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OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

## **Tomblin headed for an easy win**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – While the Republican race for Governor of West Virginia has changed drastically over the last three weeks the Democratic contest has barely moved at all: Earl Ray Tomblin is headed for an easy nomination victory in his quest to remain as Governor. Tomblin's polling at 33% to 20% for Rick Thompson, 17% for Natalie Tennant, 11% for John Perdue, 4% for Jeff Kessler, and 1% for Arne Moltis. 1% of voters remain undecided.

Tomblin's likely to win because he has strong appeal to the diverse ideological factions of the state's Democratic primary electorate. He's strongest with the more conservative voters- a 24 point advantage over Thompson with 'somewhat conservative' voters and a 15 point lead over him with 'very conservative' voters. But he's also winning the left, with a 15 point edge on Tennant with 'somewhat liberal' voters and a 7 point lead on Thompson with 'very liberal' voters.

While Tomblin's likely to win the race, Thompson might be able to take credit for winning the campaign. When we first polled this race in January he was at only 6%. The 14 point gain in support he's seen over the course of the last three months is the greatest of any candidate. Tomblin's seen an 8 point increase in his support while Tennant and Perdue have actually lost voters over the course of the campaign, down 7 points and 5 points respectively from the first poll.

"Earl Ray Tomblin's not going to get an overwhelming percentage of the vote on Saturday but he should still win comfortably," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "The opposition to him never united around a single opponent and his appeal to the different factions of the party has him in good shape not just to win the primary but also to win in the fall. Democrats will be nominating their strongest candidate this weekend."

PPP surveyed 742 likely Democratic primary voters on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.6%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



## West Virginia Survey Results

**Q1** The Democratic candidates for Governor are Jeff Kessler, Arne Moltis, John Perdue, Natalie Tennant, Rick Thompson, and Earl Ray Tomblin. If the primary was today, who would you vote for?

<i>Jeff Kessler</i> .....	4%
<i>Arne Moltis</i> .....	1%
<i>John Perdue</i> .....	11%
<i>Natalie Tennant</i> .....	17%
<i>Rick Thompson</i> .....	20%
<i>Earl Ray Tomblin</i> .....	33%
<i>Undecided</i> .....	12%

**Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's job performance?

<i>Approve</i> .....	49%	<i>Not sure</i> .....	30%
<i>Disapprove</i> .....	21%		

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

<i>Favorable</i> .....	27%
<i>Unfavorable</i> .....	33%
<i>Not sure</i> .....	40%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Natalie Tennant?

<i>Favorable</i> .....	45%
<i>Unfavorable</i> .....	26%
<i>Not sure</i> .....	29%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Thompson?

<i>Favorable</i> .....	37%
<i>Unfavorable</i> .....	28%
<i>Not sure</i> .....	36%

**Q6** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i> .....	56%
<i>Man</i> .....	44%

**Q7** 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.

<i>18 to 29</i> .....	14%
<i>30 to 45</i> .....	16%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	39%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	31%

**Q8** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i> .....	13%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i> .....	21%
<i>Moderate</i> .....	31%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i> .....	23%
<i>Very conservative</i> .....	13%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>2011 Dem Gov Primary</b>			
<b>Jeff Kessler</b>	4%	4%	6%
<b>Arne Moltis</b>	1%	2%	1%
<b>John Perdue</b>	11%	11%	13%
<b>Natalie Tennant</b>	17%	18%	16%
<b>Rick Thompson</b>	20%	20%	20%
<b>Earl Ray Tomblin</b>	33%	33%	34%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	12%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Tomblin Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	49%	50%	47%
<b>Disapprove</b>	21%	18%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	31%	28%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Perdue Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	27%	29%	25%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	33%	26%	40%
<b>Not sure</b>	40%	44%	35%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Tennant Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	48%	41%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	23%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	29%	29%	30%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Thompson Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>37%</b>	36%	37%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>28%</b>	23%	34%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>36%</b>	41%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>2011 Dem Gov Primary</b>					
<b>Jeff Kessler</b>	<b>4%</b>	3%	4%	5%	4%
<b>Arne Moltis</b>	<b>1%</b>	2%	4%	0%	0%
<b>John Perdue</b>	<b>11%</b>	9%	6%	11%	16%
<b>Natalie Tennant</b>	<b>17%</b>	16%	23%	16%	16%
<b>Rick Thompson</b>	<b>20%</b>	22%	23%	22%	16%
<b>Earl Ray Tomblin</b>	<b>33%</b>	33%	23%	35%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>12%</b>	16%	15%	10%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Tomblin Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>49%</b>	48%	33%	52%	53%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>21%</b>	25%	25%	21%	18%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>30%</b>	27%	43%	27%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Perdue Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>27%</b>	17%	19%	29%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>33%</b>	29%	41%	34%	28%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>40%</b>	54%	41%	37%	39%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Tennant Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	37%	43%	47%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	34%	32%	25%	21%
<b>Not sure</b>	29%	29%	24%	28%	33%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Thompson Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	37%	32%	35%	40%	35%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	27%	38%	28%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	36%	41%	27%	33%	41%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>2011 Dem Gov Primary</b>						
<b>Jeff Kessler</b>	4%	1%	5%	5%	6%	2%
<b>Arne Moltis</b>	1%	3%	2%	1%	-	2%
<b>John Perdue</b>	11%	14%	12%	10%	13%	10%
<b>Natalie Tennant</b>	17%	19%	20%	22%	13%	9%
<b>Rick Thompson</b>	20%	23%	18%	23%	18%	19%
<b>Earl Ray Tomblin</b>	33%	30%	35%	28%	42%	34%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	10%	10%	11%	8%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Tomblin Approval</b>						
<b>Approve</b>	49%	41%	46%	50%	53%	50%
<b>Disapprove</b>	21%	35%	24%	18%	18%	19%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	24%	30%	32%	29%	31%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Perdue Favorability</b>						
Favorable	27%	30%	31%	26%	26%	22%
Unfavorable	33%	33%	37%	30%	29%	36%
Not sure	40%	37%	31%	43%	45%	43%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Tennant Favorability</b>						
Favorable	45%	55%	47%	49%	41%	27%
Unfavorable	26%	23%	29%	25%	23%	30%
Not sure	29%	22%	24%	26%	36%	43%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Thompson Favorability</b>						
Favorable	37%	42%	38%	35%	35%	35%
Unfavorable	28%	31%	31%	25%	28%	27%
Not sure	36%	28%	31%	39%	37%	38%

