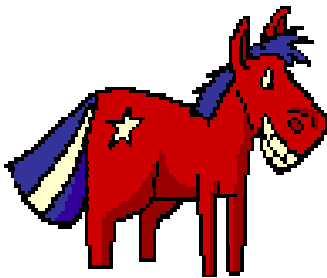




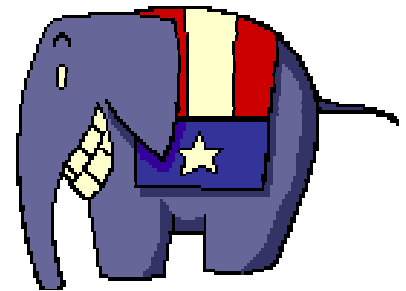
# ***THE MSU-BILLINGS POLL***

## ***NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ISSUES***

***NOVEMBER, 2005***



***20TH POLL!***



***DR. CRAIG WILSON AND DR. JOE FLOYD  
CO-DIRECTORS***

**The “MSU-Billings Poll” is available on our website at  
<http://www.msubillings.edu/spn/>**

**The following students completed interviews for the survey:**

**Scott Cormier  
Hector Fried  
Jen Hurd  
Joe Kragt  
Erin Matthews  
Carl Meyers  
Brad Muri  
Sam Pease**

**Tracy Jo Schweigert  
Esther Shafer  
Shawna Steinbauer  
Monica Stricker  
Emily Valenzuela  
Marvin Vanderpool  
Ben Woods**

## INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the twentieth “MSU-Billings Poll,” a statewide random sample telephone survey of adult Montanans conducted November 1-3 and 4-5. This is the sixteenth year the survey has been conducted. Students enrolled in Political Science and Sociology Classes at MSU-Billings completed the 401 interviews for this survey. The Co-Directors of the “MSU-Billings Poll” are Dr. Craig Wilson (Political Science) and Dr. Joe Floyd (Sociology). The survey was completed using random digit dial methodology, which selects both phone numbers and members of a household to interview. The poll was conducted at the MSU-Billings’ CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) Laboratory. Up to five attempts were made to reach selected households. The survey results have a +/- 5% margin of error and a confidence level of 95% (95% of the time the results will fall within the +/- 5% margin of error). Factors such as question order and wording can also affect survey results. The respondents are representative of the gender, urban (eight most populous counties) – rural and east-west distribution of Montana’s population. Statistical tests were employed to determine whether statistically significant relationships ( $p=.05$ ) existed between key variables.

## I. NATIONAL ISSUES

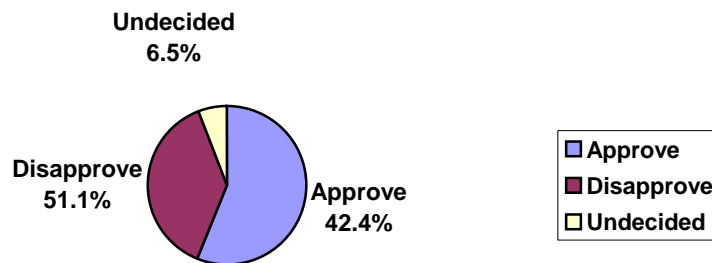
### 1. PRESIDENT BUSH'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE IN OFFICE

#### A. President George W. Bush's Overall Job Performance

This is the fifth year the “MSU-Billings Poll” has asked the respondents: “At this point in time do you approve or disapprove of President George W. Bush’s overall performance in office?” A majority (51.1%) answered “disapprove.”

In the 2001 poll the President had an 86.7% positive approval rating, and positive evaluation of 69.7% in 2002, 59.4% in 2003 and 56% in 2004.

#### President Bush's Overall Job Performance



#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Democrats (86%) and Independents (60%) disapproved of Bush’s performance, while a majority of Republicans (81%) approved.
- Gender was not related to opinions about job performance.
- In terms of religiosity, on a 1-5 scaled question with “1” representing “not very religious” and “5” “very religious”, a majority or plurality of those answering 1-4; (72.4%), 2 (68.8%), 3 (43.4%) and 4 (55%) felt Bush was not doing a good job. But a majority (51.5%) replying “5” thought the president was doing a positive job.
- Among age cohorts, only those aged 18-40 (53.6%) rated Bush positively. Majorities of the 41-59 (53.6%), 60-70 (58.2%) and 71+ (63%) cohorts evaluated Bush negatively.
- A majority (85.4%) of those who approved of Bush’s domestic performance approved of his overall performance, while a majority (94.2%) who disapproved of his domestic efforts also viewed his overall performance negatively.

- A majority (92.1%) of those approving of the president’s foreign policy performance approved of the overall job he is doing, while a majority (88.4%) disapproving of his international relations viewed the overall job he is doing negatively.
- A majority (82.1%) of the respondents viewing the U. S. as moving in the right direction approved of Bush’s overall performance, a majority (78.7%) feeling the U. S. is moving in the wrong direction evaluated the president’s overall job performance negatively.
- A majority (80.4%) who supported the decision to go to war rated the president positively, a majority (90.4%) opposing the war disapproved of the president’s behavior in office.
- Those viewing U. S. efforts against terrorism in Iraq as very successful (78.6%) expressed the highest approval of Bush’s job performance. In contrast the cohort feeling U. S. efforts against terrorism had been very unsuccessful (84.8%) were most apt to disapprove of the job the president is doing.
- Interviewees supporting the removal of U. S. troops from Iraq (75.8%) felt the president was doing a poor job, while a majority of individuals opposed to removing the troops (62.9%) voiced overall approval of the president.

