



From: Tom Jensen, Director of Public Policy Polling

To: Interested Parties

Subject: McAuliffe continues to lead big in Virginia early voting, Herring up big too

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A new batch of polling of early voters in Virginia finds that Terry McAuliffe continues to hold a commanding lead over Ken Cuccinelli among those who've already cast their ballots. Combining interviews from the last two weekends McAuliffe has received 55% of the vote so far to just 40% for Ken Cuccinelli and 3% for Libertarian Robert Sarvis. McAuliffe's lead is particularly significant because early voting is on pace to increase from its 2009 levels, and he's flipped the large victory Bob McDonnell had with early voters in that election.

This week's round of polling additionally shows that there's little drop off for Democrats from the Governor's race to the contest for Attorney General. Democratic AG candidate Mark Herring has banked a 54-42 lead over Republican foe Mark Obenshain among those who've already voted, suggesting that most people are just voting Democratic down the line rather than splitting their tickets.

Other key findings from the polling include:

-McAuliffe is continuing to win independent voters by a wide margin, now up 54/36 with those who have voted so far. He's also benefiting from a more unified party, with 89% of Democrats supporting him compared to only 84% of Republicans who have cast their ballots for Cuccinelli.

-McAuliffe has double digit leads so far with seniors (54/42) and whites (53/43), groups Democrats don't tend to do very well with in Virginia. Those numbers speak strongly to the possibility of a Democratic sweep next Tuesday.

PPP interviewed 724 early voters on October 19th and 20th and another 709 on October 26th and 27th for a total of 1,433 interviews with a margin of error of +/-2.6% on behalf of the League of Conservation Voters Action Fund.

