



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Manchin remains ahead

Raleigh, N.C. – The Senate contest in West Virginia is between Joe Manchin's popularity and Barack Obama's unpopularity and in the end it looks as though Manchin's popularity will win out. Manchin leads John Raese 51-46 in PPP's final look at the race.

Manchin is the most popular politician we've polled on anywhere in the country this year and it's by a wide margin. On this final poll his approval rating hit the 70% mark with only 22% disapproving of him. Usually you would expect someone with those kinds of numbers to have an easy time of it but Manchin's been hampered by efforts to tie him to Barack Obama and national Democrats. Obama's approval rating in the state is only 31% with 61% of voters disapproving of him.

About a month ago it looked like there was a very real chance Manchin could lose. But three key things have put him in a position for victory:

-John Raese did not prove to be a particularly strong opponent. The first time PPP polled the race, his favorability was 41/35. On this final poll his favorability is 41/47. As voters have gotten to know Raese and make up their minds about him they've generally found him to be unappealing.

-Democrats in West Virginia aren't having the same kind of enthusiasm issues that are plaguing their party throughout most of the country. John McCain won the state by 13 points in 2008 and those planning to vote this year supported McCain by a basically identical 12 points.

-Manchin has made enough conservatives comfortable voting for him. He's winning 19% of the Republican vote, more than any other Democratic Senate nominee we've polled on except for Chris Coons in Delaware.

“It looks like Joe Manchin will probably survive the Republican wave that will take down many Democrats across the country on Tuesday night,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “He started out the campaign with enormous popularity and has convinced enough voters that he won’t be a rubber stamp for unpopular national Dems.”

PPP surveyed 1,676 likely West Virginia voters on October 30th and 31st. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.4%. 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 51%
John Raese..... 46%
Undecided..... 3%

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

Approve 70%
Disapprove..... 22%
Not sure 9%

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

Favorable 41% *Not sure* 12%
Unfavorable..... 47%

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

Approve 31%
Disapprove..... 61%
Not sure 8%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jay Rockefeller's job performance?

Approve 49%
Disapprove..... 40%
Not sure 11%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Carte Goodwin's job performance?

Approve 17%
Disapprove..... 22%
Not sure 61%

Q7 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 52%
Barack Obama..... 40%
Someone else/Don't remember 9%

Q8 Do you identify yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 13%
Moderate..... 44%
Conservative..... 43%

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

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

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..... 34%
Independent/Other..... 11%

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

White 95%
Other..... 5%

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..... 12%
30 to 45..... 20%
46 to 65..... 42%
Older than 65..... 26%

Q13 Have you already cast your ballot for this year's election?

