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Manchin leads Capito, others for full Senate term

Raleigh, N.C. – The special election to fill the late Robert Byrd’s long-held U.S. Senate seat last fall was a nailbiter that ended in a ten-point rout in the end. In PPP’s latest poll of next fall’s race for a full six-year term in that seat, Joe Manchin is faring at least as well now as he did in the unusually hostile election for Democrats that was 2010. The Republican most frequently touted as a tough opponent for Manchin is Rep. Shelley Moore Capito. But Manchin leads her by a similar margin as PPP’s January poll, 48-40 now, versus 50-41 then. If Capito declines again to run for higher office, and 2010 opponent John Raese seeks a rematch, Manchin would prevail this time by a 61-29 landslide, up from 60-31 in the previous survey. The incumbent also tops new Rep. David McKinley by a 63-25 margin, an improvement from his 57-28 spread in January.

Capito is beloved by independents, beating Manchin 57-22 with them, but they make up only 10% of the electorate. Manchin gets 40% of the vote just by earning two-thirds of Democrats. Against the other two, that rises to 76-77%, and Manchin also wins independents by double digits and takes 35-39% of the GOP to their 50-55%. Manchin wins only 20% of Republicans against Capito, who maintains 74% of her party’s support. She also earns 21% of Democrats, while the others get only 12% or 15%.

Manchin was one of the country’s most popular governors when he was in that office, and so far, he is also in rare company in the Senate, ranking 15th out of 85 senators on which PPP has polled in the last 15 months. His 55-31 job approval margin is up slightly from 52-32 in January. Even the very conservative give him a 47-38 spread, though his criticism of President Obama which has helped win him the nod from the right has also caused the very liberal to approve only 43-40. With a 48-32 favorability margin, Capito is by far the best-liked Republican, compared to McKinley’s 22-25 and Raese’s 26-52.

“So far Joe Manchin’s popularity is holding up well through his transition from Governor to the Senate,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 850 West Virginia voters from April 21st to 24th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.4%. 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 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Joe Manchin's job performance?

Approve..... 55% Not sure 14%
Disapprove..... 31%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Shelley Moore Capito?

Favorable..... 48%
Unfavorable 32%
Not sure 21%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of David McKinley?

Favorable..... 22%
Unfavorable 25%
Not sure 53%

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

Favorable..... 26%
Unfavorable 52%
Not sure 22%

Q5 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Joe Manchin and Republican Shelley Moore Capito, who would you vote for?

Joe Manchin 48%
Shelley Moore Capito..... 40%
Undecided..... 12%

Q6 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Joe Manchin and Republican David McKinley, who would you vote for?

Joe Manchin 63%
David McKinley 25%
Undecided..... 12%

Q7 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Joe Manchin and Republican John Raese, who would you vote for?

Joe Manchin 61%
John Raese..... 29%
Undecided..... 10%

Q8 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jay Rockefeller's job performance?

Approve..... 45% Not sure 13%
Disapprove..... 42%

Q9 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 51%
Barack Obama..... 38%
Someone else/Don't remember 12%

Q10 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 10%
Somewhat liberal 15%
Moderate..... 32%
Somewhat conservative..... 24%
Very conservative 18%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 54%
Man..... 46%

Q12 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 60%
Republican..... 29%
Independent/Other..... 10%





