

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Manchin Regains Slight Lead Over Raese

Raleigh, N.C. – Three weeks ago, PPP was the first pollster to show Republican John Raese taking a slim lead over Democrat Joe Manchin in the race to succeed Robert Byrd. Now Manchin is back on top, albeit narrowly, in the wake of a scandal over a Republican ad for Raese that cast Philadelphia natives to play “hicky” West Virginians.

Manchin has 48% to Raese’s 45%, following his 43-46 deficit to Raese in the previous poll. This six-point improvement can largely be pegged to an erasure of the pro-Republican enthusiasm gap. Likely voters now report having voted for John McCain over Barack Obama by 11 points, when he won the state by 13 two years ago. In September, McCain supporters outnumbered Obama voters by 23 points. Both men have consolidated their party bases, Manchin with 70% of his party to Raese’s 81% of his. Raese has the party unity edge because he is still pulling an identical 23% of the state’s conservative set of Democrats, considerably more than Manchin’s 13% of Republicans. Where Manchin has gained, though, is among independents. Raese still leads, but only by a 52-38 margin, down from 56-30.

In this more friendly electorate, both Manchin and Obama are viewed more favorably than previously, with Manchin now overtaking Arkansas’ Mike Beebe as the most popular governor PPP has polled on. But the president is still less popular here than in any of the 31 states in which he has been measured this year. And because over two-thirds of West Virginians like what Manchin is doing as governor, they would rather have him stay there than go to Washington, by a 47-38 margin. While Manchin has become more popular, the ad scandal may have hurt Raese already, because he has turned a 41-35 favorability rating into a 39-46 one, a negative swing of 13 points overall—22 points and 24 points with Democrats and independents, respectively.

“There’s no doubt that the West Virginia Senate race has achieved toss up status,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The good news for Manchin though is that things seem to have stabilized for him some after it seemed like he was headed downhill through the last part of September. His high level of popularity gives him a good chance of winning this despite his state’s dislike of national Democrats.”

PPP surveyed 1,247 likely West Virginia voters from October 9th to 10th. The margin of error is +/-2.8%. 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 The candidates for US Senate are Democrat Joe Manchin and Republican John Raese. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Joe Manchin 48%
John Raese..... 45%
Undecided..... 7%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Joe Manchin's job performance?

Approve68% *Not sure*10%
Disapprove.....22%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Raese?

Favorable..... 39%
Unfavorable 46%
Not sure..... 15%

Q4 Would you rather have Joe Manchin as Governor or a Senator?

Governor..... 47%
Senator 38%
Not sure 14%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 33%
Disapprove..... 61%
Not sure 6%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jay Rockefeller's job performance?

Approve51% *Not sure* 9%
Disapprove.....40%

Q7 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Carte Goodwin's job performance?

Approve20% *Not sure*55%
Disapprove.....25%

Q8 Would you rather Democrats or Republicans controlled the next Congress?

Democrats 43%
Republicans 48%
Not sure 8%

Q9 Do you think the national Democratic Party is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal 53%
Too conservative 8%
About right 34%
Not sure 5%

Q10 Do you think the national Republican Party is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal 19%
Too conservative..... 37%
About right 36%
Not sure 8%

Q11 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 50%
Barack Obama..... 39%
Someone else/Don't remember 11%

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

Liberal..... 13%
Moderate..... 48%
Conservative..... 39%

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

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%





Q14 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..... 33%
Independent/Other..... 12%

Q15 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 91%
African-American 9%

