



**2013 Virginia
Gubernatorial Candidate Scorecard
November 5, 2013**

THE CANDIDATES



Ken Cuccinelli (Republican)

Ken Cuccinelli is currently the Attorney General of Virginia. He was previously a member of the Senate of Virginia.



Terry McAuliffe (Democrat)

Terry McAuliffe was the chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 2001 to 2005.



Robert Sarvis (Libertarian)

Robert Sarvis is a small business Entrepreneur and small business owner.

2013 Virginia GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE SCORECARD

	Cuccinelli	McAuliffe	Sarvis
1. What role would religion play in the candidate's decision making in his or her role as Governor of Virginia? Does the candidate support a mutual separation between religion and government?	F	A	A
2. Does the candidate support a science based curriculum in public schools and reject the use of public funding of religious schools or religiously-based curriculums?	F	A	A
3. Does the candidate support social policies that do not discriminate based on religion, such as marriage equality?	F	A	A
4. Does the candidate support scientifically based regulations including science surrounding reproduction, stem cell research, climate change and other issues?	F	A	A
FINAL GRADE	F	A	A

Key:

Candidate’s remarks and/or actions toward the Secular Coalition’s stances have been:

- A:** Generally or consistently positive.
- B:** Mixed but majority positive.
- C:** Mixed, with positive and negative responses.
- F:** Generally or consistently hostile or negative.
- N/A:** At the time of publication, the Secular Coalition for America was unable to verify the candidate’s position or did not have enough information to rate the candidate.

The above chart is based on the topics and individual public candidate responses in the following sections.

INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE RESPONSES

1. What role would religion play in the candidate's decision making in his or her role as Governor of Virginia? Does the candidate support a mutual separation between religion and government?

	Cuccinelli	McAuliffe	Sarvis
What role would religion play in the candidate's decision making in his or her role as Governor of Virginia? Does the candidate support a mutual separation between religion and government?	F	A	A

- **Cuccinelli:** He has previously encouraged Churches to be more politically active in opposing same sex marriage and abortion.¹
- **McAuliffe:** Although his is a life-long Catholic, he appears to keep his personal religious beliefs separate from his political views and/or the policy decisions he would make as a potential legislator. From Think Progress, "...he is a serious Catholic who regularly attends Mass and went to both Catholic University and Georgetown Law. You wouldn't know from any of his current campaign materials that this strong faith has any bearing whatsoever on what he believes in politically.
- **Sarvis:** Lists his religion as "private" on Vote Smart.² Appears to keep his personal religious beliefs separate from his political views and/or the policy decisions he would make as a potential legislator.

2. Does the candidate support a science-based curriculum in public schools and reject the use of public funding of religious schools or religiously-based curriculums?

	Cuccinelli	McAuliffe	Sarvis
Does the candidate support a science-based curriculum in public schools and reject the use of public funding of religious schools or religiously-based curriculums?	F	A	A

- **Cuccinelli:** Cuccinelli supports abstinence only education.³
- **McAuliffe:** Does not support school vouchers (roughly 80 percent of which are used to pay for religious school tuition).⁴ He endorses age-appropriate sex education.⁵

¹ "Polluting the Pulpit?: Virginia Attorney General Urges (Right-Wing) Churches to Be Political," Secular Coalition for America, June 2011;

<http://secular.org/blogs/rob-boston/polluting-pulpit-virginia-attorney-general-urges-right-wing-churches-be-political>

² "Robert Sarvis' Issue Positions (Political Courage Test)" Vote Smart;

<http://votesmart.org/candidate/political-courage-test/134537/robert-sarvis/- .UbtGxPY6U3w>

³ "Funding for Abstinence-Only Programs Eliminated," WTOP, Nov 2011;

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1291460>

- **Sarvis:** Supports sexual education and is opposed to abstinence only education.⁶

3. Does the candidate support social policies that do not discriminate based on religion, such as marriage equality?

	Cuccinelli	McAuliffe	Sarvis
Does the candidate support social policies that do not discriminate based on religion, such as marriage equality and LGBT issues?	F	A	A

- **Cuccinelli:** Cuccinelli fought hard to keep Virginia's anti-sodomy laws on the books, despite a 2003 Supreme Court ruling in Lawrence v. Texas that declared all such laws unconstitutional. Said he still believes that "same-sex acts are against nature and harmful to society."⁷
- **McAuliffe:** According to On the Issues McAuliffe supports reducing discrimination based on religion.⁸ McAuliffe endorses same sex marriage.⁹
- **Sarvis:** Supports marriage equality.¹⁰

4. Does the candidate support scientifically based regulations including science surrounding reproduction, stem cell research, climate change and other issues?

