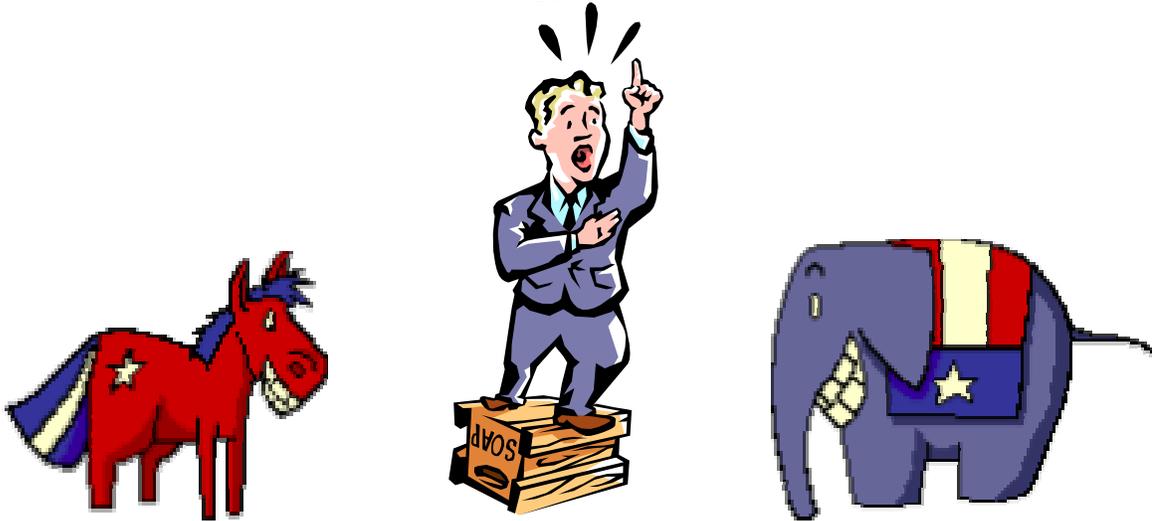




Access & Excellence



THE MSU-Billings Poll

November 2003

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

The “MSU-Billings Poll” is available on our website at
<http://www.msubillings.edu/spn/poll03.pdf>

The following students completed interviews for the survey:

Matt Anthony, Billings, MT	Jillian Olson, Colstrip, MT
Jeremy Austin, Billings, MT	Robbie Paul, Cut Bank, MT
Scott Brown, Billings, MT	Phil Santala, Billings, MT
Jared Delaney, Grass Range, MT	Jason Sinclair, Billings, MT
Stephanie Ferrel, Baker, MT	Connie Summers, Billings, MT
Jill Gannon, Glendive, MT	Leslie Taylor, Billings, MT
Kim Hamm, Billings, MT	Faron Thompson, Harlowton, MT
Nicole Hanson, Roundup, MT	Stuart Townsend, Charleston, SC
Franco Little Light, Pryor, MT	Mike Tulp, Billings, MT
Gary Nunn, Harlowton, MT	Ericka Wyrwas, Billings, MT

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the eighteenth “MSU-Billings Poll,” a statewide random sample telephone survey of adult Montanans conducted November 13-16, 2003. This is the fourteenth 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 401 interviews for this survey. Only adult Montanans were polled. 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.

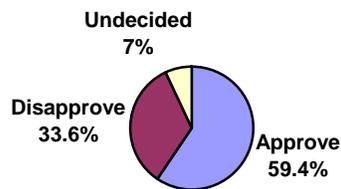
I. NATIONAL ISSUES

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

The 2003 "MSU-Billings Poll" marks the third year a question has been asked about whether those polled "[a]t this point in time," "approve or disapprove of George W. Bush's overall performance in office as President." A majority of 59.4% replied "approve."

In the 2001 poll, taken in the wake of the 9/11 attack, the President had an 86.7% approval rating and last year the comparative figure was a 69.7% positive job evaluation.

President Bush's Overall Job Performance



Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Among those who approved of the President's job performance, 57.9% were "better off" economically than three years ago, 20.4% were "worse off," and 21.7% were "about the same."
- A majority of Republicans (89.5%) and plurality of Independents (48.1%) approved of the President, while a majority (64.2%) of Democrats disapproved.
- A majority (85.3%) who approved of Bush's performance approved of the Iraq war, while a majority (73.3%) of those who disapproved of him opposed the war.
- Majorities of the educational groupings, 1-11 years (50%), 12 (54.2%), 13-15 (76.2%) and 16 (55.2%) approved of the President. A majority of individuals with 17+ years (post-graduate) of education disapproved (59.6%).
- 95.7% of those who said they would vote for Bush next year approved of his overall presidential performance, while a majority (76.5%) of respondents who said they would probably vote for someone else replied "disapprove".
- A majority (75%) of respondents who felt the U. S. had been "very successful" in stopping terrorism gave Bush a positive job performance rating. A majority (70.5%) who replied "very unsuccessful" disapproved of the overall job the President is doing.
- A majority (82.3%) who thought the U. S. would find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq approved of the overall job Bush is doing, while a majority (53.2%) who did not think WMD will be found disapproved of Bush's performance.
- A majority (57.5%) of the respondents who supported the Episcopal Church's consecration of a homosexual Bishop "disapproved" of the job the President is doing. A majority (73.2%) who opposed the appointment gave Bush a positive approval rating.

