

2019

Life in Hampton Roads Survey Press Release #5: Politics, Perceptions of the Police, and Related Issues

Social Science Research Center, Old Dominion University

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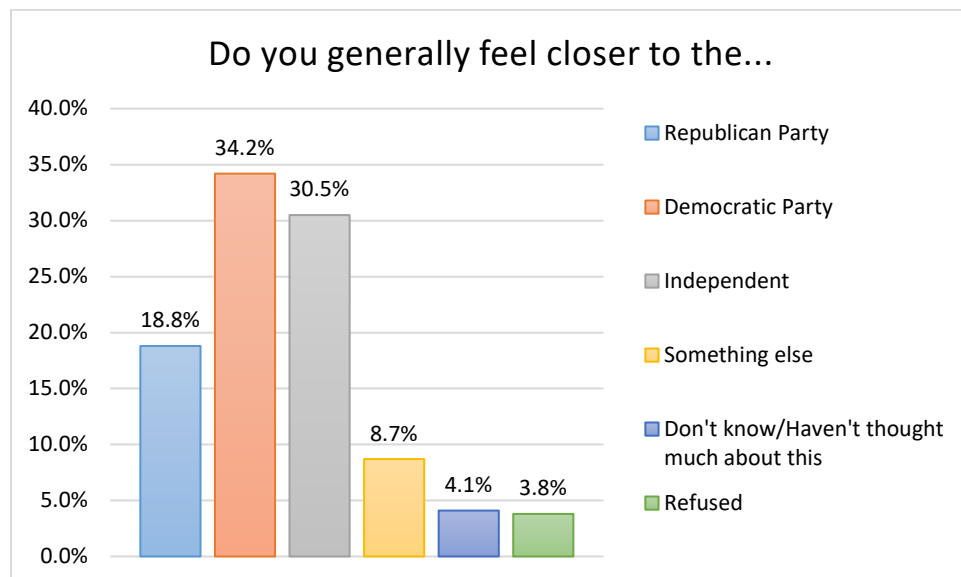
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Politics, Perceptions of the Police, and Related Issues

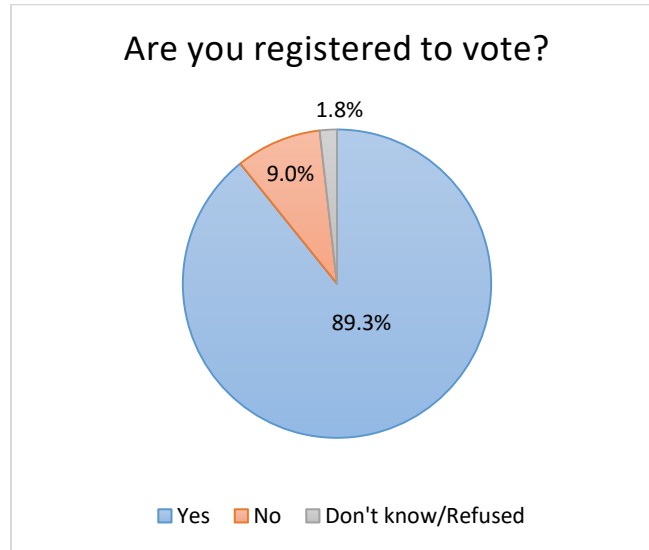
The political climate is one factor in understanding attitudes on a variety of social and political issues. Respondents were asked an array of questions including party affiliation, political attitudes and voter registration. The 822 participants gave a wide variety of answers to these questions, but much of the data reflects response patterns seen in years past.

