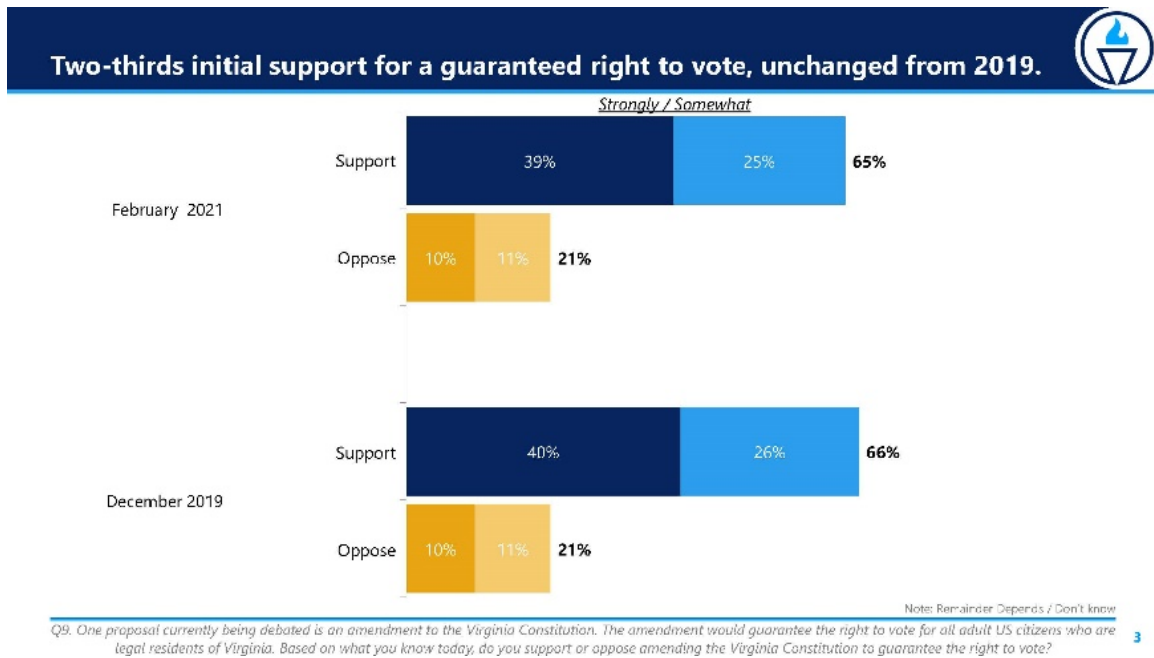


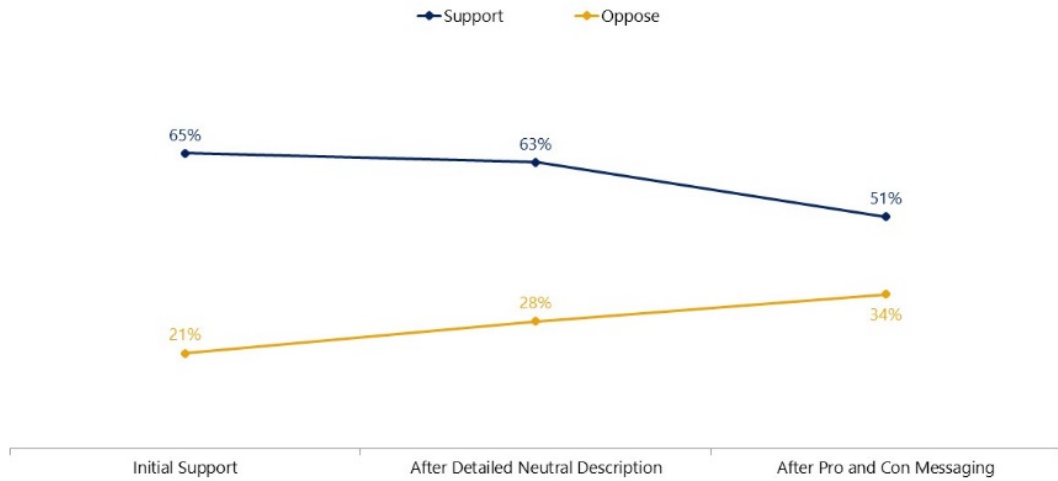
*ACLU-VA Research Poll Shows Two-Thirds of Virginia Voters Support Universal Suffrage*

A recent poll conducted for the ACLU of Virginia by Beacon Research showed strong support (65%) for a guaranteed right to vote for all Virginia citizens 18 and older. This remains virtually unchanged from a similar poll done in December 2019.



Beacon Research tested supporter, opposition and balanced messaging, and after hearing the balanced messaging, 51% of those surveyed still continued to back universal suffrage. By a narrow margin, 37% versus 30% of voters are more likely to vote for a legislator who supports the universal right to vote, especially younger voters, Black voters and those in some closely watched Senate districts.

