



STATE NAVIGATE POLL BRIEFING

WEST VIRGINIA SENATE DIST. 17 SPECIAL REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Anne Charnock (appointed-incumbent) vs. Michael Jarrouj
Charleston-area district · May 3–6, 2026 follow-up survey

AT A GLANCE



PRIMARY DATE

May 12, 2026



EARLY VOTING BEGAN

Apr 29, 2026



FIELD DATES

May 3–6, 2026



MARGIN OF ERROR

± 5.5%

n = 360 likely Republican primary voters · Charleston area · Weighted by age, race, gender, education, region

METHODOLOGY

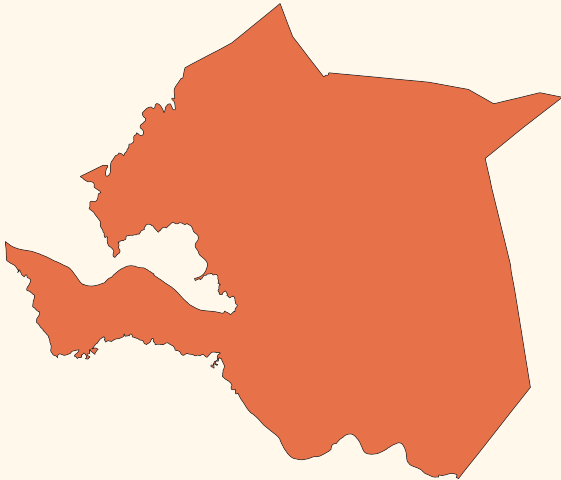
State Navigate surveyed 360 likely Republican primary voters in West Virginia's Senate District 17 from May 3 through May 6, 2026, as a follow-up to our April 13 baseline survey. Both waves used AllianceForge's text-to-web methodology via SurveyMonkey. The sample was drawn from the i360 voter file and weighted by age, race, gender, education, and region to reflect the likely 2026 R primary electorate. The survey carries a margin of error of ±5.5% at a 95% confidence level. This survey was not sponsored by any party, candidate, or candidate's committee.

DISTRICT DNA • SD-17



CHARLESTON AREA

Regions: Charleston, Suburbs, Rural
(see appendix for region map)



WHERE A FEW VOTES MATTER

~19%

OF VOTERS WILL DETERMINE WHO
THE NEXT STATE SENATOR WILL BE

~69,500

registered voters in SD-17

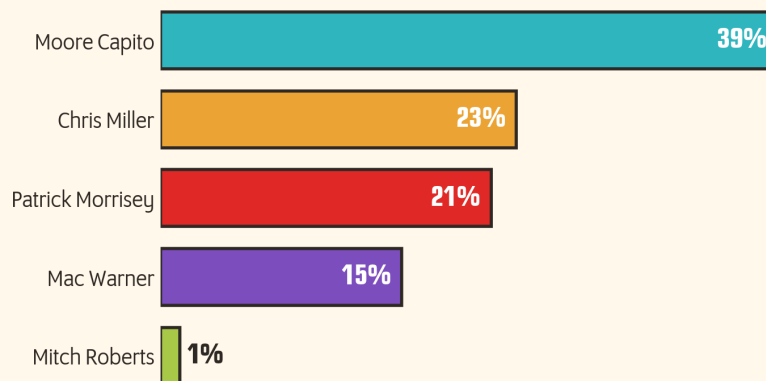
~12,900

voters cast in the 2022
GOP primary in SD-17

This district will likely elect a Republican
in November; a few voters will determine
how competitive the general election will be.

