

2024 Life in Hampton Roads: Politics and Political Opinions

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Old Dominion University recently completed data collection for the 15th annual Life in Hampton Roads (LIHR) survey. The purpose of this survey is to gain insight into residents' perceptions of the quality of life in Hampton Roads as well as other topics of local interest such as perceptions of police, politics, the economy, education and health. A total of 640 telephone surveys were completed between June 4 and August 16, 2024. This year's Life in Hampton Roads survey included several questions about political attitudes given that Virginians will be electing a US Senator and, along with the rest of the country, a President this year. Those results are being released in advance of the November election; the remainder of the survey results will be released in the coming months. Survey data was weighted to match each city's population distribution on several variables including race, Hispanic ethnicity, age education, and gender, along with type of telephones in the household. Funding for the 2024 survey was provided by the Social Science Research Center and the Dragas

identification slightly lower (18.4 percent).¹ Affiliation with both parties remains lower than in several recent years: as in 2022 and 2023, more respondents identified as independents than with either party alone, with less than half of respondents affiliated with the major parties.

Winning over individuals who are not affiliated with either major party may be critical for November 2024 election outcomes. Many respondents do not feel that close to either party, a marked difference from 2020 when a substantially larger portion of the sample identified with one of the major parties.

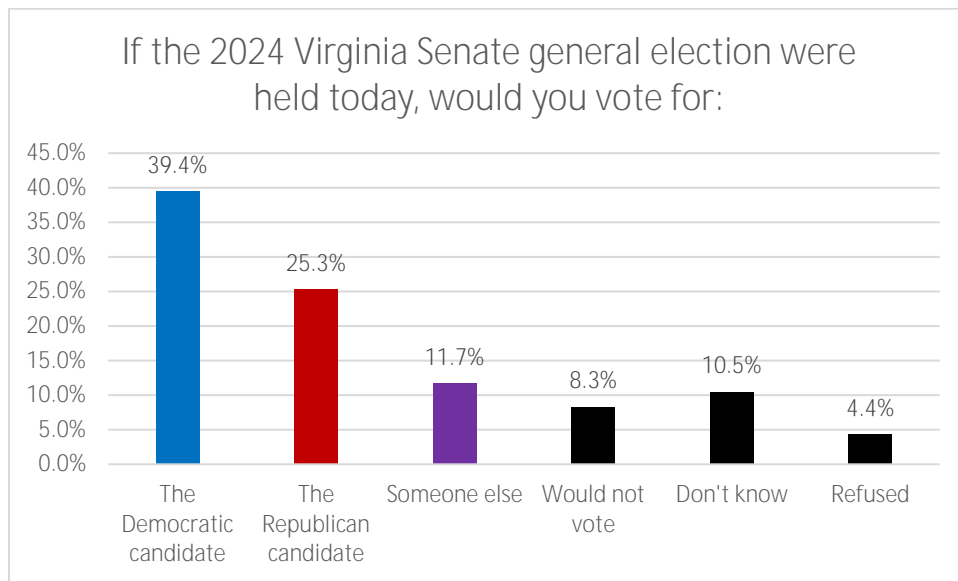
The Senate Race

In 2024, incumbent Democratic Senator Tim Kaine will face Republican challenger Hung Cao. The last time Kaine ran for Senate (in 2018) Kaine won statewide by a wide margin

vote versus Republican Corey Stewart’s 41 percent. Within the seven Hampton Roads cities, Kaine won 63 percent of the two-party vote.

The 2024 survey asked respondents about their preferences in the Senate race. Overall, the results suggest that the Kaine campaign is positioned to win Hampton Roads, and the Senate race, but with a margin somewhat smaller than in 2018. Thirty-nine percent of all respondents indicated that they planned to vote for the Democratic candidate (61 percent of those who expressed a two-party preference), while 25 percent indicated that they would vote for the Republican candidate (39 percent of those with a two-party preference). Overall, these results are good news for Kaine, who appears to be on track to win another Senate term.

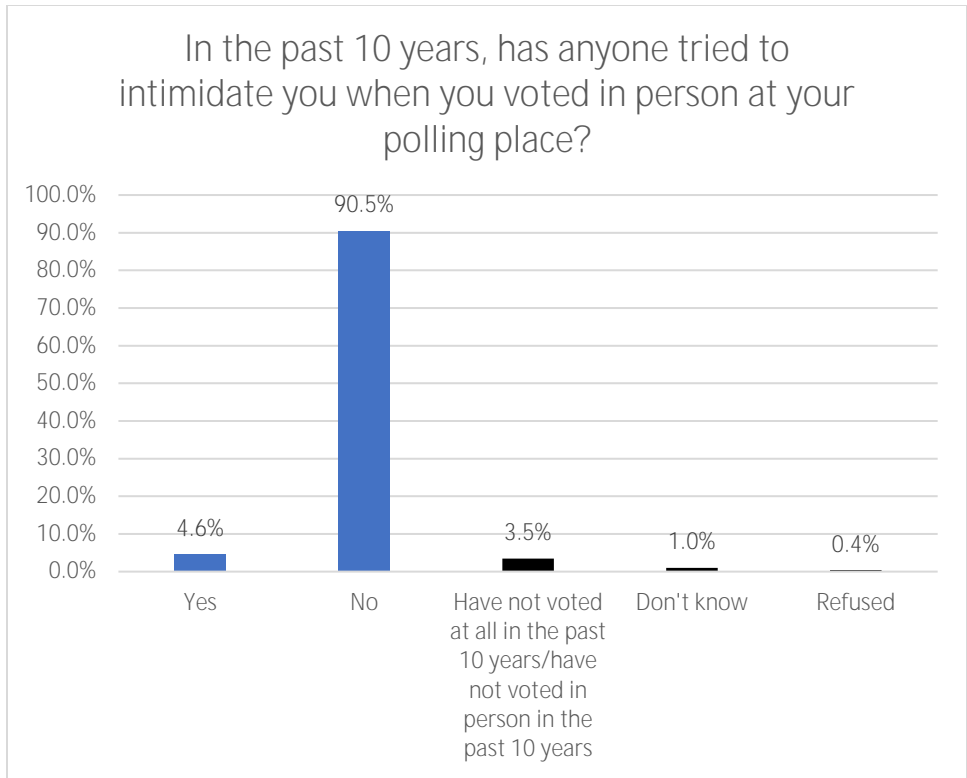
Roughly a third of respondents (35 percent) indicated that they currently would vote for someone else, would not vote, did not know who they would vote for, or refused to answer the question.²



² The figure includes all survey respondents, including non-registered voters. Thus, it does not add to 100 percent.

In the overall survey data, the Democratic candidate (again this combines Biden and Harris) received 56 percent of the regional two-party vote, with Trump winning 43.8 percent. This is a performance in the region consistent with a very close outcome statewide. In 2021, Governor Youngkin lost Hampton Roads with 45.6 percent of the regional two-party vote on the way to winning the governor's office by a two percent margin.

As this result and a variety of other recent polls indicate, Virginia appears to be a swing state in the 2024 election cycle, albeit one with a narrow Democratic lean.



Follow-up questions about this press release should be addressed to:

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