

2018

Life in Hampton Roads Survey Press Release #2: Politics, Social Issues, Perceptions of the Police

Social Science Research Center, Old Dominion University

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Life in Hampton Roads Survey Press Release #2

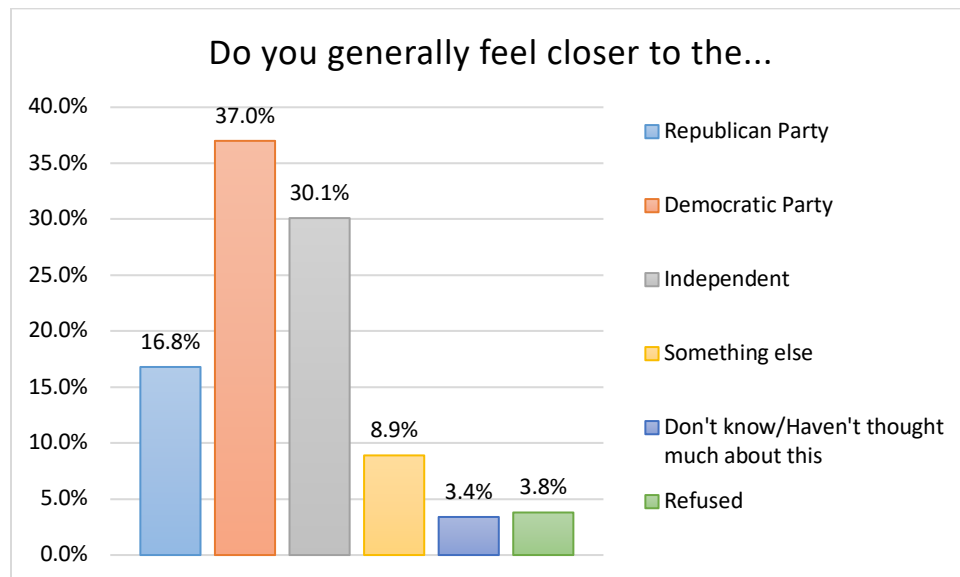
Politics, Social Issues, and Perception of the Police

This report examines regional perceptions of political figures and political affiliation from the 2018 Life In Hampton Roads survey (LIHR 2018) conducted by the Old Dominion University Social Science Research Center. Data from prior years is also provided when available to show comparisons in responses over time. Responses were weighted by city population, race, age, gender, and phone usage (cell versus land-line) to be representative of the Hampton Roads region. For additional information on survey methodology, and analyses of other issues, please see the SSRC website at www.odu.edu/ssrc.

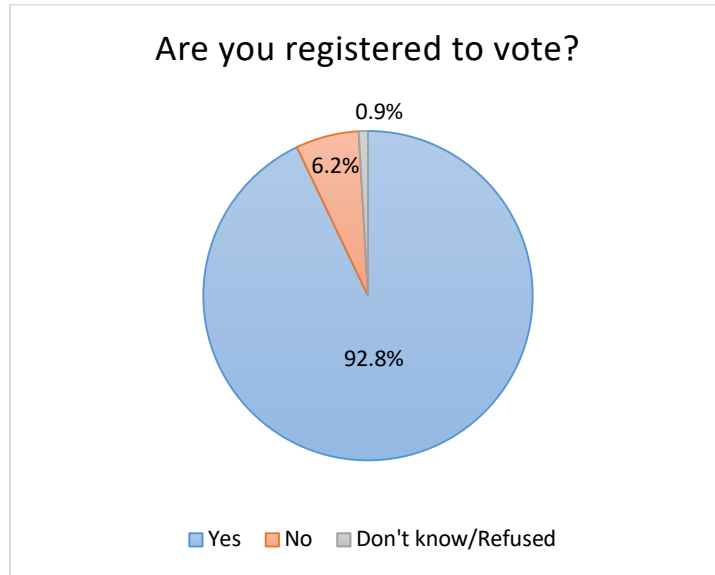
The political climate is one factor in understanding attitudes on a variety of social and political issues. Respondents were asked an array of questions including party affiliation, political attitudes and voter registration. The 687 participants gave a wide variety of answers to these questions, but much of the data reflects response patterns seen in years past.

Political Affiliations and Attitudes

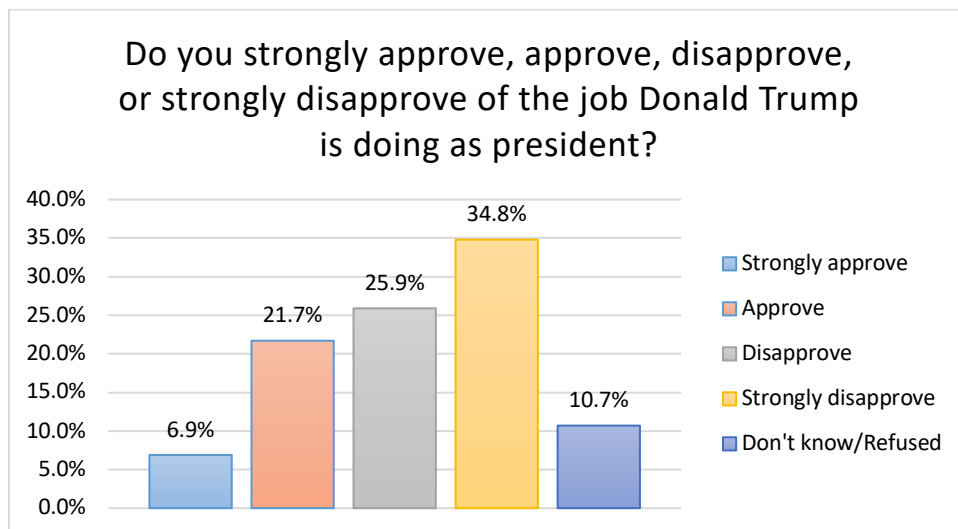
Respondents were asked what political party they generally feel closer to. A larger proportion of respondents reported feeling closer to the Democratic Party (37.0%) or being Independent (30.1%) than the Republican party (16.8%) or feeling closer to something else (8.9%).



