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## NEWS

### FOR RELEASE

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### For More Information, Contact:

Rex Repass

513-325-2700 (direct)

rexr@researchamericainc.com

### Manchin Leads in Early Poll for U.S. Senate

**Charleston, W.Va.** - U.S. Senator Joe Manchin leads two announced Republican challengers by double digits, according to results of the latest MetroNews West Virginia Poll.

West Virginia's senior senator leads Third District Congressman Evan Jenkins by a 50 percent to 40 percent margin; while Republican Attorney General Patrick Morrisey trails Manchin by 14 points, 52 percent to 38 percent.

"Senator Manchin's personality and message resonates with West Virginia voters," Rex Repass, director of the MetroNews West Virginia Poll said. "He's a former two term governor, has been in the Senate since 2010 and has a record in most cases aligns with West Virginia voters."

However, the popularity of President Trump, the left-leaning direction of the national Democratic party, and the increasing conservative nature of state voters have made Manchin vulnerable, Repass said.

Although a Democratic stronghold for more than a half century, during the past five election cycles, West Virginia has become a solid Republican state. "Both Morrisey and Jenkins are potentially strong opponents for Senator Manchin," Repass said. "Morrisey has run two successful statewide campaigns, and Jenkins, a former Democrat, is popular in his congressional district."

A methodology statement and additional results for this edition of the MetroNews West Virginia Poll follows and cross tabulated data will be posted to the [wvpoll.com](http://wvpoll.com) website next week.

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[www.wvpoll.com](http://www.wvpoll.com)

### **Methodology Statement**

Results of this edition of MetroNews West Virginia Poll are based on interviews conducted between August 11-20, 2017 with a sample of 400 likely voters in West Virginia including registered Democrats, Republicans, Libertarian, Mountain Party, and unaffiliated or independent voters. Data collection methods used included landline phone, cell phone, and opt-in Internet panel. Each data collection method has inherent strengths and weakness.

Likely voters in all 55 West Virginia counties were represented in the survey modeled to the number of registered voters based on data from the West Virginia Secretary of State's office.

When using multiple data collection methods, it is not appropriate to apply a probability-based margin of error to interviews completed. However, applying statistical tests of significance to each question asked at the 95 percent confidence interval yields an overall statistical error of +/- 4.9 percentage points based on the 400 interviews. The 95 percent confidence interval varies by question.

The purpose of the MetroNews West Virginia Poll is to provide a snapshot of opinion and timely voter views in the Mountain State. The media sponsor of the West Virginia Poll is MetroNews, the statewide radio network owned by West Virginia Radio Corporation.

Rex Repass is director of the West Virginia Poll and president of Research America Inc. Mr. Repass is responsible for questionnaire design, the respondent screening and selection process, data tabulation, statistical analysis, and reporting of results.

The MetroNews West Virginia Poll is a non-partisan survey of public opinion conducted by the Mr. Repass and Research America Inc. The West Virginia Poll has been directed by Mr. Repass and conducted periodically since January 21, 1980. The name The West Virginia Poll is a registered trademark Research America Inc., all rights reserved. For more information, see [www.wvpoll.com](http://www.wvpoll.com).

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**About Research America Inc.**

Research America Inc. is a custom survey research and strategic consulting firm. The firm's services range from consulting with clients to identify research objectives, through study design, data collection, analysis, and research-based strategy recommendations. For more information see [www.researchamericainc.com](http://www.researchamericainc.com).

**Respondent Profile**

- Gender
  - Male 50%
  - Female 50%
  
- Age
  - 18-24 9%
  - 25-34 15%
  - 35-44 16%
  - 45-64 41%
  - 65+ 19%
  
- County of residence
  - Northern 51%
  - Southern 49%
  
- Political party affiliation
  - Democrat 40%
  - Republican 35%
  - Independent 24%
  - Other 1%
  
- Political Orientation
  - Conservative 41%
  - Moderate 34%
  - Liberal 25%
  
- Education
  - High School 25%
  - Some College 39%
  - Bachelor's 22%
  - Master's + 14%
  
- Household Income
  - < \$75K 71%
  - > \$75K 26%

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## Topline Findings

- As you may or may not know next year there will be an election for the United States Senate from West Virginia. If that election were TODAY and the candidates were Joe Manchin, the Democrat and Evan Jenkins, the Republican, for whom would you vote?

50%	Joe Manchin, the Democrat
40%	Evan Jenkins, the Republican
11%	Not sure

- If that election were TODAY and the candidates were Joe Manchin the Democrat, and Patrick Morrisey, the Republican, for whom would you vote?

52%	Joe Manchin, the Democrat
38%	Patrick Morrisey, the Republican
11%	Not sure

- And, thinking about the 2017 elections, what is your preference for the outcome of NEXT year's congressional elections?

47%	A Republican-controlled US Congress
36%	A Democrat-controlled US Congress
18%	Not sure

- Do you approve or disapprove of the job the following public figures are doing -- **Donald Trump as president?**

48%	Approve
39%	Disapprove
13%	Not sure

- Do you approve or disapprove of the job the following public figures are doing -- **Jim Justice as West Virginia governor?**

34%	Approve
44%	Disapprove
22%	Not sure

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- Do you approve or disapprove of the job the following public figures are doing -- **Shelley Moore-Capito as US senator?**

40%	Approve
38%	Disapprove
22%	Not sure

- Do you approve or disapprove of the job the following public figures are doing -- **Joe Manchin as US senator?**

51%	Approve
34%	Disapprove
15%	Not sure

- Next, thinking about the state's economy and jobs in the future, among the following business categories which THREE do you believe will generate the most job growth in West Virginia during the next 10 years? TOP TEN RESPONSES LISTED

42%	Health care services
33%	Oil and natural gas
31%	Coal mining
31%	Construction
27%	Travel and tourism
27%	Information technology/computer programming
19%	Manufacturing
14%	Farming/agricultural
12%	Logging and timber
8%	Government

Note: some percentages may not total 100% due to rounding error

## Respondent Demographics

These last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

- Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be . . . ?

10%	Very liberal
16%	Somewhat liberal
34%	Moderate
25%	Somewhat conservative
16%	Very conservative

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- Which of the following best describes your level of education?

- 25% High school graduate or less
- 39% Some college, technical school or associates degree
- 22% Bachelor's degree
- 14% Graduate or professional degree

- Finally, into which of the following categories does your total annual household income happen to fall? *Base:*

- 24% Less than \$25,000
- 25% \$25,000 - \$49,999
- 23% \$50,000 - \$74,999
- 11% \$75,000 - \$99,999
- 11% \$100,000 - \$149,999
- 4% Over \$150,000
- 3% Refused

Note: some percentages may not total 100% due to rounding error