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weeks ago, though Libertarian Robert Sarvis continues to take an outsized share of the vote (10 percent), something PPP's Tuesday poll of early voters suggested was quite unlikely. So you might want to take a glance at Quinnipiac's two-way numbers, which show McAuliffe up by a punishing 50-42 spread.

We now have a mountain of evidence, both empirical and anecdotal, that demonstrates how commanding McAuliffe's position is

exactly in line with how the last 25 years' worth of NJ-Sen elections have gone. That figure comes with a caveat, though: Those previous races were all regularly scheduled November elections, while this one was held in an odd-numbered year... in October... on a Wednesday.

The original speculation was that Chris Christie scheduled the election so that he wouldn't face competition from Booker on the same November ballot (even though they're in different races), but this suggests that Christie may have had a different desired effect: low turnout, which in special elections usually plays to the benefit of the Republicans.

An analysis of turnout by municipality shows that's exactly what happened. Overall turnout

Linthicum confirmed on Wednesday that he'll run against Walden, after having floated his name last month.

Linthicum isn't from one of the main population centers in this far-flung district (Klamath Co. has a population of 66,000), but he might get some out-of-district backing. Walden found himself on the Club for Growth's "Primary my Congressman" list after he made the unusual decision to attack Barack Obama from the left over a plan to reduce cost-of-living increases for Social Security recipients. (David Jarman)

Other Races :

- **Ballot Measures** : If you're a political junkie, you're probably familiar with some of the items up for grabs in November, beyond the now-predictable VA-Gov and NJ-Gov races—like, say, the Boston mayoral race or the Washington state Senate special. But did you know about the big education-funding amendment on the ballot in Colorado, the initiative to label genetically-modified foods in Washington, or the move by Texas to end its last-in-the-nation ban on reverse mortgages?

Governing magazine's Louis Jacobson previews these ballot measures and more, and throws in some smaller-city mayoral races, too. (Turns out that Tulsa and St. Petersburg are two of the year's most hotly contested.) He even gives a shout out to the county council races in Whatcom County, Washington, a major hot spot for environmental groups, because the main issue is the construction of a large coal-export terminal. (David Jarman)

- **IA State Senate** : The matchup for the Nov. 19 special election to replace Republican Kent Sorenson, who recently resigned from the state Senate amidst serious allegations of ethical wrongdoing, is now set. Local Democratic leaders just tapped ex-state Rep. Mark Davitt, who, interestingly, lost his seat to Sorenson in 2008. Republicans previously selected state Rep. Julian Garrett as their nominee. Sorenson's old 13th District seat went for Romney 51-47, so Democrats could conceivably pick it up and pad their narrow 26-24 edge in the chamber.

- **NJ State Senate** : A new poll out from Stockton College shows that one of the GOP's top targets to reclaim a majority in the state senate is proving awfully elusive. In the state's 2nd legislative district, Democratic Sen. Jim Whelan has a sizable 55-34 lead over Republican Frank Balles, who serves as sheriff of Atlantic County. That's actually a fairly dramatic increase in Whelan's lead, as a September poll there had him leading by just 12 points.

What's more: Balles, who made ugly headlines last week for echoing a supporter's call to "get your gun" if Whelan came to the door canvassing, might be an albatross on the two GOP Assembly incumbents in the district. John Amadeo and Chris Brown still hold leads, but their margins over the Democratic challengers (Vince Mazzeo and Nick Russo) are down to just a few points. Amodeo (23 percent) and Brown (21 percent) barely lead Mazzeo (21 percent) and Russo (19 percent). Since this was a district that the GOP had been heavily targeting, this poll seems to be bad news for the red team. (Steve Singiser)

- **Special Elections** : It was a blowout for Democrat Brian Meyer, a Des Moines city councilman, who defeated Republican Michael Young by a 79-21 margin in Iowa's HD-33. (Johnny Longtorso)

Grab Bag :

- Fundraising : Roll Call has performed the work of angels and compiled a comprehensive chart of third quarter Senate fundraising numbers. As you know, Senate FEC reporting is stuck in the 19th century, since all filings are made on paper (!), giving RC a hell of a task—and one that was made even more difficult thanks to the shutdown. Lots of stuff to pore over. (And as a reminder, you can find our companion House fundraising chart [here](#).)