**B. President Bush’s Handling of Domestic Issues**

The interviewees were asked whether they “approved[d] or disapproved[d] of President George W. Bush’s overall handling of domestic issues?” A plurality (47.4%) answered “disapprove.” The results for this question fall within the +/-5% margin of error for this survey.

In the 2003 poll, 51.1% of those surveyed said “approve” when asked this same question. A plurality (47.4%) replied “disapprove”.

**PRESIDENT BUSH’S HANDLING OF DOMESTIC ISSUES**

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>44.4%</b>	<b>47.4%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority of plurality of individuals rating their religiosity from 1-4 disapproved of President Bush’s domestic job performance; 1 (67.2%); 2 (68.8%); 3 (42.2%) and 4 (53.5%). In contrast, a majority (54.5%) rating their religiosity as “5” said the President was performing well in domestic policy.
- A majority (82.6%) of Democrats and plurality (44.4%) of Independents said Bush was doing poorly domestically, while a majority (75.9%) of Republicans approved of his performance in this area.

**C. President Bush’s Overall Handling of Foreign Policy**

A majority (53.8%) of those polled said “disapprove” when asked if they “approve[d] or disapproved[d] of President George W. Bush’s overall handling of foreign policy?”

In the 2003 poll, 50.6% of those polled replied “approve” to the same question.

**PRESIDENT BUSH’S OVERALL HANDLING OF FOREIGN POLICY**

<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>37.7%</b>	<b>53.8%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority of all income groups earning up to \$75,000 disapproved of President Bush’s foreign policy. Those most opposed earned \$50,001-\$75,000 (63.9%). Majorities of the \$75,001-\$100,000 (54.8%) and more than \$100,000 (57.1%) yearly groups approved of his international performance.
- A majority or plurality of every group on the religiosity questions viewed the president’s foreign policy negatively. Those most likely to express this view (74.1%) rated their religiosity as “1,” while those least likely to oppose Bush’s foreign policy (45.5%) rated their religious faith at “5.”
- Majorities of Democrats (86%) and Independents (64.4%) disapproved of Bush’s foreign policy, a majority of Republicans (70.9%) voiced approval.

**D. Manner In Which President Bush Handled Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina**

In reply to the question, “at this point in time do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Bush handled the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina,” a plurality (46.1%) of the interviewees replied “disapprove.”

**MANNER IN WHICH PRESIDENT BUSH HANDLED AFTERMATION OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>39.2%</b>	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority or plurality of every religious group rating their faith at 1-3 disapproved of how the president handled Katrina; 1 (65.5%), 2 (71.1%), 3 (43.4%). In contrast, pluralities rating their faith at 4 (46.7%) or 5 (46.1%) approved of what Bush had done.

- A majority of Democrats (75%) disapproved of Bush’s actions, a majority of Republicans (67.1%) approved, while equal percentages of Independents approved (40%) and disapproved (40%) of what happened after the hurricane.

**2. U. S. MOVING IN RIGHT OR WRONG DIRECTION**

A majority (53.8%) of the respondents replied “wrong direction” when asked: “In general, do you think that at this time the United States is moving in the right or wrong direction?”

**U. S. MOVING IN RIGHT OR WRONG DIRECTION**

<u>Right Direction</u>	<u>Wrong Direction</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>30.7%</b>	<b>53.8%</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority or plurality of every income cohort earning up to \$100,000 a year felt the U. S. was moving in the “wrong direction.” Those holding this perspective to the greatest extent earned \$50,001-\$75,000 (60.7%). A majority of those making more than \$100,000 a year (57.1%) said the U. S. was moving in the “right direction.”
- Majorities of Democrats (77.3%) and Independents (62.2%) said the U. S. was going in the “wrong direction.” A majority of Republicans (55.7%) said “right direction.”

**3. SHOULD JUDGE ALITO BE CONFIRMED FOR U. S. SUPREME COURT SEAT?**

When asked, “do you think that Judge Samuel Alito should be confirmed by the U. S. Senate to assume a seat on the U. S. Supreme Court,” a plurality (42.6%) of the interviewees answered “undecided.”

**SHOULD JUDGE ALITO BE CONFIRMED FOR U. S. SUPREME COURT SEAT**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Never Heard of</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>28.9%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>42.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality of males (37.6%) backed Alito’s confirmation, a plurality of females (48.1%) were undecided.
- A majority of Republicans (52.5%) backed Alito’s confirmation. A plurality of Democrats (44.2%) and majority of Independents (57.8%) were undecided about this issue.

- A plurality of all education cohorts were undecided about Alito’s nomination. Those most likely to be undecided had a high school degree (47.6%). Those with a post-graduate degree were evenly divided in supporting (31.4%) and opposing (31.4%) the judge’s confirmation.

**4. SHOULD BEN BERNANKE BE CONFIRMED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE?**

A plurality (37.9%) of those interviewed said “undecided” in reply to the question: “Do you think the economist Ben Bernanke should be confirmed by the U. S. Senate to assume the position of Chairman of the Federal Reserve?”

**SHOULD BEN BERNANKE BE CONFIRMED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Never Heard of</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
31.7%	7.2%	23.2%	37.9%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Pluralities of Independents (40%) and Democrats (39%) were undecided about Bernanke’s confirmation. A plurality of Republicans (37.3%) supported it.

