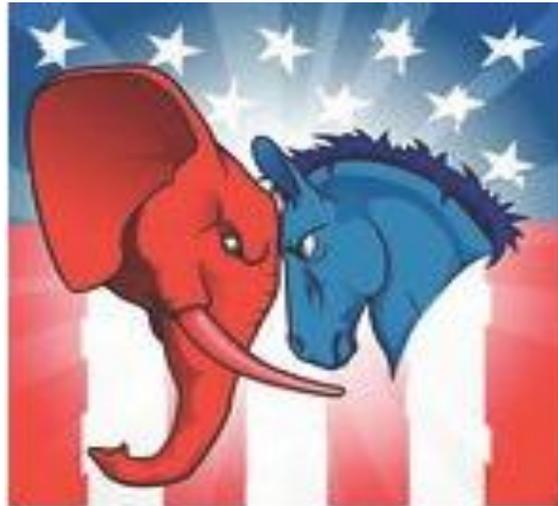




**THE MSU-BILLINGS POLL:
NATIONAL, STATE,
AND
LOCAL ISSUES
OCTOBER 2011**

26TH POLL

23rd YEAR



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**The “MSU-Billings Poll” is available on our website
www.msubillings.edu/urelations**

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INTRODUCTION

The “MSU-Billings Poll” began in 1989. This is the twenty-third year the survey has been conducted and during this time twenty-six surveys have been completed. The Co-Directors of the Poll are Dr. Craig Wilson (Political Science), Dr. Scott Rickard (Director of the Center for Applied Economic Research) and Dr. Cathy Grott (Sociology-Methodology). We would like to thank Ms. Brenda Dockery for serving as the supervisor for this research project, Ms. Jonna Jones for also assisting us and Ms. Tami Eller for word processing the survey results.

This report summarizes the results of a statewide random sample telephone survey involving the responses of 417 adult Montanans. The poll was conducted October 17-21. Forty students enrolled in Political Science 342, Media, Public Opinion, Polling and Sociology 318, Sociological Research Methods, completed the interviews for this survey. The survey was completed using random digit dial methodology, which selects both the phone numbers and members of a household to interview. A sample of cell phone numbers was also included in the sample. The poll was conducted using MSU-Billings’ CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) software. Multiple attempts were made to reach selected households. The survey results have a +/- 5% margin of error at a confidence level of 95% (95% of the time the results will fall within the +/- 5% margin of error). Factors such as question order and wording can affect survey results. Statistical tests were employed to determine whether statistically significant relationships ($p=.05$) existed between key variables.

I. NATIONAL ISSUES

1. PRESIDENT OBAMA’S OVERALL PERFORMANCE IN OFFICE

This is the third year the “MSU-Billings Poll” asked respondents, “At this point in time do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama’s overall performance in office?” A majority of those polled (57.5%) answered “disapprove.”

In comparison, in 2009, 53% of those questioned replied “disapprove” and 37% said “approve.” In 2010, 52.9% of the respondents said “disapprove” and 32.1% replied “approve.”

PRESIDENT OBAMA’S OVERALL PERFORMANCE IN OFFICE

<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
32.0%	57.5%	10.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- 45% of Democrats approve of the President’s performance, while 44.2% of Republicans oppose his actions and 5% of independents are undecided.
- In terms of age, Obama’s greatest support (34.6%) exists among those aged 61+, while his least support (33.9%) is found among this same cohort.
- Gender, income and education are not related to opinions about his popularity.
- 56.3% of those who approve of the President’s overall performance approve of his proposed economic stimulus package. 74.8% of those disapproving of his performance disapprove of the stimulus package.
- 88.7% of those who approve of the President overall, like him personally, while a plurality (41.5%) who disapprove of him do not like him personally.
- A plurality (27.8%) of the respondents who approve of the Afghanistan war, approve of the President’s performance overall. A plurality (44.3%) of the respondents who disapprove of his overall performance opposed the war.
- There is no relationship between those who feel the U.S. is winning the war in Afghanistan and their opinion of the President’s handling of foreign relations.

