



***THE MSU-BILLINGS POLL:***

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

***NOVEMBER, 2007***

***22ND SURVEY***

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

**The following students participated in the survey project:**

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## INTRODUCTION

The “MSU-Billings Poll” began in 1989. From its inception through 2006, Dr. Joe Floyd, Professor of Sociology, served as Co-Director of the survey. Dr. Floyd retired this year and we would like to thank him for helping to make the polls successful. This year two new Co-Directors of the Poll, Dr. Scott Rickard, Director of the Center for Applied Economic Research and Dr. Dan Lennon (Sociology) assisted Dr. Craig Wilson, (Political Science) in conducting the poll.

This report summarizes the twenty-second “MSU-Billings Poll,” a statewide random sample telephone survey of adult Montanans conducted November 8-11. This is the eighteenth year the survey has been conducted. Students enrolled in Political Science courses at MSU-Billings completed the 412 interviews for this survey. Two part-time assistants were employed to supervise/make phone calls to assist the new leadership of the survey in to complete the project in a timely manner. Only adult Montanans were surveyed. The survey was completed using random digit dial methodology, which selects both the phone numbers and members of a household to interview. The poll was conducted by 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 at 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 affect survey results. Statistical tests were employed to determine whether statistically significant relationships ( $p=.05$ ) existed between key variables. In terms of gender, the male-female composition of the respondents was about 49% - 51%.

# I. NATIONAL ISSUES

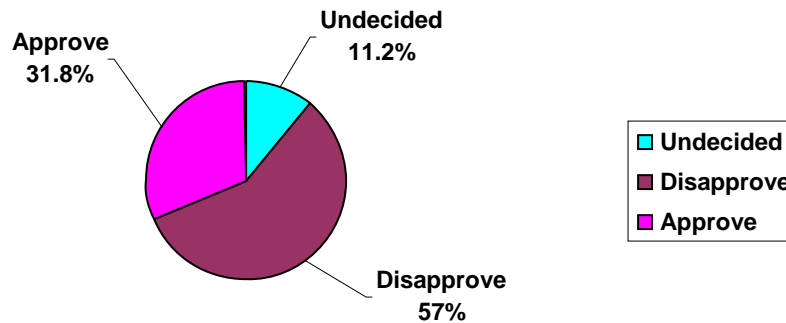
## 1. PRESIDENT BUSH'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE IN OFFICE

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

This is the seventh year the “MSU-Billings Poll” asked respondents: “At this point in time do you approve or disapprove of President George W. Bush’s overall performance in office?” A majority (57%) answered “disapprove.”

In the 2001 poll the President had an 86.7% positive approval rating and positive evaluations of 69.7% in 2002, 59.4% in 2003 and 56% in 2004. In 2005 he received a 51.1% disapproval rating and last year a 46.5% negative evaluation.

**President Bush's Overall Job Performance**



#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (62%) of Republicans approved of Bush’s job performance, while majorities of Democrats (90.3%) and independents (60.8%) disapproved.
- A majority (68.5%) of individuals approving of the President supported the war in Iraq, while a plurality (46.5%) of those disapproving of the job the President is doing opposed the conflict.
- Majorities of those both disapproving (66.2%), as well as approving (56.2%) of the President’s job performance, voiced disapproval of the actions of Congress.
- A majority (61.5%) of those surveyed who approved of the job the President is doing planned on voting for the Republican nominee for President next year. In contrast, a majority (51.1%) of those expressing disapproval of the President said they would vote for the Democratic nominee.
- A plurality (44.6%) of those approving of the President felt the U. S. was moving in the “right direction,” but a majority (85.3%) of those polled disapproving of Bush’s performance said the U. S. is going in the “wrong direction.”

- Majorities of those with some college or more (66.8%) and a high school degree or less (51.6%) disapproved of the President. And those with a high school degree or less were more undecided (23.9%) on this issue than the more educated cohort (15.6%).
- While a majority (60.8%) of those polled who approved of the President’s performance said the U. S. had been successful in combating terrorist attacks, a plurality (43.2%) of individuals disapproving of the President said the U.S. was “unsuccessful” in dealing with terrorist attacks.
- A majority (65.4%) of respondents approving of Bush supported the Afghanistan war, a majority (53%) disapproving of the President opposed the conflict.
- A majority (78.5%) of those polled who did not like the President’s performance viewed Iran a threat, while a plurality (45.7%) of those who disliked the President did not think Iran was a threat.
- A majority (66.7%) of respondents who liked the President favored the U. S. using military action against Iran if they develop nuclear weapons. In contrast, a plurality (49.6%) of those opposed to the President’s actions did not back military action against Iran.
- A majority (52.7%) of those approving of Bush backed his veto of the S-Chip medical program. But a majority (69.2%) opposed to the President’s actions also opposed the veto.
- While 50% of those who identified religion as a “5” (very important in their lives) voiced approval of President Bush’s performance, 9.1% of those choosing “1” (religion not at all important in their lives) disapproved of the President.
- A larger majority of those over (65.9%) than under (50.4%) age 50 disapproved of the President.

**2. OPINION OF OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF CONGRESS**

In response to the question: “Presently do you approve or disapprove of the overall performance of the U. S. Congress,” a majority (59.9%) of those polled replied “disapprove.”

**OPINION OF PERFORMANCE OF CONGRESS**

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>21%</b>	<b>59.9%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A larger majority of respondents with some college or an advanced degree (66.8%) viewed the performance of Congress negatively, than did those with a high school degree or less (51.6%).
- A greater majority of interviewees older (65.9%) than younger (50.4%) than 50 years of age felt Congress was doing a poor job.

- More males (67.7%) than females (54.4%) disapproved of the performance of Congress.

### 3. **VOTE FOR PRESIDENT**

When asked, “[i]f you were voting for the office of U. S. President today, do you think you would support the Republican or Democratic candidate,” a plurality (32.5%) of the interviews said “Democrat.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

#### **VOTE FOR PRESIDENT**

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Depends on Nominee</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>29.1%</b>	<b>32.5%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (72.2%) of Republicans planned on voting for the GOP nominee, a majority (78.5%) of Democrats for their party’s selection, and a plurality (37.1%) of independents said it “depends on the nominee.”
- A majority (58.1%) of individuals identifying religion at a “1” (not at all important) planned on voting for the Democratic nominee. In contrast, a plurality (40.3%) of respondents choosing “5” (very important in their life) on the religion question said they would vote for the Republican candidate.

