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Close WV Dem gov. primary, Capito runs away with GOP

Raleigh, N.C. – A Shelley Moore Capito candidacy would be an instant field-clearer on the Republican side of the West Virginia gubernatorial picture, and if she remains as strong in the general election as Wednesday's release showed, she could be a shoo-in all the way to October. But whoever her Democratic opponent ends up being will have a tougher road. Acting Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, only in office for a couple months, does not have the strength of a usual incumbent, and several Democrats see an opportunity to ascend to the state house, including popular Secretary of State Natalie Tennant, who essentially ties Tomblin, with State Treasurer John Perdue not far behind.

Capito is the favorite of 72% of her party faithful. Her closest competitor, at 10%, is former Secretary of State Betty Ireland, with state senator Clark Barnes at 5%, and attorney Mark Sorsaia and state GOP chairman Mike Stuart barely registering at 1% apiece. If Capito decides to keep her House seat now that the Republicans are in the majority, or chooses instead to challenge Joe Manchin for Senate, Ireland would take her place, with 46% ahead of Barnes' 11%, Sorsaia's 9%, and Stuart's 4%. But Capito's void would leave three times as many undecided as before.

Across the aisle, Tomblin is holding onto an insignificant 25-24 lead over Tennant, with Perdue at 16%, acting state Senate President Jeff Kessler at 7%, state House Speaker Rick Thompson at 6%, state Senate President Pro Tem Brooks McCabe at 4%, and 17% undecided—meaning this race is pretty wide open. All of these candidates appear at least somewhat likely to run, and several have already created websites and campaign organizations.

But in a short primary campaign, Tomblin and Tennant, as the best known, have a clear advantage. Which of them is the victor depends on who turns out. West Virginia's Democrats are unusually conservative, with more (31%) claiming to be right of center than left (21%). Among the moderate near-majority, Tennant edges Tomblin, 26-23. But the other two ideological groups diverge, with Tennant holding a 29-18-17 lead over Tomblin and Perdue with liberals, and Tomblin dominating, 32-17-17, with conservatives, providing for his overall razor-thin edge.

PPP surveyed 686 usual West Virginia Democratic primary voters, with a +/-3.7% margin of error, and 355 usual Republican primary voters, with a +/-5.2% margin of error, from January 20th to 23rd. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



West Virginia Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's job performance?

Approve..... 52% *Not sure* 33%
Disapprove..... 15%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Perdue?

Favorable..... 35%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure 47%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Natalie Tennant?

Favorable..... 51%
Unfavorable 15%
Not sure 33%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Thompson?

Favorable..... 20%
Unfavorable 15%
Not sure..... 64%

Q5 If the Democratic candidates for Governor were Jeff Kessler, Brooks McCabe, John Perdue, Natalie Tennant, Rick Thompson, and Earl Ray Tomblin who would you vote for?

Jeff Kessler..... 7%
Brooks McCabe 4%
John Perdue 16%
Natalie Tennant..... 24%
Rick Thompson..... 6%
Earl Ray Tomblin..... 25%
Undecided..... 17%

Q6 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 21%
Moderate..... 48%
Conservative..... 31%

Q7 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 55%
Man..... 45%

Q8 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 9%
30 to 45..... 19%
46 to 65..... 48%
Older than 65..... 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Tomblin Approval				
Approve	52%	58%	53%	46%
Disapprove	15%	14%	15%	17%
Not sure	33%	28%	32%	37%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Perdue Favorability				
Favorable	35%	42%	38%	27%
Unfavorable	18%	15%	18%	21%
Not sure	47%	43%	44%	52%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Tennant Favorability				
Favorable	51%	59%	55%	41%
Unfavorable	15%	14%	12%	22%
Not sure	33%	27%	33%	37%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Thompson Favorability				
Favorable	20%	25%	22%	16%
Unfavorable	15%	14%	15%	16%
Not sure	64%	61%	63%	68%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 Dem Gov Primary				
Jeff Kessler	7%	10%	7%	6%
Brooks McCabe	4%	8%	5%	2%
John Perdue	16%	17%	16%	17%
Natalie Tennant	24%	29%	26%	17%
Rick Thompson	6%	4%	7%	6%
Earl Ray Tomblin	25%	18%	23%	32%
Undecided	17%	14%	16%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Tomblin Approval			
Approve	52%	51%	53%
Disapprove	15%	14%	17%
Not sure	33%	35%	30%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perdue Favorability			
Favorable	35%	33%	38%
Unfavorable	18%	16%	22%
Not sure	47%	52%	41%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Tennant Favorability			
Favorable	51%	53%	49%
Unfavorable	15%	13%	19%
Not sure	33%	34%	32%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Thompson Favorability			
Favorable	20%	17%	25%
Unfavorable	15%	15%	16%
Not sure	64%	68%	59%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 Dem Gov Primary			
Jeff Kessler	7%	5%	10%
Brooks McCabe	4%	4%	4%
John Perdue	16%	17%	16%
Natalie Tennant	24%	28%	19%
Rick Thompson	6%	6%	7%
Earl Ray Tomblin	25%	24%	27%
Undecided	17%	17%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Tomblin Approval					
Approve	52%	56%	54%	50%	53%
Disapprove	15%	21%	21%	13%	12%
Not sure	33%	24%	25%	37%	35%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perdue Favorability					
Favorable	35%	38%	25%	37%	38%
Unfavorable	18%	15%	33%	15%	14%
Not sure	47%	47%	42%	48%	47%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Tennant Favorability					
Favorable	51%	38%	46%	55%	54%
Unfavorable	15%	15%	19%	16%	12%
Not sure	33%	47%	34%	30%	33%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Thompson Favorability					
Favorable	20%	21%	22%	21%	18%
Unfavorable	15%	18%	22%	13%	13%
Not sure	64%	62%	55%	66%	68%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 Dem Gov Primary					
Jeff Kessler	7%	9%	3%	9%	7%
Brooks McCabe	4%	-	4%	5%	5%
John Perdue	16%	32%	18%	13%	15%
Natalie Tennant	24%	24%	21%	25%	24%
Rick Thompson	6%	3%	10%	6%	5%
Earl Ray Tomblin	25%	24%	30%	25%	22%
Undecided	17%	9%	13%	18%	21%





