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THE TARRANCE GROUP www.tarrance.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: SENATE LEADERSHIP FUND

FROM: DAVE SACKETT

LAUREN HUTCHINSON

RE: KEY FINDINGS FROM A STATEWIDE SURVEY OF VOTER ATTITUDES

IN WEST VIRGINIA

DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

The Tarrance Group is pleased to present the Senate Leadership Fund with the key findings from a survey of voter attitudes in West Virginia. These key findings are based on telephone interviews with N=612 "likely" registered voters throughout the state. Responses to this survey were gathered September 23-25, 2018 and the margin of error associated with a sample of this type is $\pm 4.1\%$ in 95 out of 100 cases.

KEY FINDINGS

- The political environment in the state of West Virginia continues to be <u>very</u> favorable for Republicans as it relates to the U.S. Senate race. President Trump maintains a fifty-eight percent (58%) job approval rating, and fifty-seven percent (57%) indicate that they will vote for the candidate for the U.S. Senate that will support President Trump's agenda.
- ➤ Over the course of the year, Democratic Senator Joe Manchin has continued to see erosion in his job approval and is now <u>upside down on his job approval</u>. There are only forty-seven percent (47%) who indicate that they approve of the job that Manchin is doing, while forty-eight percent (48%) disapprove.
- This erosion in Manchin's job approval tracks along the same lines as the growing perception that Manchin is not doing a good job of supporting President Trump's agenda.
- Almost half of West Virginia voters, forty-seven percent (47%), believe that Manchin has <u>not</u> been supportive enough of President Trump and his agenda. This view stands at fully seventy-six percent (76%) among those who approve of the job that President Trump is doing, and also stands at 55% among Independent voters.

- ➤ The ballot test for the U.S. Senate continues to tighten, and Republican nominee Patrick Morrisey only trails Manchin by 4 points on a ballot test. There are 43% who are voting for Morrisey, while 47% are voting for Manchin, with 5% voting for the Libertarian candidate, and 5% are undecided.
- The decision that Manchin faces on Brent Kavanaugh will have a significant impact on his ballot. Manchin is currently getting approximately 19% of the vote among Republicans and Trump supporters and 22% of the vote among conservatives. Fully sixty percent of these voters indicate they would be less likely to vote for Manchin for the U.S. Senate if he opposes Kavanaugh's confirmation.

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