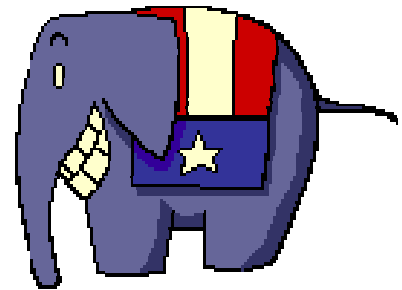
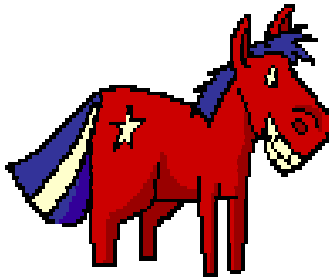


15th Year!



THE MSU-Billings Poll
October 2004

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

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

The following students completed interviews for the survey:

Jeremy Carlson, Billings, MT
Anzie DeZont, Cut Bank, MT
Victor Hernandez, Billings, MT
Ashley Holmes, Butte, MT
Jennifer Hurd, Billings, MT
Misty Jackson, Billings, MT
Kristina Johnson, Helena, MT
Chelsie Kerns, Laurel, MT
Krista Marshall, Shepherd, MT
Travis McCullough, Laurel, MT
Ross McLinden, Richey, MT
Tracy Schweigert, Billings, MT
Kelsey Toft, Casper, WY
Sean Whiting, Billings, MT

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the nineteenth “MSU-Billings Poll,” a statewide random sample telephone survey of adult Montanans conducted October 7-10, 2004. This is the fifteenth 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 411 interviews for this survey. Only adult Montanans who said they were both registered to vote and very likely to vote in the 2004 general election 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.

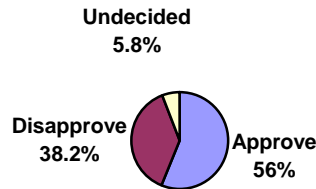
I. NATIONAL ISSUES

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

This is the fourth year the “MSU-Billings Poll” asked those surveyed whether “at this point in time,” they “approve or disapprove of George W. Bush’s overall performance in office as President.” A majority (56%) replied “approve.”

In the 2001 poll the President had an 86.7% positive approval rating, 69.7% in 2002 and 59.4% in 2003.

President Bush's Overall Job Performance



Statistically Significant Relationships:

- 91.7% of those who approved of Bush planned on voting for him, while 83.4% of those saying “disapprove” were voting for Kerry.
- 83.9% of the respondents approving of the President supported the Iraq war, 86.6% of those disapproving of his performance also opposed the war.
- On a 1-5 scaled question about media reporting on the Iraq war where “1” represented “very biased” and “5” “very objective,” 50% of those who approved of Bush’s job performance found the media “very biased” (1). A plurality (29.1%) of those who responded “3” disapproved of the job he is doing.
- On a 1-5 scaled question about the importance of religion in the respondents’ lives where “1” represented “not important at all” and “5” “very important,” majorities of those replying “1” (75%) or “2” (51.4%) disapproved of Bush. Majorities answering “3” (61.8%), “4” (58.7%) or “5” (60.3%) approved of the president.
- A majority (83.1%) of Democrats disapproved of Bush. A majority (91%) of Republicans and half (50%) of the independents approved his job performance.

2. Interest in General Election

Those interviewed were asked a 1-10 scaled question, where “1” represented “no interest” and “10” “great interest,” about their interest “in the upcoming general election.” A majority (92.4%) replied that to some extent (6-10) they were “interested” in the general election. The mean response was 8.8. A majority (55.7%) of the respondents replied “10.”

The 2000 question on this topic was asked on a 1-10 scale. In that year the mean response was 7.7 and a plurality (35.4%) answered “10.” A similar question asked in 2002, was scaled on a 1-5 basis. The mean response was 3.9 and a plurality (43%) of those interviewed chose “5” (very interested).

Interest in General Election

<u>Not Interested (1-5)</u>	<u>Interested (6-10)</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>
7.8%	92.4%	100%	8.8

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- In terms of importance of religion in their lives, those who felt religion was “very important” had the most (9.1 mean) interest in the election.
- In terms of age, those most interested in the election were aged 59-69 (9.1 mean) and those relatively the least interested were aged 18-39 (8.4 mean).
- Non-native Montanans had somewhat more interest (9.1 mean) in the election than did native-born interviewees (8.6 mean).

3. Vote in Presidential Race

A majority of 55.3% of the interviewees replied “George Bush” when queried: “If this year’s presidential election were being held today for whom do you think you would vote?”