2. President Bush's Domestic Policy Approval Rating

When queried about whether they "approve[d]" or disapprove[d] of George W. Bush's overall handling of domestic issues," a majority (51.1%) answering the question said "approve."

President Bush's Domestic Approval Rating

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
51.1%	38.9%	10%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (89.8%) who approved of Bush's domestic handling of policy also approved of his overall job performance, while a majority (73.7%) disapproving of his behavior in this area also disapproved of his overall performance.
- A majority (60.2%) of those who thought they were "better off" economically than three years ago rated the President positively. A majority (56.9%) who said "worse off" disapproved.
- A majority of those earning less than \$20,000 a year (51.4%) disapproved of Bush's domestic performance. But majorities of all other income groupings approved of his performance in this area. Individuals in families making \$75,000+ a year expressed the highest approval (66%) rating.
- A majority (76.8%) of Republicans and plurality (40.7%) of Independents approved of the President's domestic performance, while a majority (72.3%) of Democrats disapproved.
- A majority or plurality of every education cohort approved of the President's job in domestic affairs, except a majority (59.6%) of those with a post-graduate education replied "disapprove." The group expressing the highest approval rating (58.2%) had some college education.

3. President Bush's Foreign Policy Approval Rating

A majority (50.6%) of interviewees replied "approve" when asked if they approved or disapproved of Bush's "overall handling of foreign policy issues as President."

President George W. Bush's Foreign Policy Approval Rating

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
50.6%	41.9%	7.5%	100%

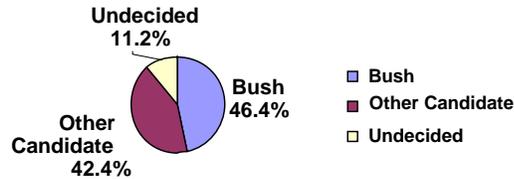
Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (94.1%) of those approving of Bush's actions in foreign policy also positively evaluated his overall performance, while a majority (73.8%) of those disapproving of his international policies disapproved of his overall behavior.
- A majority (76.3%) of Republicans approved of the way the President is dealing with foreign policy, while a majority (70.4%) of Democrats and plurality (48.1%) of Independents disapproved.
- A majority (86%) of respondents who approved of the President's job in international relations planned on voting for him next year, while a majority (82.9%) replying "disapprove" said they would back another candidate.
- The majority (77.3%) of interviewees who supported the war viewed Bush's handling of foreign policy positively, while a majority (86.5%) opposing the war had a negative view of the President's foreign policy.
- Majorities who felt the U. S. had been "very successful" (65%) or "successful" (74.7%) at stopping terrorism in Iraq liked the way the President has handled international relations. But majorities viewing the U. S. efforts as "unsuccessful" (65.3%) or "very unsuccessful" (77%) area did not think the President had done a good job in this area.

4. Vote Intention in 2004 Presidential Election

Those surveyed were asked a hypothetical question about whether they would vote to re-elect President Bush, or support an unnamed opponent in the 2004 election: “If next year’s election for President was held today, do you think you would vote for George W. Bush, or some other candidate?” A plurality of (46.4%) of those surveyed answered “Bush.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for the poll.

2004 Presidential Election



Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (52.6%) of males planned on voting for Bush, a majority of females (59.4%) favored some other candidate.
- A majority (76.8%) of Republicans said they would vote for Bush. A majority of Democrats (78.6%) and Independents (48.1%) supported some other candidate.
- Majorities of respondents with 1-11 years (55.6%) and 13-15 (some college) years of education (59%) said they would vote for Bush. A plurality of college graduates (46.9%) and majority of individuals with a post-graduate education (57.4%) backed some other candidate.

5. Opinions About Other Nation-States

Next, the poll participants were asked their opinions about four nation-states in the following terms: “I am going to read you the names of several nation-states. For each one named, please tell me if you have a positive or negative perception of this country.” Questions were asked about Great Britain, Germany, France and Canada. Majorities of those replying held positive opinions about Great Britain (88%) Canada (81.3%) and Germany (64.2%), while a plurality (44.9%) expressed negative feelings about France.

Postive or Negative Perceptions of Britain, Canada, Germany and France

	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Mixed</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
Great Britain	88%	4.7%	4.7%	2.6%	100%
Canada	81.3%	8.5%	7.5%	2.7%	100%
Germany	64.3%	17.2%	12.5%	6%	100%
France	41.6%	44.9%	8.5%	5%	100%

A. Great Britain

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- There was not a statistically significant relationship between Montanans’ opinions about Great Britain and whether or not they supported or opposed the war in Iraq.

B. Canada

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of those who both opposed (88.7%) and supported (76%) the war had positive views of Canada.
- Majorities of Democrats (88.1%), Independents (81.5%) and Republicans (75.3%) all expressed positive opinions about Canada.