West Virginia Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Shelley Moore Capito?

Favorable..... 78%
Unfavorable 9%
Not sure 13%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Clark Barnes?

Favorable..... 9%
Unfavorable 12%
Not sure 79%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Betty Ireland?

Favorable..... 38%
Unfavorable 11%
Not sure 51%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Stuart?

Favorable..... 7%
Unfavorable 10%
Not sure 83%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 60%
Unfavorable 19%
Not sure 21%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

Favorable.....76% *Not sure*15%
Unfavorable 9%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable..... 69%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure 12%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 56%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure 25%

Q9 If the Republican candidates for Governor were Clark Barnes, Shelley Moore Capito, Betty Ireland, Mark Sorsaia, and Mike Stuart who would you vote for?

Clark Barnes..... 5%
Shelley Moore Capito..... 72%
Betty Ireland..... 10%
Mark Sorsaia..... 1%
Mike Stuart..... 1%
Undecided..... 10%

Q10 If the Republican candidates for Governor were just Clark Barnes, Betty Ireland, Mark Sorsaia, and Mike Stuart who would you vote for?

Clark Barnes..... 11%
Betty Ireland..... 46%
Mark Sorsaia..... 9%
Mike Stuart..... 4%
Undecided..... 31%





Q11 If the Republican candidates for President next year were Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and John Thune who would you vote for?

<i>Mitch Daniels</i>	2%
<i>Newt Gingrich</i>	17%
<i>Mike Huckabee</i>	28%
<i>Sarah Palin</i>	23%
<i>Ron Paul</i>	6%
<i>Tim Pawlenty</i>	5%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	10%
<i>John Thune</i>	0%
<i>Someone else/Undecided</i>	8%