Political Affiliations and Attitudes

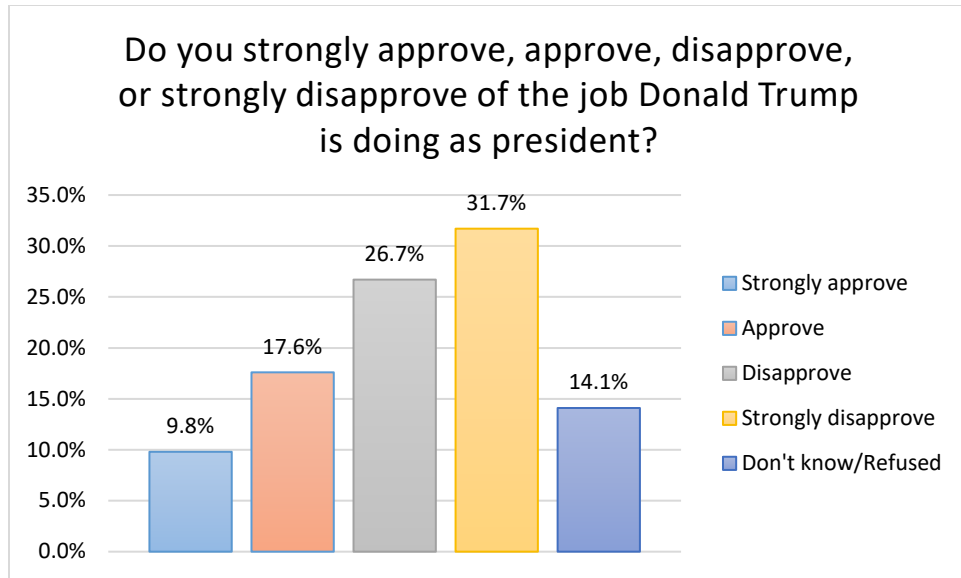
Respondents were asked what political party they generally feel closer to. A larger proportion of respondents reported feeling closer to the Democratic Party (34.2%) or being Independent (30.5%) than the Republican party (18.8%). Less than 10 percent reported feeling closer to something else (8.7%)



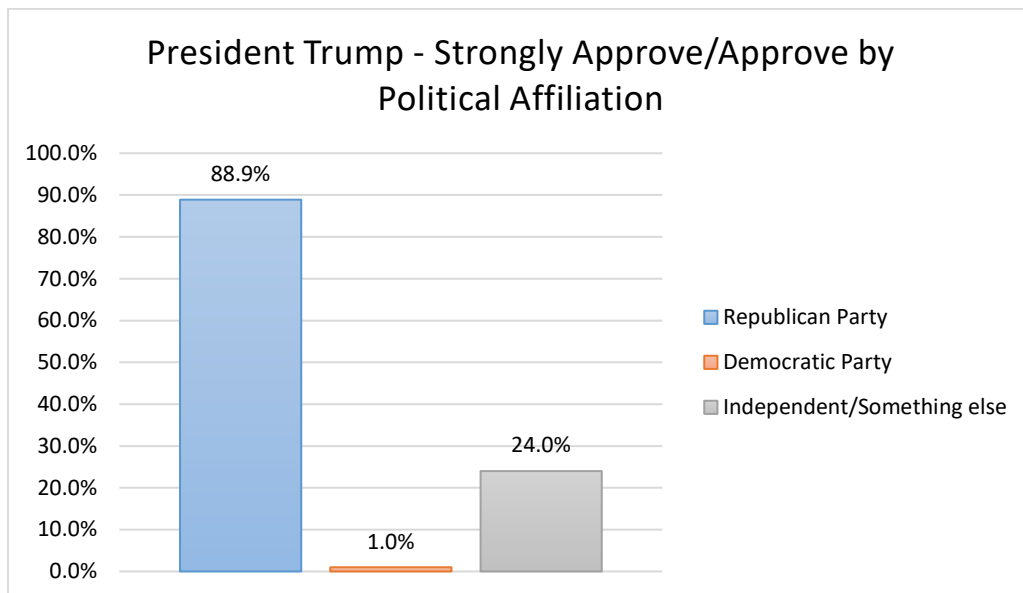
Respondents were asked whether or not they were registered to vote and the vast majority said that they were (89.3%), while only 9.0 percent reported that they were not registered to vote at the time of the survey.