Vote in Presidential Race

	<u>%</u>
Republican George Bush	55.3%
Democrat John Kerry	34.3%
Independent Ralph Nader	2.2%
Green Party David Cobb	0%
Libertarian Michael Badnarik	0%
Constitution Michael Peroutka	.7%
Undecided	<u>7.5%</u>
Total	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (88.7%) of those planning on voting for Kerry felt he would do the best job managing the economy, while a majority (88.5%) of Bush supporters said the president would be best at handling this issue. A plurality (35.5%) of undecided voters were also undecided about which candidate would be the best for the economy.
- In terms of insuring homeland security, majorities of Bush (96%) and undecided voters (61.3%) viewed the president as being the best person for dealing with this issue. A majority of Kerry voters (70.2%) said he would be superior in this area.
- In dealing with international terrorism, majorities of Bush (97.8%) and undecided voters (54.8%) felt the president would best handle this issue. A majority of Kerry (81.6%) voters said the senator would be superior in dealing with this concern.
- A majority of Bush (93.4%) and plurality (45.2%) of undecided voters thought the president would be best at handling the Iraq conflict. A majority of Kerry (85.8%) voters felt the senator would best deal with this ongoing conflict.
- A majority of Bush (82.8%) voters supported the decision to go to war with Iraq. Majorities of Kerry (84.4%) and undecided (54.8%) voters opposed the conflict.
- On the 1-5 scaled questions about media bias in covering the Iraq war, a majority of Bush (50.9%) backers gave the media a “1” (very biased), a plurality of Kerry’s (29.5%) supporters chose a neutral “3” and a plurality of undecided (40.7%) voters also replied “3.”

- On a 1-5 scaled question about Iraq’s impact on the U. S. economy where “1” represented “very negatively” and “5” “very positively,” a plurality of Kerry (41.4%) voters replied “1,” a majority of Bush (54.7%) supporters said “3” as did a plurality of undecided (36.4%) voters.
- Majorities of Kerry (52.9%), Bush (60.9%) and undecided (67.7%) voters all said they felt “no change” in how safe they felt compared to four years ago.
- While a majority (52.2%) of voters reporting having no guns in their house backed Kerry, majorities of those with 1 or more gun(s) in their home backed Bush. The president’s greatest support was found among respondents in homes with more than 10 (76.4%) guns.
- In terms of the 1-5 question about importance of religion in their lives, a plurality (38.3%) of Kerry backers answered “not important at all” (1). A majority (52%) of Bush voters replied “very important” (5), as did a plurality (48.4%) of undecided respondents.
- Vote intent in the presidential election was not related to gender.
- A majority of Republicans (90%) and half (50%) of independents said they would vote for Bush. A majority of Democrats backed Kerry (81.2%).

4. Perceptions of the Candidates

Next, five questions were asked regarding the interviewees perceptions about various aspects of the major party candidates and the presidential race.

First, those surveyed were asked: “Which candidate do you feel has run the most negative campaign?” A plurality (35%) said “Kerry”. Next, the poll asked which man “would do the best job of managing the U. S. economy.” A majority (52.4%) said “Bush”. The next query asked “which candidate would do the best job of insuring homeland security.” A majority (62.2%) replied “Bush”. The fourth question wanted to know which man would be the best at “dealing with international terrorism.” A majority (61.8%) said “Bush”. The final question inquired whether George Bush or John Kerry “would do the best job of directing the ongoing conflict in Iraq. A majority (56.7%) replied “Bush”.

<u>Perceptions of the Candidates</u>						
	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Kerry</u>	<u>Both the Same</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
Most Negative Campaign	26%	35%	22.1%	4.9%	12%	100%
Best at Managing Economy	52.4%	36%	1.2%	3.6%	6.8%	100%
Best at Homeland Security	62.3%	25.5%	2.7%	3.4%	6.1%	100%
Best at Int’l Terrorism	61.8%	29.7%	1.7%	2.2%	4.6%	100%
Managing Iraq Conflict	56.7%	32.6%	1.7%	3.6%	5.4%	100%

A. Most Negative Campaign

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority of Republicans (55.9%) and plurality (47.1%) of independents said Kerry had run the most negative campaign. A majority of Democrats (55.8%) answered “Bush.”

B. Best Job of Managing U. S. Economy

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority of rural (58.9%) and plurality of urban (48.7%) respondents said Bush would do the best job managing the economy.
- A plurality (35.8%) of those feeling Kerry would do best at managing the economy and a majority (54.9%) of respondents feeling Bush would be best in this area said religion was “very important” in their lives.
- A majority of Democrats (76%) said Kerry could best handle economic issues. A majority of Republican (85.8%) and plurality (41.2%) of independents favored Bush in this policy area.

C. Best Job of Managing Homeland Security

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality (39%) of respondents who said Kerry could best handle domestic security and a majority (52%) of those identifying Bush as best prepared to deal with homeland security said religion was “very important” in their lives.
- A majority of Democrats (60.4%) viewed Kerry as best prepared to deal with this issue. A majority of Republicans (92.9%) and independents (61.8%) replied “Bush” when asked this question.

