



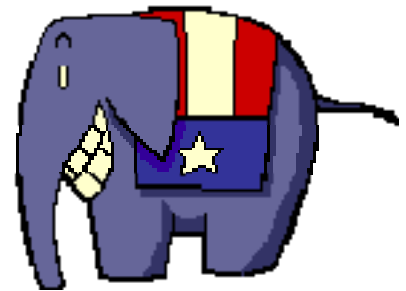
THE MSU-BILLINGS POLL:

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

OCTOBER, 2006



21st POLL!



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

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

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the twenty-first “MSU-Billings Poll,” a statewide random sample telephone survey of adult Montanans conducted October 10-12 and 14-15. This is the seventeenth year the survey has been conducted. Students enrolled in Political Science and Sociology classes at MSU-Billings completed the 409 interviews for this survey. Only adult Montanans who said they were both registered to vote and very likely to vote in the 2006 general election were surveyed. 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 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. The respondents are representative of the gender, urban (eight most populous counties) – rural and east-west distribution of Montana’s population. Statistical tests were employed to determine whether statistically significant relationships ($p=.05$) existed between key variables.

I. NATIONAL ISSUES

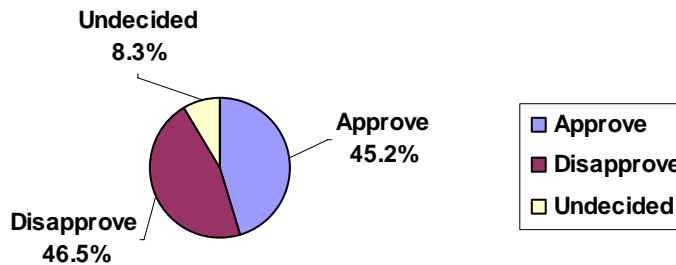
1. PRESIDENT BUSH'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE IN OFFICE

President George W. Bush's Overall Job Performance

This is the sixth year the “MSU-Billings Poll” has asked the respondents: “At this point in time do you approve or disapprove of President George W. Bush’s overall performance in office?” A plurality (46.5%) answered “disapprove.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

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.

President Bush's Overall Job Performance



Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (82.6%) of Democrats and plurality (47.7%) of independents rated Bush negatively, a majority (75.4%) of Republicans viewed him positively.
- Approval was not related to gender or age.
- Of those approving of the President a majority (50.9%) who felt that what the U. S. was doing about illegal immigration was “not enough.” A majority of those responding “about the right amount” (54.2%) and “too much” 77.3% voiced disapproval of the President.
- A majority (70.3%) of those viewing the Patriot Act as necessary approved of the President, while a majority (81.8%) of those saying it should be “repealed” disapproved of him.
- A majority (84.6%) of individuals supporting the decision to go to war in Iraq approved of the president, while a majority (84.3%) opposing the war disapproved of him.

- A majority (70.5%) of individuals supporting the incarceration of enemy combatants thought the President was doing a good job. A majority (67.8%) opposed to the imprisonment disapproved to the President’s performance.
- A majority (69.4%) of those who felt the war in Iraq and the war on terror were the same conflict approved of the President. A majority (72.7%) who saw a difference between the conflicts disapproved of Bush.
- A majority (68.2%) feeling the threat of U. S. terrorism was lower than in the past approved of Bush. A majority (62.5%) of those seeing the threat as higher disapproved of him.
- A majority (81.9%) of Jon Tester’s supporters viewed the President negatively. Majorities of Burns’ backers (83.2%) and undecided (55.4%) voters approved of the President.
- A majority (55.3%) of those who said religion was “very important” in their life approved of the President, while a majority (66.7%) who said religion was not important at all to them disapproved of the President.

2. ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

A. GOVERNMENT DOING ENOUGH TO PREVENT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM ENTERING U. S.?

When asked, “do you believe at this time that the U. S. Government is doing [options read] to stop immigrants from entering the U. S. in violation of the law,” a majority (68.2%) of those polled said “not enough.”

GOVERNMENT DOING ENOUGH TO PREVENT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM ENTERING U. S.?

<u>Not Enough</u>	<u>About Right Amount</u>	<u>Too Much</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
68.2%	14.4%	5.4%	12%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (77.2%), independents (60.9%) and Democrats (60.4%) didn’t think the U. S. was doing enough to stop illegal immigration. But to the Democrats (8.7%), to the greatest extent, said the U. S. was doing too much.
- A majority or plurality of every education group (in years), 1-11 (45.5%), 12 (72.8%), 13-15 (70.9%), 16 (72.1%), 17+ (53%) felt the U. S. was not doing enough to halt illegal entry. To the greatest extent those with the least education, 1-11 years (27.3%) said the U.S. was doing too much.
- A majority (78.6%) of those opposed to amnesty for illegals felt the U. S. wasn’t doing enough to stop this type of immigration. A plurality (40.3%) of those favoring amnesty also believed more should be done to stop illegals.

