



# **THE MSU BILLINGS POLL**

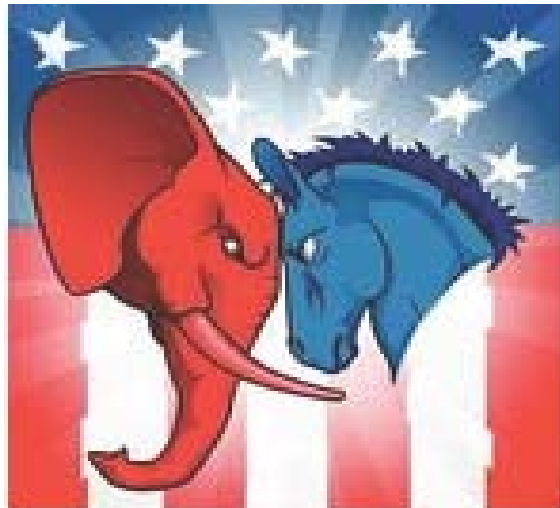
**NATIONAL, STATE,  
AND  
LOCAL ISSUES**

**OCTOBER 2012**

**Day 1**

**26TH POLL**

**24th YEAR**



***DR. CRAIG WILSON, DR. SCOTT RICKARD AND  
MS. JENNIFER POPE, CO-DIRECTORS***

**The “MSU Billings Poll” is available on our website  
[www.msubillings.edu/urelations](http://www.msubillings.edu/urelations)**



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

Sarah Beaumont  
Leah Berry  
Taylor Bond  
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Mike Campbell  
Paulina Carrillo  
Clarissa Cerovski  
Cory Champney  
Lisa Dallapiazza  
Kayla Downing  
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Martin Kelm  
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Megan McCarthy  
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## INTRODUCTION

The “MSU Billings Poll” began in 1989. This is the twenty-fourth year the survey has been conducted and during this time twenty-six surveys have been completed. The Co-Directors of the Poll are Dr. Craig Wilson (Political Science), Dr. Scott Rickard (Director of the Center for Applied Economic Research) and Ms. Jennifer Pope (Sociology). We would like to thank Ms. Brenda Dockery for serving as the supervisor for this research project, Ms. Jessica Ridgway for also assisting us and Ms. Sandra Haley for coming out of retirement to again word process the survey results.

This report summarizes the results of a statewide random sample telephone survey of adult Montanans who said they were both registered and likely to vote. The poll was conducted September 27-30. Students enrolled in the course Political Science 342, Media, Public Opinion, Polling completed 477 interviews for this survey. The survey was completed using random digit dial methodology, which selects both the phone numbers and members of a household to interview. Land line and cell phone numbers were included in the sample. 43.3% of the sample was reached through cell phone. The poll was conducted using MSU Billings’ CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) software. Multiple attempts were made to reach selected households.

The survey results have a +/- 4.6% margin of error at a confidence level of 95% (95% of the time the results will fall within the +/- 4.6% 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.

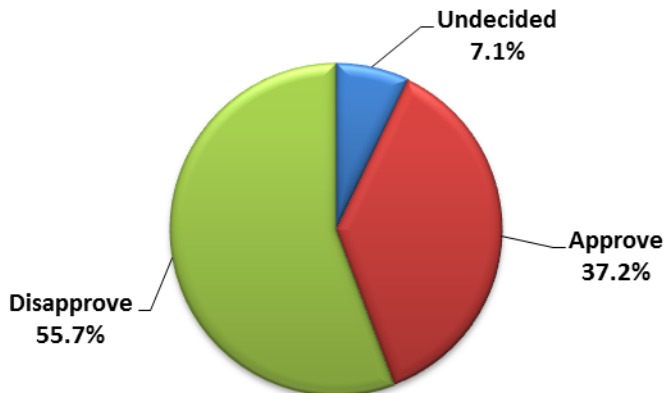
## I. NATIONAL ISSUES

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

This is the fourth year the “MSU Billings Poll” asked respondents, “At this point in time do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama’s overall performance in office?” A majority of those polled (55.7%), answered “disapprove.”

In comparison, in 2011, 57.5% of those questioned replied “disapprove”, in 2010, 52.9% said “disapprove” and in 2009, 53% also replied “disapprove.”

#### 2011 President Obama's Overall Job Performance



#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (92.4%) of Democrats approved of the President’s performance, a majority of Republicans (93.6%) and independents (52.7%) disapproved of the chief executive’s performance.
- Majorities of those who “disapproved” (89.1%), “approved” (73.4%) or were “undecided” (73.5%) about the President’s overall performance supported freedom of speech over offending non-American.
- A majority (87.2%) of respondents economically “worse off” than four years ago disapproved of the President’s behavior in office as did a majority of undecided (57.1%) voters. Pluralities of those “better off” (43.5%) or “about the same” (44.6%) as four years ago approved of the President.
- A majority of respondents (70.1%) who said they were “very religious” disapproved of the president, while a majority (68.2%) who said “not at all religious” approved of him.
- A majority (94.4%) of those supporting the Affordable Care Act liked the

President's job performance, while a majority (90.1%) of Republicans and undecided (46.4%) respondents opposed the act and disapproved of the President's performance.

