

The “MSU-Billings Poll” is available on our website
<http://www.msubillings.edu/spn/poll99.html>

The following students completed interviews for the survey:

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Hossein Boeham, Billings, MT	Danielle Mudd, Billings, MT
Jenny Brayton, Billings, MT	Barbara Lander, Sidney, MT
Daren Brester, Billings, MT	Jennifer Lawrence, Billings, MT
Kellie Brown, Baker, MT	Angela Long, Great Falls, MT
Melissa Capser, Harlowton, MT	Jill O'Donnell, Shepherd, MT
Kevin Card, Shepherd, MT	Greg Palmer, Billings, MT
Aleesha Chaney, Billings, MT	Rachel Pavlak, Lewistown, MT
Krissy Duenow, Billings, MT	Gaynell Edmo Realbird, Browning, MT
Lucy Ellefson, Billings, MT	Jami Rebsom, Rawlins, WY
Andy A. Elsberry, Billings, MT	Brian Reed, Billings, MT
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Sandra French, Billings, MT	Melissa Senk, Billings, MT
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Kendra Kock, Billings, MT	Jenni Wilson, Billings, MT

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the fourteenth “MSU-Billings Poll” (formerly the “Eastern Montana College Poll”), a statewide random sample telephone survey of Montana adults conducted November 19-22, 1999. This is the tenth year the survey has been conducted. The students enrolled in Sociology 205, Principals and Methods of Social Science Inquiry and Political Science 350, Public Opinion and Polling, completed the 413 interviews for this survey. The Co-Directors of the “MSU-Billings Poll” are Dr. Craig Wilson (Political Science) and Dr. Joe Floyd (Sociology). This year Dr. Cathy Grott taught a section of Sociology 205 and assisted with the poll.

The survey was completed using random digit dial methodology, which selects both phone number 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. Factors such as question order and wording can also survey results. The respondents are representative of the urban (eight most populous counties) – rural and east-west distribution of Montana’s population, as well as the percentages of males and females found in the adult cohort.

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

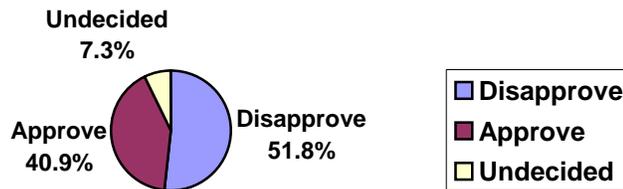
I. NATIONAL ISSUES

1. President Clinton's Overall Job Performance

This is the seventh year the "MSU-Billings Poll" has asked about President Clinton's overall performance in office. In the six previous surveys, in terms of the direction of opinion, four times a majority or plurality of the respondents evaluated his job performance negatively and twice a majority or plurality gave the president a positive evaluation. Last year a majority of 53.5% of those polled approved of the job the President was doing.

This survey asked: "At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of Bill Clinton's overall performance in office as President." A majority (51.8%) of the respondents replied "disapprove."

President Clinton's Overall Job Performance



Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Opinions about the president were not related to whether or not the respondents were better or worse off economically compared to four years ago.
- In terms of church attendance, the President's highest disapproval rating (63.9%) was found among those who attended church weekly or more often, while his highest approval ranking (48.1%) existed among interviewees who went to church 3-12 times a year.
- 71.9% of Democrats approved of presidential performance as did a plurality of independents (44.4%), while 77.2% of Republicans did not.
- Gender, age, and income were not related to opinions about the President.
- While 60% of those feeling the U. S. was moving in the "right direction" approved of the President, 76.5% of those who felt the country was moving in the "wrong direction" disapproved of the job the President was doing.
- 53% of those feeling Montana had "too little" wilderness area approved of the President's performance, while 54% of those who felt the amount of wilderness was "about right" and 65.3% who thought the state had "too much," wilderness disapproved of the president.

2. Vote In Presidential Election in 2000

A. Gore v. Bush

Last year, when asked the hypothetical question "[i]f the presidential election in the year 2000 were being held today and the major party candidates were Democrat Vice President Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush, the Governor of Texas, would you vote for Gore or Bush," a majority (51.3%) of those surveyed replied "Bush," 27.1% said "Gore" and 10.4% were "undecided".

This year the question read: "If the year 2000 presidential race featured Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush, for whom do you think you would vote?" A majority (62%) of the interviewees supported Bush.

<u>Vote in 2000 Presidential Election</u>				
<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
22.8%	62%	6.8%	8.4%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Support for Bush or Gore was not related to whether respondents felt they were “better” or “worse off” economically than four years ago.
- Age and gender were not related to support for either candidate.
- A plurality (30.2%) of Bush supporters attended church weekly or more, while a plurality (38.7%) of Gore backers never/hardly ever attended church.
- In terms of education, a plurality (33%) of Gore backers had a college degree, while a plurality (35.2%) of Bush backers had obtained a high school degree.
- A majority of Democrats (54.1%) liked Gore. A majority of Republicans (89.3%) and plurality of independents (44.4%) chose Bush.
- A question about past cocaine use by a political candidate was not related to support or opposition for either candidate.
- Support or opposition to either candidate was not related to the respondents opinion of Governor Racicot’s job performance.

B. Gore v. Bush v. Buchanan

Another question added possible Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan to the race and was phrased: “If next year’s presidential contest featured Democrat Al Gore, Republican George W. Bush and Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan, for whom do you think you would vote?” A slightly smaller majority (58.8%) than was found in the first match-up question backed Bush.

<u>Vote in 2000 Presidential Election-Gore, Bush, Buchanan</u>					
<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
19.4%	58.8%	8.2%	4.6%	9%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality (33.8%) of Gore backers had a college degree, while pluralities of Bush (35%) and Buchanan (50%) supporters had a high school degree.
- A majority of Republicans (84.5%) and plurality of independents (44.4%) backed Bush, while 50% of Democrats liked Gore.
 1. 48.5% of Buchanan supporters were Republican and 42.4% Democrat.
- While majorities of Bush (87.2%), Gore (78.8%) and Buchanan (70.6%) supporters all had positive opinions of Governor Racicot’s job performance, Buchanan backers were most likely (20.6%) to evaluate the Governor negatively.

