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New Poll Shows Violet Ahead in Governor Race as Voters Put Economy, Healthcare First

The poll puts Kurt Violet, who says he has not decided whether to run, at 19.6 percent, just ahead of Stacey Plaskett at 18.8 percent, while Tregenza Roach at 9.4 percent and Donna Frett-Gregory at 8 percent trail well behind in the early field overall.

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Senator Kurt Violet and Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett.

A new public opinion poll in the U.S. Virgin Islands shows Senator Kurt Violet narrowly leading a hypothetical gubernatorial field, with Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett close behind and “Other Candidate/Not Listed” running a strong third, while economy and jobs and healthcare and hospital care emerged as the top issues facing the territory.

The poll, presented as official public opinion poll results by Rattan Polling Service, covered the period from February 10 to March 28, 2026. The graphic lists a sample size of 500 ballots and a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percent. It says the polling covered St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John and was conducted through paper ballots and telephone interviews. It states that the results were weighted by island population and demographic distribution and reflect public opinion during the field period only.

Asked who they would vote for governor if the election were held today, 19.6 percent, or 98 respondents, chose Kurt Vialet. Stacey Plaskett followed at 18.8 percent, or 94 respondents. "Other Candidate/Not Listed" received 18.0 percent, or 90 respondents. Tregenza Roach drew 9.4 percent, or 47 respondents, while Donna Frett Gregory received 8.0 percent, or 40 respondents.

The rest of the field polled in single digits. Warren Mosler received 2.8 percent, or 14 respondents. Positive Nelson had 2.6 percent, or 13 respondents. Jed John-Hope drew 2.4 percent, or 12 respondents. Gustav James received 2.2 percent, or 11 respondents, and Randolph Bennett polled at 2.0 percent, or 10 respondents. Adlah "Foncie" Donastorg and Stephen "Smokey" Frett each drew 1.6 percent, or 8 respondents, while Almando "Rocky" Liburd polled at 1.2 percent, or 6 respondents. No Response or Undecided accounted for 3.0 percent, or 15 respondents.

In terms of district support, Plaskett's backing was evenly split between St. Croix and St. Thomas, at 50 percent each. Vialet's support broke 60 percent from St. Croix and 40 percent from St. Thomas. Roach's support split 40 percent from St. Croix and 60 percent from St. Thomas, while Donna Frett Gregory's support broke 30 percent from St. Croix and 70 percent from St. Thomas. According to poll director Raymond James, the sample was not evenly divided between districts. He said the split was 60 percent St. Croix, 38 percent St. Thomas and 2 percent St. John.

On the question of the territory's most important issue, economy and jobs ranked first at 17.8 percent, or 89 respondents. Healthcare and hospital care followed at 16.4 percent, or 82 respondents. Cost of living came next at 13.2 percent, or 66 respondents, followed by corruption at 11.0 percent, or 55 respondents. Roads and infrastructure and crime and public safety were tied at 9.8 percent, or 49 respondents each. Education followed at 8.6 percent, or 48 respondents, restart oil refinery drew 8.0 percent, or 43 respondents, and homeownership came in at 6.0 percent, or 30 respondents.

The voter participation snapshot in the graphic listed registered voter participation at 16.0 percent, or 80 respondents. It listed male participation at 17.2 percent, or 86 respondents, and female participation at 13.4 percent, or 67 respondents.

Every person listed in the governor question, except Senator Kurt Vialet, has in one form or another signaled an intention to seek the office of governor. Whether this poll influences Vialet's thinking remains to be seen. Vialet told the Consortium he has not decided what he will do. He previously ran for governor in 2022 and lost to Governor Albert Bryan Jr.

The list includes Donna Frett-Gregory, the former senator who left the Senate in 2024 as talk swirled around a 2026 gubernatorial run; Stacey Plaskett, the current delegate to Congress, now serving her twelfth year in office; Tregenza Roach, the current lieutenant governor serving the last year of Governor Bryan's final term; and Warren Mosler, a local businessman who has run unsuccessfully for several offices, including governor and Congress. It also includes Gustav James, a former commissioner; Randolph Bennett, a former commissioner; Almando "Rocky" Liburd, a former senator; and Positive Nelson, a former senator, among others.