- Psychographics : I don't usually cite the [Journal of Personality and Social Psychology](#), but this study may have some interesting implications in the never-ending question to explain differences in voter behavior. If you don't want to read the whole study, [here's a much shorter link](#) with a summary and, most importantly, maps. Basically, researchers have found a way to take personality data from multiple surveys conducted in multiple states and distill that into three distinct personality types to show how prevalent each type is in each state.

The results tend to break down clearly along regional lines that suggest that there may be some quantitative support for old clichés and stereotypes. The "friendly and traditional" type is most heavily found in the Midwest (with Minnesota, home of "Minnesota nice," at its epicenter); "relaxed and creative" is predominant on the West Coast; and the Northeast, with its high levels of neuroticism (!) is "temperamental and uninhibited."

Political and religion data are considered as "secondary data" in the study, so it's possible that there's some chicken-and-egg going on here, with voting behavior helping to shape where the categories are strongest, rather than these categories being useful to predict voting behavior. But at the most superficial level, it's easy to see the relationships, with the neurotic or relaxed states leaning Dem and the traditional states leaning Republican.

However, that's too reductive if you dig a little deeper: Minnesota, case in point, is no GOP stronghold, while Arizona, the most "relaxed" state, is hardly a Dem utopia. Moreover, it's interesting that some of the most conservative states (say, Oklahoma and South Carolina), and particularly those in the South, aren't strong on any of the three clusters, so maybe there's a fourth unidentified cluster out there that corresponds better with the Southern worldview. (David Jarman)

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seems perfectly appropriate:



by Torta on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 06:12:27 AM PDT

GOP trying to salvage the AG office in Va (O-Q q 0

I noticed the last few days a bunch of ads pushing Obenshain for AG trying to portray him as some kind of moderate. Hardly see a Cooch ad anymore.

by JOEL1954 on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 06:14:12 AM PDT

Obenshain's father was instrumental...

...in implementing the "Southern Strategy" in Virginia. VA GOP HQ is named in his honor.

Mark is more radical than his father ever dreamed of being, but relative to Cooch and Ewww Jackson, he is less fanatical, which really isn't saying a lot.

Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. --Martin Luther King Jr.

by Egalitare on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 06:49:33 AM PDT

[Parent]

Criminalizing miscarriages

That's what Obenshain's about. Tell them at to Republican women and they go "whoa!" You are right, GOP is pulling the ripcord on The Kookster and the former Red Sox team chaplain (NOT!) and concentrating on preventing a sweep. Meanwhile, more down ballot races look competitive. HoD-02 is being re-evaluated as a toss-up by local Dems and is attracting greater interest. Michael Futrell is an attractive candidate. He is running against former Stafford County Supervisor Mark Dudenhefer.

by CADeminVA on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 07:12:40 AM PDT

[Parent]

Actually, Obenshain is as bad or worse than Cooch.

For some reason, Mark Obenshain has managed to keep all of this mess "under the radar".

Obenshain will surely continue Cuccinelli's policies of attacking women's health clinics. In fact, Obenshain, along with The Cooch, co-sponsored that heinous "Personhood" bill into the Va. state legislature that would have outlawed a woman's right to choose but also various forms of contraception. Mark Obenshain also sponsored legislation that would have required a woman to report a miscarriage within 72 hours under threat of criminal penalty. Obensain MUST be

stopped at all costs. He.36 -.36 | .06 -.24 | f* Q q 1 0 0 1 61.5 100.44 cm 0 0 m .06 .3 | .36 .36 | .54 .3 | .66 0 | .54 -.24 | .36 -.35



They reallocated second choice

TM up 50-42. Other polls have shown a much more even split.

"What do you mean "conspiracy"? Does that mean it's someone's imaginings and that the actual polls hovered right around the result?" - petral

by conspiracy on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 07:00:35 AM PDT

[Parent]

Don't bet it won't.

I'm well aware that third parties tend to underperform, but in the IL-Gov race between Blagojevich (D), B ar-Topinka (R), and Whitney (G), I and 11% of the rest of voters voted for Rich Whitney. Whitney carried as much as 20% of the vote in some regions.