C. Bradley v. Bush

When Bill Bradley was substituted for Al Gore as the Democratic nominee and run against Republican George W. Bush in a trial heat question , a majority (57.6%) of those polled said they would vote for Bush, but Bradley attracted more support (27.6%) than Gore.

<u>Vote in 2000 Presidential Election – Bradley v. Bush</u>				
<u>Bradley</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
27.6%	57.6%	2.9%	11.9%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality of Bush backers (31.2%) attended church weekly or more often, a plurality of Bradley supporters (40.2%) never/hardly ever went to church.
- A majority of Democrats (54.1%) liked Bradley, a majority of Republicans (81.6%) and plurality of independents (37%) chose Bush.

3. Woman Elected President of U.S.

A majority (78.5%) replied “yes” when queried: “Do you believe a woman will be elected president of the United States in the next 25 years?”

<u>Woman U. S. President in Next 25 Years</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
78.5%	16.5%	5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Males aged 66 or older were most likely (93.1%) to feel a woman would soon be elected president, males aged 18-33 were most likely (25.5%) to reply “no” and women 66 or older most apt (13.5%) to be undecided about this question.

4. Possible Past Cocaine Use by Political Candidate

A majority (79%) of the respondents said “no” when asked: “Do you feel that the possible use of the drug cocaine by a political candidate more than a decade ago should be an issue in a current political campaign?” This question was asked after the trial heat queries.

<u>Possible Past Cocaine Use by Candidate</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
15.7%	79%	5.3%	100%

5. People’s Republic of China as Rival Super Power

A majority (61.3%) of the interviewees answered “yes” when asked: “Do you think that the People’s Republic of China will become a super power to rival the United States in the 21st century?”

<u>People’s Republic of China 21st Century Rival to U.S.</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
61.3%	25.2%	13.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those aged 54-65 were most likely (75.7%) to think the People’s Republic of China would become a super power, while those in the 18-34 cohort were most apt (34.8%) to reply “no.”
- More men (65.4%) than women (57.3%) viewed China as a future rival and more females (19.9%) than males (6.8%) were “undecided.”

6. Ratification of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

A majority (54.2%) of the respondents said “yes” when asked if they thought the “U. S. Senate should ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which would prevent all types of nuclear weapons testing?”

<u>Ratify Nuclear Test Ban Treaty</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
54.2%	32.7%	13.1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- While majorities of women (55.8%) and men (52.2%) backed ratifying the treaty, women (19.4%) were more likely to be undecided about the treaty than men (6.8%).
- In terms of gender/age groups, males aged 18-33 years old backed the treaty most often (66%) males 53-65 or older opposed it to the greatest extent (44.8%) and females aged 53-65 were the most undecided (28.6%).
- Majorities of Democrats (69.9%) and independents (59.3%) backed the treaty, a plurality (44.2%) of Republicans opposed it.
- Majorities of both those viewing the People’s Republic of China as a potential rival super power (53%), and those feeling it would not be a rival (60.6%), backed the convention.

7. Overall Direction of U.S.

Last year, when replying to the query “[d]o you feel the U. S., in an overall sense, is moving in the right or the wrong direction,” a majority (54.2%) of the respondents said “right direction.” This year, when asked the identical question a plurality (44.8%) of the survey participants replied “right direction.”

<u>Overall Direction of U.S.</u>			
<u>Right Direction</u>	<u>Wrong Direction</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
44.8%	39.2%	16%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of both those feeling the U. S. was moving in the “right” (64.7%) and “wrong” (53.4%) direction felt they were better off economically today than four years ago.
- A plurality (29.3%) of those feeling the U. S. was moving the “right” direction never/almost never attended church, while a plurality (34.2%) of those saying the U. S. was moving the “wrong way” attended church weekly/more often.
- A majority (58.9%) of Democrats and plurality (44.4%) of independents said the U. S. was going in the “right” direction, a majority (51.9%) of Republicans replied “wrong” direction.

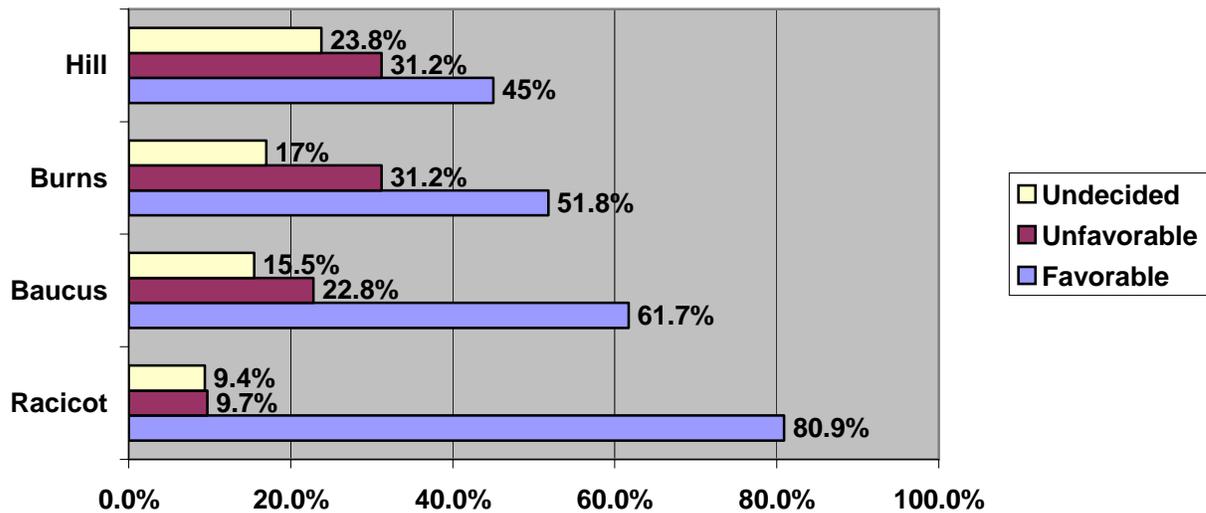
II. STATE ISSUES

1. Job Performance of Elected Officials

The respondents were asked if they had “a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the performance in office” of Governor Marc Racicot, U. S. Senators Max Baucus and Conrad Burns and U. S. House member Rick Hill. Majorities rated Racicot, (80.9%) Baucus, (61.7%) and Burns (51.8%) positively, while a plurality (45%) evaluated Hill favorably.

