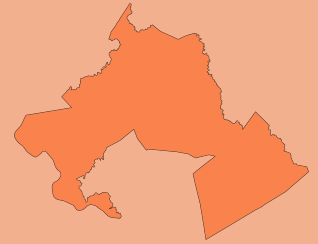




West Virginia



2026 general election poll: State Senate District 8

Likely-voter survey of the November 3, 2026 general election | Kanawha, Putnam, Roane, Jackson & Clay Counties

SD-8 **D** Kim Hundley **R** Lance Wheeler

At a glance

ELECTION DATE

November 3, 2026

FIELD DATES

September 30-October 1, 2026

SAMPLE SIZE

837 likely voters

MARGIN OF ERROR

±3.4 points

Methodology

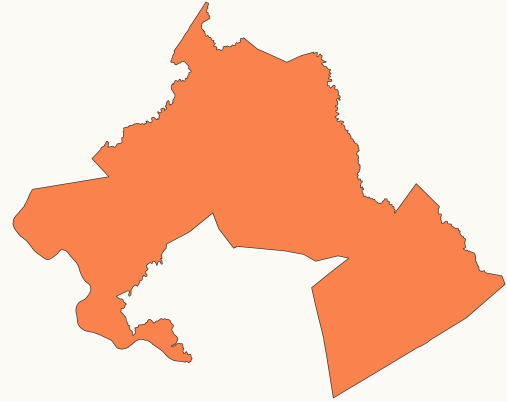
State Navigate surveyed 837 likely voters in West Virginia's 8th State Senate District from September 30-October 1, 2026. Text messages were sent to voters by AllianceForge, which directed them to an online survey hosted on the SurveyMonkey platform. The sample was drawn from a voter file provided by i360 and results were weighted by gender, race, age, education, party registration, and State House district to reflect the likely November 2026 general electorate. The margin of error is 3.4% at a 95% confidence level. This survey was designed and conducted by the State Navigate Polling Team, and was not sponsored by any candidate or candidate's committee.

District DNA | SD-8 (LV)



STATE SENATE DISTRICT 8

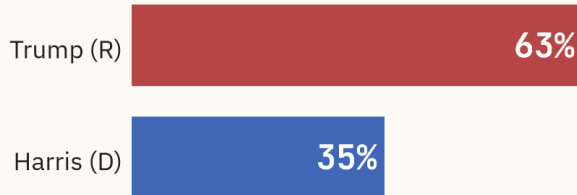
A State Senate district in central West Virginia anchored by Kanawha County, which makes up just over half of the likely electorate, and also takes in voters in Putnam, Roane, Jackson, and Clay Counties. Republican Lance Wheeler faces Democrat Kim Hundley; both are from Charleston.