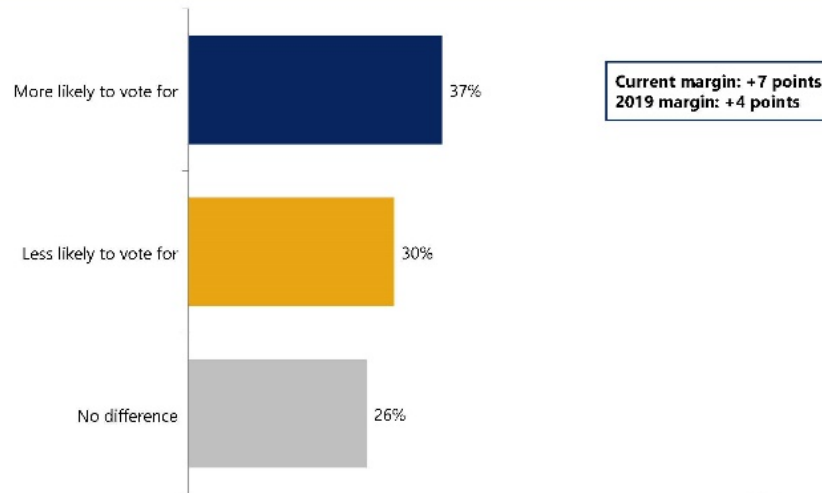
## Majority support for the amendment as voters learn more about it.



Note: Remainder Depends / Don't know

Q9, 17, 28. One proposal currently being debated is an amendment to the Virginia Constitution. The amendment would guarantee the right to vote for all adult US citizens who are legal residents of Virginia. Based on what you know today, do you support or oppose amending the Virginia Constitution to guarantee the right to vote? 1

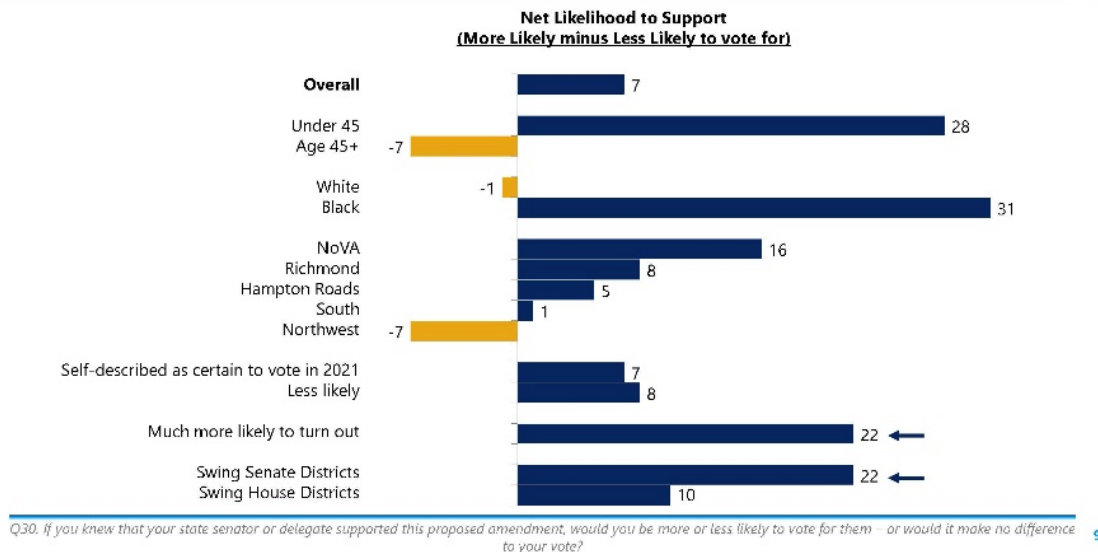
## By a narrow margin, voters are more rather than less likely to vote for a legislator who supports the Right to Vote.



Note: Remainder Don't know

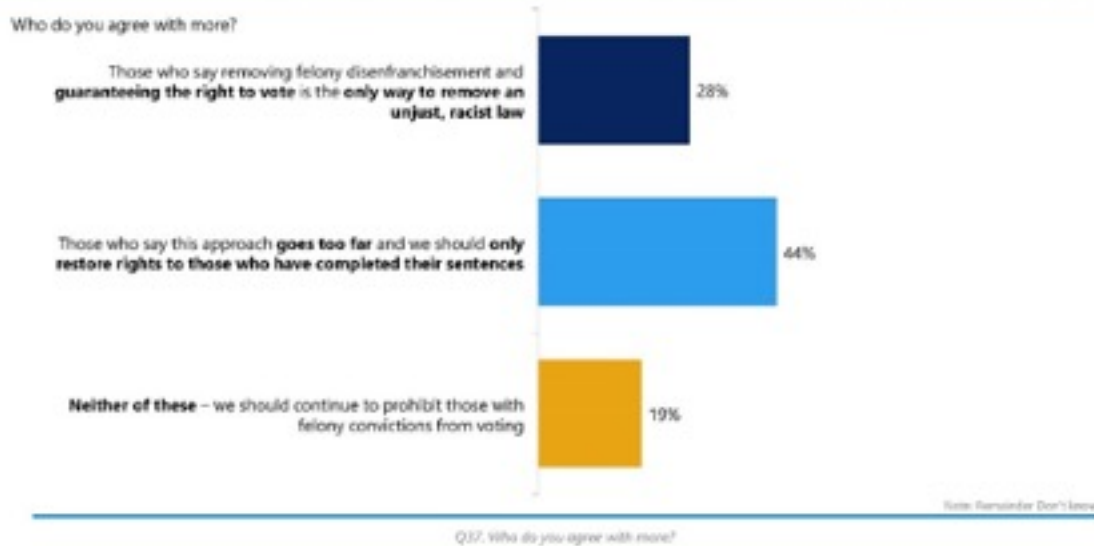
Q30. If you knew that your state senator or delegate supported this proposed amendment, would you be more or less likely to vote for them – or would it make no difference to your vote? 8

