



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2009

INTERVIEWS: JONATHAN CROOK (252)-206-6192

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN (919)-744-6312

West Virginia Voters Support N.C.'s System

Raleigh, N.C. – Although voters in West Virginia may not necessarily agree with public finance for elections in general, Public Policy Polling finds they are overwhelmingly in favor of their state adopting a program similar to that in North Carolina's state judicial system.

73% of respondents say that they would be in favor a potential adoption by West Virginia of the public funding system in place in North Carolina, while only 19% are opposed. The law includes full public funding for candidates who agree to spending limits and reject funds from Political Action Committees, while also making the elections nonpartisan and providing voter guides to citizens.

Voters in West Virginia also believe that a public funding system would be effective in reducing conflicts of interests in the state's Supreme Court of Appeals, with 40% saying that such a law would help, and 28% saying it wouldn't.

However, PPP also found that 56% of voters are against public funding in general, with only 23% saying that they are for it.

“Although respondents claimed that they are against the concept of public finance systems, it seems they are for many of the upsides that such programs can produce,” said Jonathan Crook of Public Policy Polling. “North Carolina's public finance law offers more than simply money to candidates who opt into the system, which is why it may be more attractive to West Virginia voters than typical public finance programs.”

West Virginia voters also want stricter spending limits for candidates running in the Supreme Court of Appeals elections, with 67% saying that they are in favor of such a measure and 16% saying they are not.

PPP surveyed 1,366 West Virginia voters on May 26th and 27th. The survey's margin of error is +/-2.6%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Jonathan Crook at (252) 206-6192.

###





West Virginia Poll

Q1 Do you agree with the concept of public funding in general for candidates in state, federal, or judicial elections? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Yes 23%
 No 56%
 Not Sure..... 21%

Q2 North Carolina currently has a law that gives statewide judicial candidates the option of accepting public campaign funding if they agree to spending limits and refuse money from Political Action Committees. It also makes judicial elections nonpartisan and provides voter guides to explain judicial candidates' qualifications. What would your position be on West Virginia adopting a similar program? If you strongly favor it, press 1. If you somewhat favor it, press 2. If you somewhat oppose it, press 3. If you strongly oppose it, press 4. If you're not sure, press 5.

Strongly Favor 38%
 Somewhat Favor..... 35%
 Somewhat Oppose 13%
 Strongly Oppose 6%
 Not Sure..... 9%

Q3 Would you be in favor of any kind of public finance system for West Virginia's Supreme Court of Appeals elections? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Yes 25%
 No 45%
 Not Sure..... 30%

Q4 Do you feel like judicial candidates are able to accept campaign financing from private entities like lawyers and law firms without creating a conflict of interests? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Yes 13%
 No 74%
 Not Sure..... 13%

Q5 Do you think that a public finance system would be effective in reducing conflicts of interest in West Virginia's Supreme Court of Appeals? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Yes 40%
 No 28%
 Not Sure..... 32%

Q6 Do you think that there should be more strict spending limits for West Virginia's Supreme Court of Appeals elections? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Yes 67%
 No 16%
 Not Sure..... 18%

Q7 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 17%
 Moderate..... 41%
 Conservative..... 43%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
 Man..... 48%





Q9 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

Democrat 51%
Republican..... 36%
Other..... 13%

Q10 If you are white, press 1. If you are African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 93%
African-American 4%
Other..... 3%

Q11 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29..... 16%
30 to 45..... 26%
46 to 65..... 40%
Older than 65..... 18%





	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Public Funding in General				
Yes	23%	42%	26%	13%
No	56%	37%	55%	64%
Not Sure	21%	21%	20%	22%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
West Virginia Adopting N.C.'s System				
Strongly Favor	38%	39%	37%	37%
Somewhat Favor	35%	34%	39%	31%
Somewhat Oppose	13%	14%	12%	13%
Strongly Oppose	6%	5%	3%	8%
Not Sure	9%	8%	8%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Public Funding for Supreme Court of Appeals				
Yes	25%	37%	26%	20%
No	45%	35%	45%	48%
Not Sure	30%	28%	29%	32%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Accepting Money Without Conflict of Interests				
Yes	13%	20%	10%	13%
No	74%	68%	75%	75%
Not Sure	13%	12%	15%	12%





