MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
BILLINGS

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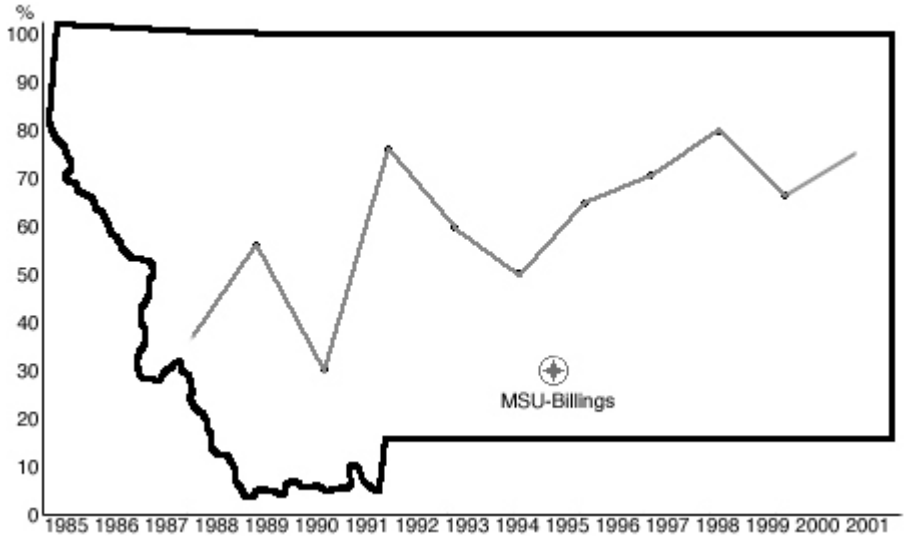
# THE MSU-Billings Poll
# November 2001





## Dr. Craig Wilson
## And
## Dr. Joe Floyd, Co-Directors

The "MSU-Billings Poll" is available on our website
http://www.msubillings.edu/spn/poll01.html

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Gretchen Brien | Joe Kerwin |
| Vern Carpenter | Larry LaFountain |
| Scarlett Chandler | Katie LeCaptain |
| Nick Christen | Mike Littleton |
| Shannon Dolley | Jason Maehl |
| Gary Farnsworth | Kassidy Olson |
| Alicia Foos | Nicole Weimar |
| | Joey White |

## INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the sixteenth "MSU-Billings Poll", a statewide random sample telephone survey of adult Montanans conducted November 1 - 4, 2001. This is the twelfth year the survey has been conducted. The students enrolled in Sociology 493, Applied Survey Research and Political Science 350, Public Opinion and Polling, completed the 413 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.

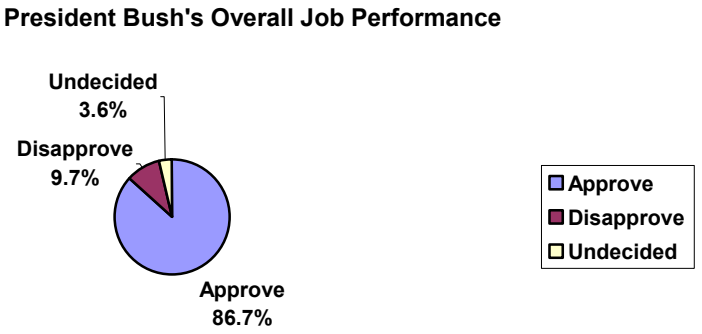
Statistical tests were employed to determine whether statistically significant relationships (p=.05) existed between key variables.

# I. NATIONAL ISSUES

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

Last year George W. Bush was one of seven candidates running for president in Montana. He won 58% of the state's popular vote.

This is the first year the "MSU-Billings Poll" has asked about President Bush's overall job performance. In response to the question "[a]t this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of George W. Bush's overall performance in office", a majority (86.7%) of the respondents replied "approve".




**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- Majorities of Republicans (97.7%), independents (88.9%) and Democrats (69.6%) expressed positive views of the president.
- More men (90.6%) than women (82.6%) had a positive opinion of Bush.
- A majority (65.6%) of these with a favorable approval of Bush viewed the Florida decision in the presidential race fair, while a majority (77.5%) of those with an unfavorable opinion of Bush regarded what happened in Florida as not fair.
- A plurality (46.6%) of respondents viewing Bush favorably thought the U. S. war spending "too little" on defense, while a plurality (42.5%) of those with an unfavorable view of Bush felt military spending was "about right."
- A majority (62.6%) of those with a positive view of Bush felt the U.S. campaign against terrorism was being successful and a plurality (40%) of those with a negative perspective on Bush also agreed about the success against terror.

