



Public Perceptions of Workforce and Economic Development

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Wilder School Public Policy Poll

- **What citizens think about important policy issues**
- **Annual, since 1999**
- **Statewide & by region -- large sample**

Public Policy Issues Addressed

- **Education policy**
- **Public safety & mental health policy**
- **Economic development policy**
- **Workforce policy**

Business Attraction

About half of the public thinks Virginia is doing a good or excellent job at attracting new businesses to the Commonwealth

Entrepreneurship?

Funding and training are viewed as very important for starting a new business in Virginia

Workforce Training

Majority are willing to pay more in taxes to keep funding for workforce training & development at current levels

Majority not familiar with

- **job & career opportunities**
- **training & education opportunities**
- **workforce resources**

Almost half of Virginians want

- **workforce training & education to receive most emphasis when using Virginia economic development funds**
- **¼ prefer business recruitment & ¼ prefer business retention**

In some regions, a majority perceive

- **There is no adequate public transportation access to jobs**
- **There is no affordable housing close to jobs in their area**

Wilder School and GO Virginia!

- Regional Economic Development Planning
- Economic Impact Analysis
- Regional Polling
- Program Evaluation
- Workforce Analysis
- Incentives Evaluation and Best Practices
- RFPs not required
- Low overhead

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