### 4. **U. S. MOVING RIGHT OR WRONG DIRECTION**

A majority (63%) of the respondents replied “wrong direction” when asked: “In general do you think that at the time the United States is moving in the right or wrong direction?”

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

<u>Right</u>	<u>Wrong</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>19.1%</b>	<b>63.3%</b>	<b>17.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality (38%) of Republicans said the country is going in the “right direction,” while majorities of Democrats (84.9%) and independents (69.9%) responded “wrong direction.”

- A larger majority of men (71.2%) than women (56.4%) thought the U. S. was moving in the “wrong direction.”

**5. SUPPORT OR OPPOSE DECISION TO GO TO WAR WITH IRAQ**

In reply to a query phrased, “[d]o you support or oppose the United State’s decision to go to war in Iraq,” a majority (57.7%) of the respondents answered “oppose.”

In the 2003 “MSU-Billings Poll,” a majority of (60.3%) of the respondents responded “support” when asked this question and in 2004 a majority (52.8%) also replied “support.” In 2005 and 2006, 48.2% said “oppose.”

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

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
35%	57.7%	7.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (68.5%) of Republicans supported the war, while majorities of Democrats (91.4%) and independents (63.4%) opposed it.
- Fifty percent of individuals opposed to the war felt the threat of terrorist acts was “about the same” as prior to the conflict, as did a plurality (40.6%) of those supportive of the war. More of those opposed to (30.5%), than supportive of the war (19.6%), felt the terror threat was “higher.” And more respondents backing the war (36.4%) said the threat was “lower” than did opponents (12.3%) of the conflict.
- A majority (57.3%) of those supportive of the conflict felt the U. S. has been “successful” in its efforts to combat terrorist attacks, while a plurality (43.6%) of the wars opponents viewed U. S. efforts to deal with terrorism as “unsuccessful.”
- A majority (69.9%) of those interviewed who supported the Iraq war also supported the Afghanistan conflict. But a majority of those (57.2%) opposing the Iraq war also opposed military action in Afghanistan.
- A majority (81.8%) of individuals supporting the Iraq conflict viewed Iran as a threat, while a plurality (48.7%) of those opposed to the Iraq war felt Iran was not a threat.
- A majority (66.4%) of individuals supporting the Iraq war supported placing ABM’s in Poland to defend against Iranian ICBMS, while a plurality (48.9%) of those opposed to the war were against this deployment.
- A majority (61.5%) of those backing the Iraq war supported the possibility of employing military force against Iran. A plurality (48.1%) of the wars opponents were against the use of military force against Iran.
- Those identifying religion as a “1” (not important at all) expressed the greatest opposition (83.7%) to the Iraq war. In contrast, the greatest support (46.2%) for

the conflict existed among those answering “5” (very important) to the religion question.

**6. DEGREE OF TERRORIST THREAT TO U. S. SINCE WAR IN IRAQ**

A plurality (46.4%) of those responding said “about the same” when asked: “Do you think the threat of terrorist acts in the United States is higher, about the same, or lower than it was before the beginning of the war in Iraq?”

The 2006 Poll found that a plurality (38.7%) of those polled felt the threat level was “about the same.”

**DEGREE OF TERRORIST THREAT TO U. S. SINCE IRAQ WAR**

<u>Higher</u>	<u>About the Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
26.7%	46.4%	21.3%	5.6%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority (52.9%) of females and plurality of (39.4%) males thought the threat of “terrorist acts” was “about the same” as prior to the Iraq war.

**7. U. S. SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH IRAQ TERROR ATTACKS**

A plurality (41.1%) of those interviewed answered “successful” when asked: “How successful do you think the United State’s ongoing efforts to combat terrorism in Iraq have been?”

**U. S. SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH IRAQ TERROR ATTACKS**

<u>Very Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Very Successful</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
12%	32.3%	41.8%	4.4%	9.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (55.6%) of Republicans and plurality of independents (40.3%) said the U. S. had been “successful” in dealing with terrorism. A plurality (47.3%) of Democrats answered “unsuccessful.”
- A larger plurality of those with a college degree or more (42.2%), than less than a high school diploma (39.4%), viewed U. S. efforts to combat terrorism as “successful.”

**8. SUPPORT OR OPPOSE AFGHANISTAN WAR**

In reply to a question phrased, “[d]o you support or oppose the United State’s decision to go to war in Afghanistan,” a plurality (45.5%) of those replying said “support.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

**SUPPORT OR OPPOSE AFGHANISTAN WAR**

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>45.5%</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (54.6%) and independents (52.2%) backed the war, while a majority (68.8%) of Democrats opposed it.
- A majority (59.1%) of males backed the conflict, a plurality (49.5%) of females opposed it.
- A majority (51.6%) of respondents with some college or more supported the war, while a plurality (46.5%) of those with a high school degree or less opposed it.
- A majority of individuals in families earning \$50,000 and above a year (52.5%) supported the war, as did a plurality of those earning between \$30,001 - \$50,000 (49.7%). In contrast, a majority of respondents earning \$30,000 and less a year (51.2%) opposed the conflict.

**9. IS IRAN A THREAT TO U. S.**

A majority (58%) of those polled replied “yes” when asked if they thought: “... Iran poses a significant threat to the United States?”

**IS IRAN A THREAT TO U. S.**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>58%</b>	<b>33.7%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (77.8%) and independents (59.8%) viewed Iran as a threat, a plurality (48.4%) of Democrats did not.
- A majority (67.7%) of individuals choosing “5” (very important) on the religion question had the greatest tendency to view Iran as a threat. In contrast, the group most likely not to see Iran as a threat were most likely to say religion was not important (51.2% chose “1”) in their lives.