- Gender was not related to responses to this question.
- Age was not related to responses to this question.

**2. FREEDOM OF SPEECH VS. OFFENDING NON-AMERICANS**

When asked the question, “Do you believe or not believe that it is more important in the U.S. to guarantee freedom of speech than it is to make sure nothing is done to offend people living in other nation/states,” a majority of 82.3% of the respondents said “believe” (guarantee freedom of speech).

**FREEDOM OF SPEECH VS. OFFENDING NON-AMERICANS**

<u>Believe</u>	<u>Not Believe</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>82.3%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Majorities of Republicans (89.5%), Democrats (77.1%) and independents (80.4%) backed free speech over offending foreign nationals.
- Responses to this question were not related to income.
- Responses to this question were not related to gender.
- Responses to this question were not related to age.

**3. REMOVE U. S. COMBAT TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN**

Those polled were queried regarding whether or not they would “support or oppose” the removal of all U.S. combat troops from Afghanistan prior to the end of 2014. A majority (59.7%) of those interviewed said “support.”

Last year a plurality of 46.2% of those surveyed opposed the war.

**REMOVE U. S. COMBAT TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN**

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>59.7%</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>20.5%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Democrats (82.9%) and independents (57.4%) supported removing the troops early, as did a plurality (45.9%) of Republicans.
- A majority (85.1%) of those opposed to leaving Afghanistan backed using military force against Iran. A majority (57.4%) of individuals supporting leaving Afghanistan early backed using force against Iran.
- 49.4% of the “very religious” respondents supported an early withdrawal. A plurality (60.5%) of those who were “somewhat religious” also supported the early withdrawal, as did 79.5% of the “not at all religious.”
- Gender was not significant to answers on this question.
- Age was not significant to answers on this question.
- Income was not significant to answers on this question.

**4. USE MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAN**

With regard to Iran a question was phrased: “If the U.S. finds evidence that Iran is building a nuclear weapon, would you support or oppose the use of U.S. military force to prevent the development of a weapon?” A majority (64.3%) of the interviewees replied “support.”

**USE MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAN**

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>64.3%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (84.9%) of Republicans, a majority (58.6%) of independents, and a plurality (42.9%) of Democrats and a plurality (40%) of undecided supported military action.
- A majority (84.9%) of Republicans backed military action, a plurality (42.9%) of Democrats opposed it and a plurality of undecided were undecided about the issue.
- While a majority (75.3%) of those who were “very religious” backed military action, a plurality (40.9%) of those “not at all religious” also supported the use of force.
- Majorities of males (65.5%) and females (63.5%) supported using force.
- Those who supported using force the most were aged 18-35 (70.5%), while the age cohorts most opposed to military action were aged 50-61 and 62+ (24.4%).

**5. AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MEDICAL LEGISLATION**

A question about the Affordable Care Act was worded: “Based upon what you know, do you support or oppose the 2010 passage of the Affordable Care Act medical legislation?” A majority of 51.6% of those surveyed answered “oppose”.

In the 2010 survey, 60.8% of those polled opposed the measure.

**AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MEDICAL LEGISLATION**

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Partially Support/Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
26.4%	51.6%	7.4%	14.6%	100%

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- Majorities of those opposed (80.3%), undecided (67.2%), or supportive (50.8%) of the legislation also supported R-120 which would restrict some abortions.
- Majorities of individuals opposed (87.4%) supportive (54.1%), or undecided (80.6%) about the act favored drug testing for individuals receiving social service benefits.
- A majority (71.4%) of Democrats backed the legislation. A majority (82%) of Republicans opposed it and a plurality (97.9%) of independents and undecided (40%) voter opposed it.
- A majority (55.4%) of individuals saying they were economically better off than four years ago backed the act. In contrast, a majority (77.6%) of interviewees saying they were worse off than four years ago opposed the legislation.
- Income was not related to opinion about the legislation.
- Gender was not related to opinions about the legislation.
- A majority of every age cohort opposed the law. The greatest opposition was found among those aged 50-61 (58%).

## II. THE 2012 MONTANA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

### VOTE INTENT IN 2012 MONTANA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The question regarding voting in the 2012 presidential election was phrased: “If this year’s presidential election were being held today, whom do you think you would vote for?” A plurality (49%) of those interviewed replied Romney.

