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## NEWS

### FOR RELEASE

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### **Trump and Sanders Have Big Leads in MetroNews West Virginia Poll<sup>®</sup>**

**Cincinnati, Ohio** – Businessman Donald Trump and Senator Bernie Sanders have significant leads among likely Mountain State presidential primary voters, according to the latest MetroNews West Virginia Poll.

Trump leads 40 percent-to-20 percent over his closest rival, Republican Texas Senator Ted Cruz. In the Democratic Party race for president, Sanders leads former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton by nearly two-to-one, 57 percent-to-29 percent

“While our survey was conducted before the South Carolina primary and the Nevada caucus, the momentum for Trump and Sanders coming out of significant victories in New Hampshire has propelled both of these outsider candidates to big leads in West Virginia,” said Rex Repass, CEO of REPASS Research and director of the MetroNews West Virginia Poll.

“Trump’s strength in West Virginia is highest among voters 35-44 years old, independents, and those in middle income categories,” Repass added. “The economy and frustration with the status quo in Washington is helping these non-traditional candidates nationally and in West Virginia,” Repass said.

Sanders’s strength is among 18-34 year-olds. However, he has majority support among all age categories except seniors. Among likely West Virginia voters 65 and older, the Vermont senator leads Clinton by a 43 percent-to-36 percent margin.

Rounding out the field on the Republican ballot is Florida senator Marco Rubio at 15 percent; neurosurgeon Ben Carson at 10 percent; Ohio Governor John Kasich at six percent; and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush at four percent. Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who both suspended their campaigns after the New Hampshire primary, have less than one percent each.

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## **Methodology Statement**

This edition of MetroNews West Virginia Poll is uses interviews conducted between February 11-16, 2016 with a sample of 411 registered, likely voters in the state. Data collection methods used included landline phone, cell phone, and opt-in Internet panel. Each data collection method has inherent strengths and weakness.

Respondents answered screening questions to qualify for participation in the poll including West Virginia residency, current voter registration, past voting behavior and likelihood to vote in the May 10, 2015 primary election.

When using multiple data collection methods, it is not appropriate to apply a probability-based margin of error to interviews completed. However, applying statistical tests of significance to each question asked yields an overall statistical error of +/- 4.9 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

The purpose of the MetroNews West Virginia Poll is to provide a snapshot of opinion and timely voter views in the Mountain State. The media sponsor of the West Virginia Poll is MetroNews, the statewide radio network owned by West Virginia Radio Corporation.

REPASS is responsible for questionnaire design, the respondent screening and selection process, data tabulation, statistical analysis, and reporting of results. The firm's data collection partner, McMillion Research Services, conducted the data collection. Data collection for this issue of the poll was conducted from the firm's Charleston, W.Va. data collection facilities for telephone, mobile, and online surveys. Both the REPASS and McMillion firms are members of the Council of American Survey Research Organizations (CASRO).

Data as reported has been statistically weighted based by U.S. Census estimates of voter participation by age, party affiliation, and gender in West Virginia.

The MetroNews West Virginia Poll is a non-partisan survey of public opinion owned and conducted by the REPASS firm. The West Virginia Poll has been conducted periodically since January 21, 1980. The name The West Virginia Poll is a registered trademark of R.L. Repass & Partners, Inc., dba REPASS, all rights reserved. For more information, see [www.wvpoll.com](http://www.wvpoll.com).

## **About REPASS® | Research • Strategic Consulting**

REPASS is a custom survey research and strategic consulting firm. The firm's services range from consulting with clients to identify research objectives, through study design, data collection, analysis, and research-based strategy recommendations. The company is headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio with a client service office in Washington, DC and an office in Charleston, W.Va. The West Virginia Poll® is a registered trademark of the REPASS firm, all rights reserved. For more information see [www.repassinc.com](http://www.repassinc.com).

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## Topline Results Follow

### Respondent qualifications:

- Age 18 or older
- Resident of West Virginia
- Registered in current precinct or election district
- Absolutely certain or very likely to vote in May primary election

### Respondent Profile

Statistically weighted to U.S. Census/W.Va. Past Voting Behavior - 2012

- Gender
  - Male 48%
  - Female 52%
- Age
  - 18-24 8%
  - 25-34 13%
  - 35-44 17%
  - 45-64 33%
  - 65+ 29%
- County of residence
  - Northern 50%
  - Southern 50%

### Findings

- Are you registered to vote as a Democrat, a Republican, a Libertarian, the Mountain Party or is your registration unaffiliated with any political party, sometimes referred to as “independent”?  
*Base: All respondents, n=411*

48%	Democrat
30%	Republican
20%	Unaffiliated or Independent
1%	Libertarian
1%	Mountain

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- If the Democratic primary for president was being held today, and the candidates are **(ROTATE ORDER OF NAMES)** [Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders], for whom would you vote? *Base: Democrat voter registration or Unaffiliated voter registration and will ask for Democratic ballot, n=208*

57% Bernie Sanders  
29% Hillary Clinton  
14% Not sure

- If the Republican primary for president was being held today, and the candidates are **(ROTATE ORDER OF NAMES)** [Donald Trump / Ted Cruz / John Kasich / Carly Fiorina / Chris Christie / Marco Rubio / Ben Carson / Jeb Bush], for whom would you vote? *Base: Republican voter registration or Unaffiliated voter registration and will ask for Republican ballot, n=159*

40% Donald Trump  
20% Ted Cruz  
15% Marco Rubio  
10% Ben Carson  
6% John Kasich  
4% Jeb Bush  
<1% Carly Fiorina  
<1% Chris Christie  
4% Not sure

## Respondent Demographics

These last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

- Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be...? *Base: All respondents, n=411*

11% Very liberal  
15% Somewhat liberal  
26% *NET Liberal*  
29% Moderate  
24% Somewhat conservative  
21% Very conservative  
44% *NET Conservative*  
1% Refused

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- Which of the following best describes your level of education? *Base: All respondents, n=411*

3% Some high school or less  
19% High school graduate or equivalent (GED)  
7% Technical school graduate  
26% Some college  
8% Associate's degree  
22% Bachelor's degree  
16% Graduate or professional degree

*22% NET HS grad or less education  
41% NET Tech school, some college, Associate's degree  
37% NET College degree or graduate degree*

- Are you or anyone else in your immediate household a member of a labor union organization?  
*Base: All respondents, n=411*

19% Yes  
81% No

- Finally, into which of the following categories does your total annual household income happen to fall? *Base: All respondents, n=411*

7% Less than \$10,000  
6% \$10,000 - \$14,999  
9% \$15,000 - \$24,999  
13% \$25,000 - \$34,999  
18% \$35,000 - \$49,999  
24% \$50,000 - \$74,999  
8% \$75,000 - \$99,999  
7% \$100,000 - \$149,999  
4% Over \$150,000  
3% Refused