2024 PRIMARY RESULT IN SD-17

2024 GOP Gov. Primary in SD-17 (Capito +17)

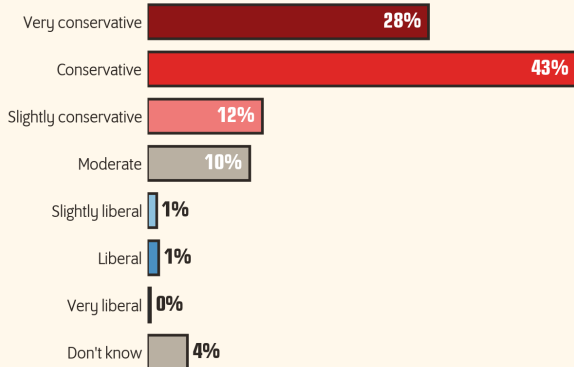


A NOTE ON 2024

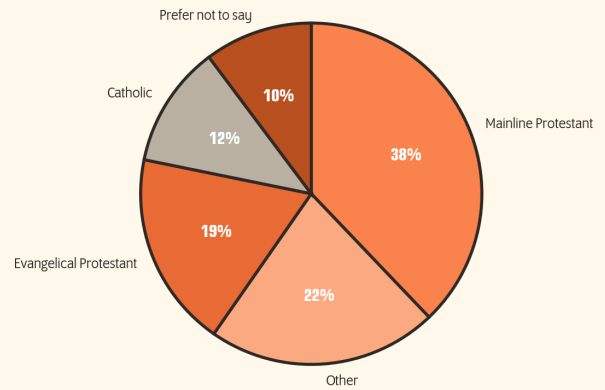
Anne Charnock was appointed to SD-17 in 2025, replacing Senator Eric Nelson, a Republican who had the backing of the normative-conservative Kanawha County establishment during the open 2024 race who was boosted by an active in-district field operation from the Moore Capito for Governor campaign. This year, Capito's mother, US Senator Shelley Moore Capito, is on the ballot in an uncompetitive US Senate primary, so Jarrouj loses the indirect center-right-conservative boost that Nelson had. The 2024 primary electorate broke 35% Charleston / 27% suburbs / 38% rural; when excluding non-Republicans it's 40% rural, 33% Charleston, 27% suburbs — we've weighted our survey to this breakdown.

DISTRICT DNA • SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS (LV)

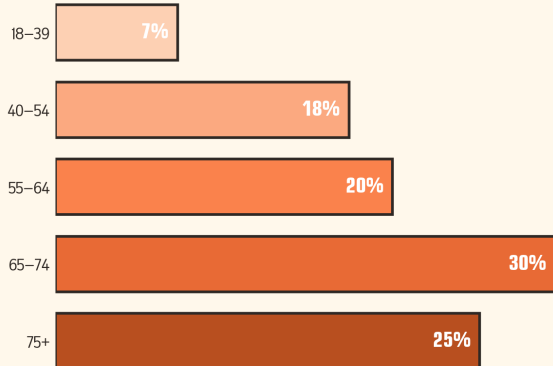
IDEOLOGICAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION



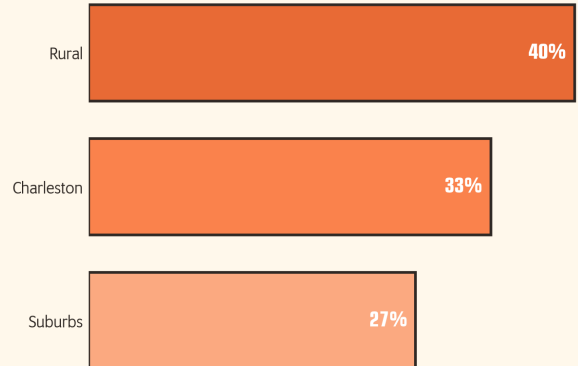
RELIGION



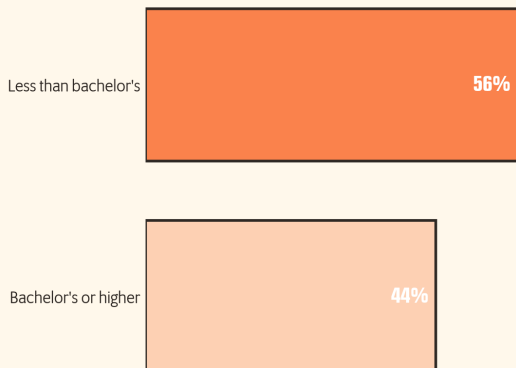
AGE



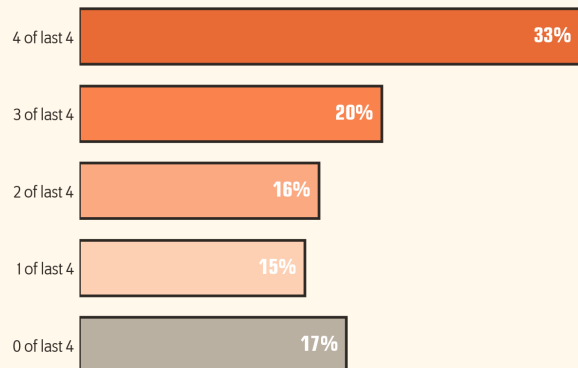
RESPONDENTS BY REGION



EDUCATION



PRIMARY VOTING HISTORY (LAST 4 CYCLES)



White/Caucasian = 98%. n = 360 likely R primary voters, weighted.



THE CANDIDATES

ANNE CHARNOCK

Appointed Sen. • South Hills, Charleston

BACKGROUND

Appointed incumbent state Senator. Former Judge; daughter of a former legislator. Lives in South Hills, Charleston.

BACKERS

Labor unions; WV Chamber of Commerce.

KEY STRENGTH

Massive spending advantage; family name recognition.

MICHAEL JARROUJ

Restaurant Owner • South Hills, Charleston

BACKGROUND

Restaurant owner in South Charleston.

BACKERS

Mountaineer Freedom Alliance; West Virginia Leadership Fund.

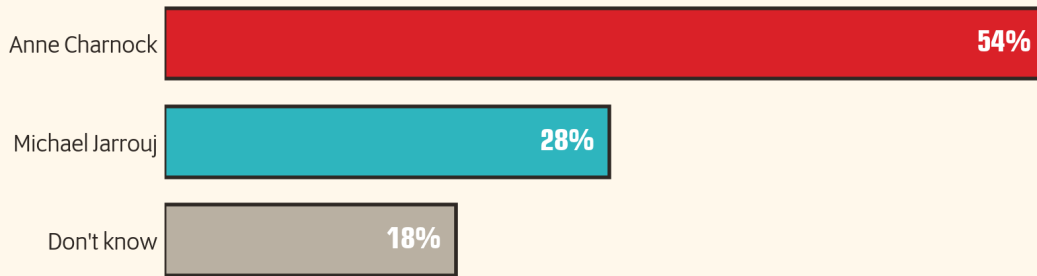
KEY STRENGTH

Strong name recognition in Charleston.

THE SNAPSHOT

THE HORSERACE • WITH LEANERS

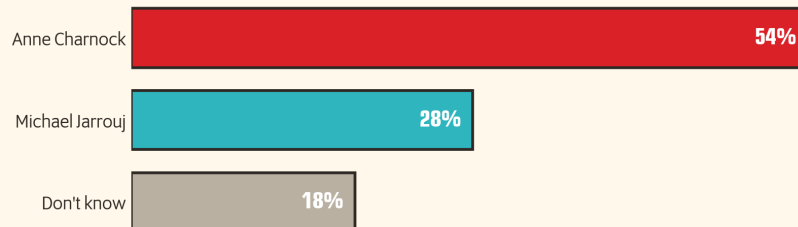
SD-17 SPECIAL Republican Primary Horserace (with leaners)



Charnock leads Jarrouj 55% – 27% with leaners, with 18% undecided. While the regular election is essentially a Toss-Up, the special election's goose is cooked. Jarrouj's path relied upon riding along Takubo's support, but about half of Takubo's voters now are planning to vote for Charnock, in part thanks to her family name recognition, previous position as a judge, and massive spending advantage. Jarrouj was financially cut loose by the Takubo faction after our last survey.

