

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Manchin Expands Lead

Raleigh, N.C. – The momentum in the West Virginia Senate race continues to be in Joe Manchin’s favor and he now leads John Raese 50-44. A PPP poll two weeks ago found him with a 3 point lead and a survey last month actually found him trailing by 3.

Manchin continues to be the most popular politician PPP has polled on anywhere in the country this year with 69% of voters in the state approving of his job performance and only 23% disapproving. The reason his standing has improved over the last two weeks is that he’s increasing his support from conservative voters in the state. Where before he was getting just 17% from them, he’s now up to 24%. Efforts like the television ad where he ‘shoots’ cap and trade seems to be having some resonance with voters who like Manchin but aren’t very fond of his party’s leadership in Washington.

Manchin’s lead comes against a political backdrop in West Virginia that couldn’t be much more hostile to Democrats. Barack Obama’s approval rating in the state is only 31% with 65% of voters disapproving, the worst numbers PPP has found for him anywhere in the country this year. By a 52-40 margin voters in the state want Republicans to be in control of the next Congress, and 55% think that the Democratic Party is too liberal. For all of that Manchin continues to make progress.

It’s helping Manchin’s cause that Raese is not proving to be a particularly formidable opponents. Only 42% of voters in the state have a favorable opinion of him, while 47% see him a negative light. PPP’s first West Virginia poll found his favorability at a positive 41/35. Since then a lot of voters have decided they don’t like him while virtually none have developed positive feelings toward him.

“Joe Manchin’s gained 9 points in the polls over the last five weeks,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “That’s an indication of an effective campaign that’s been able to ease the fear of voters that he’d be just another vote for the agenda of a President they don’t like.”

PPP will release one more West Virginia poll before the election.

PPP surveyed 1,246 likely West Virginia voters on October 23rd and 24th. 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 50%
John Raese..... 44%
Undecided..... 6%

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

Approve 69% *Not sure* 8%
Disapprove..... 23%

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

Favorable..... 42%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure..... 12%

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

Governor..... 48%
Senator 39%
Not sure 14%

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

Approve 31%
Disapprove..... 65%
Not sure 5%

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

Approve 47% *Not sure* 10%
Disapprove..... 43%

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

Approve 19% *Not sure* 53%
Disapprove..... 27%

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

Democrats 40%
Republicans 52%
Not sure 7%

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

Too liberal 55%
Too conservative 7%
About right 32%
Not sure 5%

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

Too liberal 19%
Too conservative..... 33%
About right 41%
Not sure 7%

Q11 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 54%
Barack Obama..... 38%
Someone else/Don't remember 8%

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

Liberal..... 13%
Moderate..... 46%
Conservative..... 42%

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..... 35%
Independent/Other..... 11%