The October, 1998 “MSU-Billings Poll,” found that majorities evaluated Racicot (87.1%), Baucus (61.9%) and Burns (56.5%) positively, while a plurality (49.8%) of those polled evaluated Hill’s job performance favorably.

Job Performance of Elected Officials



Statistically Significant Relationships:

A. Rate Racicot

- While Racicot received positive evaluations from majorities of all age cohorts, those who most liked him (89.4%) were aged 66+, while his highest “unfavorable” rating came from 54-65 year olds (14.3%).
- In terms of gender/age, the highest approval rating was found among women aged 66+ (91.9%) and the highest disapproval evaluation with males 53-65 (17.1%).
- While Racicot was positively rated by majorities of all income groupings, those most approving of him were in the \$20,001-\$30,000 a year family income bracket (87.9%), while his highest “unfavorable” rating was found in individuals with household incomes greater than \$100,000 (21.4%).
- More males (85.9%) than females (75.7%) rated the Governor positively, and women (13.6%) were more likely than men (5.4%) to be “undecided” about his job performance.
- Political party affiliation was not correlated to opinions about job performance.

B. Rate Baucus

- Majorities of Democrats (78.8%), independents (55.6%) and Republicans (51.9%) gave the Senator a positive evaluation.
- Baucus was most liked by respondents in households with less than \$10,000 a year income (71.9%) and negatively evaluated to the greatest extent by those with incomes greater than \$100,000 (35.7%).
- In terms of gender/age, males aged 66+ (75.9%) liked the Senator the most, while the highest unfavorable rating existed among women 34-52 (29.9%).

- While a majority of those who found the sexual harassment charges lodged against the Senator “unbelievable” rated his job performance positively (72.7%), a plurality who found the allegations “believable” also rated him positively (41.9%).

C. Rate Burns

- The Senator was rated most positively by the 54-65 year old cohort (65.7%), and most negatively by the 66+ group (39.4%).
- A majority of men (57.6%) and plurality of women (45.6%) evaluated Burns positively, but more women (22.3%) than men (11.7%) were undecided regarding his job performance.
- In terms of gender/age the Senator was most liked by males 66 or older (62.1%) and viewed most unfavorably by women aged 66+ (45.9%).
- A majority of Republicans (67.5%) and plurality of independents (44.4%) evaluated the Senator positively, while a plurality of Democrats (48.6%) gave him a negative rating.
- A majority of rural dwellers (60.1%) and plurality of urban residents (47.4%) rated the Senator positively.

D. Rate Hill

- Representative Hill received his greatest support from the 35-53 (48.3%) age group and was rated most negatively by those 66+ (40.9%).
- A majority of Republicans (58.7%) and plurality of independents (40.7%) rated Hill positively, a majority of Democrats (51.4%) viewed him unfavorably.
- In terms of gender/age, Hill received his strongest support from males 34-52 (53.8%) and his least backing among females 66+ (43.2%).

2. Senator Baucus and Sexual Harassment Charges

A question was asked about the sexual harassment charges brought by U. S. Senator Max Baucus’ former chief of staff: “U.S. Senator Max Baucus’s former female chief of staff recently alleged that Senator Baucus sexually harassed her while she was working for him. Do you find these charges to be believable or unbelievable?” A majority (55%) of the interviewees replied “unbelievable.” This question was asked after the job performance queries.

<u>Senator Baucus and Sexual Harassment Charges</u>			
<u>Believable</u>	<u>Unbelievable</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
17.9%	55%	27.1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- While majorities of rural (57.2%) and urban (53.8%) dwellers found the charges “unbelievable,” urban residents (21.4%) were more likely than their rural (11.6%) counterparts to find the allegations “believable.”
- Majorities of those who had not been (55.5%), as well as respondents who had been/knew (53.8%) the victims of violent crime, found the charges “unbelievable.” But more of those who had been/knew victims (27.5%) than non-victims of this type of crime (15.9%), viewed the allegations as “believable.”

3. Year 2000 Vote in Gubernatorial Election

Three questions were asked about possible match-ups among announced candidates in next years gubernatorial race in Montana. They were all phrased in terms of “[i]f next year’s election...were held today...” Republican Lieutenant Governor Judy Martz faced possible Democrat opponents Attorney General Joe Mazurek, Secretary of State Mike Cooney and State Auditor Mark O’Keefe. (the offices presently held by the individuals were not mentioned in the questions).

Questions were not asked about primary vote choices because the sub-sample of Republicans and Democrats would involve such a high margin of error.

A. Republican Martz v. Democrat Mazurek

A question about a possible contest between Republican Judy Martz and Democrat Joe Mazurek found that a plurality (36.3%) supported Martz. The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

<u>Republican Martz v. Democrat Mazurek</u>				
<u>Martz</u>	<u>Mazurek</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
36.3%	32.7%	8.5%	22.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Age, gender, income and education were not related to vote intention.
- A majority of Democrats (51.4%) were Mazurek supporters, a plurality of Republicans (48.5%) liked Martz and independents were evenly divided in liking Martz (29.6%) and being undecided (29.6%).
 1. 34.1% of Mazurek supporters were Republicans and 23.4% of Martz backers Democrats.