	Cuccinelli	McAuliffe	Sarvis
Does the candidate support scientifically based regulations including science surrounding reproduction, stem cell research, climate change and other issues?	F	A	A

- **Cuccinelli:** Wants to defund stem cell research.¹¹ Blocked legislation¹² that would have allowed existing reproductive clinics in Virginia to remain open last year.¹³ He strongly supports a so-

⁴ "Acceptance Speech of Terry McAuliffe The DNC's New Chair" coup2k, retrieved June 13 2013; <http://www.coup2k.com/mcauliffe.html>

⁵ "Endorsement Questionnaire" LGBT Democrats of Virginia, May 2013; <http://lgbtvadem.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/13PACQ-GOV-Terry-McAuliffe.pdf>

⁶ "Virginia State Legislative election 2011 Political courage Test" Vote Smart; <http://votesmart.org/candidate/political-courage-test/134537/robert-sarvis/- .UbjlhvY6U3w>

⁷ Brydum, Sunnive, "WATCH: Ken Cuccinelli Still Abhors the 'Personal Challenge of Homosexuality'," Advocate.com, July, 21, 2013; <http://www.advocate.com/politics/2013/07/21/watch-ken-cuccinelli-still-abhors-personal-challenge-homosexuality>

⁸ "Terry McAuliffe on Civil Rights" OnTheIssues, Aug 2000; http://www.ontheissues.org/Governor/Terry_McAuliffe_Civil_Rights.htm

⁹ "McAuliffe Endorses Same-Sex Marriage" Washington Blade, Feb 2013; <http://www.washingtonblade.com/2013/02/22/mcauliffe-endorses-same-sex-marriage/>

¹⁰ "In support of Marriage Equality," Sarvis for Governor, 2013; http://www.robertsarvis.com/campaign/marriage_equality

¹¹ "2009 Session," Virginia's Legislative Information System, 2009; <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?091+amd+SB1338ASR>

called "personhood amendment" to the Virginia constitution, that would effectively outlaw abortion as well as several types of birth control (e.g., the "morning after" pill).¹⁴ Received 0% ratings from NARAL Pro-choice Virginia¹⁵ and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia.¹⁶ Cuccinelli does not support climate change science.¹⁷ He has waged what the National Journal termed a "crusade against the science of climate change." He launched a "two-year investigation of University of Virginia climate scientist Michael Mann—which the Virginia Supreme Court eventually shut down and...sued to block the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating the fossil-fuel pollution that causes global warming," the National Journal reported.¹⁸

- **McAuliffe:** McAuliffe supports a woman's reproductive rights¹⁹ and Planned Parenthood endorses him based on his positions on these issues.²⁰ Supports stem cells for research. In a 2004 Meet the Press interview, he said, "The physicists, the medical technicians who deal in this area say that the stem cells that the president has authorized won't do us any good. They won't help us with diabetes or spina bifida. We need much broader, newer embryonic stem cells in order to do the research that we need to help Americans across this country."²¹
- **Sarvis:** Affirms that human activity is contributing to climate change. Supports stem cell research, including state funding for embryonic stem cell research.²² Supports abortion at least in cases of incest, rape, or when the woman is endangered. In a candidate questionnaire, he responded, "there is support, even in the 35th District, for restricting medically unnecessary late-term abortions, but there is not support in the 35th District for banning early-term

¹² Sheppard, Kate, "Cuccinelli Blocks Virginia Regulation Protecting Existing Abortion Clinics," Mother Jones, July 17, 2012; <http://www.motherjones.com/mojo/2012/07/cuccinelli-blocks-virginia-regulation-protecting-existing-abortion-clinics>