NO LEANER PUSH

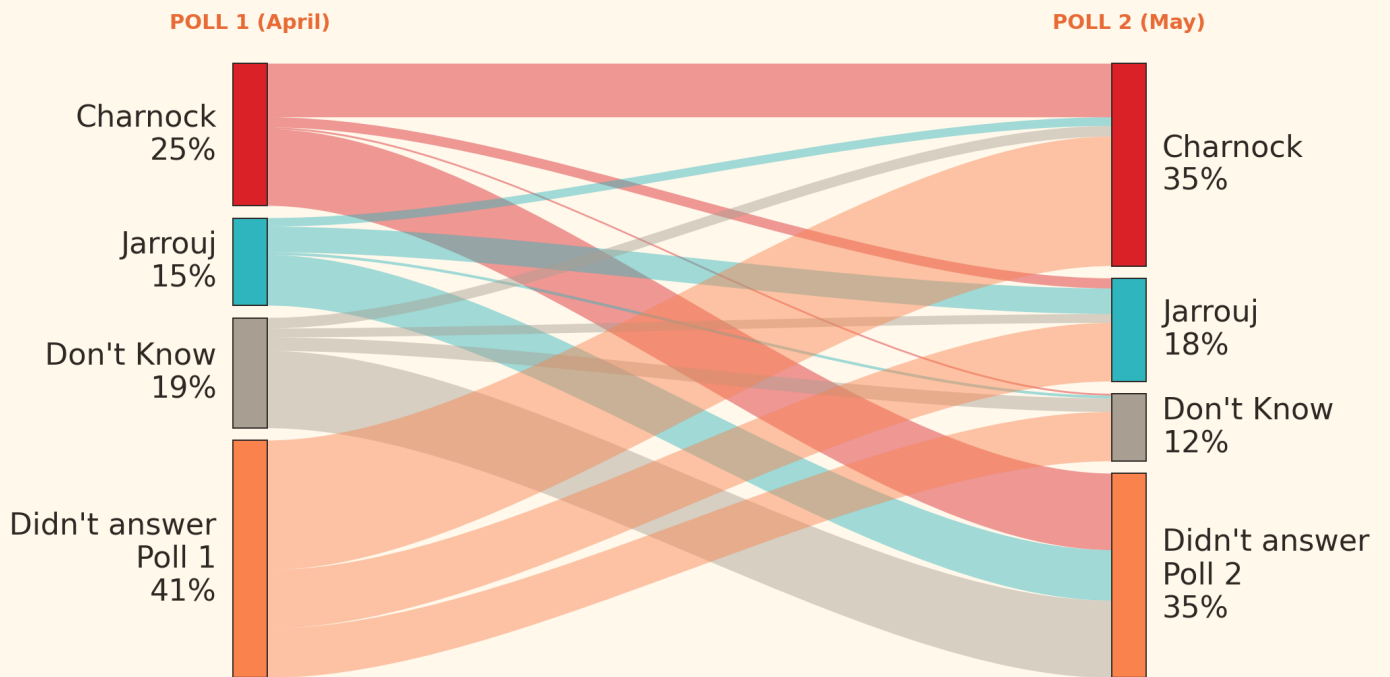
No leaner push



Pushing undecided voters in this race didn't move the topline much: the undecideds are firmly undecided here, unlike in the regular race where undecided voters skewed toward Pritt when asked which candidate they're leaning toward.