B. Republican Martz v. Democrat Cooney

When Republican Judy Martz and Democrat Mike Cooney were paired in a possible contest, a plurality (39.2%) of those interviewed said they would vote for Martz.

<u>Republican Martz v. Democrat Cooney</u>				
<u>Martz</u>	<u>Cooney</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
39.2%	29.3%	6.8%	24.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Age, gender, income and education were not related to vote intention.
- A plurality of those attending church weekly/more backed Martz (45.4%), a plurality of the never/hardly ever church attendees supported Cooney (41.9%).
- A majority of Republicans (53.4%) liked Martz, a plurality of Democrats (48.6%) supported Cooney and a plurality of independents (33.3%) were undecided.
 1. While 23% of Martz’s supporters were Democrats, 30.3% of Cooney backers were Republican.

C. Republican Martz v. Democrat O’Keefe

A question about a possible race between Republican Judy Martz and Democrat Mark O’Keefe, found that a plurality (39%) said they would vote for Martz.

<u>Republican Martz v. Democrat O’Keefe</u>				
<u>Martz</u>	<u>O’Keefe</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
39%	30.3%	5.1%	25.6%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

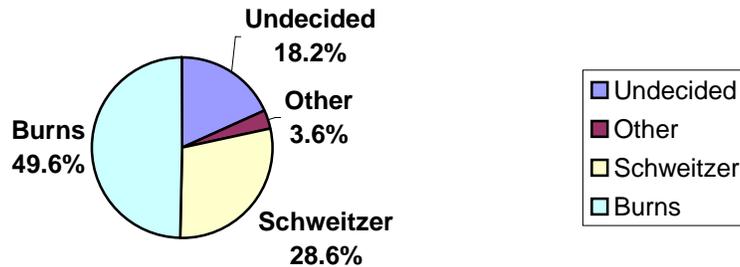
- Age, gender, income and education were not related to vote intention.

- A majority of Republicans (51.5%) backed Martz, a majority of Democrats (52.1%) O’Keefe. Independents divided evenly in supporting Martz (29.6%), O’Keefe (29.6%) and being undecided (29.6%).
 1. 24.5% of Martz supporters were Democrats and 27% of O’Keefe backers Republican.

4. Year 2000 U. S. Senate Race

Declared candidates for next year’s U. S. Senate seat up for election in Montana, Republican Conrad Burns and Democrat Brian Schweitzer, opposed each other in a trial heat race. A plurality (49.6%) of the respondents said that “if voting today” they would support Burns.

U. S. Senate Race



Statistically Significant Relationships:

- 24.5% of Burns supporters and 30.5% of Schweitzer backers had been the victims/knew victims of domestic violence.
- While 58.1% of Burns probable voters were male, 52.5% of those liking Schweitzer were women.
- A majority of Republicans (71.8%) liked Burns, a majority of Democrats (54.2%) Schweitzer, and independents were evenly divided (37%-37%) in supporting both men.
- Burns had majority support among those feeling there was “too much” (64.2%) or “about the right amount” (52.4%) of wilderness. A plurality responding “too little wilderness” (43%) liked Schweitzer.

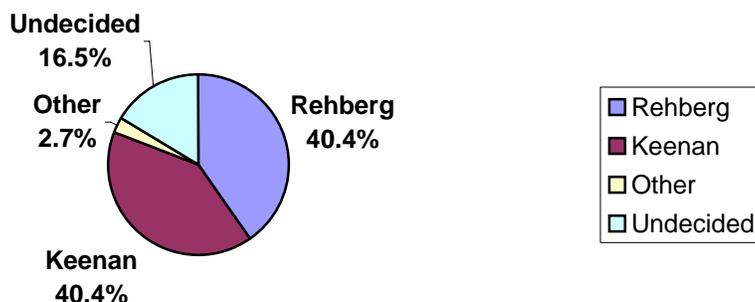
5. Year 2000 U. S. House Race

A question about next year’s election to replace retiring U. S. Representative Rick Hill, matched declared Republican candidate Dennis Rehberg against his announced Democratic rival, Nancy Keenan. The identical percentage of respondents (40.4%) backed Rehberg and Keenan. The results for this question fall within the +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality of the victims/knew victims of domestic violence (43%) backed Keenan, a plurality of non-victims (44%) liked Rehberg.
- A majority of males (50.7%) supported Rehberg, a plurality of females (47.1%) Keenan.
- A majority of Republicans (75.3%) said they would vote for Rehberg, a majority of Democrats (64.6%) Keenan. Independents were evenly divided in supporting Keenan (37%) and being undecided (37%) about their vote.
- A majority of those who felt Montana had “too little” wilderness liked Keenan (59%), while pluralities believing Montana has about the “right amount” (47.6%) or “too much” (49.5%) wilderness supported Rehberg.

U. S. House Race



6. Year 2000 Montana House of Representatives Races

Last year those polled were asked a generic question phrased: “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 of 40.6% replied “Republican,” 37.6% said “Democrat” and 14.9% were “undecided.” The results of this question fell within the +/- 5% margin of error for the survey.

For this survey the above question, with the addition of the words “year 2000 general election,” was asked. A plurality (43.1%) of the interviewees planned to vote for the Republican candidate in their district.

<u>Year 2000 Montana House of Representatives Races</u>				
<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
43.1%	31.7%	3.9%	21.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Pluralities of individuals economically “better off” than four years ago (48.7%) and “worse off” (37.3%) planned on voting Republican. Those who felt they were economically “about the same” divided evenly in backing Republicans (33.3%) and Democrats (33.3%).
- A plurality of those who had not been the victim/knew victim of domestic violence (47.5%) planned on voting Republican. A plurality of the victims/knew victims of this type of violence (35.9%) said they would vote Democratic.
- A majority of males (52.7%) planned on voting Republican, a plurality (36.9%) of females for Democrats. Women (25.2%) were more undecided than males (16.6%) about their vote.
- In terms of age/gender the group most supportive of Republican candidates were males aged 18-33 (61.7%), those liking Democrats to the greatest extent were males 66+ (44.8%).
- Majorities of Republicans (77.7%) and Democrats (78.1%) planned on voting for their parties’ candidates, a majority of independents (51.9%) were undecided about their vote.