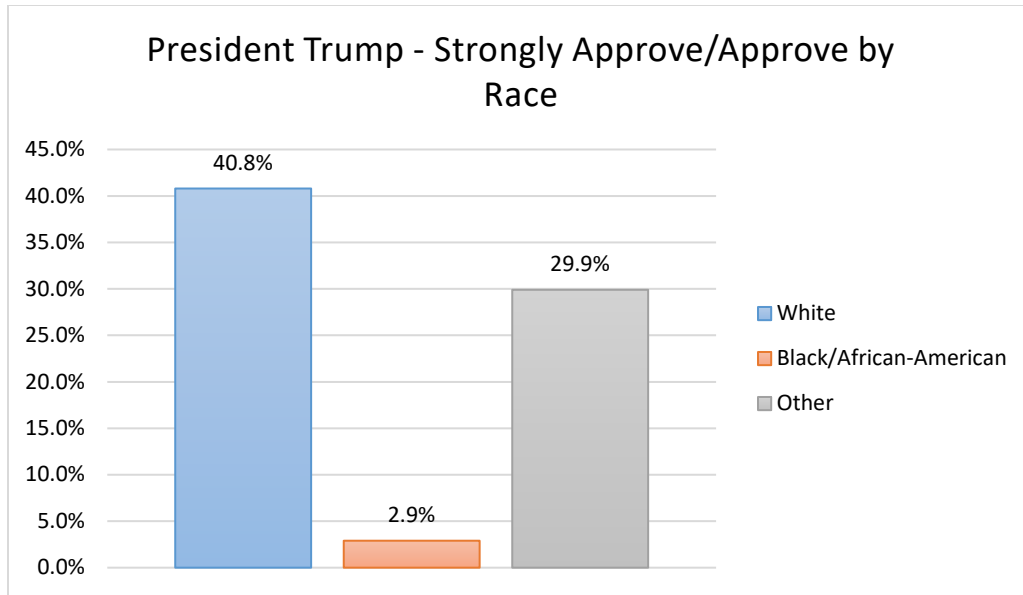


President Donald Trump had been in office for over two and a half years when the 2019 Life in Hampton Roads survey began and respondents were asked how strongly they approve or disapprove of the job he was doing as president. More than half (58.4%) of respondents either disapproved (26.7%) or strongly disapproved (31.7%) of the job that he is doing as president. Only 9.8 percent of Hampton Roads residents strongly approved of the job that he is doing as president, while 17.6 percent approved.



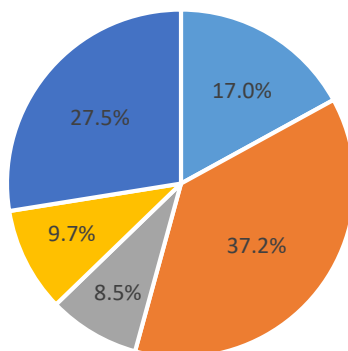
President Donald Trump's approval rating varied significantly across race and political affiliation. The majority of Republicans strongly approved or approved of the job Donald Trump is doing as president (88.9%) compared to only one percent of Democrats. Additionally, 40.8 percent of white respondents approved or strongly approved of the job Donald Trump is doing as president compared to only 2.9 percent of black/African-American respondents.





Respondents were asked about the upcoming election for representatives in the Virginia House of Delegates and State Senate. They were asked to identify if they would vote Republican for both, Democratic for both, one Republican and one Democrat, or if they would choose not to vote. The most common response was voting for the Democratic candidate for both positions (37.2%) followed by voting for the Republican candidate for both positions (17.0%). Another 8.5 percent said they would split their vote and choose one Republican candidate and one Democratic candidate and 9.7 percent they would not vote.

