ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – With the Nov. 8 election approaching quickly, likely voters in Virginia support Hillary Clinton to become the 45th president, according to the latest Winthrop Poll.

Forty-one percent of those surveyed said they were leaning toward voting for the former Secretary of State. Republican nominee Donald Trump followed with 39% of support, while third-party candidates garnered single-digit support.

The presidential race has fluctuated with several unprecedented happenings this year. Winthrop Poll Director, Dr. Scott Huffmon, notes, "With several negative 'October surprises' coming out and affecting both candidates, we have seen a tightening of the race in national polls. However, while Clinton's lead in Virginia has shrunk from its highest point, she still leads Donald Trump in the Commonwealth."

The poll shows a significant divide between partisans in Virginia. According to Huffmon, "Deep divisions emerge between Democratic and Republican likely voters in Virginia. Huge differences in the job approval numbers for Obama and McAuliffe, the favorability ratings for Trump, Clinton, and McAuliffe, and attitudes about Muslim immigration reveal a gulf between partisan attitudes and starkly different views of the nation and state."

For this latest Winthrop Poll, callers surveyed 712 likely voters in Virginia by landline and cell phones between October 23 and October 30, 2016. Results which use all respondents have a margin of error of approximately +/- 3.6% at the 95% confidence level. Subgroups have higher margins of error. Information about the poll methodology can be found here.

CANDIDATE VIBES

Likely voters also shared how they would describe these three politicians:

·   Hillary Clinton, 83% of Democrats said favorable, only 6% of Republicans gave her that mark.

·   Donald Trump, 68% of Republicans rated him favorable , 96% of Democrats said unfavorable.

·   Va. Governor Terry McAuliffe, 76% of Democrats said favorable, 66% of Republicans said unfavorable.

According to Dr. Huffmon, "Virginia voters don't have a particularly favorable view of either Trump or Clinton. While Clinton's favorability with her base is stronger than Trump's, Republicans aren't likely to cross party lines to vote for someone who 93% of them view unfavorably."

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE

President Barack Obama's approval rating in Virginia is at 52%. The two-term president's ratings are split along party lines – Democratic leaning voters give him a 95% approval rating, while Republican-leaning voters disapprove of him at an 89% rate.

Governor McAuliffe's approval rating stands at 44% while 42% of all respondents disapproved of the job he is doing as governor. Three out of four Democratic leaning voters approve of McAuliffe, now in his second year of office. Republicans think differently: only 14% approve of him, while 73% do not.

ECONOMY
Nearly 60% of the Virginia likely voters said the country is headed in the wrong direction. Republicans have a bleak view – 95% reported a negative impression. Poll respondents all together cited the economy, 15.3%; politicians/government, 10.9%; racism, 8.4%; jobs/unemployment, 7.1%; and terrorism,

5.2%, as the most pressing problems for the country. Still, 48% said the country's economy is either very or fairly good.

Sixty-one percent said the Old Dominion's economy was either very or fairly good. As for the most important problems facing the state, the economy, 14.6%; education, 11.7%; jobs/unemployment, 10.5%; politicians/government, 6.3%; and roads/bridges/infrastructure, 6%, was cited.

When asked about their personal financial situation, 60% of all respondents said their finances were excellent or good.

DRUGS, AMENDMENTS AND MUSLIM IMMIGRATION

Three out of five likely Virginia voters feel that marijuana should be legalized for medical purposes. They are more cautious though about the drug for recreational uses: 45% said to legalize it, while 48% opposed it.

As for prescription drugs such as pain medications, sleep aids, treatment for ADHD, etc., likely voters overwhelmingly (69%) felt like there was abuse of pills in their area.

Huffmon notes, "Prescription drug abuse is a growing national concern and Virginia is no different. Likely voters see this as a real problem."

In addition to the presidential election, Virginia voters will see two constitutional amendments on their ballots. One amendment would put provisions of Virginia's right-to-work law into the state constitution. Half of the poll respondents said they oppose the amendment because it would make it illegal for workplaces to require labor union membership for employment.

A second proposed constitutional amendment on the Virginia ballot is meant to aid the families of first responders killed in the line of duty. It would allow local governments to exempt a surviving spouse's property from taxation, a move that 82% of likely voters said they would support.

Immigration is another area where major differences between the nation's two parties surface. Sixty-four percent of Democrats said that they strongly believe that the United States should not restrict immigration of Muslims to this country. On the Republican side, 54% said the nation strongly should, while 14% said the nation somewhat should.

According to Huffmon, "Trump made a ban on Muslim immigration a key talking point of his campaign. This is clearly something that splits the parties in Virginia, but while a majority of Republicans favor the ban, the sentiment is not universal with more than 1 in 5 saying they oppose such a ban."

Meanwhile, half of the Republican respondents said they approve of the Tea Party movement. About one quarter of both Democrats and Republicans said they were not familiar enough with the movement to comment. Only six percent of all likely voters said they consider themselves part of the movement.

POLL FUNDING, METHODOLOGY AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The Winthrop Poll is paid for by Winthrop University with additional support from The West Forum on Politics and Policy at Winthrop University. For additional information, or to set up an interview with Poll Director Scott Huffmon, please contact Judy Longshaw at longshawj@winthrop.edu or 803/323-2404 (office) or 803/984-0586 (cell).

November 2016 Winthrop Poll – Likely voters in Virginia

T1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Barack Obama** is handling his job as President of the United States?

	All Respondents	Democrats (including "Leaners")	Republicans (including "Leaners")
Approve	52	95	9
Disapprove	46	4	89
Don't Know	1	1	2
Refused	1	--	0

T2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Terry McAuliffe** (Mac-CULL-uff) is handling his job as Governor of Virginia?

