



R.L. Repass & Partners, Inc.
Opinion Research ■ Marketing Research ■ Strategic Counsel



NEWS

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Contact:
Rex Repass
513.325.2700 (mobile)
rex@repasspartners.com

MindField Poll™ Shows Manchin Leading Raese

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Gov. Joe Manchin leads Morgantown businessman John Raese by 22 percentage points, according to the MindField Poll conducted by R.L. Repass & Partners, Inc. and released today. Manchin and Raese are seeking the U.S. Senate seat held by the late Robert C. Byrd.

Manchin, a two-term Democrat, received 54% support in the poll, while Raese, a former chairman of the GOP in the state, received 32%. Fourteen percent were undecided.

“Gov. Manchin’s electoral prowess appears to be formidable. The data suggests he will be hard to beat, but given the unease among voters this year, Mr. Raese has a fighting chance if he can connect with voters and if West Virginians truly want different leadership in the Senate,” Rex Repass, president of the research firm said. “As expected, Mr. Raese has a strong lead among Republicans, but Gov. Manchin’s approval ratings are high and he is in a positive position with independent voters,” Repass added.

Gov. Manchin’s has a 65% approval rating, according to the poll, while President Obama’s approval rating is 32%. Nationally, the president has a 44% approval rating, according to the Gallup Poll’s daily tracking research.

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R.L. Repass & Partners, Inc.
1012 Kanawha Blvd., East - Charleston
10101 Alliance Road, Suite 190 - Cincinnati
1.866.545.2828
repasspartners.com

In addition to the U.S. Senate race, the MindField Poll explored West Virginians' preferences for hypothetical races for governor and reaction to other issues that have been in the news. A full summary of the findings is included with this release.

The MindField Poll is conducted periodically by R.L. Repass & Partners, Inc. and MindField Internet Panels. "We conduct the MindField Poll in West Virginia and other states several times each year to gauge public opinion and consumer attitudes on a variety of issues," Repass said. "In many cases, we are testing marketing ideas and product concepts, but this time we decided to ask some political questions that we believe would be of interest to West Virginians."

"For this installment of the poll, we also tested a statistical model we developed based on population profiles, voter registration, and projected turnout. The data tends to validate what we have seen from telephone surveys," Repass said. "We conduct thousands of telephone and online surveys every year and both methodologies have their place. Beyond our curiosity about issues in West Virginia, we wanted to further evaluate this method for conducting opinion research in West Virginia and we are very pleased with the outcome."

R.L. Repass & Partners, Inc. and its affiliate, MindField Internet Panels, are members of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) and the Council of American Survey Research Organizations (CASRO) and adhere to the codes of conduct of these organizations.

Methodology Statement

The MindField Poll is conducted periodically in West Virginia and the United States by R.L. Repass & Partners, Inc. and MindField Internet Panels. The sample was targeted to registered, likely voters in West Virginia based on the incidence of voter turnout in recent general elections. Data collection was conducted July 26 through Aug. 2, 2010.

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Sampling was conducted via a double opt-in method. Invitations to participate in this poll were sent to adult members (age 18+) of the MindField Internet Panels in West Virginia. Respondents were screened and qualified based on claimed voter registration, past voting behavior, and county of residence. A total of 413 panelists were sampled to complete the interview and 268 were qualified based on current voter registration and claimed likelihood to vote in the November 2, 2010 general election. An additional 138 were disqualified and seven respondents terminated the interview before completion. Respondents completing the interview were proportioned based on a mathematical formula designed to replicate voter turnout. Respondents from 50 of West Virginia's 55 counties completed the survey online.

All sample surveys, whether or not probability sampling procedures are used, are subject to potential sources of error. These sources of error are often not possible to fully estimate, including sampling error, error associated with non-response, error associated with question wording and response categories, and error associated with post survey data weighting. However, statistical tests of significance are conducted (where appropriate) to evaluate how different types of people respond to questions. Applying a margin of sample error to this edition of MindField Poll would yield a margin of error of +/- 6.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence interval; and +/- 5.0 percentage points at the 90% confidence interval.

See Appendix for Complete MindField Poll Results (Attached)

APPENDIX



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MindField™ Poll Results

Data Collected: July 26 - August 2, 2010

WV Rep Sample: n = 268 Qualified Respondents (Likely Registered Voters)
138 Disqualified (Not Likely to Vote or Not Registered)
7 Mid Interview Termination

INTRO: Today we are conducting the *MindField™ Poll*, a public opinion survey about various issues that may be important to people in West Virginia.