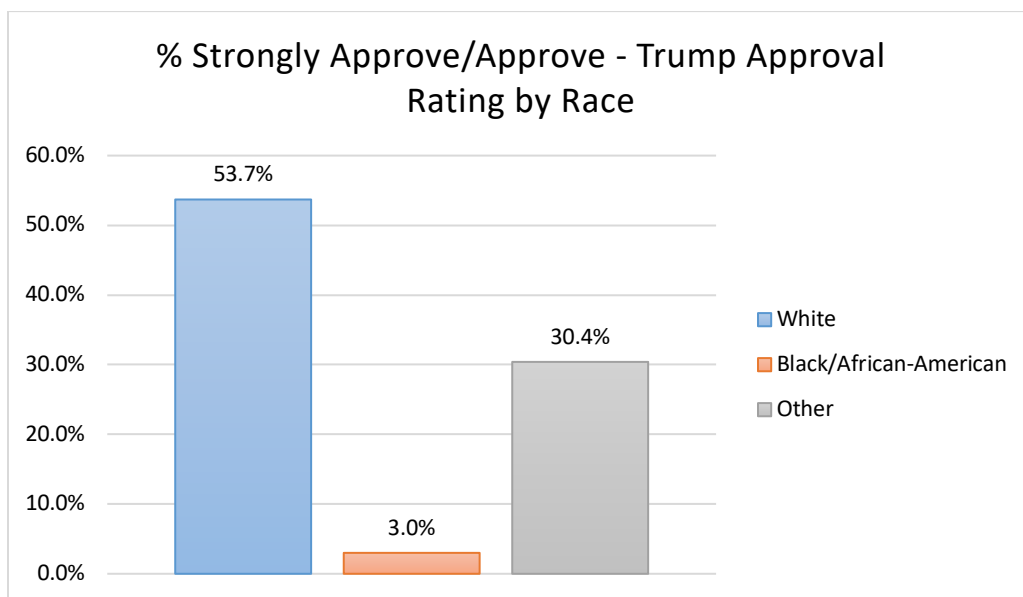
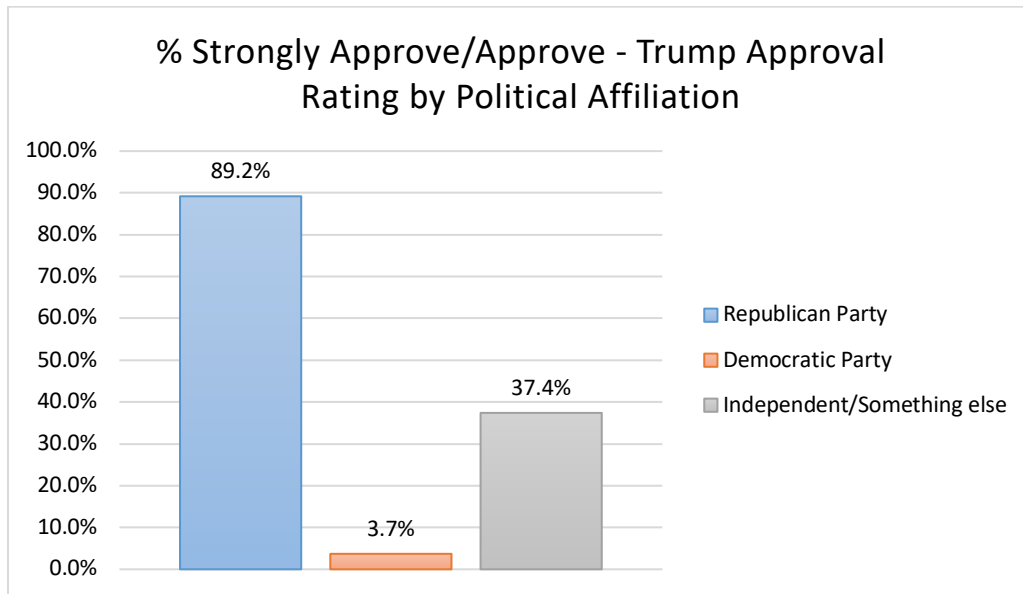
Respondents were asked whether or not they were registered to vote. The vast majority of respondents said that they were registered to vote (92.8%), while only 6.2 percent of respondents were not registered to vote at the time of the survey.



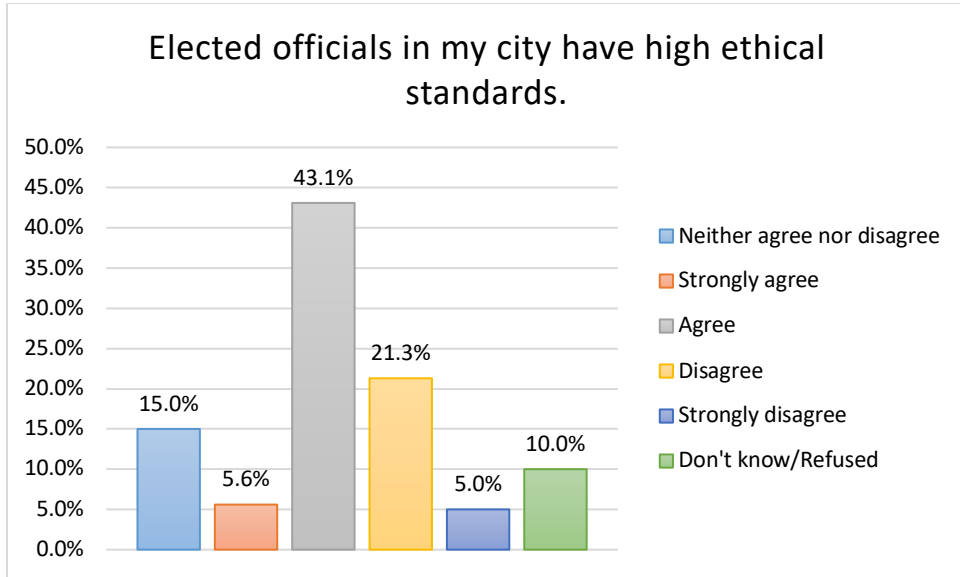
Donald Trump had been in office for over a year and a half when the Life in Hampton Roads survey began and respondents were asked how strongly they approve or disapprove of the job he was doing as president. A majority (60.7%) of respondents either disapproved (25.9%) or strongly disapproved (34.8%) of the job that he is doing as president. Only 6.9 percent of Hampton Roads residents strongly approved of the job that he is doing as president, while 21.7 percent approved.