C. Germany

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of those who both opposed (72.2%), as well as supported (59.5%) the war in Iraq expressed positive opinions about Germany.
- Majorities of Democrats (74.2%), Independents (66.7%) and Republicans (58.9%) all had a positive view of Germany.
- Majorities of every age cohort viewed Germany positively. Those aged 18-38 (72.7%) held the most positive feelings, while those aged 69+ (52.5%) were least likely to express a positive opinion.
- Opinions about Germany were directly related to level of education. While majorities of all educational cohorts viewed Germany positively, those with 1-11 years of education (55.6%) held, in relative terms, the least positive views. Those with a post-graduate degree (72.3%) most often expressed a positive opinion.

D. France

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (60.9%) of those who opposed the war with Iraq had a positive perspective about France. A majority (56.6%) who supported the war held a negative view.
- A majority (51%) of males held negative views of France, while a plurality (47.8%) of females expressed positive opinions about this nation-state.
- A majority (62.3%) of Democrats and plurality of Independents (44.4%) held positive perspectives about France. A majority (62.3%) of Republicans offered negative opinions.

6. Support or Oppose of U. S. Decision to Go to War Against Iraq

A majority (60.3%) of Montanans surveyed said “support” when asked if they supported or opposed “the U. S. decision to go to war against Iraq.”

Last year 61.9% of those interviewed responded “yes,” when asked if they thought “that the U. S. should use military force to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq.”

<u>Support or Oppose U. S. Decision to Go to War Against Iraq</u>			
<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
60.3%	33.2%	6.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- More men (66.3%) than women (54.6%) supported the war and women (8.3%) were more likely than men (4.6%) to be undecided on this issue.
- A majority (82.6%) of Republicans and plurality (48.1%) of Independents supported the conflict. A majority (55.3%) of Democrats opposed it.
- Those with 13-15 years of education supported the war to the greatest extent (69.7%) while, in relative terms, those with a post-graduate education opposed (53.2%) it the most.

- Majorities of respondents who felt the U. S. had been “very unsuccessful” (63.9%) or “unsuccessful” (53.7%) in the war against terrorism in Iraq opposed the conflict. Majorities of those viewing the efforts against terrorism as “successful” (83.9%) or “very successful” (75%) supported the conflict.
- A majority (83.6%) of those who felt weapons of mass destruction would be found in Iraq backed the war, while a majority (54.8%) who said they did not think WMD would be found opposed it.

7. Should U. S. Make Grant or Loan to Rebuild Iraq’s Infrastructure?

The survey panel was asked: “Do you feel that the \$18-20 billion the U. S. will spend in the next to help rebuild Iraq’s infrastructure should be given to that country in the form of a grant which doesn’t have to be paid back, or a loan which does have to be paid back?” A majority (69.3%) of the interviewees favored a “loan.”

<u>U. S. Make Grant or Loan to Rebuild Iraq</u>				
<u>Grant</u>	<u>Loan</u>	<u>Combination</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
17.8%	69.3%	6.2%	6.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- More rural (79.6%) than urban (63.4%) residents favored a loan rather than a grant
- Residents of the former Eastern Congressional District (73%) were more supportive of a loan than those residing in the old Western Congressional District (67.1%).

8. Are U. S. Efforts to Combat Terrorism in Iraq a Success or Failure?

A plurality (43.4%) of those answering a question about “how successful” they felt “the United States’ ongoing efforts to combat terrorist attacks in Iraq had been,” replied either “very successful” or “successful.”

<u>U. S. Efforts to Combat Iraqi Terrorism a Success or Failure</u>					
<u>Very Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Very Successful</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
15.2%	30.2%	43.4%	5%	6.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Independents were most apt to feel the U. S. had been “very unsuccessful” (25.9%) in the war against terrorism, Democrats were most likely to say “unsuccessful” (59.1%) and Republicans most often to respond “successful” (57.9%), as well as, “very successful” (7.4%).
- Individuals with a post-graduate degree most often viewed the war against terrorism as “very unsuccessful” (21.3%) and “unsuccessful” (40.4%). Respondents with a high school degree most often replied “successful” (51.7%) and those with less than a high school degree were most apt to answer “very successful” (16.7%).

9. Will U. S. Inspectors Find Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq?

A plurality (46.4%) of those responding responded “no” when queried: “In your opinion, will U. S. inspectors find any significant weapons of mass destruction hidden in Iraq?”

Will U. S. Inspectors Find WMD in Iraq?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
39.4%	46.4%	14.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority of Republicans (52.1%) felt weapons of mass destruction would be found. Majorities of Democrats (62.9%) and Independents (55.6%) did not believe WMD would be discovered.

10. Should Federal Government Remove Ban on Trade/Travel to Cuba?

A (51.6%) of the interviewees said “yes,” when answering the question: “Should the federal government remove its ban on most U. S. trade and travel to Cuba?”