## 2. Disputed Presidential Election in Florida

In reply to the query, "[d]o you think the legal resolution of the dispute over the presidential election in Florida that allowed George W. Bush to be elected president was fair?," a majority (60%) answered "yes."

**Decision in Presidential Election in Florida Fair**

| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 60% | 29.3% | 10.7% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- More males (65%) than females (55.1%) regarded the Florida decision as fair.

- While majorities of Republicans (78.6%) and independents (66.7%) felt the decision was fair, a majority of Democrats (61.5%) viewed it as unfair.

## 3. Level of U. S. Military Spending

When asked if "[a]t the present time…the United States is spending too much, too little, or about the right amount of money on our armed forces" a plurality (42.9%) of those answering this question said "too little." The results for this question fall into the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey. In an identical question asked in last year's survey, a plurality (49.9%) of those polled said "too little" was being spent.

**Level of U. S. Military Spending**

| Too Much | Too Little | About Right | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6.2% | 42.9% | 40% | 10.9% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A plurality of males (47.8%) felt the U. S. was spending "too little on defense," a plurality of females (40.6%) said "about right."
- A majority or plurality of every age cohort, except a plurality of those aged 18-36 who said "about right" (47.9%), felt the U. S. was spending "too little" on defense. Those aged 56-66 (54.8%) were most likely to say "too little."
- A majority of Republicans (53%) and plurality of independents (40%) replied "too little" was being spent, a majority of Democrats (53.3%) said "about right."

## 4. U. S. Position on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

A plurality (40.2%) of those polled replied "Israel" when asked a question about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: "In recent years do you think the United States has favored the Palestinians, favored Israel or acted fairly toward both?" In last year's poll in reply to a question asked about who bore the "most responsibility" for the Middle East crisis, a plurality of those answering (33.7%) replied "both" (Israel and Palestinians).

**U. S. Position on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

| Favored Palestinians | Favored Israel | Fair to Both | Unfair Both | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3.1% | 40.2% | 29.8% | 2.7% | 24.2% | 100% |

## 5. Effectiveness of Interest Rate Cuts by Federal Reserve

When those interviewed were asked if they felt "that recent interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve have helped the U. S. economy," a plurality (44.6%) said "yes."

**Effectiveness of Interest Rate Cuts by Federal Reserve**

| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 44.6% | 35.4% | 20% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- Those most likely to think the interest rate cuts had helped were aged 37-55 (51.7%), those most apt to say they had not worked were in the 56-66 age (43.5%) cohort.
- A majority of independents (55.6%) and plurality of Republicans (47.9%) felt the rate reductions had helped, a plurality of Democrats (45.2%) said they had not.

## 6. Selective Service Registration by Women

A majority (53%) of the interviewees said "yes" when asked: "Should women of draft age have to register with selective service in the same way men do?"

**Selective Service Registration by Women**

| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 53% | 40.9% | 6.1% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- Gender, age and political party affiliation were not related to opinions about draft registration.
- While a majority (66.7%) of those favoring women registering for a possible draft felt they should be allowed in combat, a majority (59.8%) who opposed female registration did not think they should serve in combat roles.

## 7. U. S. Military Service Women Serving in Combat

In reply to the question "[s]hould women in the U. S. military be subject to serving in combat to the same extent as men?" a majority (53.3%) of those polled answered "yes."

**U. S. Military Service Women Serving in Combat Like Men**

| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 53.3% | 42.6% | 4.1% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- Those most likely to support women in combat roles were females aged 18-36 (71.4%), while the gender/age group most opposed to this possibility were 56-66 (54.8%) year old males.

# II. TERRORIST ATTACKS ON U. S.

## 1. Quality of Media Coverage of Events

When asked a 1-10 scaled question, where "1" represented "poor" and "10" "excellent," about how the respondents "would…rate the overall quality of the coverage of the terrorist attacks and subsequent events by the U. S. media," a majority (62.6%) to some extent (6-10) rated the coverage as "good." The mean response was 6.4.

**Quality of Media Coverage of Events**

| Poor (1-5) | Good (6-10) | Total | Mean Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 37.4% | 62.6% | 100% | 6.4 |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- Those with 1-11 years of education rated the media the highest (8.6), while the lowest evaluation was given by those with a post-graduate education (5.5).

## 2. Amount of U. S. Government Information on Biological Attacks

A plurality (45.3%) of those responding to the question said "about right" when asked their opinion about "the amount of information being provided by the U. S. government regarding biological attacks in the United States…"

**Amount of U. S. Government Information on Biological Attacks**

| Too Little | About Right Amount | Too Much | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23.7% | 45.3% | 25.2% | 5.8% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority of Republicans (51.2%) and plurality of Democrats (41.5%) felt the government was providing "about the right amount" of information, while a plurality of independents (37.8%) said there was "too much" information.
- In terms of gender/age males ages 18-36 were most likely to say there had been "too little" coverage (38.1%), males 67+ were most prone to respond "about right" (66.7%) and men aged 56-66 most often replied "too much" (32.3%).