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 compared to only 3.7 percent of Democrats. Additionally, 53.7 percent of white respondents approved or strongly approved of the job Donald Trump is doing as president compared to only 3.0 percent of Black/African-American respondents.

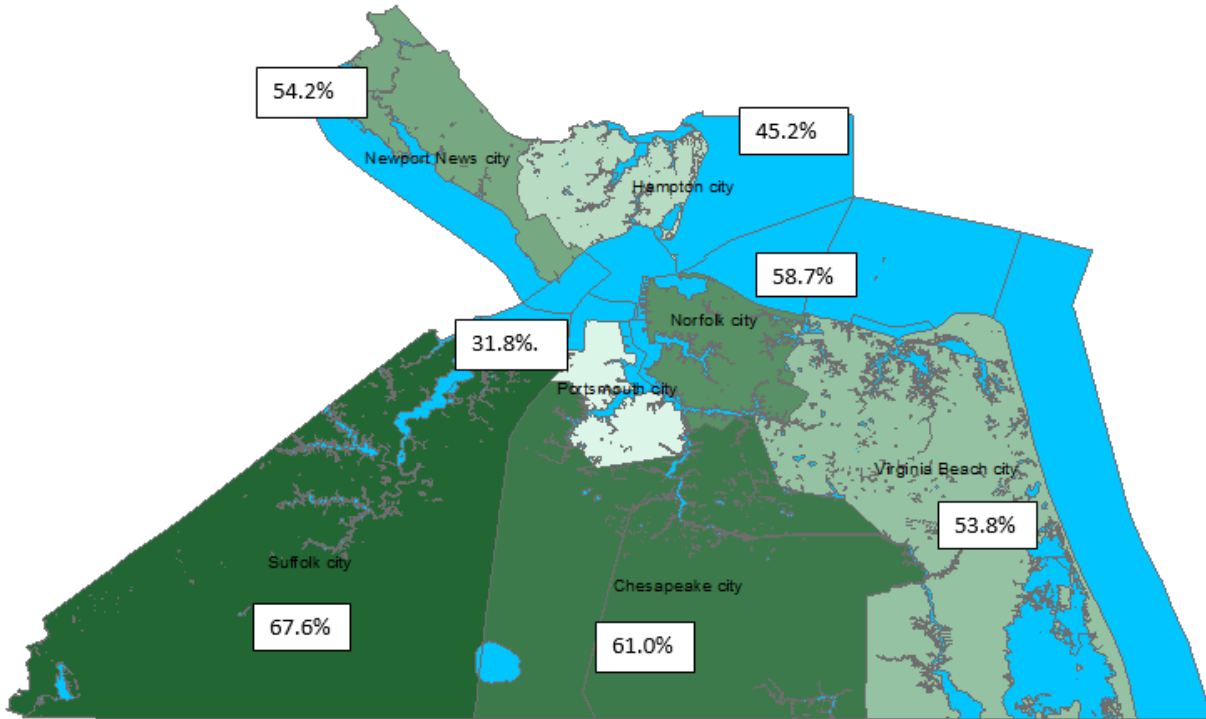


Respondents were asked to give their opinion of the ethical standards of elected officials at both the city and state level. Almost half of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that elected officials in their city (48.7%) and in Virginia state government (49.8%) have high ethical standards. Suffolk had the highest percentage of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed that elected officials in their city have high ethical standards (67.6%) and Portsmouth had the lowest percentage (31.8%).

