

# Gray Television: West Virginia Survey

*Strategic Research Associates, LLC*

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According to a survey of 650 likely voters in West Virginia conducted between September 17 - 26, 2018, 46% expressed support for incumbent Democratic Senator Joseph Manchin, with 38% expressing support for Republican challenger Patrick Morrisey. Three percent expressed support for Rusty Hollen, while 13 percent have yet to make up their mind.

Manchin is viewed favorably by 46% of likely voters and unfavorably by 33%, with 15% expressing a neutral opinion and 5% unfamiliar. Morrisey is viewed favorably by 34% of likely voters and unfavorably by 44%, with 15% expressing a neutral opinion and 7% unfamiliar.

When asked about their vote for Congress, West Virginia voters prefer the generic Republican candidate over the generic Democratic candidate by a 46% to 37% margin.

Overall, 62% of West Virginia voters approve of the job Donald Trump is doing as president, while 34% disapprove. West Virginia Governor Jim Justice has the approval of 56% of voters with 33% expressing disapproval. Asked about the national issues currently most important to West Virginia voters, healthcare was the most frequently selected response, chosen by 20%.

Fifty-four percent of West Virginia voters support the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the United States Supreme Court, with 27% expressing opposition. The poll was conducted during the recent disclosure that Kavanaugh may have engaged in sexual misconduct while in high school and college, but before the September 27 testimony by Kavanaugh and on of his accusers before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The poll was conducted by Strategic Research Associates, LLC, of Austin, Texas. A total of 650 likely voters were surveyed between September 17-26, 2018. Determination of the likely voter sample was based on past vote history. Forty-nine percent of calls were completed on a landline telephone, 51% were completed over a cellular telephone. The final results are weighted based on analysis of the state voter file. The margin of error for the complete sample is +/- 3.84 percentage points, with higher margins of error for any sub-group.

ENTH. Compared to previous Congressional elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting this year than usual, less enthusiastic, or about the same as usual?

	Percent
More enthusiastic	43
Less enthusiastic	10
The same as usual	44
Don't know	3

	Under 40	Over 40	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Less than \$40K	More than \$40K	No College	College
More enthusiastic	40.5	43.4	43.1	42.4	42.1	38.6	57.6	36.2	44.2	39.5	48.1
Less enthusiastic	6.3	11.2	9.0	11.2	10.7	0.0	6.0	12.4	8.8	9.1	11.7
The same as usual	48.1	43.1	45.8	42.7	44.8	47.7	31.4	49.6	44.8	47.1	39.3
Don't know	5.1	2.4	2.1	3.7	2.5	13.6	5.0	1.8	2.3	4.2	0.9

MIP. Which one of the following national issues is currently most important to you as a voter? [RANDOMIZE 1-11]

	Percent
Healthcare	20
The Economy & Jobs	14
Immigration & Border Security	12
U.S. Supreme Court Nomination of Brett Kavanaugh	12
Russian Collusion or Removing Trump from Office	8
Gun Rights & Gun Control	7
National Security, Terrorism & Foreign Policy	7
Social Issues	6
Taxes, Government Spending & National Debt	5
Coal, Coal Policy & Coal Jobs	4
None	2
U.S. Trade Policy & Tariffs	1
Other	1

	Under 40	Over 40	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Less than \$40K	More than \$40K	No College	College
Coal, Coal Policy & Coal Jobs	2.3	4.8	4.9	3.7	4.4	0.0	5.8	6.0	3.8	4.9	3.2
The Economy & Jobs	15.5	13.8	13.8	14.5	14.3	11.4	13.4	14.5	14.8	12.1	17.6
Healthcare	17.6	21.0	17.2	23.2	21.0	0.0	21.8	25.0	19.1	20.1	20.6
Immigration & Border Security	19.6	9.8	14.6	9.4	12.3	0.0	11.8	11.7	11.9	14.5	7.6
Gun Rights & Gun Control	6.2	6.9	7.8	5.8	6.7	13.6	3.4	3.8	5.0	6.9	6.4
National Security, Terrorism & Foreign Policy	6.7	7.1	5.7	8.2	6.3	25.0	6.7	7.7	8.2	7.3	6.4
Taxes, Government Spending & National Debt	4.7	4.7	6.2	3.3	4.8	0.0	6.0	6.2	3.8	4.6	4.9
U.S. Trade Policy & Tariffs	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.5
Social Issues	6.7	5.2	3.7	7.3	5.6	0.0	8.4	5.1	5.3	4.7	7.1
Russian Collusion or Removing Trump from Office	4.7	9.3	7.7	8.8	8.7	0.0	6.0	8.7	8.3	7.5	9.6
U.S. Supreme Court Nomination of Brett Kavanaugh	10.7	12.9	13.9	11.0	12.1	25.0	10.8	7.9	17.7	11.7	13.7
Other	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.3	0.9	1.5
None	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.6	1.4	25.0	5.7	2.1	1.1	3.8	0.0

[For Q1 and Q2, if response selected for initial item was “Haven’t thought about it enough,” respondents were then asked, “If you had to make a choice, who would you choose?” Results presented are the combined responses to both items.]

