

MEMORANDUM

TO: DSCC
FROM: Geoff Garin and Mark Bunge
DATE: October 22, 2012
RE: State Of The Virginia Senate Race

On behalf of the DSCC I.E., Garin-Hart-Yang conducted a tracking survey among a representative cross section of 802 likely voters in Virginia. Interviewing was conducted October 15 to 18, 2012, and the survey's margin of error is ± 3.5 percentage points. This memo outlines the key findings from that poll.

- 1. Our latest weekly tracking poll in the Virginia Senate race shows Tim Kaine with a four-point lead over George Allen (48% to 44%).** Throughout the campaign, Governor Kaine has held a sizable advantage among women, and he currently leads Allen by 10 points among them (51% to 41%). In recent weeks, Kaine also has opened up a lead among independents in the Commonwealth, who now favor Kaine over Allen (46% to 39%).
- 2. Virginia voters hold a more favorable view of Tim Kaine than they do George Allen.** On balance, Virginians hold a positive view of Tim Kaine (41% positive vs. 34% negative). By contrast, George Allen is barely above water, with nearly as many Virginians holding a negative opinion of him (34%) as a positive one (37%). More important, the independent voters who will decide this election like Tim Kaine (37% positive, 33% negative), but are turned off by George Allen (31% positive, 35% negative).
- 3. Digging beneath the surface, Virginia voters trust Tim Kaine more than they do George Allen on most key qualities and issues.**
 - Voters prefer Tim Kaine over George Allen when it comes to looking out for the interests of the middle class (43% Kaine better, 39% Allen better), being bipartisan and working across party lines (41% Kaine, 36% Allen), and being honest and someone you can trust (38% Kaine, 35% Allen).
 - Voters also place much greater trust in Kaine in dealing with issues involving women's rights and women's health (50% Kaine better, 30% Allen better), supporting education and school funding (45% Kaine, 34% Allen), protecting Medicare (44%, 33%), and protecting Social Security (42%, 34%).