<u>Democrat</u> <u>Barack Obama</u>	<u>Republican</u> <u>Mitt Romney</u>	<u>Libertarian</u> <u>Garv Johnson</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
34.5%	49%	2.7%	3.4%	10.4%	100%

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Among Democrats, 91.4% planned on voting for Obama, 2.9% for Romney and 3.8% were undecided.
  1. Among Republicans 89% were Romney voters, 1.7% backed Obama and 5.8% were undecided.
  2. In terms of independents, 40.2% backed Romney, 33.1% Obama and 16% were undecided.
- Majorities of Mitt Romney’s (90.1%) and Barack Obama’s (75.3%) supporters supported free speech over offending foreign nationals.
- A majority (73.4%) of those opposed to leaving Afghanistan backed Romney, while a plurality (45%) of Obama voters supported leaving Afghanistan early
- Majorities of Romney (85.8%) and undecided (44.9%) voters opposed the Affordable Care Act. In contrast, a majority (69.9%) of Obama voters back the legislation.
- The use of social media and support for presidential candidates was not significant.
- Majorities of Romney (90.4%), Obama (51.4%) and undecided (67.4%) voters backed building the XL pipeline.
- Majorities of Romney (80.3%), undecided (56.5%) and Obama (50.9%) voters backed trapping wolves.
- In terms of religion, a majority (66.5%) of those saying they were “very religious” supported Romney. On the other hand, a majority (72.7%) of respondents claiming they were “not religious at all” were Obama voters.



- In terms of their economic situation compared to 4 years ago, 67.3% of those feeling they were “better off” backed Obama, while 76% of those responding “worse off” supported Romney.
- Income was not related to presidential vote intent.
- Gender was not related to vote intent.
- Age was not related to vote intent.

Next a series of four questions was asked about the competency/personal opinion of the candidates in various areas.

**A. Best at Reducing the Deficit**

The first question asked the respondents which of the candidates would be “best at reducing the deficit?” A majority (52%) of those responding said “Romney.”

**BEST AT REDUCING THE DEFICIT**

<u>Democrat</u> <u>Barack Obama</u>	<u>Republican</u> <u>Mitt Romney</u>	<u>Libertarian</u> <u>Gary Johnson</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>28.7%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>17.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority (80%) of Democrats felt Obama would be best at reducing the deficit. A majority (91.3%) of Republicans, and plurality of independents (43.5%) favored Romney.
- A majority (56.4%) saying they were “better off than four years ago backed Obama, while a majority (79.6%) saying “worse off” liked Romney. Those replying “about the same” divided about equally between favoring Romney (39%) or Obama (37.7%).
- Those earning less than \$20,000 a year were the only cohort in which a plurality (39.2%) of the respondents favored Obama over Romney in handling the deficit. The income group most supportive of Romney (54%) on this issue earned \$50,000-75,000 a year.
- Gender was not significant in responses to this question.
- Age was not significant in responses to this question.

## **B. Candidate Best at Dealing with International Relations**

The next question asked was which candidate would be, “best at dealing with international relations?” A plurality (42.7%) of those polled replied “Romney.” The result for this question falls within the margin of error for this poll.

### **CANDIDATE BEST AT DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

<b><u>Democrat</u> <u>Barack Obama</u></b>	<b><u>Republican</u> <u>Mitt Romney</u></b>	<b><u>Libertarian</u> <u>Gary Johnson</u></b>	<b><u>Undecided</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>40.3%</b>	<b>42.7%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- A majority of 92.4% of Democrats and plurality (43.2%) of independents felt Obama could best handle international relations issues, while 77.8% of Republicans favored Romney in this policy area.
- Majorities of Romney (90.1%) and Obama (75.3%) supporters backed free speech over offending foreign nationals.
- A majority (51.8%) of those supporting leaving Afghanistan early felt Obama would do the best job at handling international relations. A majority (70.2%) of individuals opposed to an early pullout said Romney could best handle international relations.
- A majority of those (68%) opposing military action against Iran felt Obama would best deal with international issues. In contrast, a majority (55.6%) who backed military action against Iran think Romney would best deal with international affairs.
- Gender was not related to opinions on this issue.
- Age was not related to opinions on this issue.
- Income was not related to opinions on this issue.

### C. Best at Dealing with the Economy

A majority of the interviewees (54.3 %) thought Mitt Romney would be best at “dealing with the economy.”

#### BEST AT DEALING WITH THE ECONOMY

<u>Democrat</u> <u>Barack Obama</u>	<u>Republican</u> <u>Mitt Romney</u>	<u>Libertarian</u> <u>Gary Johnson</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
32.1%	54.3%	1.3%	12.3%	100%

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (85.7%) of Democrats favored Obama in dealing with the economy. A majority (91.9%) of Republicans favored Romney. A plurality (47.9%) of independents also favored Romney in this policy area.
- 59.4% of individuals saying they were “better off” economically than four years ago supported Obama in this area. A majority (80.1%) of those feeling “worse off” supported Romney.
- Income was not related to responses to this question.
- Gender was not related to responses to this question.
- Age was not related to responses to this question.

### D. Is the Most Likeable

A plurality (46.2%) of the interviewees said that “Barack Obama” was the “most likeable candidate.”

