47%	67%	31%	57%	37%	40%	50%
McAuliffe (D)	39%	29%	48%	35%	37%	42%	46%	36%	44%	34%	64%	**	**	7%	78%	28%	11%	49%	68%	40%	40%	38%	41%	42%	20%	56%	27%	51%	43%	38%
Undecided	15%	13%	16%	14%	16%	15%	13%	15%	14%	15%	12%	**	**	7%	10%	26%	9%	15%	9%	14%	15%	13%	18%	12%	13%	14%	17%	12%	17%	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Registered Voters	100%	47%	53%	25%	32%	25%	18%	57%	43%	76%	17%	3%	5%	33%	37%	28%	29%	47%	15%	60%	40%	48%	28%	24%	40%	50%	44%	52%	33%	67%

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1396 Registered Voters	All	2008 Vote		Mind Made Up?		Region			
Credibility Interval: +/-2.7 pct points		Obama	McCain	Mind Is	Might C	Shenan	Northea	Southe	Central
McDonnell (R)	46%	15%	81%	33%	14%	49%	44%	44%	46%
McAuliffe (D)	39%	71%	8%	61%	74%	32%	42%	44%	41%
Undecided	15%	13%	11%	6%	12%	19%	14%	12%	14%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Registered Voters	100%	48%	46%	36%	64%	27%	26%	19%	27%

4 What if it was Bob McDonnell against Democrat Brian Moran?

1396 Registered Voters	All	Gender		Age				<50 / 50+		Race				Party Affiliation			Ideology			College Grad		Attend Religious Service			Abortion		Own a Gun?		Income	
Credibility Interval: +/-2.7 pct points		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-49	50+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepe	Conser	Modera	Liberal	Yes	No	Regular	Occasi	Almost	Pro-life	Pro-cho	Yes	No	< \$50K	> \$50K
McDonnell (R)	46%	56%	37%	47%	47%	47%	44%	47%	45%	51%	29%	**	**	83%	15%	46%	76%	38%	24%	45%	48%	51%	40%	46%	66%	33%	57%	38%	43%	49%
Moran (D)	34%	27%	41%	34%	33%	35%	37%	33%	36%	31%	48%	**	**	6%	67%	26%	10%	43%	64%	37%	31%	31%	37%	40%	17%	50%	25%	43%	31%	36%
Undecided	19%	17%	22%	20%	20%	18%	20%	20%	19%	18%	23%	**	**	11%	18%	28%	14%	19%	12%	17%	21%	18%	23%	15%	18%	17%	18%	18%	26%	15%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Registered Voters	100%	47%	53%	25%	32%	25%	18%	57%	43%	76%	17%	3%	5%	33%	37%	28%	29%	47%	15%	60%	40%	48%	28%	24%	40%	50%	44%	52%	33%	67%

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		Obama	McCain	Mind Is	Might C	Shenan	Northea	Southe	Central
McDonnell (R)	46%	17%	80%	35%	18%	46%	39%	47%	53%
Moran (D)	34%	63%	7%	57%	63%	30%	46%	28%	32%
Undecided	19%	20%	13%	8%	19%	24%	15%	25%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Registered Voters	100%	48%	46%	36%	64%	27%	26%	19%	27%

\*\* Too few respondents of this type were interviewed for this data to be meaningful.

**Statement of Methodology:** About the Poll: This poll was conducted by telephone in the voice of a professional announcer. Respondent households were selected at random, using Random Digit Dialed (RDD) sample provided by Survey Sampling, of Fairfield CT. All respondents heard the questions asked identically. The pollster's report includes the geography that was surveyed; the date(s) interviews were conducted, the number of respondents who answered each question and the theoretical margin of sampling error for each question. Where necessary, respondents were weighted using the most recent US Census estimates for age, gender, ethnic origin and region, to align the sample to the population. In theory, one can say with 95% certainty that the results would not vary by more than the stated margin of sampling error, in one direction or the other, had the entire universe of respondents with home telephones been interviewed with complete accuracy. There are other possible sources of error in all surveys that may be more serious than sampling error. These include: the difficulty of interviewing respondents who do not have a home telephone; the refusal by some with home telephones to be interviewed; the order in which questions are asked; the wording of questions; the way and extent to which data are weighted; and the manner in which specialized populations, such as likely voters, are determined. It is difficult to quantify the errors that may result from these and other factors. Research methodology, questionnaire design and fieldwork for this survey were completed by SurveyUSA of Clifton, NJ. This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.