**Younger voters, Black voters, and those in swing Senate districts are notably more likely to back a reform supporter.**



The research showed that eight out of 10 voters think the status quo needs a change, and there is significant support for the bolder of the two options that would not only restore people’s rights but ensure that the racist practice of felony disenfranchisement is repealed.

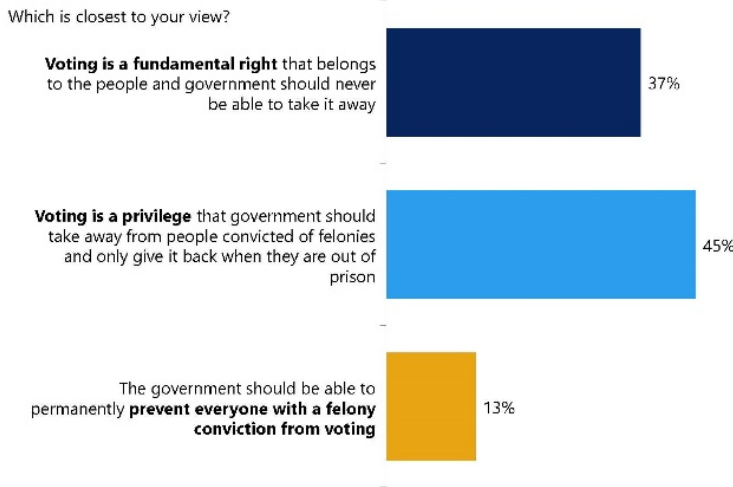
**On balance, voters lean toward a restoration-only approach – but only two-in-ten support continuing the status quo.**



Virginia remains one of three states left with a Jim Crow era policy that permanently bans a person convicted of a felony from voting. Disenfranchising people convicted of a felony was implemented specifically to suppress voting by Black Virginians during the post-reconstruction era culminating in the 1902

constitution. Felony disenfranchisement still affects Virginia today: One in seven Black Virginians can't vote because they were once convicted of a felony. This remains true even though only one in ten Virginians supports permanently taking the right to vote.

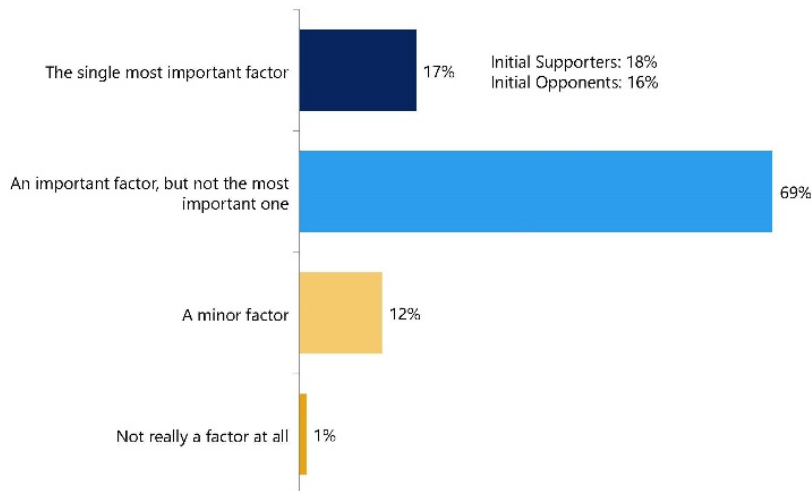
**Only one-in-ten think the government should be able to prevent those with felony convictions from voting.**

Note: Remainder Don't know

Q38. Which of the following is closest to your view?

**Eighty-six percent believe that all people having the right to vote is an important issue, with 17% of them saying it is the most important**

Note: Remainder Don't know

[IF MORE / LESS LIKELY] Q31. If you knew that your state senator or delegate supported this proposed amendment, how important a factor would it be in who you chose to support in the upcoming election? Would it be...

Beacon Research sampled 1,000 Virginia voters using an online panel on February 6-8. The sample was weighted to ensure that the sample reflects the demographics of the Virginia electorate, resulting in a margin of error of +3% at a confidence level of 95% for the entire sample, and a slightly higher margin for the subgroups.

The polling information is available here: <https://acluva.org/en/press-releases/research-poll-shows-two-thirds-virginia-voters-support-universal-suffrage>

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***About the ACLU of Virginia***

*The ACLU of Virginia promotes civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth through public education, litigation and advocacy with the goal of securing freedom and equality for all. For more information on the ACLU of Virginia go to [www.acluva.org](http://www.acluva.org).*