D. Best Job of Dealing With International Terrorism

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality (34.4%) of those favoring Kerry and a majority (69.3%) of respondents saying Bush could best deal with international terrorism identified religion as being “very important” in their lives.
- A majority (71.4%) of Democrats regarded Kerry as best able to deal with international terrorism. Majorities of Republicans (93.8%) and independents (67.6%) said Bush would be best at handling this issue.
- Majorities of every age cohort said Bush could best deal with international terrorism. His greatest support (67.7%) was found among the 59-69 age group.

E. Best Job of Directing the Ongoing Conflict in Iraq

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- More residents of Montana’s former eastern (60.9%) than western (53.7%) congressional district said Bush could best handle the ongoing Iraq conflict.
- A plurality (36.6%) of respondents who viewed Kerry as best able to deal with Iraq said religion was “very important” in their lives as did a majority (51.9%) of those identifying Bush as most qualified on this issue.
- A majority of Democrats (74.7%) favored having Kerry deal with Iraq. Majorities of Republicans (89.1%) and independents (64.7%) said Bush would be most skilled at handling the conflict.

5. U. S. Decision to Go to War

A majority (52.8%) of those polled said “support” when asked the question “do you support or oppose the United State’s decision to go to war against Iraq?”

In the 2003 poll a majority (61.9%) of the interviewees replied “support” when asked this same question.

<u>U. S. Decision to Go to War</u>			
<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
52.8%	41.1%	6.1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of respondents who identified newspapers (52.5%) or magazines (63.6%) as their primary news source opposed the Iraq war. Majorities of those relying on television (58%), radio (56.8%) or the Internet (51.6%) as their primary news source supported the war.
- A majority of males (62.5%) backed the war and a plurality of females (48.3%) opposed it. Women (7.7%) were also more undecided than men (4.5%) about the conflict.
- Pluralities of those supporting (49.3%), opposed to (41.4%) or undecided (48%) about the war said religion was “very important” in their lives.

- A majority of Democrats opposed (79.2%) the war, while majorities of Republicans (79.1%) and independents (55.9%) supported it.
- When age and gender were combined the strongest support for the war was found among males aged 18-39 (71.7%) and the greatest opposition among females 18-39 (52.5%).

6. National Media Coverage of Iraq War

The following scaled question was asked about the national media coverage of the Iraq War: “On a scale of 1 to 5 where “1” is very biased and “5” is very objective, how would you rate the national media’s coverage of the conflict in Iraq?”

A majority of those polled (56.8%) felt that to some extent (1-2) the coverage was biased.

<u>National Media Coverage of Iraq War</u>				
<u>To Some Extent Biased (1-2)</u>	<u>Neutral (3)</u>	<u>To Some Extent Objective (4-5)</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>
56.8%	25.8%	17.4%	100%	2.3

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Among those who found the media “very biased” in its coverage of the war, a majority (58.9%) felt that religion was “very important” in their life. Among those who the media was “very objective,” a majority (61.8%) also said religion was “very important” to them.
- A majority of Republicans (51.2%) and plurality (43.8%) of independents replied “1” to the bias question, while a plurality (29.9%) of Democrats answered “3.”
- Pluralities of every age cohort, 18-39 (32.1%), 40-58 (40.3%), 59-69 (47.5%) and 70+ (39%), regarded the media as “very biased” in its coverage.
- In terms of gender/age those most likely to say the media was “very biased” (21.9%) were males aged 40-58 and those most apt to regard the media as “very objective” (20.6%) were females aged 59-69.

7. Iraq War’s Impact on U. S. Economy

Another scaled question was asked regarding the Iraq war’s impact on the U. S. economy: “On a scale of 1 to 5 where “1” is very negatively and “5” is very positively, how do you think the war in Iraq has affected the economy of the United States?” A plurality (44.1%) of the interviewees to some extent (1-2) viewed the war as having a negative impact on the U. S. economy.

<u>Iraq War’s Impact on U. S. Economy</u>				
<u>To Some Extent Negative (1-2)</u>	<u>Neutral (3)</u>	<u>To Some Extent Positive (4-5)</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>
44.1%	40.9%	15%	100%	2.6

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A plurality of Democrats (38.6%) felt the war had “very negatively” affected the U. S. economy. A majority of Republicans (54%) and plurality (39.4%) of independents responded “3” to this question.

II. MONTANA STATE ISSUES

1. Vote in Gubernatorial Race

A plurality (43.3%) responded “Schweitzer,” when asked which candidate they would vote for “if this year’s election for Montana governor were held today.” There were 27.5% undecided respondents.

