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Maloney catches Ireland

Raleigh, N.C. – The Republican race for Governor in West Virginia has shifted dramatically in Bill Maloney’s direction over the last three weeks and he now has the smallest of leads with 32% to presumptive front runner Betty Ireland’s 31%. It’s a two person race with Clark Barnes at 8%, Larry Faircloth at 6%, Mark Sorsaia and Mitch Carmichael at 4%, Ralph William Clark at 1%, and Cliff Ellis at 0% rounding out the field. 14% of voters remain undecided even 36 hours out from election day, making this a complete toss up between Maloney and Ireland.

When PPP first polled this race in mid-April Ireland led with 31% to Maloney’s 17%. Since that point in time she has not picked up any additional support, while Maloney has seen a 15 percent gain in his standing. We found on that poll that Maloney’s primary problem was name recognition- with voters who knew who he was he actually led Ireland by 14 points, but 62% of voters were familiar with her while only 38% were familiar with Maloney. He’s now closed most of that gap- 65% of primary voters know enough about Ireland to have formed an opinion and the same is true for 60% when it comes to Maloney. Their favorability ratings are now identical at 47%, with Ireland’s negatives slightly higher at 18% to Maloney’s 13%.

If Maloney does indeed pull off the comeback victory it will continue the 2010 trend of right wing candidates knocking off comparative centrists in Republican primaries. Ireland is destroying Maloney by a 44-25 margin with voters describing themselves as moderates. But Maloney is up 33-29 with voters describing themselves as ‘somewhat conservative’ and with ‘very conservative’ voters, who account for the largest segment of the GOP electorate in the state, he’s up 36-31.

“This is going to be the race to watch on Saturday night,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “It’s a complete toss up and certainly Ireland could still win but the momentum is clearly in Maloney’s direction.”

PPP surveyed 314 likely Republican primary voters on May 11th and 12th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-5.5%. 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 Republican candidates for Governor are Clark Barnes, Mitch Carmichael, Ralph William Clark, Cliff Ellis, Larry Faircloth, Betty Ireland, Bill Maloney, and Mark Sorsaia. If the primary was today, who would you vote for?

<i>Clark Barnes</i>	8%
<i>Mitch Carmichael</i>	4%
<i>Ralph William Clark</i>	1%
<i>Cliff Ellis</i>	0%
<i>Larry Faircloth</i>	6%
<i>Betty Ireland</i>	31%
<i>Bill Maloney</i>	32%
<i>Mark Sorsaia</i>	4%
<i>Undecided</i>	14%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Betty Ireland?

<i>Favorable</i>	47%
<i>Unfavorable</i>	18%
<i>Not sure</i>	35%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bill Maloney?

<i>Favorable</i>	47%
<i>Unfavorable</i>	13%
<i>Not sure</i>	40%

Q4 If the Republican candidates for President in 2012 were Michele Bachmann, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and Donald Trump who would you vote for?

<i>Michele Bachmann</i>	4%
<i>Newt Gingrich</i>	12%
<i>Mike Huckabee</i>	21%
<i>Sarah Palin</i>	15%
<i>Ron Paul</i>	9%
<i>Tim Pawlenty</i>	3%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	15%
<i>Donald Trump</i>	9%
<i>Someone else/Undecided</i>	12%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

<i>Favorable</i>	52%
<i>Unfavorable</i>	21%
<i>Not sure</i>	27%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

<i>Favorable</i>	68%	<i>Not sure</i>	21%
<i>Unfavorable</i>	12%		

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

<i>Favorable</i>	62%
<i>Unfavorable</i>	23%
<i>Not sure</i>	14%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

<i>Favorable</i>	56%
<i>Unfavorable</i>	18%
<i>Not sure</i>	26%





Q9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Donald Trump?

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 52%
Not sure 17%

Q10 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 50%
Man..... 50%

Q11 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..... 14%
30 to 45..... 16%
46 to 65..... 37%
Older than 65..... 33%