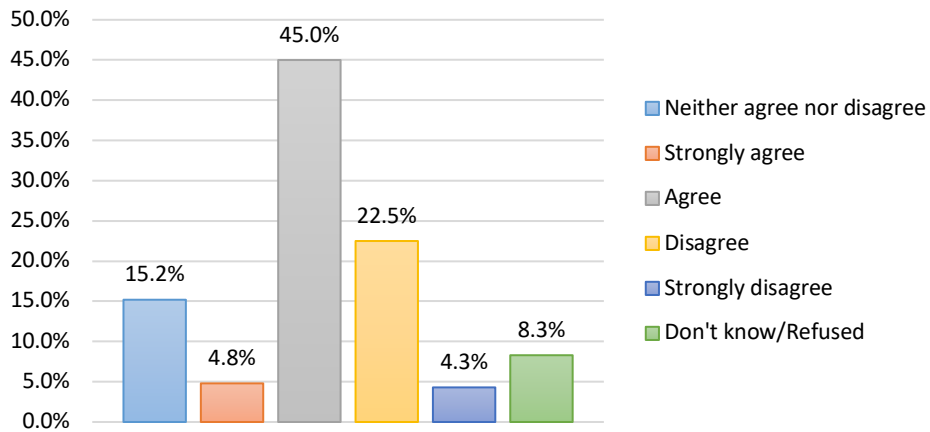


Elected officials in my cities have high ethical standards

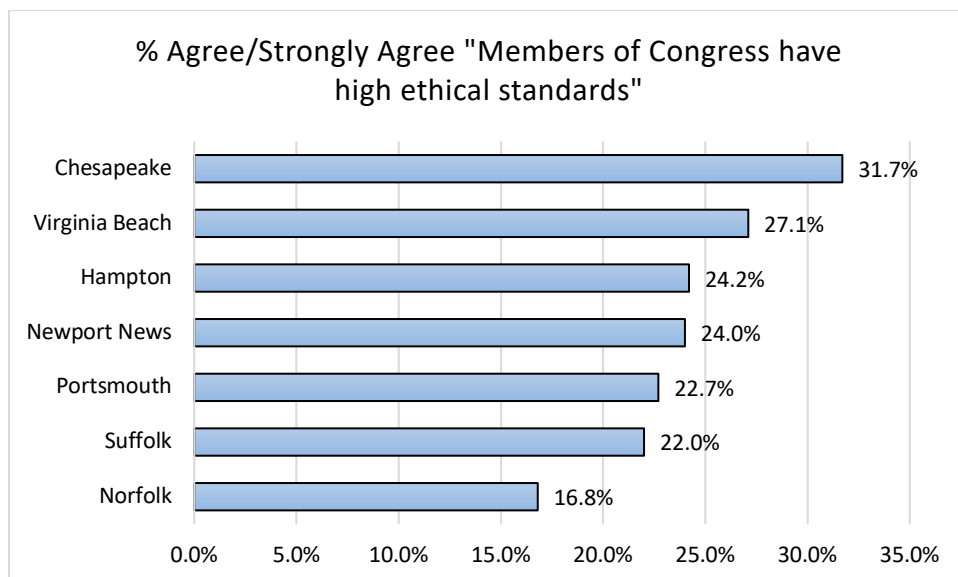
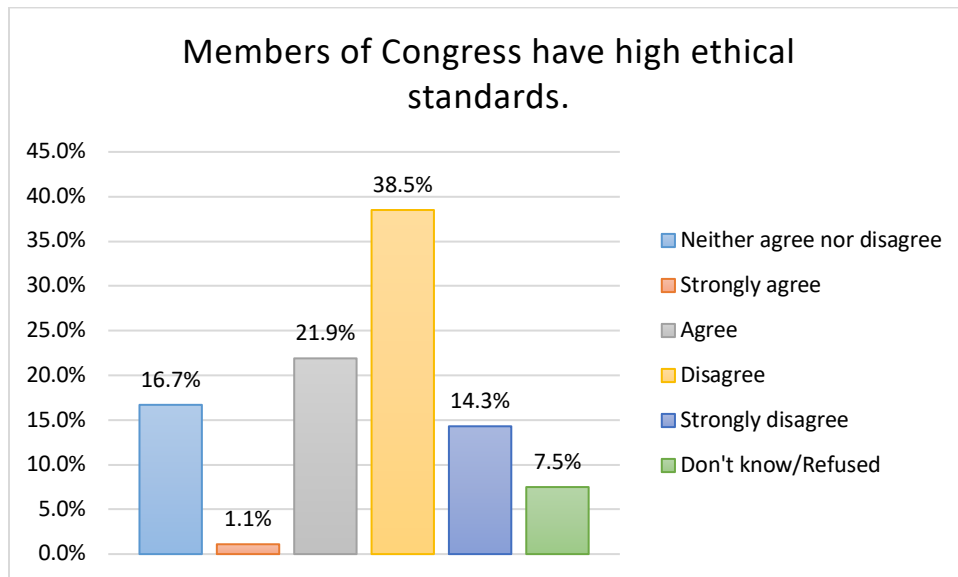
% Agree or Strongly Agree



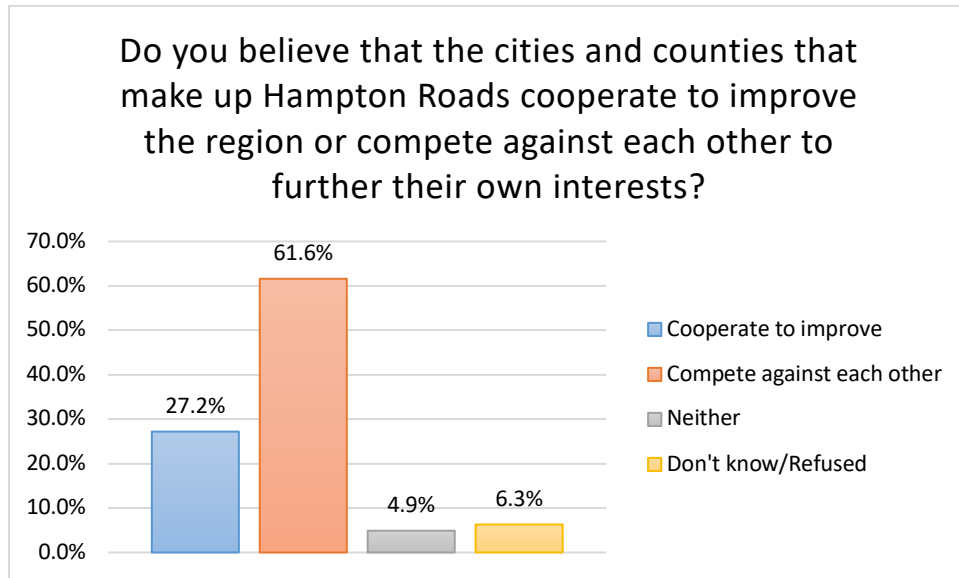
Elected officials in Virginia state government have high ethical standards.