Recent election results in SD-8

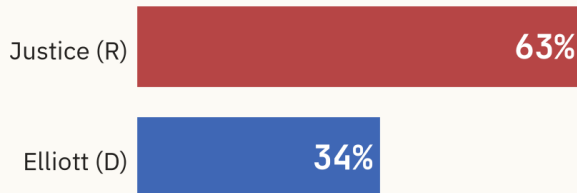
2024 President: Trump +27.4

2024 Governor: Morrisey +10.6



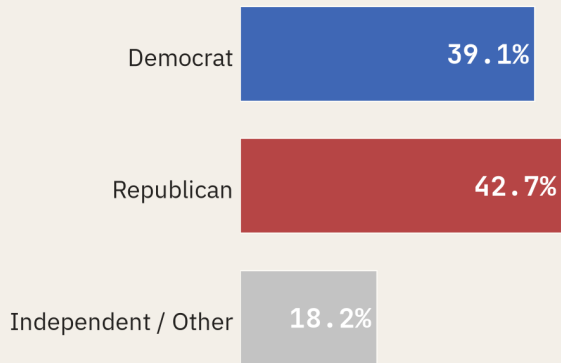
2024 U.S. Senate: Justice +28.3

2022 State Senate: Hunt +13.6

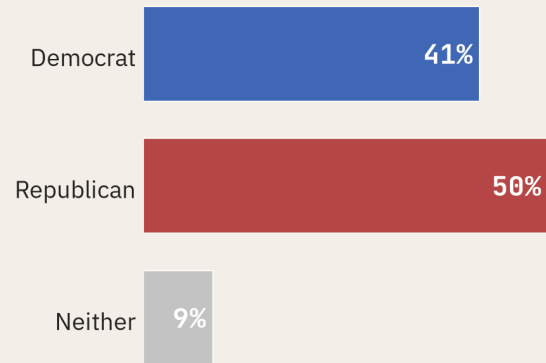


District DNA | Survey demographics

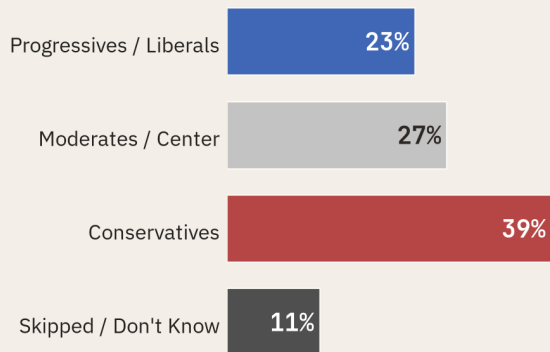
PARTY REGISTRATION



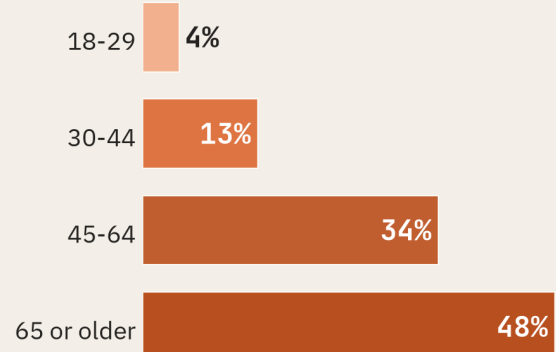
PARTY ID (WITH LEANERS)



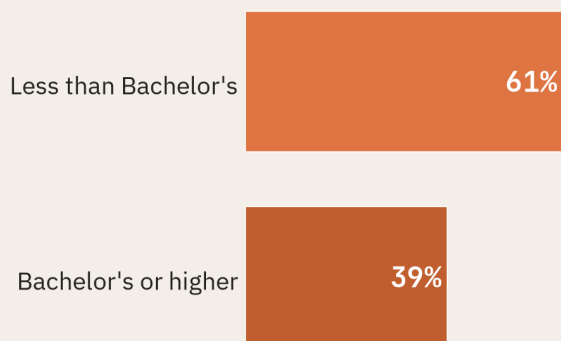
IDEOLOGICAL SELF-ID (0-10)



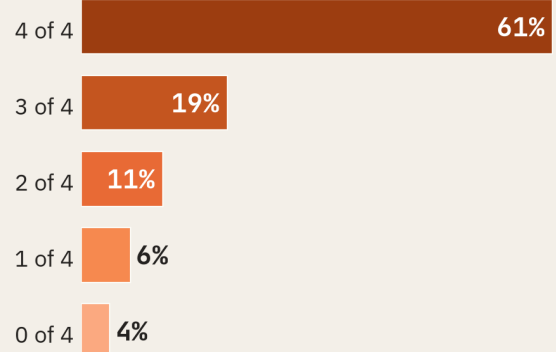
AGE



EDUCATION



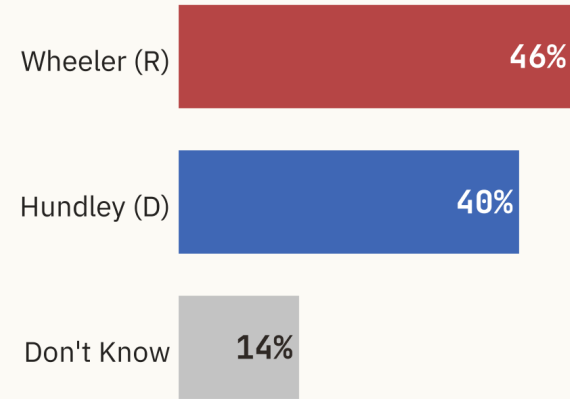
VOTE HISTORY (LAST 4 GENERALS)



The snapshots

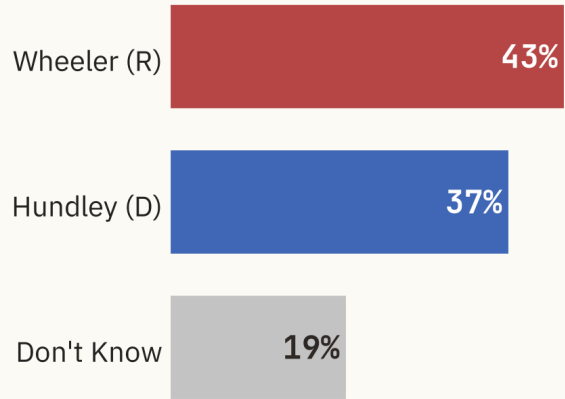
SD-8 with leaners

If the election for West Virginia State Senate District 8 were held today, which candidate would you vote for: Lance Wheeler, the Republican of Charleston, Kanawha Co., or Kim Hundley, the Democrat of Charleston, Kanawha Co.? (undecideds allocated via leaner follow-up)



