



Strong Majority of West Virginia Voters Believe Government Spending Too Much

MBE Voter Opinion Poll Also Measures Opinions Related to Global Warming and Cap and Trade

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Note: Information in tomorrow’s release includes Health Care Reform Issues and Coal Industry Perceptions

(Charleston, W.Va.) –Most West Virginians believe the federal government is spending too much money in order to strengthen the economy. According to a new voter opinion poll being released this week by Mark Blankenship Enterprises (MBE), 76% of West Virginia voters believe “the amount of spending by the US Government to address the nation’s economic challenges” is “too high.” Fifteen percent (15%) believe spending levels are “about right” while only 4% say they are too low. MBE recently conducted a telephone survey of 400 West Virginia registered voters. This is an independent survey conducted by MBE for interested media outlets and West Virginia citizens. The survey covered a host of current topics including energy, environmental, economic and political issues and the data is going to be released to the media during the next few days.

Overall do you believe the amount of spending by the US Government is too much, about the right amount, or too low to address the economic challenges facing the country?	Too Much	About Right Amount	Too Low	Dk/Na
n = 400	76%	15%	4%	4%

Stimulus Bill/Spending

Voters were also asked about the \$787 billion stimulus plan which passed congress in February of this year and how effective they believe the legislation was at improving the national economy. Over half (54%) believe the stimulus bill has been “not very” effective (27%) or “not at all” effective (27%). Seven percent (7%) believe the stimulus plan was “very effective” and more than one-third (36%) believe it was somewhat effective in improving the national economy.

How effective do you believe the 787 billion dollar economic stimulus plan passed by congress and President Obama last February has been at improving the national economy?	Very Effective	Somewhat Effective	Not Very Effective	Not at All Effective	Dk/Na
n = 400	7%	36%	27%	27%	2%

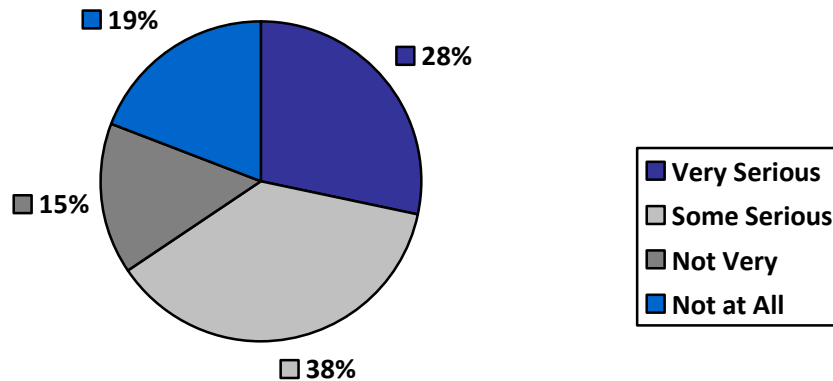
An even stronger majority (61%) oppose (23% somewhat and 38% strongly) the passage of a second economic stimulus package by congress and the president. Further, one-third (33%) support a second economic stimulus bill (10% strongly and 23% somewhat).

Do you support or oppose the passage of a second economic stimulus plan by congress and the president??	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Dk/Na
n = 400	10%	23%	23%	38%	2%

Global Warming and Cap and Trade

West Virginia voters clearly believe the issue of global warming is a serious problem. When asked “How

Question - How serious of a problem do you believe global warming is? Very serious, somewhat serious, not very serious or not at all serious? n = 400



Willingness to Pay More to Prevent Global Warming

A majority of respondents (52%) are “not at all willing” and 17% “not very willing” to pay between \$50 and \$100 more per month in electricity bills to prevent global warming compared to 6% of voters who say they are very willing and one-fourth (25%) who say they are somewhat willing to pay between \$50 and \$100 per month.

How willing would you be to pay about \$50 to \$100 per month electricity bills to prevent global warming?	Very Willing	Somewhat Willing	Not Very Willing	Not at All Willing	Dk/Na
n = 400	6%	25%	17%	52%	1%

Support/Opposition to Cap and Trade

West Virginia voters were asked if they favor or oppose environmental legislation known as Cap and Trade. Nearly one-fourth (23%) answered “don’t know” or provided no answer to the question likely indicating some lack of awareness or understanding regarding this particular legislation. However, more than half (53%) oppose cap and trade legislation (17% somewhat oppose and 36% strongly oppose) and 24% favor (3% strongly and 21% somewhat) the legislation.

Do you favor or oppose environmental legislation known as Cap and Trade which passed in the House of Representatives and is now before the US Senate?	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Dk/Na
n = 400	3%	21%	17%	36%	23%

Methodology:

Results are based on telephone interviews with 400 West Virginia registered voters, conducted Aug. 27-30, 2009, as part of MBE’s regular voter opinion survey. For results based on the total sample registered voters, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4.9 percentage points.

Live interviewers conducted the survey with respondents. The telephone numbers are generated using a random digit dialing procedure with the assistance of computer software to achieve maximum representation across West Virginia. The process is designed to produce a sample of registered voters that is representative of the entire population in such areas as age, gender, race, and family income. Both listed and unlisted telephone households had an equal chance of being selected in the sample.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls. The MBE Voter Opinion Poll and all its content and result are copyrights of MBE, LLC.

About MBE, LLC

Mark Blankenship is president and chief executive officer of Mark Blankenship Enterprises, LLC (MBE). Located in Charleston, West Virginia, MBE is a national communications and opinion research firm. Blankenship's surveys, commentary and insights have appeared in a range of national and regional media including The Wall Street Journal, The Drudge Report and Fox News. MBE provides a range of actionable and reliable research methodologies to Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, prominent law firms, media organizations, associations and non-government organizations. If you seek further comment on these survey results, or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Blankenship at 304.545.2428 or by email at mark@markblankenship.com