## 3. Level of Surprise About Biological Attacks on U.S.

In reply to the question "[h]ow surprised are you that the U. S. has been attacked with biological weapons," a majority of those surveyed (67.6%) answered "not surprised at all."

**Degree of Surpise About Biological Attacks on U.S.**

| Not Surprised at All | Somewhat Surprised | Very Surprised | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 67.6% | 14.8% | 15% | 2.6% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- In terms of gender/age, males 37-55 years old were most likely to "not be surprised" (76.6%) by the attacks, while males 67+ were most prone to say they had been "very surprised" (33.3%).

## 4. Opinion About U. S. Government Removing Taliban Government from Power

A majority (92%) of those polled said "support" when asked if they "support or oppose the U.S. government attempting to remove the Taliban government from power in Afghanistan."

**U.S. Government Removing Taliban From Power**

| Support | Oppose | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 92% | 5.1% | 2.9% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- More Republicans (95.3%) than Democrats (90.4%) or independents (82.2%) backed removing the Taliban.
- A majority (87.4%) of those who backed removing the Taliban from power also supported using ground forces, while a majority (57.1%) of respondents who opposed removing the Taliban were against employing ground forces.

- A majority (62.4%) who favored removing the Taliban felt the campaign against terrorism had been "successful," while a majority (52.4%) of those opposed to removing the Taliban felt the campaign had been "unsuccessful."

## 5. Arming U. S. Commercial Airline Pilots

When asked if they felt "commercial airline pilots in the United States should be armed with firearms in order to present future hijackings," a majority (54.2%) of those interviewed said "yes."

**Arming U. S. Commercial Airline Pilots**

| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 54.2% | 41.9% | 3.9% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- Majorities of independents (68.9%) and Republicans (60%) favored arming pilots, while a majority of Democrats (53.3%) opposed this possibility.

## 6. Support U. S. Military Ground Forces in Afghanistan

A majority (83.3%) of those answering a question about whether they supported or opposed "the use of U. S. military ground forces in Afghanistan" replied "yes."

**Support U. S. Military Ground Forces in Afghanistan**

| Support | Oppose | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 83.3% | 11.9% | 4.8% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- More males (86.7%) than females (80.2%) backed using ground forces, while women (7.2%) were more likely than men (2%) to be undecided about this activity.

### A. Support Ground Forces if Suffer Significant Casualties

Only those who replied "support" to the above query were asked a branching question about whether they would "continue to support the use of U.S. ground forces in Afghanistan if these forces suffered significant casualties." A majority (79.3%) replied "yes." (This question has a larger margin of error because it was asked of a subset of the interview panel.)

**Support Ground Forces if Suffer Significant Casualties**

| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 79.3% | 13.7% | 7% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- More men (88.1%) than women (70.5%) would accept significant casualties, while women (11.4%) were more undecided than men (2.8%) about this issue.

## 7. Cease U. S. Bombing During Ramadan

When asked if they thought "the U. S. should cease bombing Afghanistan during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which occurs during parts of November and December," a majority (80.1%) answering the question said "no."

| Cease U. S. Bombing During Ramadan | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
| 15.3% | 80.1% | 4.6% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- Republicans (86.5%) and independents (80%) were more likely to oppose a bombing pause than were Democrats (73.3%).
- Those most supportive of a bombing hiatus were aged 18-36 (21%), those most opposed were the 56-66 (88.7%) age cohort.

## 8. What Should be Done With Osama Bin Laden?

A plurality (47.2%) of those questioned said "killed" when asked: "If U.S. ground forces encounter Osama Bin Laden during military action in Afghanistan, do you feel that an attempt should be made to capture him so he can be put on trial for his role in the terrorist attacks, or do you think he should be killed as a combatant?"

| What Should Be Done With Osama Bid Laden? | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captured | Killed | Depends | Undecided | Total |
| 35.6% | 47.2% | 14.8% | 2.4% | 100% |

## 9. Opinion About U. S. Success Against Terrorism

A majority (59.6%) of those surveyed said "successful" when asked "[h]ow successful do you think our campaign against terrorism will be?"

| Opinion About U. S. Success Against Terrorism | |
|---|---|
| Very Unsuccessful | 2.9% |
| Unsuccessful | 17.9% |
| Successful | 59.6% |
| Very Successful | 14.8% |
| Undecided | 4.8% |
| Total | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- Majorities of Republicans (61.9%), Democrats (57%) and independents (53.3%) felt the campaign would be "successful."

