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Manchin leads 2012 foes by at least 16 points

Raleigh, N.C. – Joe Manchin has only gotten more popular as he settles into the Senate. With 59% of his constituents approving and only 26% disapproving, he is tied for the fifth most popular of 87 current senators on which PPP has polled. That is up from 52-32 in January and 55-31 in April. Manchin continues to accomplish something few other figures do: popularity across the board. He is at 55-28 with independents and even 46-36 with the GOP, both his best yet. He is also improving slightly with his own party, now at 68-20. Since Democrats are 55% of the electorate, 11 of the 26 points of disapproval come from his own party.

But while Democrats are not overwhelmingly supportive of Manchin, they mostly come around when he is matched against potential challengers for a full term. In three matchups, he earns 74% to 84% of Democrats—41% to 46% of the vote without even counting Republicans and independents. Only Rep. Shelley Moore Capito wins double-digit crossover support, at 17%. But Manchin still leads her 52-36 overall because he also wins a fifth of Republicans. Capito is the only contender who wins the independent vote, but only 42-39.

Though John Raese has said he will not run, Manchin would almost quadruple his margin over last fall's opponent if the two dueled again. In November, Manchin won by only ten points, but he would now attract 62% to Raese's 23%, because Raese would only win the GOP vote 47-31, and lose independents, 52-29. It is a similar situation against freshman Rep. David McKinley, who trails 60-24.

“Initially Senator Joe Manchin's approval numbers weren't as strong as those of Governor Joe Manchin,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But he's headed in that direction now and it will make him very difficult to defeat for a full term in the Senate.”

PPP surveyed 708 likely West Virginia voters from September 1st to 4th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.7%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



