



Virginia Election Analysis

Updated 11/11/2005 –Unofficial results with all precincts reporting

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Democrat Tim Kaine's win in the Virginia gubernatorial election appears to be more about Kaine's ability to win over swing voters than it is about either party's ability to turn out their base. The fact that Kaine was able to score a decisive win despite both parties battling to a draw in turning out their bases bodes well for Democrats in 2006, indicating that swing voter disenchantment with Bush is taking a toll on other Republican candidates.

Kaine was able to expand the traditional Democratic base in the Northern Virginia suburbs of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax into the more exurban Loudoun and Prince William Counties.

There are 10 television markets in Virginia, but only four that account for 10% or more of the state vote. The largest of these is the Washington D.C. media market in Northern Virginia, which accounted for 33% of the votes cast in 2005, followed by Norfolk, which accounted for 21%, Roanoke, which accounted for 20%, and Richmond, which accounted for 16%. Kaine got a higher percent of the vote than Warner in the Washington D.C. and Norfolk markets, and a lower percentage than Warner in the Roanoke and Richmond markets.

Overall, Kaine exceeded Warner's 2001 percent of the major party vote in 34 of Virginia's 134 counties and independent cities, and got a lower percent in 100. Looking just at the number of counties won can be misleading as Kaine's strength was concentrated in the largest and fastest growing counties. Kaine improved on Warner's 2001 percent in all ten of the state's largest counties, in six of the ten counties with the fastest percent population growth, and in nine of the ten counties with the largest total growth. (See charts below)

**Ten largest counties based on estimated 2006 voting age population.
Sorted by estimated 2006 voting age population.**

County	Projected 2006 Voting Age Population	Governor 2001 % Dem	Governor 2005 % Dem	Change from 2001 to 2005 % Dem
RICHMOND CITY	146,054	74.1	77.1	3.0
ARLINGTON	150,844	68.9	75.6	6.7
CHESAPEAKE	158,691	46.0	51.8	5.8
NORFOLK	179,424	65.7	68.2	2.5
LOUDOUN	195,845	46.2	52.9	6.7
HENRICO	208,608	51.8	54.5	2.7
CHESTERFIELD	209,550	42.3	45.5	3.2
PRINCE WILLIAM	252,349	47.2	50.9	3.7
VIRGINIA BEACH	324,851	46.6	50.3	3.7
FAIRFAX	741,638	54.8	61.2	6.4

**Ten fastest growing counties in terms of percentage growth from 2000 to 2006.
Sorted by projected population growth rate.**

County	Projected Population Growth Rate 2000 to 2006	Governor 2001 % Dem	Governor 2005 % Dem	Change from 2001 to 2005 % Dem
NEW KENT	23.6	46.0	41.3	-4.7
JAMES CITY	24.1	49.6	50.2	0.6
ALLEGHANY	24.9	59.6	55.0	-4.6
CULPEPER	28.3	42.4	39.0	-3.4
FLUVANNA	28.4	47.7	51.1	3.4
PRINCE WILLIAM	29.2	47.2	50.9	3.7
SUFFOLK	32.6	53.3	55.2	1.9
SPOTSYLVANIA	36.2	46.0	44.8	-1.2
STAFFORD	39.3	43.5	44.6	1.1
LOUDOUN	64.5	46.2	52.9	6.7

**Ten fastest growing counties in terms of total population growth from 2000 to 2006.
Sorted by total projected population growth.**

County	Projected Population Growth 2000 to 2006	Governor 2001 % Dem	Governor 2005 % Dem	Change from 2001 to 2005 % Dem
HENRICO	11,010	51.8	54.5	2.7
SUFFOLK	14,959	53.3	55.2	1.9
VIRGINIA BEACH	16,482	46.6	50.3	3.7
CHESAPEAKE	16,790	46.0	51.8	5.8
FAIRFAX	18,153	54.8	61.2	6.4
SPOTSYLVANIA	22,887	46.0	44.8	-1.2
CHESTERFIELD	23,074	42.3	45.5	3.2
STAFFORD	24,880	43.5	44.6	1.1
PRINCE WILLIAM	56,985	47.2	50.9	3.7
LOUDOUN	76,801	46.2	52.9	6.7

Turnout is traditionally much lower in Virginia's off-year gubernatorial elections than it is in presidential years. 3.2 million Virginians voted in November 2004, compared to just under 2 million in the 2005 race for Governor (unofficial totals as of 11/11/2005). The 2005 turnout was roughly 96,000 votes more than were cast in the race for Governor in 2001. Given that Virginia's growth in voting age population over the last four years is estimated to be more than 370,000, the turnout rate was essentially unchanged.