Should Federal Government Remove Ban on Trade/Travel to Cuba?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
51.6%	29.4%	19%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Majorities of the 69+ (64.4%), 58-68 (58.3%) and 39-57 (52.8%) age groups favored lifting the restrictions. A plurality of those aged 18-38 (44.5%) opposed lifting the sanctions.

11. Back Universal Federal Healthcare System Paid for by Specific Taxes

A majority (57.6%) of the poll respondents replied “support” when queried about their opinion about “a federal healthcare system, paid for by additional taxes, which would provide a universal health care system.”

Back Universal Federal Healthcare System Paid for by Specific Taxes

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
57.6%	33.2%	9.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority or plurality of all income cohorts supported the proposal. Those earning less than \$20,000 a year backed it the most (77.1%), while, in relative terms, those most opposed earned more than \$75,000 (37.7%) a year.
- Majorities of Democrats (76.7%) and Independents (66.7%) supported the proposal, while 50% of Republicans opposed it.
- Majorities of the 18-38 (68.2%), 39-57 (57.2%) and 58-68 (51.4%) age cohorts liked the health care plan. A plurality (49.2%) of interviewees aged 69+ opposed it.

12. Should Non-Citizens Count Toward Awarding U. S. House Seats?

The poll respondents were asked the following question: “People living in the United States who are non-citizens are counted in the U. S. Census. Since Census figures determine how many U. S. House of Representatives seats a state is awarded, do you believe non-citizens would be counted the same as citizens in allocating U. S. House seats?” A majority (82%) of those answering this question said “no”.

Should Non-Citizen Count Toward Awarding U. S. House Seats?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
13.5%	82%	4.5%	100%

13. Opinion About Whether Level of Airport Security is Adequate

A plurality (48.8%) of those interviewed answered “no” when asked if they felt “the existing level of airport security is sufficient to deter another terrorist attack using airplanes.”

Opinion About Whether Level of Airport Security is Adequate

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
38.2%	48.8%	13%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority of those aged 69+ (52.5%) and plurality of the 18-38 (45.5%) age groups viewed airport security as adequate. Pluralities of the 39-57 (54.1%) and 58-68 (50.1%) age cohorts said security was inadequate.

II. MONTANA STATE ISSUES

1. Job Performance of Statewide Elected Officials

Those surveyed were asked to rate the job performance of Governor Judy Martz, U. S. Senators Max Baucus and Conrad Burns and U. S. Representative Dennis Rehberg. For each official the question was phrased in terms of whether those answering the question “approve[d] or disapprove[d] of their overall performance in office.”

A. Governor Martz’s Job Approval

A majority (65.6%) of the respondents did not approve of Governor Martz’s current job performance.

In the 2001 poll 37.8% of those surveyed had an unfavorable opinion of the Governor’s job performance, compared to a 69.2% disapproval rating last year.

Governor Martz’s Job Performance

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
22.2%	65.6%	12.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Democrats (80.5%), Independents (70.4%) and Republicans (53.2%) all disapproved of the Governor’s job performance.
- Women aged 39-57 (85.7%) disliked the Governor’s performance the most. In relative terms she had the highest approval rating among males aged 69+ (35.7%).

B. Senator Baucus' Job Performance

A majority (62.3%) replied “approve” when asked to evaluate Senator Baucus’ performance in office.

In the 2001 poll 55% of the interviewees approved of the Senator’s job performance, as did 60.7% of last year’s sample.

<u>Senator Baucus' Job Performance</u>			
<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
62.3%	20%	17.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Democrats (72.3%), Independents (59.3%) and Republicans (55.8%) all evaluated Baucus positively.
- Baucus had a higher job approval rating in the former Eastern Congressional District (71.6%) than in the old Western District (57.1%).
- Baucus’ strongest approval rating was among women aged 69+ (83.9%). In relative terms, his highest disapproval rating existed (32.4%) with males aged 39-57.
- Majorities of those who both disapproved (69.2%) and approved (58.5%) of the President’s domestic policies in office approved of Baucus.
- Majorities of the respondents both opposing (65.4%) and supporting (62%) the war in Iraq approved of Baucus’ job performance.

C. Senator Burn's Job Performance

A majority (60.1%) of the respondents “approve[d]” of Senator Burn’s behavior in office.

In the 2001 poll, 51.8% said “approve,” in response to the same question as did 62.7% of last years interviewees.

<u>Senator Burns' Job Performance</u>			
<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
60.1%	21.7%	18.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (72.6%) and Independents (55.6%), as well as a plurality of Democrats (46.5%) approved of Burns’ job performance.
- In relative terms, more residents of the former Eastern Congressional District (68.9%) approved of the job Burns is doing than did those residing in the old Western District (55.2%).
- Burns had majority or plurality support for his performance in office from all educational cohorts. His strongest backing was found among those with some college (68%). In relative terms, his lowest positive rating existed among those with less than a high school education (44.4%).
- A majority (72.7%) of the respondents who approved of Bush’s domestic performance in office rated Burns positively. And a plurality (43.6%) expressing disapproval of Bush’s actions in domestic affairs, also approved of the job Burns is doing.
- A majority or plurality of those who regarded the U. S. war on terrorism in Iraq both a relative success or failure, viewed Burns positively. The strongest support (71.3%) for the Senator’s job performance was found among those who identified the war on terrorism as “successful”.