#### THE MOST LIKEABLE CANDIDATE

<u>Democrat</u> <u>Barack Obama</u>	<u>Republican</u> <u>Mitt Romney</u>	<u>Libertarian</u> <u>Gary Johnson</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
46.2%	32.8%	2.3%	18.7%	100%

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (87.6%) of Democrats and plurality (46.7%) of independents said Obama was most likeable. A majority (59.3%) of Republicans felt Romney was most likeable.

- Income was not related to responses on this question.
- Age was not related to responses on this question.
- Gender was not related to responses on this question.

### III. 2012 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

#### 3. MONTANA’S 2012 U. S. HOUSE CONTEST

When asked, “if this year’s U. S. House race were being held today, whom would you vote for, a plurality (37.7%) of the interviewees replied “undecided.” The results for this question fall within the margin of error for this poll.

#### VOTE INTENT IN MONTANA’S 2012 U. S. HOUSE RACE

<u>Democrat</u> <u>Kim Gillan</u>	<u>Republican</u> <u>Steve Daines</u>	<u>Libertarian</u> <u>David Kaiser</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
22.6%	36.3%	3.4%	37.7%	100%

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Among Democratic voters 64.8% backed Gillan, 4.8% Daines, 1.9% Kaiser and 28.6% were undecided.
  1. Among Republicans 2.9% supported Gillan, 61.6% Daines, 1.2% Kaiser and 34.3% were undecided.
  2. In terms of independent voters, 18.8% backed Gillan, 32% Daines, 7.1% Kaiser and 42.6% were undecided.
- 63.6% of Romney voters said they would vote for Daines, while 31.2% of Romney’s undecided supporters remained undecided about this race. 57.1% of Obama voters backed Gillan, while 34.8% of his undecided voters remained undecided about the House contest. Among independents in the presidential race, a majority (74.5%) remained undecided about their U. S. House race vote.
- In terms of voters in the U.S. Senate race, 64.8% of Denny Rehberg supporters planned on voting for Steve Daines. In Terms of Jon Tester voters 53% planned on voting for Gillan, and 71.4% of undecided voters in the Senate contest remained undecided about this race.
- A majority (66%) of Gillan voters supported the Affordable Care Act. A majority (78.8%) of Daines voters and 50% of undecided opposed it.
- Majorities of Daines (81.5%) undecided (69.4%) and Gillan (52.9%) voters backed Referendum 120 which would place some new restrictions on abortion.
- Majorities of Daines (70.8%), Gillan (53.8%) and undecided (51.4%) supporters also backed Referendum 124 which would restrict marijuana use.

- Pluralities of Daines (42.2%) voters backed drug testing to receive social services. Pluralities of Gillan (42.6%) and undecided (38.2%) voters opposed this proposal.
- Use of social media was not related to vote intent.
- Majorities of Daines (89.3%), undecided (69.4%) and Gillan (58.7%) voters in the House race backed building the XL pipeline.
- Majorities of Daines (80.4%), undecided (61.8%) and Gillan (52.9%) U. S. House voters supported wolves trapping.
- A plurality (48.5%) of Gillan backers were “somewhat religious” and a plurality (48.2%) of Daines voters “very religious.”
- Income was not related to vote intent.
- Gender was not related to vote intent.

## V. 2012 STATE OF MONTANA ELECTION CONTESTS

### 1. 2012 MONTANA ELECTION FOR GOVERNOR

The question regarding the contest for Governor was worded, “if Montana’s gubernatorial election were being held today, for whom do you think you would vote?” A plurality (40.3%) of those polled replied “Rick Hill.” The results for this question fall within the margin of error for this poll.

#### 2012 MONTANA ELECTION FOR GOVERNOR

<u>Republican</u> <u>Rick Hill</u>	<u>Democrat</u> <u>Steve Bullock</u>	<u>Libertarian</u> <u>Ron Vandevender</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
40.3%	38.1%	1.5%	20.1%	100%

#### Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Among Democrats 89.5% said they would vote for Bullock, 1.9% Hill and 8.6% were undecided.
  1. In terms of Republicans, 75% were Hill voters, 4.1% supported Bullock,. 6% Vandevender and 20.3% were undecided.
  2. Among independents, 42% liked Bullock, 29.6% Hill, 3% Vandevender and 25.4% were undecided.
- 71.4% of Romney voters said they would support Rick Hill. In terms of Obama voters, 82% would vote for Bullock. A majority (55.3%) of the undecided voters in the presidential race also remained undecided about the gubernatorial contest.
- 77.4% of Dennis Rehberg voters in the U.S. Senate race backed Hill, 7% Bullock, 1% Vandevender and 14.6% were undecided. 76.8% of Tester voters backed Bullock, 5.9% Hill and 16.8% were undecided. Among undecided U.S. Senate

voters, 18.2% liked Bullock, 20% Hill, 1.8% Vandevender and 60% remained undecided about their vote for Governor.