<u>Vote in Gubernatorial Race</u>	
	<u>%</u>
Democrat Brian Schweitzer	43.3%
Republican Bob Brown	28.5%
Libertarian Stan Jones	.2%
Green Party Bob Kelleher	.5%
Undecided	<u>27.5%</u>
Total	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those planning on voting for Schweitzer included 76.6% of those intending to vote for Kerry and 24.7% of Bush’s supporters. Those intending to vote for Brown included 44.9% of those planning on voting for Bush and 3.5% of Kerry’s backers.
- In terms of the Iraq war, among those who supported it 41% were voting for Brown, 30% were undecided and 29% backed Schweitzer. Among the war’s opponents, 61.5% backed Schweitzer, 23.1% were undecided and 13.6% said they would vote for Brown.
- 91% of those intending to vote for Schweitzer felt he would do the best job managing the state’s economy and 78.6% of Brown’s backers felt the same way about their candidate’s economic abilities.
- 73.6% of Schweitzer’s voters thought he would do the best job dealing with education in the state and 78.6% of Brown’s backers felt the same way about their candidate.
- Among Schweitzer voters, 41.6% felt Brown had run the most negative campaign and 27.5% were undecided. 30.8% of Brown’s voters were undecided about who had been the most negative and 24.8% identified Schweitzer.
- A majority (56.2%) of Schweitzer voters opposed I147, while a majority (56.4%) of Brown’s backers supported the initiative.
- A majority (67.4%) of Schweitzer voters favored I148, a majority (51.3%) of Brown supporters opposed it.
- A majority (60.7%) of Brown voters and pluralities of Schweitzer’s (34.8%) supporters and undecided (48.7%) voters in the governor’s race regarded religion as being “very important” in their lives.
- In terms of party identification 62.6% of those planning on voting for Schweitzer were Democrats, 29.3% Republican and 8% were independents. Brown voters were composed of 85.5% Republicans, 9.4% Democrats and 5.1% independents. The undecided voters included 30.5% Democrats, 57.1% Republicans and 12.4% independents.
- A majority or plurality of all age cohorts backed Schweitzer. His greatest support was in the 70+ (50.8%) group and his least among the 40-58 (40.4%) cohort. Brown’s backers were most prevalent, in percentage terms, among those aged 59-69 (41.5%) and his least support was with the 18-39 (19.3%) cohort. The highest percentage of undecided voters was also in the 18-39 (38.6%) group.
- In terms of level of education Brown had more support than Schweitzer among those with 1-11 (50%) and 13-15 (36.7%) years of education. Schweitzer had more support than Brown with voters with 12 (36.1%) years, 16 (55.7%) years and a post-graduate degree (55.8%).
- Gender was not related to voting intention in the governor’s race.

2. Perceptions of Gubernatorial Candidates

The interviewees were asked three questions about their perceptions of several characteristics of the major party candidates for governor. The first question asked: “Which of the gubernatorial candidates do you think would do the best job of improving Montana’s economy?” A plurality (46%) answered “Schweitzer”. The next query inquired about which of the candidates “would do the best job of improving public education in Montana?” A plurality (37.2%) responded “Schweitzer”. The final question asked which candidate “has run the most negative campaign.” A plurality (36.3%) said “undecided”.

<u>Perceptions of Gubernatorial Candidates</u>						
	<u>Schweitzer</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Both Same</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
Best Managing Economy	46%	26.2%	2.2%	3.2%	22.4%	100%
Best Education	37.2%	29.7%	2.7%	3.2%	27.2%	100%
Most Negative Campaign	9.5%	23.8%	15.1%	15.3%	36.3%	100%

A. Best at Managing Montana Economy

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Pluralities of women (46.9%) and men (44.5%) thought Schweitzer could best manage the economy. More women (27.3%) than men (17.5%) were undecided about this issue.
- A majority (70.1%) of Democrats and plurality (44.1%) of independents thought Schweitzer would do the best at improving the economy. A majority (83.3%) of Republicans favored Brown’s economic

B. Best at Improving Public Education

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (59.1%) of Democrats and plurality (38.2%) of independents said Schweitzer could best improve education in Montana. A plurality (46.9%) of Republicans favored Brown in this policy area.
- In terms of gender/age Schweitzer’s greatest level of support for being best able to deal with education was found among males aged 40-58 (41%), while Brown’s strongest backing on this issue existed with 59-69 (40.5%) year old men.

C. Most Negative Campaign

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A plurality of Democrats (39.6%) felt Brown had run the most negative campaign, while pluralities of Republicans (39.3%) and independents (32.4%) were undecided on this issue.

3. Vote in U. S. House Race

A majority (58.9%) replied “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 read].”

<u>Vote in U. S. House Race</u>				
<u>Rehberg</u>	<u>Velazquez</u>	<u>Fellows</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
58.9%	19.2%	4.6%	17.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those least likely to say they would vote for Rehberg (41.7%) had no guns at home, while those most likely to vote for him (78.2%) lived in homes with more than 10 guns.
- More men (66.5%) than women (52.2%) planned on voting for Rehberg. Women were also more undecided (22.5%) than men (12%) about their vote.
- A majority (52.5%) of Rehberg voters and pluralities of Velazquez (34.2%) and undecided (38%) voters identified religion as being “very important” in their lives.
- A plurality of Democrats (40.9%) intended on voting for Velazquez. A majority of Republicans (85.8%) and plurality of independents (38.2%) supported Rehberg.