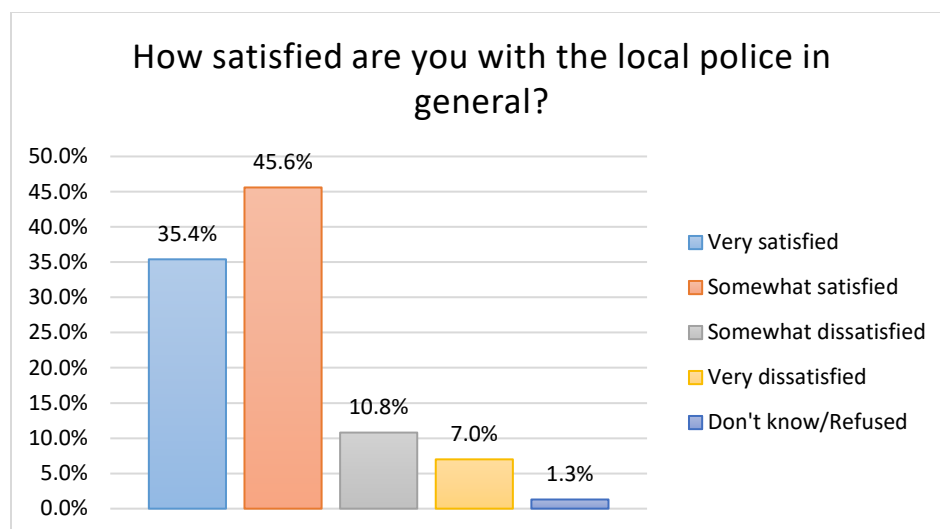
If the election for your representatives in the Virginia House of Delegates and State