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

White 94%
Other..... 6%

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..... 8%
30 to 45..... 20%
46 to 65..... 48%
Older than 65..... 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	50%	22%	88%	59%
John Raese	44%	70%	10%	28%
Undecided	6%	8%	3%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin Approval				
Approve	69%	56%	88%	63%
Disapprove	23%	34%	7%	29%
Not sure	8%	10%	5%	7%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	42%	65%	11%	32%
Unfavorable	47%	21%	82%	53%
Not sure	12%	14%	7%	16%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin as Gov or Sen?				
Governor	48%	70%	20%	30%
Senator	39%	14%	72%	42%
Not sure	14%	15%	8%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	31%	4%	73%	7%
Disapprove	65%	94%	21%	79%
Not sure	5%	2%	6%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Rockefeller Approval				
Approve	47%	21%	83%	55%
Disapprove	43%	68%	10%	30%
Not sure	10%	11%	7%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Goodwin Approval				
Approve	19%	10%	35%	8%
Disapprove	27%	35%	17%	19%
Not sure	53%	55%	47%	73%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Dem or GOP Control Congress				
Democrats	40%	8%	85%	43%
Republicans	52%	86%	9%	38%
Not sure	7%	6%	6%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
DNC Ideology				
Too liberal	55%	83%	19%	44%
Too conservative	7%	5%	9%	12%
About right	32%	8%	67%	33%
Not sure	5%	5%	5%	10%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
RNC Ideology				
Too liberal	19%	19%	21%	16%
Too conservative	33%	14%	60%	29%
About right	41%	62%	11%	41%
Not sure	7%	5%	8%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	50%	83%	65%	24%
John Raese	44%	14%	28%	70%
Undecided	6%	3%	7%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Manchin Approval				
Approve	69%	84%	79%	55%
Disapprove	23%	13%	15%	34%
Not sure	8%	4%	6%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	42%	18%	27%	65%
Unfavorable	47%	76%	61%	22%
Not sure	12%	6%	12%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Manchin as Gov or Sen?				
Governor	48%	23%	35%	69%
Senator	39%	66%	52%	16%
Not sure	14%	11%	13%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	31%	74%	41%	7%
Disapprove	65%	22%	54%	89%
Not sure	5%	4%	5%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Rockefeller Approval				
Approve	47%	86%	61%	21%
Disapprove	43%	12%	30%	66%
Not sure	10%	2%	9%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Goodw in Approval				
Approve	19%	40%	23%	9%
Disapprove	27%	20%	25%	32%
Not sure	53%	39%	52%	59%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Dem or GOP Control Congress				
Democrats	40%	82%	54%	13%
Republicans	52%	14%	36%	82%
Not sure	7%	4%	10%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
DNC Ideology				
Too liberal	55%	18%	43%	80%
Too conservative	7%	21%	6%	3%
About right	32%	55%	44%	13%
Not sure	5%	6%	6%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
RNC Ideology				
Too liberal	19%	11%	17%	25%
Too conservative	33%	69%	47%	7%
About right	41%	15%	29%	61%
Not sure	7%	5%	7%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	50%	54%	45%
John Raese	44%	38%	49%
Undecided	6%	7%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin Approval			
Approve	69%	71%	68%
Disapprove	23%	20%	26%
Not sure	8%	10%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	42%	37%	47%
Unfavorable	47%	50%	43%
Not sure	12%	13%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin as Gov or Sen?			
Governor	48%	46%	50%
Senator	39%	40%	37%
Not sure	14%	14%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	31%	34%	27%
Disapprove	65%	60%	69%
Not sure	5%	6%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rockefeller Approval			
Approve	47%	53%	41%
Disapprove	43%	35%	51%
Not sure	10%	11%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Goodwin Approval			
Approve	19%	20%	19%
Disapprove	27%	20%	35%
Not sure	53%	60%	46%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dem or GOP Control Congress			
Democrats	40%	43%	37%
Republicans	52%	48%	57%
Not sure	7%	8%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
DNC Ideology			
Too liberal	55%	48%	63%
Too conservative	7%	6%	8%
About right	32%	39%	26%
Not sure	5%	7%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
RNC Ideology			
Too liberal	19%	18%	21%
Too conservative	33%	32%	34%
About right	41%	42%	40%
Not sure	7%	8%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	50%	73%	17%	41%
John Raese	44%	21%	76%	53%
Undecided	6%	6%	7%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin Approval				
Approve	69%	81%	55%	56%
Disapprove	23%	14%	33%	34%
Not sure	8%	5%	12%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	42%	21%	71%	51%
Unfavorable	47%	67%	17%	36%
Not sure	12%	11%	12%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin as Gov or Sen?				
Governor	48%	30%	76%	47%
Senator	39%	59%	10%	28%
Not sure	14%	12%	13%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	31%	48%	5%	26%
Disapprove	65%	46%	91%	72%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rockefeller Approval				
Approve	47%	67%	21%	35%
Disapprove	43%	25%	68%	49%
Not sure	10%	8%	11%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Goodwin Approval				
Approve	19%	27%	9%	14%
Disapprove	27%	21%	36%	30%
Not sure	53%	52%	55%	55%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dem or GOP Control Congress				
Democrats	40%	65%	6%	24%
Republicans	52%	26%	89%	68%
Not sure	7%	8%	5%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
DNC Ideology				
Too liberal	55%	37%	83%	60%
Too conservative	7%	9%	3%	11%
About right	32%	49%	8%	25%
Not sure	5%	6%	5%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
RNC Ideology				
Too liberal	19%	20%	19%	18%
Too conservative	33%	46%	13%	30%
About right	41%	25%	65%	46%
Not sure	7%	9%	4%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	50%	50%	54%
John Raese	44%	44%	38%
Undecided	6%	6%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin Approval			
Approve	69%	69%	72%
Disapprove	23%	23%	24%
Not sure	8%	8%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	42%	42%	37%
Unfavorable	47%	46%	51%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin as Gov or Sen?			
Governor	48%	49%	35%
Senator	39%	38%	44%
Not sure	14%	13%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	31%	30%	44%
Disapprove	65%	65%	53%
Not sure	5%	5%	3%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rockefeller Approval			
Approve	47%	47%	52%
Disapprove	43%	43%	37%
Not sure	10%	10%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Goodwin Approval			
Approve	19%	20%	15%
Disapprove	27%	27%	35%
Not sure	53%	54%	50%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dem or GOP Control Congress			
Democrats	40%	39%	55%
Republicans	52%	53%	42%
Not sure	7%	8%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
DNC Ideology			
Too liberal	55%	57%	39%
Too conservative	7%	7%	12%
About right	32%	32%	42%
Not sure	5%	5%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
RNC Ideology			
Too liberal	19%	19%	30%
Too conservative	33%	33%	37%
About right	41%	42%	27%
Not sure	7%	7%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin/Raese					
Joe Manchin	50%	55%	48%	50%	52%
John Raese	44%	34%	46%	45%	43%
Undecided	6%	11%	6%	6%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin Approval					
Approve	69%	61%	66%	70%	73%
Disapprove	23%	34%	29%	21%	18%
Not sure	8%	5%	5%	9%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Raese Favorability					
Favorable	42%	41%	43%	42%	41%
Unfavorable	47%	48%	44%	46%	48%
Not sure	12%	11%	13%	12%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin as Gov or Sen?					
Governor	48%	44%	47%	48%	49%
Senator	39%	35%	39%	38%	40%
Not sure	14%	21%	14%	13%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	31%	26%	30%	30%	35%
Disapprove	65%	70%	67%	67%	56%
Not sure	5%	5%	2%	4%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rockefeller Approval					
Approve	47%	47%	45%	47%	51%
Disapprove	43%	44%	46%	43%	39%
Not sure	10%	9%	9%	10%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Goodwin Approval					
Approve	19%	21%	19%	19%	20%
Disapprove	27%	28%	34%	25%	27%
Not sure	53%	51%	47%	56%	53%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dem or GOP Control Congress					
Democrats	40%	40%	38%	39%	44%
Republicans	52%	52%	53%	53%	51%
Not sure	7%	7%	9%	8%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
DNC Ideology					
Too liberal	55%	51%	58%	58%	50%
Too conservative	7%	14%	8%	6%	5%
About right	32%	30%	33%	30%	39%
Not sure	5%	5%	2%	6%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
RNC Ideology					
Too liberal	19%	26%	26%	17%	17%
Too conservative	33%	24%	36%	33%	33%
About right	41%	43%	37%	42%	42%
Not sure	7%	7%	2%	8%	8%