Q1. If the 2018 general election for U.S. Senator from West Virginia was held today, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE: “the Democrat Joseph Manchin” [Pronounced: “Manchin”], “the Republican Patrick Morrisey”, “the Libertarian Rusty Hollen”, [Pronounced: “Hall-en”]], or haven’t you thought about it enough to have an opinion?

	Percent
Joseph Manchin	46
Patrick Morrisey	38
Rusty Hollen	3
Don’t Know/Refuse	13

	Under 40	Over 40	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Less than \$40K	More than \$40K	No College	College
Joseph Manchin	34.5	49.1	42.6	49.0	45.9	38.6	51.5	46.7	41.5	43.6	49.8
Patrick Morrisey	41.8	37.0	43.5	32.9	38.7	25.0	34.8	35.2	45.2	39.5	35.5
Rusty Hollen	4.7	2.5	3.1	2.9	2.6	11.4	5.4	4.3	4.0	2.9	3.2
Don’t Know/Refuse	19.1	11.4	10.8	15.1	12.9	25.0	8.4	13.7	9.3	14.0	11.4

Q2. If the 2018 election for the Representative in the United States House of Representatives in your district were held today, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE: “the Democratic candidate”, “the Republican candidate”] someone else, or haven’t you thought about it enough to have an opinion?

	Percent
The Democratic candidate	37
The Republican candidate	46
Someone else	5
Don’t Know/Refuse	12

	Under 40	Over 40	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Less than \$40K	More than \$40K	No College	College
The Democratic candidate	26.8	40.4	35.9	38.8	37.6	27.3	42.1	37.8	33.6	36.5	38.9
The Republican candidate	51.0	44.9	51.1	41.7	47.5	36.4	29.4	45.3	52.6	47.5	44.2
Someone else	3.1	4.9	4.0	5.0	3.9	11.4	12.1	4.9	5.4	4.4	4.6
Don’t Know/Refuse	19.1	9.8	9.0	14.4	11.1	25.0	16.4	12.0	8.4	11.6	12.2

Q3. Please tell us whether you have a favorable, unfavorable, or neutral impression of [SELECT RANDOMLY FROM A-C BELOW], or are you unfamiliar with [SELECT RANDOMLY FROM A-C BELOW]? [RESPONSE OPTIONS, “Favorable”, “Unfavorable”, “Neutral”, “Unfamiliar”]

A. Joseph Manchin

Percent	
Favorable	46
Unfavorable	33
Neutral	15
Unfamiliar	5

	Under 40	Over 40	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Less than \$40K	More than \$40K	No College	College
Favorable	34.9	49.4	42.4	49.9	45.9	63.6	40.8	44.7	43.2	44.7	49.0
Unfavorable	35.3	32.8	37.5	29.5	33.2	11.4	51.2	32.6	40.4	34.1	32.1
Neutral	16.6	14.6	13.9	16.1	15.8	11.4	4.7	15.0	14.1	13.9	17.1
Unfamiliar	13.1	3.2	6.2	4.5	5.1	13.6	3.4	7.7	2.4	7.4	1.8

B. Patrick Morrisey

Percent	
Favorable	34
Unfavorable	44
Neutral	15
Unfamiliar	7

	Under 40	Over 40	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Less than \$40K	More than \$40K	No College	College
Favorable	34.8	33.4	38.7	29.1	33.2	36.4	42.4	30.0	40.2	32.6	35.6
Unfavorable	31.4	47.5	41.8	46.1	45.3	13.6	42.1	45.8	42.3	40.9	49.3
Neutral	18.2	14.0	11.4	18.2	14.4	36.4	8.8	12.9	14.1	16.4	12.3
Unfamiliar	15.6	5.1	8.1	6.6	7.1	13.6	6.7	11.3	3.4	10.0	2.8

C. Rusty Hollen

Percent	
Favorable	3
Unfavorable	8
Neutral	14
Unfamiliar	75

	Under 40	Over 40	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Less than \$40K	More than \$40K	No College	College
Favorable	4.9	2.9	3.7	2.9	3.0	0.0	10.5	1.4	4.6	3.8	2.5
Unfavorable	10.6	6.7	9.1	6.1	6.9	13.6	14.5	6.6	6.8	7.2	8.1
Neutral	8.9	15.4	10.7	17.1	14.0	22.7	7.4	14.9	17.0	11.7	17.8
Unfamiliar	75.6	75.0	76.5	73.9	76.0	63.6	67.6	77.0	71.6	77.3	71.6

Q4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Jim Justice is doing as Governor of West Virginia? Would the be somewhat or strongly *[approve/disapprove]*?