4. Electing Representative to Montana State House of Representatives

When asked “in terms of electing a representative to the Montana State House of Representatives, if the election were held today, do you think you would vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate in your district?” A plurality (48.9%) of the respondents replied “Republican”.

In response to this same question in the 2000 “MSU-Billings Poll,” a plurality (42.4%) of the interviewees said “Republican” and 36% “Democrat”. In the 2002 “MSU-Billings Poll,” a plurality (46.9%) of those questioned backed a Republican and 36.9% a Democratic candidate.

Electing Representative to Montana State House of Representatives

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
48.9%	35%	3.4%	12.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- 58.4% of Schweitzer voters intended to vote for Democratic legislative candidates and 29.2% for Republicans. 82.9% of Brown’s backers said they would vote for GOP legislative candidate and 6.8% for Democrats. A plurality (46%) of those undecided about their gubernatorial vote said they would support Republican legislative candidates.
- A majority (56.2%) of those intending on voting for GOP legislators identified religion as “very important” in their lives, as did a plurality (38.2%) of respondents planning on voting for a Democratic House candidate.
- 78.6% of Democrats intended to support their party’s legislative candidate, 12.3% were undecided about their vote and 4.5% were going to vote for a Republican. Among Republicans, 86.3% said they would support GOP legislative candidates, 4.7% backed Democrats and 7.1% were undecided. A plurality (38.2%) of independents were undecided regarding their legislative vote and the same percentage (26.5%) supported Republican and Democratic candidates.

5. Vote in Supreme Court Race

The survey asked a question about one of the races for the Montana Supreme Court. The query was worded: “In one race for a Supreme Court seat, Cindy Younkin and Jim Nelson are seeking the position. If the election were held today would you vote for Younkin or Nelson?” A plurality (47.2%) of those interviewed replied “undecided.”

Vote in Supreme Court Race

<u>Younkin</u>	<u>Nelson</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
26.3%	26.5%	47.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A plurality (40.3%) of self-identified Democrats were undecided about how to vote in this contest, while 38.3% backed Nelson and 21.4% said they would vote for Younkin. A majority (51.2%) of Republicans were undecided about their vote intent, 31.3% liked Younkin and 17.5% Nelson. In terms of independents voting in this race, a plurality (41.2%) were undecided about their choice, 35.3% backed Nelson and 23.5% Younkin.

6. Vote in Montana Secretary of State Race

The question about the Secretary’s of State race was worded: “In the contest for Montana Secretary of State, Democrat Bill Kennedy and Republican Brad Johnson are seeking the position. If the election were held today would you vote for Kennedy or Johnson?” A plurality (36.5%) of those responding were “undecided.” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

<u>Vote in Montana Secretary of State Race</u>			
<u>Kennedy</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
28.7%	34.8%	36.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Among Democrats planning on voting in the Secretary of State’s race, 53.2% backed Kennedy, 14.3% Johnson and 32.5% were undecided. Republicans divided 50.7% for Johnson, 12.8% for Kennedy and 36.5% undecided. 50% of independents were undecided about their vote, 32.4% liked Johnson and 17.6% Kennedy.

7. Ballot Issues

Questions were asked about five of the seven ballot issues that Montanans will be voting on; legislative term limits, gay marriage, cyanide leach processing mining, medical marijuana and the proposed tobacco tax increase.

A. Constitutional Amendment 42 – Extending Legislative Term Limits

The question about this proposed amendment read: “Constitutional Amendment 42 would extend legislative term limits from serving a maximum of 8 years in any 16 year period to 12 years in any 24 year period. If the election were held today would you vote for or against the proposal to extend legislative term limits?” A majority (55.2%) of the likely voters answering the question replied “against.”

<u>CA 42 – Extending Legislative Term Limits</u>			
<u>Vote For</u>	<u>Vote Against</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
34.6%	55.2%	10.2%	100%

B. Constitutional Initiative 96 – Definition of Marriage

The query about this initiative read: “Constitutional Initiative 96 would amend the Montana Constitution to provide that only a marriage between a man and a woman would be recognized as a valid marriage in Montana. If the election were held today would you vote for or against this initiative to legally recognize only a marriage between a man and woman as a legal marriage?” A majority (65.5%) of those answering this question replied “for.”