**10. U. S. ABM INTERCEPTORS TO DETER POSSIBLE IRANIAN ICBM'S**

A question about the U. S. placing anti-ballistic missile interceptors in Poland to deal with a possible ICBM threat from Iran was worded: “Do you support or oppose the U.S. placing anti-ballistic missile interceptors in Poland to deal with the possibility that Iran will acquire intercontinental ballistic missiles armed with nuclear warheads and attempt to use them against the U. S.?” A plurality (45.4%) of the interviewees replied “yes.”

**U. S. ABM INTERCEPTORS TO DETER POSSIBLE IRANIAN ICBM'S**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>45.4%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority of Republicans (60.2%) and a plurality of independents (46.8%) backed the possible deployment, a majority (54.8%) of Democrats did not.
- While fifty percent of males supported placing ABM's in Poland, a smaller percentage (41.2%) of females backed this proposal. And more women (30.4%) than men (11.6%) were undecided about this issue.

**11. SHOULD U. S. USE MILITARY FORCE IF IRAN DEVELOPS NUCLEAR WEAPONS?**

A follow-up question about Iraq was phrased: “If Iran develops nuclear weapons do you believe the U. S. should use military force to destroy this capability?” A plurality (47.3%) of those polled replied “yes.”

**SHOULD U. S. USE MILITARY FORCE IF IRAN DEVELOPS NUCLEAR WEAPONS?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>47.3%</b>	<b>34.6%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority (50.5%) of Republicans and plurality (45.2%) of independents backed possible military action, a majority (50.5%) of Democrats did not.
- More men (48.5%) than women (46.1%) favored possible military action against Iran. But more females (23.5%) than males (12.6%) were undecided about the use of force.

- In terms of religiosity, the group most likely to oppose military action against Iran were also most apt (51.2%) to identify religion at a “1” (not at all important) in terms of importance in their life. In contrast, those who were the most religious (“5”) were also most likely (53.2%) to favor the possible use of military force.
- Those identifying religion as a “5” (very important in their lives) were most likely (53.2%) to back the use of force against Iran, while individuals most apt to rate religion a “1” (not at all important) were most apt (51.2%) to oppose using force.

**12. OPINION OF S-CHIP HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM**

In question regarding S-Chip was worded: “Do you support or oppose President Bush’s decision to veto a bill passed by Congress, known as S-Chip, which would expand the availability of government sponsored health insurance for more lower income children by increasing the federal tax on a package of cigarettes by 61 cents?” A majority (53.8%) of the interviewees replied “oppose.”

**OPINION OF S-CHIP HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM**

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>36.1%</b>	<b>53.8%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (53.7%) of Republicans backed the presidential veto, while majorities of Democrats (79.6%) and independents (53.8%) opposed it.
- In terms of religion, the group most likely to oppose the President’s veto were most likely to say religion was “not important at all” (“1”) in their lives (76.7%). In comparison, the most religious cohort, the 44.6% of those identifying religion as “5”(very important), were most likely to support the veto.

**13. MAKING IT EASIER FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO BECOME CITIZENS**

A query about illegal immigrants was worded: “Presently, the U. S. Congress is considering legislation which would allow illegal immigrants who plan to attend college or join the military, and who moved to the U. S. with their families before they turned 16, to move toward acquiring legal status as citizens. Do you support or oppose this legislation?” A majority (51.4%) of the respondents replied “oppose.”

## MAKING IT EASIER FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO BECOME CITIZENS

Support	Oppose	Undecided	Total
35.6%	51.4%	13%	100%

### 14. OPINIONS OF MAJOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

The poll respondents were asked to state whether they had a “positive or negative perception” of “some, but not all, of the major Republican Democratic candidates running for their parties’ nomination for President.” The candidates present or past elective office title was given, but their political party identification was not. The six candidates included former U. S. Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, Arizona U. S. Senator John McCain, Illinois Senator Barack Obama, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, New York Senator Hilary Clinton and former New York City Mayor Rudolf Guliani. Senator McCain received the highest percentage positive rating (49.4%) and Senator Clinton the most negative (59%) evaluation.

#### MAJOR REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

<u>Candidate Name</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Neither</u>		<u>Total</u>
			<u>Positive/Negative</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	
<b>John McCain</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>23.5%</b>	<b>37.5%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Rudolf Guliani</b>	<b>39.5%</b>	<b>44.2%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- **John McCain**
- A majority (60.2%) of Republicans and pluralities of independents (49.5%) and Democrats (40.9%) expressed positive opinions of the Senator
- A majority (54.1%) of respondents with some college or more viewed McCain positively, as did a plurality (42.6%) of individuals with a high school degree or less. More individuals with less than a high school education (14.2%), compared to those with some college or more (4.5%) were undecided about their opinion of the Senator.

- **Mitt Romney**
- A plurality (36.1%) of Republicans had a positive view of Romney, while a majority (54.8%) of Democrats and plurality (34.8%) of independents held negative opinions of him.
- A larger plurality of men (42.9%) than women (32.8%) viewed Romney negatively. And more females (22.1%) than males (11.1%) were undecided about their perception of this candidate.
- A larger plurality of interviewees with some college or more (39.3%), than a high school degree or less (35.5%), held negative views of Romney. And more of those with a high school education or less (25.8%), than some college or more (10.7%), were undecided regarding their opinion of the former Governor.
- **Rudolf Guliani**
- A majority (52.8%) of Republicans liked the former mayor, a majority (61.3%) of Democrats and plurality of independents (43.5%) did not.
- A majority (51.9%) of interviewees aged 50 or more held a positive opinion of Guliani, while a plurality (48.9%) of those younger than 50 viewed the former mayor negatively.

#### **MAJOR DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES**

<b><u>Candidate Name</u></b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b><u>Neither</u> Positive/Negative</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>John Edwards</b>	<b>35.6%</b>	<b>35.1%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>47.4%</b>	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Hilary Clinton</b>	<b>30.9%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- **John Edwards**
- A majority (59.1%) of Democrats perceived Edwards positively, while a majority (53.7%) of Republicans and plurality of independents (33.9%) viewed him negatively.
- A plurality of women (37.7%) had a positive view of Edwards, while a plurality of men (42.4%) held a negative perception of him.
- **Barack Obama**
- A majority (66.7%) of Democrats and plurality (46.9%) of independents expressed positive opinions about the Senator, while a plurality (42.6%) of Republicans held negative sentiments.