Percent	
Strongly approve	25
Somewhat approve	31
Somewhat disapprove	13
Strongly disapprove	20
Don't know/No opinion	10

	Under 40	Over 40	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Less than \$40K	More than \$40K	No College	College
Strongly approve	27.6	24.3	31.9	18.6	24.1	38.6	32.8	19.5	28.6	22.9	28.5
Somewhat approve	23.9	33.1	29.5	32.7	31.2	36.4	26.5	31.0	35.8	30.9	31.5
Somewhat disapprove	12.4	13.6	9.9	16.4	13.5	25.0	2.7	12.1	14.6	12.9	14.0
Strongly disapprove	14.6	22.1	20.1	20.9	20.8	0.0	29.2	22.3	16.1	21.0	19.6
Don't know/No opinion	21.5	7.0	8.7	11.4	10.5	0.0	8.8	15.0	4.9	12.3	6.4

Q10. Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing as president?  
Would the be somewhat or strongly [approve/disapprove]?

	Percent
Strongly approve	49
Somewhat approve	13
Somewhat disapprove	4
Strongly disapprove	30
Don't know/No opinion	4

	Under 40	Over 40	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Less than \$40K	More than \$40K	No College	College
Strongly approve	47.3	49.4	54.5	43.8	49.4	61.4	32.4	48.5	54.8	52.0	43.9
Somewhat approve	19.8	11.0	10.8	14.9	13.2	0.0	16.8	15.6	9.8	13.8	11.4
Somewhat disapprove	3.1	4.4	4.0	4.3	3.9	0.0	12.1	6.5	3.4	4.0	4.3
Strongly disapprove	22.9	32.2	26.8	33.4	29.6	38.6	36.4	25.4	29.7	24.8	39.3
Don't know/No opinion	6.8	2.9	3.9	3.6	4.0	0.0	2.3	4.0	2.3	5.4	1.1

Q11. Do you support or oppose the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh [**Pronounced: “Cav-e-nah”**] to serve on the United States Supreme Court?

	Percent
Support	54
Oppose	27
Don't know/No opinion	19

	Under 40	Over 40	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Less than \$40K	More than \$40K	No College	College
Support	50.0	55.0	60.0	48.3	55.2	47.7	35.1	53.0	61.5	53.5	54.6
Oppose	26.2	27.7	23.9	30.7	26.4	27.3	47.1	24.4	28.0	23.5	34.1
Don't know/No opinion	23.8	17.3	16.1	21.0	18.5	25.0	17.8	22.7	10.4	23.0	11.4

*Finally...*

Q12. How important is increasing coal production to the West Virginia economy? Extremely important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

	Percent
Extremely important	61
Somewhat important	22
Not very important	9
Not at all important	5
Don't know/No opinion	3

	Under 40	Over 40	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Less than \$40K	More than \$40K	No College	College
Extremely important	48.9	64.4	62.7	59.5	60.9	75	53.5	67.4	59.4	68.4	48.6
Somewhat important	37.6	18.3	21.6	23.2	22.8	25	14.1	19.2	25.0	20.0	26.5
Not very important	5.4	10.2	8.2	10.0	9.3	0	12.5	8.6	9.9	5.9	14.6
Not at all important	3.7	5.0	5.6	4.0	4.6	0	11.1	2.0	4.3	2.6	8.5
Don't know/No opinion	4.4	2.1	1.9	3.3	2.4	0	8.8	2.7	1.3	3.1	1.7

*We have just a few more questions for statistical purposes...*

AGEG

	Percent
Over 40	78
Under 40	22

EDUC. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

	Percent
No College	63
College	37

INCOME. What was your total household income for 2017?

	Percent
Less than \$40K	31
More than \$40K	42
Don't know/Refuse	28

RACE. Would you say that you are...

	Percent
White	92
Black	3
Other	5

GENDER. (by observation)

	Percent
Male	48
Female	52

P16. Did you vote for [**RANDOMIZE: “Donald Trump”, “Hillary Clinton”**], or someone else in the 2016 Presidential Election?

	Percent
Donald Trump	58
Hillary Clinton	24
Someone else	10
Don't know/Remember	9

## About SRA

*The principals at SRA are James Henson, PhD and Joshua Blank, PhD. One or the other has played a primary role in most of the major public statewide public polls conducted in Texas since 2007. They are based in Austin, Texas, and can be contacted at SRATEXLLC@gmail.com.*