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

Very liberal..... 2%
Somewhat liberal 5%
Moderate..... 11%
Somewhat conservative..... 40%
Very conservative 41%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2011 GOP Gov Primary			
Clark Barnes	8%	8%	9%
Mitch Carmichael	4%	3%	4%
Ralph William Clark	1%	1%	1%
Cliff Ellis	0%	1%	-
Larry Faircloth	6%	5%	6%
Betty Ireland	31%	28%	34%
Bill Maloney	32%	35%	30%
Mark Sorsaia	4%	5%	3%
Undecided	14%	14%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ireland Favorability			
Favorable	47%	45%	50%
Unfavorable	18%	15%	21%
Not sure	35%	41%	29%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Maloney Favorability			
Favorable	47%	51%	44%
Unfavorable	13%	10%	15%
Not sure	40%	39%	41%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Michele Bachmann	4%	5%	4%
Newt Gingrich	12%	8%	16%
Mike Huckabee	21%	28%	14%
Sarah Palin	15%	12%	17%
Ron Paul	9%	7%	10%
Tim Pawlenty	3%	3%	3%
Mitt Romney	15%	14%	16%
Donald Trump	9%	8%	11%
Someone else/Undecided	12%	15%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	52%	44%	58%
Unfavorable	21%	24%	18%
Not sure	27%	31%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	68%	67%	69%
Unfavorable	12%	10%	13%
Not sure	21%	23%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	62%	54%	70%
Unfavorable	23%	26%	21%
Not sure	14%	19%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	56%	55%	56%
Unfavorable	18%	16%	19%
Not sure	26%	29%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Trump Favorability			
Favorable	31%	30%	31%
Unfavorable	52%	47%	57%
Not sure	17%	22%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2011 GOP Gov Primary					
Clark Barnes	8%	21%	7%	7%	5%
Mitch Carmichael	4%	4%	7%	3%	3%
Ralph William Clark	1%	-	3%	1%	-
Cliff Ellis	0%	-	-	-	1%
Larry Faircloth	6%	8%	7%	4%	5%
Betty Ireland	31%	38%	28%	33%	27%
Bill Maloney	32%	13%	34%	34%	38%
Mark Sorsaia	4%	-	3%	3%	7%
Undecided	14%	17%	10%	14%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ireland Favorability					
Favorable	47%	48%	36%	48%	52%
Unfavorable	18%	10%	18%	19%	19%
Not sure	35%	43%	46%	33%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Maloney Favorability					
Favorable	47%	30%	48%	49%	52%
Unfavorable	13%	25%	22%	7%	9%
Not sure	40%	45%	30%	44%	38%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Michele Bachmann	4%	4%	-	5%	5%
Newt Gingrich	12%	8%	7%	13%	14%
Mike Huckabee	21%	29%	17%	21%	20%
Sarah Palin	15%	13%	17%	20%	9%
Ron Paul	9%	13%	21%	3%	7%
Tim Pawlenty	3%	-	7%	3%	2%
Mitt Romney	15%	13%	17%	12%	18%
Donald Trump	9%	13%	7%	11%	7%
Someone else/Undecided	12%	8%	7%	11%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	52%	41%	37%	62%	50%
Unfavorable	21%	29%	26%	17%	20%
Not sure	27%	29%	37%	22%	30%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	68%	59%	53%	73%	71%
Unfavorable	12%	12%	26%	9%	8%
Not sure	21%	29%	21%	18%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	62%	47%	53%	76%	56%
Unfavorable	23%	29%	21%	19%	27%
Not sure	14%	24%	26%	5%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	56%	35%	53%	57%	64%
Unfavorable	18%	24%	16%	18%	16%
Not sure	26%	41%	32%	25%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Trump Favorability					
Favorable	31%	29%	37%	34%	25%
Unfavorable	52%	59%	42%	50%	57%
Not sure	17%	12%	21%	16%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2011 GOP Gov Primary						
Clark Barnes	8%	30%	11%	5%	6%	10%
Mitch Carmichael	4%	-	10%	7%	3%	3%
Ralph William Clark	1%	-	-	-	1%	1%
Cliff Ellis	0%	-	-	-	1%	-
Larry Faircloth	6%	49%	11%	2%	6%	4%
Betty Ireland	31%	-	29%	44%	29%	31%
Bill Maloney	32%	10%	25%	25%	33%	36%
Mark Sorsaia	4%	-	4%	4%	3%	5%
Undecided	14%	10%	11%	13%	17%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Ireland Favorability						
Favorable	47%	33%	45%	53%	41%	53%
Unfavorable	18%	33%	31%	7%	24%	12%
Not sure	35%	33%	23%	40%	35%	35%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Maloney Favorability						
Favorable	47%	-	19%	38%	47%	56%
Unfavorable	13%	55%	42%	8%	12%	9%
Not sure	40%	45%	39%	55%	41%	34%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary						
Michele Bachmann	4%	60%	-	8%	0%	5%
Newt Gingrich	12%	20%	39%	4%	6%	16%
Mike Huckabee	21%	10%	25%	18%	22%	20%
Sarah Palin	15%	-	29%	11%	17%	12%
Ron Paul	9%	-	-	18%	9%	7%
Tim Pawlenty	3%	-	-	2%	1%	5%
Mitt Romney	15%	-	-	13%	22%	12%
Donald Trump	9%	-	-	11%	7%	14%
Someone else/Undecided	12%	10%	7%	17%	15%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	52%	49%	47%	41%	44%	63%
Unfavorable	21%	51%	24%	28%	21%	18%
Not sure	27%	-	29%	31%	35%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Huckabee Favorability						
Favorable	68%	49%	35%	45%	67%	79%
Unfavorable	12%	26%	18%	16%	15%	6%
Not sure	21%	26%	47%	39%	18%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	62%	49%	58%	36%	61%	72%
Unfavorable	23%	51%	24%	51%	24%	13%
Not sure	14%	-	18%	12%	15%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	56%	-	-	55%	60%	59%
Unfavorable	18%	74%	35%	12%	13%	21%
Not sure	26%	26%	65%	33%	27%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Trump Favorability						
Favorable	31%	-	6%	42%	27%	34%
Unfavorable	52%	74%	65%	50%	52%	52%
Not sure	17%	26%	29%	8%	21%	14%