Q12 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

<i>Liberal</i>	4%
<i>Moderate</i>	26%
<i>Conservative</i>	70%

Q13 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	49%
<i>Man</i>	51%

Q14 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i>	5%
<i>30 to 45</i>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	48%
<i>Older than 65</i>	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Capito Favorability				
Favorable	78%	44%	77%	81%
Unfavorable	9%	32%	9%	8%
Not sure	13%	24%	14%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Barnes Favorability				
Favorable	9%	14%	7%	9%
Unfavorable	12%	20%	13%	11%
Not sure	79%	67%	80%	80%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Ireland Favorability				
Favorable	38%	29%	33%	41%
Unfavorable	11%	14%	14%	10%
Not sure	51%	57%	53%	50%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Stuart Favorability				
Favorable	7%	14%	6%	7%
Unfavorable	10%	7%	11%	9%
Not sure	83%	79%	82%	84%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	60%	39%	40%	69%
Unfavorable	19%	54%	36%	10%
Not sure	21%	7%	24%	21%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	76%	68%	57%	84%
Unfavorable	9%	14%	17%	6%
Not sure	15%	18%	26%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	69%	64%	53%	75%
Unfavorable	18%	36%	34%	12%
Not sure	12%	-	12%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	56%	56%	46%	60%
Unfavorable	18%	33%	21%	16%
Not sure	25%	11%	33%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/ Capito				
Clark Barnes	5%	7%	4%	5%
Shelley Moore Capito	72%	78%	71%	72%
Betty Ireland	10%	11%	9%	10%
Mark Sorsaia	1%	-	1%	1%
Mike Stuart	1%	-	1%	2%
Undecided	10%	4%	14%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/o Capito				
Clark Barnes	11%	7%	9%	13%
Betty Ireland	46%	78%	48%	43%
Mark Sorsaia	9%	7%	8%	9%
Mike Stuart	4%	-	2%	5%
Undecided	31%	8%	33%	31%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Mitch Daniels	2%	7%	1%	2%
Newt Gingrich	17%	4%	16%	18%
Mike Huckabee	28%	14%	21%	32%
Sarah Palin	23%	46%	26%	21%
Ron Paul	6%	4%	6%	6%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	-	2%	6%
Mitt Romney	10%	14%	11%	10%
John Thune	0%	-	-	1%
Someone else/Undecided	8%	11%	16%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Capito Favorability			
Favorable	78%	78%	78%
Unfavorable	9%	7%	12%
Not sure	13%	15%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Barnes Favorability			
Favorable	9%	6%	11%
Unfavorable	12%	9%	14%
Not sure	79%	85%	74%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ireland Favorability			
Favorable	38%	39%	38%
Unfavorable	11%	11%	11%
Not sure	51%	50%	51%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Stuart Favorability			
Favorable	7%	5%	10%
Unfavorable	10%	7%	12%
Not sure	83%	88%	78%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	60%	51%	69%
Unfavorable	19%	22%	15%
Not sure	21%	27%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	76%	73%	79%
Unfavorable	9%	6%	12%
Not sure	15%	21%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	69%	66%	72%
Unfavorable	18%	19%	18%
Not sure	12%	15%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	56%	52%	61%
Unfavorable	18%	17%	20%
Not sure	25%	32%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/ Capito			
Clark Barnes	5%	2%	8%
Shelley Moore Capito	72%	69%	75%
Betty Ireland	10%	13%	7%
Mark Sorsaia	1%	2%	1%
Mike Stuart	1%	1%	2%
Undecided	10%	14%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/o Capito			
Clark Barnes	11%	5%	17%
Betty Ireland	46%	47%	45%
Mark Sorsaia	9%	9%	8%
Mike Stuart	4%	4%	4%
Undecided	31%	35%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Mitch Daniels	2%	1%	3%
Newt Gingrich	17%	8%	25%
Mike Huckabee	28%	30%	27%
Sarah Palin	23%	26%	20%
Ron Paul	6%	7%	5%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	3%	6%
Mitt Romney	10%	11%	10%
John Thune	0%	1%	-
Someone else/Undecided	8%	14%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Capito Favorability					
Favorable	78%	44%	70%	82%	85%
Unfavorable	9%	-	18%	7%	6%
Not sure	13%	56%	11%	11%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Barnes Favorability					
Favorable	9%	-	11%	9%	8%
Unfavorable	12%	22%	11%	10%	14%
Not sure	79%	78%	77%	81%	78%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ireland Favorability					
Favorable	38%	33%	27%	40%	47%
Unfavorable	11%	11%	14%	9%	11%
Not sure	51%	56%	59%	50%	42%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Stuart Favorability					
Favorable	7%	-	11%	6%	8%
Unfavorable	10%	11%	7%	11%	9%
Not sure	83%	89%	82%	83%	83%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	60%	56%	57%	60%	66%
Unfavorable	19%	33%	20%	19%	14%
Not sure	21%	11%	23%	21%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	76%	88%	77%	76%	73%
Unfavorable	9%	13%	11%	9%	8%
Not sure	15%	-	11%	15%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	69%	78%	75%	68%	64%
Unfavorable	18%	22%	16%	17%	23%
Not sure	12%	-	9%	15%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	56%	56%	48%	58%	61%
Unfavorable	18%	22%	27%	16%	11%
Not sure	25%	22%	25%	25%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/ Capito					
Clark Barnes	5%	-	14%	3%	2%
Shelley Moore Capito	72%	78%	66%	74%	73%
Betty Ireland	10%	-	9%	11%	11%
Mark Sorsaia	1%	-	2%	1%	1%
Mike Stuart	1%	-	-	2%	2%
Undecided	10%	22%	9%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/o Capito					
Clark Barnes	11%	-	20%	10%	8%
Betty Ireland	46%	33%	36%	51%	47%
Mark Sorsaia	9%	11%	5%	7%	16%
Mike Stuart	4%	-	5%	4%	5%
Undecided	31%	56%	34%	29%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Mitch Daniels	2%	-	2%	2%	2%
Newt Gingrich	17%	22%	18%	13%	23%
Mike Huckabee	28%	22%	18%	36%	26%
Sarah Palin	23%	56%	27%	22%	15%
Ron Paul	6%	-	11%	5%	4%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	-	5%	5%	6%
Mitt Romney	10%	-	7%	10%	17%
John Thune	0%	-	-	1%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	8%	-	11%	8%	8%