## 10. Length of War Against Terror

When asked "[h]ow long do you think we will be involved in our current war again terror," a majority (52.1%) of the respondents replied "over 5 years."

| Length of War Against Terror | |
|---|---|
| Less Than 6 Months | 1.5% |
| Less Than 1 Year | 5.8% |
| Less Than 3 Years | 18.9% |
| Less Than 5 Years | 14.0% |
| Over 5 Years | 52.1% |
| Undecided | 7.7% |
| Total | 100% |

## 11. Since Terrorist Attacks Are You Nicer to People?

A majority (57.1%) of those surveyed said "no" when queried: "Since the terrorist attacks on September 11th, have you found yourself being nicer to people?"

| Nicer to People Since Terrorist Attacks | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No | Maybe | Yes | Undecided | Total |
| 57.1% | 5.6% | 36.1% | 1.2% | 100% |

## 12. Increased Religions Activities Since Terrorist Attacks

When asked "[s]ince the terrorist attacks on September 11th," if they had "increased [their] participation in religious activities such as attending church or praying," a majority (76%) of the interviewees replied "no."

| Increased Religions Activities Since Terrorist Attacks | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
| 22.8% | 76% | 1.2% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- While a majority (57.1%) of those with 1-11 years of education said they had "increased" their religious activities, majorities of every other educational grouping said this had not been the case with them.
- More women (30%) than men (15.3%) had increased their religious activities.

## 13. Tried to Purchase a Gas Mask

A majority (99.5%) of those polled said "no" when asked: "Since the September 11th attacks have you or any member of your immediate family purchased or tried to purchase a gas mask?"

| Tried to Purchase a Gas Mask | | |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | No | Total |
| .5% | 99.5% | 100% |

## 14. Acquired Antibiotics for Possible Biological Attack

When asked if "any member of your immediate family acquired a supply of antibiotics in preparation for a biological attack," a majority (99.5%) of the respondents said "no."

| Acquired Antibiotics for Possible Biological Attack | | |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | No | Total |
| .5% | 99.5% | 100% |

## 15. Made Monetary Contribution to New York Terrorist Attack Relief Effort

A majority (58.6%) of those polled said they had "personally made a monetary contribution to the relief efforts in New York," since the September 11th attacks.

| Made Monetary Contribution to New York Relief Effort | | |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | No | Total |
| 58.6% | 41.4% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- Those most likely to have made a monetary contribution lived in households earning $75,000-$100,000 a year (69.6%), while those most likely not to have given money lived in homes earning less than $10,000 a year (29.6%).

## 16. Cancelled or Postponed Travel Plans Due to Terrorist Attacks

When asked if they had "cancelled or postponed any travel plans because of the terrorist attacks," a majority (91.8%) of the interviewees replied "no."

| Cancelled or Postponed Travel Plans Due to Terrorist Attacks | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
| 8% | 91.8% | .2% | 100% |

## 17. Personally Knew Victim of Terrorist Attacks

In reply to a question "[d]o you personally know anyone who was killed or injured in the September 11th attacks," a majority (90.8%) of those polled replied "no."

| Personally Know Victim of Terrorist Attack | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
| 8.7% | 90.8% | .5% | 100% |

# III. TERRORIST ATTACKS AND PERSONAL FREEDOM

A series of questions were asked of the interview panel about their opinions regarding a possible decrease in personal freedom because of the terrorist attacks.

## 1. Concern About Homeland Security Limiting Civil Liberties

In reply to a question asking "[h]ow concerned are you that homeland security efforts on the part of the United States government may go too far in limiting our civil

liberties," a plurality (35.6%) of those interviewed said they were "unconcerned." The results of this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

| Concern About Homeland Security Limiting Civil Liberties | |
|---|---|
| **Very Unconcerned** | **16.0%** |
| **Unconcerned** | **35.6%** |
| **Concerned** | **33.2%** |
| **Very Concerned** | **12.6%** |
| **Undecided** | **2.6%** |
| **Total** | **100%** |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A plurality (47%) of those "very unconcerned" about civil liberties were willing to accept "moderate restrictions" on e-mail and Internet privacy, while a plurality (30.8%) of respondents who were "very concerned" about civil liberties were willing to accept only a "few restrictions" on these activities.
- A plurality (37.9%) of respondents "very unconcerned" about civil liberties would abide by "moderate restrictions" on their telephone privacy, while a majority (57.7%) of those "very concerned" with civil liberties wanted "no restrictions" on phone privacy.
- A plurality (36.4%) of interviewees "very unconcerned" about civil liberties would accept "moderate restrictions" on their financial privacy, while a plurality (44.2%) of those "very concerned" with civil liberties wanted "no restrictions" on financial activities.
- A majority (80.3%) of those "very unconcerned" with civil liberties would allow searches of their "person, property and papers" before entering public facilities. A plurality (48.1%) of those "very concerned" about civil liberties would also accept these same limitations.
- Concern about civil liberties was not related to feelings regarding personal safety.