- A majority (65.1%) of those favoring tree thinning backed Burns, as did a plurality (44.4%) of respondents opposing this practice.
- A majority (69.6%) of those supporting energy explorations along the Rocky Mountain front approved of Burns, as did a plurality (47.2%) of individuals opposed to the development.

D. Representative Rehberg’s Job Performance

Of those answering the question, a majority (52.9%) said they “approve[d]” of Representative Rehberg’s job performance.

The 2001 poll found Rehberg with a 49.2% job approval rating and last year 57.1% of those interviewed replied “approve” when asked the same question.

<u>Representative Rehberg’s Job Performance</u>			
<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
52.9%	19.7%	27.4%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (65.8%) of Republicans and pluralities of Independents (44.4%) and Democrats (40.3%) approved of Rehberg’s job performance.
- Rehberg’s job performance was positively evaluated by a majority or plurality of every income group. His greatest support was found among those earning \$35,000-\$50,000 (67.4%) a year. In relative terms, his least positive evaluation existed with the \$50,000-\$75,000 (42%) cohort.
- More former Eastern Congressional District inhabitants (61.5%) than old Western District residents (47.6%) rated Rehberg positively.
- A majority or plurality of every age cohort viewed Rehberg positively. His strongest support was in the age 69+ (61%) group. In relative terms his most negative approval rating existed among the 18-38 (46.4%) age group.
- A majority (62%) of those who supported the war in Iraq rated Rehberg positively, as did a plurality (41.4%) of both respondents opposed to the conflict.
- Majorities of those opposed (56.8%) to lifting travel and trade sanctions against Cuba as well as supporting (52.2%) ending the sanctions, approved of the job Rehberg is doing.
- A majority (56.1%) of the respondents favoring tree thinning, as well as a plurality (39.5%) of those opposing this practice viewed Rehberg positively.
- A majority (62.3%) of those supporting energy exploration along the Rocky Mountain front, as well as a plurality (40.9%) opposing this development, viewed Rehberg positively.
- Majorities (65%) of those both supporting the removal of private land from the Missouri Breaks National Monument, as well as opposing (50.3%) this plan, rated Rehberg positively.

2. Gubernatorial Candidates

A. Name Recognition of Gubernatorial Candidates

Five Democratic and Republic candidates have announced their intention to run for the office of Governor of Montana in 2004 (Brian Schweitzer, Democrat; Bob Brown, Republican; Pat Davison, Republican; Ken Miller, Republican; Tom Keating, Republican). A question about these candidates was phrased: “At the present time 5 individuals have announced their intention to run for the office of Governor as Republican or Democratic candidates. Would you please tell me the names of as many of these individuals as possible.”

The 28.7% of those polled who named “Schweitzer” made him the most recognizable candidate, followed by “Brown” (20%), “Davison” (5.7%), “Miller” (3.5%), and “Keating” (3.2%).

Name Recognition of Gubernatorial Candidates

	<u>Knew</u>	<u>Didn't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>
Brian Schweitzer	28.7%	71.3%	100%
Bob Brown	20%	80%	100%
Pat Davison	5.7%	94.3%	100%
Ken Miller	3.5%	96.5%	100%
Tom Keating	3.2%	96.8%	100%

A. Brian Schweitzer

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- More Democrats (39%), than Independents (22.2%), or Republicans (22.1%) knew Schweitzer's name.
- Schweitzer had the highest named recognition among the group earning more than \$75,000 (41.5%) a year and the least recognition in the less than \$20,000 (17.1%) a year group.
- Respondents aged 69+ (40.7%) were most likely to know Schweitzer, while those in the 18-38 (11.8%) cohort were least able to identify him.
- A majority (55.3%) of individuals with a post-graduate degree knew Schweitzer. He was least often identified (16.7%) by individuals with less than a high school education.

B. Bob Brown

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Brown was most likely to be identified by those aged 56-68 (36.1%) and least likely to be known by the 18-38 (7.3%) cohort.
- In terms of the sex/age variable, males aged 56-68 (45.7%) were most apt to know Brown, while females 18-38 (2.2%) were least likely to identify him.

C. Know Davison

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- In terms of income, those earning \$75,000+ (17%) a year were most like to know Davison, while those earning less than \$20,000 (1.4%) and \$50,000-\$75,000 (1.4%) a year were least likely to name him.
- Individuals 69+ (13.6%) most often identified Davison, while the 18-38 (2.7%) cohort was least likely to know him.

D. Know Miller

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- In relative terms, Miller was best known by the aged 69+ (10.2%) group and least often identified by those aged 18-38 (.9%).

E. Tom Keating

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- None

3. Number of Gubernatorial Candidates Known

Almost two-thirds (65.8%) of the respondents could not name any of the Democratic and Republican gubernatorial candidates.