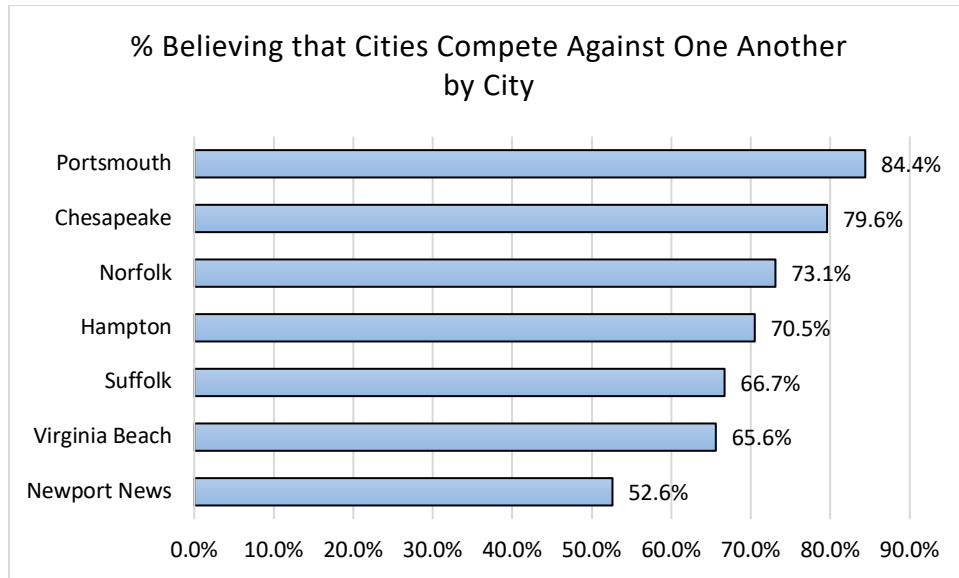


Additionally, respondents were asked if they feel that members of Congress have high ethical standards. Less than one-quarter of respondents (23.0%) either agreed or strongly agreed that members of Congress have high ethical standards. Across all of the seven cities, respondents tended to agree that members of Congress do not have high ethical standards. Chesapeake saw the largest percentage of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that members of Congress have high ethical standards, however, this was less than one-third.



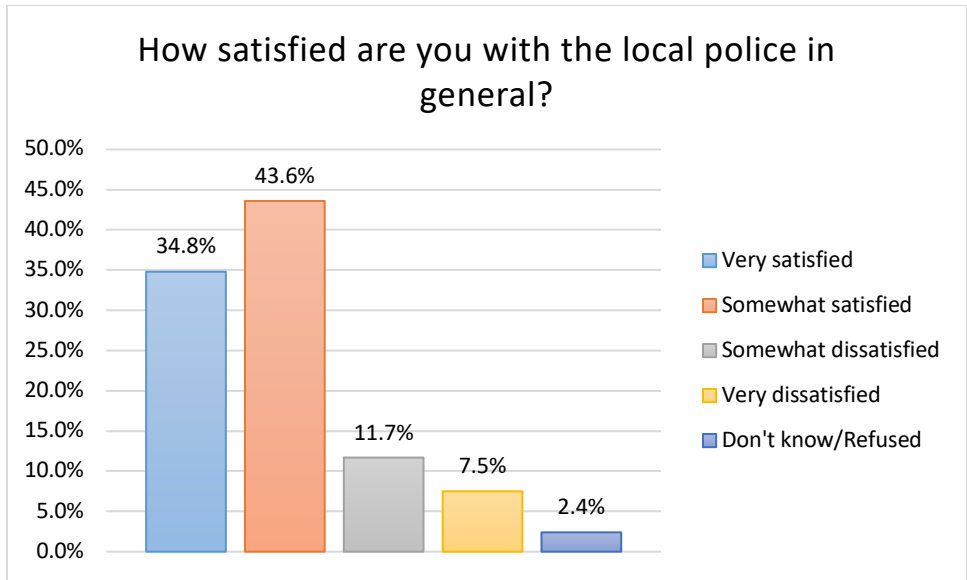
The majority of those interviewed in the 2018 Life in Hampton Roads survey (61.6%) said they believe that the cities and counties that make up Hampton Roads compete against each other to further their own interests. Conversely, only 27.2 percent feel that cities and counties in Hampton Roads cooperate to improve the region. Beliefs about competition between cities varied significantly across the cities of Hampton Roads. Even in Newport News where residents reported the most cooperation, over half (52.6%) believed the cities competed against each other. Suffolk and Virginia Beach reported somewhat higher levels of competition (66.7 and 65.6%, respectively) and in Hampton, Norfolk and Chesapeake over 70 percent reported the cities competing against one another (70.5, 73.1 and 79.6%, respectively). In Portsmouth, 84.4% of residents reported competition over cooperation between cities.