Yes..... 27%
No..... 73%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	51%	19%	91%	58%
John Raese	46%	78%	7%	33%
Undecided	3%	3%	2%	8%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin Approval				
Approve	70%	55%	89%	67%
Disapprove	22%	34%	6%	19%
Not sure	9%	11%	5%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	41%	68%	8%	31%
Unfavorable	47%	19%	84%	51%
Not sure	12%	13%	9%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	31%	4%	70%	13%
Disapprove	61%	94%	16%	70%
Not sure	8%	2%	14%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Rockefeller Approval				
Approve	49%	22%	84%	45%
Disapprove	40%	65%	8%	35%
Not sure	11%	13%	8%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Goodwin Approval				
Approve	17%	9%	28%	21%
Disapprove	22%	30%	13%	15%
Not sure	61%	62%	59%	63%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	51%	85%	67%	24%
John Raese	46%	14%	30%	74%
Undecided	3%	1%	4%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Manchin Approval				
Approve	70%	86%	77%	57%
Disapprove	22%	10%	15%	32%
Not sure	9%	5%	7%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	41%	16%	24%	66%
Unfavorable	47%	73%	63%	24%
Not sure	12%	11%	14%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	31%	70%	40%	9%
Disapprove	61%	27%	48%	85%
Not sure	8%	3%	12%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Rockefeller Approval				
Approve	49%	82%	61%	25%
Disapprove	40%	11%	27%	62%
Not sure	11%	6%	12%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Goodwin Approval				
Approve	17%	29%	22%	9%
Disapprove	22%	14%	17%	29%
Not sure	61%	56%	61%	63%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	51%	56%	45%
John Raese	46%	40%	53%
Undecided	3%	4%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin Approval			
Approve	70%	71%	68%
Disapprove	22%	19%	24%
Not sure	9%	10%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	41%	35%	48%
Unfavorable	47%	52%	42%
Not sure	12%	14%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	31%	34%	28%
Disapprove	61%	57%	65%
Not sure	8%	10%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rockefeller Approval			
Approve	49%	55%	42%
Disapprove	40%	31%	50%
Not sure	11%	15%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Goodwin Approval			
Approve	17%	16%	19%
Disapprove	22%	18%	26%
Not sure	61%	66%	55%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	51%	73%	19%	39%
John Raese	46%	24%	80%	55%
Undecided	3%	3%	1%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin Approval				
Approve	70%	82%	53%	60%
Disapprove	22%	13%	35%	26%
Not sure	9%	5%	12%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	41%	22%	70%	46%
Unfavorable	47%	67%	19%	35%
Not sure	12%	11%	11%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	31%	47%	9%	18%
Disapprove	61%	43%	88%	67%
Not sure	8%	10%	3%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rockefeller Approval				
Approve	49%	68%	23%	32%
Disapprove	40%	23%	63%	53%
Not sure	11%	9%	13%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Goodwin Approval				
Approve	17%	24%	8%	11%
Disapprove	22%	17%	30%	23%
Not sure	61%	59%	62%	66%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	51%	50%	61%
John Raese	46%	47%	33%
Undecided	3%	3%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin Approval			
Approve	70%	70%	69%
Disapprove	22%	21%	24%
Not sure	9%	9%	7%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	41%	41%	31%
Unfavorable	47%	47%	52%
Not sure	12%	12%	17%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	31%	30%	48%
Disapprove	61%	62%	41%
Not sure	8%	8%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rockefeller Approval			
Approve	49%	48%	57%
Disapprove	40%	41%	28%
Not sure	11%	11%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Goodwin Approval			
Approve	17%	17%	19%
Disapprove	22%	21%	28%
Not sure	61%	61%	53%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin/Raese					
Joe Manchin	51%	59%	43%	50%	55%
John Raese	46%	38%	54%	47%	42%
Undecided	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin Approval					
Approve	70%	68%	65%	71%	72%
Disapprove	22%	25%	24%	21%	19%
Not sure	9%	8%	11%	8%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Raese Favorability					
Favorable	41%	39%	42%	42%	39%
Unfavorable	47%	47%	40%	48%	52%
Not sure	12%	14%	18%	10%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	31%	31%	24%	32%	35%
Disapprove	61%	57%	70%	61%	55%
Not sure	8%	12%	6%	7%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rockefeller Approval					
Approve	49%	56%	41%	48%	52%
Disapprove	40%	32%	43%	42%	38%
Not sure	11%	12%	16%	10%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Goodwin Approval					
Approve	17%	17%	13%	19%	19%
Disapprove	22%	28%	21%	21%	19%
Not sure	61%	55%	66%	60%	62%





Crosstabs

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	51%	54%	50%
John Raese	46%	45%	47%
Undecided	3%	2%	3%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Manchin Approval			
Approve	70%	72%	69%
Disapprove	22%	21%	22%
Not sure	9%	7%	9%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	41%	42%	40%
Unfavorable	47%	49%	47%
Not sure	12%	9%	13%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Obama Approval			
Approve	31%	39%	28%
Disapprove	61%	54%	63%
Not sure	8%	7%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Rockefeller Approval			
Approve	49%	52%	48%
Disapprove	40%	37%	41%
Not sure	11%	11%	12%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Goodwin Approval			
Approve	17%	24%	15%
Disapprove	22%	27%	20%
Not sure	61%	50%	65%