- A majority (52%) of respondents with some college education or more had a positive view of Senator Obama, as did a plurality (41.3%) of those with a high school degree or less.
- **Hilary Clinton**
- A majority (58.1%) of Democrats viewed the Senator positively, majorities of Republicans (84.3%) and independents (57.5%) did not.
- A larger majority of individuals aged 49 and under (64.7%), than those 50 and older (55.9%), expressed negative opinions about the Senator.
- A larger majority of men (62.1%) than women (55.9%) expressed negative perceptions of Clinton.

## **II. STATE AND LOCAL ISSUES**

### **1. JOB APPROVAL RATING OF MONTANA ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Those polled were asked to respond “approve” or “disapprove” regarding the “overall performance” in office of Governor Brian Schweitzer, U. S. Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester and U. S. Representative Dennis Rehberg. Senator Baucus received the highest (64.3%) approval rating followed by Governor Schweitzer (62.8%), Representative Rehberg (58.6%), and Senator Tester (57.1%).

#### **A. JOB APPROVAL RATING OF GOVERNOR BRIAN SCHWEITZER**

A majority (62.8%) of those surveyed replied “approve” when asked to evaluate the Governor. In the 2005 “MSU-Billings Poll” the Governor received a 68.6% positive approval rating.

#### **JOB APPROVAL RATING OF GOVERNOR BRIAN SCHWEITZER**

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>62.8%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### **Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- Majorities of Democrats (88.2%) and independents (61.1%) approved of the Governor’s job performance, as did a plurality (47.2%) of Republicans.
- Gender was not related to opinions about the Governor’s performance.
- A larger percentage of individuals aged 50+ (68.9%) approved of Schweitzer than did those 49 and younger (51.1%). Individuals 49 and younger were also more likely (28.6%) than respondents 50 and older (14.8%) to be undecided about the Governor’s performance.

- Approval of Governor Schweitzer’s performance was directly related to income. Those earning \$30,000 or less a year (66.1%) supported him to the greatest extent, followed by individuals in families earning \$30,001-\$50,000 (65.6%) and \$50,001+ (55.9%).
- A majority (77.4%) of the interviewees surveyed who disapproved of the job the President is doing approved of Governor Schweitzer’s job performance. And a plurality (46.9%) of those approving of the President, also voiced approval of the Governor.
- Those most likely to approve of Schweitzer were the 76.7% of the respondents who did not feel religion was important in their lives, (“1”) while the most religious group (“5”) was also most likely (21%) to disapprove of the Governor’s performance.

**B. JOB APPROVAL RATING OF U. S. SENATOR MAX BAUCUS**

A majority (64.3%) of the interviewees gave the Senator a positive evaluation.

Senator Baucus received positive job approval rating in the eleven times his job approval was evaluated by the MSU-Billings Poll between 1993-2005. His highest approval rating (68%) was found in 1998, and his lowest (50%) in 1994. In 2005, 66.5% of the respondents felt he was doing a good job.

**JOB APPROVAL RATING OF U. S. SENATOR MAX BAUCUS**

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>64.3%</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Democrats (79.6%) and independents (66.7%) approved of the Senator’s job performance, as did a plurality (49.1%) of Republicans.
- Gender was not related to approval of Baucus.
- A larger of respondents older than age 50 (69.6%) than under this age (54.9%) approved of the job the Governor is doing. And more individuals under 50 (25.6%) than over this age (14.1%) were undecided about how he is doing.
- A majority (72.6%) of those disapproving of the President’s performance voiced approval of Senator Baucus. And a majority (52.3%) approving of Bush’s performance also approved of the job Baucus is doing.

**C. JOB APPROVAL RATING OF U. S. SENATOR JON TESTER**

This is the first year the “MSU-Billings Poll” asked a question about Senator Tester’s job approval. A majority (57.1%) of the interviewees rated his performance positively.

**JOB APPROVAL RATING OF U. S. SENATOR JON TESTER**

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>57.1%</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>26.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Democrats (82.8%) and independents (55.9%) liked the Senator’s job performance, as did a plurality of Republicans (39.8%).
- Gender was not related to opinions of Tester.
- A majority (61.1%) of those over age 50 approved of Tester, as did a plurality (48.9%) of individuals under 50. Respondents younger than 50 (36.8%) were also more undecided about the job the Senator is doing than those 50 (21.9%) in the older cohort.
- A majority (72.6%) of those opposed to the job performance of the President felt Tester was doing a good job. And a plurality (35.9%) of those approving of Bush, also approved of the job the Senator is doing.
- Individuals in the least religious group (“1”) were most likely (74.4%) to approve of Tester’s performance, while respondents in the most religious (“5”) cohort were most apt to give the Senator a negative (22.6%) evaluation.

**D. JOB APPROVAL RATING OF U. S. REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS REHBERG**

A majority (58.6%) of those interviewed said they approved of the Congressman’s job performance.

Representative Rehberg had positive job approval rating in the 2001 (49.2%), 2003 (52.9%), and 2005 (48.9%) “MSU-Billings Polls.”

**JOB APPROVAL RATING OF U. S. REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS REHBERG**

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>58.6%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (71.3%) and independents (57%) approved of Rehberg’s performance, as did a plurality (48.4%) of Democrats.
- A majority (71.1%) of those surveyed who felt the President is doing a good job approved of Representative Rehberg’s performance. And a majority (52.6%) disapproving of the President also felt Rehberg is doing a good job.

**2. VOTE 2008 MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION**

A plurality of the respondents (35%) said “undecided” when asked, “[i]n terms of electing a representative to the Montana House of Representatives, if the 2008 general election were held today do you think you would vote for the Republican or the Democratic candidate in your district?” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

In last year’s survey 42.5% of the respondents favored a Republican candidate, while 38.2% of those surveyed for the 2005 Poll said “Democrat.”

