The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and Freedom Virginia commissioned YouGov to conduct a survey of 1,204 Virginia registered voters fielded between August 18 and August 31, 2020 on YouGov’s online platform as well as over SMS. The survey focused on views about proposed Virginia legislation requiring employers to provide paid sick days (PSD) to employees.

The poll found that 83 percent of Virginia registered voters support a policy proposal to provide Paid Sick Days (PSD). Strong majorities of Democrats (96 percent), Independents (78 percent), and Republicans (72 percent) all support this proposal.

![Baseline Support For a Paid Sick Day Policy in Virginia](chart)

While the intensity of support might vary across some of these demographics, the overall level of support remains overwhelmingly high across the board. For example, 87 percent of women support PSD and 78 percent of men do as well—these are exceptionally high levels of support.

The same high support is evident across age groups, education levels, races, and whether respondents have children under 18. Support for a PSD policy is particularly popular among Black and Latino voters, 88 and 96 percent of whom support a PSD policy, respectively. As expected, those who are more worried about the coronavirus pandemic are more supportive of PSD—96 percent of respondents who said they are very worried about coronavirus support offering PSD in Virginia. At the other end of the spectrum, however, support remains high: 59 percent of those who said they are not worried at all about the pandemic also support offering PSD in the state.
Overall, this demographic breakdown suggests that the policy appeals to a vast variety of registered voters in Virginia and is quite popular.

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On a scale of 1 (not important at all) to 10 (extremely important), voters were asked about how important it is that the Virginia legislature pass a paid sick day proposal into law during its next legislative session. The following plot shows these responses, with the vertical dashed line representing the average response of 7. Seventy-two percent of voters answered over the midpoint of the scale, with 29 percent of voters picking the maximum value of 10, suggesting that they think it should be a high priority. More than four times as many voters selected the maximum value as the minimum value.

Methodology

This survey is based on 1,204 interviews conducted by YouGov on the internet and over SMS of Virginia registered voters. The margin of error (a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage \( p \) based upon the subsetted sample is approximately 3.5%.

The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, and 2016 Presidential vote choice based on the American Community Study and the Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement. Respondents were selected from YouGov to be representative of registered voters. The weights range from 0.27 to 6 with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.72. Some questions are held for future release.