

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)

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

Raese Takes Lead over Manchin for Byrd Senate Seat

Raleigh, N.C. – If the election were held today, Robert Byrd’s U.S. Senate seat from West Virginia would be held by a Republican and someone other than Byrd for the first time in 52 years. Though Governor Joe Manchin is still very popular, with a stellar 59-32 approval rating, second among those PPP has measured this year to Louisiana’s Bobby Jindal, he is trailing Republican opponent John Raese, 43-46, among likely voters.

West Virginia is still a Democratic state by registration, Democrats representing 51% of the projected electorate to Republicans’ 37%, but they are conservative Democrats who increasingly vote Republican in federal elections. Like Kentucky and a lot of Appalachia and the South with histories of Democratic governors, Mountain State voters still often separate their votes for state officials from those for federal politicians. This traditional vote division is exacerbated by a 10-point pro-Republican enthusiasm gap. John McCain won the state by 13 points in 2008, but West Virginians who plan to vote this year report casting ballots for McCain by 23 points over President Obama—a 10-point enthusiasm gap compared to the electorate two years ago. If the same internals were still true and this race had been run in 2008, Manchin would be ahead roughly 50-44.

Because of the conservatism of the Democrats—34% of whom think the party is too liberal—Raese gets 23% of them, to Manchin’s 14% of the GOP, and Raese wins independents by a 56-30 margin.

If Manchin’s popularity as chief executive cannot help him get elected to higher office, there is no doubt the potential that Manchin will vote for Obama’s agenda is weighing on the minds of West Virginia voters. Obama has a 30-64 approval rating in the state. Luckily for Manchin, he can hang his candidacy on Byrd’s memory. Voters approve of the work Byrd did, 68-23, and want his legacy carried on by his replacement, 52-33.

“There are a lot of voters in West Virginia who like Joe Manchin but don’t like the national Democratic party and right now those feelings about Barack Obama and national Democrats are driving their vote intent,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 1,397 likely West Virginia voters from September 18th to 19th. The 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.



West Virginia Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 30%
Disapprove..... 64%
Not sure 6%

Q2 Do you support or oppose President Obama's health care plan, or do you not have an opinion?

Support 27%
Oppose 63%
No opinion..... 11%

Q3 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Joe Manchin's job performance?

Approve59% *Not sure* 9%
Disapprove.....32%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Raese?

Favorable..... 41%
Unfavorable 35%
Not sure 24%

Q5 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 43%
John Raese..... 46%
Undecided..... 10%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the work Robert Byrd did during his time in the US Senate?

Approve 68%
Disapprove..... 23%
Not sure 9%

Q7 Would you like to see the next Senator from West Virginia to carry on Robert Byrd's legacy?

Yes..... 52%
No 33%
Not sure 15%

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

Democrats 37%
Republicans 54%
Not sure 9%

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

Too liberal 57%
Too conservative..... 8%
About right 29%
Not sure 6%

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

Too liberal 23%
Too conservative..... 32%
About right 37%
Not sure 9%

Q11 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 58%
Barack Obama..... 35%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

