



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Virginia race looking too close to call

Raleigh, N.C. – The race for Governor of West Virginia is looking more and more like a toss up, with Democrat Earl Ray Tomblin now leading Republican Bill Maloney only 47-46. Tomblin's lead was 46-40 on a poll conducted at the beginning of September and he had led by as large a margin as 33 points earlier in the year.

A lot of money has been spent on attacking Tomblin in the closing weeks of the campaign and that appears to be taking its toll on the Governor's image. His net approval has dropped 13 points in the last four weeks from +25 (50/25) to just +12 (44/32). Attempts to saddle Tomblin with the burden of Barack Obama might be having an impact as well- the President's approval in the state is just 28%, with 63% of voters disapproving of him.

When we polled West Virginia a month ago Maloney led by 65 points with Republicans and 5 points with independents. He currently leads by 65 points with Republicans and 4 points with independents. So there's basically been no change with those voting groups. The shift that's occurred has been with Democrats. Maloney's share of their vote has increased from 17% to 24%, while Tomblin has remained in place at 69%. Maloney has particularly made in roads with conservative Democrats- they now support Tomblin by only a 49-43 margin.

Maloney has proven to be a pretty appealing candidate. 44% of voters have a favorable opinion of him to 33% with a negative one. This race is pretty unusual for the current political climate in that the electorate has a positive opinion of both candidates. But the momentum has been exclusively on Maloney's side over the course of the last 5 months.

“Bill Maloney’s biggest enemy at this point is time,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “With the way this race has been headed you have to think Maloney would win if he had another month. But since he only has another day Tomblin may be able to narrowly hold on.”

PPP surveyed 932 likely voters from September 30th to October 2nd.. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.2%. 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 The candidates for Governor are Republican Bill Maloney and Democrat Earl Ray Tomblin. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Bill Maloney..... 46% *Undecided*..... 7%
Earl Ray Tomblin... 47%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bill Maloney?

Favorable..... 44%
Unfavorable 33%
Not sure 23%

Q3 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's job performance?

Approve..... 44% *Not sure* 23%
Disapprove..... 32%

Q4 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 28%
Disapprove..... 63%
Not sure 9%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Joe Manchin's job performance?

Approve 61% *Not sure* 15%
Disapprove..... 23%

Q6 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Joe Manchin and Republican Bill Maloney, who would you vote for?

Joe Manchin..... 60% *Undecided*..... 11%
Bill Maloney..... 29%

Q7 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 51%
Barack Obama..... 36%
Someone else/Don't remember 13%

Q8 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 11%
Somewhat liberal 14%
Moderate..... 25%
Somewhat conservative..... 26%
Very conservative 23%

Q9 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q10 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..... 35%
Independent/Other..... 9%