- 88.7% of Kim Gillan voters in the race for the U. S. House said they would vote for Bullock, 2.8% Hill, .9% Vandevender and 7.5% were undecided. 71.8% of Steve Daines voters supported Hill, 17.1% Bullock, 1.2% Vandevender and 10% were undecided. Among undecided House voters 33.1% liked Hill, 28% Bullock and 38.3% were undecided about their vote for Governor.
- In terms of voting for Montana House of Representative candidates, 84.6% of Democrats House voters supported Bullock, 2.8% Hill and 11.2% were undecided. Among Republican Montana House voters, 68.4% were voting for Hill, 9.7% Bullock and 20.3% were undecided. Of the undecided voters, 37.5% liked Bullock, 25% Hill and 36.2% remained undecided about their Montana House of Representatives vote.
- A majority (55.6%) of Bullock backers supported the Affordable Care Act. A majority (85.1%) of Hill and plurality (48.9%) of undecided voters opposed the bill.
- Majorities of Hill (82.3%) and Bullock (60%) voters supported the abortion referendum.
- A plurality (46.7%) of Hill voters backed the marijuana ballot issue, while a plurality (48.9%) of Bullock voters opposed it.
- Majorities of Hill (89.2%) and Bullock (61.7%) voters favored building the XL pipeline.
- Majorities of Hill (81.7%) and Bullock (58.9%) voters backed trapping wolves.
- While a majority (60.7%) of voters feeling “worse off” economically than four years ago backed Hill, a majority of voters who felt “better off” (63.4%) backed Bullock.
- Income was not related to vote intention.
- Gender was not related to vote intention.
- Age was not related to vote intention.



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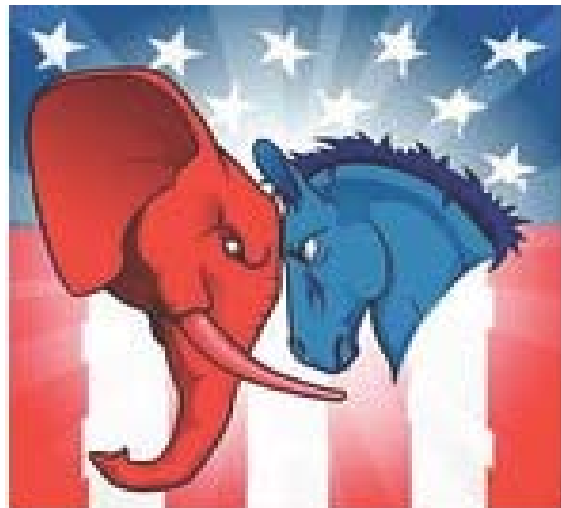
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## INTRODUCTION

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### III. 2012 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

#### VOTE INTENT IN 2012 MONTANA U.S. SENATE RACE

The question regarding Montana’s U. S. Senate election this year was worded, “If this year’s U. S. Senate election in Montana were being held today, whom do you think you would vote for?” A plurality of the interviewees (42.6%) replied “Rehberg.” The results for this question fall within the margin of error for this poll.

#### VOTE INTENT IN 2012 MONTANA U. S. SENATE RACE

<u>Democrat Jon Tester</u>	<u>Republican Denny Rehberg</u>	<u>Libertarian Dan Cox</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
39.7%	42.6%	5.8%	11.9%	100%

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Among Democrats 91.4% , said they "supported" Tester, 1.9% Rehberg, 2.9% Cox and 3.8% were undecided. In terms of Republicans, 77.9% backed Rehberg, 7% Tester, 4.1% Cox and 11% were undecided. Among independent voters 32.7% like Rehberg, 41.7% Tester, 10.1% Cox and 15.5% were undecided.
- 75% of Mitt Romney voters planned on supporting Rehberg. 91.4% of Obama backers supported Tester. A plurality (48.2%) of undecided voters in the presidential race said they planned on backing Rehberg, while 32.1% remained undecided and 28.3% backed Tester.
- In terms of being better or worse off than four years ago a majority (62.2%) of Rehberg’s voters said “worse off,” 28.1% “about the same” and 7.% were “better off.” A plurality (43.1%) of Tester’s voters were “better off,” 40.3% “about the same” and 16% “worse off.” The undecided voters included 50% who said they were “worse off,” 37% “about the same” and 11.1% “better off.”
- In terms of religiosity 49% of Rehberg voters were “very religious” and 38.8% “somewhat religious.” Among Tester voters a plurality (41.4%) were “somewhat religious” and 23.8% “very religious.”
- Income was not related to vote in the Senate race.
- Gender was not related to vote in the Senate race.
- Age was not related to vote in the Senate race.
- A majority (59.1%) of Jon Tester voters backed the Affordable Care Act, while a majority (83.5%) of Rehberg voters opposed it. A majority (51.8%) of undecided voters also opposed the act.