7. Amount of Federal Wilderness Area in Montana

For the first time in a number of years the “MSU-Billings Poll” asked those surveyed if they believed “that Montana has too little, about the right amount, or too much federally designated wilderness.” A plurality (45.3%) responded “about right.”

Amount of Federal Wilderness Area in Montana

<u>Too Little</u>	<u>About Right</u>	<u>Too Much</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
24.2%	45.3%	23%	7.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Opinions were not related to whether the interviewees hunted.
- In terms of education, those with a post-graduate education most often (38.8%) said “too little wilderness,” a majority of those with a high school degree (51%) answered “about right” and a majority of respondents with some high school replied “too much” (56.3%).
- While pluralities of men and women (46.8%-43.7%) said “about right,” more men than women (29.3%-17%) answered “too much,” and more women than men (29.6%-18.5%) replied “too little.”
- In terms of gender/age, women aged 34-52 were most apt to say “too little” (36.8%), females 18-33 most likely replied “about right” (56.8%) and males 66+ to the greatest extent said “too much” (41.4%).
- A majority of Republicans (51.5%) and plurality of Democrats (43.8%) responded “about right.” More Republicans than Democrats (29.6%-17.1%) said “too much,” more Democrats than Republicans (33.6%-14.6%) answered “too little.”

8. Extent Inconvenienced by Montana Highway Construction

A 1-10 scaled question, where “1” represented “not at all” and “10” “a great deal,” was asked about the extent to which the interviewees had “personally been inconvenienced by the amount of highway construction recently undertaken in Montana.” A majority (72%) of those polled said that to some degree they had not been inconvenienced by the construction. While 28.2% of those polled responded with a “1,” 7.2% replied “10.”

Extent Inconvenienced by Montana Highway Construction

<u>Not Inconvenienced (1-5)</u>	<u>Inconvenienced (6-10)</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>
72%	28%	100%	4

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- There was a direct relationship between age and the extent to which people were inconvenienced. On the average, those aged 18-34 (5.3 mean) were inconvenienced the most, followed by the 35-53 (4.1), 54-65 (3.3) and 66+ (2.7) cohorts.

9. Montana and U. S. Tobacco Settlement

Those surveyed were told that as the result of a legal settlement “over a period of years” the state of Montana will receive \$922 million in tobacco settlement dollars. They were then asked: “Do you think the Montana legislature should use these funds to pay for general government costs, employ them only to support health care and tobacco prevention initiatives, or spend some to finance general government and some for health issues?” A majority (50.6%) replied they favored spending more for “health care and tobacco prevention.”

Montana and U.S. Tobacco Settlement

<u>Use-General Government</u>	<u>Use-Health Care/Tobacco</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
7.7%	50.6%	32.7%	9%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority of women (51.5%) and plurality of men (49.8%) supported using the money for healthcare/tobacco issues, but more men (11.2%) than women (4.4%) backed employing the funds for general government.

III. CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

1. Age Minors Tried as Adult

The mean age at which the respondents felt that “minors [should] be tried as an adult for violent crimes,” was 13.1 years.

<u>Age Minors Tried as Adult</u>		
<u>Mean-Age</u>	<u>% Feeling Minors Should Not Be Tried</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
13.1	19.9%	12.6%

2. Adults Responsible for Delinquency of Minor Children

A plurality (44.3%) responded “no” when queried: “Do you believe parents should be held responsible for the delinquent behavior of their children who are under 18 and therefore be punished by the criminal justice system?” The results for this question fall within +/- 5% margin of error for this survey.

<u>Adults Responsible for Delinquency of Minors</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
40%	44.3%	15.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority (51.9%) of those attending church weekly or more felt parents should be held responsible, a majority (55.6%) of the respondents who never/ hardly ever went to church disagreed.

3. Overall Quality of Law Enforcement in Community

A plurality (49.7%) of those surveyed rated “the overall quality of law enforcement in [their] community” as “good.”

<u>Overall Quality of Law Enforcement</u>					
<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
9.9%	25.9%	49.7%	12.3%	2.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Majorities of the age cohorts 66+ (62.1%), 54-65 (52.9%), and 35-53 (50.6%) rated local law enforcement as “good.” A plurality (40.2%) of the 18-34 group replied “fair.”

4. Legalize Medically Assisted Suicide

A majority (61%) of those polled replied “yes” when asked if they thought that “medically assisted suicide” should be legalized for terminally ill patients in Montana.”

<u>Legalize Medically Assisted Suicide</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
61%	31.5%	7.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (85.5%) of those who never/hardly ever went to church backed this issue, a majority (54.6%) of weekly/more often church attendees replied “no” to this query.
- More independents (70.4%) than Democrats (69.2%) or Republicans (53.9%) supported assisted suicide.
- Attitudes on this issue were not related to the respondents self-perception of their health.

5. Legalize Prostitution in Montana

A majority (73.4%) of those polled felt that prostitution should “not be” legalized in Montana.”

<u>Legalize Prostitution</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
22.5%	73.4%	4.1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- While a majority (83.3%) of weekly/or more church attendees were most likely to reply “no” to this question, those never/hardly ever going to church were most likely (35.9%) to support legalization.
- More women (80.1%) than men (66.8%) opposed legalizing this behavior.
- The strongest support for legalization existed among males aged 53-65 (42.9%), the strongest opposition was found among women aged 18-33 (86.4%).

6. Gay and Lesbian Violence Considered a Hate Crime

When asked “[d]o you think that violence against gays and lesbians should be considered a hate crime,” a majority (73.1%) of the respondents replied, “yes.”