Senate was held today, would you vote for...?

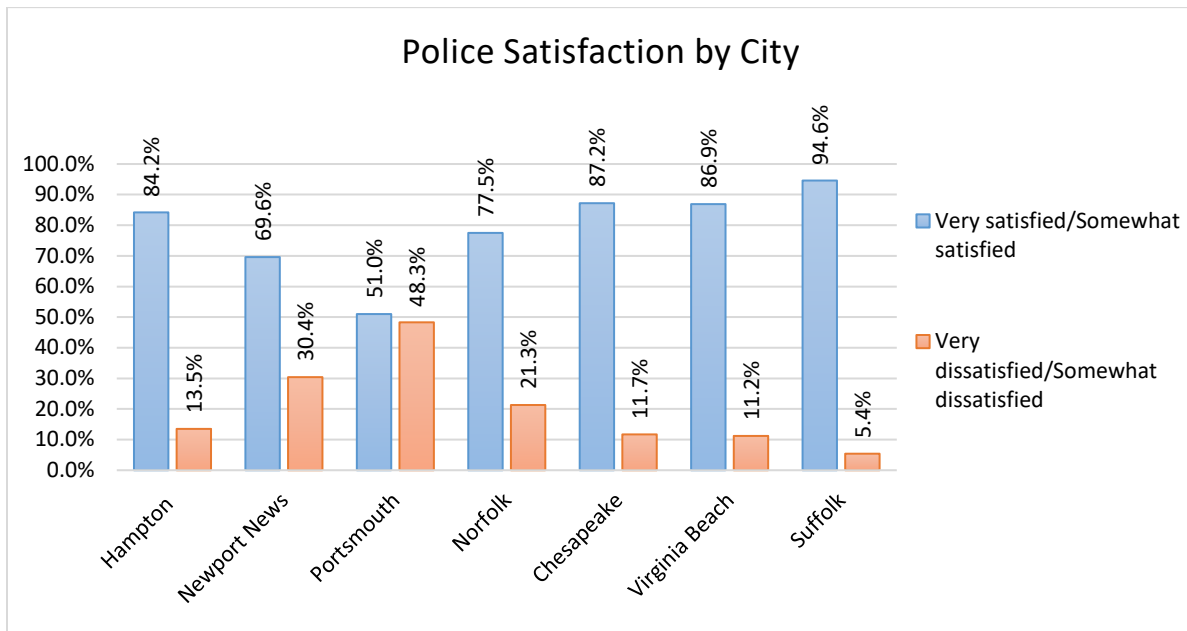
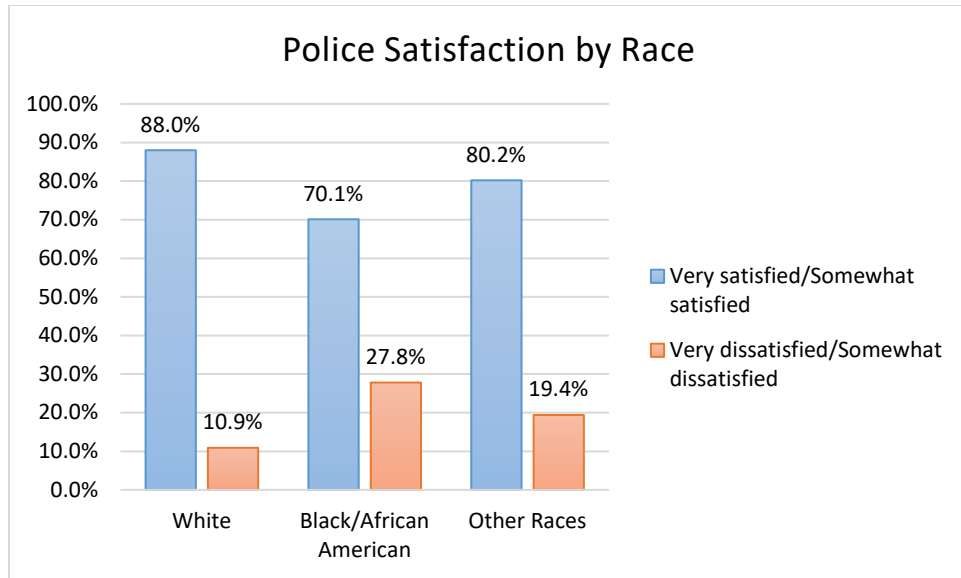


