



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Interested parties  
**FROM:** Hickman Analytics, Inc.  
**RE:** Virginia Survey Results  
**DATE:** May 15, 2017

**Summary.** A majority of Virginia voters support constructing the proposed Atlantic Coast natural gas pipeline. Voters overwhelmingly believe pipelines are the safest means to transport natural gas. By a large margin, voters say they are more likely to vote for candidates who favor construction of natural gas infrastructure projects than candidates who oppose them.

**Key Findings**

**Atlantic Coast pipeline project.** A majority (53%) of Virginia voters report having heard about the proposed Atlantic Coast natural gas pipeline which would run from Virginia to public utilities in West Virginia and Virginia.

A majority of Virginia voters support the pipeline project: 54% support, 31% oppose. The breadth of support is impressive. A wide majority of men (65% support, 23% oppose) support the pipeline as do a plurality of women (45% support, 38% oppose).

<b>Atlantic Coast Pipeline</b>			
	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Net Support</b>
<b>Statewide</b>	54%	31	+23
<b>Sex</b>			
Men	65%	23	+42
Women	45%	38	+7

Virginia voters believe pipelines are the safest means for transporting natural gas. Roughly two-thirds (66%) believe pipelines are safest, while 16% say railroads and 8% say trucks are safest.

**Other energy issues.** Several energy issues have been widely debated in Virginia in recent months. A majority support completion of the Keystone XL pipeline (52% support, 41% oppose) and expanded off-shore energy production (52% support, 43% oppose). A plurality of voters opposes coal power plants (43% support, 50% oppose).

**Connection to voting.** Energy issues are important in the voting decisions of Virginians. Overall, 83% say energy issues are very (31%) or somewhat (52%) important in their voting decisions, while only 15% say these matters will be not important. Substantially more Virginia voters are likely to vote for a candidate who supports natural gas infrastructure projects like the Atlantic Coast Pipeline than a candidate who opposes them: 48% for candidate who supports, 27% for a candidate who opposes.

**Political personalities.** President Donald Trump is not popular with Virginia voters: 37% have a favorable opinion of him while 56% say their opinion is unfavorable. By contrast, Governor Terry McAuliffe (44% favorable, 24% unfavorable), and Senators Mark Warner (66% favorable, 21% unfavorable) and Tim Kaine (58% favorable, 30% unfavorable) each have more supporters than detractors.

In the 2017 Governor's race former RNC Chairman Ed Gillespie is by far the most widely recognized candidate in the field with 67% of voters being able to identify his name, as opposed to 40% name recognition for Lt. Governor Ralph Northam and 44% for former VA Congressman Tom Perriello.

Gillespie leads the Republican primary with support from 50% of likely voters compared to 12% each for Corey Stewart and Frank Wagner. In the Democratic primary, Northam narrowly leads Perriello (37%-33%) while 29% are undecided.

***Technical note:** This memo is based on a survey of 500 registered voters in Virginia. Telephone interviewing was conducted May 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The sample was selected so all registered voters were equally likely to be contacted, including a sample of cell phone numbers. The results were adjusted slightly to align the sample with known facts about the geographic and demographic composition of Virginia registered voters. All polls are subject to errors associated with interviewing a sample rather than the entire universe. The estimation error associated with a sample of 500 is +/-4.4 percentage points. In other words, in 95 out of 100 cases, the results of this poll are within 4.4 percentage points (plus or minus) of the results that would have been achieved in interviews with every registered voter in Virginia. Estimation errors are higher among subgroups of the sample.*