Number of Gubernatorial Candidates Known

<u>Knew 0</u>	<u>Knew 1</u>	<u>Knew 2</u>	<u>Knew 3</u>	<u>Knew 4</u>	<u>Knew 5</u>	<u>Total</u>
65.6%	16.2%	11.9%	4.3%	1.5%	.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- In terms of income, those earning \$20,000 a year or less were least able (81.4%) to identify any candidates. In relative terms, those most likely to know all 5 candidates made more than \$75,000 (1.9%) a year.
- Majorities of Republicans (71.1%), Independents (70.4%) and Democrats (57.2%) could not name any of the candidates.
- While majorities of all age groupings could not name a single candidate, those aged 18-38 (86.4%) were most likely not to be able to identify any candidate. In relative terms, the 69+ (52.5%) age group was least likely not to know any candidate.

4. Vote in Montana House of Representatives Election

When asked the question, “[i]f the election were held today to elect a representative to the Montana House of Representatives in your district, do you think you would vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate?” A plurality (39.4%) of those answering this question said “Republican.” The results for this question fall right at the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

In last year’s poll, 46.9% of the interviewees replied “Republican” and 36.9% said “Democrat.”

Vote Intention in 2004 Montana House Election

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
39.4%	34.4%	4.4%	6%	15.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (78.4%) of Republicans said they’d vote for a GOP candidate and a majority of Democrats (79.9%) for a candidate from their party. A plurality (40.7%) of Independents were undecided whom they would support.
- In terms of gender, a plurality (44.9%) of males planned on voting for a Republican candidate, while a plurality (40.5%) of females backed a Democrat.
- In terms of educational groupings, a majority (54.1%) of respondents with some college planned on supporting a Republican. Those with a high school degree split evenly 36.4%-36.4% in backing candidates from the two major parties. Pluralities of interviewees with less than a high school degree (44.4%), a college degree (39.6%) and a post-graduate education (46.8%) backed Democrats.

5. Legal for Montanans to Buy Prescription Drugs in Canada

A majority (85.1%) of Montanans polled replied “yes” when asked if they thought “it should be legal for Montanans to travel to Canada to buy prescription drugs?”

Legal to Buy Prescription Drugs in Canada

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
85.1%	9.7%	5.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority of every age grouping supported being able to buy drugs in Canada. The highest level of support (95%) existed among the 39-57 age cohort.

6. Legal for MT to Buy Prescription Drugs Through Mail or Internet From Canada

When asked if they felt “it should be legal for Montanans to order prescription drugs through the mail or on the Internet from Canada,” a majority polled (75.8%) responded “yes.”

Legal to Buy Prescription Drugs Through Mail or Internet From Canada

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
75.8%	18.2%	6%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (96.7%) of those who wanted to be able to receive drugs by mail/Internet also supported being able to travel to Canada to acquire them.
- Majorities of Democrats (84.3%), Republicans (71.6%), and Independents (66.7%) all supported the mail/Internet option.
- A majority of every age cohort liked the mail/Internet option. It was supported the most (83.6%) by those aged 39-57.

7. Should MT Local Governments Be Able to Prevent Smoking in Public Buildings?

A majority (57.9%) of the respondents answered “yes” when asked the question: “Do you feel that local governments in Montana should have the ability to prevent smoking in all buildings open to the public?”

Montana Local Governments Able to Prevent Smoking in Public Buildings

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
57.9%	40.1%	2%	100%

8. Opinion About Thinning Forests to Control Forest Fires

A question was asked about thinning trees in forests: “Some people believe that thinning forests helps prevent and control forest fires. Do you think there should be an increase in the thinning of federal and state forest lands in Montana?” A majority (72.1%) of the individuals surveyed answered “yes.”

Opinion About Thinning Forests to Control Forest Fires

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
72.1%	20.2%	7.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of both males (80.6%) and females (63.9%) supported tree thinning. And more women (12.2%) than men (3.1%) were undecided about this issue.
- Majorities of Republicans (81.1%), Democrats (64.2%) and Independents (63%) all backed tree thinning.
- Majorities of every age group backed thinning. Those expressing the strongest support (80.6%) were aged 58-68.
- In terms of the sex/age variable, males aged 38-68 (88.6%) were most supportive of thinning. Among women, those aged 58-68 (73%) liked the idea the most.
- Majorities of all educational cohorts backed thinning. Those most supportive of the proposal had less than a high school degree (77.8%).
- Majorities of those both supporting (85%) as well as opposing (53.5%) energy development along the Rocky Mountain Front backed thinning.

9. Support or Oppose Oil and Gas Development Along MT Rocky Mountain Front

The interviewees were asked if they “support[ed] or oppose[d] allowing oil and natural gas development along the Rocky Mountain Front in Montana.” A majority (51.6%) of those surveyed answered “support.”

Support or Oppose Oil and Gas Development Along Montana Rocky Mountain Front

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
51.6%	31.7%	16.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (59.7%) of males and plurality (43.9%) of females supported energy development in this area.
- A majority (56.8%) of the residents of the former Eastern Congressional District liked the proposal, as did a plurality (48.4%) of those residing in the old Western District.
- A majority (62.6%) of Republicans and plurality of Independents (40.7%) supported development, while a plurality (45.9%) of Democrats opposed it.
- A majority or plurality of all age groupings supported the proposed activity. Those expressing the most support (71.2%) were aged 69+.
- A majority or plurality of every educational grouping, except a majority (59.6%) of those with a post-graduate degree who opposed the idea, favored development.