**5. THE WAR IN IRAQ**

**A. Support or Oppose U. S. Decision to go to War in Iraq?**

When asked, “do you support or oppose the United State’s decision to go to War in Iraq,” a plurality (49.1%) of those interviewed answered “oppose.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

Last year a majority (52.8%) of those polled replied “support” to the same question. While in the 2003 “MSU-Billings Poll,” 60.3% of the respondents responded “support.”

**SUPPORT OR OPPOSE U. S. DECISION TO GO TO WAR IN IRAQ**

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
45.9%	49.1%	5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority of males (53.1%) supported the war, a majority of females (56.3%) opposed it.
- A majority or plurality of those rating their religiosity 1-4 on a 5 point scale opposed the war; 1 (62.1%), 2 (56.3%), 3 (41%), 4 (56.7%). A majority of the most religious cohort who responded 5 (50.3%) backed the conflict.
- Majorities of Democrats (80.8%) and Independents (55.6%) opposed the war. A majority of Republicans (77.8%) supported it.
- While a majority of those aged 18-40 (54.5%) supported the war. A majority or plurality of every other age group opposed the war; 41-59 (51.4%), 60-70 (49.1%), 71+ (66.7%).
- A majority of respondents supporting (82.6%) the war opposed removing U. S. troops, a majority of respondents opposing (61.9%) the conflict backed the removal of the troops.

**B. Success of U. S. Ability to Combat Terrorist Attacks in Iraq**

A plurality (33.9%) of the respondents replied “successful” when asked, “how successful do you think the United State’s ongoing efforts to combat terrorist attacks in Iraq have been?” But a majority of 51.4% of those polled replied either “very unsuccessful” or “unsuccessful” when these categories were combined.

**SUCCESS OF U. S. ABILITY TO COMBAT TERRORIST ATTACKS IN IRAQ**

<u>Very Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Very Successful</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
26.2%	25.2%	33.9%	7%	7.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality of respondents answering 1-4 on the religiosity question felt the U. S. wasn’t successfully dealing with terrorism. Those holding this opinion to the greatest extent were the 44.8% of those rating their religious faith at “1,” who said the U. S. had been “very unsuccessful.” In comparison, among the respondents rating their religiosity at “5” a plurality (35.9%) felt the U. S. had been “successful” in handling terrorism.
- A plurality of Democrats (43.6%) rated U. S. terrorist effort as “very unsuccessful,” a plurality of Independents (37.9%) replied “unsuccessful” and a majority of Republicans (54.4%) replied “successful.”
- In terms of the sex/age category those most likely to view U. S. anti-terrorism efforts as “successful” were males aged 18-40 (60.8%). Females aged 71+ (35.3%) were most apt to reply “very unsuccessful.”

**C. Support or Oppose Removal of All U. S. Military Forces From Iraq**

The next query was worded, “would you support or oppose the removal of all U. S. military forces from Iraq at this time?” A majority (53.1%) of the interviewees replied “oppose.”

**SUPPORT OR OPPOSE REMOVAL OF ALL U. S. MILITARY FORCES FROM IRAQ**

<b>Support</b>	<b>Opposed</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>38.2%</b>	<b>53.1%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority of males (60.8%) and plurality of females (45.6%) opposed removing the troops. More women (11.2%) than men (6.2%) were undecided about this issue.
- A majority of Democrats (55.2%) and plurality of Independents (48.9%) favored removing troops, a majority of Republicans (78.5%) opposed pulling the troops out.

**II. STATE ISSUES**

**1. APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS PERFORMANCE IN OFFICE**

Questions were asked about whether or not those polled approved or disapproved of the job performance of Governor Brian Schweitzer, U. S. Senators Max Baucus and Conrad Burns and U. S. Representative Dennis Rehberg. All of the queries were worded: “At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of overall performance in office of \_\_\_\_\_.”

**A. Approve or Disapprove of Governor Brian Schweitzer’s Job Performance**

A majority (68.6%) of those answering the question said “approve” when asked about Governor Schweitzer’s overall job performance.

**APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF GOVERNOR BRIAN SCHWEITZER’S JOB PERFORMANCE**

<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>68.6%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Democrats (82%), Republicans (57.6%) and Independents (55.6%) approved of the job the Governor is doing.
- There was a direct relationship between age and perspectives about the job the Governor is doing. Majorities of every cohort, 18-40 (51.8%), 41-59 (70.7%), 60-70 (74.5%) and 71+ (88.9%) approved of the job he is doing.
- Majorities of both those who approved (56.5%) and disapproved (82.9%) of President Bush's overall performance in office, approved of Governor Schweitzer's job performance.
- Majorities feeling the U. S. was moving in the right direction (61%), wrong direction (76.9%) and undecided (54.8%) about the issue approved of Schweitzer.
- Majorities of those supporting (56.5%) opposing (81.2%) and undecided (55%) about the Iraq war approved of the Governor's performance.

**B. Approve or Disapprove of Senator Max Baucus' Job Performance**

A majority (66.5%) of the respondents felt that Senator Baucus replied "approve" to the job approval question about Senator Baucus.

Senator Baucus receive positive job approval ratings in the ten times his job approval was conducted between 1993-2003. His highest approval rating (68%) was found in 1998, and his lowest (50%) in 1994 (this question was not asked in the 2004 poll.)

**APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF SENATOR MAX BAUCUS' JOB PERFORMANCE**

<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>66.5%</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Political party was not related to Baucus' performance in a statistically significant manner.
- Majorities of every age cohort, 18-40 (59.1%), 41-59 (65.7%), 60-70 (65.5%) and 71+ (85.2%) approved of the Senator's job performance.
- In terms of sex/age Baucus' lowest approval rating was among males aged 18-40 (58.8%) and his highest evaluation was given by women 71+ (85.3%).
- Majorities of those who both disapproved (73.2%) and approved (61.8%) of Bush's overall performance approved of the job Baucus is doing.

**C. Approve or Disapprove of Senator Conrad Burn’s Job Performance**

Of those polled, a plurality (48.1%) said “approve” when asked about the job Senator Burns is doing.

Senator Burns received his lowest approval rating (56% negative) in 1993, his first year in office. His highest positive (63%) rating was found in 2002.

**APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF SENATOR CONRAD BURNS’ JOB PERFORMANCE**

<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>48.1%</b>	<b>31.2%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- Burns was given a negative job performance rating by individuals living in households earning less than \$10,000 (48.5%) a year. A plurality of those making \$10,001-\$20,000 (38.6%) and \$20,001-\$30,000 (39.1%) a year rated him positively. As did majorities of those earning \$30,001-\$50,000 (56.6%), \$50,001-\$75,000 (59%), \$75,001-\$100,000 (54.8%) and more than \$100,000 (50%) a year.
- Pluralities of those answering “1” (39.7%) or “2” (43.8%) on the 1-5 scaled religiosity question disapproved of Burns’ job performance. A plurality of those replying “3” (49.4%), “4” (50%), or “5” (53.9%) approved of the Senator’s actions.
- A majority of Republicans (68.4%) and plurality of Independents (44.4%) approved of Burns, a plurality of Democrats (45.9%) disapproved of the job he is doing.
- A plurality or majority of every age cohort approved of Burns’ job performance; 18-40 (46.4%), 41-59 (48.1%), 61-70 (49.1%), 71+ (50%).
- A plurality or majority of every sex/age category approved of the Senator’s job performance. Those most likely to say “approve” were males aged 60-70 (55.6%) and those giving him the weakest approval rating were females 71+ (47.1%).
- A majority (67.6%) of those who approved of the overall job President Bush is doing also gave Burns a positive evaluation. But a plurality (46.8%) who disapproved to Bush also disapproved of Burns’ performance.
- A majority (70.7%) of respondents saying the U. S. was moving in the “right direction” approved of Burns. But a plurality (43.1%) responding the U. S. was going in the “wrong direction” also disapproved of Burns’ job performance.
- A majority (62.5%) who supported the war in Iraq evaluated Burns positively. But a majority (68%) who disapproved of the conflict viewed Burns negatively.

**D. Approve or Disapprove of Representative Dennis Rehberg’s Job Performance**

A plurality (48.9%) of those polled said “approve,” when asked about Representative Rehberg’s job performance.

Representative Rehberg had positive job approval rating in the 2001 (49.2%) and 2003 (52.9%) MSU-Billings Polls.”

**APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS REHBERG’S JOB PERFORMANCE**

<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>48.9%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority of males (53.6%) and plurality of females (44.2%) approved of Rehberg’s job performance.
- A plurality (34.5%) of those answering “1” on the 1-5 scaled religiosity question disapproved of Rehberg. But pluralities or majorities of those replying “2” (37.5%), “3” (57.8%), “4” (45%), or “5” (55.7%) approved of the job he is doing.
- Rehberg had a greater job approval rating in the old eastern congressional district (60.1%) than he did in the former western district (41.9%).
- A majority of Republicans (68.4%) and plurality of Independents (46.7%) approved of the job Rehberg is doing. A plurality of Democrats (38.4%) disapproved.
- A plurality or majority of every age category approved of the job Rehberg is doing; 18-40 (43.6%), 41-59 (46.4%), 60-70 (63.6%) and 71+ (51.9%).
- In terms of sex/age, a plurality of majority of every cohort approved of Rehberg. His greatest support existed among males aged 60-70 (66.7%), while his lowest positive support was found among 18-40 year old women (37.3%).
- A majority of those who rated Bush’s overall performance positively (63.5%) also rated Rehberg positively. And a plurality who disapproved of Bush (36.6%) also approved of Rehberg’s performance.
- A majority of those feeling the U. S. war moving in the right direction (69.1%) approved of Rehberg, as did a plurality of those who responded “wrong direction” (39.4%).
- A majority of the respondents supporting the Iraq war (65.2%) evaluated Rehberg positively, a plurality of those opposed to the war (34.5%) gave Rehberg a negative approval evaluation.

**2. OTHER ELECTED MONTANA OFFICIALS**

Next a series of three questions were asked about the interviewees opinions of Montana State Auditor John Morrison, State Senator Jon Tester and State Representative

Monica Lindeen. These questions were phrased: “Do you have a positive or negative opinion of \_\_\_\_\_?”

**A. Opinion of State Auditor John Morrison**

A plurality (43.7%) of the respondents replied “undecided” when asked about their opinion of State Auditor John Morrison.

**OPINION OF STATE AUDITOR JOHN MORRISON**

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Never Heard of</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>26.9%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>25.2%</b>	<b>43.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Pluralities of males (43.8%) and females (43.2%) were undecided about their opinion of Morrison.
- In terms of age cohorts, a plurality of those aged 18-40 (44.5%) and 41-59 (42.5%) were undecided about Morrison as was a majority of the 60-70 (60%) group. But a plurality of those age 71+ (35.2%) held a positive view of him.