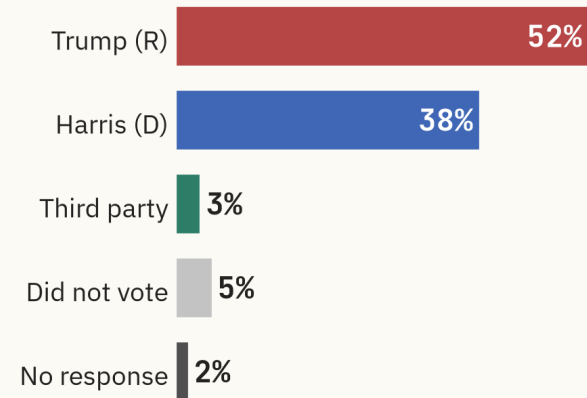
SD-8 before undecided push

If the election for West Virginia State Senate District 8 were held today, which candidate would you vote for: Lance Wheeler, the Republican of Charleston, Kanawha Co., or Kim Hundley, the Democrat of Charleston, Kanawha Co.? (initial ballot, before leaner follow-up)



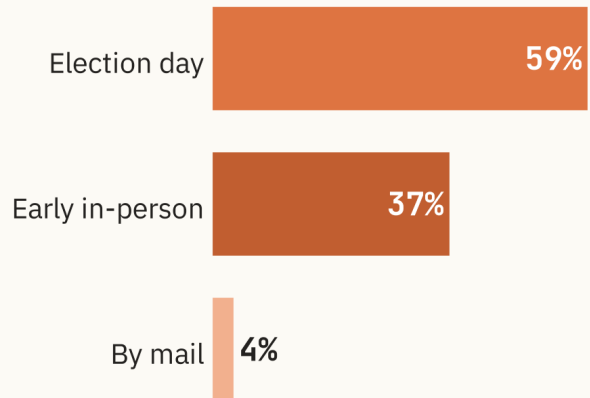
2024 presidential vote (recalled)

In the 2024 presidential election, which candidate did you vote for?



Planned vote method

If you choose to vote in the 2026 general election, how would you cast your vote?

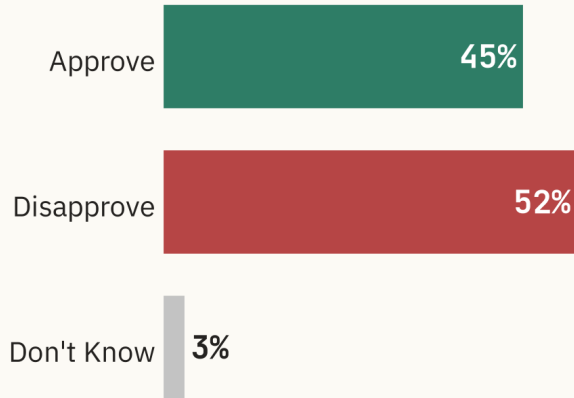


Lance Wheeler (R) leads 46-40 with leaners in SD-8, with 14% undecided. Respondents recall backing Trump over Harris by 14 points in 2024, so Hundley is running roughly even with Harris's recalled share (38%).

Executive approvals

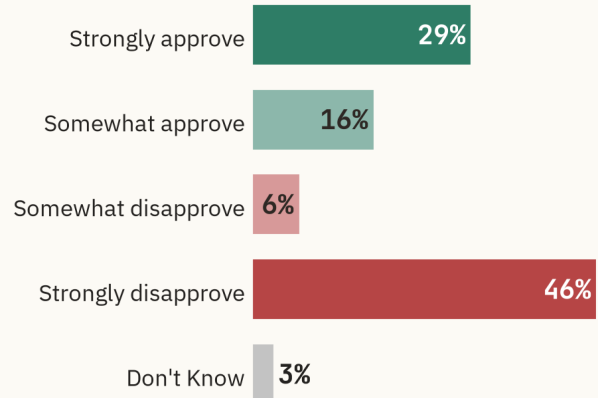
President Trump job approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?



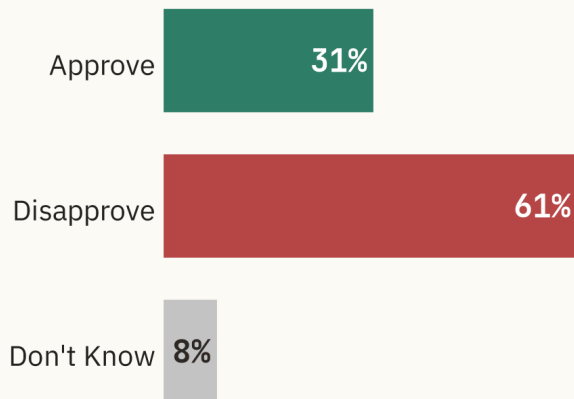
President Trump job approval (detailed)

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?



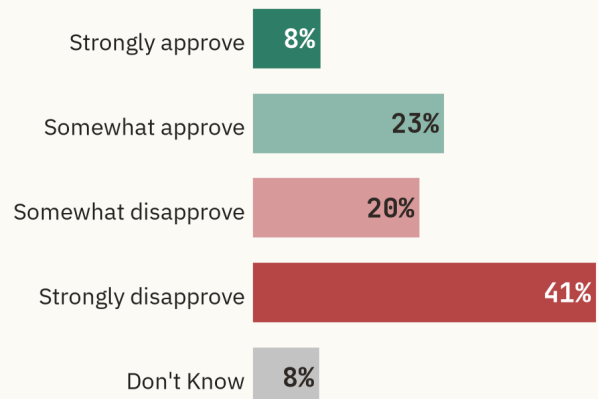
Gov. Morrisey job approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Patrick Morrisey is doing as Governor?