<u>Gay and Lesbian Violence a Hate Crime</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
73.1%	22.3%	4.6%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- There was a direct relationship between church attendance and attitudes on this issue. While a majority of all church attendance groups supported making these acts a crime, those most likely to back the proposed law never/hardly ever attended church (78.6%), while respondents going to church weekly/or more exhibited the lowest level of support (66.7%).

- More women (78.6%) than men (67.3%) favored making these acts hate crimes.
- A larger majority of Democrats (89.7%) than independents (63%) or Republicans (62.6%) backed the proposed law.

7. Video Game Related to Real Life Violence

When asked “if they thought that violent video games are a cause of real life violence,” a plurality (39.2%) of the interviewees replied “probably yes.” The combined “probably” and “definitely” “yes” respondents totaled to 72.4% of the interview panel.

<u>Video Games Related to Real Life Violence</u>					
<u>No</u>	<u>Probably Not</u>	<u>Probably Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
13.8%	11.6%	39.2%	33.2%	2.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those most likely to think video games “definitely” contributed to violence attended church weekly/or more (35.3%), those most likely to answer “no” never/hardly ever went to church (45.6%).
- Respondents aged 66 or older were most likely (53%) to view video games as “definitely” contributing to violence, while the youngest 18-34 cohort replied “no” to this question most often (30.4%).
- More males (19.5%) than females (8.3%) replied “no,” while more women (37.9%) than men (28.8%) answered “definitely.”

8. TV and Movie Violence Cause of Real Life Violence

A related question was phrased “[d]o you think that violence on television or in the movies is a cause of real life violence?” A plurality (38.7%) of those interviewed “definitely” agreed with this statement. The combined “probably” and “definitely” “yes” categories amounted to by 76.7% of the respondents.

<u>TV and Movie Related to Real Life Violence</u>					
<u>No</u>	<u>Probably Not</u>	<u>Definitely Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
11.4%	10.9%	38.7%	38%	1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Respondents attending church weekly/or more were most likely (51.9%) to “definitely” think that television contributed to real life violence, while those who never/hardly ever attended church were most apt (17.9%) to reply “no.”
- The oldest cohort, aged 66+ was most likely (56.1%) to think television contributed to violence, while the youngest 18-34 age group most often replied “no” (20.7%).
- More women (41.3%) than men (35.1%) answered “definitely” to this question and more men (14.8%) than women (8.3%) replied “no.”

9. Teenage Drug Use In Montana

In reply to the question “[i]n your opinion has drug use among teenagers in Montana increased or decreased in the last 5 years,” a majority (57.1%) of those polled said they felt it had “increased.”

<u>Teenage Drug Use in Montana</u>				
<u>Increased</u>	<u>About Same</u>	<u>Decreased</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
57.1%	8%	13.3%	21.6%	100%

10. Victims of Domestic Violence

When asked “[h]ave you or anyone close to you ever been the victim of domestic violence,” a majority (68.8%) of those answering the question said “no.”

<u>Victim of Domestic Violence</u>		
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
31.2%	68.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those least likely to have been the victim/close to the victim of domestic violence were aged 66+ (87.9%), those most apt to say “yes” were in the youngest 18-34 age group (38%).
- More women (36.6%) than men (26.1%) said “yes.”
- More urban (34.3%) than rural (24.1%) dwellers replied “yes.”
- In terms of gender/age, women aged 18-33 (45.5%) were most likely to have been victims/close to victims and males aged 66+ least likely (96.6%) to reply “yes.”

11. Victim of Violent Crime (Non-Domestic Violence)

The next question asked “[h]ave you or anyone close to you ever been the victim of any other type of violent crime?” A majority (80.4%) of the interviewees replied “no.”

<u>Victim of Other Violent Crime</u>		
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
19.6%	80.4%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those most likely to have been the victim, or know a victim, of violent crime were aged 18-34 (28.6%), those least likely to answer “yes” were in the 66+ (93.9%) cohort.
- Republicans were most likely to answer “no” (85.8%) and independents most often “yes” (29.6%) to this query.
- In terms of gender/age, women 18-33 most often answered “yes” (34.1%), while males 66+ most often replied “no” (100%).

IV. EDUCATION

1. Children Safe at Public Schools in Community

A majority (53.7%) of those polled replied “safe” when queried: “How safe do you think the children in your community are while at public school?”

<u>Children Safe at Public Schools</u>				
<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Somewhat Safe</u>	<u>Safe</u>	<u>Very Safe</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.7%	21.1%	53.7%	22.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- More women than men rated schools as being “safe” (55.8%-51.7%), “somewhat safe” (26.7%-15.1%) and “not safe” (2.4%-1%). More men than women evaluated schools as being “very safe” (31.2%-14.1%).
- More rural than urban dwellers rated schools as “very safe” (26.8%-20.3%) or “safe” (60.1%-50.4%). More urban than rural residents viewed schools as “somewhat safe” (26.3%-10.9%) and “unsafe” (1.9%-1.4%).

2. Montana Public Schools Use Metal Detectors

In reply to the question “[d]o you think public schools in Montana should use metal detectors to screen all individuals who enter the schools,” a plurality (32%) of those polled replied “no.” But combining the responses to categories related to different types of schools produced a majority (61.5%) of interviewees who favored metal detectors being used in some or all schools.

<u>Metal Detectors in Montana Schools</u>					
<u>No</u>	<u>Only High Schools</u>	<u>Middle&High Schools</u>	<u>All Schools</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
32%	11.6%	21.3%	28.6%	6.5%	100%

3. Adequacy of Disciplinary Powers of Montana Public School Teachers

A majority (71.2%) of those surveyed replied “no” when asked if they thought “public school teachers in Montana currently [had] enough disciplinary powers over their students?”