SCREENER

1. Are you...

50% Male
50% Female

2. Into which of the following categories does your age happen to fall?

3% 18 - 24
13% 25 - 34
20% 35 - 44
31% 45 - 54
14% 55 - 59
8% 60 - 64
11% 65 years and over

3. Are you registered to vote in West Virginia?

100% Yes
No (**TERMINATE**)

4. How likely is that you will vote in the general election on November 2nd, 2010?

87% Very Likely
13% Somewhat Likely
Not Very Likely (**TERMINATE**)
Not Likely at All (**TERMINATE**)

5. In which West Virginia County do you live?

___ County code per turnout model
I don't live in West Virginia (**TERMINATE**)

POLITICAL ORIENTATION

6. Thinking about social issues, would you say your views on social issues are . . .

17%	Very conservative
29%	Somewhat conservative
35%	Moderate
14%	Somewhat liberal
5%	Very liberal

7. In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself . . .

24%	Republican
11%	Leaning Republican
42%	Democrat
9%	Leaning Democrat
14%	Independent

QUESTIONNAIRE

8. All in all, do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you fee things are off on the wrong track?

23%	Headed in the right direction
61%	Off on the wrong track
16%	Not sure

9. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that Barack Obama is doing as president?

32%	Approve
51%	Disapprove
17%	Not sure

10. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job that Barack Obama is doing in handling the economy?

28%	Approve
57%	Disapprove
15%	Not sure

11. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job that Barack Obama is doing in handling the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?

31% Approve
46% Disapprove
23% Not sure

12. What is your preference for the outcome of this year's congressional elections? **(ROTATE)**

39% A Congress controlled by Democrats
38% A Congress controlled by Republicans
23% Not sure

13. Turning to some West Virginia issues, all in all do you think things in West Virginia are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel things are off on the wrong track?

44% Headed in the right direction
36% Off on the wrong track
20% Not sure

14. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that Joe Manchin is doing as governor?

65% Approve
20% Disapprove
15% Not sure

15. All things considered, how would you rate the job Joe Manchin is doing as governor of West Virginia?

33% Very favorable
41% Somewhat favorable
14% Somewhat unfavorable
7% Very unfavorable
5% Not sure

16. All things considered, what impact would you say Barack Obama's policies have had on the coal industry in West Virginia?

14% Positive impact
51% Negative impact
20% Or, no impact at all
15% Not sure

17. As you probably know, the death of West Virginia Senator Robert Byrd means voters in the state will be electing a new senator on November 2nd. If the election for that U.S. Senate seat was held today and the candidates were Joe Manchin the Democrat and John Raese the Republican **(ROTATE)**, for whom would you vote?

54% Joe Manchin
32% John Raese
14% Not Sure

18. If Joe Manchin is elected to the U.S. Senate, there will be an election to replace him as governor. If that election for governor of West Virginia were today and the candidates were Earl Ray Tomblin the Democrat and Shelly Moore Capito the Republican **(ROTATE)**, for whom would you vote?

29% Earl Ray Tomblin
43% Shelly Moore Capito
28% Not Sure

19. If an election for governor of West Virginia was held today and the candidates were Richard Thompson the Democrat and Shelly Moore Capito the Republican **(ROTATE)**, for whom would you vote?

29% Richard Thompson
44% Shelly Moore Capito
27% Not Sure

20. If an election for governor of West Virginia was held today and the candidates were John Perdue the Democrat and Shelly Moore Capito the Republican **(ROTATE)**, for whom would you vote?

32% John Perdue
44% Shelly Moore Capito
24% Not Sure

21. If an election for governor of West Virginia was held today and the candidates Natalie Tennant the Democrat and Shelly Moore Capito the Republican **(ROTATE)**, for whom would you vote?

37% Natalie Tennant
40% Shelly Moore Capito
23% Not Sure

22. If an election for governor of West Virginia was held today and the candidates Earl Ray Tomblin the Democrat and Betty Ireland the Republican **(ROTATE)**, for whom would you vote?

34% Earl Ray Tomblin
26% Betty Ireland
40% Not Sure

23. If an election for governor of West Virginia was held today and the candidates were Richard Thompson the Democrat and Betty Ireland the Republican **(ROTATE)**, for whom would you vote?

32% Richard Thompson
28% Betty Ireland
40% Not Sure

24. If an election for governor of West Virginia was held today and the candidates were John Perdue the Democrat and Betty Ireland the Republican **(ROTATE)**, for whom would you vote?

37% John Perdue
27% Betty Ireland
36% Not Sure

25. If an election for governor of West Virginia was held today and the candidates Natalie Tennant the Democrat and Betty Ireland the Republican **(ROTATE)**, for whom would you vote?

44% Natalie Tennant
24% Betty Ireland
32% Not Sure

DEMOGRAPHICS

Next are a few background questions to help us analyze the data.

26. Which of the following best describes your level of education?

2% Some high school
30% High school graduate or GED
32% Some college
8% Associate's degree
19% Bachelor's degree
9% Graduate or professional degree

27. What is your race or ethnic origin?

95% White
3% African American or Black
1% Asian
1% Hispanic or Latino

28. Into which of the following categories does your total annual household income happen to fall?

7%	Under \$10,000
6%	\$10,000 - \$14,999
10%	\$15,000 - \$24,999
13%	\$25,000 - \$34,999
24%	\$35,000 - \$49,999
23%	\$50,000 - \$74,999
11%	\$75,000 - \$99,999
5%	\$100,000 - \$149,999
1%	\$150,000 and over
Mean = \$48,900	

End of interview: Thank you very much for helping us with this survey.