**VOTE IN 2008 MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION**

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
31%	34%	35%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority (80.6%) of Democrats planned on voting for their party’s candidate, a majority (79.1%) of Republicans for a GOP candidate, while a plurality (47.8%) of independents were undecided about their vote.

**3. SHOULD PRIVATE HYDROELECTRIC DAMS IN MONTANA PAY RENT?**

A majority (57%) of Montanans surveyed answered “yes” when asked: “Do you believe that privately owned hydroelectric dams in Montana should pay rent for using riverbeds of navigable rivers to produce electricity?”

**SHOULD PRIVATE HYDROELECTRIC DAMS IN MONTANA PAY RENT?**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
57%	22.3%	20.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Democrats (62.9%) and independents (62.9%) felt the dams should pay rent, as did a plurality (41.7%) of Republicans.
- Slightly more women (56.9%) women than men (56.6%) felt that rent should be paid by dam owners. But more females (28%) than males (15.7%) were undecided on this issue.

**4. PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE IN MONTANA**

In reply to the query: “[d]o you believe that terminally ill Montanans should be able to legally have a physician assist them in ending their lives?” a majority (56%) of those answering the questions replied “yes.”

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE IN MONTANA**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>56.3%</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Democrats (65.6%) and independents (63.4%) supported the proposed practice, a plurality (42.6%) of Republicans opposed it.
- 95.3% of the least religious group (those choosing “1”) were most likely to favor assisted suicide. Those in the most religious group (“5”) were also most likely to oppose (47.7%) this proposal.

**III. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

**1. SHOULD FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALLOW STATES TO TERMINATE WOLVES**

A majority (64%) of those interviewed replied “yes” when asked the question: “Do you believe that states should be allowed by the federal government to terminate wolves as part of a wolf control plan?”

**SHOULD FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALLOW STATES TO TERMINATE WOLVES**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>64%</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Majorities of Republicans (76.9%) and independents (69.6%) backed terminating some wolves, a plurality (46.2%) of Democrats opposed the plan.

**2. LIMITING NUMBER OF SNOWMOBILES IN YELLOWSTONE PARK**

A question about snowmobiles read: “Do you feel that attempts by Yellowstone Park officials to impose a daily limit of 540 snowmobiles entering the park is too few, about the right number, or too many snowmobiles entering the park per day?” A plurality (37.3%) of those surveyed replied “about right.”

**LIMITING NUMBER OF SNOWMOBILES IN YELLOWSTONE PARK**

<u>Too Few</u>	<u>About Right Amount</u>	<u>Too Many</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>15.8%</b>	<b>37.3%</b>	<b>30.9%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A plurality (46.2%) of Democrats replied “too many,” while pluralities of Republicans (41.7%) and independents (36.6%) felt there were “about the right number” of snowmobiles.

**3. AMOUNT OF FEDERAL WILDERNESS LAND IN MONTANA**

A plurality (49.6%) of those interviewed said “about the right amount” when asked, “[d]o you believe that Montana contains too little, about the right amount, or too much federal land designated as wilderness areas?”

**AMOUNT OF FEDERAL WILDERNESS LAND IN MONTANA**

<u>Too Little</u>	<u>About Right Amount</u>	<u>Too Much</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
21.5%	49.6%	16.3%	12.6%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- More men (52%) than women (47%) felt Montana has “about the right amount of wilderness.” But more females (16.2%) than males (8.6%) were undecided about this issue.

**4. SERIOUSNESS OF GLOBAL WARMING**

A query regarding global warming was worded: “On a scale of 1-5, where “1” represents “not serious at all” and “5” represents “very serious,” how serious do you think the issue of global warming is?” A plurality (38.5%) of the respondents replied “5” (“very serious”). The mean response was 3.61

**SERIOUSNESS OF GLOBAL WARMING**

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Total</u>
11.8%	11.1%	19.3%	17.3%	38.5%	2%	3.61	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority (60.2%) of Democrats felt global warming was “very serious” (“5”) as did a plurality (38.7%) of independents. The same number of Republicans chose “very serious” (4-22%) as “moderately serious” (“3”) on this scaled question.

**IV. OTHER ISSUES**

**1. VOTE FOR WOMAN FOR PRESIDENT**

A majority (83.7%) of the interviewees replied “yes” when asked, would “you vote for a woman candidate for president of the U.S.?”

**VOTE FOR WOMAN FOR PRESIDENT**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>83.7%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A larger majority of interviewees aged 49 and younger (85.7%), than over 50 (83%) said they could vote for a woman.
- Somewhat more women (84.3%) than men (88.3%) said they would vote for a woman. And more males (12.1%) than females (10.8%) said they would not support a woman.

**2. ATTENDED LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTING EVENTS**

A majority (56.3%) of the respondents said “yes” in reply to the question: “Have you attended a local high school sporting event during the last year?”

**ATTENDED LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTING EVENT DURING LAST YEAR**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>56.3%</b>	<b>43.4%</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**3. INTRAVENOUS DRUGS FOR DEATH PENALTY**

A question regarding the death penalty was phrased: “Do you believe the use of intravenous drugs to administer the death penalty to individuals convicted of crimes in some U. S. states amounts to cruel and unusual punishment?” A majority (81%) of the respondents answered “no.”

**INTRAVENOUS DRUGS FOR DEATH PENALTY CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>11.4%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**4. HAVE CELL PHONE**

A majority (76.3%) of those interviewed said “yes” when asked: “Do you presently have and use a cell phone?”

**HAVE A CELL PHONE**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>76.3%</b>	<b>23.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- A larger majority (84.2%) of interviewees under age 50, compared to those over (72.6%) this age, had cell phones.

**A. MORE PHONE CALLS OR TEXT MESSAGES ON PHONE**

Only those who said they had a phone were asked: “During an average week do you make more phone calls, or send more text messages on your phone?” A majority (93.5%) of those having cell phones answered “phone calls.” The results for this question has a margin of error greater than +/- 5%.

**MORE PHONE CALL OR TEXT MESSAGES**

<u>Phone Calls</u>	<u>Text Messages</u>	<u>Same Amount</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>93.5%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- Individuals older than age 50 (96.4%) with cell phones more often made phone calls than those aged 49 or less (88.4%). In comparison, those polled under 50 were more apt to use text messaging (10.7%), than those over (1%) this age.