- 79.1% of those who like Obama favor dropping the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, while a plurality (36.9%) of those both supporting and opposing the policy do not approve of his performance.
- Majorities of both those who like (72.2%) or dislike (56.8%) the President, approve of the overall actions nation – states took against Muammar Khadaffi.
- In terms of responsibility for the U.S. annual deficit, 78.4% of individuals who approve of the President’s overall performance hold Congress responsible, while 85.0% who hold the President responsible disapprove of his overall job rating.
- A plurality (49.0%) of those disapproving of the Presidents overall performance and a plurality (48.5%) approving of it are “very interested” in the 2012 general election.
- 90.0% of individuals disapproving of Obama’s overall performance say they would not vote for him next year, while 78.0% of those polled who approve of his performance say they would support him.
- 51.1% of those approving of the President’s overall performance feel that in the future passage of the healthcare law would make health care much better. While 86.3% of those disapproving of the job the President is doing feel that in the future the law would make health care much worse.
- A plurality (45%) of the respondents who approve of the President’s overall performance feel they are economically about the same as 5 years ago, while 53.5% of those disapproving of the President think they are worse off.
- 64.1% of those who dislike the President’s overall performance have a favorable opinion of the Tea Party movement, while 52.7% approving of the job he is doing disapprove of the President’s official actions.

2. PRESIDENT OBAMA’S ABILITY TO MANAGE U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS

In reply to the question, “At this point in time, do you believe that President Obama is doing a “good job,” or a “bad job,” in managing U.S. international relations,” a plurality (40.9%) of those interviewed said “bad job.” Last year, in response to a similar question, 42% of those polled answered both “good job” and “bad job.” In 2009, 45% of those polled said “bad job” and 40% “good job.”

PRESIDENT OBAMA’S ABILITY TO MANAGE U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS

Good Job	Bad Job	Undecided	Total
40.1%	41.1%	18.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- 78.3% of individuals who regard Obama as doing a “good job” in the area of foreign policy like him as a person. While 50.5% who view him as doing a “bad job” with the economy are undecided about whether they approve of his performance in foreign affairs.
- 70.8% who say they approve of the President’s handling of international relations supported ending the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy. A plurality (39.9%) who regarded the President as doing a poor job with foreign policy opposed ending “don’t ask, don’t tell.”
- 67.3% of individuals who believed the President had done a “good job” in the area of foreign policy approve his actions regarding Libya. 56.1% of individuals who believe the president is doing a “bad job” in foreign relations also back his Libyan policy.
- 79.2% of those who approve the President’s handling of foreign policy and 78.5% who believe he was doing a “bad job,” both had a negative view about how Congress is operating.
- A plurality (41.3%) of individuals who believed the President was handling international relations correctly and 57.2% of those disagreeing were both “very interested” in next year’s election.
- 67.9% of respondents approving of the President’s handling of foreign affairs planned on voting for a Democrat in next year’s election. 71.8% disapproving of his actions say they would vote Republican.
- 92.7% of those whose political views reflect the Tea Party’s political views feel President Obama is doing a “bad job” managing foreign relations. 60.5% of those whose political views do not reflect the Tea Party “at all” feel the President is doing a “good job” managing foreign relations.
- 44.4% of individuals who were undecided about how religious they were believed the President had done a “good job” in handling international affairs. A plurality (35.3%) of the respondents disapproving of his international actions say they were “very religious.”
- A plurality (29.4%) of those viewing the President as doing a “bad job” in handling international relations and 25.1% who say he was doing a “good job” both lived in households with \$45,000-\$75,000 yearly incomes.

3. PRESIDENT OBAMA’S ABILITY TO MANAGE THE U.S. ECONOMY

A majority (67.4%) of those polled replied “bad job” when asked, “In an overall sense, do you believe that President Obama is doing a “good job,” or a “bad job” in managing the U.S. economy?”

In 2009, in response to this same question 56% of those surveyed said “bad job” and a plurality (29%) replied “good job.” In 2010, a majority (62.7%) who answered the question said “bad job” and a plurality of (29%) “good job.”