<u>Adequacy of Montana School Teachers Disciplinary Powers</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
19.6%	71.2%	9.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Majorities of Republicans (77.7%), Democrats (65.1%) and independents (59.3%) thought that teachers did not have enough power.
- More rural (73.2%) than urban (70.7%) dwellers thought teachers did not have enough power.

4. Overall Funding of Local Public Schools

A majority (52.1%) of the interviewees described “the overall level of funding for public education in [their] community” as adequate.

<u>Overall Funding of Local Public Schools</u>				
<u>Inadequate</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>More Than Adequate</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
33.9%	52.1%	7.7%	6.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority of Republicans (56.3%) and Democrats (50.7%) identified school funding as adequate, while a plurality of independents (37%) chose this same option.

5. Spanking in Public Schools

A majority (50.4%) of those polled responded “no” when asked “[s]hould public school officials be able to spank students as a form of discipline?” The results of this question are at the +/- 5% margin of error this survey.

<u>Spanking in Public Schools</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
45.4%	50.4%	4.1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority of females (64.6%) opposed spanking, a majority of males (60.5%) backed it.
- A majority of Republicans (58.7%) backed spanking, a majority of Democrats (67.1%) opposed it, while independents were evenly divided (48.1%) in their support and opposition to the practice.
- A majority of rural residents supported spanking (50.7%), a majority of urban dwellers opposed it (55.3%).
- In terms of gender/age, males aged 53-65 backed spanking the most (65.7%), while females 18-33 years old opposed it to the greatest extent (77.3%).

6. Drug Education Taught in Montana Grade Schools

A majority (93.2%) of those interviewed said “yes” when asked if they thought “drug education should be taught in grade schools in Montana.”

<u>Drug Education Taught in Montana Grade Schools</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
93.2%	4.6%	2.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Majorities of independents (96.3%), Republicans (96.1%) and Democrats (89.7%) liked the idea of drug education.

7. Quality of Home Schools v. Public Schools

In reply to the question “[d]o you generally think that in Montana the education provided by home schooling is not as good as, equal to or better than the education provided by the public school system,” 36.1% of the interviewees replied “not as good” and 48.2% of the respondents chose the options “equal to” or “better than” public schools.

Quality of Home Schools v. Public Schools

Not As Good As Public	36.1%
Equal To Public	30.8%
Better Than Public	17.4%
Undecided	<u>15.7%</u>
Total	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality (35.2%) of those who attended church weekly/more often viewed home schools as “equal” to public ones, while a plurality (41.9%) of the respondents who seldom/never went to church viewed home schools as “not as good” as public institutions.
- The age group most likely to identify home schools as “not as good” as public ones was 35-53 years old (41.1%), while the age cohort most likely to feel that home schools were “better” than public ones was the 18-34 group (20.7%).
- The educational group most likely to feel home schools were “not as good” as public ones had a post-graduate education (53.1%), while the group most apt to view home schools as “better” had some high school education (31.3%).

8. Exit Exams for Montana High Schools

A majority (73.8%) of those replying to the survey said “support” when asked if they supported “mandatory exit exams which would have to be passed before a student could graduate from a Montana high school.”

Exit Exams For Montana High Schools

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
73.8%	19.9%	6.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- The age group most likely to favor exit exams was 66 or older (83.3%), those most opposed to this proposal were aged 18-34 (27.2%).

V. LIFESTYLE

1. Concern About Y2K Computer Problems

In response to the query, “[h]ow concerned are you about Year 2000 or Y2K computer problems,” a majority (56.9%) of those interviewed replied “not at all concerned.”

Concern About Y2K

Not At All	56.9%
Somewhat	34.9%
Concerned	5.3%
Very Concerned	1.9%
Undecided	<u>1.0%</u>
Total	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- A majority of men (65.4%) and plurality of women (48.1%) were “not concerned,” but more women than men were “somewhat concerned” (40.3%-29.8%), “concerned” (7.8%-2.9%) and “very concerned” (2.9%-1%).

2. Precautions For Y2K

A majority (60.3%) of those responding to the poll said they had not taken “any precautionary measures in preparation for the year 2000 in terms of anticipated Y2K computer problems.”

<u>Precautions for Y2K</u>			
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
37.5%	60.3%	2.2%	100%

A. Level of Y2K Precautions

Only the respondents who said they had taken precautions for Y2K were asked a “1” to “10” scaled question, where “1” represented “few” and “10” “a good many,” about the extent to which they had prepared for the possibility of the Y2K problem. Note, the margin of error for this question is approximately +/-9%. While 29.9% of those replying to this question said “1,” 3.9% answered “10.”

<u>Level of Y2K Precautions</u>			
<u>Low (1-5)</u>	<u>High (6-10)</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>
85.1%	14.9%	100%	3.3

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- Among those making preparations for Y2K, in relative terms. Republicans (3.8 mean) were making more preparations than Democrats (2.7) or independents (2.6).

3. Legal Age of Consent for Sexual Relations

In reply to an open-ended question about what they thought “the legal age of consent for sexual relations should be in Montana,” the mean age chosen by the respondents was 17.4. A majority (54.3%) of the interviewees identified 18 as the appropriate age.

<u>Legal Age For Sexual Relations</u>
<u>Mean Age</u>
17.4

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Individuals attending church weekly/more often chose an average older age for sexual consent (18 mean age) than those who never/hardly ever attended church (17).
- There was a direct relationship between age cohorts and the age identified as appropriate for sexual consent. The 18-34 group picked the youngest average age (17 years), followed by the 35-53 (17.47), 54-65 (17.5) and 66+ (18) age groups.

- In terms of gender/age, the youngest male and female cohorts, those aged 18-33, picked the lowest mean ages (16.7 and 17.3 mean), while the oldest men and women, aged 66+, identified the highest mean ages (17.5 and 18.2).
- Respondents favoring the legalization of prostitution identified a lower mean age to start sexual relations (16.9 mean) than did those opposed to legalization (17.6).