Gov. Morrisey job approval (detailed)

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Patrick Morrisey is doing as Governor?

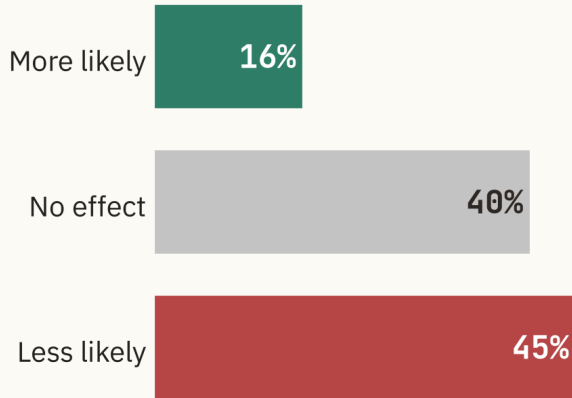


President Trump is underwater in SD-8 (45% approve / 52% disapprove), while Gov. Morrisey sits at 31% approve / 61% disapprove. The detailed breakdowns show how much of each number is strongly held versus soft.

The Morrissey factor

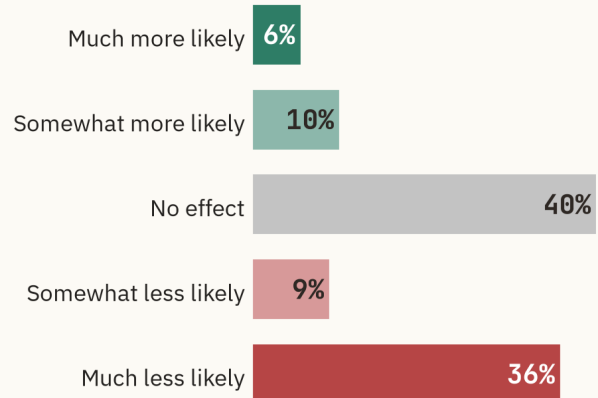
Morrissey endorsement effect

If Governor Morrissey endorsed a candidate in the general election, would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate?

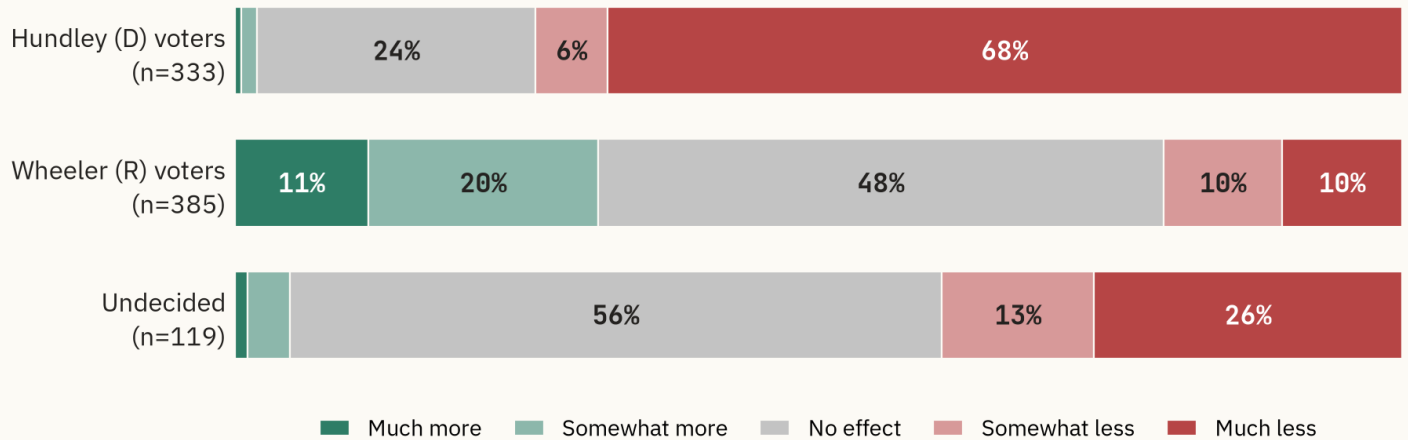


Morrissey endorsement (detailed)

If Governor Morrissey endorsed a candidate in the general election, would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate?