## 2. Civil Rights Willing to Give Up For Tighter Security

Those polled were asked four questions about their willingness to give up specific civil rights in support of tighter security following the terrorist attacks.

### A. Willingness to Limit Internet and E-Mail Privacy

A plurality (40.4%) of the respondents said they would be willing to accept "moderate restrictions" on their "right of privacy in Internet and e-mail transactions."

| Willingness to Give Up Internet and E-mail Privacy | |
|---|---|
| **No Restrictions** | **12.9%** |
| **Few Restrictions** | **25.2%** |
| **Moderate Restrictions** | **40.4%** |
| **Severe Restrictions** | **12.9%** |
| **Undecided** | **8.9%** |
| **Total** | **100%** |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- The 18-36 age group was most likely (17.6%) to favor "no restrictions" on e-mail and Internet privacy, while the 56-66 cohort was most willing (19.4%) to agree to "severe restrictions".
- Urban residents (16.2%) were more likely to want "no restrictions" compared to their rural brethren (6.8%), while rural (15%) Montanans were more accepting of "severe restrictions" than urban dwellers (11.7%).

## B. Willingness to Limit Telephone Conversation Privacy

When asked if they "would…be willing to give up" a "right to privacy in telephone conversations," a plurality (30.8%) of the interviewees said they would accept "moderate restrictions." The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

| Willingness to Give Up Telephone Conversation Privacy | |
|---|---|
| **No Restrictions** | **28.1%** |
| **Few Restrictions** | **27.6%** |
| **Moderate Restrictions** | **30.8%** |
| **Severe Restrictions** | **11.9%** |
| **Undecided** | **1.6%** |
| **Total** | **100%** |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- Pluralities of independents (42.2%) and Republicans (34%) would accept "moderate restrictions" on telephone privacy, while a plurality of Democrats (37.8%) wanted only a "few restrictions."
- A plurality of men (28.6%) wanted "no restrictions," while a plurality (34.3%) of women would accept "moderate restrictions."

## C. Willingness to Give Up Financial Transaction Privacy

A plurality (31%) of those surveyed said they would be willing to accept a "few restrictions" in their "right to privacy in financial transactions" in support of "tighter security." The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

| Willingness to Give Up Financial Transaction Privacy | |
|---|---|
| **No Restrictions** | **28.1%** |
| **Few Restrictions** | **31.0%** |
| **Moderate Restrictions** | **28.3%** |
| **Severe Restrictions** | **9.7%** |
| **Undecided** | **2.9%** |
| **Total** | **100%** |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- The age group most in favor of "no restrictions" was aged 67+ (40%), while the cohort most willing to agree to "severe restrictions" was the 37-55 (11.7%) age group.

## D. Willing to Allow Searches of Person, Property or Papers

When those polled were asked if they "[w]ould be willing to allow searches of your person, property and papers in order to enter certain public places?" a majority (65.2%) responded "yes."

| Willing to Allow Searcher of Person, Property or Papers | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Yes** | **No** | **Maybe** | **Undecided** | **Total** |
| **65.2%** | **23%** | **11.1%** | **.7%** | **100%** |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- Those most willing to accept searches came from households making more than $100,000 a year (85%), while individuals in households earning less than $10,000 a year (44.4%) were most opposed to such searches.

### 3. How Safe Do You Feel In Your Community?

A majority (61.7%) of those responding to the question said "very safe" when asked "[h]ow safe do you feel in your community." In last year's poll in response to an identical question, a plurality (49.4%) of those polled said "very safe," 2.7% answered "unsafe" and 6.9% said "very unsafe."

| How Safe Do You Feel In Your Community | |
|---|---|
| Very Unsafe | 2.2% |
| Unsafe | 1.5% |
| Safe | 34.4% |
| Very Safe | 61.7% |
| Undecided | .2% |
| Total | 100% |

## IV. STATE ISSUES

### 1. Job Performance of Statewide Electoral Officials

Questions were asked of the interviewees about whether they had a "favorable or unfavorable opinion of the performance in office" of Governor Judy Martz, U.S. House Representative Dennis Rehberg and U.S. Senators Max Baucus and Conrad Burns.