**B. Opinion of State Senator Jon Tester**

When asked about their opinion of Senator Jon Tester, a plurality (38.2 %) replied they had “never heard of him.” The results of this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

**OPINION OF STATE SENATOR JON TESTER**

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Never Heard of</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>17.2%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>39.1%</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A plurality of males (39.7%) were undecided about their opinion of Tester, while a plurality of females (46.1%) said they had never heard of him.

**C. Opinion of State Representative Monica Lindeen**

A plurality (44.1%) of those interviewed said they had “never heard of” Representative Monica Lindeen.

**OPINION OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE MONICA LINDEEN**

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Never Heard of</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>18%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>44.1%</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Pluralities of Democrats (44.8%) and Republicans (43.7%) had never heard of Lindeen, a plurality of Independents (44.4%) were undecided about their opinion of her.

**3. ELECTING MONTANA HOUSE MEMBERS IN 2006**

A question regarding next year’s Montana House of Representatives election was phrased: “In terms of electing a representative to the Montana House of Representatives, if the 2006 general election were held today do you think you would vote for the Republican or the Democratic candidate in your district?” A plurality (38.2%) replied “Democratic.” The results of this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

**ELECTING MONTANA HOUSE MEMBERS IN 2006**

<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>33.2%</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Issue:

- A plurality or majority of those answering 1-4 on the 1-5 scaled religious query said they would vote for Democratic candidate; “1” (58.6%), “2” (43.8%), “3” (37.3%) and “4” (45%). A plurality of the respondents replying “5” to this question said they would vote Republican (44.3%).
- A majority of Democrats (80.8%) planned on voting for their parties’ candidates, a majority of Republicans (77.8%) for GOP candidates and a majority of Independents (73.3%) were undecided about their vote.
- A majority (68.8%) of those approving of President Bush’s overall performance planned on voting for Republican candidates, a majority (64.4%) who disapproved of the job he is doing said they would vote for Democrats.
- A plurality (46.5%) of the respondents approving of Governor Schweitzer’s performance said they would vote for Democratic candidates, a majority (52.6%) who disapproved of the job the Governor is doing planned on voting Republican.
- A majority (61.4%) of respondents supporting the Iraq war said they would vote for Republican candidates while a majority (61.9%) of those opposed to the war planned on supporting Democrats.

**4. RAISE MINIMUM WAGE IN MONTANA**

A question about the minimum wage was phrased: “Currently the minimum wage in Montana is \$5.15 per hour. Do you think the minimum wage in Montana should [multiple options read]. A plurality (41.6%) of the interviewees answered “be raised to \$7.15 per hour.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

**RAISE MINIMUM WAGE IN MONTANA**

<u>Be Decreased</u>	<u>Remain As It Is</u>	<u>Be Raised to \$6.15 Per Hour</u>	<u>Be Raised to \$7.15 Per Hour</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
.2%	14.2%	39%	41.6%	5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Pluralities of Independents (48.9%) and Democrats (48.3%) wanted to raise the minimum wage to \$7.15, while a plurality of Republicans (34.8%) favored an increase to \$6.15.

**5. ENVIRONMENT QUESTIONS**

**A. Hunting of Buffalo**

A majority (72.8%) of those polled answered “support” when asked: “Do you support or oppose the Montana State Government’s decision to allow the hunting of some buffalo if they leave Yellowstone National Park and enter Montana?”

**HUNTING OF BUFFALO**

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
72.8%	18.2%	9%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of males (80.9%) and females (65%) supported buffalo hunting.
- Majorities of Republicans (84.8%), Independents (73.3%) and Democrats (59.3%) backed buffalo hunting.
- Majorities of those who both disapproved (84.2%) and approved (72.4%) of Governor Schweitzer’s job performance supported the hunt.
- A majority (87.7%) of those backing delisting the gray wolf backed the hunt, as did a plurality (45.5%) of respondents opposed to delisting the animal.

**B. Delisting Gray Wolf as Endangered Species**

When asked, “do you believe that the gray wolf should be removed from the federal list of endangered species in Montana,” a majority (56.9%) answered “yes.”

**DELISTING GRAY WOLF AS ENDANGERED SPECIES**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>56.9%</b>	<b>27.9%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (65.5%) of males and plurality (48.5%) of females backed delisting the wolf.
- More rural (62.3%) than urban (53.7%) residents supported delisting.
- Majorities of Republicans (70.9%) and Independent (57.8%) supported delisting. Equal percentages of Democrats supported (40.7%) and opposed (40.7%) this action.
- In terms of sex/age the strongest support for delisting was found among males aged 71+ (80%), the weakest (but still plurality) support existing among 18-40 year old females (44.1%).

**C. Mining More Montana Coal**

In response to the query, “do you think that more Montana coal should be mined to produce increased sources of energy,” a majority (67.6%) said “yes.”

**MINING MORE MONTANA COAL**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>67.6%</b>	<b>18.7%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (79.7%), Independents (66.7%) and Democrats (55.8%) backed more coal development.
- Majorities of respondents who both disapproved (68.4%) and approved (68.4%) of Governor Schweitzer’s job performance supported coal development.

**D. Support Stronger Littering Law**

A majority (74.3%) of interviewees replied “yes” in reply to the question, “would you support a stronger littering law in the state of Montana?”

