



MBE Voter Opinion Poll™: Clinton Takes Sizable Lead in W.Va.

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Contact: Mark Blankenship 304.545.2428, mark@markblankenship.com

(Charleston, W.Va.) – Democrat and independent voters in West Virginia indicate, by a nearly two to one margin, they are more likely to vote for Hillary Clinton than Barack Obama, according to a public opinion survey conducted by Mark Blankenship Enterprises (MBE), LLC. Forty-three percent (43%) say they are more likely to vote for Clinton in the upcoming West Virginia primary election compared to 22% who name Obama. Thirty-five percent (35%) say they are undecided.

“Hillary Clinton does appear to have a sizeable lead if the election were held today in West Virginia, but there are still a great many voters who indicate they are undecided” said Mark Blankenship, president of MBE. “Clinton’s road to victory in West Virginia appears to be easier because she needs only one-third of undecided voters to break her way, compared to Obama who must either convince two-thirds of the undecided voters to break his way or pull some support away from Clinton while garnering support from some of the undecided voters.”

MBE conducted a random sample telephone survey among 405 West Virginia registered Democrat and independent voters. The MBE Voter Opinion Poll © was conducted February 18 through 21, 2008. The sampling variation on a survey of 405 respondents is +/- 4.9% at a 95% confidence level.

According to the MBE Voter Opinion Poll, women (48%) are more likely to support Clinton than men (38%). Those who describe their political beliefs as conservative are least likely to have decided for whom they will vote with 42% indicating they are undecided compared to 32% of moderates and 18% of liberals. See below for detailed results.

Which of the following candidates are you most likely going to vote for in the WV Primary Election?	Base (n=405)	Men	Women
Hillary Clinton	43%	38%	48%
Barrack Obama	22%	25%	19%
Undecided	35%	37%	33%

Which of the following candidates are you most likely going to vote for in the WV Primary Election?	Base (n=405)	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Hillary Clinton	43%	38%	45%	53%
Barrack Obama	22%	20%	23%	29%
Undecided	35%	42%	32%	18%

In addition to the upcoming Democratic presidential primary, the MBE Voter Opinion Poll also gauged other issues of interest to West Virginians:

Right Track/Wrong Track

Nearly half (49%) of Democrats and independent voters in West Virginia believe the state “is on the right track” versus 36% who believe it is on the “wrong track.” “More than one of every three Democrats and independents believe West Virginia is on the wrong track” said Blankenship. “Middle aged voters, those between the ages of 35 and 54, are more likely to say the state is on the wrong track than older voters.”

Do you believe, generally, West Virginia is on the right track or wrong track?	Base (n=405)	Age 35-55	Age 55+
Wrong Track	36%	44%	32%
Right Track	49%	44%	51%
Don't Know	15%	11%	17%

Job Market and Economic Outlook

The vast majority of registered Democrats and independents (63%) believe West Virginia’s job market and economy will “get worse” or “remain about the same” during the next five years compared to 38% who believe it will “get better.” “These voters aren’t expressing a lot of confidence regarding West Virginia’s job market and economy, at least during the short-term of the next five years” said Blankenship. Those who describe their political beliefs as “liberal” are more likely than those who describe their beliefs as “conservative” or “moderate” to believe West Virginia’s economy will “get better” during the next five years.

Do you believe WV's job market and economy will get better, remain about the same or get worse during the next five years?	Base (n=405)	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Get Better	38%	33%	40%	45%
Remain about the Same	33%	36%	35%	26%
Get Worse	30%	32%	25%	29%

Methodology:

Interviewers used random-digit dialing procedure to interview respondents. The numbers are generated by computer to achieve maximum representation in all West Virginia counties. This technique is designed to produce a sample of registered voters that is representative of the entire population in such areas as age, gender, race, and family income. Both listed and unlisted telephone households had an equal chance of being selected in the sample. This MBE Voter Opinion Poll has a sampling variation of +/- 4.9% at a 95% confidence level. The MBE Voter Opinion Poll and all its content and result are copyrights of MBE, LLC.

About MBE, LLC

Mark Blankenship is president and chief executive officer of Mark Blankenship Enterprises, LLC (MBE). Located in Charleston, West Virginia, MBE is a national communications and opinion research firm. MBE provides a range of actionable and reliable research methodologies to Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, media organizations, associations and non-government organizations. If you seek further comment on these survey results, or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Blankenship at 304.545.2428 or by email at mark@markblankenship.com

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