



Peter A. Brown, Assistant Director,
(203) 535-6203

Rubenstein
Contact: Pat Smith (212) 843-8026

FOR RELEASE: DECEMBER 15, 2016

**OBAMA GETS HIGHEST GRADE EVER IN VIRGINIA,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
VOTERS DIVIDED ON FLAG-BURNING**

Virginia voters approve 59 – 38 percent of the job President Barack Obama is doing, his highest grade ever in the Old Dominion and one of his highest grades ever in the states surveyed by the Quinnipiac University Poll.

President Obama’s previous high approval in Virginia is a 52 – 44 percent grade in a January 10, 2013, survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll, as he started his second term.

Approval is 97 – 1 percent among Democrats and 58 – 37 percent among independent voters. Republicans disapprove 84 – 14 percent.

Virginia voters are optimistic, 55 – 40 percent, about the next four years with Donald Trump as president. Men are optimistic 63 – 32 percent, while women are divided 48 – 47 percent. Optimism by age group is highest, 60 – 39 percent, among voters 18 to 34 years old, and lowest, 51 – 45 percent, among voters 35 to 49 years old.

Despite the optimism, Trump gets a negative 39 – 53 percent favorability rating. Men are negative 42 – 48 percent and women are negative 36 – 58 percent. White voters are divided with 48 percent favorable and 45 percent unfavorable. Non-white voters are negative 19 – 72 percent.

“There may be no political figure in the history of Virginia who is more responsible for the state’s political transition from solid Republican to a swing state with a Democratic lean in presidential elections than President Barack Obama,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“He leaves office with strongly positive approval ratings. President Obama not only carried the state twice fairly comfortably, but also leaves office with a model for future Democratic White House nominees on how to carry the state.

-more-

Quinnipiac University Poll/December 15, 2016 – page 2

“The question now is whether the Democrats can continue their winning streak in the Old Dominion by electing a second consecutive governor?” Brown added.

Virginia voters approve 62 – 22 percent of the job U.S. Sen. Mark Warner is doing. Warner gets a split 42 – 42 percent approval rating from Republicans.

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine gets a 58 – 32 percent job approval rating.

Flag-Burning

Virginia voters are divided on the issue of flag-burning as a form of political protest, as 48 percent say it should be legal and 47 percent say it should be illegal.

There are deep partisan, age and gender divisions:

- Flag-burning should be legal, Democrats say 61 – 33 percent and independent voters say 55 – 41 percent. Republicans say 70 – 28 percent that flag-burning should be illegal.
- Women say 51 – 44 percent that flag-burning should be against the law, but men say 53 – 43 percent that it should be legal.
- Flag-burning should be legal, voters 18 to 34 years old say 53 – 44 percent and voters 35 to 49 years old say 54 – 40 percent. It should be illegal, voters 50 to 64 years old say 50 – 46 percent and voters over 65 years old say 56 – 41 percent.
- White and non-white voters are evenly divided and virtually identical.

Virginia voters oppose 62 – 34 percent amending the U.S. Constitution to make flag-burning illegal. The only listed group to support such an amendment are Republicans, 52 – 46 percent.

“Virginians clearly understand the difference between passing a law and changing the U.S. Constitution. They are split down the middle when it comes to outlawing flag-burning as a legal method of protest. But almost two-thirds oppose amending the Constitution to do so,” Brown said.

From December 6 – 11, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,098 Virginia voters with a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points. Live interviewers call landlines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado, North Carolina, Georgia and the nation as a public service and for research.

Visit poll.qu.edu or www.facebook.com/quinnipiacpoll
Call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/QuinnipiacPoll) @QuinnipiacPoll.

11. Is your opinion of Donald Trump favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	39%	86%	4%	34%	42%	36%	38%	58%
Unfavorable	53	9	91	56	48	58	56	34
Hvn't hrd enough	4	3	2	7	6	3	3	4
REFUSED	3	2	3	4	5	2	3	4
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Favorable	29%	37%	44%	47%	51%	46%	48%	19%
Unfavorable	64	58	47	46	39	50	45	72
Hvn't hrd enough	5	3	5	3	5	2	4	6
REFUSED	2	2	4	5	5	2	3	3

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Warner is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	62%	42%	81%	60%	58%	65%	66%	55%
Disapprove	22	42	6	24	28	17	22	30
DK/NA	16	17	13	16	14	17	12	15
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Approve	53%	61%	69%	66%	56%	65%	61%	65%
Disapprove	23	23	20	22	32	21	26	13
DK/NA	24	16	11	12	12	14	13	22

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Tim Kaine is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	58%	24%	89%	55%	52%	63%	58%	44%
Disapprove	32	64	2	37	39	25	34	46
DK/NA	11	12	9	8	9	12	8	10
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Approve	57%	57%	62%	55%	43%	59%	52%	72%
Disapprove	29	32	28	38	48	32	40	14
DK/NA	14	11	9	6	9	9	9	14

16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	59%	14%	97%	58%	53%	64%	55%	38%
Disapprove	38	84	1	37	44	33	42	59
DK/NA	3	2	1	4	3	3	3	3
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Approve	73%	60%	54%	49%	42%	51%	47%	86%
Disapprove	27	38	41	47	56	45	50	11
DK/NA	1	2	5	4	2	4	3	3

17. Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the next four years with Donald Trump as president?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Optimistic	55%	92%	24%	54%	63%	48%	50%	69%
Pessimistic	40	5	69	42	32	47	48	25
DK/NA	5	3	6	4	5	4	2	6
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Optimistic	60%	51%	56%	52%	67%	52%	59%	45%
Pessimistic	39	45	38	38	29	44	37	48
DK/NA	2	4	6	10	4	4	4	7

24. Should burning or destroying the American flag as a form of political protest be legal or should it be against the law?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Legal	48%	28%	61%	55%	53%	44%	59%	38%
Against the law	47	70	33	41	43	51	36	60
DK/NA	4	2	5	4	4	4	5	2
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Legal	53%	54%	46%	41%	55%	44%	49%	48%
Against the law	44	40	50	56	42	53	48	47
DK/NA	3	6	4	3	4	3	3	6

25. If the only way to make flag destruction illegal was to change the Constitution, would you support or oppose a Constitutional amendment making it illegal to destroy the flag for political reasons?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	34%	52%	23%	28%	34%	34%	31%	41%
Oppose	62	46	74	68	64	61	64	57
DK/NA	4	3	3	4	2	6	4	2

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Support	27%	31%	35%	44%	33%	38%	36%	30%
Oppose	72	64	62	52	65	57	61	66
DK/NA	1	5	3	4	2	4	3	4