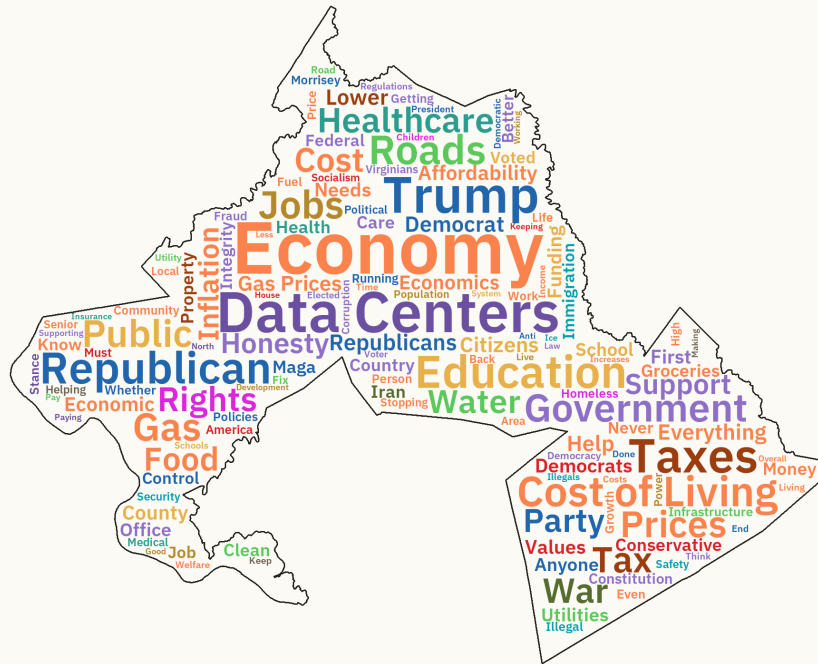


Endorsement effect by SD-8 vote choice (with leaners)



A Morrissey endorsement is a net negative in SD-8: 45% say it would make them less likely to back a candidate, versus 16% more likely, while 40% say it would not affect their vote.

If you choose to vote in November, what is the number one issue that will impact who you vote for?



Issue	Percentage
Economy & Cost of Living	32%
Candidate Qualities & Good Governance	16%
Oppose Republicans/Support Democrats	10%
Infrastructure, Utilities & Roads	8%
Rights & Social Issues	8%
Data Centers, Tech & AI	7%
Oppose Democrats/Support Republicans	7%
Jobs & Labor	6%
Taxes	5%
Healthcare	5%
Education	5%
Immigration	4%
War & Foreign Policy	3%
Other	6%
No specific issue / unsure	7%

