

WV Democratic Party Unites Behind Tomblin for Governor Party Leaders & Elected Officials Participate in Event

Charleston, W.Va. – On Friday evening, approximately 200 members of the West Virginia Democratic Executive Committee, County Chairs, Federation of Democratic Women’s clubs presidents, and Young Democrats officers joined together at a reception for Governor Earl Ray Tomblin to show their united support for his election this fall. The other major candidates from the primary (Jeff Kessler, John Perdue, Natalie Tennant, and Rick Thompson), were all represented at the event and expressed their support for Tomblin in the general election. Additionally, Congressman Nick Rahall addressed the crowd and Senators Jay Rockefeller and Joe Manchin sent letters to show their support.

“I was very pleased to see a united Party come together behind such an excellent public servant, Earl Ray Tomblin, for governor,” Chairman Larry Puccio said. “We had a great all-star lineup of candidates in the primary and they all pledged their support to each other even before the election.”

“The Democratic Party organizations in the counties are united and excited about Gov. Tomblin,” added Vice-Chair Belinda Biafore, who also serves as President of the Federation of Democratic Women Clubs and the Marion County Chair. “These groups will be working hard this summer and fall to help elect Tomblin.”

Before the special primary for governor, all of the Democratic candidates for governor signed a pledge to support whoever won the special primary election. Those candidates along with the state’s Democratic federal officials made the following statements for the Democratic Party unity event:

State Treasurer John Perdue: “I fully support Earl Ray Tomblin for governor and I urge my supporters to work hard for his campaign this fall.”

Acting Senate President Jeff Kessler: “The primary election is now behind us and Earl Ray Tomblin won fair and square and decisively. I want to be perfectly clear when I say that I am steadfast in my support of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin.”

Secretary of State Natalie Tennant: “I would like to offer my congratulations to Governor Tomblin, and my full support as we move ahead to the general election.”

House Speaker Rick Thompson: “The stakes are far too high for us not be unified this fall. The hard fought advances we have made can all be undone if we fail to unify behind our nominee, Acting Governor Earl Ray Tomblin.”

Congressman Nick Rahall: “We need to keep a strong reasonable voice in Charleston. A leader who understands that compromise and consensus move progress forward. That leader is Governor Earl Ray Tomblin.”

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin: “I support Earl Ray Tomblin 100 percent. I know that he, as governor, will continue with the good work that we started and will make fiscally responsible decisions that will ensure that our state stays on the right track while taking care of those in need.”

U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller: “I send my wholehearted backing to Governor Tomblin for a successful campaign - and I put my trust in all of us that we will do everything we can to reach victory in October.

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