#### A. Job Performance of Governor Martz

A plurality (37.8%) of the respondents held an "unfavorable" opinion of Governor Martz's job performance. The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

| Governor Martz's Job Performance | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Favorable | Unfavorable | Undecided | Total |
| 36.6% | 37.8% | 25.6% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- In terms of gender/age, among males Governor Martz had the highest approval rating with men aged 67+ (53.3%) and the most negative male evaluation among 18-36 (42.9%) year old men. Among women, Martz was most liked by the aged 67+ (48.6%) group, while she elicited the most unfavorable evaluation among women in the 56-66 (45.2%) group.
- A plurality of urban dwellers gave the Governor an unfavorable (45.5%) evaluation, while a plurality of rural residents positively rated the job she is doing (44.9%).
- In terms of education Martz was viewed most favorably by those with 1-11 (50%) years of education and most unfavorably by respondents with a post-graduate education (57.7%).
- Pluralities of Republicans (48.4%) and independents (40%) expressed favorable opinions about the Governor, while a majority of Democrats (66.7%) had an unfavorable view of her job performance.

- A plurality of those supporting developing coal generating plants rated the Governor favorably (45.8%), while a majority of those opposing the plants rated her performance unfavorably (60.3%).
- While a plurality (40.7%) of those who did not want to ban snowmobiles from Yellowstone Park had a favorable opinion of the Governor, a majority (50.4%) of individuals favoring the removal of the machines expressed an unfavorable opinion about her job performance.

## B. Job Performance of Senator Baucus

A majority (53%) of those interviewed rated Senator Baucus' job performance as "favorable."

**Senator Baucus's Job Performance**

| Favorable | Unfavorable | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 53% | 24.7% | 22.3% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- In terms of gender/age Senator Baucus had a majority or plurality favorable job approval rating among all groups. Among women he had the highest approval rating with those aged 56-66 (71%) group, while the male group viewing him most favorably was aged 56-66 (51.6%).
- Majorities of Democrats (65.2%) and independents (53.3%) held a favorable opinion of Baucus, as did a plurality (46.5%) of Republicans.
- A majority (60%) of the residents of the former eastern congressional district had a favorable opinion of Baucus, while a plurality (48%) of the respondents from the former western district expressed the same positive opinion.
- A majority of those with a favorable opinion of Baucus supported (61.5%) new coal-fired generating plants. A majority (66.7%) of individuals with a negative opinion of the Senator also supported new plants.
- A majority of respondents giving Baucus a favorable job approval rating supported moving ahead with coalbed methane gas development with reasonable restrictions (66.7%). A majority of those evaluating him negatively (62.7%) backed this same level of development.

## C. Job Performance of Senator Burns

Of those interviewed, a majority (51.8%) held a "favorable" opinion of Senator Burns' job performance.

**Senator Burns' Job Performance**

| Favorable | Unfavorable | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 51.8% | 27.1% | 21.1% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority or plurality of all gender/age cohorts held a favorable opinion of Senator Burns' job approval rating. He had the highest approval ratings among males aged 67+ (73.3%) and among females in this same age group (71.4%).
- Burns had the highest approval rating with respondents living in household making $75,000-$100,000 a year (69.6%) and the lowest approval among respondents in households earning less than $10,000 a year (18.5%).
- Burns had the highest approval rating among those with a high school degree (59.8%) and the highest disapproval evaluation with individuals possessing a post-graduate education (40.4%).
- Majorities of Republicans (68.8%) and independents (53.3%) held favorable job approval opinions of Burns, while a majority of Democrats (53.3%) disapproved of the job he is doing.

- A majority of those opposed to a ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park approved (60.6%) of the job Burns is doing, while a plurality of those favoring the ban disapproved (42.2%) of the Senator's performance.
- A majority of respondents supporting coalbed methane gas development in Montana as "quickly as possible" held positive opinions (54.5%) of Burns job performance, while a plurality of those opposed to any development expressed an unfavorable view (48.9%) of Burns.
- A majority of respondents backing new coal fired generating plants had a favorable (62.8%) opinion of Burns, while a plurality opposing development held an unfavorable (48.7%) view of the Senator.
- Burns job approval rating was directly related to perceptions of how successful the U. S. campaign against terrorism was going. While 72.1% of those feeling the U. S. was being "very successful" against terrorism approved of Burns, only 8.3% of those who saw the campaign as "very unsuccessful" approved of the Senator.
- While a majority (54.1%) of respondents backing the use of U. S. ground forces in Afghanistan approved of Burns' job performance, a plurality (49%) of those opposing ground forces expressed an unfavorable opinion of the Senator.

### D. Job Performance of Representative Rehberg

A plurality (49.2%) of the interviewees rated Congressman Rehberg's job performance as "favorable."