PRESIDENT OBAMA’S ABILITY TO MANAGE THE U.S. ECONOMY

<u>Good Job</u>	<u>Bad Job</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
20.6%	67.4%	12.1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- 94.2% of those with a negative view of the President’s dealing of foreign affairs also believed he had done a negative job handling the economy. A plurality (45%) believing he had done well managing foreign affairs also held a positive view of his dealing with the economy.
- Age, income, education and gender were not related to responses on this question.
- A plurality (42.4%) of Democrats feel he was doing a “good job” and 91.1% of Republicans a “bad job” managing the economy. While 72.4% of undecided voters feel President Obama is doing a “bad job” managing the economy.
- 64% of those believing the President was doing a “good job” approve of his economic stimulus package, while 68.1% who thought he was doing a “bad job” disapprove of the plan.
- 76.7% of those who feel the President was managing the economy well also believe Congress was most responsible for the deficit while 51.2% feeling he was doing a “bad job” with the economy also identified “Congress” was most responsible.
- 76.7% of individuals supporting the President’s handling of the economy held Congress most responsible for the national deficit. 56.3% of respondents who feel the President has done a “poor job” handling the economy were undecided about whom was most responsible for the deficit.

- 88.2% of the individuals approving of Obama’s handling of the economy like him on a personal basis, while 94.3% of those who dislike Obama held the opinion that he was doing a “bad job” handling the economy.
- 55.7% of those polled who approve of the way the President is handling the economy say Tea Party views did not affect them at all. The 18.6% who believed the President was doing a “bad job” with the economy also say the Tea Party affected their opinion “not at all.”
- 52% of individuals who thought the President did a “bad job” with the economy say they were worse off economically than 5 years ago. 51.2% who approve of his handling of the economy say they were “about the same” economically as 5 years ago.
- 81.1% of the respondents feeling the President was doing a “bad job” with the economy believed that in the future the healthcare legislation passed would make healthcare much worse. The 60.5% of those polled who thought the President was doing a good economic job also say they thought this legislation would make healthcare “much worse.”
- The 87.4% of respondents who thought the President was doing a “good job” with economic policy also believed he was doing a “good job” with foreign policy. The 57.4% who viewed his economic policies as poor held a negative view of his handling of the economy.

4. KNOW YEAR 9/11 OCCURRED

When asked, “Can you tell me the year that the 9/11 attacks on U.S. soil occurred,” a majority (81%) of the respondents knew the right answer.

KNOW YEAR 9/11 OCCURRED

<u>Right</u>	<u>Wrong</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
81.0%	13.8%	5.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- The educational cohort most likely to get the day wrong (54.5%) were those with a high school degree or less.

5. SUPPORT U. S. DECISION TO GO TO WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

The question regarding the war in Afghanistan was phrased, “Do you support or oppose the United States’ decision to go to war in Afghanistan?” A plurality (46.2%) of those replying to this question said “oppose.”

When a similar question was asked last year, a majority (54%) of respondents said “support.” And in 2010, a majority of 51.6% of those polled also replied “support.”

SUPPORT U. S. DECISION TO GO TO WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
40%	46.2%	13.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Opinions about the war were not related to age.
- In terms of income the \$45,000-\$75,000 cohort were both most (33.5%) and least (21.1%) likely to support the war.
- Males (52.7%) were more likely to back the conflict, while females (53.8%) most likely to oppose the war.
- 54.8% of Republicans were most likely to back the war and 57.7% of Democrats most apt to oppose it.
- Those with a favorable opinion (51.2%) of the Tea Party movement were most likely to support the war, while individuals with an unfavorable (53.4%) view of the movement most likely to oppose the conflict.

6. WINNING THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

When asked “at this time is the U.S. winning the war in Afghanistan” a majority (50.5%) replied “no.”

WINNING THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
25.6%	50.5%	23.9%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- There is no relationship between winning the war in Afghanistan and President Obama’s approval in handling foreign relations.
- 69.4% of those who believe the U.S. is winning the war in Afghanistan and 71.6% of those who feel the U.S. is not winning, both disapprove of how the President is dealing with the economy.
- The 59.8% of respondents who believed the U.S. was winning the war and the 63.2% who feel we were not both supported U.S. actions in Libya.
- A plurality (27.1%) of those believing we were winning the war say the Tea Party movement moderately affected their political opinions. The plurality (34.1%) of those who say we were not winning the war feel the Tea party movement reflected their political opinions “not at all.”

7. NATO OPPOSING MUAMMAR KHADAFI

A majority (62%) of the respondents said “yes” when asked, “Do you support NATO assisting Libyan opponents of Muammar Khadaffi in removing him from power”

NATO OPPOSING MUAMMAR KHADAFI

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
62%	16.3%	21.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- 43.2% of the individuals supporting U.S. actions in Libya feel President Obama is doing a “good job” in managing foreign relations. 64.7% opposing the action feel the President is doing a “bad job” in the area of foreign policy.
- 32.8% of those polled who opposed the Libyan action say the Tea Party “moderately” affected their political views. 34.8% who backed the Libyan action say the Tea Party affected their opinions “not at all.”