**5. YEAR 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS OCCURRED**

A knowledge question was worded: “Can you tell me what year the 9/11 terrorist attack occurred in the U. S.?” A majority (67.6%) of those interviewed knew “2001” was the correct answer.

**YEAR 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACK OCCURRED**

<u>2001 (Right Answer)</u>	<u>Wrong Answer</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>67.6%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- More individuals with some college/degree (73.7%) than those with a high school degree or less (57.4%), knew the correct year. And while 34.3% of the individuals with a high school degree or less gave the wrong answer, 20.7% of the respondents with some college/degree also gave a wrong answer.

**6. IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION IN LIFE**

A “1” to “5” scaled 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 (46.6%) of the interviewees said “5” (“very important”). The mean response was 3.8.

In reply to this same question in the 2005 Poll, the mean response was 3.6 and a plurality (41.7%) of the respondents replied “5.” In last year’s survey the mean reply was 3.7 and a plurality (42.4%) said “very important.”

**IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION IN LIFE**

<u>1-Not Important</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5-Very Important</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean of All</u>
<b>10.9%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>46.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3.8</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (68.9%) of Republicans and pluralities of independents (39.2%) and Democrats (32.3%) replied “very important (“5”) to this question. And 21.5% of Democrats, 11.3% of independents and 1.9% of Republican responded “not important at all” (“1”) to this query.
- A majority of women (53.9%) and plurality of men (38.4%) replied “5.” And while 13.1% of males answered “1,” 8.3% of females also chose this response.

**7. BELIEF IN EXISTENCE OF UFO’S**

A plurality (49.8%) of those interviewed answered “no” when asked, “[d]o you believe in the existence of UFO’s?”

## BELIEF IN EXISTENCE OF UFO'S

Yes	No	Undecided	Total
35.3%	49.8%	14.9%	100%

### Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority of respondents 49 and younger (60.7%) did not believe in UFO's, while a plurality (43.4%) of those 50 or older expressed this same belief.

## V. CHRISTMAS SPENDING

Just over one-half of the respondents who answered the overall spending question (51.4%) expected to spend about the same amount of money this holiday season as they did last season. There was no statistically significant difference found based upon education, income, gender or political partisanship.

Similar spending questions were asked concerning internet-based shopping and the purchase of gift cards. Results in general followed the pattern of overall spending plans with “the same as last year” being the most frequent response and the percentage stating “less than last year” was reported two or more times as frequently as “more than last year.”

### 1. AMOUNT PLANNING ON SPENDING FOR CHRISTMAS

A question about Christmas spending was worded: “Thinking of all the gifts you purchased for others or yourself last Christmas season, do you believe that [this year] you will spend more than last year, less than last year, or about the same as last year?” A majority (51.5%) of those answering this question replied “same than” last year.

#### AMOUNT PLANNING ON SPENDING FOR CHRISTMAS

<u>More than Last Year</u>	<u>Same as Last Year</u>	<u>Less Than Last Year</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
13.1%	51.5%	32.7%	2.7%	100%

### 2. PLANNED INTERNET SPENDING FOR CHRISTMAS

A plurality (39.8%) of those interviewed replied “about the same” when asked: “This Christmas, will you spend more money purchasing gifts over the Internet than you did last year?”

**PLANNED INTERNET SPENDING FOR CHRISTMAS**

<u>Spend More</u>	<u>Same As Last Year</u>	<u>Less Than Last Year</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>11.9%</b>	<b>39.8%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**3. PLANNED SPENDING ON GIFT CARDS**

A question on gift cards was worded: “This Christmas will you spend more money purchasing gift cards than you did last Christmas?” A plurality (52.6%) of the respondents answered “about the same.”

**PLANNED SPENDING ON GIFT CARDS**

<u>More Than Last Year</u>	<u>Same As Last Year</u>	<u>Less Than Last Year</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>9.9%</b>	<b>52.6%</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>



***THE MSU-BILLINGS POLL:***

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

***NOVEMBER, 2007  
RELEASE DAY 2***

***22ND SURVEY***

***DR. CRAIG WILSON, DR. SCOTT RICKARD  
DR. DAN LENNON  
CO-DIRECTORS***

## INTRODUCTION

The “MSU-Billings Poll” began in 1989. From its inception through 2006, Dr. Joe Floyd, Professor of Sociology, served as Co-Director of the survey. Dr. Floyd retired this year and we would like to thank him for helping to make the polls successful. This year two new Co-Directors of the Poll, Dr. Scott Rickard, Director of the Center for Applied Economic Research and Dr. Dan Lennon (Sociology) assisted Dr. Craig Wilson, (Political Science) in conducting the poll.

This report summarizes the twenty-second “MSU-Billings Poll,” a statewide random sample telephone survey of adult Montanans conducted November 8-11. This is the eighteenth year the survey has been conducted. Students enrolled in Political Science courses at MSU-Billings completed the 412 interviews for this survey. Two part-time assistants were employed to supervise/make phone calls to assist the new leadership of the survey in to complete the project in a timely manner. Only adult Montanans were surveyed. The survey was completed using random digit dial methodology, which selects both the phone numbers and members of a household to interview. The poll was conducted by 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 at 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 affect survey results. Statistical tests were employed to determine whether statistically significant relationships ( $p=.05$ ) existed between key variables. In terms of gender, the male-female composition of the respondents was about 49% - 51%.

# I. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

## 1. VOTE FOR PRESIDENT

When asked, “[i]f you were voting for the office of U. S. President today, do you think you would support the Republican or Democratic candidate,” a plurality (32.5%) of the interviews said “Democrat.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

### VOTE FOR PRESIDENT

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Depends on Nominee</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
29.1%	32.5%	24.7%	3.4%	10.3%	100%

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (72.2%) of Republicans planned on voting for the GOP nominee, a majority (78.5%) of Democrats for their party’s selection, and a plurality (37.1%) of independents said it “depends on the nominee.”
- A majority (58.1%) of individuals identifying religion at a “1” (not at all important) planned on voting for the Democratic nominee. In contrast, a plurality (40.3%) of respondents choosing “5” (very important in their life) on the religion question said they would vote for the Republican candidate.