	All Respondents	Democrats (including "Leaners")	Republicans (including "Leaners")
Approve	44	76	14
Disapprove	42	13	73
Don't Know	12	12	12
Refused	2	--	1

T3 If the election for **<u>United States President</u>** were held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were:

[NOTE: Names were rotated]

	All Respondents
Hillary Clinton, the Democratic Candidate	44
Donald Trump, the Republican Candidate	39
Gary Johnson, the Libertarian Candidate	5
Jill Stein, the Green Party candidate	2
Evan McMullin, an Independent Candidate	2
Not Sure	4
Refused	3

T4 If the election for **United States President** were held today, who would you vote for if the only candidates were:

[NOTE: Names were rotated]

	All Respondents
Hillary Clinton, the Democratic Candidate	49
Donald Trump, the Republican Candidate	43
Would Not Vote [volunteered]	3
Not Sure	3
Refused	3

T5 Thinking about the current path that <u>our nation</u> is taking, do you think <u>our country</u> is on the right track or headed in the wrong direction?

	All Respondents	Democrats (including "Leaners")	Republicans (including "Leaners")
Right Track	37	68	4
Wrong Direction	59	24	95
Don't Know/ Refused	5	8	1

T6 Thinking about the current path that the <u>state of Virginia</u> is taking, do you think <u>Virginia</u> is on the right track or headed in the wrong direction?

	All Respondents	Democrats (including "Leaners")	Republicans (including "Leaners")
Right Track	49	74	21
Wrong Direction	41	17	68
Don't Know/ Refused	11	9	11

T7 What do you think is the most important problem facing the **United States of America** today? [Top 5 responses]

Economy 15.3%
Politicians/Government 10.9%
Racism 8.4%
Jobs/Unemployment 7.1%
Terrorism 5.2%

T8 What do you think is the most important problem facing the **state of Virginia** today? [Top 5 responses]

Economy 14.6%	
Education 11.7%	
Jobs/Unemployment 10.5%	
Politicians/Government 6.3%	
Roads/Bridges/Infrastructure 6.0%	

T9 How would you rate the condition of the economy of <u>the country as a whole</u> these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

	All Respondents
Very good	4
Fairly good	44
Fairly bad	36
Very bad	14
Not sure	1
Refused	1

T10 How would you rate the condition of the economy of <u>Virginia</u> these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

	All Respondents
Very good	10
Fairly good	51
Fairly bad	28
Very bad	7
Not sure	4
Refused	1

T11 How would you rate <u>your</u> financial situation today? As excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	All Respondents
Excellent	11
Good	49
Only Fair	30
Poor	9
Not Sure	0
Refused	1

I'm going to read you a list of names of people or things. For each person or thing, please tell me whether you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable view of them. If you are familiar with them, but undecided – or if you are unfamiliar with them – you can tell me that as well.

[NOTE: the following three names were randomized]

T12 Hillary Clinton

	All Respondents	Democrats (including "Leaners")	Republicans (including "Leaners")
Favorable	43	83	6
Unfavorable	52	12	93
Undecided	5	5	1
Not familiar enough	--	--	--
Refused	1	--	0

T13 Donald Trump

	All Respondents	Democrats (including "Leaners")	Republicans (including "Leaners")
Favorable	33	1	68
Unfavorable	60	96	22
Undecided	6	2	10
Not familiar enough	0	1	--
Refused	1	0	0

T14 Terry McAuliffe

	All Respondents	Democrats (including "Leaners")	Republicans (including "Leaners")
Favorable	42	76	11
Unfavorable	36	7	66
Undecided	11	7	13
Not familiar enough	11	10	9
Refused	1	0	1

T15 Do you feel that marijuana <u>should</u>, or should NOT, be legalized for **medical** purposes?

	All Respondents
Should	82
Should NOT	14
Not Sure	3
Refused	1

T16 Do you feel that marijuana <u>should</u>, or should NOT, be legalized for **recreational** purposes?

	All Respondents
Should	45
Should NOT	48
Not Sure	6
Refused	1

T17 Do you feel that the abuse of **<u>prescription</u>** <u>drugs</u> (such as pain medications, sleep aids, treatment for ADHD, et cetera) <u>is</u>, or is NOT, currently a problem in the area where you live?

	All Respondents
is	69
is NOT	18
Not sure	13
Refused	1

T18 Do you <u>support</u> or <u>oppose</u> an amendment to the <u>Virginia</u> Constitution that would make it illegal for workplaces to require labor union membership for employees?

	All Respondents
Support	34
Oppose	49

Not Sure	15
Refused	2

T19 Do you support or oppose an amendment to the Virginia Constitution that would provide certain property tax exemptions to surviving spouses of any law-enforcement officer, firefighter, search and rescue personnel, or emergency medical services personnel killed in the line of duty?

	All Respondents
Support	82
Oppose	14
Not Sure	3
Refused	2

T20 Do you think the United States SHOULD or Should NOT restrict immigration of Muslim immigrants? Do you feel that way STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT?

	All Respondents	Democrats (including "Leaners")	Republicans (including "Leaners")
Strongly Should	29	7	54
Somewhat Should	9	4	14
Somewhat Should NOT	14	20	6
Strongly Should NOT	40	64	15
Not sure	6	3	9
Refused	3	2	2

T21 In general, would you say you approve or disapprove of the <u>Tea Party movement</u> or are you not familiar enough with the Tea Party movement to have an opinion?

	All Respondents	Republicans (including "Leaners")
Approve	26	49
Disapprove	39	14
Not familiar enough	28	27
Not Sure	6	8
Refused	1	2

T22 Would you consider yourself a MEMBER of the Tea Party Movement?

	All Respondents	Republicans (including "Leaners")
Yes	6	9
No	86	84
Not Sure	8	6
Refused	1	1