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

Liberal..... 13%
Moderate..... 42%
Conservative..... 45%



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 51%

Republican..... 37%

Independent/Other..... 12%

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

White 95%

Other..... 5%

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..... 22%

46 to 65..... 44%

Older than 65..... 24%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	30%	5%	76%	14%
Disapprove	64%	93%	15%	67%
Not sure	6%	2%	9%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Health Care				
Support	27%	3%	69%	8%
Oppose	63%	92%	15%	61%
No opinion	11%	6%	15%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin Approval				
Approve	59%	44%	83%	61%
Disapprove	32%	45%	11%	32%
Not sure	9%	11%	6%	7%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	41%	61%	10%	30%
Unfavorable	35%	13%	71%	40%
Not sure	24%	27%	19%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	43%	18%	84%	49%
John Raese	46%	70%	9%	32%
Undecided	10%	12%	7%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Byrd Approval				
Approve	68%	52%	93%	72%
Disapprove	23%	36%	3%	16%
Not sure	9%	12%	3%	11%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Continue Byrd Legacy				
Yes	52%	31%	85%	57%
No	33%	49%	8%	22%
Not sure	15%	19%	8%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Dem or GOP Control Congress				
Democrats	37%	7%	85%	41%
Republicans	54%	85%	7%	35%
Not sure	9%	8%	8%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
DNC Ideology				
Too liberal	57%	83%	18%	36%
Too conservative	8%	5%	11%	9%
About right	29%	6%	65%	45%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%	9%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
RNC Ideology				
Too liberal	23%	28%	14%	22%
Too conservative	32%	11%	65%	32%
About right	37%	53%	11%	31%
Not sure	9%	7%	10%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	30%	75%	42%	6%
Disapprove	64%	21%	50%	90%
Not sure	6%	4%	8%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Health Care				
Support	27%	71%	37%	4%
Oppose	63%	22%	47%	90%
No opinion	11%	7%	16%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Manchin Approval				
Approve	59%	75%	70%	43%
Disapprove	32%	19%	23%	45%
Not sure	9%	6%	7%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	41%	12%	27%	62%
Unfavorable	35%	70%	47%	13%
Not sure	24%	18%	26%	24%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	43%	77%	59%	18%
John Raese	46%	12%	30%	71%
Undecided	10%	11%	11%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Byrd Approval				
Approve	68%	90%	85%	46%
Disapprove	23%	7%	10%	41%
Not sure	9%	4%	5%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Continue Byrd Legacy				
Yes	52%	83%	70%	26%
No	33%	9%	20%	52%
Not sure	15%	8%	11%	22%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Dem or GOP Control Congress				
Democrats	37%	83%	51%	10%
Republicans	54%	10%	37%	83%
Not sure	9%	7%	12%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
DNC Ideology				
Too liberal	57%	12%	44%	83%
Too conservative	8%	21%	7%	4%
About right	29%	60%	41%	9%
Not sure	6%	7%	8%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
RNC Ideology				
Too liberal	23%	8%	15%	35%
Too conservative	32%	69%	45%	8%
About right	37%	11%	31%	50%
Not sure	9%	12%	9%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	30%	29%	32%
Disapprove	64%	64%	64%
Not sure	6%	7%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Health Care			
Support	27%	25%	28%
Oppose	63%	61%	65%
No opinion	11%	14%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin Approval			
Approve	59%	61%	56%
Disapprove	32%	28%	36%
Not sure	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	41%	37%	45%
Unfavorable	35%	34%	35%
Not sure	24%	28%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	43%	47%	39%
John Raese	46%	42%	50%
Undecided	10%	11%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Byrd Approval			
Approve	68%	72%	64%
Disapprove	23%	21%	26%
Not sure	9%	8%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Continue Byrd Legacy			
Yes	52%	56%	47%
No	33%	27%	39%
Not sure	15%	17%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dem or GOP Control Congress			
Democrats	37%	39%	35%
Republicans	54%	50%	59%
Not sure	9%	11%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
DNC Ideology			
Too liberal	57%	52%	63%
Too conservative	8%	5%	11%
About right	29%	35%	23%
Not sure	6%	8%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