SANKEY COMPARISON OF POLLS: SIMPLE • SPECIAL

Special Election

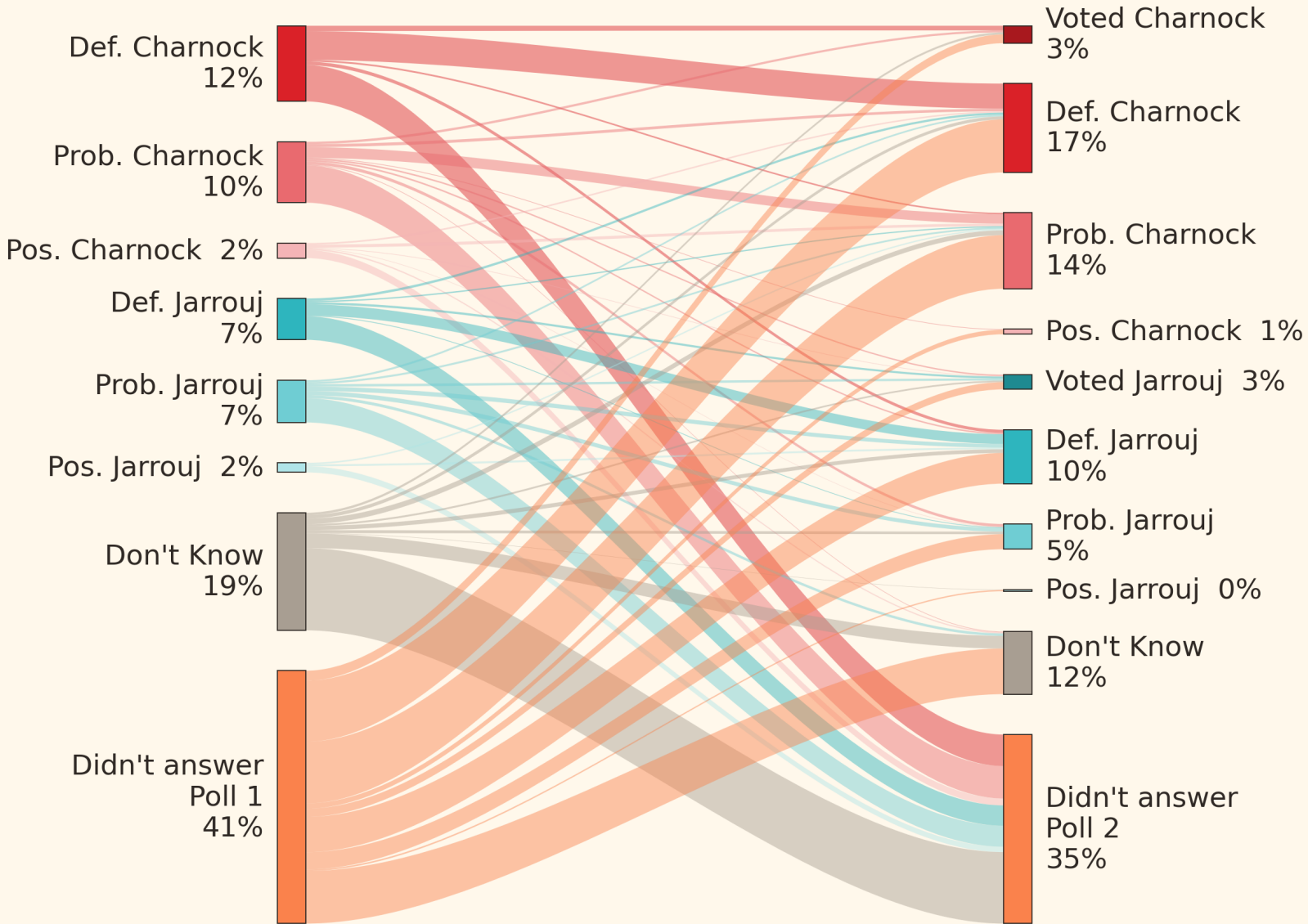


SANKEY COMPARISON OF POLLS: DETAILED · SPECIAL

Special Election

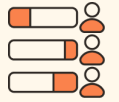
POLL 1 (April)

POLL 2 (May)