## SUPPORT STRONGER LITTERING LAW

Yes	No	Undecided	Total
74.3%	17.5%	8.2%	100%

### Statistically Significant Relationship:

- More women (79.1%) than men (69.1%) supported a stronger law.

## III. ENERGY QUESTIONS

### 1. DEGREE OF CONCERN ABOUT RISING ENERGY COSTS

A majority (69.8%) of the respondents said they were “very concerned” when asked, “how concerned are you about the rising cost of energy?”

#### DEGREE OF CONCERN ABOUT RISING ENERGY COSTS

<u>Not Concerned</u> <u>At All</u>	<u>A Little</u> <u>Concerned</u>	<u>Concerned</u>	<u>Very</u> <u>Concerned</u>	<u>Total</u>
3.5%	7.2%	19.5%	69.8%	100%

### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of women (73.3%) and men (66%) were “very concerned” about the cost of energy.
- More rural (74.7%) than urban (67.1%) dwellers were “very concerned” with energy costs.
- More Independents (77.8%) than Democrats (72.7%) or Republicans (62%) were “very concerned” about the price of energy.
- Majorities of respondents who supported (78.2%), opposed (61.1%), or were undecided (64.1%) about suspending the state tax on gasoline were “very concerned” about energy costs.

### 2. HAS INCREASED GAS COSTS CURTAILED DRIVING?

A question about gasoline costs and driving was phrased: “Has the increase in the price of gasoline resulted in your driving less?” A plurality (40%) of those polled responded “no.” But the combined “yes, a lot less” and “yes, a little less” totaled 60% of the respondents.

**HAS INCREASED GAS COSTS CURTAILED DRIVING?**

<u>Yes, A Lot Less</u>	<u>Yes, A Little Less</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
27.1%	32.9%	40%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- The only income group among whom a plurality (46.9%) reported driving “a lot less” earned less than \$10,000 a year. In contrast, the largest majority (78.6%) replying “no” they were not driving less, earned more than \$100,000 a year.

**3. OPINION ABOUT SUSPENDING MONTANA STATE GAS TAX**

A question about Montana’s state gasoline tax was phrased: “A proposal has been made to suspend Montana’s 27 cents per gallon retail gasoline tax in order to help consumers with the high cost of fuel. Do you support or oppose this plan?” A plurality (48.1%) of those interviewed answered “support.”

**OPINION ABOUT SUSPENDING MONTANA STATE GAS TAX**

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
48.1%	35.9%	16%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority of females (52.9%) and plurality of males (43.3%) supported suspending the tax.
- More rural (56.2%) than urban (43.5%) dwellers backed suspending the levy.

**IV. HEALTH ISSUES**

**1. USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

A majority (74.6%) of the respondents said “no” when they were asked if they used “tobacco products?”

## USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

<u>No</u>	<u>Smoke</u>	<u>Chew</u>	<u>Both Smoke And Chew</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>74.6%</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (51.5%) of those earning less than \$10,000 a year smoked tobacco. Majorities of all other income cohorts, \$10,000-\$20,000 (70.5%), \$20,001-\$30,000 (70.3%), \$30,001-50,000 (76.8%), \$50,001-\$75,000 (77%), \$75,001-\$100,000 (81%) and \$100,000+ (85.7%) did not smoke.
- Majorities of women (75.7%) and men (73.2%) did not use tobacco. But 24.3% of females and 18% of males smoked tobacco. In contrast, 6.7% of males and 0% of females chewed tobacco.
- Those most likely not to smoke tobacco were aged 71+ (94.4%). Those most likely to smoke tobacco were aged 18-40 (25.5%), while those most apt to chew tobacco (7.3%) and smoke and chew (1.8%) were also aged 18-40.

## 2. SUPPORT OR OPPOSE MONTANA’S NON-SMOKING LAW

A majority (76.1%) replied “support” when asked, “do you support or oppose Montana’s new non-smoking law which prohibits smoking in most buildings and businesses?”

### SUPPORT OR OPPOSE MONTANA’S NON-SMOKING LAW

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>76.1%</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority of non-tobacco users (85.3%) supported the law, as did majorities of those who both smoked and chewed (75%) tobacco, and just used chewing tobacco (53.8%). A plurality of those who just smoked (49.4%) opposed it.
- In terms of establishments that used to permit smoking but now prohibit it because of the new law, a majority (60%) of the supporters of the new tobacco law said they were “more likely” to frequent such businesses, while a majority (53.7%) of the opponents of the law said their likelihood of going to such establishments was “the same” as before.
- Majorities of every age cohort supported the non-smoking law; 18-40 (67.3%), 41-59 (78.5%), 60-70 (83.6%), 71+ (77.8%).

**3. LIKELIHOOD OF FREQUENTING FORMER SMOKING ESTABLISHMENTS**

A query about another aspect of Montana’s non-smoking law was phrased: “Do you think you are more or less likely to frequent an establishment that previously permitted smoking, but now prohibits it because of the new smoking law?” A plurality (47.6%) of those polled said “more likely to frequent it now.”

**LIKELIHOOD OF FREQUENTING FORMER SMOKING ESTABLISHMENTS**

<u>More Likely to Frequent</u>	<u>Likelihood Same as Before</u>	<u>Less Likely Now</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>47.6%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Pluralities of educational cohorts with 1-11 years of school (45.5%) and a high school degree (44.8%) said the new law made the likelihood they would now visit establishments that previously allowed smoking “the same as before.” Majorities of those with a college (55.4%) or post-graduate (64.7%) degree said the new law made it “more likely” they would visit establishments which formerly allowed smoking.
- A majority of non-smokers (58.5%) and those who both smoked and chewed (50%) tobacco were more likely to frequent the non-smoking establishments. A plurality of smokers (48.2%), and those who only chewed tobacco (53.8%), said the likelihood of going to these businesses was the “same as before.”