B. SHOULD ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BE GRANTED AMNESTY?

In reply to the question, “do you think people who are currently in the U.S. illegally should be granted amnesty and allowed to become U. S. citizens,” a majority of those polled (67.5%) said “no.”

SHOULD ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BE GRANTED AMNESTY?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
18.8%	67.5%	13.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A greater percentage of males (73.8%) than females (61.2%) opposed amnesty.
- A greater percentage of Republicans (76%) than independents (75%) or Democrats (55%) opposed amnesty. Democrats (26.2%) were most apt to favor it.

3. OPINION OF PATRIOT ACT

A question regarding the Patriot Act was phrased: “Do you think the Patriot Act, which was enacted by the national government, is a necessary component of the war on terror, or do you think it should be repealed?” A plurality (42.8%) of the respondents replied “necessary component.”

OPINION OF PATRIOT ACT

<u>Necessary Component</u>	<u>Should Be Repealed</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
42.8%	35%	22.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- In terms of years of education, the most educated cohort (17+ years), felt most strongly (51.5%) that the Patriot Act should be “repealed,” while the least educated group, 1-11 years (54.5%), were most likely to say the legislation was a “necessary component” for dealing with terror.
- A majority (62.6%) of Republicans and plurality of independents (40.6%) thought the act was a “necessary component” for coping with terror. A majority (58.4%) of Democrats wanted to “repeal” the legislation.
- A majority (64.1%) of those supporting incarcerating enemy combatants indefinitely felt the Patriot Act was a necessary component for dealing with terror. In contrast, a majority (51.9%) opposed to incarceration wanted to repeal the act.

- In terms of religion, pluralities of those saying that religion was not important at all (50%) or only a little (46.2%) important in their life thought the Patriot Act should be repealed. Pluralities of individuals rating the importance of religion a 3 (50%), 4 (42.2%) or 5 (45.9%) “very important” in their life, opposed repealing the legislation.

4. QUESTIONS ABOUT IRAQ AND WAR ON TERROR

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

When asked, “do you support or oppose the United State’s decision to go to War in Iraq,” a plurality (48.2%) of those interviewed answered “oppose.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

In 2004 a majority (52.8%) of those polled replied “support” to this question. In the 2003 “MSU-Billings Poll,” 60.3% of the respondents responded “support” when asked the question. Last year a plurality (49.1%) of those surveyed replied “oppose.”

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

Support	Oppose	Undecided	Total
44.5%	48.2%	7.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- In terms of education, those supporting the war to the greatest extent had 1-11 years (63.6%) of school, while the cohort most opposed to the decision had 17+ years (71.2%) of education.
- A majority of Republicans (68.4%) backed the war, while a majority of Democrats (77.2%) and plurality (48.4%) of independents opposed it.
- In terms of religiosity, those saying religion was “not important at all” in their life expressed the most opposition (69.4%) to the war, while the most religious cohort, to whom religion was “very important,” expressed the most support (48.8%) for the conflict.

B. Difference Between War in Iraq and War on Terror?

A plurality (48.4%) of those polled said “difference” when asked, “do you think there is a difference between the war in Iraq and the war on terror, or do you think it is the same war?” The results for this questions fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WAR IN IRAQ AND WAR ON TERROR?

Different War	Same War	Undecided	Total
48.4%	47.9%	3.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those with the least education, 1-11 years (90.9%), were most likely to view the conflicts as similar, while individuals with the most schooling 17+ years (71%) were most apt to see the conflicts as different.
- A majority of Republicans (67.3%) and independents (53.2%) saw the conflicts as similar, while a majority of Democrats (72.4%) viewed them as different.
- In terms of religion, the group most likely to feel the conflicts were different said religion was “not important at all” (66.7%) to them, while the most religious group who said religion was “very important” (60.1%) to them were most apt to say the conflicts were the same war.

5. IRAN POSES THREAT TO U. S.

A majority of the interviewees (62.8%) said “yes” when asked: “Do you think Iran poses a significant threat to the United States?”

IRAN POSES THREAT TO U. S.

Yes	No	Undecided	Total
62.8%	27.9%	9.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A larger percentage of women (65.5%) than men (59.9%) viewed Iran as a threat and more women (11.7%) than men (6.9%) were undecided about the issue.
- In terms of age and gender, women in the oldest age cohort 72+ (76.6%) were most apt to see Iran as a threat while males in this same age cohort were also more likely to perceive a threat (62.5%) than younger men. Those least likely to perceive a threat were males 18-41 (38.5%).
- Majorities of Republicans (76%) and independents (57.8%) and a plurality of Democrats (48.3%) saw Iran as menacing. Democrats (45%) were least likely to see this state as a threat.

6. UNITED NATIONS HELPFUL IN WORLD CONFLICT

When those polled were asked, “do you think the United Nations is helpful in resolving world conflicts,” a majority (53.1%) replied “no.”

