



**From: Anniken Williams, Public Policy Polling®**  
**To: Interested Parties**

**Subject: Virginia Voters Trust the Democratic Party More When it Comes to Guns; the Issue of Guns Was an Important Deciding Factor for Voters in VA Election**

**Date: November 13, 2017**

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that a majority of Virginia voters trust the Democratic Party more than the Republican Party when it comes to guns, and the issue of guns was highly important for voters when deciding whether to vote for Ralph Northam or Ed Gillespie. 53% of Virginians trust the Democratic Party on the issue of guns, while only 43% trust the Republican Party. The issue of guns was very important to Virginia voters when deciding who to vote for in the election for Governor. 80% said it was very or somewhat important to them when deciding who to vote for.

Key findings from the survey include:

- **80 percent of voters said gun policy was important in informing their vote choice** (45% very important, 35% somewhat important), including 89% of Democrats and 75% of Republicans. Of people who said it was "very important," 50% voted for Northam and 50% voted for Gillespie. Of those who said it was "somewhat important," 61% voted for Northam and 38% voted for Gillespie.
- **Virginia voters believe our nation's gun laws should be stronger.** 60 percent of voters said they thought gun laws in America should be stronger, compared to 13% who thought they should be less strong and 26% who thought they should be kept the same.
- **Voters were well-informed when it came to Northam and Gillespie's positions on guns.** 84% of voters said they are very or somewhat familiar with Northam's position on guns, while 86% said they were very or somewhat familiar with Gillespie's position on guns. 89% of Democrats and 87% of Republicans say they were familiar with Northam's positions on guns, and 78% of Democrats and 96% of Republicans were familiar with Gillespie's positions on guns.
- **During the election, voters heard more about Gillespie's position on guns—36% said they'd heard a lot and 48% a little.** That's in comparison to 27% who said they'd heard a lot and 55% who said they'd heard a little on Northam's position on guns.





- **Voters trust Democrats over Republicans when it comes to the issue of guns. 53% of voters said they trust the Democrats more when it comes to the issue of guns**, including 16% of Republican voters, compared to only 43% of voters who say they trust Republicans more. Among Democrats, 92% say they trust the Democrats more, and only 4% say they trust Republicans more.

PPP surveyed 622 Virginia voters from November 8-9, 2017. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.9 %. This poll was conducted by automated telephone interviews.