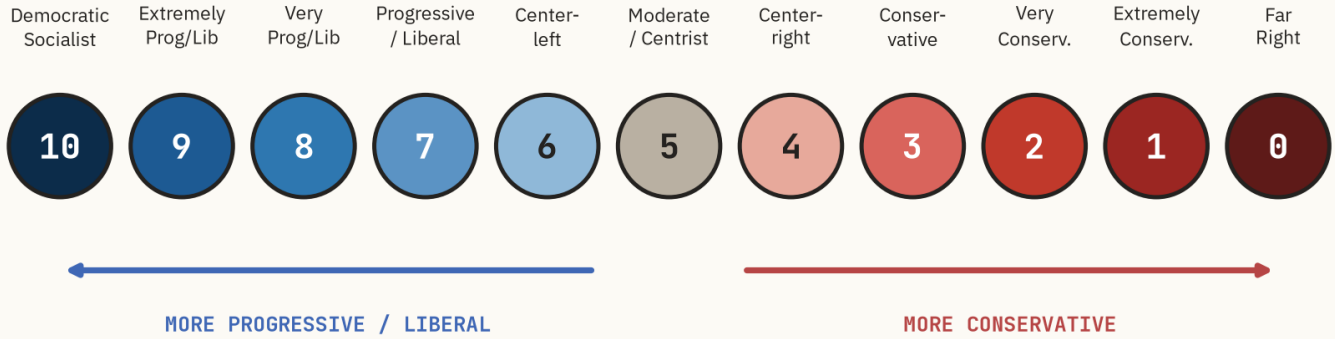
STATE NAVIGATE | WEST VIRGINIA STATE SENATE DISTRICT 8 | GENERAL ELECTION POLL

Survey ideology

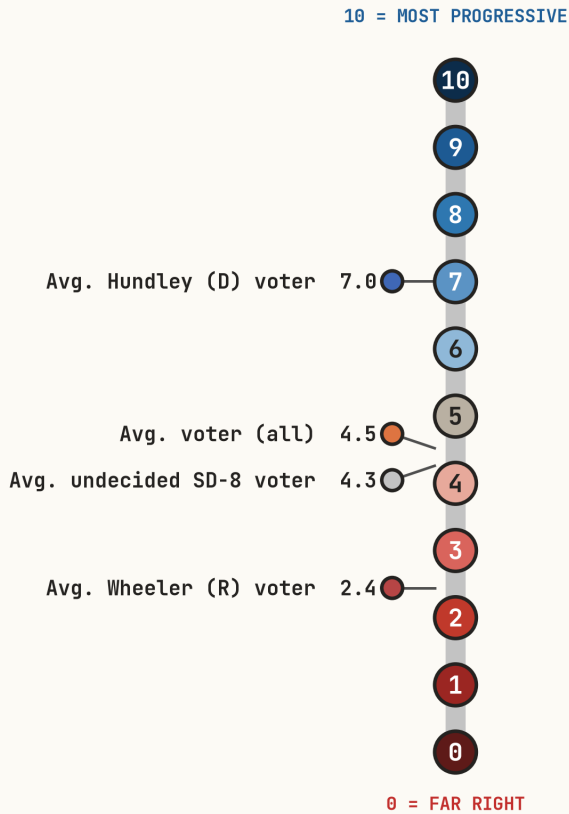
The self-placement scale

IDEOLOGICAL SELF-PLACEMENT SCALE

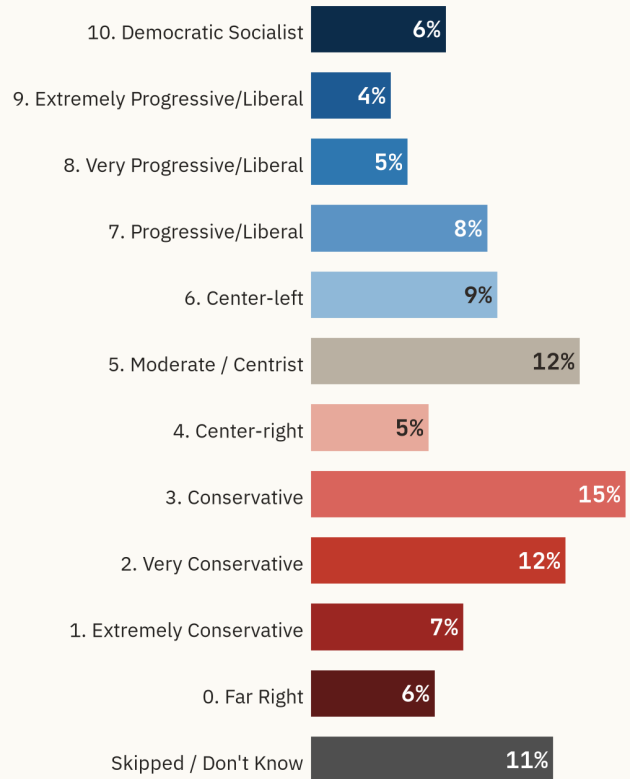
Place yourself — and each candidate — somewhere on the 0–10 scale.



AVERAGE BY VOTER GROUP



DETAILED SELF-PLACEMENT (ALL RESPONDENTS)

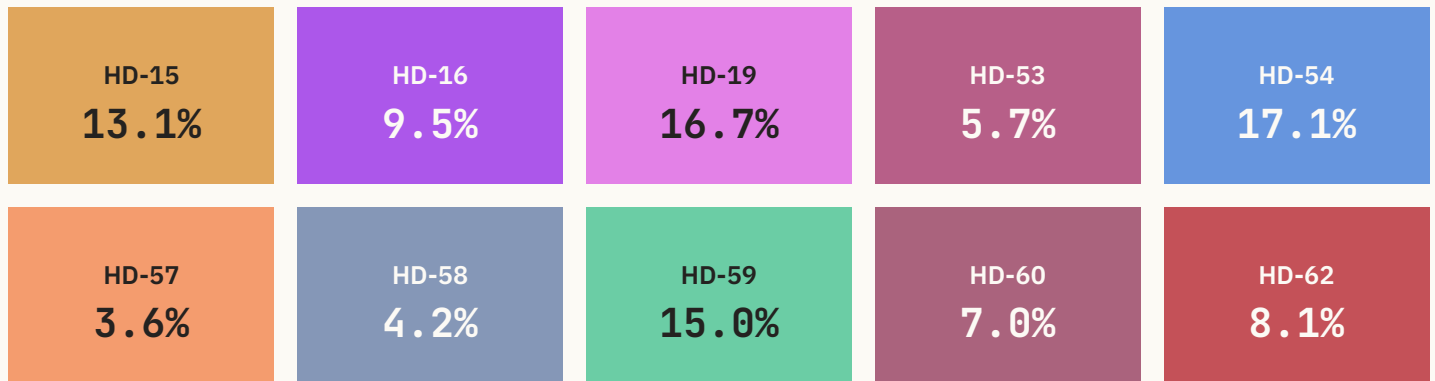


Ideology is respondents' self-placement on a 0-10 scale (10 = most progressive, 0 = far right). Detailed shares are of all respondents; 11.3% skipped the question. Group averages are weighted and computed among those who placed themselves (overall mean 4.5).

