

**From: Tom Jensen, Public Policy Polling**

**To: Interested Parties**

**Subject: Health Care Was Decisive Issues in Virginia**

**Date: November 8, 2017**

A Public Policy Polling post election survey of Virginia voters, conducted yesterday after they voted, found that health care was a decisive issue in Ralph Northam's resounding victory over Ed Gillespie:

- **GOP health care repeal efforts hurt Gillespie badly.** Voters said by a 24 point margin that Gillespie's support for repealing the ACA made them less likely to vote for him- only 20% considered it to be a reason to support him, while 44% said it made them less likely to jumping to 47% with voters between 46 and 65. A majority of voters in Virginia now support the Affordable Care Act, 50/39. 61% think the best path forward on health care is to keep the ACA and makes fixes to it as necessary, while only 36% think the best thing to do is repeal it.

- **Ralph Northam's opposition to health care repeal was a winner with voters.** 47% of voters said his opposition to the Republican health care plan and desire to keep the Affordable Care Act made them more likely to vote for him, compared to only 30% who said it made them less likely to support him. Only 32% of voters expressed support for the Republican health care repeal efforts to 55% opposed to them, making Northam's stance a clear winner.

- **Health Care was the most important issue.** Our polling found that 67% of voters said that health care was either 'the most important issue' or a 'very important issue' to them, and among those voters Northam won 62-32. Voters said Northam was more in step than Gillespie with them on health care issues 53-39.

- **Exit polls confirmed this finding that health care was the most important issue of the election,** with 39% citing it as their top concern. Northam won voters who said health care was their top issue by 54 points, 77-23.

These Virginia findings are typical of what we've found across the country this year. The Affordable Care Act is now popular, Republicans have no credibility with voters on the health care issue, and the combination of those things has helped lead Democrats to a double digit lead on the generic Congressional ballot nationally.

PPP surveyed 591 Virginia voters on November 7th. The margin of error is +/- 4.0%. This survey was paid for by Save My Care.