**4. SEEN RECENT ANTI-METHAMPHETAMINE ADVERTISEMENTS?**

A majority (86.8%) of those interviewed said “yes” when asked, “have you seen or heard any of recent anti-methamphetamine advertisements?”

**SEEN RECENT ANTI-METHAMPHETAMINE ADVERTISEMENTS?**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>86.8%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- In terms of sex/age those most likely to have seen the ads were males aged 18-40 (92.2%) and females 18-40 (91.5%). Those least likely to have viewed them were males 71+ (63.2%).

**A. Effectiveness Of Advertisements**

The respondents were next asked, “how effective do you think these advertisements are in preventing methamphetamine use? A plurality (26.8%) replied “somewhat effective.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for the survey. But the combined “effective” and “very effective” categories totaled 44.8% of those interviewed.

**EFFECTIVENESS OF ADVERTISEMENTS**

<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Somewhat Effective</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Very Effective</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
14.9%	26.8%	20.5%	24.3%	13.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality of males (33.9%) felt the ads had been “somewhat effective,” while a plurality of females (31.5%) viewed them as being “very effective.”
- In terms of gender/age, a plurality of males aged 18-40 (46.8%) saw the ads as being “somewhat effective,” while a plurality of females 18-40 (38.9%) viewed them as “very effective.”

**5. THINK OBESITY IS PROBLEM IN MONTANA?**

When asked, “do you think obesity is a problem in Montana,” a plurality (38.2 %) replied, “yes, a moderate problem.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey. But the combined “yes, a big problem” and “yes, a moderate problem” totaled 72.8% of those polled.

**THINK OBESITY IS PROBLEM IN MONTANA**

<u>Yes, Big Problem</u>	<u>Yes, Moderate Problem</u>	<u>Yes, Slight Problem</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
34.6%	38.2%	10.2%	11%	6%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Pluralities of those aged 18-40 (37.3%) and 41-59 (42.5%) saw obesity as “a moderate problem,” while pluralities of those aged 60-70 (47.3%) and 71+ (50%) thought it was “a big problem.”

**6. FREQUENCY OF EATING FAST FOOD**

A majority (51.7%) of those interviewed said “once or twice” when asked, “how often do you eat fast food in a week?”

## FREQUENCY OF EATING FAST FOOD

Never	1-2	3-5	<u>More Than</u> <u>5 Times</u>	Total
33.3%	51.7%	12.5%	2.5%	100%

### Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Majorities of respondents aged 18-40 (60.9%) and 41-59 (51.7%) ate fast food once or twice a week, while pluralities of those aged 60-70 (45.5%) and 71+ (48.1%) answered “never.”

## 7. FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE

A question regarding frequency of alcohol use was phrased: “How many drinks of alcoholic beverages have you consumed in the last 7 days? By a drink, I mean one beer, one glass of wine, one mixed drink or one shot of liquor.” A majority (53.3%) of the respondents answered “none.”

### FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE

	%
None	53.3%
1-2	13.7%
3-5	14.1%
6-8	10.1%
9-12	4%
13-16	2.5%
17-21	1%
21-28	1%
28+	.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## V. EDUCATION ISSUES

### 1. SAFETY OF STUDENTS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

A question on school safety was phrased: “On a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is very unsafe and 10 is very safe, how safe are the students in your local public schools?” To some extent those replying “1-5” felt the schools were unsafe, while those answering “6-10” to some degree regarded the schools as safe. A plurality (30%) of those polled responded “8.”

## SAFETY OF STUDENTS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

1-5	6-10	Total	Mean
10.4%	89.6%	100%	7.6

### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Rural residents (7.9) rated their local schools as being somewhat safer than urban (7.4) dwellers.
- Those who viewed bullying as “not a problem” saw school safety (8.2) the same ranking as those who felt it was “a little problem” (8.2), but higher than individuals who saw this issue as “a problem” (7.3), a “big problem” (8), or were undecided (7.6) about this issue.

## 2. IS BULLYING A PROBLEM IN LOCAL SCHOOLS?

When asked, “do you think bullying is a problem in your local K through 12 public schools,” a plurality (24.4%) said “no, not a problem.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

### BULLYING A PROBLEM IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

<u>No, Not Problem</u>	<u>Little Problem</u>	<u>Problem</u>	<u>Big Problem</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
24.4%	14%	23.2%	15.5%	22.9%	100%

### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality of males (31.4%) felt that bullying was “not a problem,” while a plurality of females (27.7%) felt that bullying was “a problem.”
- In terms of sex/age, those most likely to identify bullying as “not a problem” were males aged 71+ (45%), while those most apt to identify it as “a big problem” were females 18-40 (23.7%) years old.