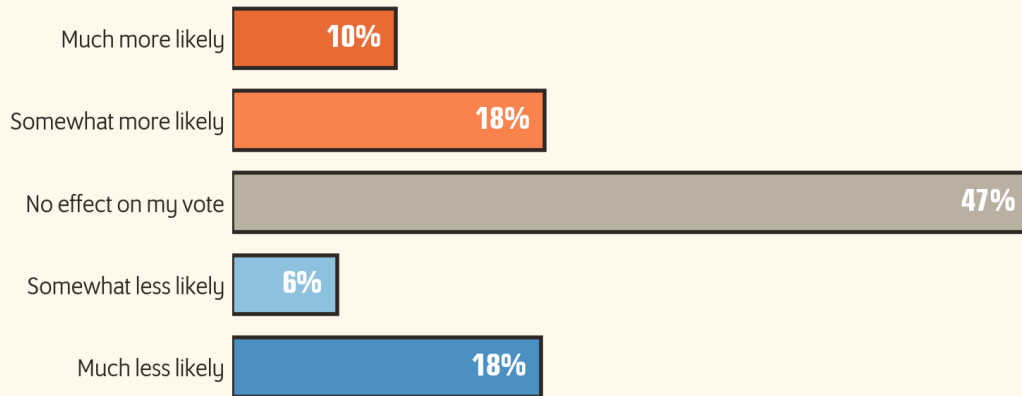


REPUBLICAN TYPOLOGIES & IDEOLOGY

EFFECT OF A MORRISEY ENDORSEMENT

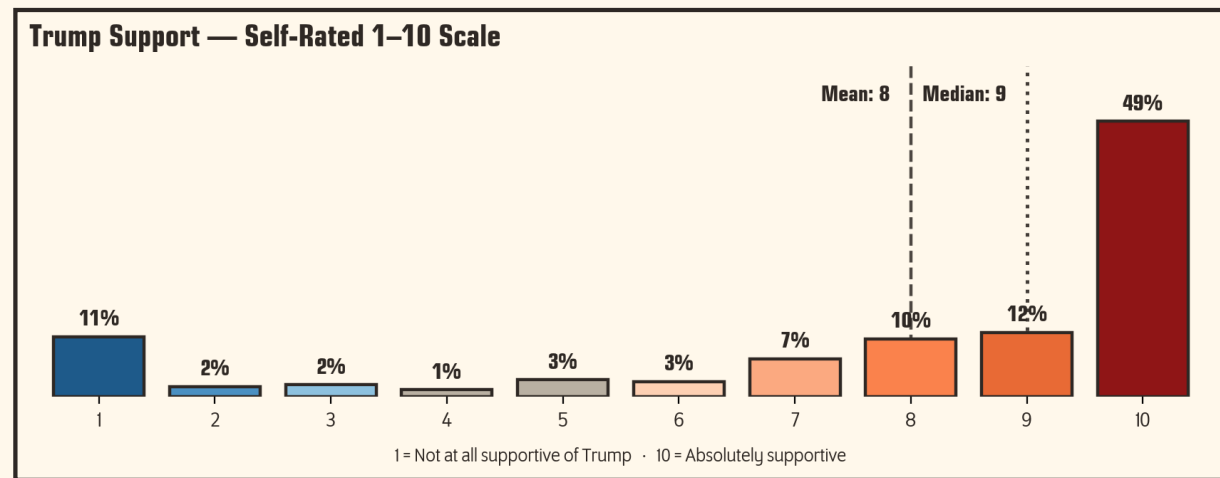


Effect of a Morrisey Endorsement on Vote



A potential indicator of how the raw sample is possibly more Takubo-friendly than the April poll, the percentage of respondents who say a Morrisey endorsement makes them less likely to support a candidate has increased by 6%; the percentage who say it makes them more likely has essentially remained the same. This is either noise, or if our poll proves to be accurate, a result of an electorate becoming polarized against the Governor.