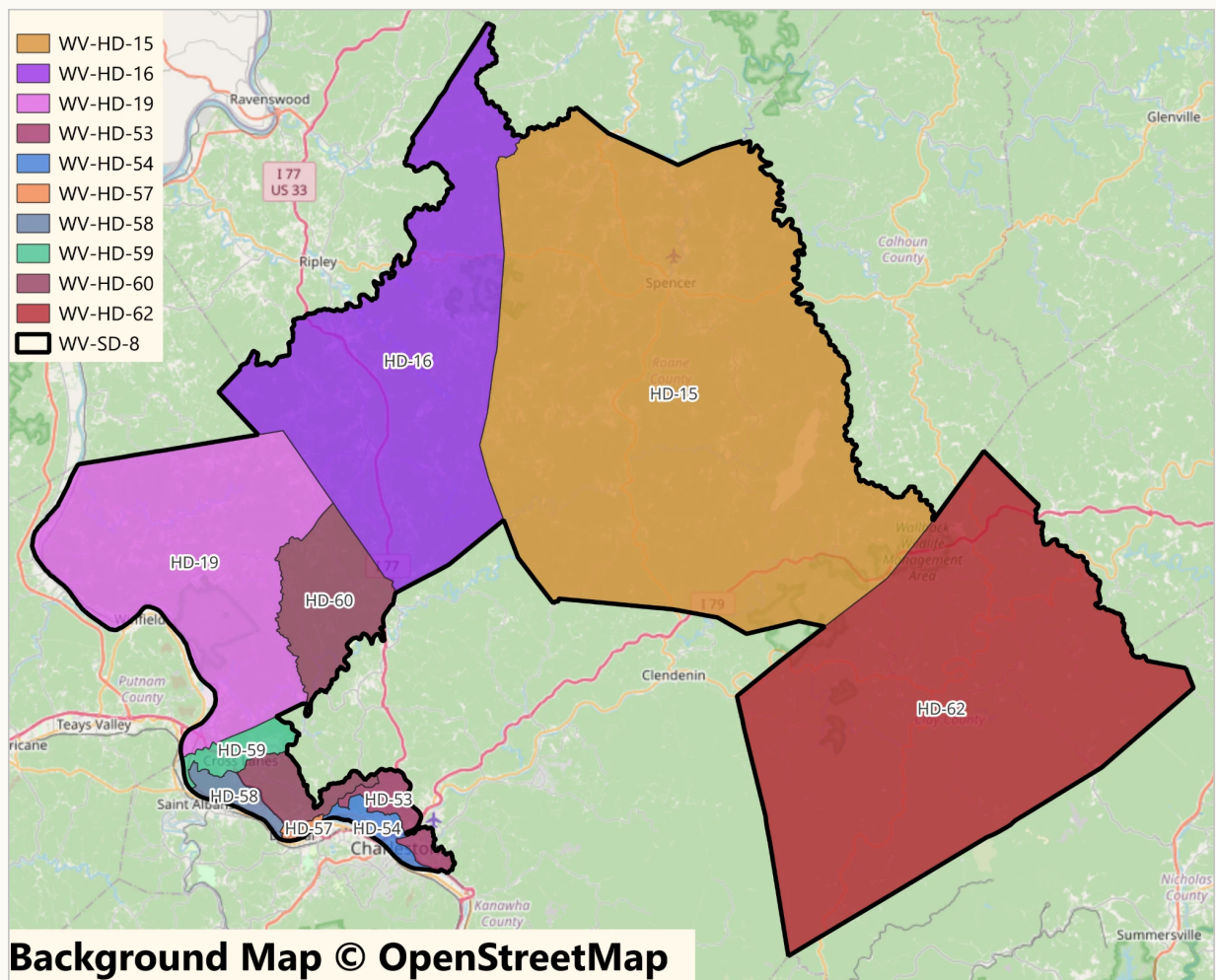
Appendix | Regions & weights

State Senate District 8 was weighted by State House district. Cards show each district's share of the weighted likely-voter sample.

Region weights | Share of weighted sample



SD-8 by region



Team notes & analysis

The following analysis from the State Navigate polling team examines the forces shaping this race.

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE | ON CROSSOVER VOTING

Hundley is running like a generic Democrat.

In our recent poll of State Senate District 1 in the Northern Panhandle, Democrat Shawn Fluharty is winning 12% of voters who recall backing Donald Trump in 2024, which is a big reason that race is within 5 points. Kim Hundley isn't getting that kind of crossover in SD-8: she wins just 5% of Trump voters, while Lance Wheeler wins 80% of them, with 14% undecided. Among voters who approve of the job Trump is doing, Hundley gets only 3%. Her 40% share of the vote with leaners is barely ahead of the 38% of likely voters who recall voting for Kamala Harris, and Wheeler is pulling about as many Harris voters (5%) as Hundley is pulling Trump voters. In a district Trump carried by 27 points, Hundley needs Republican crossover to win, and so far she is running as a generic Democrat.

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE | ON THE MORRISEY ENDORSEMENT

A Morrisey endorsement would be toxic in SD-8.