UNITED NATIONS HELPFUL IN WORLD CONFLICTS

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
37.4%	53.1%	9.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- More men (55%) than women (51%) did not feel the U. N. was useful in resolving international conflicts. And more women (13.6%) than men (5.4%) were undecided about this issue.
- Pluralities of Democrats (49.7%) and independents (45.3%) felt the U. N. was helpful in resolving disputes, while a majority (69%) of Republicans expressed the opposite opinion.

7. PERCEIVED THREAT OF TERRORIST ACTS IN U.S.

A question about terrorist acts in the U. S. was phrased: “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?” A plurality (38.6%) of those polled said “about the same.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

PERCEIVED THREAT OF TERRORIST ACTS IN U. S.

<u>Higher</u>	<u>About Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
35.2%	38.7%	21.5%	4.6%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A plurality of Democrats (48.3%) felt the threat of terrorism was “higher,” while pluralities of independents (42.6%) and Republicans (38.3%) saw the danger as “about the same.”

8. OPINION OF REINSTATEMENT OF U. S. MILITARY DRAFT

A majority of those interviewed (55.5%) said “no” in replying to a question asking if they “would...support or oppose a reinstatement of the military draft.”

OPINION OF REINSTATEMENT OF U. S. DRAFT

Support	Oppose	Undecided	Total
33.7%	55.5%	10.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Women (58.3%) were more opposed to a draft than men (52.5%) and females were also more undecided (14.1%) on the issue than males (7.4%).
- A majority of Democrats (64.4%) and pluralities of Republicans (49.7%) and independents (48.4%) opposed reinstating the draft. The greatest support for reinstating it (40.9%) existed among Republicans.

9. U. S. RECEIVING ENOUGH HELP IN WAR AGAINST TERROR

A majority (74.1%) of the respondents replied “no” when asked: “Do you think the U. S. is receiving sufficient support from the international community for the war against terror?”

U. S. RECEIVING ENOUGH HELP IN WAR AGAINST TERROR

Yes	No	Undecided	Total
15.4%	74.1%	10.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those aged 42-60 (77.2%) were most likely to say “no,” those 18-41 most apt to reply “yes” (26.3%) and the 72+ cohort (16.5%) was the most undecided.
- A greater percentage of Republicans (86%) than independents (70.3%) or Democrats (64.4%) said the U. S. was getting insufficient support in dealing with terrorism.

10. INCARCERATION OF ENEMY COMBATANTS

A question regarding the U. S. imprisoning enemy combatants was worded: “Currently an enemy combatant can be incarcerated for an indefinite period of time without any charges being filed. Do you support or oppose this practice?” A majority (50.9%) of those interviewed said “oppose.”

INCARCERATION OF ENEMY COMBATANTS

Support	Oppose	Undecided	Total
38.1%	50.9%	11%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

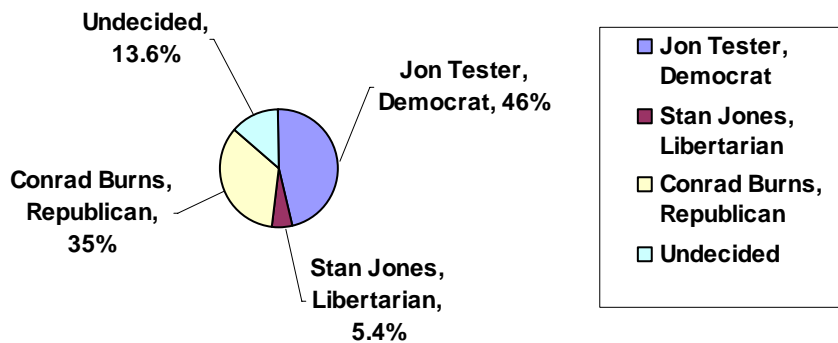
- More women (55.3%) than men (46.5%) opposed incarceration and more women (13.6%) than men (8.4%) were also undecided about this issue.
- A majority (53.8%) of Republicans backed imprisonment, while majorities of Democrats (72.5%) and independents (54.7%) opposed it.

II. U. S. SENATE RACE

1. VOTE IN U. S. SENATE RACE

The question about voting intent in the U. S. Senate contest was phrased: “If this year’s election for Montana’s U. S. Senator were held today, who would you vote for [names and party read]? A plurality (46%) of those surveyed answered “Jon Tester.”

Vote in U. S. Senate Race



Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Gender and age were not related to vote intent.
- A majority (63.6%) of voters with 17+ years of education planned on voting for Tester as did pluralities of those with a college degree (39.4%) or some college (47.3%). Pluralities of individuals with a high school degree (44.7%) or less (45.5%) said they would vote for Burns.