Clearly, much of that vote was Democrat s who simply weren't going to vote for a soon-to-be-indicted criminal.

Depending on just how toxic the R ticket is, you could see a serious protest vote.

Yes, it's more likely that disgusted voters won't vote at all. But it's possible.

-7.75 -4.67

"Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose."

There are no Christians in foxholes.

by Odysseus on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 04:53:58 PM PDT

[Parent]

My drive time here in

a deep red pocket of Va is filled with chuckles every time I see a Cooch sign.

There are a lot of real big ones, mostly pl anted at the usual shopping centers. But

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by Greenfinches on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 06:40:21 AM PDT

[Parent]

looks like about 50/50

Hell, can't expect the teabags to completely fold.

Here's Blue Virginia.

Only thing more infuriating than an ignorant man is one who tries to make others ignorant for his own gain. Crashing Vor

by emmasnacker on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 09:48:45 AM PDT

[Parent]

Sounds like Geauga County in NE Ohio

It's always sign wars out there, and there are always a couple of candidates that make HUGE signs. And they're all along fields and on corners near shopping strips, not primarily in people's yards. I was out there the other day and it's blanketed right now. Actually right now, it will be blanketed with snow since it is in the snow belt and we've already got a couple of inches here, just outside the snow belt.

Ed FitzGerald for governor Of Ohio. Women's lives depend on it.

<http://www.edfitzgeraldforohio.com/>

by anastasia p on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 06:49:20 AM PDT

[Parent]

Hey Ken, you can still pull this out

if you do a barnstorming tour of the state with Ted Cruz AND Sarah Palin.

Just a helpful little hint.

Ed FitzGerald for governor Of Ohio. Women's lives depend on it.

<http://www.edfitzgeraldforohio.com/>

by lysias on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 11:26:00 AM PDT

[Parent]

Vote for Cucinelli

or we'll defund the Fed.

Signed, Ted.

P.S. You think I am kidding. Well I am not kidding.

by archer070 on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 07:10:20 AM PDT

Please, Goddess, don't let Obenshain win the race

for AG of Virginia!

Obenshain--the fiend who wants women to report miscarriages to the police within 24 hours of the sad event.

My poor daughter-in-law fainted last year on the Metro going home from work, owing to a miscarriage. When she came to, she was hustled to the nearest medical facility. She spent the night there. Was she supposed to report this to the police through a fog of pain and grief? She and my son had so been looking forward to another child, as had we, the grandparents.

One would have to have a particularly deep hatred of women and a particularly vile mind to come up with such a legislative concept.

"Religion is what keeps the poor from murdering the rich."--Napoleon

by Diana in NoVa on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 07:20:07 AM PDT

Sorry for your loss

I know several women who have had miscarriages in the last few months.

I cannot imagine how anyone could even briefly think that forcing women to report miscarriages to the police (as if they are criminals) is a good idea.

It shows that Obenshain is not fit for any office let alone the attorney generals.

And why his opponent hasn't aired tv ads highlighting this is really beyond me. He has aired ads attacking Obenshain for being against abortion and birth control but not this -- and this goes f1()6.7(6 -.3 | .06 -.18 | f* Q q 1 0 0 1 61.5 193.02 cm 0 0 m .06 .3 | .77 |m .06 .3 | .36 .36 | .54 .3 | .66 0 | .54

How about McAuliffe by 17, Christie by 16. Still

bad for NJ, but messes up the media message. personally, the thing that still aggravates me most about the big GOP candidate is his killing the tunnel from NJ to NY for ideology. A classic example of penny wise and pound foolish, like if some NYC mayor had cancelled the third tunnel to bring fresh water from upstate to the city, even though it's a decades long project.

by TofG on Thu Oct 24, 2013 at 07:20:57 AM PDT

Geo.Will in WaPo supports 3rd party in VA Gov race

Longtime GOP national syndicated columnist George Will in today's Washington Post says that the third party candidate for Virginia Governor on Nov. 5 would be a better choice for Republican voters than the GOP candidate for Governor, Ken Cuccinelli.

Wow.

My question to those of you who follow the right wing blogs is how are they reacting to George Will's column (if at all)? I assume this makes the Cooch's task

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