10. What To Do About Private Land Inside Missouri Breaks Monument Area

A question about private land and the Missouri Breaks Monument area was phrased: “Some private land is now located inside the federal Missouri Breaks National Monument in Montana. Should this private land remain inside the boundaries of the monument, or be removed from the monument area.” A plurality (41.1%) of those interviewed replied “remain inside.”

What To Do About Private Land Inside Missouri Breaks National Monument

<u>Remain Inside</u>	<u>Remove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
41.1%	30.7%	28.2%	100%

III. LIFESTYLE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

1. Economically Better or Worse Off Than Three Years Ago

A majority (52%) of Montanans taking the survey said “better off” when asked if “in an economic sense,” they felt they were “better or worse off than ... three years ago.”

Economically Better or Worse Off Than Three Years Ago

<u>Better Off</u>	<u>Worse Off</u>	<u>About the Same</u>	<u>Total</u>
52%	25.8%	22.2%	100%

2. Support or Oppose Episcopal Church Consecrating Homosexual Bishop

A majority (54.8%) of those responding to the question answered “oppose,” when told that the “Episcopal Church consecrated a homosexual as a bishop in its church” and were then asked if they “support[ed] or oppose[d] this decision.”

Support or Oppose Episcopal Church Consecrating Homosexual Bishop

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
28.2%	54.8%	17%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (62.2%) of males and plurality (47.8%) of females opposed the consecration.
- Majorities of Republicans (69.5%) and Independents (55.6%) opposed the appointment. A plurality (47.2%) of Democrats supported it.
- A majority or plurality of every educational group, except a plurality (46.8%) of those with a post-graduate degree who supported the action, opposed the consecration.
- Majorities of those both supporting (92.9%) as well as opposing (62.7%) the appointment said they would not be bothered if a homosexual person was a member of their church congregation.

3. Homosexual Member of Your Church

Of those interviewed, a majority (73.8%) said “no” when asked if it would “bother you if an openly homosexual person was a member of your church?”

Homosexual Member of Your Church

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Attend Church</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
18%	73.8%	5%	3.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of both women (84.9%) and men (62.2%) said they would not be bothered by having a homosexual in their congregation.
- Majorities of Independents (88.9%), Democrats (80.5%) and Republicans (65.8%) all would not be troubled by a homosexual member of their church.
- In terms of the sex/age variable, a majority of every sub-group would not be troubled by a homosexual in their church. Women aged 39-57 (90.1%) held this opinion most strongly, while among males those who indicated they would be least bothered by this possibility were aged 18-38 (67.2%).

4. Number of Homosexual Characters on TV Programs

In response a question about “the number of homosexual characters portrayed on regularly scheduled television programs,” a majority (52.9%) of the interviewees said “too many”.

Number of Homosexual Characters on TV Programs

<u>Too Few</u>	<u>About Right Number</u>	<u>Too Many</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
4.2%	21.2%	52.9%	21.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority of Republicans (66.3%) and plurality of Independents (40.7%) and Democrats (37.1%) felt there were too many gays in television shows.
- A majority or plurality of every age grouping said they thought too many gays appeared on television. Those aged 69+ (66.1%) most often held this opinion.
- A majority or plurality of every educational group said they thought there were too many gay characters appearing on television. Respondents with some college (62.3%) offered this opinion most often.

5. Did You or Family Member Discharge Fireworks Around July 4th?

A majority (52.6%) of the respondents said “no” in reply to the question “[d]id you or a member of your immediate family purchase or discharge fireworks on our around the 4th of July this year?”

Did You or Family Member Discharge Fireworks Around July 4th?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
47.4%	52.6%	100%

6. Should Discharging Fireworks Around July 4th be Legal?

The respondents were asked: “Do you think that discharging fireworks around the 4th of July should be legal or illegal in the immediate area where you live?” A majority (63.3%) replied “legal.”

Should Discharging Fireworks Around July 4th be Legal

<u>Legal</u>	<u>Illegal</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
63.3%	32.7%	4%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- More men (71.9%) than women (55.1%) said fireworks use should be legal.
- More rural (72.1%) than urban (58.3%) residents said discharging fireworks should be legal.
- More Republicans (70.5%), than Democrats (56.6%), or Independents (51.9%) said fireworks should be legal.
- Majorities of those aged 18-38 (71.8%), 39-57 (64.8%) and 56-68 (61.1%) wanted fireworks to remain legal. A plurality (47.5%) of those aged 69+ replied “illegal.”
- Among those who felt fireworks should be legal, 62.2% had discharged some around the last 4th of July, while 80% of those who thought fireworks should be illegal said they did not use them.