Constitutional Initiative 96 – Definition of Marriage

<u>For Initiative</u>	<u>Against Initiative</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
65.5%	28.2%	6.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Of those planning on voting for I147, a majority (78.4%) also supported CI96. Among those saying they would vote against I147 a majority, (52.9%) also backed CI96.
- Majorities of those voting for (56.2%), against (80.6%), or being undecided (65.6%) on I148 planned on voting for CI96.
- Majorities of those voting in favor of (62.5%), against (72.9%) or being undecided (50%) on I149 also said they would vote for CI96.
- Majorities of men (70%) and women (60.8%) backed CI96. More men (8.5%) than women (4.3%) were undecided about this issue.
- A majority (57.6%) of those supporting CI96 viewed religion as “very important” in their lives, while only a plurality (25%) of the amendment’s opponents expressed this same opinion about their religiosity.
- Majorities of native-born (74.2%) and non-native (55.6%) Montanans supported CI96.
- Majorities of Republicans (84.8%) and independents (67.6%) said they would vote for CI96, a majority (54.5%) of Democrats opposed it.
- A majority of all age cohorts supported CI96. Those aged 56-69 (76.9%) backed it to the greatest extent, while the 18-39 cohort (52.6%) supported it the least.
- A majority of all educational cohorts planned on voting for CI96. Those with 1-11 (83.3%) years of education backed it to the greatest extent, while those with a post-graduate degree (55.8%) supported it the least.
- In terms of gender/age, males aged 59-69 (78.4%) backed CI96 to the greatest extent, while women in the 18-39 (55.7%) cohort most opposed the amendment.

C. Initiative 147 – Cyanide Leach Processing Mining

The likely voters responding to the survey were read the question: “Initiative 147 would amend Montana law to allow new mines to use cyanide leach processing after obtaining a state permit, following restrictions on the containment of materials used in cyanide leach processing and adhering to water quality monitoring. The initiative would also restore any mineral interests decreased or lost by the prohibition of cyanide leach processing mining. If the election were held today would you support or oppose this initiative?” A plurality (42.3%) of those polled said “oppose” The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for the survey.

Initiative 147 – Cyanide Leach Processing Mining

<u>For Initiative</u>	<u>Oppose Initiative</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
40.7%	42.3%	17%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality of males (49.5%) backed I147 and a plurality of females (47.8%) opposed it. More women (20.1%) than men (14%) were undecided about the issue.
- A plurality of rural (47.3%) Montanans supported I147, while a plurality of urban (47.2%) dwellers opposed it.
- A plurality of native-born (45.1%) Montanans favored I147, while a plurality of non-natives (49%) opposed it.

- A majority of Republicans (52.6%) said they would vote for I147, while majorities of Democrats (61.7%) and independents (55.9%) opposed the ballot issue.
- Those with 1-11 years of education (83.3%) backed the initiative to the greatest extent, while the greatest opposition was found among respondents with a post-graduate (61.5%) education.
- In terms of age/gender, males aged 40-58 (54.2%) backed the initiative to the greatest extent, while the strongest opposition was expressed by 59-69 (67.9%) year old females.

D. Initiative 148 – Medical Marijuana

The likely voters were asked the following question about the medical marijuana proposal: “Initiative 148 would allow the production, possession, and use of marijuana by patients with debilitating medical conditions. The production and possession of marijuana would require written certification by a physician that the patient would benefit from using marijuana. If the election were held today, would you vote for or against the proposal to allow the medical use of marijuana under the supervision of a physician?” A majority (57.2%) of those interviewed answered “for.”

<u>Initiative 148 – Medical Marijuana</u>			
<u>For Initiative</u>	<u>Against Initiative</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
57.2%	35%	7.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of those answering “1-4” on the 1-5 scaled question about religiosity supported I148. A plurality (47.1%) of those saying religion was “very important” (5) in their lives opposed the initiative.
- Majorities of Democrats (69.5%) and independents (67.6%) backed the initiative, as did a plurality of Republicans (46.4%).

E. Initiative 149 – Tobacco Tax Increase

The wording on this initiative which proposes to increase cigarette taxes read: “Initiative 149 would increase tobacco taxes by approximately 140% to \$1.70 per pack of cigarettes, \$.85 per ounce of moist snuff, and 50% of all other tobacco products. The new revenues would be used to support various state health programs, as well as state veteran’s nursing homes, the state building fund, and the general fund. If the election were held today would you vote for or against increasing the tobacco tax?” A majority (61%) of those polled replied “for.”

<u>Initiative 149 – Tobacco Tax Increase</u>			
<u>For Increase</u>	<u>Oppose Increase</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
61%	34.1%	4.9%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Majorities of Democrats (69.5%) and Republicans (57.3%) supported the initiative, while a plurality of independents (52.9%) opposed it.

8. Opinion of Private Snowmobiles in Yellowstone Park

A majority of those surveyed (60.3%) said “support” in answering the question “do you support or oppose the use of snowmobiles by private individuals in Yellowstone National Park?”