8. MILITARY DROPPING “DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL” POLICY

When polled and asked the question, “Do you support the U.S. military dropping its’ “don’t ask, don’t tell policy,” a majority (51%) of those answering the question replied “support.”

MILITARY DROPPING “DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL” POLICY

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
51%	27.6%	21.4%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- 37.3% of individuals who supported “don’t ask, don’t tell” say the Tea Party movement had no impact on their political opinions. 51.2% of individuals who oppose the policy say the Tea Party impacted them “a great deal.” 29.8% opposed to changing the policy say the group “moderately” impacted their viewpoints.
- 39.7% among those who liked President Obama on a personal basis opposed changing the policy. 60.1% of those polled who favored the changes liked President Obama.
- 50.2% of those supporting changing the policy say they would vote for a Democratic Presidential candidate. 57.9% opposing it say they would vote Republican.
- 53.9% of the respondents saying they were “somewhat religious” favored changing the policy. A plurality (42.6%) of those opposed to the change identified themselves as “very religious.”

9. OPINION ABOUT CONGRESS

A majority (76.9%) of the respondents replied “negative” when asked, “In a general sense, do you have a positive or negative opinion about how the U.S. Congress is operating today?”

OPINION ABOUT CONGRESS

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
9.5%	76.9%	5%	8.6%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- There was no relationship between an individual’s personal opinion of President Obama and their opinion about Congress.

10. RESPONSIBLE FOR ANNUAL NATIONAL DEFICIT

When asked a question phrased, “Whom do you hold more responsible for the U.S. budget’s annual deficit, the U.S. Congress or the President,” a majority (58.4%) of those answering the question replied “Congress.”

RESPONSIBLE FOR ANNUAL NATIONAL DEFICIT

<u>Congress</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
58.4%	9.5%	28.3%	3.9%	100%

11. SUPPORT PRESIDENT OBAMA’S STIMULUS PACKAGE

When the respondents were asked, “Do you support President Obama’s most recently announced economic stimulus package,” a plurality (49.4%) of those interviewed replied “no.”

SUPPORT PRESIDENT OBAMA’S STIMULUS PACKAGE

<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Know Nothing About</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
49.4%	21.4%	18.6%	10.6%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those least supportive of the plan were aged 40-50 (60.6%), while a plurality (38.5%) of those who support the stimulus package were in the age 61+ cohort.
- 79.1% of those polled who support the stimulus package blame Congress for the deficit problem. 75.0% of those who blame the President the most for the deficit issue oppose the stimulus.
- 60.4% of individuals who supported the President’s economic stimulus package believed the President was handling economic issues well. 92.8% of those opposed to the President’s economic stimulus package believed he was doing a “bad job” with the economy.
- 58.1% of individuals who favor the economic stimulus feel the Tea Party does not reflect their political opinions “at all,” while 92.7% of those who feel the Tea Party reflects their views a “great deal,” oppose the stimulus proposal.

- 79.1% of individuals supporting the stimulus plan and the 49% opposing it both held Congress most responsible for the U.S. yearly deficit.

12. LIKE OR DISLIKE PRESIDENT OBAMA ON A PERSONAL BASIS

When asked the question, “On a personal basis, do you like or dislike President Obama,” a plurality (45.7%) replied “like.”

LIKE OR DISLIKE PRESIDENT OBAMA ON A PERSONAL BASIS

<u>Like</u>	<u>Dislike</u>	<u>Like/Dislike Sometimes</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
45.7%	25.6%	7.1%	21.6%	100%

II. ELECTIONS

Independents are often described as “key players” in elections. This year, for the first time, the MSUB poll asked independents which party they planned on supporting. Next, for each vote question those who declared they were independent Democrats or independent Republicans were tracked in each race polled on to see if they actually supported the Democratic (Republican) candidate. These individuals labeled as independent Republicans or Democrats are included in the second table (B) which shows if independent respondents planned on supporting Republican or Democratic candidates.

So that the statistically significant material was not cluttered with too many party categories, the party percentages listed reflect the Democrats and independent Democrats categories combined. The same thing was done with Republicans and independent Republicans.