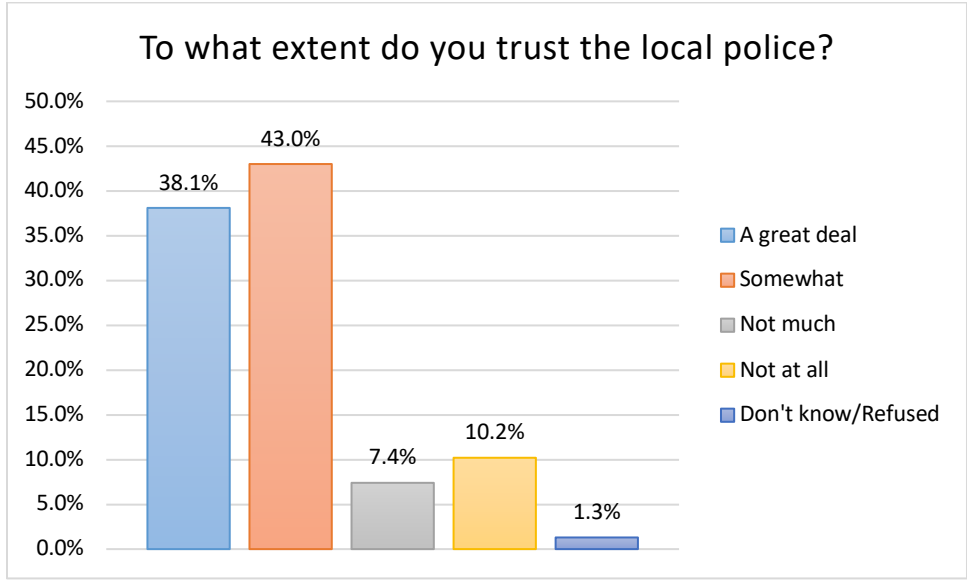


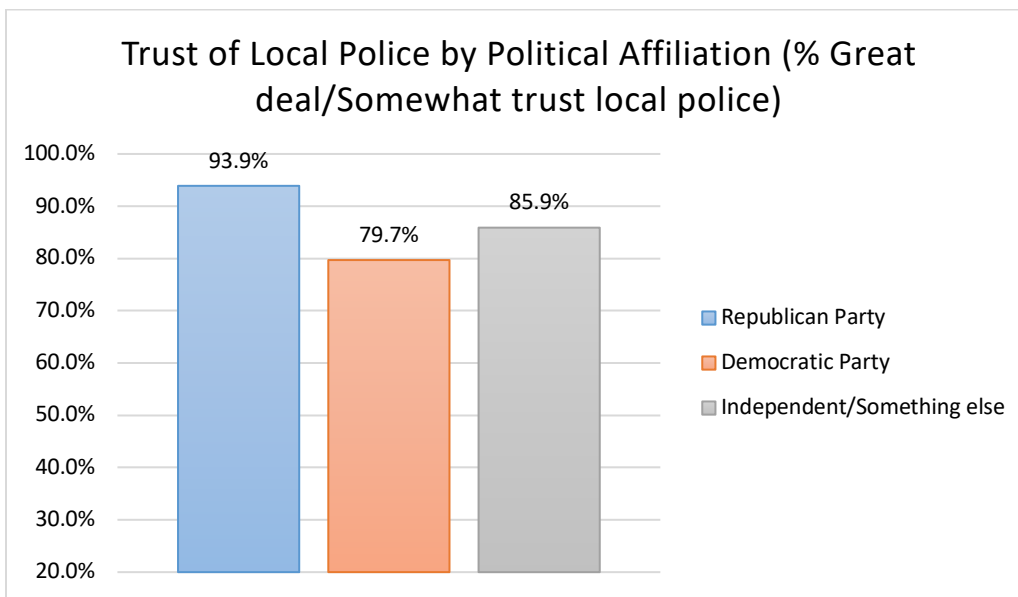
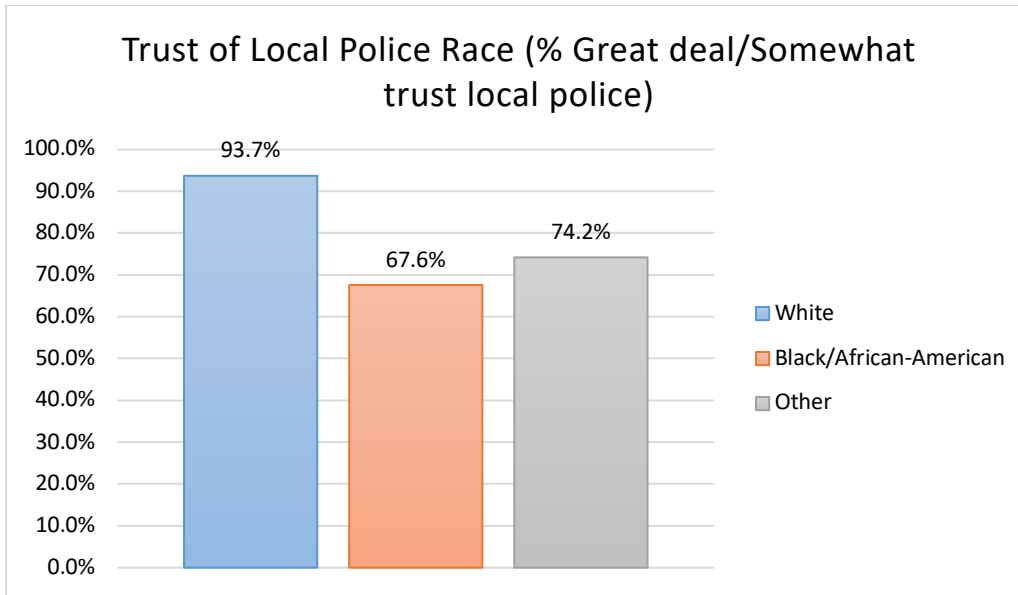
Perceptions of Local Police

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with the local police in general. The majority of respondents reported being somewhat satisfied (43.6%) and very satisfied (34.8%). Only 11.7 percent reported being somewhat dissatisfied and 7.5 percent reported being very dissatisfied with the local police. Additionally, 2.4 percent either did not know or refused to answer. Similarly, the majority of respondents either somewhat trust the police (43.0%) or trust the police a great deal (38.1%). Another 10.2 percent do not trust the police at all and 7.4 percent do not trust the police much.