- Tester was supported by a majority of Democrats (87.2%) and a plurality of independents (40.6%), while Burns was backed by a majority of Republicans (67.8%).
 - A. In terms of all Tester supporters, 72.6% were Democrats, 12.8% Republicans and 14.5% independents. Burns voters were comprised of 82.9% Republicans, 5.7% Democrats and 11.4% independents. Stan Jones voters included 50% Republicans, 36.4% independents and 13.6% Democrats. The undecided voters were 48.8% Republican, 32.6% independents and 18.6% Democrats.
- A majority (78.1%) of Tester voters thought Burns had run the most negative campaign, while a majority (84%) of Burns backers replied “Tester” to this question.
- A majority (96.5%) of voters saying Tester could best deal with terrorism planned on voting for him, a majority (80.3%) of those seeing Burns as best on this issue were going to vote for him.
- A majority (67.7%) of voters who thought Tester would most likely raise taxes planned on voting for Burns, while a majority (84.7%) who felt Burns would most likely increase taxes favored Tester.
- A majority (65.8%) of respondents saying Burns would be best at bringing federal funds back to the state were going to vote for Burns, a majority (86.7%) who thought Tester would be most likely to get funds sent back to Montana planned on voting for him.
- A 1-5 scaled question on religion was asked where “1” represented religion being “not important at all” in the respondents’ lives and “5” being “very important.” Majorities replying “1” (66.7%) and “2” (61.5%) and pluralities of those saying “3” (42.4%) and “4” (46.9%) were going to vote for Tester. A plurality (42.4%) of the most religious group who replied “5” (very important) planned on supporting Burns.
- A majority (55.3%) of Tester voters thought the Patriot Act should be repealed, while a majority (69.9%) of Burns’ voters and pluralities of Jones backers (40.9%) and undecided electors (44.6%) favored repealing the legislation.
- Majorities of Tester (75%) and Jones (59.1%) voters opposed the war in Iraq, while majorities of Burns (74.8%) and undecided (57.1%) electors supported the war.
- Majorities of Tester (70.9%) and Jones (59.1%) voters felt the war in Iraq and the war on terror were different conflicts. Majorities of Burns’ (74.8%) and undecided (58.8%) electors felt the conflicts amounted to the same war.

2. WHICH CANDIDATE HAS RUN MOST NEGATIVE RACE?

A plurality (38.1%) of the respondents answered “Conrad Burns” in reply to the question: “Which of the three candidates Stan Jones, Conrad Burns, or Jon Tester do you think has run the most negative campaign?”

WHICH CANDIDATE HAS RUN THE MOST NEGATIVE RACE?

<u>Jon Tester</u>	<u>Conrad Burns</u>	<u>Stan Jones</u>	<u>Tester and Burns</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
17.8%	38.1%	1%	29.1%	2%	12%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority (69.1%) of Democrats said “Burns” had run the most negative campaign. Pluralities of Republicans (33.3%) and independents (43.9%) responded “Tester and Burns.”

3. CANDIDATE BEST AT HANDLING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

When asked, “which candidate do you believe would do the best job of dealing with international terrorism,” a plurality (35.9%) replied “Conrad Burns.”

WHICH CANDIDATE BEST AT HANDLING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

<u>Jon Tester</u>	<u>Conrad Burns</u>	<u>Stan Jones</u>	<u>Tester and Burns Same</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
28.1%	35.9%	1.5%	5.1%	9%	20.4%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority (57.7%) of Democrats felt Tester could best deal with terrorism. A majority (67.8%) of Republicans and plurality (37.2%) of independents replied “Burns.”

4. CANDIDATE MOST LIKELY TO RAISE YOUR TAXES

A plurality (38.6%) of those interviewed said “Jon Tester” when asked: “Which of the senate candidates do you believe would be the most likely to raise your taxes?”

CANDIDATE MOST LIKELY TO RAISE YOUR TAXES

<u>Jon Tester</u>	<u>Conrad Burns</u>	<u>Stan Jones</u>	<u>Tester and Burns Same</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
38.6%	20.8%	.2%	10%	5.9%	24.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A plurality (38.3%) of Democrats felt Burns would be most likely to raise taxes. A majority (64.9%) of Republicans and plurality (25%) of independents responded “Tester.”

5. CANDIDATE BEST AT OBTAINING FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MONTANA

A question about obtaining federal spending for Montana was worded: “Which of the candidates do you think would do the best job of obtaining federal funds to be spent in Montana?” A plurality (45%) of those answering this query replied “Conrad Burns.”

CANDIDATE BEST AT OBTAINING FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MONTANA

<u>Jon Tester</u>	<u>Conrad Burns</u>	<u>Stan Jones</u>	<u>Tester and Burns Same</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
24%	45%	.2%	8.1%	4.9%	17.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A larger percentage of males (53%) than females (36.9%) thought Burns would be best at bringing federal funding back to Montana.
- A plurality (43%) of Tester voters thought he would be best at garnering federal funds, while a majority (69.6%) of Republicans and plurality (37.5%) of independents said “Burns.”

6. POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF JON TESTER

A plurality (40.1%) of the interviewees answered “moderate” when asked: “Based upon what you know, in political terms, would you identify Jon Tester as a liberal, moderate or conservative?” The results of this question fall within the +/- 5% margin or error for this survey.

POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF JON TESTER

<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
35.9%	40.1%	4.9%	19.1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of the respondents viewing Tester as a moderate (76.8%) or conservative (65%) said they would vote for him, while a majority (65.3%) of those identifying him as a liberal were Burns’ voters.

