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### The Polls Close

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Update 7:30 p.m. The polls close throughout West Virginia for the U.S. Senate Primary Election. MetroNews live coverage is underway.

Update for 5pm Saturday: Secretary of State Natalie Tennant reports "a light voter turnout throughout the state" in today's special Primary Election.

"I would have hoped that more people would have gotten out and seen the importance of this election and be able to give their voice and their opinion on who they want to represent them," Tennant said in a statement.

She also said the election has gone smoothly with only "a few hiccups." She said those were taken care of early this morning.

The polls will remain open until 7:30 this evening. MetroNews election coverage begins at 7:30 with results posted on the website.

(Previous story)

Secretary of State Natalie Tennant says voters across West Virginia will have a unique opportunity Saturday when they cast a ballot for an open U.S. Senate seat.

Tennant says she wants to be optimistic heading into the election because of the opportunity. "Something we haven't had for more than 50 years because Sen. Byrd held that seat for so long," Tennant said.

When voters enter their polling places Saturday they will be given ballots that coincide with their party registration including Democrat, Republican and Mountain. Independents can request any of the three ballots.

The last time West Virginia had a Saturday statewide election it was June 25, 2005 when voters turned Wall Street financing plan from the Manchin administration. The voter turnout that day was 14 percent.

Various counties have had a number of levy and bond elections over the years on Saturdays.

"Traditionally we don't have a great voter turnout on Saturday," Tennant said. "But traditionally those elections have been about issue elections, but this time we have an opportunity to nominate someone for United States Senate."

Democrats will find three candidates on their ballot including Gov. Joe Manchin, former Sec. of State Ken Hechler and former state Delegate Sheirl Fletcher.

Ten Republican candidates include Morgantown businessmen John Raese and Mac Warner while Jesse Johnson is the only candidate on the Mountain Party ballot.

Tennant says the voter turnout will likely be close to the same it was for the May Primary Election, 23 percent. The five-day early voting period garnered around 31,000 votes.

Polls will open at 6:30 Saturday morning and close at 7:30 Saturday night.

MetroNews will provide extensive election night coverage on many of the network's affiliate stations and at [wvmetronews.com](http://wvmetronews.com).



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