



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Interested parties  
**FROM:** Hickman Analytics, Inc.  
**RE:** West Virginia Survey Results  
**DATE:** May 15, 2017

**Summary.** A majority of West Virginia voters support constructing the proposed Atlantic Coast natural gas pipeline. Voters overwhelmingly believe pipelines are the safest means to transport natural gas. By a large margin, voters say they are more likely to vote for candidates who favor construction of natural gas infrastructure projects than candidates who oppose them.

**Key Findings**

**Atlantic Coast pipeline project.** A majority (56%) of West Virginia voters report having heard about the proposed Atlantic Coast natural gas pipeline which would run from West Virginia to public utilities in Virginia and West Virginia.

A majority of West Virginia voters support the pipeline project: 60% support, 28% oppose. The breadth of support is impressive. A wide majority of men (67% support, 22% oppose) support the pipeline as do a majority of women (52% support, 33% oppose).

<b>Atlantic Coast Pipeline</b>			
	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Net Support</b>
<b>Statewide</b>	60%	28	+32
<b>Sex</b>			
Men	67%	22	+45
Women	52%	33	+19

West Virginia voters believe pipelines are the safest means for transporting natural gas. More than two-thirds (68%) believe pipelines are safest, while 13% say railroads and 8% say trucks are safest.

**Other energy issues.** Several energy issues have been widely debated in West Virginia in recent months. A majority support completion of the Keystone XL pipeline (53% support, 29% oppose) and expanded off-shore energy production (55% support, 32% oppose). A plurality of voters support coal power plants (47% support, 37% oppose).

**Connection to voting.** Energy issues are important in the voting decisions of West Virginians. Overall, 88% say energy issues are very (49%) or somewhat (39%) important in their voting decisions, while only 9% say these matters will be not important.

Substantially more West Virginia voters are likely to vote for a candidate who supports natural gas infrastructure projects like the Atlantic Coast Pipeline than a candidate who opposes them: 53% for candidate who supports, 23% for a candidate who opposes.

**Political personalities.** Most West Virginia voters like Donald Trump; 58% have a favorable opinion of him while 38% say their opinion is unfavorable. A majority of voters have a favorable opinion of newly elected Governor Jim Justice: 54% favorable, 29% unfavorable. Senator Joe Manchin is almost as well-known as the President and is more recognized than the Governor. Senator Shelley Moore Capito was less well known than all three. When asked about Manchin, 66% have a favorable opinion, 27% have an unfavorable opinion; only 7% do not offer an opinion one way or the other. Shelley Moore Capito enjoys reasonable popularity as well: 52% favorable, 31% unfavorable, and 15% no opinion.

***Technical note:** This memo is based on a survey of 405 registered voters in West Virginia. Telephone interviewing was conducted May 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The sample was selected so all registered voters were equally likely to be contacted, including a sample of cell phone numbers. The results were adjusted slightly to align the sample with known facts about the geographic and demographic composition of West Virginia registered voters. All polls are subject to errors associated with interviewing a sample rather than the entire universe. The estimation error associated with a sample of 600 is +/-4.9 percentage points. In other words, in 95 out of 100 cases, the results of this poll are within 4.9 percentage points (plus or minus) of the results that would have been achieved in interviews with every registered voter in West Virginia. Estimation errors are higher among subgroups of the sample.*