## 3. OPINION ABOUT FEDERAL NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

A question regarding the federal No Child Left Behind Act was phrased: “On a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is very negatively and 10 is very positively, how do you think that the federal No Child Left Behind Act has impacted your local schools?” A plurality (25.8%) of the interviewees replied “5.” The results for this questions fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

## OPINION ABOUT FEDERAL NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

1-5	6-10	Undecided	Total	Mean
19.2%	55.1%	25.7%	100%	4.8

### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those 18-40 (4.9) years old rated No Child Left Behind more positively than respondents aged 41-59 (4.5) and 60-70 (4.6), but lower than the evaluation given by those 71+ (6.1).
- Those with 1-11 (6.6) years of education evaluated the Act more highly than those with a high school degree (5.3), some college (5), a college degree (4.5), or a post-graduate degree (3.6).
- Republicans (5.3) and Independents (5.2) rated the Act more positively than Democrats (4.4).

#### 4. **REMOVE PHRASE “UNDER GOD” FROM PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A majority (81.8%) of the poll respondents said “oppose” when asked, “would you support or oppose removing the phrase ‘under God’ from the Pledge of Allegiance?”

### **REMOVE PHRASE “UNDER GOD” FROM PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Support	Oppose	Undecided	Total
11.7%	81.8%	6.5%	100%

### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- There was a direct relationship between religiosity, as expressed and opposition to changing the pledge. A plurality (44.8) answering 1 opposed changing the pledge, while a majority of all other respondents opposed the change; 2 (75%), 3 (84.3%), 4 (90%), 5 (91.6%).
- More rural (88.4%) than urban (78%) residents opposed making the change.
- Majorities of Republicans (94.9%), Independents (82.2%) and Democrats (68.6%) opposed changing the pledge.

## **VI. CRIME AND JUSTICE**

#### 1. **OPINION OF MONTANA’S OPEN CONTAINER LAW**

A question about the open container law was worded: “Do you support or oppose Montana’s new open container law which prevents drinking from opened alcoholic

beverage containers while driving?” A majority (81.8%) of those interviewed responded “support.”

**OPINION OF MONTANA’S OPEN CONTAINER LAW**

<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>81.8%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- More women (90.8%) than men (72.2%) supported the open container law.
- Majorities of Democrats (83.1%), Republicans (82.3%) and Independent (77.8%) backed the law.
- In terms of sex/age the strongest backing for the law existed among women 60-70 (100%) years old, its lowest (but still majority) support was among men 18-40 (64.7%).

**2. OPINION OF PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**

A 1-10 scaled question about local law enforcement was worded: “On a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is very bad and 10 is excellent, how would you rate the overall performance of your local law enforcement?” Those answering “1-5” to some extent viewed local law enforcement negatively, while those responding “6-10” to some degree held a positive view of their local law enforcement agencies. A plurality (25.4%) of the interviewees replied “8.”

**OPINION OF PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**

<b>1-5</b>	<b>6-10</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>
<b>30.8%</b>	<b>69.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6.7</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those aged 18-40 (6.3) rated their local law enforcement lower than the 41-59 (6.7), 60-70 (7), and 71+ (7.5) age cohorts.
- In terms of sex/age, males 18-40 (6) gave law enforcement the lowest rating, while females 71+ (7.6) evaluated it most positively.

**3. HOW TO DEAL WITH INCREASED NUMBER OF FELONS IN MONTANA**

A question about the increased number of convicted felons in Montana was phrased: “In order to deal with the increasing number of convicted felons in Montana, would you favor building more and larger prisons or expanding community based correction programs like half-way houses, probation and parole?” Among those interviewed a plurality (36.4) answered “community based programs.”

## HOW TO DEAL WITH INCREASED NUMBER OF FELONS IN MONTANA

<u>More Prisons</u>	<u>Community Based Programs</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
28.7%	36.4%	8.2%	16.5%	10.2%	100%

### Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A plurality (38%) of Republicans backed more prisons, while a plurality (31.1%) of Independents and majority (52.3%) of Democrat wanted increased community based programs.

#### 4. VICTIM OF CRIME WHILE LIVING IN MONTANA

When asked, “have you been a victim of a crime while living in Montana?” A majority (66.1) of the interviewees answered “no.”

### VICTIM OF CRIME WHILE LIVING IN MONTANA

<u>No</u>	<u>Yes, Property Crime</u>	<u>Yes, Violent Crime</u>	<u>Yes, Both Property and Violent Crime</u>	<u>Total</u>
66.1%	24.6%	5.5%	3.8%	100%

## VII. LIFESTYLE

#### 1. HOW IMPORTANT IS RELIGION IN PERSONAL LIFE

A question about religion was worded: “On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being not important at all and 5 being very important, how important is religion in your everyday life.” A plurality (41.7) of the respondents answered “5.”

### HOW IMPORTANT IS RELIGION IN PERSONAL LIFE

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>
14.5%	8%	20.8%	15%	41.7%	100%	3.6

**2. HOURS OF TELEVISION WATCHED PER WEEK**

Those polled were asked, “how many hours of television do you watch in an average week.” A plurality (29.5%) of the respondents said “6-10.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

**HOURS OF TELEVISION WATCHED PER WEEK**

<u>None</u>	<u>1-5</u>	<u>6-10</u>	<u>11-20</u>	<u>21-30</u>	<u>30+</u>	<u>Total</u>
6.8%	18.6%	29.5%	25.7%	14.4%	5%	100%

**3. HAVE INTERNET ACCESS**

A plurality (35.1%) of the respondents replied “yes, at home and at work” when asked if they had “Internet access” at home or work. The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey. More than 77% of those interviewed had some form of internet access.

**HAVE INTERNET ACCESS**

<u>Yes, Home</u>	<u>Yes, Work</u>	<u>Yes, Work and Home</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
33.6%	8.5%	35.1%	22.8%	100%