

Justice at Stake - West Virginia 2010

February 21-24, 2010

N=600

10ALR915

Q1 In general, do you think things in West Virginia are moving in the right direction or are they moving in the wrong direction?

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Right Direction</i> | 43% |
| <i>Wrong Direction</i> | 40% |
| <i>Mixed</i> | 5% |
| <i>Don't Know</i> | 12% |

Q2 When thinking about this year's elections for Congress, are you more likely to vote for Democratic candidates or Republican candidates?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>More likely Democratic</i> | 35% |
| <i>More likely Republicans</i> | 36% |
| <i>Depends</i> | 13% |
| <i>Neither</i> | 4% |
| <i>Don't Know</i> | 13% |

Q3 Now, I'd like to ask your impressions of some people and organizations. As I read each one, just tell me whether you have a very favorable opinion of that person or group, a somewhat favorable opinion, a somewhat unfavorable opinion, or a very unfavorable opinion. If you don't recognize them, just say so. Here is the first one:

| | <u>Very Fav</u> | <u>S'What Fav</u> | <u>Total Fav</u> | <u>S'What Unfav</u> | <u>Very Unfav</u> | <u>Total Unfav</u> | <u>Name ID</u> | <u>Can't Rate</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Joe Manchin | 35% | 41% | 76% | 11% | 8% | 19% | 95% | 5% |
| The West Virginia State Supreme Court | 13% | 45% | 58% | 14% | 6% | 20% | 78% | 22% |
| The West Virginia State Legislature | 9% | 46% | 55% | 21% | 13% | 34% | 89% | 11% |
| Don Blankenship | 7% | 16% | 23% | 13% | 20% | 33% | 56% | 44% |
| Brent Benjamin | 3% | 10% | 13% | 9% | 9% | 18% | 31% | 69% |
| Robin Davis | 4% | 13% | 17% | 4% | 2% | 6% | 23% | 77% |

Q4 How would you rate the job Joe Manchin is doing as Governor -- excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| <i>Excellent</i> | 16% |
| <i>Good</i> | 61% |
| Total Positive | 77% |
| <i>Not So Good</i> | 15% |
| <i>Poor</i> | 6% |
| Total Negative | 21% |
| <i>Don't Know</i> | 2% |

Justice at Stake - West Virginia 2010

February 21-24, 2010

N=600

10ALR915

Q5 How would you rate the job that the West Virginia State Supreme Court is doing -- excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| <i>Excellent</i> | 5% |
| <i>Good</i> | 49% |
| Total Positive | 54% |
| <i>Not so good</i> | 26% |
| <i>Poor</i> | 6% |
| Total Negative | 32% |
| <i>Don't Know</i> | 14% |

Q6 Thinking for a minute about election campaigns for Supreme Court in West Virginia, how much influence do you think campaign contributions made to Supreme Court candidates in West Virginia have on their decisions in court cases - do the campaign contributions have a great deal of influence, some influence, only a little influence or no influence at all?

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>A great deal of influence</i> | 37% |
| <i>Some influence</i> | 41% |
| Total influence | 78% |
| <i>Only a little influence</i> | 10% |
| <i>No influence at all</i> | 5% |
| Total no influence | 15% |
| <i>Don't Know/Refused</i> | 7% |

Q7 Do you think West Virginia Supreme Court candidates receiving campaign contributions from private citizens, businesses and interest groups whose cases they may hear is a very serious problem, a serious problem, not that serious a problem or not a serious problem at all?

| | |
|---|------------|
| <i>Very serious problem</i> | 25% |
| <i>Serious problem</i> | 43% |
| Total serious problem | 68% |
| <i>Not that serious a problem</i> | 18% |
| <i>Not a serious problem at all</i> | 8% |
| Total not a serious problem | 26% |
| <i>Don't know/Refused</i> | 8% |

Q8 Do you think third party interest groups spending over fifty thousand dollars on advertising to help elect a West Virginia Supreme Court candidate is a very serious problem, a serious problem, not that serious a problem or not a serious problem at all?