Q11 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 94%
Other..... 6%

Q12 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..... 16%
30 to 45..... 18%
46 to 65..... 38%
Older than 65..... 28%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Maloney/Tomblin				
Bill Maloney	46%	74%	12%	31%
Earl Ray Tomblin	47%	20%	84%	46%
Undecided	7%	6%	3%	22%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Maloney Favorability				
Favorable	44%	65%	19%	32%
Unfavorable	33%	15%	59%	29%
Not sure	23%	20%	22%	40%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Tomblin Approval				
Approve	44%	26%	70%	45%
Disapprove	32%	49%	13%	22%
Not sure	23%	25%	18%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	28%	3%	68%	14%
Disapprove	63%	94%	20%	59%
Not sure	9%	2%	12%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin Approval				
Approve	61%	57%	68%	61%
Disapprove	23%	27%	19%	18%
Not sure	15%	16%	13%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin/Maloney				
Joe Manchin	60%	43%	86%	56%
Bill Maloney	29%	46%	8%	20%
Undecided	11%	12%	6%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Maloney/Tomblin						
Bill Maloney	46%	28%	17%	28%	57%	79%
Earl Ray Tomblin	47%	61%	82%	65%	35%	14%
Undecided	7%	11%	1%	8%	8%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Maloney Favorability						
Favorable	44%	31%	24%	27%	52%	70%
Unfavorable	33%	46%	57%	45%	22%	11%
Not sure	23%	23%	20%	28%	25%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Tomblin Approval						
Approve	44%	57%	64%	60%	38%	16%
Disapprove	32%	22%	16%	17%	38%	59%
Not sure	23%	21%	20%	23%	24%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	28%	57%	60%	36%	13%	5%
Disapprove	63%	40%	33%	44%	81%	92%
Not sure	9%	3%	7%	20%	6%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Manchin Approval						
Approve	61%	64%	66%	66%	65%	48%
Disapprove	23%	27%	18%	18%	20%	33%
Not sure	15%	9%	16%	15%	15%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Manchin/Maloney						
Joe Manchin	60%	78%	81%	75%	56%	27%
Bill Maloney	29%	17%	15%	15%	32%	54%
Undecided	11%	5%	4%	11%	11%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Maloney/Tomblin			
Bill Maloney	46%	44%	48%
Earl Ray Tomblin	47%	48%	46%
Undecided	7%	8%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Maloney Favorability			
Favorable	44%	42%	45%
Unfavorable	33%	29%	37%
Not sure	23%	28%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Tomblin Approval			
Approve	44%	45%	44%
Disapprove	32%	27%	38%
Not sure	23%	28%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	28%	30%	27%
Disapprove	63%	60%	66%
Not sure	9%	10%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin Approval			
Approve	61%	61%	62%
Disapprove	23%	21%	25%
Not sure	15%	18%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin/Maloney			
Joe Manchin	60%	58%	62%
Bill Maloney	29%	27%	30%
Undecided	11%	14%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Maloney/Tomblin				
Bill Maloney	46%	24%	80%	41%
Earl Ray Tomblin	47%	69%	15%	37%
Undecided	7%	6%	4%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Maloney Favorability				
Favorable	44%	29%	68%	39%
Unfavorable	33%	48%	11%	29%
Not sure	23%	23%	22%	32%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Tomblin Approval				
Approve	44%	61%	21%	35%
Disapprove	32%	20%	50%	40%
Not sure	23%	19%	29%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	28%	45%	5%	16%
Disapprove	63%	44%	91%	69%
Not sure	9%	11%	4%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin Approval				
Approve	61%	68%	52%	54%
Disapprove	23%	19%	30%	24%
Not sure	15%	13%	18%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin/Maloney				
Joe Manchin	60%	78%	34%	53%
Bill Maloney	29%	15%	52%	25%
Undecided	11%	7%	14%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Maloney/Tomblin			
Bill Maloney	46%	47%	31%
Earl Ray Tomblin	47%	47%	50%
Undecided	7%	6%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Maloney Favorability			
Favorable	44%	44%	42%
Unfavorable	33%	33%	34%
Not sure	23%	23%	24%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Tomblin Approval			
Approve	44%	44%	43%
Disapprove	32%	32%	34%
Not sure	23%	23%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	28%	28%	35%
Disapprove	63%	63%	57%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin Approval			
Approve	61%	62%	53%
Disapprove	23%	23%	30%
Not sure	15%	15%	17%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin/Maloney			
Joe Manchin	60%	61%	54%
Bill Maloney	29%	29%	31%
Undecided	11%	11%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Maloney/Tomblin					
Bill Maloney	46%	42%	49%	46%	45%
Earl Ray Tomblin	47%	45%	39%	50%	50%
Undecided	7%	13%	12%	4%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Maloney Favorability					
Favorable	44%	42%	47%	43%	43%
Unfavorable	33%	28%	30%	34%	36%
Not sure	23%	30%	23%	23%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Tomblin Approval					
Approve	44%	43%	43%	45%	45%
Disapprove	32%	31%	39%	32%	30%
Not sure	23%	26%	19%	23%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	28%	39%	18%	28%	31%
Disapprove	63%	52%	74%	66%	57%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%	6%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin Approval					
Approve	61%	58%	55%	64%	64%
Disapprove	23%	27%	28%	23%	19%
Not sure	15%	15%	17%	14%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin/Maloney					
Joe Manchin	60%	59%	52%	63%	62%
Bill Maloney	29%	31%	35%	26%	27%
Undecided	11%	10%	13%	10%	11%