¹³ Brydum, Sunnive, "WATCH: Ken Cuccinelli Still Abhors the 'Personal Challenge of Homosexuality'," Advocate.com, July, 21, 2013; <http://www.advocate.com/politics/2013/07/21/watch-ken-cuccinelli-still-abhors-personal-challenge-homosexuality>

¹⁴ Vozzella, Laura, "Cuccinelli, 5 legislators honored by Christian Alliance," Washington Post, August 7, 2012; http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/virginia-politics/post/cuccinelli-5-legislators-honored-by-christian-alliance/2012/08/07/be4e872c-e0d0-11e1-a421-8bf0f0e5aa11_blog.html

¹⁵ "Attorney General Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II's Special Interest Group Ratings", Vote Smart, 2009; <http://votesmart.org/candidate/evaluations/50871/ken-cuccinelli-ii-.UbnXrfY6U3w>

¹⁶ "Attorney General Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II's Special Interest Group Ratings", Vote Smart, 2009; <http://votesmart.org/candidate/evaluations/50871/ken-cuccinelli-ii-.UbnXrfY6U3w>

¹⁷ "Refuting Cuccinelli Denier Petition, Virginia Climate Scientists See 'Great Risk' from Greenhouse Gases" ThinkProgress, Feb 2010; <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2010/02/18/174567/virginia-climatologist-conspiracy/>

¹⁸ "Can Climate-Change Denier Ken Cuccinelli Win a Swing State?" National Journal, May 2013; <http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/can-climate-change-denier-ken-cuccinelli-win-a-swing-state-20130303>

¹⁹ "Terry McAuliffe on Abortion" OnTheIssues, March 2013; http://www.ontheissues.org/Governor/Terry_McAuliffe_Abortion.htm

²⁰ "Planned Parenthood endorses McAuliffe in Va. Governor's race" myfoxdc, May 2013; <http://www.myfoxdc.com/story/22264215/planned-parenthood-endorses-mcauliffe-.axzz2W6rVJ3HP>

²¹ "NBC NEWS' MEET THE PRESS.", NBC News, Oct 2004; http://www.nbcnews.com/id/6321456/ns/meet_the_press/t/transcript-october/- .UbnvivY6U3w

²² "Virginia State Legislative election 2011 Political courage Test" Vote Smart; <http://votesmart.org/candidate/political-courage-test/134537/robert-sarvis/- .UbjlhvY6U3w>

abortions. The vast majority of voters don't want this election hinging on divisive, social-wedge issues. And neither do I.”²³

Methodology

Candidates were graded only on questions for which the Secular Coalition was able to identify the candidates' position—either through statements or previous actions. For each response, the candidates were given a grade of A, B, C or F. An "A" grade earned the candidate 3 points, "B" earned 2 points, "C" earned 1 point and an "F" earned 0 points. Grades of "N/A" indicate that the Secular Coalition was unable to identify the candidate's position on the given topic. The grades were averaged for a total. N/A grades were not factored into the candidate's score.

Averages were compiled on the following scale:

A = 2.25 – 3.0
B = 1.50 – 2.24
C = 0.75 – 1.49
F = 0.0 – 0.74



The Secular Coalition for America is a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization whose purpose is to amplify the diverse and growing voice of the nontheistic community in the United States. The Secular Coalition represents [11 member organizations](#), more than 127 [endorsing organizations](#) and millions of Americans who support a firm separation of religion and government. The Secular Coalition for America lobbies at the federal level, in Washington, D.C. and state chapters lobby at the state level.



The Secular Coalition for Virginia is an established state chapter of the Secular Coalition for America, which lobbies state lawmakers on behalf of secular Americans in South Carolina.

For more information on the Secular Coalition for Virginia, visit <http://states.secular.org/states/virginia>

²³ “Virginia State Legislative election 2011 Political courage Test” Vote Smart;

<http://votesmart.org/candidate/political-courage-test/134537/robert-sarvis/- .UbjlhvY6U3w>