1. INTEREST IN ELECTIONS

When asked about next year’s election in the following terms, “As of today, how interested are you in the upcoming 2012 general election,” a plurality (45.7%) of those polled said “very.”

INTEREST IN ELECTIONS

<u>Very Interested</u>	<u>Somewhat Interested</u>	<u>Not Very Interested</u>	<u>Not Interested At All</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
45.7%	29%	14.5%	7.9%	2.9%	100%

2. ELECTION OF U.S. PRESIDENT

When asked the question, “If the election for the position of President of the U.S. were held today, do you think you would vote for the Democratic or Republican nominee?” A plurality (40.6%) replied “Republican.”

**ELECTION OF U.S. PRESIDENT
Table A**

<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
32.8%	40.6%	5.9%	20.7%	100%

**ELECTION OF U.S. PRESIDENT WITH INDEPENDENTS FACTORED IN
Table B**

<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Independent Democratic</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Independent Republican</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
20.2%	12.6%	27.5%	13.1%	5.9%	20.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships (Relating to Table A):

- 77.8% of Democrats supported the Democratic candidate and 83.1% of Republicans backed the Republican nominee.
- There was no relationship between gender, education and support for a candidate.
- A plurality (44.2%) of those supporting the Democratic candidate had some college/college degree. A plurality (44.9%) of Republicans with a college/college degree backed a Republican.
- 53% of Democrats who supported their candidate felt federal healthcare legislation would make U.S. healthcare “much worse” in the future. In contrast, 87.6% of Republicans who backed a candidate of their party also thought that the healthcare legislation would make future healthcare “much worse.”
- 75.9% of Democratic supporters approved of the president’s overall performance, while 90% of Republicans disapproved of his overall performance.
- 78.7% of those supporting the economic stimulus package were Democrats who also said they would support a Democratic candidate. 67.1% of Republicans opposing the program planned on backing a Republican.

3. ELECTION OF GOVERNOR

When asked the question, “If the election for the position of Governor of Montana were held today, do you think you would vote for the Democratic or Republican nominee?” A plurality (32.6%) of those polled said “Republican.”

ELECTION OF GOVERNOR

Table A

<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
30.7%	32.6%	3.9%	32.8%	100%

ELECTION OF GOVERNOR WITH INDEPENDENTS FACTORED IN

Table B

<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Independent Democratic</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Independent Republican</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
19.0%	11.7%	24.8%	7.8%	3.9%	32.8%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships (Relating to Table A):

- 57.1% of individuals who approve of the president’s overall job performance say they will vote for the Democratic gubernatorial candidate, while 87.4% of those who say they will support the Republican candidate will vote for a Republican.
- 68.5% of those backing the Democratic candidate for Governor feel the president is doing a “good job” in foreign policy. 69.9% of those supporting the Republican candidate for governor feel President Obama is doing a “bad job” in managing foreign relations.
- 42.1% of those who supported a Democratic candidate for governor feel President Obama has done a “good job” managing the economy. 90.9% of those favoring a Republican candidate feel President Obama has done a “bad job” managing the economy.
- 73.8% of those supporting the Democratic candidate like President Obama on a personal basis. 47.8% of those backing the Republican candidate personally dislike President Obama.

- 86% of those who will support the Republican candidate for governor believe in the future the health care legislation will make healthcare “much worse.” 45.7% of those planning on backing the Democratic candidate feel that in the future the healthcare legislation will make healthcare better.
- Age, income, education and gender were not related to vote intention.
- 65.9% of those who believe the Tea Party reflects their political views will support a Republican for governor. 52.0% of those who believe the Tea Party does not reflect their views “at all” will back the Democratic gubernatorial candidate.
- 63.9% of those who say they like the Republic candidate and 40.3% of those who will support the Democratic candidate both said religion is “very important” to them.
- 73.7% of Democrats planned on supporting their party’s gubernatorial candidate, while 76.6% of Republicans held the same position regarding their candidate.
- 42.5% of those who say they will vote for the Republican candidate have a positive view of the 2011 Montana legislature’s performance. 42.4% of those who say they will support the Democratic candidate have a negative view of the 2011 Montana legislature.
- 52.4% of those who plan on backing the Democratic candidate support the new marijuana law. 69.1% who say they will be supporting the Republican candidate also support the new marijuana law.

