

## **Voters Guide US Senate May 8, 2018 Primary Election**

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### **Democratic Candidates for US Senate**

Name **Joe Manchin**

County Marion

Party **Democrat**

#### **Biography**

Joe Manchin grew up in Farmington, WV, a small coal mining town where he learned West Virginia values like hard work, fairness, and family. As Governor, Joe cut taxes, increased teacher pay, improved services for seniors, and put our state's financial house in order. In the U.S. Senate, Joe's top priority will always be to stand up for West Virginia.

#### **1. What measures would you support to address the budget deficit and the national debt?**

I've always supported a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We have it in West Virginia and Washington needs it. We need to grow American jobs by renegotiating unfair trade deals that ship jobs overseas. By growing American jobs we will increase revenue to reduce the deficit. Major tax breaks to multinational corporations, that we can't afford, need to stop.

#### **2. What steps do you think Congress should take to insure access to affordable healthcare for all Americans?**

Total repeal of the Affordable Care Act would hurt working families; but we need to repair it. There must be greater accountability and preventative care services tied to Medicaid expansion. I support a bipartisan fix to stabilize the health insurance markets and lower costs. My opponents want to strip coverage from 200,000 West Virginians and bankrupt rural hospitals.

#### **3. West Virginia has been especially hard hit by the opioid abuse epidemic. What do you see as the role of Congress in addressing this crisis?**

The FDA must reduce the approvals of opioids coming on the market — we have enough. The DEA needs the tools to crack down on suspicious pill shipments. Doctors need improved prescription guidelines for painkillers and must follow them. West Virginia needs mandatory educational classes on the effects of opiates for students in all grades. Also, more funding for addiction prevention

Name **Paula Jean Swarengin**

County Raleigh

Party **Democrat**

#### **Biography**

I am running for office to ensure that every West Virginian has a voice and true representation in Washington. For the next six years, we cannot afford to have a U.S. Senator that will work more for their big donors than their constituents. I am the only U.S. Senate candidate that is refusing all corporate donations and PAC money so

#### **1. What measures would you support to address the budget deficit and the national**

**debt?**

Rein in our bloated military budget and eliminate wasteful spending. Reduce Agribusiness subsidies. Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies entirely. Allow the federal government to negotiate drug prices with manufacturers. Replace the Home Mortgage Interest Deduction with a refundable credit to reduce the artificial incentive for developers and investors to finance high-end home construction.

**2. What steps do you think Congress should take to insure access to affordable healthcare for all Americans?**

Healthcare is a human right and is essential for a healthy and productive society. Congress must set a goal to establish a Medicare for All system, which can save an average family \$6,000 a year by lowering premiums, deductibles, and prescription costs and small businesses won't have to carry the burden of high premiums for employees.

**3. West Virginia has been especially hard hit by the opioid abuse epidemic. What do you see as the role of Congress in addressing this crisis?**

We face one of the worst public health emergencies in history. This addiction epidemic affects our schools, neighborhoods, and way of life. This crisis demands regulation of painkillers, education and awareness efforts, and large, sustained funding to increase treatment centers and long-term recovery programs. Resources must go into communities where local leaders and officials can use them most effectively

**Republican Candidates for US Senate**

Name **Don Blankenship**

County Mingo

Party **Republican**

**Biography**

We all know that our federal government has big problems: twenty-three trillion dollars in debt, a drug epidemic, millions of illegal immigrants, a failed education system, and a collapsing and outdated highway and rail system. But these problems are actually symptoms of far more chronic problems that will be even more difficult to solve, including government corruption, political cowardice, and incapable

**1. What measures would you support to address the budget deficit and the national debt?**

The politicians have to begin to behave like families have to. You spend only what you make. We have to grow the economy to create more tax revenue. We cannot police the world at our expense. We should not spend money overseas unless we have a surplus

**2. What steps do you think Congress should take to insure access to affordable healthcare for all Americans?**

Congress must repeal the Obamacare program that raised health costs on every American. Obamacare gives consumers fewer choices and puts the burden of billions of new expenses on already strained state budgets. More competition across state lines will give folks more choices and greatly reduce the costs of health care

**3. West Virginia has been especially hard hit by the opioid abuse epidemic. What do you see as the role of Congress in addressing this crisis?**

West Virginia is ground zero for opiate deaths. There needs to be a comprehensive plan

to discourage drug use, and to punish all drug dealers and any doctors that over-prescribe. We should also drug test all government employees, including Judges. Building the wall will reduce the quantity of drugs entering our country.

Name **Bo Copley**

County Mingo

Party **Republican**

**Biography**

I am the former maintenance planner and surface foreman that challenged Hillary Clinton regarding her comments about putting coal miners out of business. I am a lifelong resident of WV, and have been a registered Republican since I was 18. I am a current resident of Ragland, WV, and I am an active member of Regional Church of God.

**1. What measures would you support to address the budget deficit and the national debt?**

Out of control spending is a major obstacle in our nation. I would support legislation that would not allow sessions of Congress to convene until a balanced budget has been approved. I would propose that government spending be reduced in any non-essential area, with foreign aid to hostile nations being the first places reduced.