RNC Ideology			
Too liberal	23%	22%	24%
Too conservative	32%	29%	34%
About right	37%	38%	36%
Not sure	9%	11%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	30%	51%	5%	22%
Disapprove	64%	42%	91%	73%
Not sure	6%	7%	4%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Health Care				
Support	27%	45%	3%	20%
Oppose	63%	40%	92%	69%
No opinion	11%	15%	5%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin Approval				
Approve	59%	73%	42%	47%
Disapprove	32%	22%	44%	39%
Not sure	9%	5%	13%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	41%	23%	63%	49%
Unfavorable	35%	55%	10%	24%
Not sure	24%	22%	27%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	43%	67%	14%	30%
John Raese	46%	23%	75%	56%
Undecided	10%	9%	11%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Byrd Approval				
Approve	68%	86%	44%	63%
Disapprove	23%	9%	42%	28%
Not sure	9%	5%	14%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Continue Byrd Legacy				
Yes	52%	75%	26%	30%
No	33%	15%	54%	46%
Not sure	15%	10%	20%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dem or GOP Control Congress				
Democrats	37%	65%	3%	21%
Republicans	54%	25%	91%	66%
Not sure	9%	10%	6%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
DNC Ideology				
Too liberal	57%	34%	86%	72%
Too conservative	8%	9%	4%	12%
About right	29%	51%	5%	12%
Not sure	6%	7%	5%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
RNC Ideology				
Too liberal	23%	20%	25%	27%
Too conservative	32%	45%	11%	33%
About right	37%	24%	57%	31%
Not sure	9%	10%	7%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	30%	30%	43%
Disapprove	64%	65%	47%
Not sure	6%	5%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Health Care			
Support	27%	26%	42%
Oppose	63%	64%	41%
No opinion	11%	10%	18%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin Approval			
Approve	59%	59%	56%
Disapprove	32%	32%	39%
Not sure	9%	9%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	41%	42%	23%
Unfavorable	35%	34%	44%
Not sure	24%	24%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	43%	43%	54%
John Raese	46%	47%	31%
Undecided	10%	10%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Byrd Approval			
Approve	68%	68%	63%
Disapprove	23%	23%	26%
Not sure	9%	9%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Continue Byrd Legacy			
Yes	52%	52%	51%
No	33%	33%	39%
Not sure	15%	16%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dem or GOP Control Congress			
Democrats	37%	36%	49%
Republicans	54%	55%	43%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
DNC Ideology			
Too liberal	57%	58%	42%
Too conservative	8%	7%	11%
About right	29%	29%	42%
Not sure	6%	6%	6%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
RNC Ideology			
Too liberal	23%	23%	24%
Too conservative	32%	31%	40%
About right	37%	37%	29%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	30%	24%	28%	31%	35%
Disapprove	64%	64%	67%	64%	60%
Not sure	6%	12%	5%	5%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Health Care					
Support	27%	21%	25%	28%	28%
Oppose	63%	58%	67%	63%	61%
No opinion	11%	21%	8%	10%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin Approval					
Approve	59%	57%	51%	61%	62%
Disapprove	32%	39%	37%	30%	28%
Not sure	9%	4%	12%	8%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Raese Favorability					
Favorable	41%	39%	42%	41%	40%
Unfavorable	35%	34%	28%	37%	38%
Not sure	24%	27%	30%	22%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin/Raese					
Joe Manchin	43%	51%	37%	44%	46%
John Raese	46%	40%	52%	45%	46%
Undecided	10%	9%	11%	12%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Byrd Approval					
Approve	68%	67%	63%	70%	69%
Disapprove	23%	20%	31%	22%	20%
Not sure	9%	14%	6%	7%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Continue Byrd Legacy					
Yes	52%	61%	47%	52%	52%
No	33%	22%	41%	34%	28%
Not sure	15%	16%	12%	14%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dem or GOP Control Congress					
Democrats	37%	46%	33%	36%	39%
Republicans	54%	43%	58%	56%	53%
Not sure	9%	10%	9%	9%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
DNC Ideology					
Too liberal	57%	54%	58%	59%	55%
Too conservative	8%	12%	9%	8%	4%
About right	29%	27%	28%	28%	35%
Not sure	6%	7%	5%	5%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
RNC Ideology					
Too liberal	23%	31%	28%	22%	15%
Too conservative	32%	34%	34%	32%	28%
About right	37%	25%	30%	38%	46%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%	8%	11%