- A majority (60.8%) of Republicans identified Tester as a liberal, while a majority (66.4%) of Democrats and plurality (40.6%) of independents felt he was a moderate.

7. CONRAD BURNS’ RELATIONSHIP TO JACK ABRAMOFF

A question regarding Senator Burns’ relationship to lobbyist Jack Abramoff was phrased: “Based upon what you know, do you think that Conrad Burns’ relationship with Jack Abramoff was related to an issue of personal ethics, was more of a political mistake than a character issue, or is not an issue at all?” A plurality (38.1%) of those surveyed said “personal ethics.” The results of this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

CONRAD BURNS’ RELATIONSHIP TO JACK ABRAMOFF

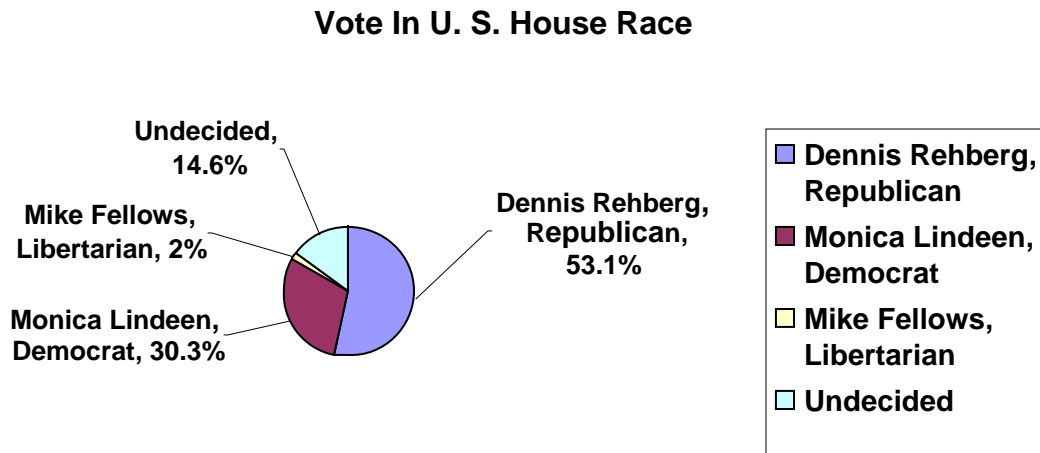
Personal Ethics	Political Mistake	Not Issue	Undecided	Total
38.1%	35.2%	13.9%	12.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (76.3%) of those interviewed who viewed Burns’ relationship with Abramoff as one of personal ethics were going to vote for Tester. A plurality of individuals saying this issue was a political mistake (47.2%) were Burns’ voters, as was a majority (71.9%) of those saying it had not been an issue at all.
- Pluralities of males (38.1%) and females (38.3%) regarded Burns involvement with Abramoff as an issue of personal ethics. But more men (18.8%) than women (9.2%) felt it was not an issue at all.
- In terms of education, individuals with the most education, 17+ years, were most likely (53%) to feel the issue involved personal ethics, while the cohort with the least schooling, 1-11 years, were most apt (45.5%) to say it was not an issue at all.
- A majority (62.4%) of Democrats and plurality (40.6%) of independents responded “personal ethics” to this question. A plurality (40.9%) of Republicans said “political mistake.”

III. VOTE IN U. S. HOUSE RACE

A majority (53.1%) of those interviewed said “Dennis Rehberg” when asked: “If the election for Montana’s seat in the U. S. House of Representatives were held today would you vote for [names and party read]?”



Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Age and gender were not related to voter intent.
- Majorities of Republicans (86%) and independents (51.6%) were Rehberg voters, a majority (67.1%) of Lindeen supporters were Democrats.
 - A. In terms of all Rehberg voters, 71% were Republicans, 15.9% independents and 13% Democrat. Lindeen supporters comprised 82% Democrats, 12.3% independents and 5.7% Republicans. Fellows voters were made up of 62.5% independents, 37.5% Democrats and 0% Republicans. The undecided electors were 40.4% Democrat, 36.2% Republican and 23.4% independents.
- In terms of those feeling the U. S. was not doing enough to stop illegal immigration, 57.7% were going to vote for Rehberg and 26.2% for Lindeen.
- A majority (77.1%) of Rehberg voters thought the Patriot Act was necessary, while a majority (55.9%) of Lindeen supporters wanted to repeal it.
- A majority (81.3%) of Rehberg voters supported the war with Iraq, a majority (55.8%) of Lindeen supporters opposed it.
- A majority (72.4%) of Rehberg supporters approved of incarcerating enemy combatants, a plurality (45.7%) of Lindeen voters opposed this practice.
- A majority (71.4%) of Rehberg voters viewed the war in Iraq and the war on terror as the same war, while a plurality (48.5%) of Lindeen electors said the conflicts were different.
- More Lindeen voters approved (91.1%) of Governor Schweitzer’s performance in office than did Rehberg electors (69.1%).