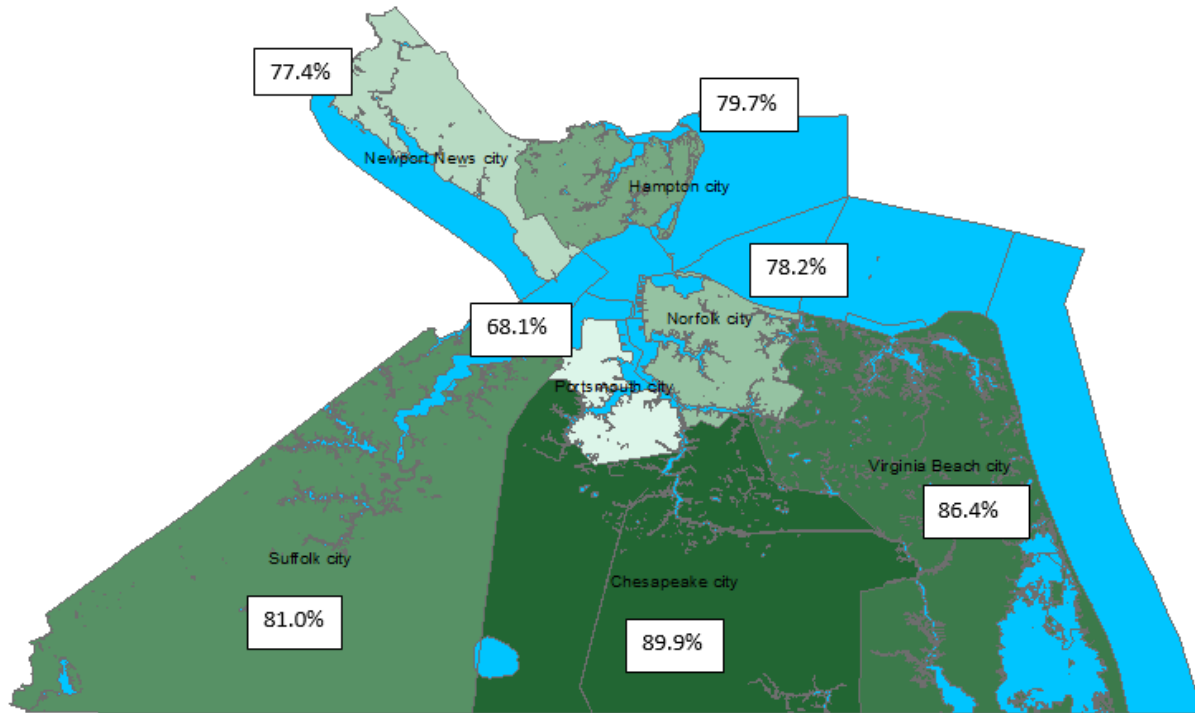
While overall trust of local police was high, there were some differences when looking at race and political affiliation. Over 90 percent (93.7%) of white respondents trust the local police a great deal or somewhat compared to only 67.6 percent of black/African-American respondents. Additionally, 93.9 percent of respondents who felt closer to the Republican Party trusted the local police a great deal or somewhat compared to only 79.7 percent of those who felt closer to the Democratic Party.





There were also significant differences across city with trust for the local police. Chesapeake (89.9%), Virginia Beach (86.4%), and Suffolk (81.0%) had the highest percentage of residents saying they trust the local police a great deal or somewhat. While Hampton (79.7%), Norfolk (78.2%), and Newport News (77.4%) were somewhat lower, Portsmouth (68.1%) was substantially lower in the percentage of residents saying they trust the local police a great deal or somewhat.

