

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

The Mason-Dixon Virginia Poll was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. of Washington, D.C. from October 17 through October 19, 2006. A total of 625 registered voters were interviewed statewide by telephone. All indicated that they were likely to vote in the November general election.

Those interviewed were selected by the random variation of the last four digits of telephone numbers. A cross-section of exchanges was utilized in order to ensure an accurate reflection of the state. Quotas were assigned to reflect voter turn-out by county.

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than plus or minus 4 percentage points. This means that there is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figure would fall within that range if the entire population were sampled. The margin for error is higher for any subgroup, such as a regional or racial grouping.

SAMPLE FIGURES:

Men 310 (50%)	Women 315 (50%)		
Whites 526 (84%)	Blacks 92 (15%)	Other 7 (1%)	

REGION

Northern Virginia	165 interviews
Shenandoah/Piedmont	90 interviews
Richmond Metro	90 interviews
Hampton Roads	130 interviews
Lynchburg/Southside	75 interviews
Roanoke/Southwestern Virginia	75 interviews

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ANALYSIS

**By: J. Bradford Coker, Managing Director
Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc.**

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Mr. Coker is available to answer questions at (904) 261-2444.

**ALLEN OPENS NARROW LEAD,
ALLEGED RACIAL REMARKS NOT IMPORTANT TO MOST VOTERS**

Incumbent Republican Senator George Allen has opened a slight lead over Democratic challenger Jim Webb in his re-election race, but the race remains very competitive. Allen's slump has appeared to have hit bottom and rebounded some, as most Virginia voters indicate that alleged racial slurs he may have used as a student at the University of Virginia are not going to be an important factor in their voting decision.

Statewide, 47% of likely voters currently support Allen, while 43% back Webb, 2% are for independent Gail Parker and 8% are undecided. In late September, Webb had pulled into a 43%-43% tie with Allen, amidst the charges of Allen's past behavior.

<u>SENATE VOTE</u>	<u>ALLEN</u>	<u>WEBB</u>	<u>PARKER</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
July 2006	48%	32%	N/A	20%
September 2006	46%	42%	N/A	12%
Late September 2006 **	43%	43%	2%	12%
October 2006	47%	43%	2%	8%

** Conducted for MSNBC & McClatchy News Service

Allen still leads in the rural most regions of the state, and the Richmond metro area, while Webb is ahead in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. Allen leads among men (49%-41%), while the race is even (45%-45%) among women.

Allen could still be hampered by President Bush's continued mixed job rating - which remains at 42% positive -- and the 45%-43% plurality that would rather see Democrats control of the U.S. Senate.

<u>BUSH JOB PERFORMANCE</u>	<u>EXC</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	<u>POOR</u>	<u>UND</u>
March 2001	14%	44%	27%	13%	2%
December 2003	22%	34%	21%	23%	-
September 2004	24%	32%	15%	28%	1%
October 2004	24%	34%	17%	25%	-
September 2005	12%	30%	20%	37%	1%
July 2006	14%	29%	15%	41%	1%
September 2006	14%	28%	16%	41%	1%
October 2006	17%	25%	18%	38%	2%

Bush's handling of Iraq remains a handicap for Allen (51% disapprove), but the President's handling of the economy (54% approve) and the war on terror (57% approve) may offer some areas of strength.

Allen's personal popularity with state voters is still an issue. While Allen's favorable name recognition has stopped falling, his unfavorable name recognition continued to increase 32% to 39%.

<u>ALLEN NAME REC</u>	<u>FAV</u>	<u>UNFAV</u>	<u>NEUT</u>	<u>DR</u>
June 1992	13%	5%	27%	55%
January 1993	19%	8%	37%	36%
May 1993	18%	8%	38%	36%
June 1993	23%	12%	36%	29%
August 1993	32%	18%	34%	16%
September 1993	39%	24%	31%	6%
October 1993	44%	24%	29%	3%
November 1993	50%	25%	25%	-
January 1994	45%	17%	36%	2%
March 1994	49%	16%	34%	1%
January 1995	43%	24%	22%	1%
July 1995	49%	24%	26%	1%
October 1995	48%	29%	22%	1%
February 1998	64%	16%	19%	1%
June 1999	56%	15%	26%	3%
September 1999	59%	13%	26%	2%
July 2000	52%	22%	23%	3%
September 2000	49%	29%	20%	2%
October 2000	47%	35%	20%	1%
November 2000	48%	34%	17%	1%
July 2005	51%	23%	23%	3%
July 2006	49%	23%	25%	3%
September 2006	41%	31%	27%	1%
Late September 2006 **	40%	32%	27%	1%
October 2006	42%	39%	18%	1%

** Conducted for MSNBC & McClatchy News Service

Webb's favorable name recognition has increased only slightly over the past few weeks, but his unfavorable recognition jumped from 20% to 28%.

<u>WEBB NAME REC</u>	<u>FAV</u>	<u>UNFAV</u>	<u>NEUT</u>	<u>DR</u>
July 2006	21%	11%	35%	33%
September 2006	28%	7%	43%	22%
Late September 2006 **	31%	20%	41%	8%
October 2006	34%	28%	33%	5%

** Conducted for MSNBC & McClatchy News Service

The impact of the allegations about Allen's use of racial slurs while a student at the University of Virginia over 30 years ago seem to have faded with state voters. They are divided over whether or not the charges are true, with 30% feeling they are true, 28% feeling they are false and 42% not sure or not caring. Only 15% said the charges had any importance in their voting decision, 83% indicated they were not important.