- Republican candidate for both
- Democratic for both
- One Republican and one Democratic
- Would not vote
- Don't know/Refused

Perceptions of Local Police

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with the local police in general. The majority of respondents reported being somewhat satisfied (45.6%) and very satisfied (35.4%). A small minority, (10.8%) reported being somewhat dissatisfied and only a few (7%) reported being very dissatisfied with the local police. There were significant differences between satisfaction with the local police when looking at race and city of residence. African American respondents were more likely to report being very dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied (27.8%) than white respondents (10.9%). When examining police satisfaction across cities, Suffolk reported the highest percentage of residents being very satisfied or somewhat satisfied (94.6%) and Portsmouth reported the lowest percentage of residents being very satisfied or somewhat satisfied (51.0%).

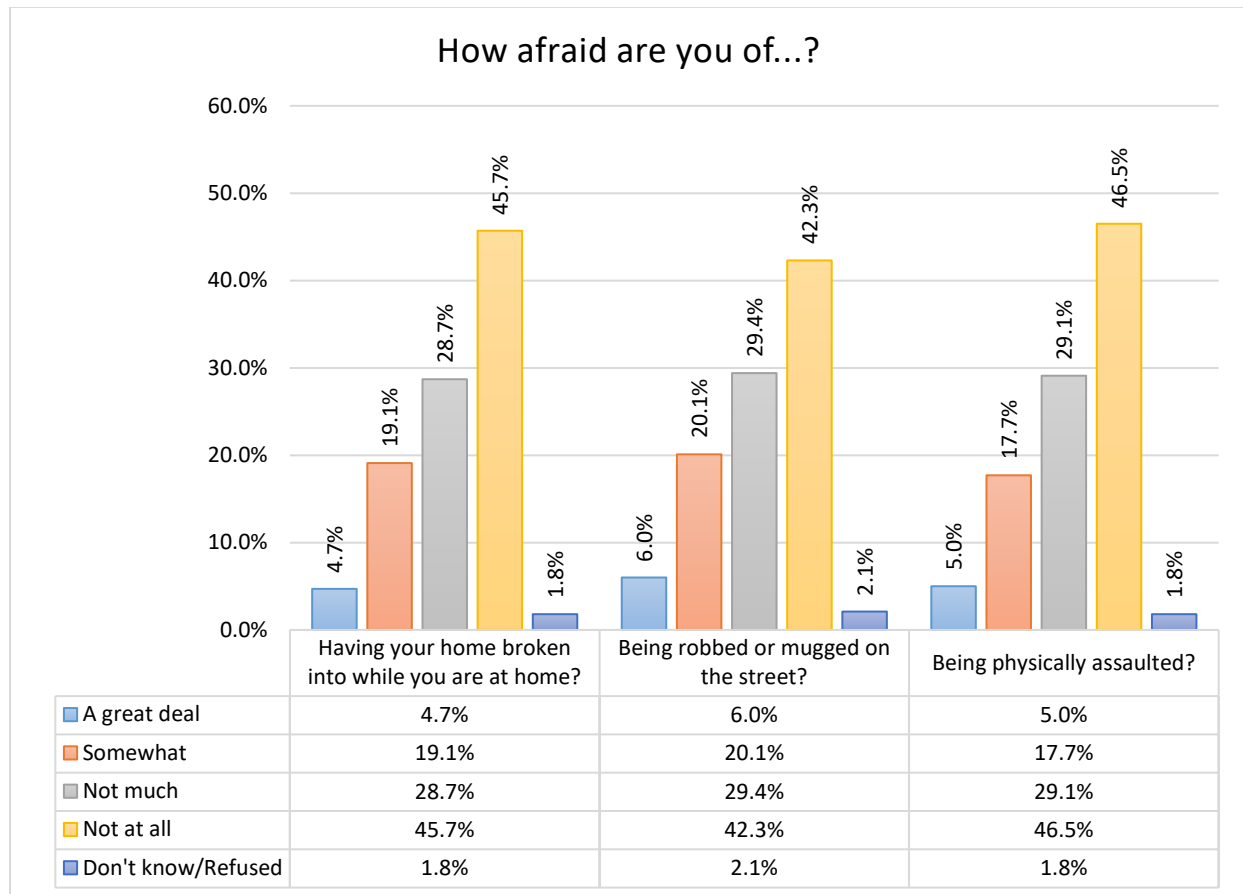




*Sample sizes from some cities are small and thus increases the margin of error.

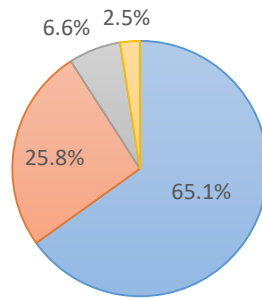
Respondents were asked to answer how afraid they are of certain crimes in Hampton Roads. Only 23.8 percent of respondents reported being either somewhat afraid (19.1%) or afraid a great deal (4.7%) of having their home broken into while they are home. The majority of respondents (71.7%) reported either being not afraid at all (42.3%) or not much afraid (29.4%) of being robbed or mugged on

the street. Additionally, 75.6 percent of respondents reported being either not at all afraid (46.5%) or not much afraid (29.1%) of being physically assaulted.



When asked whether marijuana should be made legal or not, just under two-thirds of respondents said that marijuana should be made legal (65.1%). Conversely, only 1 in 4 respondents reported that marijuana should remain illegal (25.8%).

Do you think the use of marijuana
should be made legal or not?



■ Yes, be made legal ■ No, remain illegal
■ Don't know ■ Don't know/Refused

The Life in Hampton Roads Data report and press releases will be placed on the Social Science Research Center website as they are released (<http://www.odu.edu/al/centers/ssrc>). Follow-up questions about the 2019 Life in Hampton Roads survey should be addressed to:

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