% Trusting the Local Police a Great Deal or Somewhat

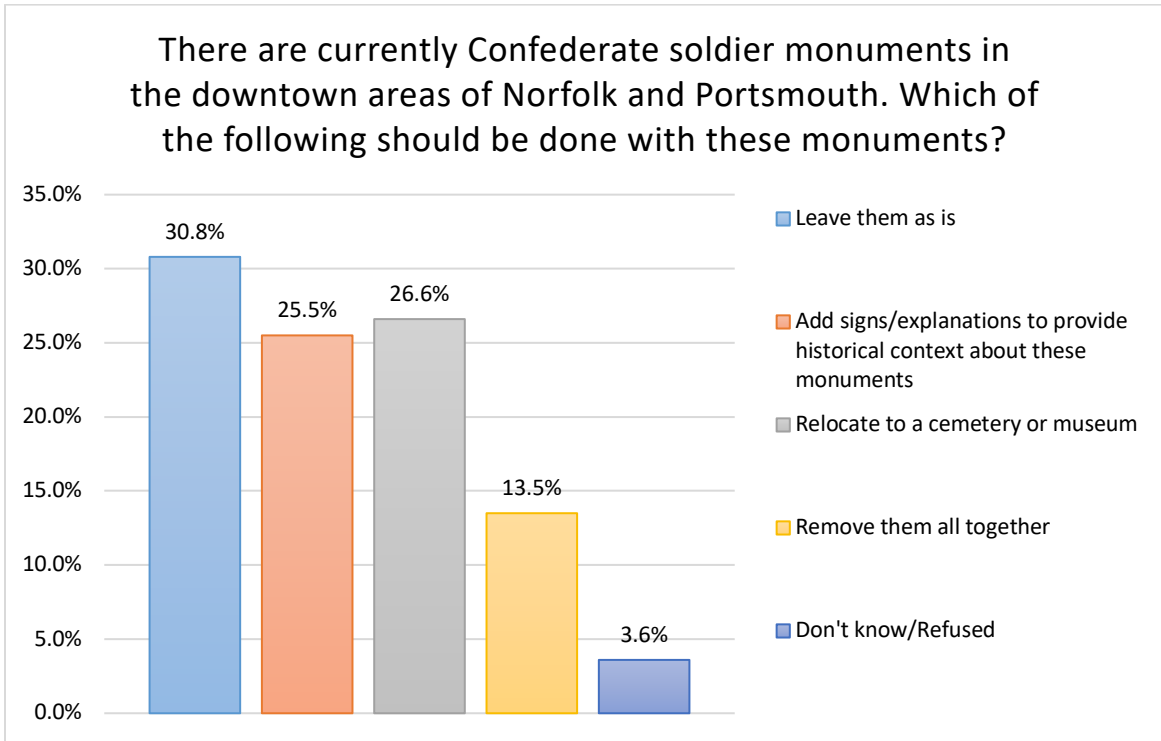


**p<.000 statistically significant, 2-tailed test

Confederate Monuments

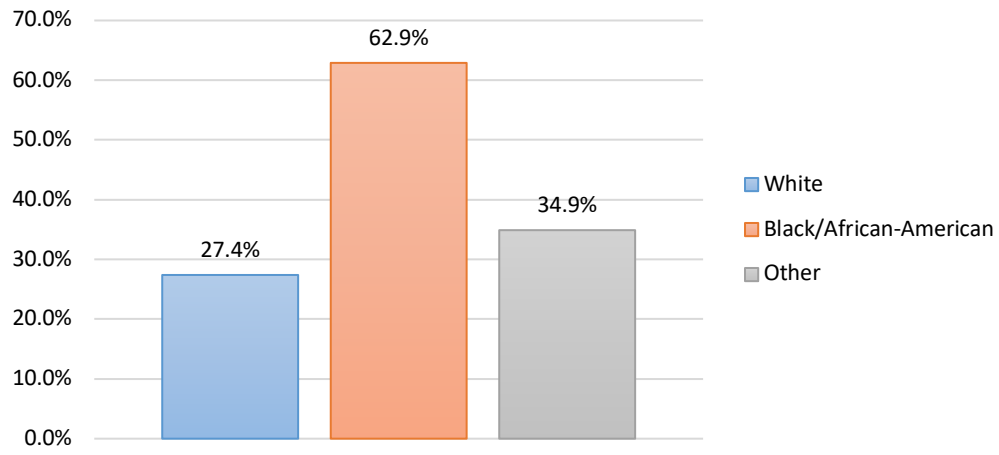
Due to the controversial nature of the confederate soldier monuments in other parts of the country and locally, the 2018 Life in Hampton Roads survey aimed to identify what residents thought should be done with monuments in downtown Norfolk and Portsmouth. While responses were mixed, just under one-third responded leave the Confederate soldier monuments as is (30.8%). About one-quarter (25.5%) of the respondents said that signs should be added providing explanations about historical context for the monuments. Another 40.1 percent thought the monuments should either be relocated to a cemetery or museum (26.6%) or removed all together (13.5%). The respondents who said that the monuments should be relocated or removed were then asked who should pay for the relocation or removal. The majority (65.2%) said that either state government (38.2%) or city government (27.0%) should pay for the

relocation or removal. Additionally, 27.2 percent said the relocation or removal should be paid for by private donations.

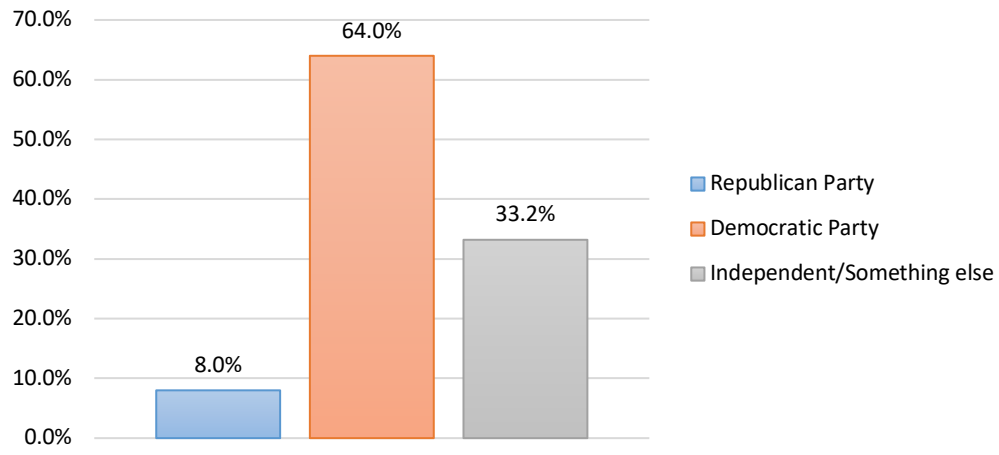


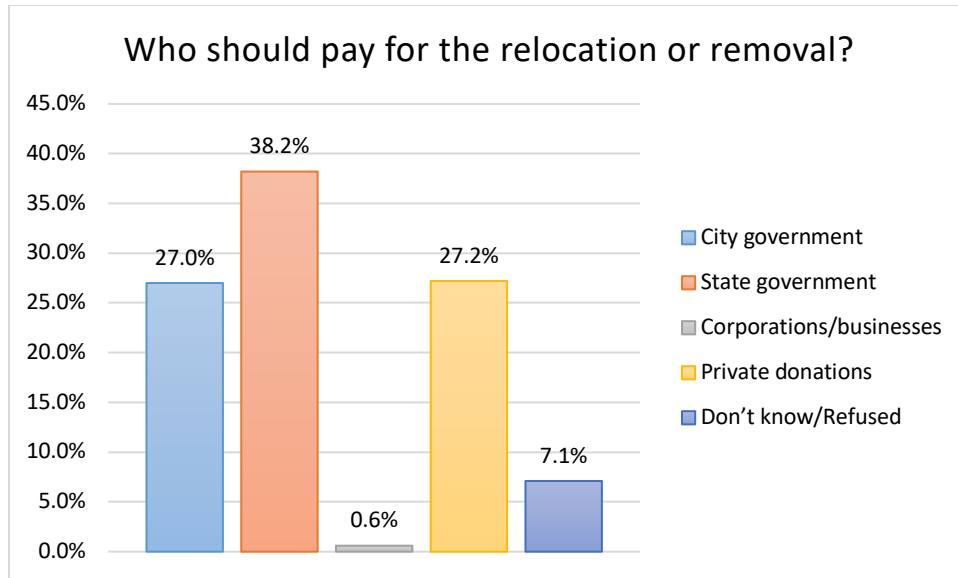
There were significant differences across race and political affiliation in regards to what should be done with the confederate monuments. Only 27.4 percent of white respondents thought the confederate monuments should be relocated or removed compared to 62.9 percent of Black/African-American respondents. Additionally, only 8.0 percent of Republicans thought the confederate monuments should be relocated or removed compared to 64.0 percent of Democrats and 33.2 percent of Independents and those who identified as something else.

% Wanting Confederate Monuments Relocated or Removed by Race



% Wanting Confederate Monuments Relocated or Removed by Political Affiliation





Only about half of respondents feel that local and state elected officials have high ethical standards and less than one-quarter feel the same for members of Congress. While trust in satisfaction with police are generally high, there are significant differences by city and race. There is also quite a bit of variation of how to handle local confederate monuments with over 40 percent indicating that they should be moved or removed all together.

All Life in Hampton Roads Data Analyses 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 2018 Life in Hampton Roads survey should be addressed to:

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