	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Can Public Finance Reduce Conflicts of Interests				
Yes	40%	48%	44%	33%
No	28%	21%	26%	34%
Not Sure	32%	31%	31%	33%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Stricter Spending Limits				
Yes	67%	68%	68%	65%
No	16%	14%	15%	17%
Not Sure	18%	18%	17%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Public Funding in General			
Yes	23%	22%	25%
No	56%	52%	60%
Not Sure	21%	26%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
West Virginia Adopting N.C.'s System			
Strongly Favor	38%	35%	40%
Somewhat Favor	35%	36%	34%
Somewhat Oppose	13%	13%	13%
Strongly Oppose	6%	4%	8%
Not Sure	9%	13%	5%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Public Funding for Supreme Court of Appeals			
Yes	25%	23%	28%
No	45%	40%	50%
Not Sure	30%	37%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Accepting Money Without Conflict of Interests			
Yes	13%	15%	11%
No	74%	68%	80%
Not Sure	13%	17%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Can Public Finance Reduce Conflicts of Interests			
Yes	40%	40%	40%
No	28%	21%	36%
Not Sure	32%	39%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Stricter Spending Limits			
Yes	67%	68%	66%
No	16%	10%	22%
Not Sure	18%	22%	12%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Public Funding in General				
Yes	23%	30%	15%	20%
No	56%	48%	65%	61%
Not Sure	21%	22%	20%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
West Virginia Adopting N.C.'s System				
Strongly Favor	38%	37%	38%	40%
Somewhat Favor	35%	37%	35%	26%
Somewhat Oppose	13%	12%	15%	11%
Strongly Oppose	6%	4%	5%	11%
Not Sure	9%	9%	8%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Public Funding for Supreme Court of Appeals				
Yes	25%	29%	19%	26%
No	45%	41%	52%	40%
Not Sure	30%	30%	29%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Accepting Money Without Conflict of Interests				
Yes	13%	15%	10%	10%
No	74%	70%	80%	75%
Not Sure	13%	15%	10%	15%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Can Public Finance Reduce Conflicts of Interests				
Yes	40%	43%	36%	38%
No	28%	25%	34%	27%
Not Sure	32%	32%	30%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Stricter Spending Limits				
Yes	67%	64%	69%	70%
No	16%	16%	17%	10%
Not Sure	18%	20%	14%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Public Funding in General				
Yes	23%	23%	27%	24%
No	56%	56%	54%	38%
Not Sure	21%	21%	19%	38%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
West Virginia Adopting N.C.'s System				
Strongly Favor	38%	38%	36%	40%
Somewhat Favor	35%	35%	46%	21%
Somewhat Oppose	13%	13%	12%	24%
Strongly Oppose	6%	6%	3%	8%
Not Sure	9%	9%	4%	7%





	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Public Funding for Supreme Court of Appeals				
Yes	25%	26%	19%	23%
No	45%	45%	51%	31%
Not Sure	30%	30%	30%	46%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Accepting Money Without Conflict of Interests				
Yes	13%	13%	9%	14%
No	74%	75%	68%	68%
Not Sure	13%	13%	22%	18%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Can Public Finance Reduce Conflicts of Interests				
Yes	40%	40%	26%	44%
No	28%	28%	53%	22%
Not Sure	32%	32%	21%	34%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Stricter Spending Limits				
Yes	67%	68%	51%	60%
No	16%	15%	29%	18%
Not Sure	18%	17%	19%	22%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Public Funding in General					
Yes	23%	22%	22%	25%	22%
No	56%	50%	62%	57%	50%
Not Sure	21%	29%	16%	18%	28%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
West Virginia Adopting N.C.'s System					
Strongly Favor	38%	38%	33%	41%	35%
Somewhat Favor	35%	34%	33%	35%	37%
Somewhat Oppose	13%	14%	13%	12%	12%
Strongly Oppose	6%	4%	10%	5%	3%
Not Sure	9%	10%	11%	6%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Public Funding for Supreme Court of Appeals					
Yes	25%	32%	24%	25%	22%
No	45%	37%	45%	47%	46%
Not Sure	30%	30%	32%	28%	32%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Accepting Money Without Conflict of Interests					
Yes	13%	23%	11%	11%	11%
No	74%	58%	79%	79%	69%
Not Sure	13%	19%	10%	10%	20%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Can Public Finance Reduce Conflicts of Interests					
Yes	40%	35%	41%	43%	35%
No	28%	28%	35%	27%	24%
Not Sure	32%	37%	24%	31%	40%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Stricter Spending Limits					
Yes	67%	65%	66%	71%	61%
No	16%	19%	17%	14%	16%
Not Sure	18%	16%	17%	16%	23%