| | |
|---|------------|
| <i>Very serious problem</i> | 33% |
| <i>Serious problem</i> | 43% |
| Total serious problem | 76% |
| <i>Not that serious a problem</i> | 13% |
| <i>Not a serious problem at all</i> | 6% |
| Total not a serious problem | 19% |
| <i>Don't Know/Refused</i> | 5% |

Justice at Stake - West Virginia 2010

February 21-24, 2010

N=600

10ALR915

Q9 The West Virginia legislature is considering a bill to create a public financing system for West Virginia's Supreme Court elections. Under the proposed bill, candidates for West Virginia's Supreme Court would be eligible to receive public funding for their campaigns if they agreed not to raise money from private sources and meet a minimum threshold of requirements.

After hearing this, would you support or oppose creating a public financing system for West Virginia's Supreme Court elections?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Strongly support</i> | 21% |
| <i>Somewhat support</i> | 31% |
| <i>Total support</i> | 52% |
| <i>Somewhat oppose</i> | 19% |
| <i>Strongly oppose</i> | 20% |
| <i>Total oppose</i> | 39% |
| <i>Don't Know/Refused</i> | 9% |

Q10 Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Judges should not hear cases involving any organization, business or individual who spent significant amounts of money to help elect them.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Strongly agree</i> | 65% |
| <i>Somewhat agree</i> | 13% |
| <i>Total agree</i> | 78% |
| <i>Somewhat disagree</i> | 9% |
| <i>Strongly disagree</i> | 9% |
| <i>Total disagree</i> | 18% |
| <i>Don't Know/Refused</i> | 4% |

Justice at Stake - West Virginia 2010

February 21-24, 2010

N=600

10ALR915

Q11 Next, I'm going to read you a list of proposals for reforming West Virginia's Supreme Court that are currently under consideration. For each one, please tell me whether you generally support or oppose that proposal. Here is the first one:

| | <u>Strongly support</u> | <u>S'what support</u> | <u>Total Support</u> | <u>S'what oppose</u> | <u>Strongly oppose</u> | <u>Total Oppose</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Adding a new court of appeals to allow for more cases to be considered for appeal | 28% | 34% | 62% | 14% | 17% | 31% | 9% |
| [SPLIT A] Requiring judicial candidates to disclose where their campaign contributions come from | 80% | 11% | 91% | 5% | 2% | 7% | 2% |
| [SPLIT A] Requiring judges to remove themselves from any case in which one of the parties involved spent more than fifty thousand dollars to help elect the judge | 69% | 8% | 77% | 7% | 10% | 17% | 5% |
| [SPLIT B] Requiring third party groups who are spending money on campaign advertising to disclose who is funding their ads | 57% | 18% | 75% | 9% | 11% | 20% | 5% |
| [SPLIT B] Requiring judges to remove themselves from any case in which one of the parties involved contributed money to help elect the judge | 69% | 9% | 78% | 6% | 12% | 18% | 4% |

Q12 Have you heard anything in the news about the court case involving Massey Coal owner Don Blankenship and West Virginia Supreme Court justice Brent Benjamin?

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Yes..... | 61% |
| No | 37% |
| Don't Know/Refused | 2% |

Justice at Stake - West Virginia 2010

February 21-24, 2010

N=600

10ALR915

Q13 As you may know, in two thousand four Massey Coal corporation owner Don Blankenship spent three million dollars through a third party group to help elect Brent Benjamin as Supreme Court justice. Then when Massey Coal went to trial for a separate matter, Justice Benjamin did not remove himself from the case and ruled in favor of Massey Coal.