7. Insurance Companies Use of Credit Checks to Determine Premiums

A question about insurance was phrased: “Currently insurance companies use the results of credit checks as a factor in determining the amount of premiums charged for insurance. Do you favor or oppose this practice?” A majority (82%) of those responding replied “oppose.”

Insurance Companies Use of Credit Checks to Determine Premiums

<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
11.8%	82%	6.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- More women (83.9%) than men (80.1%) opposed employing credit checks.

8. Subscribe to Cable or Satellite Dish TV Programming

A majority (79.8%) of the interviewees responded “yes” when asked if anyone in your household subscribe(s) to cable or satellite dish television program?”

Subscribe to Cable or Satellite Dish TV Programming

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
79.8%	20.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Majorities of every income group had cable or satellite television service. Those most likely to have this service earned \$75,000+ (94.3%) a year. Individuals least likely to have this type of television (61.8%), earned less than \$20,000 a year.

9. Should Montana Abolish the Death Penalty?

A majority (71.8%) of those polled replied “no” to a question about whether they felt “Montana should abolish the death penalty?”

<u>Should Montana Abolish the Death Penalty?</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
19%	71.8%	9.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (81.1%) and Democrats (63.5%) opposed abolishing the death penalty, as did a plurality (48.1%) of Independents.
- Individuals with some high school education opposed (78.7%) abolishing the death penalty to the greatest extent. The group, in relative terms, least supportive of retaining the punishment was found among those with a post-graduate education (59.6%).

10. Should Pregnant Women Be Sent To Prison?

A majority (76.8%) of the interviewees answered “yes” to the query: “Do you think pregnant women should be sent to prison if they are convicted of a crime that calls for incarceration?”

<u>Should Pregnant Women Be Sent To Prison?</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
76.8%	11.7%	11.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Majorities of all age cohorts, 18-38 (78.2%), 39-57 (82.4%), 56-68 (76.4%) and 69+ (59.3%) backed sending pregnant women to prison.

IV. EDUCATION ISSUES

1. Should Montana Public School Teachers Have the Right to Strike?

A majority (69.3%) of the poll respondents said “yes,” when asked if they thought “public school teachers in Montana should have the legal right to strike?”

Should Montana Public School Teachers Have the Right to Strike?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
69.3%	25.5%	5.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Majorities of Democrats (81.1%), Independents (66.7%) and Republicans (60%) all said teachers should be allowed to strike.
-

2. Should Montana Public High Schools Provide Daycare for Students?

A majority (57.6%) of those surveyed replied “no” in reply to the question “[s]hould public high schools in Montana provide daycare services for students who have children?”

Should Montana Public High Schools Provide Daycare for Students?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
34.7%	57.6%	7.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (54.3%) of individuals living in families earning less than \$20,000 a year favored offering daycare. Majorities of every other income grouping, with those earning 75,000+ (62.3%) being the most opposed, did not want to offer daycare in the schools.
- Majorities of Independents (74.1%) and Republicans (67.9%) opposed offering a daycare benefit. A plurality of Democrats (48.4%) favored the proposal.
- A majority of every age grouping, with those aged 58-68 (70.8%) being most opposed, were against offering daycare, except for a plurality (47.3%) of 18-38 year olds, who favored having the service.
- A majority of every educational grouping except one were against offering daycare. Individuals with 1-11 years of education most opposed (72.2%) to offering daycare. A plurality (48.9%) of respondents with a post-graduate education favored the plan.
- Among women those aged 18-38 (52.2%) most favored offering daycare. Males aged 58-68 (74.3%) most opposed having this benefit.

3. Support Having K-12 Public Schools in Session All Year Long

A plurality (45.9%) of those surveyed answered “oppose” when asked: “Would you support or oppose having K-12 public schools in session all year long with students having several staggered vacations?” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

Support Having K-12 Public Schools in Session All Year Long

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
43.6%	45.9%	10.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A plurality (48.8%) of those residing in the former Western Congressional District supported year around school, while a majority (52.7%) of the residents of the old Eastern Congressional District opposed the idea.

4. Importance of MT High School Graduates Getting Post-Secondary Education

A 1-5 scaled question was asked where “1” represented “not important at all” and “5” “very important,” about “how important do you think it is for Montana high school graduates to attend a post-secondary educational institution?” A majority (58.6%) of the respondents replied “5.”

<u>Importance of Post-Secondary Education</u>						
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean Response</u>
.8%	2.3%	19.3%	19%	58.6%	100%	4.3

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority of every income group replied “5” to this question. Those most often replying “5” (76.9%), earned more than \$75,000 a year.
- A majority of every educational cohort replied “5,” except 50% of those with 1-11 years of school identified “3” as their answer. The cohort most often responding “5” had a college degree (70.5%).

5. MT Public High Schools Emphasis on Extracurricular or Academic Activities

A plurality (45.4%) of those interviewed said “extracurricular activities” when asked: “Do you think Montana’s public high schools place more emphasis on extracurricular activities or academics?”

<u>MT Public High Schools Emphasis on Extracurricular or Academic Activities</u>				
<u>Extracurricular</u>	<u>Academics</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
45.4%	24.2%	16.4%	14%	100%