- On the 1-5 scaled religiosity questions majorities of those answering 1 “not important at all” 52.8% and 2 (53.8%) backed Lindeen. Majorities of those responding 3 (55.4%), 4 (60.9%) and 5 “very important” (62.4%) were Rehberg supporters.
- A majority (72.4%) of Rehberg backers approved of the President. A majority (91.9%) of Lindeen supporters and plurality of undecided (40%) voters disapproved of the President.
- A majority (61.3%) of those planning on voting for Dennis Rehberg also were Burns’ supporters. Majorities of Lindeen backers (91.1%) were Tester voters as was a majority (62.5%) of Fellows supporters.

IV. STATE BALLOT ISSUES

1. STATE BALLOT ISSUES

Questions were asked about three ballot issues which will likely be voted on in the general election.

A. SUPPORT OR OPPOSE INITIATIVE 153

The question regarding this ballot issue was worded: “Initiative 153 would prohibit certain former state officials and staff from becoming licensed lobbyists for two years following their departure from state government. Would you vote for or against this initiative?” A majority (71.4%) of those polled replied “support.”

SUPPORT OR OPPOSE INITIATIVE 153

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
71.4%	17.8%	10.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- More Democrats (81.9%) than Republicans (67.3%) or independents (65.6%) backed this initiative. The greatest opposition (26.6%) existed among independents.

B. SUPPORT OR OPPOSE INITIATIVE 151

The query regarding Initiative 151 was phrased: “Initiative 151 would raise the state minimum wage to the greater of either \$6.15 per hour or the federal minimum wage, as well as, provide for an annual cost-

of-living inflation adjustment in the wage. Would you vote for or against this initiative?” A majority (76.3%) of the interviewees replied “for.”

SUPPORT OR OPPOSE INITIATIVE 151

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
76.3%	14.4%	9.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those in the most educated group, 17+ years of school backed this issue the most (84.8%), while the strongest opposition (36.4%) came from those with the least education (1-11 years).
- More Democrats (91.3%) than independents (73.4%) or Republicans (67.3%) supported the initiative. Republicans also expressed the greatest opposition (21.6%) to the measure.

C. SUPPORT OR OPPOSE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 43

The question about proposed Constitutional Amendment 43 was worded: “Constitutional Amendment 43 would change the name of the State Auditor to Insurance Commissioner. Would you vote for or against this amendment?” A plurality (44%) of the respondents said “against.”

SUPPORT OR OPPOSE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 43

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
26.4%	44%	29.6%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Those most supportive of this issue were the highest educated group, 17+ years of education (36.4%), while those most opposed to it had some college education (51.8%).

2. VOTE IN MONTANA STATE HOUSE RACES

A generic question about the respondents intended vote in their Montana state house race was worded: “In terms of electing a representative to the Montana State House of Representatives, if this year’s general election were held today, do you think you would vote for the Republican or Democratic

candidate in your district?” A plurality (42.5%) of the respondents answered “Republican.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error this survey.

VOTE IN MONTANA STATE HOUSE RACES

Republican	Democrat	Neither	Other	Undecided	Total
42.5%	37.7%	3.4%	2.9%	13.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Age and gender were not related to voting intention.
- In terms of education those most likely to vote Democratic were in the highest 17+ years (57.6%) of school, while individuals most apt to favor Republicans had a college degree (49%).
- A majority (84.2%) of Republicans planned on voting for their parties’ candidates, while a majority of Democrats (82.6%) and plurality of independents (28.1%) favored Democratic candidates.
- A majority (69.2%) of those rating President Bush’s job performance positively said they would vote for Republicans, while a majority (68.9%) disapproving of him were going to support Democrats for the Legislature.
- A majority (72.9%) of Testers’ supporters were going to vote for Democrats, while a majority (81.1%) of Burns’ voters supported Republicans.
- A majority (66.8%) of Rehberg’s supported planned on voting for Republicans, while a majority (79%) of Lindeen voters backed Democrats.
- A majority (74%) of those disapproving of the Governor’s job performance were going to vote for Republican candidates, while a plurality (45.4%) of those approving of the job he is doing were going to support Democrats.

3. OPINION OF GOVERNOR SCHWEITZER’S PERFORMANCE

A majority (77%) of the interviewees replied “approve” when asked: “At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of Brian Schweitzer’s overall performance in office as governor of Montana?”

In last year’s poll, 68.6% of the respondents gave Governor Schweitzer a positive job approval rating.