Allen is in slightly better shape than he was a few weeks ago, however, his re-election is hardly guaranteed. He continues to run under the 50% threshold and his personal popularity is far more mixed now than it was just a few months ago. Most of the damage has been self-inflicted, but there is also a degree of anti-Republican sentiment present this year in this generally Red State.

STATEWIDE NAME RECOGNITION

I am going to read you a list of names.

The first name is _____. Do you recognize that name?
(IF YES) Do you have a favorable, unfavorable or neutral opinion
of _____?

	<u>RECOGNIZE FAVORABLE</u>	<u>RECOGNIZE UNFAVORABLE</u>	<u>RECOGNIZE NEUTRAL</u>	<u>DON'T RECOGNIZE</u>
George Allen	42%	39%	18%	1%
Jim Webb	34%	28%	33%	5%

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QUESTION: If the 2006 election for Virginia's U.S. Senate seat were held today, would you vote for:

- Jim Webb, Democrat
- George Allen, Republican
- Gail Parker, Independent Green Party

	<u>WEBB</u>	<u>ALLEN</u>	<u>PARKER</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
STATE	43%	47%	2%	8%

<u>REGION</u>	<u>WEBB</u>	<u>ALLEN</u>	<u>PARKER</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Northern Virginia	50%	40%	2%	8%
Shenandoah/Piedmont	38%	53%	-	9%
Richmond Metro	36%	53%	3%	8%
Hampton Roads	47%	42%	2%	8%
Lynchburg/Southside	40%	53%	1%	6%
Roanoke/Southwest	41%	48%	1%	10%

<u>SEX</u>	<u>WEBB</u>	<u>ALLEN</u>	<u>PARKER</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Men	41%	49%	2%	8%
Women	45%	45%	2%	8%

<u>RACE</u>	<u>WEBB</u>	<u>ALLEN</u>	<u>PARKER</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
White	37%	55%	2%	6%
Black	78%	4%	1%	17%

<u>PARTY ID</u>	<u>WEBB</u>	<u>ALLEN</u>	<u>PARKER</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Democrats	80%	8%	1%	11%
Republicans	7%	90%	-	3%
Independents	46%	39%	5%	10%

QUESTION: Which political party would prefer to see in control of the U.S. Senate - the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEMS</u>	<u>REPS</u>	<u>INDS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED VOTERS</u>
DEMOCRATS	45%	39%	51%	96%	4%	41%	43%
REPUBLICANS	43%	49%	37%	-	90%	35%	24%
NOT SURE	12%	12%	12%	4%	6%	24%	33%

QUESTION: How would you rate the performance of George W. Bush as president: excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEMS</u>	<u>REPS</u>	<u>INDS</u>
EXCELLENT	17%	18%	16%	1%	37%	11%
GOOD	25%	27%	23%	5%	46%	23%
FAIR	18%	16%	20%	20%	13%	22%
POOR	38%	37%	39%	72%	4%	41%
UNDECIDED	2%	2%	2%	2%	-	3%

QUESTION: Do you approve or disapprove of President Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEMS</u>	<u>REPS</u>	<u>INDS</u>
APPROVE	43%	47%	39%	10%	77%	37%
DISAPPROVE	51%	50%	52%	88%	13%	55%
NOT SURE	6%	3%	9%	2%	10%	8%

QUESTION: Do you approve or disapprove of President Bush's handling of the economy?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEMS</u>	<u>REPS</u>	<u>INDS</u>
APPROVE	54%	55%	53%	12%	94%	51%
DISAPPROVE	39%	38%	40%	78%	5%	39%
NOT SURE	7%	7%	7%	10%	1%	10%

QUESTION: Do you approve or disapprove of President Bush's handling of the war on terror?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEMS</u>	<u>REPS</u>	<u>INDS</u>
APPROVE	57%	59%	55%	21%	97%	50%
DISAPPROVE	37%	36%	38%	67%	2%	44%
NOT SURE	6%	5%	7%	12%	1%	6%

QUESTION: Senator George Allen has been accused of using racial slurs over thirty years ago, while a student at the University of Virginia. Do you believe these accusations are true or false?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEMS</u>	<u>REPS</u>	<u>INDS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED VOTERS</u>
TRUE	30%	29%	31%	43%	16%	31%	29%
FALSE	28%	31%	25%	8%	50%	23%	10%
NOT SURE	42%	40%	44%	49%	34%	46%	61%

QUESTION: How important of a factor are these accusations in your voting decision in this year's U.S. Senate race? Are they very important, somewhat important, not too important or not important at all?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEMS</u>	<u>REPS</u>	<u>INDS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED VOTERS</u>
VERY IMP	10%	11%	9%	16%	5%	11%	5%
SW IMP	5%	4%	6%	6%	2%	8%	13%
NOT TOO IMP	26%	23%	29%	33%	16%	26%	27%
NOT IMP AT ALL	57%	60%	54%	41%	77%	52%	48%
NOT SURE	2%	2%	2%	4%	-	3%	7%