Private Snowmobiles in Yellowstone Park

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
60.3%	28%	11.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of men (68.5%) and women (52.2%) favored allowing snowmobiles in the park. More women (14.4%) than men (9%) were undecided about this issue.
- Majorities of Republicans (73%) and independents (55.9%) favored snowmobiles, while a plurality of Democrats (43.5%) opposed their presence in the park.

III. SOCIAL AND LIFESTYLE ISSUES

1. Religious Questions

A. Importance of Religion in Life

A scaled question about individual religiosity read: “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?” To some extent (4-5) a majority of those interviewed (64.2%) said that religion was important in their life. A plurality (46%) of those polled replied “5.”

Importance of Religion in Life

<u>To Some Extent Not Important (1-2)</u>	<u>Neutral (3)</u>	<u>To Some Extent Important (4-5)</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>
17.3%	18.5%	64.2%	100%	3.8

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority of women (56.9%) and plurality of males (34.5%) said religion was “very important” in their lives.
- More non-native born Montanans said that to some extent religion was not important (answered 1 or 2) in their life (23%) than natives (12.2%). But more natives (67.2%) than non-natives (64.1%) responded that to some extent (answered 4 or 5) religion was important in their life.
- A majority of Republicans (52.6%) and pluralities of independents (47.1%) and Democrats (37.7%) identified religion as being “very important” to them.
- A majority or plurality of every age group, 70+ (66.7%), 59-69 (58.5%), 40-58 (44.6%), 18-39 (29.8%) said religion was “very important” in their lives.
- In terms of gender/age women aged 70+ (78.4%) were most likely to say religion was “very important” to them, while males aged 18-39 (22.6%) were least likely to give this response.

B. Should Montana Churches Be Taxed

A majority (70.3%) of the likely voters polled said “no” when asked if they thought “churches in Montana should be taxed?”

Should Montana Churches Be Taxed

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
17.8%	70.3%	11.9%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of every income group, except 50% of the individuals living in households making less than \$10,000 a year, who avored taxing churches, opposed levies on churches. Those in households earning \$20,001-\$30,000 a year most opposed (77.8%) taxation.
- 50% of those who identified religion as “not important at all (1) in their lives favored taxing churches. A plurality or majority who responded “2-5” to the religious question opposed the idea. 84.1% of the respondents who replied “very important” (5) to the religiosity question opposed church taxation.

2. Health Related Questions

A. Do You Have Health Insurance

A majority (85%) of the interviewees said “yes” when asked “do you have health insurance?”

Have Health Insurance

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
85%	15%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those most likely (96%) to have health insurance lived in households earning more than \$100,000 a year. Those least likely to have insurance (63.6%) resided in homes earning less than \$10,000 a year.
- More Democrats (92.2%) than Republicans (82%) or independents (73.5%) reported having insurance.
- Those most likely to report having insurance were aged 70+ (96.8%), while the cohort most likely not to have insurance (21.1%) were aged 18-39.
- Those with a post-graduate education (96.2%) were the educational group most likely to be insured, while individuals with 1-11 years of education (33.3%) were most likely not to be insured.
- In terms of gender/age, females aged 70+ (97.3%) were most likely to be insured, while women 18-39 (26.2%) were most likely not to have insurance.

B. Should Health Insurance Pay for Gastric Bypass Surgery?

A question was asked about whether the respondents thought “health insurance should pay for gastric bypass surgery or similar surgeries for severely obese individuals?”

A plurality (47.7%) of those answering this question said “yes.”

Should Health Insurance Pay for Gastric Bypass Surgery

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
47.7%	35.5%	16.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (52.6%) of women said insurance should cover this procedure, a plurality (42.5%) of males felt it should not.
- In terms of gender/age those most supportive of covering the procedure were women aged 40-58 (56.6%), while those most opposed to covering this surgery were males 40-58 (47%) years old.

C. Been On a Low Carbohydrate Diet?

A majority (85.7%) of those surveyed said they had not “been on the Atkins or other low carbohydrate diet in the last year.”

<u>Been on Low Carbohydrate Diet</u>		
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
14.3%	85.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Those least likely (93%) to have been on a low carbohydrate diet were aged 18-39. Those most likely to have dieted (29.2%) were age 59-69.

3. Percentage of Cost of Education Public University Students Should Pay in MT.

The mean response was 64.2% to a question worded “what percentage of the cost of education in Montana’s public universities do you think students should have to pay through tuition?”

<u>% of Education Costs Public University Students Should Pay in MT.</u>				
<u>0-50%</u>	<u>51-100%</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>	
65.9%	34.1%	100%	44.7%	

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Republicans (48.6% mean) felt that students should pay a higher percentage of their tuition costs than Democrats (41.6% mean), or independents (34.7% mean).

4. Satisfaction With Current Job

As 1-5 scaled question was asked about job satisfaction: “On a scale of 1-5 with “1” being very dissatisfied and “5” being very satisfied, how satisfied are you with your current job?” To some extent a majority (77.9%) of those surveyed was satisfied (4-5) with their current job. A plurality (49.2%) of the interviewees replied “5.”