- Majorities of those intending to vote for Rehberg (83.2%), were undecided (68.5%) about their vote, or backed Tester (54.6%), all supported Referendum 120 which would restrict abortions.
- A majority (72.4%) of Rehberg voters and 50% of undecided and a plurality (49.2%) of Tester voters all also supported the more restrictive Referendum 124, the marijuana issue.
- The use of social media was not related to vote intent in the Senate contest.
- Majorities of Rehberg (88.3%), undecided (72.2%) and Tester (58.5%) voters all supported building the XL pipeline.
- Majorities of Rehberg (81.1%), undecided (61.1%) and Tester (59.6%) voters all backed allowing the trapping of wolves.

**BETWEEN TESTER AND REHBERG, WHICH CANDIDATE DO YOU FEEL HAS RUN THE MOST NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN**

A follow-up question on the U. S. Senate race was phrased, “between Tester and Rehberg, which candidate do you feel has run the most negative campaign?” A plurality (40.8%) of the interviewees replied Rehberg/Tester “the same.”

**MOST NEGATIVE SENATE CANDIDATE**

<u>Democrat Jon Tester</u>	<u>Republican Denny Rehberg</u>	<u>Rehberg-Tester the Same</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
22.2%	24.5%	40.8%	2.3%	10.2%	100%

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- A majority (54.3%) of Democrats said Rehberg has been the most negative. Pluralities of Republicans (48.8%), independents (42.6%) and undecided (53.3%) voters replied “Rehberg/Tester the same.”
- Gender was not related to opinions about this issue.
- Age was not related to opinions about this issue.

## IV. JOB APPROVAL RATINGS

Next, the survey asked about the job approval ratings of two elected Montana officials not facing election in 2012. Governor Brian Schweitzer and U. S. Senator Max Baucus.

### 1. JOB APPROVAL RATING OF GOVERNOR BRIAN SCHWEITZER

The respondents were asked, “at this time do you approve or disapprove of Governor Brian Schweitzer’s overall performance in office.” A majority (60.7%) of those interviewed replied “approve.”

#### JOB APPROVAL RATING OF GOVERNOR BRIAN SCHWEITZER

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
60.7%	22.8%	16.5%	100%

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority of Democrats (91.4%) and independents (63.9%) approved of the Governor's performance, as did a plurality of Republicans (41.3%).
- A majority (82.4%) of those supporting the Affordable Care Act approved of the job the Governor is doing, as did a plurality (47.1%) of those opposed to the measure.
- Majorities of every religious groupings from very religious (50.6%) to "not at all religious" (86.4%) approved of the job the Governor is doing.
- Majorities of those both approving (56.4%) and disapproving (74.5%) of trapping wolves backed Schweitzer’s performance.
- Income was not related to opinions about the Governor.
- Gender was not related to opinions about the Governor.
- Age was not related to opinions about the Governor.

### 2. JOB APPROVAL RATING OF U. S. SENATOR MAX BAUCUS

A plurality (42.5%) of those polled answered “approve” when asked, “at this point in time do you approve or disapprove of U. S. Senator Max Baucus’s overall performance in office? The results for this question fall within the margin of error for this poll.

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

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>42.5%</b>	<b>40.1%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (73.1%) of Democrats and plurality (45.6%) of independents approved of the job Senator Baucus is doing, a majority (58.1%) of Republicans disapproved.
- A majority (69.9%) of those supportive of the Affordable Care Act approved of Baucus’ job performance. A majority (61.2%) opposed to it did not approve of the job he is doing.
- A plurality (45.3%) of females approved of his job performance, a plurality (45.6%) of males disapproved.
- Economically compared to four years ago a plurality (32.3%) of individuals “better off” approved of him, while a majority (61.6%) who said disapprove felt "worse off".
- A plurality (45.3%) of the 36-49 cohort approved of his actions in office, a plurality (48.9%) aged 50-61 disapproved.

**V. 2012 STATE OF MONTANA ELECTION CONTESTS**

**2012 MONTANA GENERAL ELECTION RACE FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL**

The question asked regarding the Attorney General’s race was phrased, “if the election for Montana’s Attorney General were being held today, for whom do you think you would vote.” A plurality (38.9%) of those responding answered Fox. The results for this question fall within the margin of error for this poll.

**2012 MONTANA GENERAL ELECTION RACE FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL**

<u>Republican Tim Fox</u>	<u>Democrat Pam Bucy</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>38.9%</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>35.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Among Democratic voters 63.8% backed Bucy, 4.8% Fox and 31.4% were undecided.
  1. In terms of Republican voters, 4.1% supported Bucy, 67.4% Fox and 28.5% were undecided.

2. The independent voters divided 24.9% for Bucy, 32.5% Fox and 42.6% undecided.
- A majority (80.7%) of Fox and (42.8%) independent voters opposed the Affordable Care Act legislation. A majority (65.3%) of Bucy backers supported it.
  - Majorities of Fox (89.4%), undecided (69.7%) and Bucy (64.7%) voters all supported a proposal which would require passage of a test for illicit drugs before someone could receive social service benefits.
  - Majorities of Fox (93.3%), independent (67.9%) and Bucy (54.3%) voters favored building the XL pipeline.
  - Majorities of Fox (81.7%), independent (61.8%) and Bucy (54.3%) voters supported trapping wolves.
  - In terms of gender, a plurality (45.6%) of males backed Fox, while a plurality (44.8%) of women were undecided about their vote.
  - Age was not related to vote intent.