West Virginia Survey Results

- Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Joe Manchin's job performance?
Approve59% *Not sure*14%
Disapprove.....26%
- Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Shelley Moore Capito?
Favorable..... 51%
Unfavorable 33%
Not sure 16%
- Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of David McKinley?
Favorable..... 23%
Unfavorable 25%
Not sure 52%
- Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Raese?
Favorable..... 27%
Unfavorable 43%
Not sure 30%
- Q5** If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Joe Manchin and Republican Shelley Moore Capito, who would you vote for?
Joe Manchin..... 52% *Undecided*..... 13%
Shelley Moore Capito..... 36%
- Q6** If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Joe Manchin and Republican David McKinley, who would you vote for?
Joe Manchin..... 60% *Undecided*..... 16%
David McKinley 24%
- Q7** If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Joe Manchin and Republican John Raese, who would you vote for?
Joe Manchin..... 62% *Undecided*..... 14%
John Raese..... 23%
- Q8** Who did you vote for President in 2008?
John McCain..... 49%
Barack Obama..... 40%
Someone else/Don't remember 11%
- Q9** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?
Very liberal..... 8%
Somewhat liberal 15%
Moderate..... 26%
Somewhat conservative..... 28%
Very conservative 22%
- Q10** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.
Woman 53%
Man..... 47%
- Q11** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.
Democrat 55%
Republican..... 36%
Independent/Other..... 9%
- Q12** If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.
White 95%
Other..... 5%
- Q13** 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..... 8%
30 to 45..... 18%
46 to 65..... 45%
Older than 65..... 29%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin Approval				
Approve	59%	53%	67%	58%
Disapprove	26%	31%	22%	21%
Not sure	14%	16%	10%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Capito Favorability				
Favorable	51%	73%	25%	47%
Unfavorable	33%	14%	58%	32%
Not sure	16%	13%	17%	22%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McKinley Favorability				
Favorable	23%	37%	8%	16%
Unfavorable	25%	14%	40%	24%
Not sure	52%	49%	53%	60%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	27%	44%	9%	12%
Unfavorable	43%	24%	68%	39%
Not sure	30%	32%	23%	48%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin/Capito				
Joe Manchin	52%	28%	80%	55%
Shelley Moore Capito	36%	58%	13%	16%
Undecided	13%	14%	6%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin/McKinley				
Joe Manchin	60%	40%	85%	62%
David McKinley	24%	40%	7%	10%
Undecided	16%	20%	8%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	62%	42%	88%	58%
John Raese	23%	41%	5%	10%
Undecided	14%	16%	7%	32%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Manchin Approval						
Approve	59%	50%	69%	67%	56%	51%
Disapprove	26%	38%	22%	18%	26%	36%
Not sure	14%	12%	9%	15%	17%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Capito Favorability						
Favorable	51%	16%	27%	40%	66%	75%
Unfavorable	33%	75%	60%	41%	17%	11%
Not sure	16%	9%	13%	20%	17%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McKinley Favorability						
Favorable	23%	14%	10%	13%	30%	39%
Unfavorable	25%	41%	38%	33%	15%	15%
Not sure	52%	46%	52%	54%	55%	46%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Raese Favorability						
Favorable	27%	13%	12%	17%	30%	50%
Unfavorable	43%	68%	65%	51%	34%	20%
Not sure	30%	20%	23%	32%	35%	30%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Manchin/Capito						
Joe Manchin	52%	73%	84%	69%	35%	22%
Shelley Moore Capito	36%	7%	12%	21%	47%	67%
Undecided	13%	20%	5%	11%	17%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Manchin/McKinley						
Joe Manchin	60%	74%	85%	76%	48%	34%
David McKinley	24%	11%	6%	10%	32%	46%
Undecided	16%	15%	9%	14%	19%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Manchin/Raese						
Joe Manchin	62%	79%	90%	79%	52%	29%
John Raese	23%	7%	6%	12%	28%	50%
Undecided	14%	14%	4%	9%	20%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin Approval			
Approve	59%	61%	57%
Disapprove	26%	22%	31%
Not sure	14%	17%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Capito Favorability			
Favorable	51%	50%	53%
Unfavorable	33%	30%	38%
Not sure	16%	21%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McKinley Favorability			
Favorable	23%	20%	26%
Unfavorable	25%	21%	30%
Not sure	52%	59%	44%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	27%	23%	31%
Unfavorable	43%	39%	48%
Not sure	30%	38%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin/Capito			
Joe Manchin	52%	52%	51%
Shelley Moore Capito	36%	36%	36%
Undecided	13%	12%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin/McKinley			
Joe Manchin	60%	60%	61%
David McKinley	24%	22%	26%
Undecided	16%	19%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	62%	62%	62%
John Raese	23%	21%	27%
Undecided	14%	17%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin Approval				
Approve	59%	68%	46%	55%
Disapprove	26%	20%	36%	28%
Not sure	14%	12%	17%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Capito Favorability				
Favorable	51%	35%	72%	65%
Unfavorable	33%	47%	14%	24%
Not sure	16%	17%	14%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McKinley Favorability				
Favorable	23%	13%	36%	34%
Unfavorable	25%	32%	15%	27%
Not sure	52%	55%	50%	39%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	27%	13%	45%	38%
Unfavorable	43%	58%	22%	37%
Not sure	30%	29%	33%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin/Capito				
Joe Manchin	52%	74%	20%	39%
Shelley Moore Capito	36%	17%	63%	42%
Undecided	13%	9%	17%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin/McKinley				
Joe Manchin	60%	78%	32%	63%
David McKinley	24%	9%	45%	27%
Undecided	16%	13%	23%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	62%	84%	31%	54%
John Raese	23%	7%	47%	29%
Undecided	14%	9%	22%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin Approval			
Approve	59%	60%	53%
Disapprove	26%	26%	29%
Not sure	14%	14%	18%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Capito Favorability			
Favorable	51%	51%	49%
Unfavorable	33%	33%	39%
Not sure	16%	16%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
McKinley Favorability			
Favorable	23%	23%	16%
Unfavorable	25%	24%	42%
Not sure	52%	52%	42%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	27%	27%	21%
Unfavorable	43%	42%	58%
Not sure	30%	31%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin/Capito			
Joe Manchin	52%	52%	54%
Shelley Moore Capito	36%	36%	31%
Undecided	13%	12%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin/McKinley			
Joe Manchin	60%	61%	52%
David McKinley	24%	23%	33%
Undecided	16%	16%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	62%	62%	61%
John Raese	23%	23%	29%
Undecided	14%	14%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin Approval					
Approve	59%	52%	51%	58%	69%
Disapprove	26%	36%	29%	29%	18%
Not sure	14%	12%	20%	13%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Capito Favorability					
Favorable	51%	56%	51%	48%	54%
Unfavorable	33%	24%	35%	35%	32%
Not sure	16%	20%	14%	17%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McKinley Favorability					
Favorable	23%	19%	23%	22%	26%
Unfavorable	25%	31%	22%	28%	22%
Not sure	52%	50%	55%	50%	52%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Raese Favorability					
Favorable	27%	15%	28%	27%	29%
Unfavorable	43%	54%	43%	44%	38%
Not sure	30%	31%	29%	29%	32%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin/Capito					
Joe Manchin	52%	50%	48%	54%	51%
Shelley Moore Capito	36%	27%	40%	35%	37%
Undecided	13%	23%	12%	11%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin/McKinley					
Joe Manchin	60%	50%	54%	63%	64%
David McKinley	24%	23%	28%	24%	21%
Undecided	16%	27%	18%	14%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin/Raese					
Joe Manchin	62%	50%	57%	66%	64%
John Raese	23%	27%	25%	22%	23%
Undecided	14%	23%	18%	12%	13%