Q16 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..... 10%
30 to 45..... 20%
46 to 65..... 45%
Older than 65..... 25%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	48%	16%	87%	49%
John Raese	45%	77%	9%	33%
Undecided	7%	7%	4%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin Approval				
Approve	68%	55%	87%	61%
Disapprove	22%	34%	7%	27%
Not sure	10%	11%	7%	12%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	39%	65%	10%	23%
Unfavorable	46%	19%	80%	47%
Not sure	15%	16%	10%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin as Gov or Sen?				
Governor	47%	73%	18%	40%
Senator	38%	13%	71%	38%
Not sure	14%	15%	11%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	33%	4%	74%	13%
Disapprove	61%	93%	19%	72%
Not sure	6%	3%	7%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Rockefeller Approval				
Approve	51%	25%	83%	48%
Disapprove	40%	64%	11%	35%
Not sure	9%	11%	5%	17%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Goodwin Approval				
Approve	20%	11%	31%	23%
Disapprove	25%	31%	19%	21%
Not sure	55%	59%	50%	56%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Dem or GOP Control Congress				
Democrats	43%	10%	87%	38%
Republicans	48%	83%	8%	35%
Not sure	8%	7%	5%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
DNC Ideology				
Too liberal	53%	83%	17%	47%
Too conservative	8%	4%	13%	12%
About right	34%	8%	66%	33%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%	8%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
RNC Ideology				
Too liberal	19%	21%	16%	24%
Too conservative	37%	13%	67%	35%
About right	36%	60%	9%	26%
Not sure	8%	6%	9%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	48%	84%	63%	17%
John Raese	45%	11%	31%	74%
Undecided	7%	4%	6%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Manchin Approval				
Approve	68%	84%	74%	56%
Disapprove	22%	9%	17%	33%
Not sure	10%	8%	9%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	39%	11%	26%	64%
Unfavorable	46%	80%	60%	17%
Not sure	15%	10%	14%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Manchin as Gov or Sen?				
Governor	47%	22%	34%	72%
Senator	38%	67%	53%	10%
Not sure	14%	11%	13%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	33%	72%	43%	6%
Disapprove	61%	22%	49%	90%
Not sure	6%	6%	8%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Rockefeller Approval				
Approve	51%	87%	63%	23%
Disapprove	40%	9%	28%	66%
Not sure	9%	3%	9%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Goodw in Approval				
Approve	20%	33%	24%	11%
Disapprove	25%	20%	23%	30%
Not sure	55%	47%	53%	60%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Dem or GOP Control Congress				
Democrats	43%	85%	57%	12%
Republicans	48%	10%	33%	80%
Not sure	8%	5%	10%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
DNC Ideology				
Too liberal	53%	12%	41%	82%
Too conservative	8%	23%	7%	4%
About right	34%	60%	47%	9%
Not sure	5%	5%	5%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
RNC Ideology				
Too liberal	19%	18%	14%	26%
Too conservative	37%	67%	51%	8%
About right	36%	8%	27%	58%
Not sure	8%	7%	8%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	48%	51%	44%
John Raese	45%	41%	49%
Undecided	7%	7%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin Approval			
Approve	68%	69%	67%
Disapprove	22%	21%	24%
Not sure	10%	10%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	39%	35%	43%
Unfavorable	46%	48%	43%
Not sure	15%	17%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin as Gov or Sen?			
Governor	47%	45%	50%
Senator	38%	40%	36%
Not sure	14%	15%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	33%	35%	30%
Disapprove	61%	57%	66%
Not sure	6%	8%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rockefeller Approval			
Approve	51%	53%	48%
Disapprove	40%	35%	46%
Not sure	9%	12%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Goodwin Approval			
Approve	20%	19%	21%
Disapprove	25%	19%	32%
Not sure	55%	62%	48%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dem or GOP Control Congress			
Democrats	43%	49%	38%
Republicans	48%	42%	55%
Not sure	8%	9%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
DNC Ideology			
Too liberal	53%	47%	60%
Too conservative	8%	7%	9%
About right	34%	41%	27%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
RNC Ideology			
Too liberal	19%	20%	18%
Too conservative	37%	34%	39%
About right	36%	37%	36%
Not sure	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	48%	70%	13%	38%
John Raese	45%	23%	81%	52%
Undecided	7%	7%	7%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin Approval				
Approve	68%	80%	50%	60%
Disapprove	22%	13%	35%	33%
Not sure	10%	7%	14%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	39%	21%	68%	40%
Unfavorable	46%	65%	17%	39%
Not sure	15%	14%	15%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin as Gov or Sen?				
Governor	47%	33%	72%	46%
Senator	38%	55%	13%	31%
Not sure	14%	12%	16%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	33%	49%	7%	25%
Disapprove	61%	43%	90%	71%
Not sure	6%	8%	3%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rockefeller Approval				
Approve	51%	68%	25%	38%
Disapprove	40%	24%	64%	50%
Not sure	9%	8%	11%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Goodwin Approval				
Approve	20%	26%	11%	16%
Disapprove	25%	21%	30%	33%
Not sure	55%	53%	59%	51%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dem or GOP Control Congress				
Democrats	43%	68%	7%	30%
Republicans	48%	24%	89%	53%
Not sure	8%	9%	4%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
DNC Ideology				
Too liberal	53%	35%	81%	61%
Too conservative	8%	9%	6%	8%
About right	34%	51%	8%	25%
Not sure	5%	4%	6%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
RNC Ideology				
Too liberal	19%	18%	19%	23%
Too conservative	37%	50%	17%	31%
About right	36%	23%	59%	36%
Not sure	8%	9%	6%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	African-American
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	48%	48%	45%
John Raese	45%	45%	45%
Undecided	7%	7%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	African-American
Manchin Approval			
Approve	68%	70%	52%
Disapprove	22%	22%	30%
Not sure	10%	9%	18%

