

NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE: 2018 WEST VIRGINIA SENATE RACE

	Joe Manchin (D – Incumbent)	Patrick Morrisey (R)
<p>For mobile-friendly version & other guides, see campuselect.org/guides.html</p> <p>For more detailed information on candidate positions visit their respective pages at votesmart.org</p> <p>To volunteer, visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manchin.senate.gov • patrickmorrisey.com 		
Abortion: Mostly ban or mostly legal?	Mostly ban. Lifelong abortion opponent, but recognizes that Americans are divided on this . Voted for bill prohibiting abortions after 20 weeks & opposes any public funding.	Ban. Overturn <i>Roe v Wade</i> , stop “the pro-abortion agenda” in Congress & legislate nationwide restrictions similar to WV’s .
Campaign Finance: Require political ads to disclose largest funders? Support <i>Citizens United</i> decision, allowing unlimited political donations from corporations & unions?	Yes, disclose funders. No, on Citizen’s United. Says the decision has “destroyed this country.”	Unknown.
Climate Change: Consider climate change a critical threat?	Yes. “I believe climate change is real, & that the more than 7 billion people living on this Earth have contributed to its warming.”	No. “There are many factors involved in the evolution of the earth’s temperature.”
Climate Change: Limit or tax production of greenhouse gases? Support renewable energy?	No to regulating greenhouse gases: “No one is going to stop using fossil [fuels] for a long time.” But required WV utilities to get 25% of energy from renewable sources by 2025.	No to regulating greenhouse gases. Led states suing to overturn Obama Clean Power Plan. Opposed renewable energy mandate in ad against a primary opponent.
Contraception: Allow employers to withhold contraceptive coverage from employees if disagree with it morally?	Yes. Voted for bill to reverse ACA mandate for contraceptive coverage in order to safeguard religious liberty.	Yes. Strong advocate for religious liberty.
Economy: Support federal spending as a means of promoting economic growth?	Yes. Supports infrastructure investment.	Yes. Supports infrastructure investment.
Economy: Support President Trump’s imposition of tariffs on Chinese steel & other products?	Yes. Supports the tariffs 100%. Historically, trade deals have not been good for WV.	Milder support: “The President is...trying to gain a little negotiating leverage. That’s not a bad thing.”
Education: Provide vouchers to parents to send their children to private schools with public money?	No. “Would pull already limited public school resources from the schools, students & teachers that need them most.”	No statement found.
Education: Supported West Virginia teacher’s strike?	Yes. Urged Senate Republicans “to stop playing games & send our kids back to school.”	No. “Breaking the law does not set a good example for our children.” Threatened an injunction.
Gay Marriage: Support gay marriage?	Opposes personally, but accepts as settled law.	No. “Disappointed” with legalization.

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Gun Control: Support more restrictive gun control legislation? Restrict semi-automatic weapons?	Opposes restrictions in most areas. Opposed banning semi-automatic weapons , but supports background checks for gun show or internet sales .	No. Will keep hands of “gun grabbers” & “Washington liberals” off of American guns . A+ rating from NRA.
Healthcare: Support or Repeal Affordable Care Act (ACA), known as Obamacare?	Needs improvement, but supports its preventive care, protections for pre-existing conditions, costs of prescription drugs, & support to fight opioid epidemic . Unacceptable to go back to when 250,000 West Virginians went without healthcare .	Repeal. Joined lawsuit that would end coverage of preexisting conditions . ACA has “utterly failed our country & West Virginia,” causing higher insurance premiums, & leading businesses to drop health care coverage altogether.
Healthcare: Allow Planned Parenthood to receive public funds for non-abortion health services?	Yes. No abortion funding, but committed to “helping women get vital health services, like cancer screenings & preventive care.”	No. “Has opposed all taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood.”
Healthcare: Should the Federal government support miners’ pensions & health care when companies go bankrupt?	Yes. Spearheaded bill to fund health care benefits & pensions for union miners .	No statement found.
Immigration: Support DREAM Act (DACA), allowing “Dreamers” who arrived illegally as children, to achieve legal status if meet certain conditions?	Yes. Member of bipartisan group who proposed legislation to give Dreamers path to citizenship while allocating \$25 billion for border security .	No. “Lax immigration laws pose a security risk to our homeland.” Joined lawsuit against DACA, calling it an unlawful, unilateral Obama action .
Iran: Support Trump’s withdrawal from treaty limiting Iran’s nuclear capability?	Yes.	Yes.
Minimum Wage: Raise the federal minimum wage?	Yes. Supported 2014 bill to increase from \$7.25 hour to \$10.10 hour .	Unknown.
Net Neutrality: Require internet providers to provide equal access to all users?	Yes. Voted to overturn FCC repeal of net neutrality .	Took no stand after Democratic legislators requested he support net neutrality .
President Trump: Response to President Trump's actions & policies?	Voted 61% in support of Trump positions as of August 2018.	“His pro-growth, tax policies & his repeal of illegal & burdensome regulations have significantly benefited our citizens.”
Privatization: Support full or partial privatization of Social Security?	No. Supports expansion .	Unclear. “Consider reforms to keep Social Security & Medicare solvent,” but “not make changes that would negatively impact retirees.”
Student debt: Refinance existing student loans if lower rates exist? Support income-contingent loan repayment? Support & expand Pell Grants?	Yes . Introduced bills to refinance at market rates & to limit repayment to 15% of income . Signed on to support & strengthen Pell Grants .	Unknown. Reached settlement with for-profit online education company to forgive student debt .
Taxes: Support President Trump’s tax cuts ?	No. “The corporations get the greatest cuts, the wealthiest get the greatest benefits...The people that get the least amount..are the people that needed it the most”	Yes. “As a result, West Virginia families are seeing more money in their pockets, unemployment rates continue to drop, & many hardworking West Virginians are receiving bonuses & pay raises.”

Other senate candidates include [Rusty Hollen](#) (Libertarian). Due to limited space, we can only include candidates who poll 15% or higher, but encourage you to check out his website.

Created by the [Campus Election Engagement Project](#), a nonpartisan effort to help college & university administrators, faculty, & student leaders engage their schools in the election. Key sites consulted included [Votesmart.org](#), [OntheIssues.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#), & public candidate statements. For guides to local races, see [Vote411.org](#) from the League of Women Voters & [Ballotready.org](#).