

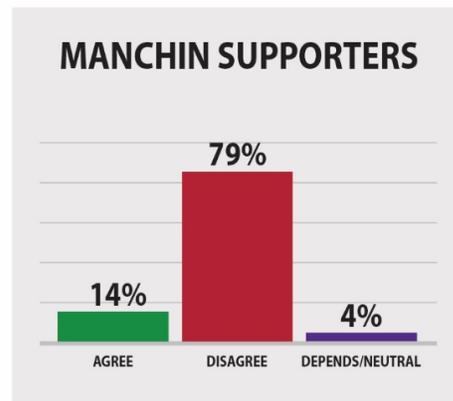
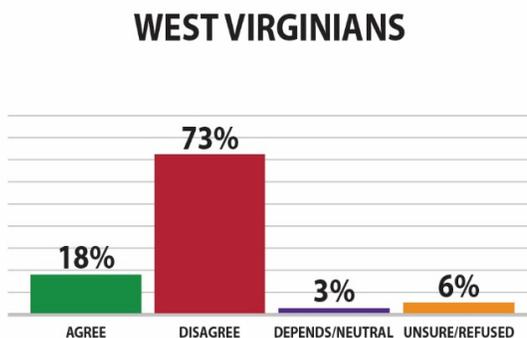


To: Members of Congress and Interested Parties  
From: Jason Snead, Executive Director, Honest Election Project Action  
Date: October 5, 2021  
Re: West Virginians reject federal takeover of elections, elimination of Senate filibuster

West Virginia voters overwhelmingly back commonsense election safeguards that make it easy to vote and hard to cheat. According to new polling from Honest Elections Project Action, most West Virginians reject the major provisions of Sen. Joe Manchin’s proposed federal takeover of elections, S.2747— which should be called the “Freedom to Cheat Act.”<sup>1</sup>

The poll shows 73% of West Virginians and 79% of self-identified Manchin supporters do not believe the federal government should dictate voting laws to the states. **69% of Manchin supporters believe a politician who votes to let Washington overrule his state’s election laws is voting against his constituents’ interests.**

### The federal government should dictate West Virginia’s voting laws



Just like its predecessor S.1, the “Freedom to Cheat Act” rewrites every state’s voting laws nationwide in ways that are unpopular with the public and which will undermine election integrity. For example:

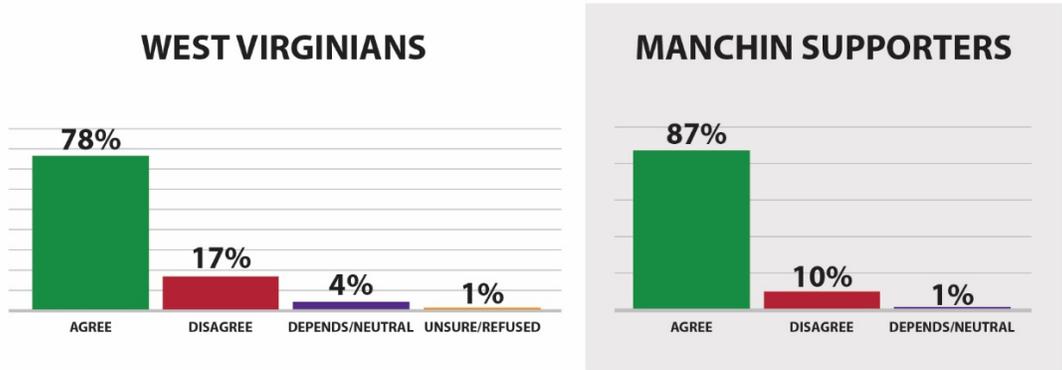
- **Eliminates voter ID:** 78% of West Virginians—and 87% of Manchin supporters—favor voter photo ID laws. Manchin’s bill eliminates photo ID requirements nationwide, while continuing to allow states like California to use no voter ID at all.
- **Directs taxpayers’ dollars to political campaigns:** 83% of West Virginians, and 87% of Manchin supporters, oppose using taxpayers’ dollars to finance campaigns. Manchin’s

<sup>1</sup> Online survey among 400 registered voters in West Virginia conducted September 8 – 12, 2021. Respondents were selected randomly from opt-in panel participants, and two independent phone samples, one for landline and one for cell phone (Web 50%, Cell 24%, Landline 26%). Sampling controls were used to ensure that a proportional and representative number of respondents were interviewed from such demographic groups as age, gender, race, and geographic region. Gender breakdown: 48% men – 52% women. ±4.9% overall margin of error at the 95% confidence interval for overall survey. M.O.E.s for subgroups are larger.

legislation creates a 6 to 1 federal match for small-dollar donations in U.S. House races, and a “Democracy Credit” program—both of which send public funds to political campaigns.