## 2. OPINIONS OF MAJOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

The poll respondents were asked to state whether they had a “positive or negative perception” of “some, but not all, of the major Republican Democratic candidates running for their parties’ nomination for President.” The candidates present or past elective office title was given, but their political party identification was not. The six candidates included former U. S. Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, Arizona U. S. Senator John McCain, Illinois Senator Barack Obama, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, New York Senator Hilary Clinton and former New York City Mayor Rudolf Guliani. Senator McCain received the highest percentage positive rating (49.4%) and Senator Clinton the most negative (59%) evaluation.

## MAJOR REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

<u>Candidate Name</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Neither Positive/Negative</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>John McCain</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>23.5%</b>	<b>37.5%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Rudolf Guliani</b>	<b>39.5%</b>	<b>44.2%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- **John McCain**
- A majority (60.2%) of Republicans and pluralities of independents (49.5%) and Democrats (40.9%) expressed positive opinions of the Senator
- A majority (54.1%) of respondents with some college or more viewed McCain positively, as did a plurality (42.6%) of individuals with a high school degree or less. More individuals with less than a high school education (14.2%), compared to those with some college or more (4.5%) were undecided about their opinion of the Senator.
- **Mitt Romney**
- A plurality (36.1%) of Republicans had a positive view of Romney, while a majority (54.8%) of Democrats and plurality (34.8%) of independents held negative opinions of him.
- A larger plurality of men (42.9%) than women (32.8%) viewed Romney negatively. And more females (22.1%) than males (11.1%) were undecided about their perception of this candidate.
- A larger plurality of interviewees with some college or more (39.3%), than a high school degree or less (35.5%), held negative views of Romney. And more of those with a high school education or less (25.8%), than some college or more (10.7%), were undecided regarding their opinion of the former Governor.
- **Rudolf Guliani**
- A majority (52.8%) of Republicans liked the former mayor, a majority (61.3%) of Democrats and plurality of independents (43.5%) did not.
- A majority (51.9%) of interviewees aged 50 or more held a positive opinion of Guliani, while a plurality (48.9%) of those younger than 50 viewed the former mayor negatively.

## MAJOR DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

<u>Candidate Name</u>	<u>Neither</u>			<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Positive/Negative</u>		
<b>John Edwards</b>	<b>35.6%</b>	<b>35.1%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>47.4%</b>	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Hilary Clinton</b>	<b>30.9%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- **John Edwards**
- A majority (59.1%) of Democrats perceived Edwards positively, while a majority (53.7%) of Republicans and plurality of independents (33.9%) viewed him negatively.
- A plurality of women (37.7%) had a positive view of Edwards, while a plurality of men (42.4%) held a negative perception of him.
- **Barack Obama**
- A majority (66.7%) of Democrats and plurality (46.9%) of independents expressed positive opinions about the Senator, while a plurality (42.6%) of Republicans held negative sentiments.
- A majority (52%) of respondents with some college education or more had a positive view of Senator Obama, as did a plurality (41.3%) of those with a high school degree or less.
- **Hilary Clinton**
- A majority (58.1%) of Democrats viewed the Senator positively, majorities of Republicans (84.3%) and independents (57.5%) did not.
- A larger majority of individuals aged 49 and under (64.7%), than those 50 and older (55.9%), expressed negative opinions about the Senator.
- A larger majority of men (62.1%) than women (55.9%) expressed negative perceptions of Clinton.

### **3. VOTE FOR WOMAN FOR PRESIDENT**

A majority (83.7%) of the interviewees replied “yes” when asked, would “you vote for a woman candidate for president of the U.S.?”

## VOTE FOR WOMAN FOR PRESIDENT

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>83.7%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A larger majority of interviewees aged 49 and younger (85.7%), than over 50 (83%) said they could vote for a woman.
- Somewhat more women (84.3%) than men (88.3%) said they would vote for a woman. And more males (12.1%) than females (10.8%) said they would not support a woman.

## **II. STATE ISSUES**

### **1. VOTE 2008 MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION**

A plurality of the respondents (35%) said “undecided” when asked, “[i]n terms of electing a representative to the Montana House of Representatives, if the 2008 general election were held today do you think you would vote for the Republican or the Democratic candidate in your district?” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

In last year’s survey 42.5% of the respondents favored a Republican candidate, while 38.2% of those surveyed for the 2005 Poll said “Democrat.”

### **VOTE IN 2008 MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION**

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>31%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority (80.6%) of Democrats planned on voting for their party’s candidate, a majority (79.1%) of Republicans for a GOP candidate, while a plurality (47.8%) of independents were undecided about their vote.

**2. SHOULD PRIVATE HYDROELECTRIC DAMS IN MONTANA PAY RENT?**

A majority (57%) of Montanans surveyed answered “yes” when asked: “Do you believe that privately owned hydroelectric dams in Montana should pay rent for using riverbeds of navigable rivers to produce electricity?”

**SHOULD PRIVATE HYDROELECTRIC DAMS IN MONTANA PAY RENT?**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>57%</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Democrats (62.9%) and independents (62.9%) felt the dams should pay rent, as did a plurality (41.7%) of Republicans.
- Slightly more women (56.9%) women than men (56.6%) felt that rent should be paid by dam owners. But more females (28%) than males (15.7%) were undecided on this issue.

**3. PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE IN MONTANA**

In reply to the query: “[d]o you believe that terminally ill Montanans should be able to legally have a physician assist them in ending their lives?” a majority (56%) of those answering the questions replied “yes.”

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE IN MONTANA**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>56.3%</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Democrats (65.6%) and independents (63.4%) supported the proposed practice, a plurality (42.6%) of Republicans opposed it.
- 95.3% of the least religious group (those choosing “1”) were most likely to favor assisted suicide. Those in the most religious group (“5”) were also most likely to oppose (47.7%) this proposal.