### **MONTANA SUPREME COURT RACE**

When asked, “in a non-partisan race for a Montana court seat, Laurie McKinnon is opposing Ed Sheehy. If the election were held today, for whom do you think you would vote? A majority (61.1%) of those replying to this question said “undecided.”

### **MONTANA SUPREME COURT RACE**

<b><u>Ed Sheehy</u></b>	<b><u>Laurie McKinnon</u></b>	<b><u>Undecided</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>21%</b>	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>61.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

- Majorities of Democrats (55.2%), Republicans (69.2%) and independent (54.4%) voters were undecided about their vote.
- Opinions on the vote of the abortion referendum were not related to vote choice in the Supreme Court race.
- Opinions on the vote of the marijuana referendum were not related to voting in the Supreme Court race.
- Income was not related to opinions about this race.
- Gender was not related to opinions about this race.
- A plurality (41.5%) of McKinnon voters were aged 50-61, a plurality (41.7%) in the 62+ cohort backed Sheehy.

**4. MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONTESTS**

The question about vote intent in the one hundred individual Montana House of Representatives elections was worded, “if the 2012 election were being held today, do you think you would vote for the Republican or the Democratic Montana State House of Representatives candidate in your district.” A majority (51%) of those polled said “Republican.”

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONTESTS**

<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>30.8%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Statistically Significant Relationships:**

- Among Democrats, 84.8% planned on voting for Democrats, 1.9% Republicans, 1.9% other and 11.4% were undecided.
  1. Among Republicans, 1.7% would support Democrats, 91.9% Republicans, and 6.4% were undecided about their vote.
  2. Among independents, 28.4% supported Democratic candidates, 42% Republicans and 28.4% were undecided.
- A majority (76.6%) of Democratic voters for House candidates backed the Affordable Care legislation, a majority of Republicans (80.6%) opposed it.
- Majorities of those planning on voting for Republican (80.9%) or Democratic (51.1%) candidates or were undecided (73.8%) about their vote, backed Referendum 120 which would restrict some abortions.
- Majorities of those intending to vote for Republican (69.4%) candidates or were undecided (53.9%) about their vote, candidates backed Referendum 124 which would restrict marijuana use. A plurality (48.2%) of Democratic voters also supported the ballot issue.
- Majorities of Republicans (87.7%), undecided (67.5%) and Democratic voters (61.7%) backed testing for illicit drugs to receive social service benefits.
- A plurality (41%) of Democratic voters said they were economically “worse off” than four years ago.
- Majorities of Republicans (88.1%), undecided (70%) and Democratic (53.9%) voters backed the XL pipeline.
- Majorities of Republicans (77.9%), undecided (66.2%) and Democratic (51.8%) voters backed trapping wolves.
- Income was not related to vote intent.
- Gender was not related to vote intent.
- Age was not related to vote intent.

## VI. 2012 BALLOT ISSUES

Five ballot issues will be voted upon in the 2012 election. Questions were asked about two of these issues.

### 1. REFERENDUM 124 – MEDICAL MARIJUANA

The question on the medical marijuana referendum was worded: “Referendum 124 refers to the voters a decision on Senate Bill 423. A vote against the Senate Bill would reinstate the prior medical marijuana program. A vote for the initiative would enact a new more restrictive medical marijuana program. If voting today, would you support or oppose this measure?”

A majority (59.9%) of those interviewed answered “support” to this query.

#### REFERENDUM 124 – MEDICAL MARIJUANA

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>59.9%</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority of Republicans (72.1%) and independents (56.8%) supported the issue, as did a plurality (48.6%) of Democrats.
- A majority (63.3%) who said they were “very religious” supported the measure, while a majority (56.8%) who were “not at all religious” opposed the issue.
- A majority (58.5%) of males opposed the measure, a majority of females (52%) backed it.
- Age was not related to opinions of this issue.

### 2. REFERENDUM 120 – LIMITATIONS ON ABORTION

The referendum on abortion was phrased, “Referendum-120 would require parental notification prior to a minor under 16 receiving an abortion, provide for circumstances for the judicial waiver of notification and provide penalties for carrying out an abortion on a minor with notification.” If voting today, would you support or oppose this referendum?

A majority (70.3%) of those polled answered “support.”



**REFERENDUM 120 – LIMITATIONS ON ABORTION**

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>70.3%</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (78.5%), independent (71.6%) and Democratic (57.1%), voters.
- A majority (77.2%) of those backing drug testing to receive social services benefits supported the referendum. Among those opposed to the testing a plurality (44.1%) also backed the measure.
- In terms of religion those most supportive of the measure were “very religious” (80.4%), while those most opposed (52.3%) were “not at all religious.”
- Gender was not related to opinions on this issue.
- Age was not related to opinions on this issue.
- Income was not related to opinions on this issue.