	Base	Race	
		White	African-American
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	39%	39%	33%
Unfavorable	46%	46%	45%
Not sure	15%	14%	22%

	Base	Race	
		White	African-American
Manchin as Gov or Sen?			
Governor	47%	48%	41%
Senator	38%	38%	39%
Not sure	14%	14%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	African-American
Obama Approval			
Approve	33%	32%	35%
Disapprove	61%	62%	60%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	African-American
Rockefeller Approval			
Approve	51%	51%	42%
Disapprove	40%	39%	48%
Not sure	9%	9%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	African-American
Goodwin Approval			
Approve	20%	20%	18%
Disapprove	25%	24%	36%
Not sure	55%	56%	46%

	Base	Race	
		White	African-American
Dem or GOP Control Congress			
Democrats	43%	44%	41%
Republicans	48%	48%	52%
Not sure	8%	8%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	African-American
DNC Ideology			
Too liberal	53%	54%	45%
Too conservative	8%	7%	18%
About right	34%	34%	32%
Not sure	5%	5%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	African-American
RNC Ideology			
Too liberal	19%	18%	25%
Too conservative	37%	37%	39%
About right	36%	37%	29%
Not sure	8%	8%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin/Raese					
Joe Manchin	48%	59%	43%	49%	46%
John Raese	45%	31%	50%	45%	47%
Undecided	7%	10%	7%	7%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin Approval					
Approve	68%	64%	65%	70%	68%
Disapprove	22%	24%	25%	22%	20%
Not sure	10%	12%	10%	8%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Raese Favorability					
Favorable	39%	31%	37%	39%	43%
Unfavorable	46%	50%	44%	47%	44%
Not sure	15%	19%	19%	14%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin as Gov or Sen?					
Governor	47%	46%	41%	49%	51%
Senator	38%	36%	42%	38%	36%
Not sure	14%	19%	17%	13%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	33%	39%	29%	34%	30%
Disapprove	61%	58%	64%	60%	64%
Not sure	6%	3%	7%	6%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rockefeller Approval					
Approve	51%	54%	53%	50%	49%
Disapprove	40%	39%	38%	41%	41%
Not sure	9%	7%	9%	10%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Goodwin Approval					
Approve	20%	20%	16%	21%	20%
Disapprove	25%	25%	29%	23%	26%
Not sure	55%	54%	54%	55%	55%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dem or GOP Control Congress					
Democrats	43%	56%	39%	44%	41%
Republicans	48%	32%	54%	48%	52%
Not sure	8%	12%	7%	8%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
DNC Ideology					
Too liberal	53%	41%	54%	53%	56%
Too conservative	8%	14%	15%	7%	4%
About right	34%	44%	27%	35%	33%
Not sure	5%	2%	5%	5%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
RNC Ideology					
Too liberal	19%	33%	19%	17%	16%
Too conservative	37%	41%	36%	38%	33%
About right	36%	16%	35%	39%	41%
Not sure	8%	10%	10%	6%	10%

