



COMMON GROUNDS REFERENDA RESULTS

Student Survey

	Votes
I have a high level of confidence in talking about politics with my peers.	39.53%
I feel fairly confident in my ability to talk politics with others. I could use another workshop like this.	37.21%
I learned some introductory skills for discussing politics with others. I need more sessions to feel confident in my abilities.	18.60%
I am not comfortable talking about politics with others. I need more information about politics and sessions to work on discussion to feel confident.	2.33%
Abstain	2.33%
Write Ins	0.00%

Prior experience

	Votes
Before this workshop I was highly knowledgeable about political issues and felt comfortable talking about them.	46.51%
Before this workshop I had a fair amount of knowledge of politics but did not talk about it with peers.	41.86%
Abstain	6.98%
Before this workshop I knew nothing of politics and had never engaged in a political discussion with peers.	2.33%
Before this workshop I had little knowledge of politics and had never spoken about political issues with peers.	2.33%
Write Ins	0.00%

Illegal Immigration #1

Plans to build a large wall to restrict illegal immigration should be discarded. They should be discarded because building the wall is too expensive, ineffectual, creates a bad image for the United States.

Response Votes

Yea 72.09%
Nay 25.58%
Abstain 2.33%

Illegal Immigration #2

The money saved from building the wall should be used to develop other strategies for stemming the flow of illegal immigration. Funding could be used for increased border security, drone surveillance, increasing the coverage of the border by ICE agents, and streamlining the immigration process.

Response Votes

Yea 69.77%
Nay 27.91%
Abstain 2.33%

Gun Control #1

Second Amendment rights should not be infringed so it is proposed that the Second Amendment to the Constitution be changed by adding the term "legal" in front of arms in the amendment. It would then be up to the Federal Government to determine which weapons are legal and which are not.

Response Votes

Yea 69.77%
Nay 27.91%
Abstain 2.33%

Gun Control #2

Change the Second Amendment to apply only to those over the age of 18

Response Votes

Yea 48.84%
Nay 37.21%
Abstain 13.95%

Gun Control #3

In order to control the sale of weapons by both public and private entities, ID cards will be issued to citizens wishing to purchase a firearm. The ID card must be presented in order to make any gun purchase. A citizen must be over the age of 18 in order to apply for an ID Card.

Response Votes

Yea 67.44%
Nay 20.93%
Abstain 11.63%

Pipeline Construction

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline should be constructed to provide access to electric power throughout Virginia. This sacrifice by Virginians will benefit the country at large and has been approved by the EPA and promises very little impact to the environment. The construction and management of the pipeline will create jobs and bring revenues to areas of Virginia that are currently economically depressed.

Response Votes

Yea 51.16%
Nay 32.56%
Abstain 16.28%

Statues and Monuments #1

All statues of confederate soldiers must be moved from public property. The cost for removal has been donated by the NAACP so that taxpayers will not be burdened with paying for removal. Tax dollars will also be appropriated for education on history and the importance of diversity.

Response Votes

Yea 37.21%
Nay 48.84%
Abstain 13.95%

Statues and Monuments #2

All confederate statues on public property should be contextualized to provide historical background about the subject of a statue, the purpose and time of its erection, and its place within the history of the community. This could be done by adding plaques or other statues representing unifying figures.

Response Votes

Yea 65.12%
Nay 20.93%
Abstain 13.95%

Death Penalty #1

The Death Penalty should be used in cases of terrorism, mass murder and in certain cases of rape. Brain scans will be used to make certain that all those sentenced with death are in possession of their faculties and knew what they were doing when the crime was committed. In cases of rape the death penalty will be an option when the convicted person is a serial rapist and the victim(s) agree with the sentence.

Response Votes

Yea 67.44%
Nay 23.26%
Abstain 9.30%

Death Penalty #2

The death penalty should be abolished. The "Eye for an Eye" concept leaves the government with blood on its hands. Science is uncertain and thus it is possible for citizens to be put to death who are not-guilty. The history of racial bias also creates the situation where many people of color may be unfairly killed. We support a restructuring of the criminal justice system to emphasize rehabilitation.

Response Votes

Yea 23.26%
Nay 60.47%
Abstain 16.28%

Voting Age Lowered to 16 #1

The voting age in Virginia should not change. 16 year olds are not responsible enough to participate in selecting officials and registering opinions on referenda.

Response Votes

Yea 76.74%
Nay 18.60%
Abstain 4.65%

Voting Age Lowered to 16 #2

The voting age can be lowered to 16 after implementing a comprehensive civic education program that encompasses K-12 education. Once ten years of the civic education program has been completed- the age will be lowered since teens will now have adequate civic knowledge to participate in elections.

Response Votes

Yea 34.88%

Nay 55.81%

Abstain 9.30%

Raising the Minimum Wage

There should not be a blanket increase in the minimum wage. Localities should provide incentives to businesses for increased training for workers and thus they would be eligible for jobs that paid enough for workers to live on. Localities will also have power over the ability to set the minimum wage for themselves according to their specific economic situations.

Response Votes

Yea 67.44%

Nay 20.93%

Abstain 11.63%