TRUMP SUPPORT



Another potential indicator that this sample may be more Takubo-friendly, this is the least “Trumpy” State Senate seat we’ve polled in the final stretch of the campaign. However, given the demographics and partisanship of this district, that may actually hold true. We’ll know by Tuesday.



TEAM NOTES & ANALYSIS

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE · ON SURVEY WEIGHTING CHANGE

Live and learn: regional weighting added for the May follow-up.

Every other West Virginia Senate poll we've conducted has been weighted by county to account for well-known regional differences in the state's primaries. We didn't weight SD-17 by region in our first survey, similar to last year's Virginia House of Delegates polls of seats within a single county. We're glad we decided to check our blind spots: the previous SD-17 poll was 42% Charleston, 25% Charleston suburbs, and 33% rural. In reality, the 2024 primary electorate was 35% Charleston, 27% Charleston suburbs, and 38% rural. We've slightly increased the rural region's share and decreased Charleston's in weighting to account for this year's primary being Republican-only. To see our regional classifications, please check the appendix.

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE · ON CROSS-CANDIDATE ALIGNMENT

Voters are moving toward factional identifications in both races.

Since our April survey, the regular and special elections have begun to align. 31% of our sample are Pritt/Charnock voters (a 10% increase from the previous survey), and 20% are Takubo/Jarrouj voters (a 6% increase), both of which align with factional vote choices. 19% are Takubo/Charnock voters (a 2% increase), and 6% are Pritt/Jarrouj voters (a 2% decrease). Another way to look at it: in the April survey, Takubo voters were going 41% Charnock — 35% Jarrouj, now they're 48% Jarrouj — 44% Charnock (a 10-point "swing"); Pritt voters were 54% Charnock — 20% Jarrouj in April, now they're 76% Charnock — 14% Jarrouj (a 28-point "swing").

MICHAEL FOLEY · ON DUPLICATES TAKEN OUT

Sharing may be caring, but it's also very daring.

Overzealous candidates and their supporters will sometimes share our poll links with others. We can detect when that happens. When it does, all responses associated with the shared link are thrown out because we have no way to reliably associate the response with certain information necessary for weighting. In SD-17, 21 duplicate responses were removed from the sample. Please don't do this!



TEAM NOTES & ANALYSIS · CONT.

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE · ON 1ST POTENTIAL NON-RESPONSE BIAS: REGION

Polling rural voters in this district has proven difficult.

Despite our best efforts to make our unweighted sample more representative of the electorate than the first survey, we were unable to do so. The unweighted sample is 43% Charleston, 27% Charleston suburbs, and 30% rural. Trying to get an unweighted, reflective sample in SD-17 has proven more difficult here than in every other district we have surveyed. In theory, adding regional weighting softens that blow.

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE · ON 2ND POTENTIAL NON-RESPONSE BIAS: EDUCATION

This is the 4th poll here in 3½ weeks, exhausting non-college voters.