<u>Satisfaction With Current Job</u>				
<u>Somewhat Dissatisfied (1-2)</u>	<u>Neutral (3)</u>	<u>Somewhat Satisfied (4-5)</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>
9.8%	12.3%	77.9%	100%	4.2

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Opinions about job satisfaction were not related to income or level of education.

- Those “very satisfied” (5) with their job were the only sub-group in which a majority (52.6%) also reported that religion was “very important” in their lives. Pluralities of those replying “1-4” on the job satisfaction answered “3” or “4” regarding the importance of religion in their lives.
- A majority or plurality of every age group were “very satisfied” with their job. The highest level of satisfaction existed among those aged 70+ (78.6%) who were employed. Those aged 40-58 (43.9%) were least likely to say they were “very satisfied.”

5. Personal Safety Compared to Four Years Ago

A majority (58.7%) of the likely voter respondents replied “no change” when asked: “Compared to four years ago, do you feel safer now, or has there been no change in how safe you feel?”

<u>Personal Safety Compared to Four Years Ago</u>			
<u>Safer Four Years Ago</u>	<u>Safer Now</u>	<u>No Change</u>	<u>Total</u>
25.5%	15.8%	58.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (61.9%), independents (61.8%) and Democrats (52%) reported “no change” in how safe they felt. But Democratic respondents (41.3%) were most apt to say they felt “safer four years ago.”
- A majority or plurality of every education cohort reported “no change” in how they viewed their safety. Those most likely to say they were “safer four years ago” were those with a post-graduate (40.4%) degree.

6. Number of Firearms in Home

A plurality (30.1%) of the respondents answered “none” when asked “how many firearms are there in your home?” However, when the responses of all of those who had one or more firearms were added together a majority (69.9%) of the respondents lived in homes owning one or more firearms.

<u>Number of Firearms in Home</u>					
<u>None</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>4-6</u>	<u>7-10</u>	<u>>10</u>	<u>Total</u>
30.1%	28%	17%	10.5%	14.4%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of those living in households earning less than \$10,000 (54.5%) a year and \$10,001-\$20,000 a year (55.3%) and a plurality (37.9%) of individuals earning \$20,001-\$30,000 a year reported there were no guns in their homes. In contrast, those most likely to own more than ten guns resided in homes earning \$75,001-\$100,000 (21.9%) and over \$100,000 (25%) a year.
- A plurality (40.5%) of females said there were no guns in their homes, while the plurality (30.2%) response for males was “1-3 guns.”
- Pluralities of Democrats (40.8%) and independents (32.3%) said they had no gun in their households, while the plurality reply for Republicans (28.7%) was “1-3 guns.” Further, while 20.5% of Republicans and 16.1% of independents lived in homes with more than 10 guns, 6.8% of Democrats gave this same response.
- In terms of age, pluralities of the 70+ (49.1%) and 18-39 (36.4%) age cohorts had no guns at home, the plurality response for the 40-58 (24.8%) and 59-69 (35.5%) age groups was 1-3 guns.

- In terms of gender/age, the group most likely not to have guns in their home was women aged 70+ (57.1%), while the sub-group most apt to have more than 10 were males aged 40-58 (25.7%).

7. Most Important Source of National News

In reply to the query, “what is your single most important source of national news” a majority (64.3%) answered “television.”

<u>Most Important Source of National News</u>	
	<u>%</u>
Television	64.3%
Newspapers	15.3%
Radio	9.3%
Internet	7.8%
Magazines	2.8%
Other	.5%
Total	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority or plurality of all income groups said television provided their major source of news. Those most likely to respond “newspaper” (33.3%) or “radio” (20.8%) lived in households earning over \$100,000 a year. The Internet was most popular as a sources of news among those in households making \$75,001-\$100,000 (18.8%) a year.

8. Born in Montana

A majority (52.1%) of the interviewees said “yes,” when asked if they had been “born in Montana.”

<u>Born in Montana</u>		
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
52.1%	47.9%	100%

9. Have a Tattoo

A majority (83.9%) of those interviewed answered “no” when asked, “do you have a tattoo?”

<u>Have a Tattoo</u>		
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
16.6%	83.4%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- While majorities of all age cohorts reporting having no tattoos, those most likely to have one were aged 18-39 (32.5%) and those least likely to have one were aged 70+ (4.8%).
- In terms of age/gender, majorities of all sub-groups said they did not have a tattoo. Those most likely to have one were women 18-39 (32.8%) and those least likely to have one were women 70+ (2.7%).

10. Gay or Lesbian Member of Household

A majority (97.5%) of the interview panel answered “no” to the question “is any member of your household gay or lesbian?”

<u>Gay or Lesbian Member of Household</u>		
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
2.5%	97.5%	100%