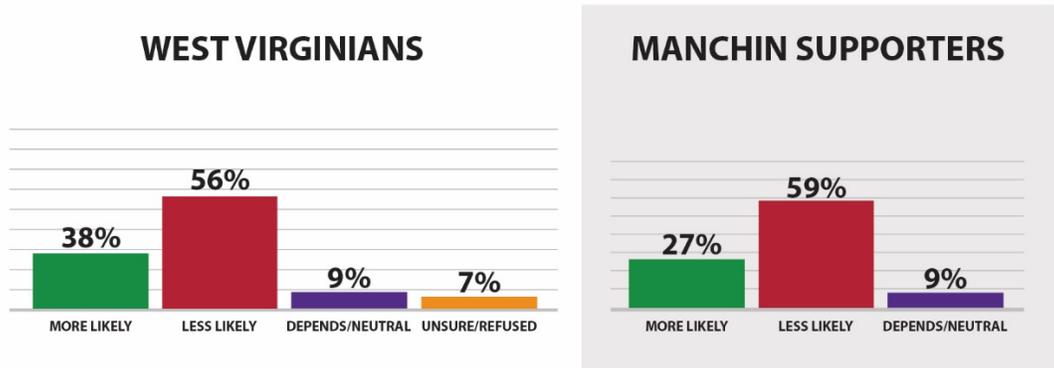
- **Encourages political lawsuits:** 74% of West Virginians and 82% of Manchin supporters do not believe Congress should encourage activists to sue the state to weaken election laws. Manchin’s bill lowers legal standards to make it significantly easier for progressive activists to win lawsuits and overturn voting laws and safeguards they oppose.
- **Blocks election safeguards:** 72% of West Virginians and 77% of Manchin supporters oppose legislation that blocks West Virginia’s voting safeguards. Manchin’s bill hinders West Virginia’s current program to identify and remove ineligible voters from the voter rolls and imposes same-day voter registration on the state.

**Do you agree or disagree that voters should be required to show a government issued photo ID when they vote?**



**Joe Manchin’s political future may hinge on his continued defense of the filibuster.** Left-wing activists and dark money special interests are pressuring Manchin to renege on his pledge to protect the filibuster. But in West Virginia, the filibuster is more popular than Joe Manchin. 56% of West Virginians report they would be less likely to re-elect him if he eliminates or weakens the filibuster. **Six in 10 Manchin supporters (59%) would be less likely to vote for him if he destroys the filibuster.**

**Would you be more or less likely to vote to re-elect Senator Manchin if he were to break his promise and vote to eliminate or weaken the filibuster?**

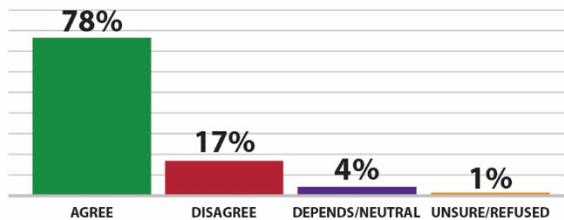


**West Virginians back Joe Manchin’s commitment to the filibuster.** 56% of West Virginians and 67% of Manchin supporters agree with Manchin’s own description of the filibuster as a “critical tool to protecting” democracy. Even more (63% of West Virginians and 70% of supporters) share his concerns that weakening the filibuster worsens “political dysfunction” and fuels “hateful rhetoric and violence.” **70% of supporters back the pledge that there “is no circumstance in which [Manchin] will vote to eliminate or weaken the filibuster.”** If he keeps that promise, 51% of West Virginians and 73% of supporters would be more likely to re-elect him.

West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin is currently underwater in his home state. **36% of West Virginia voters approve of his performance, while 55% disapprove.**

**Do you agree or disagree that voters should be required to show a government issued photo ID when they vote?**

**WEST VIRGINIANS**



**MANCHIN SUPPORTERS**