**Representative Rehberg's Job Performance**

| Favorable | Unfavorable | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 49.2% | 16.9% | 33.9% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority (57.1%) of rural and plurality (44.7%) of urban dwellers held favorable opinions about Representative Rehberg's job performance.
- A majority (57.6%) of those living in the former eastern congressional district and a plurality (43.5%) of residents of the old western district approved of Rehberg.
- Rehberg received the highest favorable job performance ranking among those with 1-11 years of education (64.3%) and the lowest approval rating from interviewees with a post-graduate education (38.5%).
- Majorities of Republicans (60%) and independents (53.3%) approved of Rehberg, while a plurality (37%) of Democrats were undecided about the job he is doing.
- A majority (51.2%) of those opposed to banning snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park had a favorable view of Rehberg, as did a plurality (44.4%) of those favoring a ban.
- A majority (52.3%) backing unrestricted coalbed methane gas development had a favorable opinion of Rehberg, as did a plurality (35.6%) of those opposed to any development.
- A majority (57.3%) and plurality (42.3%) of respondents both supporting and opposed to new coal generating plants expressed favorable opinions of Rehberg's job performance.
- While 62.3% of those who felt the U. S. war on terrorism was "very successful" approved of Rehberg, only 8.3% of respondents who viewed the campaign as "very unsuccessful" approved of his performance.
- A majority (50.6%) of respondents supporting the use of U. S. ground forces in Afghanistan viewed Rehberg positively, a plurality (38.8%) of those opposing ground forces had an unfavorable opinion of him.

## 2. Cell Phone Use Illegal While Operating a Motor Vehicle

A plurality (34.1%) of the respondents said "hand-held only" when asked under what circumstances, if any, they thought "the state of Montana should make it illegal to use cell phones while operating a motor vehicle." A majority (65.1%) supported preventing either hand-held or both hand-held and hands-free use. The results to this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for the survey.

| Cell Phone Use Illegal While Operating a Motor Vehicle | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No | Yes-Both Hand-Held and Hands-Free | Yes-Hand-Held | Undecided | Total |
| 30.8% | 31% | 34.1% | 4.1% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A plurality (32.2%) of Republicans favored no ban, a plurality (41.5%) of Democrats favored banning hand-held use only and a plurality (37.8%) of independents supported preventing all cell phone use in motor vehicles..
- A plurality (41.2%) of 18-36 year olds wanted no ban, a plurality (37.2%) of those 37-55 wanted to end hand-held use only, while pluralities of the 56-66 (37.1%) and 67+ (50%) cohorts supported a complete ban.

## 3. Level of Blood Alcohol Content to Operate Motor Vehicle

A question regarding drinking and driving was phrased: "Currently, Montana law says that anyone with a blood alcohol content of .10 is too intoxicated to operate a motor vehicle. Do you think the state of Montana should lower the legal limit of blood alcohol content for motor vehicle operation from .10 to .08." A plurality (48.9%) of the respondents opposed lowering the blood alcohol level. The results to this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

| Lower Legal Blood Alcohol Content from .10 to .08 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
| 45.8% | 48.9% | 5.3% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- While males aged 37-55 (68.1%) expressed the most opposition to lowering the blood alcohol level, males in the 56-66 cohort (64.5%) expressed the most support of any age/gender group for lowering the level.

## 4. Quality of Governor Martz's Advisors

When asked to "rate the quality of Governor Judy Martz's advisors," a plurality (42.1%) of those polled said "undecided."

| Quality of Governor Martz's Advisors | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent | Undecided | Total |
| 16.9% | 22.3% | 16.2% | 2.4% | 42.1% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A plurality (48.8%) of Republicans were "undecided" about the quality of the Governor's advisors, a plurality (35.6%) of independents evaluated them as "fair" and a plurality (32.6%) of Democrats felt they were "poor."
- A majority or plurality of all age groups were "undecided" about the quality of the Governor's advisors.

## 5. Support v. Oppose New Coal-Fired Electrical Generating Plants in Montana

A majority (61.2%) of those completing the poll said "support" when asked if they would "support or oppose the development of new coal-fired electrical generating plants in Montana."

**Support Or Oppose New Coal-Fired Electrical Generating Plants in Montana**

| Support | Oppose | Undecided | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 61.2% | 18.9% | 19.9% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- Majorities of independents (73.3%) and Republicans (68.6%) supported building new plants, as did a plurality (48.1%) of Democrats.
- A majority (73.3%) of those opposing coalbed methane development also opposed new coal fired generating plants, while a majority (81.8%) favoring methane development supported new generating units.
- A majority (68%) of individuals who supported the plants opposed banning snowmobiles in Yellowstone Park, while a plurality (50%) of respondents opposed to the plants favored eliminating the snowmobiles.
- The proposed plants were most supported by those aged 67+ (70%) and elicited the strongest opposition in the 18-36 (21%) age group.
- The proposed plans were most supported by individuals living in households earning $100,000+ (70%) a year and most opposed by people residing in houses making less than $10,000 (29.6%) a year.
- More men (69%) than women (53.6%) supported the idea of new generating capacity.
- More residents of the former eastern congressional district (67.9%), than the former western district (56.9%), backed the plants.