4. Marry Same Spouse Again

In reply to the query “[i]f you are currently married, given the choice, would you marry the same person again,” a majority (69.5%) of the respondents replied “yes.”

<u>Marry Same Spouse Again</u>				
<u>Not Married</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
19.4%	69.5%	9.4%	1.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- While majorities of those who said they were economically “better off,” (74.9%), “about the same” (65.2%) and “worse off” (62.7%) than four years ago said they would marry the same person again. A greater percentage of those “worse off” (17.3%) than “about the same” (6.1%), or “better off” (6.8%) economically said they would not marry the same person again.
- Majorities of respondents who had both not been the victim/knew victim of (75.9%), as well as the victim/knew victim of (57%), domestic violence said they would marry the same person again. But more victims/knew victims (14.1%) than non-victims (7.1%) said they would not marry the same person again.
- In terms of respondents married with families, those most likely to say they would marry the same person again to the greatest extent said they spent an average of 10 or more hours a week with their family (83.1%), while those most likely to say they would not choose the same spouse were most likely to say they spent no time with their family (14.3%).

5. Perception of Same Sex Marriages

A majority (63.4%) of those polled said “oppose” when asked if they supported or opposed “same sex marriages.”

<u>Perception of Same Sex Marriages</u>			
<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
21.3%	63.4%	15.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- While 79.6% of the weekly/more often church attendees opposed same sex measures, the highest support existed among the never/hardly ever (36.8%) attending church group.
- The greatest opposition to this type of marriage existed in the aged 66+ cohort (75.8%), the most support was found with those 18-34 (34.8%).
- Majorities of males and females (68.3%-58.7%) opposed the idea.
- In terms of gender/age, women 18-33 (43.2%) approved of the marriages to the greatest extent, males 66+ (89.7%) most opposed them.
- A majority of Republicans (75.2%) and independents (55.6%) and a plurality of Democrats (49.3%) were against the marriages.
- More rural (71.7%) than urban (59.4%) dwellers opposed the marriages.

6. Better or Worse Off Economically Than 4 Years Ago

A majority (57.1%) of those surveyed felt they were economically “better off” than they had been “four years ago.”

<u>Better or Worse Off Economically Than 4 Years Ago</u>			
<u>Better Off</u>	<u>Worse Off</u>	<u>About Same</u>	<u>Total</u>
57.1%	26.8%	16.1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- In terms of age, majorities of those 18-34 (75%) and 35-53 years old (62.2%) and a plurality of those 54-65 (45.7%) felt they were “better off.” A plurality of interviewees 66+ (38.5%) replied “about the same” (38.5%).
- A majority or plurality of every income group (78.6% of those in households making more than \$100,000 said “better off”) felt “better off” economically, except a majority (53.1%) of those in households making less than \$10,000 a year responded “worse off.”
- In terms of gender/age majorities of males and females aged 18-33 (80.9%-70.5%) and 34-52 (62.4%-62.1%) felt “better off,” pluralities of men and women 53-65 (48.6%-42.9%) agreed. A plurality of females 66+ (40.5%) said “about the same” and equal percentages of males 66+ replied “better off” and “same” (35.7%). Women 66+ (32.4%) were most apt to answer “worse off.”

7. Amount of Weekly Quality Time Spent With Family

In reply to a question about the number of “hours of quality time...you spend with your family during an average week,” a majority (51%) of those interviewed said “more” than ten hours a week.

<u>Amount of Weekly Quality Time With Family</u>	
Don't Live With	16.5%
None	1.7%
1-5 Hours	11.6%
6-10 Hours	19.2%
More Than 10	<u>51.0%</u>
Total	100%

8. Self-Evaluation of Overall Health

On a “1” to “5” scaled question about their health, where “1” represented “not very healthy” and “5” “very healthy,” a plurality of those polled (37.6%) chose “4,” while 35.9% picked “5” as their response.

<u>Evaluation of Overall Health</u>				
<u>Unhealthy (1-2)</u>	<u>Average (3)</u>	<u>Healthy (4-5)</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>
5.8%	20.7%	73.5%	100%	4

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those better off economically than four years ago rated their average health better (4.2 mean), than those “about the same” (3.9), or “worse off” economically (3.6).

- Republicans rated their health higher (4.2 mean) than independents (3.9) or Democrats (3.8).
- There was a direct relationship between perceptions of health and years of education. Those with a grade school education, on average, chose the lowest number (2.5 mean), followed by respondents with a high school (3.9), college (4) and post-graduate (4.2) education.

9. Frequency of Church Attendance

A majority (71.3%) of the survey respondents said they sometimes attended church. While 28.7% never or almost never went to church, 26.4% attended weekly or more.

<u>Frequency of Church Attendance</u>	
Never/Almost Never	28.7%
1-2 A Year	16.1%
3-12 A Year	12.7%
2-3 A Month	16.1%
Weekly/More Often	<u>26.4%</u>
Total	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Pluralities of those aged 66+ (37.5%) and 54-65 (28.6%) attended church weekly or more, while pluralities of the 35-53 (32.8%) and 18-34 (27.2%) cohorts “hardly ever/never” went to church.
- A plurality of Republicans (32%) attended weekly/more often, while pluralities of independents (44.4%) and Democrats (36.1%) went never/hardly ever.

10. Hunted In Past 3 Years

A majority (65.1%) of those interviewed said they had not “hunted animals or birds within the last three years.”

<u>Hunted In Past 3 Years</u>		
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
34.9%	65.1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- While majorities of all age groups had not hunted, those most likely to say “yes” were aged 18-34 (47.8%) and those least likely to be in this same category were 66+ (15.2%).
- In terms of gender/age, majorities of males aged 18-33 (70.2%), 34-52 (55.9%) and 53-65 (51.4%) had hunted. Three-quarters (75%) or more of all female/age groups had not hunted.
- Majorities of urban (70.8%) and rural (55.5%) dwellers replied “no.”