**VII. OTHER QUESTIONS**

**1. SOCIAL SERVICES AND RANDOM DRUG TESTING**

In reply to the question, “do you believe that individuals receiving some social service benefits should have to demonstrate, by random testing, that they are not using illicit drugs?” A majority (76.1%) of the respondents answered “yes.”

**SOCIAL SERVICES AND RANDOM DRUG TESTING**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>76.1%</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (86.6%), Democrats (65.7%) and independents (74%) all supported this policy idea.
- Income was not related to opinions on this question.
- Age was not related to opinions on this question.
- In terms of drug testing a majority (51.2%) of women favored it, a majority of males (60.3%) opposed it.

**2. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR POLITICAL INFORMATION**

A majority (77.8%) of those interviewed said “no” when asked the question, “have you ever used social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, to gain information about candidates in the upcoming election?”

**USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR POLITICAL INFORMATION**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
21.1%	77.8%	1.1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (78.9%), Democrats (71.4%) and independents (81.1%) replied “no.”
- Income was not related to opinions on this question.
- Gender was not related to opinions on this question.
- While majorities of every age cohort did not use social media, those most likely to employ it were aged 18-35 (32.5%), while those least likely to do so were aged 62+ (11.9%).

**3. SUPPORT OR OPPOSE BUILDING XL KEYSTONE PIPELINE**

The question about building the XL Keystone Pipeline was similar to the one asked last year: “Do you support or oppose building the XL Keystone Pipeline which would carry Canadian oil through Montana, with some Montana crude being picked up by the pipeline and carried out of state.” A majority (74.2%) of those polled replied “yes” to this question. Last year 63.5% of the respondents backed the pipeline.

**SUPPORT OR OPPOSE BUILDING THE XL KEYSTONE PIPELINE**

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
74.2%	13.9%	11.9%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (89%), independents (76.9%) and Democrats (50.5%) supported the pipeline.
- A majority (75.1%) of those backing the pipeline also supported trapping wolves. A plurality (45.3%) who opposed the pipeline also opposed trapping.

- Majorities of every income cohort supported building the pipeline. The cohort most supportive (87.2%) earned more than \$100,000.
- In terms of gender majorities of males and females backed XL, but more males (77.7%) than females (70.7%) did, and women (16.8%) were more undecided than men (6.7%) about the issue.
- A majority of every age cohort supported building the pipeline. Those most supportive (80.8%) were aged 50-61.

**4. LEGALITY OF TRAPPING WOLVES IN MONTANA**

A majority (67.7%) of the interviewees replied “yes” when asked, “do you believe it should be legal to trap wolves in Montana?”

**LEGALITY OF TRAPPING WOLVES IN MONTANA**

<u>Legal</u>	<u>Illegal</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>67.7%</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (76.2%), Democrats (53.3%) and independents (68.6%) supported trapping.
- Income was not related to answers to this question.
- Age was not related to answers to this question.
- While majorities of males and females supported trapping, more males (72.3%) than females (62.5%) did so. And more women (15.9%) than males (8%) were undecided about the issue.

5. **ECONOMICALLY BETTER OR WORSE OFF THAN FOUR YEARS AGO**

In reply to the question, “compared to 4 years ago, in economic terms do you feel that you and your family are better or worse off than they were. A plurality (42.7 %) said “worse off.”

**ECONOMICALLY BETTER OR WORSE OFF THAN FOUR YEARS AGO**

<u>Better Off</u>	<u>About the Same</u>	<u>Worse Off</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
22%	33.8%	42.7%	1.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality (43.7%) of Democrats felt economically “about the same,” while a majority (61.6%) of Republicans and plurality (43.2%) of independents said they were “worse off.”
- A plurality (45.9%) of those “better off” supported the Affordable Care Act, a majority (63.9%) who felt worse off opposed it. A plurality (43.1%) of individuals (43.1%) “about the same” were undecided about the law.
- Income was not related to answers to this question.
- A plurality (47.1%) of males said they were “worse off,” a plurality (40.3%) of females “about the same.”
- A plurality of every age group said they worse off. Those aged 50-61 (50%) were most prone to give this response.

6. **RELIGIOSITY**

A plurality (42.6 %) of the individuals polled replied “somewhat religious” when asked, “in terms of religion do you consider yourself to be [very, somewhat, not very or not at all] religious.”

**RELIGIOSITY**

<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
34.5%	42.6%	10.3%	9.6%	3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality (47.8%) of Republicans were “very religious,” a plurality (42.7%) of Democrats “somewhat religious.”

- Pluralities of women (43.7%) and men (41%) were “somewhat religious,” while more women (39%) than men (29.7%) were “very religious.”
- Age was not related to religiosity.
- Income was not related to religiosity.