OPINION OF GOVERNOR SCHWEITZER’S PERFORMANCE

Approve	Disapprove	Undecided	Total
77%	12.2%	10.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- More women (78.2%) than men (75.7%) approved of his performance, but women were also more undecided (13.1%) than men (8.4%) about his professional behavior.
- The Governor had the highest support among Democrats (91.9%) followed by independents (82.8%) and then Republicans (64.9%). His highest disapproval rating (21.1%) was among Republicans.
- Majorities of both those in favor (83.2%) of Initiative 153, and those opposed to it (64.4%) were going to vote for the measure.
- While a majority (92.9%) of Democrats who approved of the Governor’s performance were going to vote for Democratic legislative candidates, a majority (64.9%) of Republicans who approved of the job he is doing but were going to vote for Republican legislative candidates.
- While 86.2% of the respondents who disapproved of new oil refineries in Montana rated the Governor positively, so did a majority (75.7%) of those backing the proposed new construction.
- A majority (54.3%) approving of Schweitzer’s performance disapproved of the President. Majorities of those who disapproved (78%), or were undecided (59.7%), about the Governor approved of the President’s job performance.
- A majority (54.3%) of respondents approving of the Governor’s performance were going to vote for Tester, while a majority (70%) who disapproved of his actions in office were Burns’ backers.
- The Governor received positive job approval rating from those opposed (77.8%) to more coal bed methane development, those who wanted to study the issue and then decide (83.3%) and respondents favoring increased production (68.8%).

4. ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

A. OPINION REGARDING NEW MONTANA OIL REFINERIES

When asked, “would you support or oppose the building of new oil refineries in Montana,” a majority (74.3%) of the respondents answered “support.”

OPINION REGARDING NEW MONTANA OIL REFINERIES

Support	Oppose	Undecided	Total
74.3%	14.2%	11.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- More Republicans (81.9%) than independents (75%) or Democrats (66.4%) wanted to build new refineries. Democrats (22.1%) were also most opposed to this proposed construction.

B. DEVELOPMENT OF MONTANA COALBED METHANE

A question about coalbed methane development was phrased: “Many in Montana believe that a key to shoring up Montana’s finances may lie in the development of coalbed methane in Montana. Others believe that such development would cause significant damage to the environment in Montana. Do you think Montana should [options read].” A majority (61.4%) of those polled answered “study and then decide.”

DEVELOPMENT OF COALBED METHANE

	%
Increase Development	19.6%
Study Ways to Minimize Environmental Impact and Then Decide on Development	61.4%
Not Increase Coalbed Methane	11%
Undecided	8%
Total	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- When gender was combined with age, those most likely to support more development (26.5%) were males aged 61-71, individuals most prone to say study and then decide (75.7%) were women aged 18-41 and the group most opposed (20.5%) to more development were 18-41 year old males.
- Republicans were most likely (30.4%) to back increased production, Democrats (73.2%) to study and then decide the issue and independents most apt (12.5%) to oppose new production.

C. OPINION OF GLOBAL WARMING

Those surveyed were asked “which of the following best describes your beliefs about what is usually referred to as global warming” [options read]. A

majority (58.7%) of those answering this query said “both” human activity and natural cycles.

OPINION OF GLOBAL WARMING

	%
Global warming is being caused by human activity	18.6%
It is a part of the natural cycles that occur in global climate	13.9%
It is part of a natural cycle but is also a result of human activity	58.7%
There is no global warming	3.2%
Undecided	5.6%
Total	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- In terms of educational level individuals with 17+ years of education were most likely (37.9%) to see global warming as caused by human activity, while those with the least school, 1-11 years, were most apt (36.4%) to view warming as a natural cycle.
- Majorities of Republicans (62%), independents (66.9%) and Democrats (53.7%) saw global warming as the result of both human activity and a natural cycle. But in percentage terms more Republicans (18.7%), than independents (14.1%) or Democrats (6.7%) saw the phenomena as a natural cycle. And a larger percentage of Democrats (34.2%) than independents (12.5%) or Republicans (6.7%) felt it resulted from a human activity.

V. EDUCATION ISSUES

1. QUALITY OF CURRICULUM IN U. S. SCHOOLS

A question about the overall quality of K-12 curriculum in U. S. schools was phrased: “Do you think the quality of curriculum in K-12 public education in the United States is sufficient to keep America in the economic forefront of the industrialized world?” A majority (58.4%) of the respondents replied “no.”

QUALITY OF CURRICULUM IN U. S. SCHOOLS

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
32.3%	58.4%	9.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Those most likely to view the curriculum as being of quality were aged 72+ (40.5%), while the age cohort most likely to respond “no” was 61-71 years old (65.7%).

2. FUNDING OF LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Those responding to the poll were asked about school funding in the following terms: “Would you say the public schools in your community are [options read]. A plurality (48.3%) of those interviewed answered “under funded.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

FUNDING OF LOCAL SCHOOLS

<u>Under Funded</u>	<u>Adequately Funded</u>	<u>Over Funded</u>	<u>Total</u>
48.3%	44.8%	6.9%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- In terms of education respondents with 17+ years of education most often (67.7%) said “under funded,” those with a high school degree were most likely (52.3%) to say “adequately funded” and people with 1-11 years of school (20.5%) most often replied “over funded”.
- A majority (60.6%) of Democrats and plurality of independents (48.4%) said “under funded,” a majority of Republicans (52.7%) answered “adequately funded.”

3. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBIC SCHOOLS

When asked, “how would you rate the fiscal responsibility of the public school system in your community,” a plurality (40.1%) of those interviewed answered “good.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Total</u>
14.1%	36.6%	40.1%	9.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Those most likely to rate the handling of school finances as “poor” had a family income of less than \$10,000 (37.5%) a year. The group most apt to answer “excellent” had a family income of \$30,000-\$50,000 (14.9%) a year.

VI. HEALTH QUESTIONS

1. ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

In reply to the question, “how would you rate your access to healthcare,” a plurality (41%) of the interviewees replied “good.”

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Total</u>
15.9%	18.7%	41%	24.4%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Individuals with 17+ years of education were most likely to rate their access to health care as “excellent” (33.3%), while respondents with the least schooling, 1-11 years, were most apt (27.3%) to reply “poor.”
- Women aged 18-41 were most likely to rate their access as “poor” (27.8%), while females 72+ years old most often replied “excellent” (34.8%).
- A majority (51.4%) of those without health insurance rated their access to health care as “poor,” while a plurality (44%) of those with insurance evaluated their care as “good.”

2. OPINION ABOUT MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAWSUITS

A majority (84.4%) of those surveyed answered “yes” when asked: “Do you think the number of medical malpractice lawsuits has affected the cost of your medical care?”

OPINION ABOUT MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAWSUITS

<u>Affects Cost</u>	<u>Doesn't Affect Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
84.4%	15.6%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- More Republicans (93.8%) than independents (87.3%) or Democrats (72.6%) felt that malpractice suits affected the cost of healthcare.

3. EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-METHAMPHETAMINE ADVERTISEMENTS

When asked, “how effective do you think the anti-methamphetamine advertisement campaign sponsored by the Montana Meth project is in preventing methamphetamine use,” a plurality (33.5%) of those answering the question said “somewhat effective.” But 49.5% of those polled replied either “effective” or “very effective.” The results to this questions fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

A similar question asked in last year’s “MSU-Billings Poll” found that 45% of the respondents found the ads to be either “effective” or “very effective.”

EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-METHAMPHETAMINE ADVERTISEMENTS

<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Very Effective</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
6.6%	33.5%	30.8%	18.7%	11%	100%

4. HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE?

A majority (90.5%) of those surveyed replied “yes” when asked the question, “do you have at least some type of health insurance?”

HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
90.5%	9.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- While a majority of every income cohort reported having health insurance, those most likely to have it had a yearly income of \$75,000-\$100,000 (97.6%), while individuals earning less than \$10,000 a year were least likely (70.4%) to have it.
- Those aged 72+ (98.7%) were most apt to have some type of health insurance, while those 18-41 years old (85.1%) were least likely to have it.

- While almost all individuals with 17+ years of education (98.5%) had health insurance, those possessing the least education, 1-11 years, were least apt (81.8%) to have it.
- In terms of gender/age all females aged 72+ (100%) said they had some type of insurance, while those least likely to report having coverage were males 18-41 (79.5%).

5. HAVE PRESCRIPTION DRUG INSURANCE

A question about prescription drugs was phrased: “Do you have insurance that helps with the cost of prescription medication?” A majority (76.3%) of the respondents replied “yes.”

HAVE PRESCRIPTION DRUG INSURANCE

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

A. ADEQUACY OF DRUG INSURANCE

Only those polled who answered the preceding question were asked: “How adequate is this prescription drug insurance.” A majority (53.9%) replied “adequate.”

ADEQUACY OF DRUG INSURANCE

<u>Very Inadequate</u>	<u>Inadequate</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Very Adequate</u>	<u>Total</u>
2.4%	10.1%	53.9%	33.6%	100%

VII. OTHER QUESTIONS

1. INVOLVED IN ROAD RAGE INCIDENT

A majority (83.7%) of those surveyed said “no” when asked: “Have you ever been involved in an incident of road rage in which you felt seriously threatened?”

INVOLVED IN ROAD RAGE INCIDENT

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
16.3%	83.7%	100%

2. IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION IN LIFE

A 1 to 5 scaled question about religiosity 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 (42.4%) of those surveyed said “5.” The mean response was 3.73.

The mean response to this same question, which was asked in last years poll, was 3.6 and a plurality (41.7%) of the respondents answered “5”.

IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION IN LIFE

<u>1-Not Important at All</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5-Very Important</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>
9%	9.7%	22.9%	16%	42.4%	100%	3.73

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- More women (52.9%) than men (31.5%) rated their religiosity at “5.” And more men (13.2%) than women (4.9%) rated the religiosity at “1.”
- More Republicans (50.6%) than Democrats (36.7%) or independents (37.5%) evaluated their faith at “5.” And more Democrats (14.3%) than independents (4.7%) or Republicans (3.5%) rated their faith at “1.”
- In terms of gender/age the most religious cohort was the 58.8% of women aged 42-60 who evaluated their faith at “5,” and the least religious group were 72+ year old men who responded “1.”