**2. What steps do you think Congress should take to insure access to affordable healthcare for all Americans?**

The current healthcare system in our nation is not working for the majority of our citizens. I think we would be best served to repeal this system and promote a free market healthcare system. I would also like to see provisions for individuals with preexisting conditions or special needs to not be left out.

**3. West Virginia has been especially hard hit by the opioid abuse epidemic. What do you see as the role of Congress in addressing this crisis?**

I believe pharmaceutical companies play a large part in our current opioid epidemic, and I believe we should look at taking action there to start. Just like any other drug, you have to look at the supplier and the dealer. We should also look at doctors prescribing the opioids, rather than treating the illness causing the pain.

Name **Evan Jenkins**

County Cabell

Party **Republican**

**Biography**

Born and raised in the Mountain State, I have a passion for defending West Virginia values — because I've lived them. My wife, Elizabeth, and I have raised three children here, volunteer in our community and attend First Presbyterian Church. I helped establish Lily's Place, a special facility that has provided loving care for more than 200 newborn babies exposed to

**1. What measures would you support to address the budget deficit and the national debt?**

I'm a fiscal conservative that believes we must reduce our country's debt and deficit. I support a Balanced Budget Amendment. On the Appropriations Committee, I'm always looking for ways to cut spending and government waste. I've voted to not raise the debt limit and I'm working with President Trump to drain the swamp. We must not mortgage our children's future.

**2. What steps do you think Congress should take to insure access to affordable healthcare for all Americans?**

Most of my professional career has been in healthcare fighting to preserve and protect the ‘doctor – patient’ relationship. Government bureaucrats and insurance bean counters need to stay out of the exam room. I’ve voted to repeal Obamacare and replace it with commonsense, patient-centered health reforms that focus on lowering costs and improving access to quality healthcare. We must preserve Medicare.

**3. West Virginia has been especially hard hit by the opioid abuse epidemic. What do you see as the role of Congress in addressing this crisis?**

I refuse to accept campaign donations for opioid pushing drug companies that have flooded our state with pills. I’ve passed legislation to help ensure babies exposed to drugs during pregnancy get a healthy start in life. I’ve secured more resources to fight those battling addiction and support Trump’s tougher penalties on the drug-thugs pushing their heroin poison in our neighborhoods.

Name **Patrick Morrisey**

County Jefferson

Party **Republican**

**Biography**

As Attorney General, I have worked tirelessly to defend our conservative West Virginia values: Defending life; expanding gun rights; suing President Obama’s EPA and protecting coal; suing Obama over Obamacare and his illegal amnesty program; and finally, aggressively tackling the opioid tragedy in West Virginia. Now, I’m running for Senate to continue this fight and advance conservative values in the

**1. What measures would you support to address the budget deficit and the national debt?**

We need to pass a Balanced Budget amendment to the Constitution to ensure career politicians are forced to balance the congressional checkbook just like hardworking West Virginia families do with their own bank account every month

**2. What steps do you think Congress should take to insure access to affordable healthcare for all Americans?**

We need to repeal Obamacare and the onerous regulations that have cause premiums to skyrocket, while denying many West Virginia families the ability to choose their doctors and their health insurance plans. I support policies that will create more competition in the healthcare sector, so we can lower prices, improve access, and increase quality.

**3. West Virginia has been especially hard hit by the opioid abuse epidemic. What do you see as the role of Congress in addressing this crisis?**

My office has reached record-breaking settlements with pharmaceutical companies, launched faith-based education programs, and even sued the DEA. Congress needs to do a much better job of holding the federal government accountable for its lax oversight of the opioid supply system, and tackle the problem holistically from a supply and demand, and educational perspective

Name **Jack Newbrough**

County

Party **Republican**

**No Reply**

Name **Tom Willis**

County Bekeley

Party **Republican**

**Biography**

There are two reasons people run for office, either to serve or to be served. I have served WV and our Nation for 18 years in military uniform as a member of the WV National Guard, and now I feel called to continue to serve WV as a Statesman.

**1. What measures would you support to address the budget deficit and the national debt?**

I support a balanced budget amendment with an exception given for times of declared war.

**2. What steps do you think Congress should take to insure access to affordable healthcare for all Americans?**

Congress needs to allow the free market to operate to the greatest extent possible to reduce costs and drive innovation through competition, limit tort expenses to the healthcare system which currently run 1/7th of all health care costs, and preserve protections for those with pre-existing conditions by creating a subsidized high-risk pool that allows everyone to carry health insurance

**3. West Virginia has been especially hard hit by the opioid abuse epidemic. What do you see as the role of Congress in addressing this crisis?**

This is an economic and national security issue. We need to carefully regulate opioid pill distribution, stop drug dealers and explore alternative sentencing such as Drug Courts and faith based recovery programs to help people become productive citizens. WV has been hit the hardest and Congress needs to ensure that WV receives the largest proportion of funding in response.