Governor Morrisey is deeply unpopular in SD-8, with 31% of likely voters approving of his job performance and 61% disapproving, and voters say his endorsement would hurt rather than help: 45% say it would make them less likely to support a candidate, including 36% who say much less likely, compared to just 16% who say more likely. That matters because the voters it would push away are exactly the ones Hundley needs. If Hundley won every Wheeler supporter and every undecided voter who says a Morrisey endorsement would make them much less likely to back a candidate, she would rise from 40% to roughly 48% of the vote, within striking distance of a majority. Among undecided voters alone, 26% say a Morrisey endorsement would make them much less likely to support a candidate, while just 1% say much more likely. Wheeler would be wise to keep his distance from the Governor; Hundley's best path runs through tying Wheeler to him.

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE | ON UNDECIDED VOTERS

The undecideds lean Republican on paper, but they're souring on Republican leadership.

14% of likely voters remain fully undecided after pushing leaners. By their past votes, they lean Republican: 53% recall voting for Trump in 2024, the same as the district overall, while just 25% recall voting for Harris, compared to 38% districtwide. They are also far less partisan than the rest of the electorate, as 30% identify with neither party, compared to 9% overall, and they are split nearly evenly in thirds by party registration. But their views of Republican leadership cut the other way: just 37% approve of Trump while 52% disapprove, and only 26% approve of Morrisey while 56% disapprove. If undecideds break the way decided voters with the same 2024 vote are breaking, Wheeler would win roughly 54% to 46%; if they break along party identification instead, the race tightens to about 53% to 47%. Either way, Hundley would need to win roughly 72% of undecided voters to overtake Wheeler, a tall order for a group that backed Trump over Harris by more than 2-to-1. With only around 160 undecided respondents, these numbers should be read as a directional signal rather than a firm conclusion.

Team notes & analysis

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE | ON TRUMP'S APPROVAL

Our poll and our model agree on Trump.

Donald Trump's job approval in our polling of West Virginia's State Senate districts lines up almost exactly with State Navigate's new interactive model of Trump's approval in every state legislative district in the country. In SD-8, our poll finds 45.2% of likely voters approve of the job Trump is doing and 52.0% disapprove, a net approval of -6.8; our model estimates -6.6. In SD-1, our poll has Trump at 49.2% approve and 47.3% disapprove, a net of +1.9, compared to +1.5 in our model. That's a difference of less than half a point in both districts, even though the model was built independently of these surveys: it applies the patterns from national and state polling going back to early 2025 to each district's demographics and past election results, using multilevel regression and poststratification (MRP). Two very different methods landing in the same place gives us confidence in both the model and our polling. It also lets us look back in time: given how closely the model matches our poll, we can say with a reasonable degree of certainty that Trump's net approval in SD-8 has been negative since June 30. You can explore Trump's approval in every West Virginia State Senate district at projects.statenavigate.com/interactives/us/trump-approval.

State Navigate is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to becoming a compass for state legislatures everywhere. Our bipartisan polling team consists of alumni of FiveThirtyEight, political scientists, and polling experts. Last year, State Navigate was the most accurate pollster in the country for the 2025 election cycle. To learn more about our poll sponsorship opportunities, [click here](#)! Public polling on state governance, especially state legislatures, is rare, so we try to make our polling as affordable as possible for sponsors to help fill this gap.

Our polling team

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chaz was the Director of CAnalysis.com, the only website dedicated to state legislative election forecasting. He has successfully forecasted thousands of state legislative elections since 2017 during his senior year in high school. Chaz leads the polling team and works with them on survey design, field work, weighting, and written analysis.

MICHAEL FOLEY

ELECTIONS COORDINATOR

Michael is an expert in GIS technology and has experience in coding and scraping technology. He is a graduate of Fordham University and the University of Chicago Law School. In our polling, Michael conducts fieldwork, setting up surveys and texts, and exports/designs crosstabs.

MARY RADCLIFFE

DATA MANAGER

Mary Radcliffe is a mathematician and data analyst from Pittsburgh. She earned a PhD in Mathematics from the University of California, San Diego in 2012. Mary has previously worked as a Teaching Professor at Carnegie Mellon University and Researcher at FiveThirtyEight. In our polling, Mary helps with survey design, keeps our polling operations ethical, creates topline, and writes analyses of results.

G. ELLIOTT MORRIS

POLLING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Elliott Morris is a data-driven journalist and author living in Washington, DC. He's the author of *STRENGTH IN NUMBERS: How Polls Work and Why We Need Them*. Elliott was most recently the Editorial Director of Data Analytics at ABC News, where he developed polling aggregation and election-forecasting models and managed the research and data visualization teams for ABC's data-journalism website FiveThirtyEight/538. In our polling, Elliott helps with survey design and writing weighting scripts.

NICHOLAS GOEDERT

POLLING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Nicholas / "Nick" is an assistant professor of Political Science at Virginia Tech with expertise focused on legislative elections and American politics. He is the author of *GROUND WAR: Courts, Commissions, and the Fight over Partisan Gerrymanders* (Oxford, 2022). He served as an expert witness in the Wisconsin redistricting case *Whitford v. Gill*. He holds a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton and a J.D. from Georgetown Law. In our polling, Nick helps with survey design and gives academic feedback.