Q13 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 96%
Other..... 4%

Q14 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..... 20%
46 to 65..... 44%
Older than 65..... 26%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin Approval				
Approve	55%	52%	60%	49%
Disapprove	31%	36%	28%	21%
Not sure	14%	12%	12%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Capito Favorability				
Favorable	48%	69%	22%	34%
Unfavorable	32%	13%	57%	33%
Not sure	21%	18%	21%	33%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McKinley Favorability				
Favorable	22%	33%	9%	14%
Unfavorable	25%	19%	35%	22%
Not sure	53%	49%	55%	64%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	26%	43%	6%	15%
Unfavorable	52%	33%	76%	55%
Not sure	22%	24%	17%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin/Capito				
Joe Manchin	48%	28%	75%	47%
Shelley Moore Capito	40%	64%	12%	26%
Undecided	12%	8%	13%	27%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin/McKinley				
Joe Manchin	63%	48%	83%	61%
David McKinley	25%	41%	6%	15%
Undecided	12%	10%	11%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	61%	44%	86%	58%
John Raese	29%	48%	5%	23%
Undecided	10%	8%	10%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Rockefeller Approval				
Approve	45%	23%	76%	42%
Disapprove	42%	67%	12%	32%
Not sure	13%	10%	12%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Manchin Approval						
Approve	55%	43%	60%	60%	54%	47%
Disapprove	31%	40%	29%	24%	33%	38%
Not sure	14%	17%	11%	16%	13%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Capito Favorability						
Favorable	48%	15%	26%	39%	64%	76%
Unfavorable	32%	68%	60%	33%	15%	9%
Not sure	21%	16%	14%	28%	21%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McKinley Favorability						
Favorable	22%	9%	12%	18%	31%	31%
Unfavorable	25%	49%	35%	27%	17%	13%
Not sure	53%	42%	53%	55%	51%	57%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Raese Favorability						
Favorable	26%	13%	8%	13%	35%	57%
Unfavorable	52%	71%	74%	63%	43%	16%
Not sure	22%	16%	18%	24%	22%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Manchin/Capito						
Joe Manchin	48%	67%	69%	63%	32%	17%
Shelley Moore Capito	40%	7%	22%	26%	59%	72%
Undecided	12%	26%	9%	11%	9%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Manchin/McKinley						
Joe Manchin	63%	73%	76%	76%	53%	37%
David McKinley	25%	7%	14%	14%	36%	48%
Undecided	12%	20%	10%	10%	11%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Manchin/Raese						
Joe Manchin	61%	79%	79%	75%	50%	28%
John Raese	29%	8%	11%	16%	39%	62%
Undecided	10%	13%	10%	9%	11%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Rockefeller Approval						
Approve	45%	69%	70%	60%	25%	13%
Disapprove	42%	18%	20%	26%	61%	77%
Not sure	13%	13%	9%	14%	14%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin Approval			
Approve	55%	55%	54%
Disapprove	31%	28%	35%
Not sure	14%	17%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Capito Favorability			
Favorable	48%	46%	50%
Unfavorable	32%	27%	38%
Not sure	21%	28%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McKinley Favorability			
Favorable	22%	18%	26%
Unfavorable	25%	20%	32%
Not sure	53%	62%	42%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	26%	23%	29%
Unfavorable	52%	48%	56%
Not sure	22%	29%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin/Capito			
Joe Manchin	48%	51%	45%
Shelley Moore Capito	40%	36%	45%
Undecided	12%	13%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin/McKinley			
Joe Manchin	63%	64%	62%
David McKinley	25%	23%	28%
Undecided	12%	14%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	61%	63%	60%
John Raese	29%	24%	34%
Undecided	10%	13%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rockefeller Approval			
Approve	45%	50%	39%
Disapprove	42%	35%	51%
Not sure	13%	15%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin Approval				
Approve	55%	61%	45%	46%
Disapprove	31%	24%	41%	42%
Not sure	14%	15%	14%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Capito Favorability				
Favorable	48%	34%	71%	61%
Unfavorable	32%	43%	14%	21%
Not sure	21%	24%	15%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McKinley Favorability				
Favorable	22%	15%	34%	26%
Unfavorable	25%	31%	13%	26%
Not sure	53%	54%	53%	47%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Raese Favorability				
Favorable	26%	17%	44%	28%
Unfavorable	52%	65%	28%	45%
Not sure	22%	19%	29%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin/Capito				
Joe Manchin	48%	66%	20%	22%
Shelley Moore Capito	40%	21%	74%	57%
Undecided	12%	13%	7%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin/McKinley				
Joe Manchin	63%	77%	39%	51%
David McKinley	25%	12%	50%	32%
Undecided	12%	11%	12%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Manchin/Raese				
Joe Manchin	61%	76%	35%	48%
John Raese	29%	15%	55%	38%
Undecided	10%	9%	11%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rockefeller Approval				
Approve	45%	63%	14%	32%
Disapprove	42%	26%	72%	54%
Not sure	13%	12%	14%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin Approval			
Approve	55%	55%	56%
Disapprove	31%	31%	30%
Not sure	14%	14%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Capito Favorability			
Favorable	48%	48%	33%
Unfavorable	32%	31%	48%
Not sure	21%	21%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
McKinley Favorability			
Favorable	22%	22%	19%
Unfavorable	25%	26%	18%
Not sure	53%	52%	63%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Raese Favorability			
Favorable	26%	26%	22%
Unfavorable	52%	52%	49%
Not sure	22%	22%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin/Capito			
Joe Manchin	48%	48%	56%
Shelley Moore Capito	40%	40%	38%
Undecided	12%	12%	6%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin/McKinley			
Joe Manchin	63%	63%	62%
David McKinley	25%	25%	24%
Undecided	12%	12%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Manchin/Raese			
Joe Manchin	61%	61%	63%
John Raese	29%	29%	25%
Undecided	10%	10%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rockefeller Approval			
Approve	45%	45%	47%
Disapprove	42%	42%	38%
Not sure	13%	13%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin Approval					
Approve	55%	64%	58%	50%	56%
Disapprove	31%	27%	31%	34%	27%
Not sure	14%	9%	12%	16%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Capito Favorability					
Favorable	48%	45%	49%	46%	50%
Unfavorable	32%	39%	27%	32%	32%
Not sure	21%	16%	24%	22%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McKinley Favorability					
Favorable	22%	14%	24%	22%	22%
Unfavorable	25%	32%	24%	27%	20%
Not sure	53%	55%	51%	50%	58%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Raese Favorability					
Favorable	26%	19%	24%	28%	25%
Unfavorable	52%	63%	49%	52%	50%
Not sure	22%	19%	27%	20%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin/Capito					
Joe Manchin	48%	59%	41%	48%	50%
Shelley Moore Capito	40%	27%	45%	41%	39%
Undecided	12%	14%	14%	11%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin/McKinley					
Joe Manchin	63%	70%	59%	60%	68%
David McKinley	25%	14%	29%	28%	22%
Undecided	12%	16%	12%	12%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Manchin/Raese					
Joe Manchin	61%	68%	56%	60%	64%
John Raese	29%	16%	32%	32%	25%
Undecided	10%	16%	12%	8%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rockefeller Approval					
Approve	45%	41%	44%	45%	48%
Disapprove	42%	36%	45%	43%	41%
Not sure	13%	23%	12%	12%	12%