### **III. GENERAL QUESTIONS**

#### **1. ATTENDED LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTING EVENTS**

A majority (56.3%) of the respondents said “yes” in reply to the question: “Have you attended a local high school sporting event during the last year?”

#### **ATTENDED LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTING EVENT DURING LAST YEAR**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>56.3%</b>	<b>43.4%</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### **2. INTRAVENOUS DRUGS FOR DEATH PENALTY**

A question regarding the death penalty was phrased: “Do you believe the use of intravenous drugs to administer the death penalty to individuals convicted of crimes in some U. S. states amounts to cruel and unusual punishment?” A majority (81%) of the respondents answered “no.”

#### **INTRAVENOUS DRUGS FOR DEATH PENALTY CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>11.4%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### **3. HAVE CELL PHONE**

A majority (76.3%) of those interviewed said “yes” when asked: “Do you presently have and use a cell phone?”

#### **HAVE A CELL PHONE**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>76.3%</b>	<b>23.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A larger majority (84.2%) of interviewees under age 50, compared to those over (72.6%) this age, had cell phones.

**A. MORE PHONE CALLS OR TEXT MESSAGES ON PHONE**

Only those who said they had a phone were asked: “During an average week do you make more phone calls, or send more text messages on your phone?” A majority (93.5%) of those having cell phones answered “phone calls.” The results for this question has a margin of error greater than +/- 5%.

**MORE PHONE CALL OR TEXT MESSAGES**

<u>Phone Calls</u>	<u>Text Messages</u>	<u>Same Amount</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>93.5%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Individuals older than age 50 (96.4%) with cell phones more often made phone calls than those aged 49 or less (88.4%). In comparison, those polled under 50 were more apt to use text messaging (10.7%), than those over (1%) this age.

**4. YEAR 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS OCCURRED**

A knowledge question was worded: “Can you tell me what year the 9/11 terrorist attack occurred in the U. S.?” A majority (67.6%) of those interviewed knew “2001” was the correct answer.

**YEAR 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACK OCCURRED**

<u>2001 (Right Answer)</u>	<u>Wrong Answer</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>67.6%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- More individuals with some college/degree (73.7%) than those with a high school degree or less (57.4%), knew the correct year. And while 34.3% of the individuals with a high school degree or less gave the wrong answer, 20.7% of the respondents with some college/degree also gave a wrong answer.

**5. IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION IN LIFE**

A “1” to “5” scaled 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 (46.6%) of the interviewees said “5” (“very important”). The mean response was 3.8.

In reply to this same question in the 2005 Poll, the mean response was 3.6 and a plurality (41.7%) of the respondents replied “5.” In last year’s survey the mean reply was 3.7 and a plurality (42.4%) said “very important.”

**IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION IN LIFE**

<u>1-Not Important</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5-Very Important</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean of All</u>
<b>10.9%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>46.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3.8</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (68.9%) of Republicans and pluralities of independents (39.2%) and Democrats (32.3%) replied “very important (“5”) to this question. And 21.5% of Democrats, 11.3% of independents and 1.9% of Republican responded “not important at all” (“1”) to this query.
- A majority of women (53.9%) and plurality of men (38.4%) replied “5.” And while 13.1% of males answered “1,” 8.3% of females also chose this response.

**6. BELIEF IN EXISTENCE OF UFO’S**

A plurality (49.8%) of those interviewed answered “no” when asked, “[d]o you believe in the existence of UFO’s?”

**BELIEF IN EXISTENCE OF UFO’S**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>35.3%</b>	<b>49.8%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority of respondents 49 and younger (60.7%) did not believe in UFO’s, while a plurality (43.4%) of those 50 or older expressed this same belief.

#### **IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

##### **1. SHOULD FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALLOW STATES TO TERMINATE WOLVES**

A majority (64%) of those interviewed replied “yes” when asked the question: “Do you believe that states should be allowed by the federal government to terminate wolves as part of a wolf control plan?”

##### **SHOULD FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALLOW STATES TO TERMINATE WOLVES**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>64%</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Majorities of Republicans (76.9%) and independents (69.6%) backed terminating some wolves, a plurality (46.2%) of Democrats opposed the plan.

##### **2. LIMITING NUMBER OF SNOWMOBILES IN YELLOWSTONE PARK**

A question about snowmobiles read: “Do you feel that attempts by Yellowstone Park officials to impose a daily limit of 540 snowmobiles entering the park is too few, about the right number, or too many snowmobiles entering the park per day?” A plurality (37.3%) of those surveyed replied “about right.”

##### **LIMITING NUMBER OF SNOWMOBILES IN YELLOWSTONE PARK**

<u>Too Few</u>	<u>About Right Amount</u>	<u>Too Many</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>15.8%</b>	<b>37.3%</b>	<b>30.9%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A plurality (46.2%) of Democrats replied “too many,” while pluralities of Republicans (41.7%) and independents (36.6%) felt there were “about the right number” of snowmobiles.

**3. AMOUNT OF FEDERAL WILDERNESS LAND IN MONTANA**

A plurality (49.6%) of those interviewed said “about the right amount” when asked, “[d]o you believe that Montana contains too little, about the right amount, or too much federal land designated as wilderness areas?”

**AMOUNT OF FEDERAL WILDERNESS LAND IN MONTANA**

<u>Too Little</u>	<u>About Right Amount</u>	<u>Too Much</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>21.5%</b>	<b>49.6%</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- More men (52%) than women (47%) felt Montana has “about the right amount of wilderness.” But more females (16.2%) than males (8.6%) were undecided about this issue.

**4. SERIOUSNESS OF GLOBAL WARMING**

A query regarding global warming was worded: “On a scale of 1-5, where “1” represents “not serious at all” and “5” represents “very serious,” how serious do you think the issue of global warming is?” A plurality (38.5%) of the respondents replied “5” (“very serious”). The mean response was 3.61

**SERIOUSNESS OF GLOBAL WARMING**

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>11.8%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority (60.2%) of Democrats felt global warming was “very serious” (“5”) as did a plurality (38.7%) of independents. The same number of Republicans chose “very serious” (4-22%) as “moderately serious” (“3”) on this scaled question.