## 6. Opinion About Developing Coalbed Methane Gas In Montana

When asked "[w]hich of the following best describes your feelings about the development of coalbed methane natural gas in Montana," a majority (63.2%) of the respondents supported "development while taking reasonable precautions to protect the environment."

**Opinion About Developing Coalbed Methane Gas In Montana**

| | |
|---|---|
| Should Not Allow | 10.8% |
| Develop-But Protect Environment | 63.2% |
| Develop As Quickly As Possible | 10.7% |
| Undecided | 15.3% |
| Total | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority of every age cohort favored allowing development while protecting the environment.
- More men (69%) than women (57%) backed allowing development with environmental protections.

## 7. Opinion on Recreational Snowmobiles in Yellowstone Park

When asked if they felt "snowmobiles should be banned from recreational use in Yellowstone National Park," a majority (59.6%) of those interviewed replied "no."

| Ban Recreational Snowmobiles From Yellowstone National Park | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
| 32.7% | 59.6% | 7.7% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority (69.8%) of Republicans and independents (57.8%) opposed a ban, while a plurality (47.4%) of Democrats supported one.
- Half (50%) of those with a post-graduate education backed a ban, while majorities of every other educational cohort opposed the proposed limitation.

### 8. Gas Stations Unfairly Raising Gasoline Prices After Terrorist Attacks

A majority (64.2%) of the interviewees said "no" when asked: "Do you think any gas stations in your community unfairly raised the price of gasoline in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks."

| Gas Stations Unfairly Raising Gasoline Prices | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | No | Undecided | Total |
| 30% | 64.2% | 5.8% | 100% |

## V. OTHER QUESTIONS

### 1. Level of Spending On Gifts For The Holiday Season

When asked how their planned level of monetary spending "on presents for the holiday season this year" will compare to "last year," a majority (66.8%) replied they would spend the "same" amount.

| Level of Spending On Gifts For The Holiday Season Compared to Last Year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| More | Same | Less | Undecided | Total |
| 6.3% | 66.8% | 25.7% | 1.2% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationship:**

- While majorities of males (70.4%) and females (63.8%) planned on spending the "same" this year as last, more women (31.7%) than men (18.7%) said they would spend "less" and more men (8.9%) than women (3.9%) answered "more."

### 2. Bobcat or Grizzly Football Fan

When asked "[w]hen the Grizzlies play the Bobcats in football which team do you usually hope will win," a plurality of those interviewed (44.7%) supported the "Grizzlies."

| Want Bobcats or Grizzlies to Win Football Game | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bobcats | Grizzlies | Don't Pay Attention | Undecided | Total |
| 28.4% | 44.7% | 21.8% | 5.1% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority (57.8%) of independents are Grizzly fans, as are pluralities of Democrats (47.4%) and Republicans (40.9%).
- A majority (54.6%) of 18-36 year olds and pluralities of the 37-55 (43.9%) and 56-66 (43.5%) cohorts are Grizzly fans, while a plurality (34%) of individuals aged 67+ said they pay "no attention" to the games.
- A majority (51.2%) of men and plurality (38.2%) of women are Grizzly fans, but more women (28%) than men (15.8%) pay no attention to the contests.

## 3. Know the Name of Great Britain's Prime Minister (Tony Blair)

When a knowledge question was asked about whether the respondent knew "the name of the Prime Minister of Great Britain," a majority (50.5%) gave an incorrect answer. The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

**Know Name of Great Britain's Prime Minister – Tony Blair**

| Right Answer | Wrong Answer | Total |
|---|---|---|
| 49.5% | 50.5% | 100% |

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- In terms of gender/age, males aged 67+ (73.3%) were most likely to know Blair's name, while men 18-36 (60.3%) were most apt not to know him. Among women, those aged 56-66 (64.5%) could most often name him and those aged 18-36 (71.4%) least often knew him.
- Individuals with a post-graduate education (76.9%) most often know Blair, while those with 1-11 years of school (35.7%) were least likely to be able to identify him.
- A majority (61.5%) of those who felt the U. S. had favored the Palestinians could not identify Blair, while a majority (69.1%) who thought the U. S. favored Israel knew his name.
- A majority (56.2%) of those favoring women in combat roles could not name Blair, while a majority (55.7%) who opposed women in combat could identify him.
- While a majority (58.2%) of those favoring a ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone Park could identify Blair, a majority (56.9%) opposing the ban did not know his name.