

News Release



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For Immediate Release

Eastern Panhandle Voters Show Continued Support for State Labor Reforms

Charleston, WV, August 15th – A recent poll of registered voters in the Eastern Panhandle shows significant support for key labor reforms enacted by the West Virginia legislature. In 2016, a little over a year after the Republican Party gained control of both the W. Va. State Senate and W. Va. House of Delegates, majorities in both chambers voted to repeal the State's prevailing wage requirement on taxpayer funded projects and to make W. Va. the 26th Right to Work State in the Country. Despite the rigorous debate in Charleston over these issues which were heavily opposed by organized labor unions, voters statewide had favorable views of the legislature's proposed reforms. This recent poll, commissioned by the Associated Builders and Contractors of West Virginia (ABCWV) and conducted by MBE, LLC shows support for these reforms remain.

The survey of 401 registered voters found that 64% of respondents agreed that the repeal of the state's prevailing wage laws save the state's taxpayers money, compared to only 34% who disagreed. It also found that a majority of the region's registered voters (54%) agreed that the passage of Right to Work was the correct decision by the W. Va. Legislature.

"We're pleased to see the support for these issues continuing to hold throughout the State. Despite all the outrage and inflammatory rhetoric by organized labor unions in W.Va. the State's voters still prefer freedom in both the private market and in the workplace." Stated Bryan Hoylman, President & CEO of ABCWV. "These were common sense measures and the Legislature sent a strong message to Charleston labor bosses with both. Working families and taxpayers are in charge now." Hoylman added.

The poll also found that Delegate Riley Moore, of Harpers Ferry, holds a commanding lead over his opponent John Doyle of Sheperdstown. Voters in the 67th district favor Moore by 12 percentage points (50% - 38%). The survey also found that Eastern Panhandle voters narrowly support President Trump by a margin of 49% to 48%. "Regardless of his slim advantage in this region of W. Va., The President's approval rating remains considerably high statewide. Optimism in the Construction industry is the highest it's been in a generation in W. Va. The President's actions on such items as tax reform, judicial nominees and reducing federal bureaucracy are major contributors to the level of buoyancy in the market right now." As for Moore's considerable lead over Doyle in the 67th District, Hoylman Concluded. "I'm not surprised by that at all. He's one of the brightest and most talented young office holders we've ever had. The type of leadership ability Riley possesses rarely goes unnoticed by an engaged voting bloc, and it appears his constituents are no exception."

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Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is a national construction industry trade association representing nearly 21,000 chapter members. Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC and its 70 chapters help members develop people, win work and deliver that work safely, ethically, profitably and for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. Visit us at abcwv.org.