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Limited win for the Democrats in West Virginia

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Governor Joe Manchin of West Virginia has been projected the winner of his Senate race. With 67% of the vote in, he holds a ten-point lead over his Republican challenger. This bodes well for the Democrats' chance of holding onto the Senate. Nate Silver's [indispensable](#) FiveThirtyEight blog currently estimates that the post-election Senate balance of 52-48 or 53-47.

On a great many issues, however, it isn't an extra vote for the Democrats. West Virginia has vote Republican in the last three Presidential elections by an average margin of almost 9%. He is a classic Blue Dog.

As a West Virginian, he is naturally a defender of the coal industry. Although that hasn't stopped him from being active on safety issues, he is also solidly opposed to climate change legislation. He backed an effort by WV Senator Jay Rockefeller to block the EPA from being able to regulate greenhouse gases and ran a campaign ad where he actually shot a target labeled "cap and trade" with a rifle. He was endorsed by both the Chamber of Commerce and the National Rifle Association.

He is also anti-choice and anti-gay marriage. Regarding the idea of the stimulus package, it's interesting to note that for the period 2003-08, he has the third highest rating among governors from the libertarian Cato Institute.

On the other hand, he has strong union ties and is against the privatization of Social Security. Further, keeping a Democratic majority means keeping McConnell and DeMint away from the helm.

Comments: 2

[Rude D.](#) Nov 3, 2010, 12:05am EDT

We too have a blue dog in Walt Minnick and he is up against a Hispanic republican who is WAY MORE liberal than him.

Out of my district but was rooting for Minnick because Raul Labrador said zip when fellow Republicans used racial slurs against him.

The Idiot could have LIED and said some idiotic thing Like "Those slurs don't belong in the NEW republican party " But NOOOOOO! he had to be a good peon and bow down to his overlords.

[john a.](#) Nov 3, 2010, 1:06am EDT

Manchin will vote more in line with the repubs then he will with the dems...why because he is only serving a 2 year term and will have to run for election again in 2012....from a state that will be dead set to try and defeat Obama.....I think he will probably be more conservative in his voting than some repubs....We'll nick name him our..hillbilly liberian...lol

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