After hearing that, let me ask you again: Do you think West Virginia Supreme Court candidates receiving campaign contributions from private citizens, businesses and interest groups whose cases they may hear is a very serious problem, a serious problem, not that serious a problem or not a serious problem at all?

| | |
|---|------------|
| <i>Very serious problem</i> | 49% |
| <i>Serious problem</i> | 40% |
| <i>Total serious problem</i> | 89% |
| <i>Not that serious a problem</i> | 6% |
| <i>Not a serious problem at all</i> | 3% |
| <i>Total not a serious problem</i> | 9% |
| <i>Don't Know / Refused</i> | 3% |

Q14 After hearing this, let me ask you again: would you support or oppose creating a public financing system for West Virginia's Supreme Court elections that would allow candidates to receive public funding for their campaigns if they agreed not to raise money from private sources and met a minimum threshold of requirements?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Strongly support</i> | 36% |
| <i>Somewhat support</i> | 25% |
| <i>Total support</i> | 61% |
| <i>Somewhat oppose</i> | 12% |
| <i>Strongly oppose</i> | 18% |
| <i>Total oppose</i> | 30% |
| <i>Don't Know / Refused</i> | 9% |

Justice at Stake - West Virginia 2010

February 21-24, 2010

N=600

10ALR915

Questions for classification purposes.

| | | | |
|-------|--|--|-----|
| Q15 | Sex | | |
| | | <i>Male</i> | 48% |
| | | <i>Female</i> | 52% |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Q16 | Could you please tell me - is your age between 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-64, or 65 or over? | | |
| | | <i>18-29</i> | 6% |
| | | <i>30-39</i> | 9% |
| | | <i>40-49</i> | 16% |
| | | <i>50-59</i> | 24% |
| | | <i>60-64</i> | 12% |
| | | <i>65 or over</i> | 33% |
| | | <i>Refused</i> | 0% |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Q17 | Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, or an Independent? | | |
| | | <i>Democrat</i> | 44% |
| | | <i>Independent/lean Democrat</i> | 5% |
| | | <i>Republican</i> | 28% |
| | | <i>Independent/lean Republican</i> | 9% |
| | | <i>Independent</i> | 7% |
| | | <i>Other / Don't Know</i> | 7% |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Q18 | Are you, or is any member of you household, a member of a labor union? | | |
| | | <i>Yes</i> | 22% |
| | | <i>No</i> | 72% |
| | | <i>Other / Don't Know</i> | 6% |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Q19 | And just to make sure we have a representative sample, could you please tell me if you consider yourself White, African American, Asian, of Hispanic or Latino origin, or of another race? | | |
| | | <i>White</i> | 90% |
| | | <i>African American</i> | 1% |
| | | <i>Asian</i> | 0% |
| | | <i>Hispanic or Latino</i> | 1% |
| | | <i>Other</i> | 1% |
| | | <i>Don't Know</i> | 8% |

Justice at Stake - West Virginia 2010

February 21-24, 2010

N=600

10ALR915

Q20 Which of the following categories best describes your total family income?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Under \$30,000</i> | 22% |
| <i>\$30,000 - \$50,000</i> | 23% |
| <i>\$50,000 - \$75,000</i> | 16% |
| <i>\$75,000 - \$100,000</i> | 10% |
| <i>Over \$100,000</i> | 19% |
| <i>Don't Know / Refused</i> | 10% |

Q21 Media Market

| | |
|---|-----|
| <i>Bluefield-Beckley-Oak Hill, WV</i> | 15% |
| <i>Charleston-Huntington, WV</i> | 35% |
| <i>Clarksburg-Weston, WV</i> | 16% |
| <i>Harrisonburg, VA</i> | 0% |
| <i>Parkersburg, WV</i> | 6% |
| <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i> | 6% |
| <i>Washington, DC</i> | 12% |
| <i>Wheeling, WV-Steubenville, OH</i> | 10% |

Q22 Congressional District

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| <i>1</i> | 35% |
| <i>2</i> | 36% |
| <i>3</i> | 29% |

Q23 Party Reg

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| <i>Dem</i> | 61% |
| <i>Rep</i> | 32% |
| <i>Other</i> | 7% |