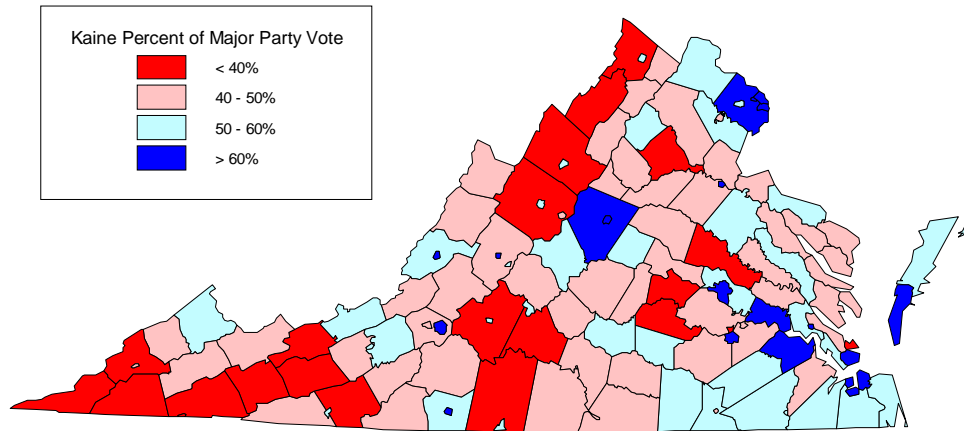
A micro-targeting model prepared by the Democratic consulting firm Strategic Telemetry identified just over one million high-probability Democratic voters who do not generally vote in off-year elections. For both parties, a key strategic task was to motivate and turn-out these sporadic voters.

There does not appear to have been a significant turnout advantage for either party. Overall the drop-off rate – the percentage of voters who cast ballots in 2004 but not in 2005 – was 37.9%. In counties won by Kerry in 2004, the drop-off rate was 39.0%, and in counties won by Bush it was slightly lower, at 37.3%. The lower drop-off rate in Republican leaning counties, combined with the fact that Virginians voted for a Democratic Governor and a Republican Lieutenant Governor further suggests that this election was decided more on persuasion than on turnout.

The map of Virginia's 2005 election results can be deceiving, as Republicans carried the majority of counties. Kaine carried only 57 of Virginia's 134 counties and independent cities, but his vote was concentrated in the largest counties.

2005 Virginia Gubernatorial Election

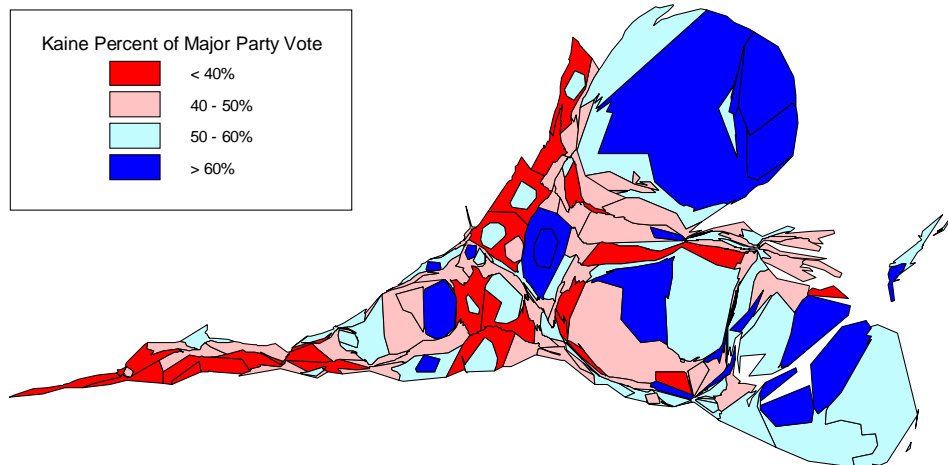
Kaine Percent of the Major Party Vote



The map below depicts Virginia's counties resized to reflect total votes cast. This much bluer map shows the strength of Kaine's base in Virginia's most populous counties.

2005 Virginia Gubernatorial Election

Kaine Percent of the Major Party Vote



Maps available for download at www.StrategicTelemetry.com.

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