



## **Virginia Poll on Discipline and Accountability in Police Union Contracts**

- 1.) Earlier this year, Virginia passed a law allowing government unions to collectively bargain at the local level. Are you aware that this law passed and could affect your local government services and costs, including schools, beginning next year?

	<b>All</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Black Voters*</b>
<b>Yes</b>	30.5%	24.9%	32.2%	34.1%	27.5%
<b>No</b>	58.2%	67.7%	53.4%	54.4%	55.2%
<b>Unsure</b>	11.3%	7.4%	14.5%	11.5%	17.3%

The new Virginia law permitting government unions to collectively bargain would also allow police unions to collectively bargain. Police union contracts in other states often contain language that restricts the ability of police chiefs to hold their police accountable. The next five questions are regarding those provisions:

- 2.) Would you support or oppose police union contract provisions that automatically erase information on past misconduct?

	<b>All</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Black Voters*</b>
<b>Support</b>	9.4%	12.8%	8.7%	6.9%	8.5%
<b>Oppose</b>	71.4%	64.9%	73.7%	75.4%	68.0%
<b>Unsure</b>	19.1%	22.2%	17.7%	17.8%	23.6%

- 3.) Would you support or oppose police union contract provisions that restrict how, when, or where a police officer under investigation for misconduct may be questioned?

	<b>All</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Black Voters*</b>
<b>Support</b>	15.9%	18.9%	16.8%	12.0%	18.4%
<b>Oppose</b>	64.3%	65.9%	62.7%	64.7%	61.3%
<b>Unsure</b>	19.8%	15.3%	20.6%	23.4%	20.3%

- 4.) Would you support or oppose police union contract provisions that limit disciplinary punishment for police officers guilty of misconduct?

	<b>All</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Black Voters*</b>
<b>Support</b>	21.2%	25.3%	18.1%	20.9%	14.9%
<b>Oppose</b>	57.8%	54.4%	61.1%	57.2%	58.8%
<b>Unsure</b>	21.0%	20.2%	20.8%	22.0%	26.3%

- 5.) Would you support or oppose police union contract provisions that provide police officers under investigation for misconduct special access to information that civilians do not receive before being interrogated?

	<b>All</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Black Voters*</b>
<b>Support</b>	17.7%	25.3%	13.5%	15.2%	17.0%
<b>Oppose</b>	59.2%	54.9%	62.8%	59.3%	58.8%
<b>Unsure</b>	23.1%	19.8%	23.8%	25.5%	24.2%

6.) Would you support or oppose police union contract provisions that allow police officers accused of misconduct to use binding arbitration to return to the streets even when their Chief of Police objects?

	<b>All</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Black Voters*</b>
<b>Support</b>	14.0%	20.0%	11.8%	10.7%	10.7%
<b>Oppose</b>	68.6%	62.1%	71.5%	71.6%	70.9%
<b>Unsure</b>	17.4%	17.9%	16.7%	17.7%	18.4%

**Demographics:**

**Party ID:**

Republican	31.3%
Democrat	37.9%
Independent	30.8%

**AGE:**

44 or younger:	36.1%
45 to 64	39.8%
65 or older	24.1%

**Gender:**

Male:	47.8%
Female:	52.2%

**Race:**

White:	67.7%
Hispanic:	6.2%
African American:	22.4%
Asian:	1.9%
Other:	1.8%

**Methodology:**

Results for this poll are based on automated telephone interviews conducted among a statewide sample of 1,051 likely voters. Data for this survey research was collected by Cor Services Inc.

Interviews were conducted via a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system utilizing techniques designed to achieve the highest possible respondent cooperation. The surveys were conducted August 13-16, 2020.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.02 percentage points. The margin of sampling error may be higher for certain subgroups. Results presented may not always appear to total 100 percent due to rounding.

Data was sampled using weighted demographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement and state election authorities. Demographic information for actual voters in past elections were used to construct sample target weights.

\* -- The African American population was oversampled in order to get a statistically valid result for that demographic. The oversample for African American voters was n=510, 4.3% margin of error. That subsample was then weighted post-stratification back to the ~22% of all voters they make up for the full sample crosstabs.)

Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy paid for all costs associated with this survey.