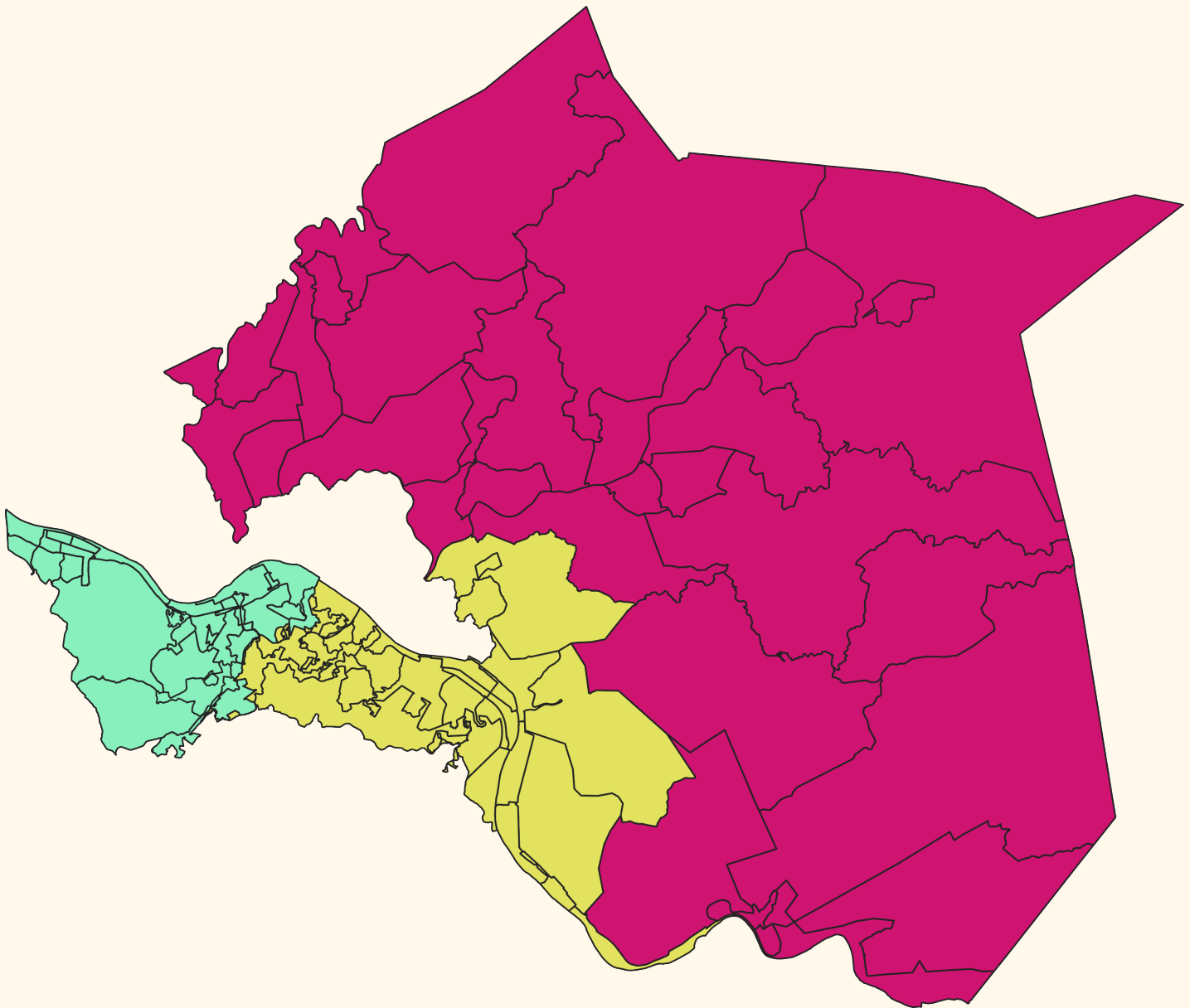
After our first survey, we learned that both campaigns had internals conducted for them. That is a likely contributor to the second potential non-response bias we've encountered: education. This is a likely reason why non-college voters are harder to poll in swing states; they're inundated with poll requests. The SD-17 non-college voters have also been inundated: we're all pulling from the same voter universe, and the SD-17 electorate has received requests to complete four polls in just 3½ weeks. When we noticed the problem of polling these voters on our first day (when our unweighted sample was +17 college), we targeted them the most in the final two days of our poll, but it wasn't enough to get close to the education breakdown of our last survey's unweighted sample. Our survey weighting looked at the two most recent Republican primary electorates (only among registered Republicans) and landed on a 57% non-college-educated and a 43% college-educated electorate. The unweighted sample in this survey is 53% college-educated, up from 48% in the first survey.

APPENDIX • REGIONAL MAP & WEIGHTS

RURAL
40.2%

CHARLESTON
33.3%

SUBURBS
26.5%





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 CNalysis.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 toplines, 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.

Your compass for state legislatures

PEACE OUT. THAT'S ALL.