4. MONTANA U.S. SENATE CONTEST

When asked “if the 2012 election for the U.S. Senate were held today, do you think you would vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate,” a plurality (36.3%) replied Republican.

MONTANA U.S. SENATE CONTEST

Table A

<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
35.5%	36.3%	3.1%	25.1%	100%

MONTANA U.S. SENATE CONTEST WITH INDEPENDENT FACTORED IN

Table B

Democratic	Independent Democratic	Republican	Independent Republican	Other	Undecided	Total
23.3%	12.2%	24.1%	12.2%	3.1%	25.1%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships (Relating to Table A):

- One quarter (25%) of the respondents were “undecided” when asked if they would support the Democratic or Republican candidate in the 2012 Montana U.S. Senate race if it were held today.
- A plurality (36.3%) of the respondents indicate they like the Republican candidate, while 35.5% say they would support the Democratic candidate.
- 80.8% of Democrats planned on backing their party’s Senate candidate, as did 74.2% of Republicans.
- 76.9% of those who indicate they like the Democratic candidate for senator also plan on supporting the Democratic candidate for President. 87.4% of those who indicate they will vote for the Republican candidate for the Senate also support the Republican candidate for President.
- Those who hold Congress more responsible than the president for the annual deficit, indicated by a plurality (45.3%), that they like the Democratic candidate. Overwhelmingly, those who hold the president more responsible for the annual deficit indicated they will support the Republican (65%) candidate. Interestingly, in terms of those who hold both Congress and the president equally responsible for the annual deficit indicated by a plurality (45.4%), they will vote for the Republican candidate, while nearly one third of those individuals (31.9%) are undecided.
- 43.5% of those who are “very interested” in the election said they would support the Republican candidate, while 36.6% of those “very interested” in the election will back the Democratic candidate.
- There was no relationship between the Montana U.S. Senate race and respondents who feel they are economically better off, worse off or about the same as 5 years ago.

- A plurality (46.8%) of those who said they are “very religious” by indicated they will support the Republican candidate.
- There was no relationship between the Montana U.S. Senate race and an individual’s health insurance status.
- Almost half of those with a post-graduate education (49%) indicated they like the Democratic candidate. A plurality (40.8%) of those with some college or a college degree indicated they will support the Republican candidate. Interestingly, a plurality (35.6%) of high school graduates are undecided regarding whom they will back in the Montana U.S. Senate race.
- There was no relationship between income, gender, and age and candidate preference in the Montana U.S. Senate race.

5. MONTANA U.S. HOUSE ELECTION

When asked, “If the 2012 election were held today, do you think you would back the Republican or Democratic U.S. House candidate in your district,” a plurality (34.7%) of those surveyed were “undecided.”

MONTANA U.S. HOUSE ELECTION

Table A

<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
28.6%	34.0%	2.7%	34.7%	100%

**MONTANA U.S. HOUSE ELECTION
WITH INDEPENDENTS FACTORED IN**

Table B

<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Independent Democratic</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Independent Republican</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
18.8%	9.8%	24.7%	9.3%	2.7%	34.7%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships (Relating to Table A):

- Gender, income, education and age were not significant in this race.
- A plurality (36%) of those who planned on backing a Republican felt the Tea Party “moderately” affected their views, and a plurality (49.6%) of Democrats said the Tea Party shared their opinions “not at all.”
- 64.4% of those who support the Democratic candidate for the U.S. House approve of President Obama overall. In comparison 87.9% of those who support the Republican candidate disapprove of President Obama overall.
- 92.9% of those who support the Republican candidate for the U.S. House feel President Obama is doing a “bad job” managing international relations. A plurality (44.4%) of those who support the Democratic candidate feel President Obama is doing a “good job” managing international relations.
- A plurality (44.4%) of those who support the Democratic candidate for the U.S. House feel President Obama is doing a “good job” handling economic affairs, while 92.9% those who support the Republican candidate say he is doing a “bad job.”
- 48.7% of Democratic backers supported the president’s economic stimulus package, while 80.1% of Republican voters did not support the proposal.
- 75.2% of those planning on supporting the Democratic candidate like the President on a personal basis. While a plurality (48.6%) of those favoring a Republican candidate for the House dislike the president personally.
- A plurality of Republicans (48.9%) who planned on backing their party’s candidate opposed the war in Afghanistan, while 63.8% of Democrats who said they liked their party’s candidate were also opposed to the war.
- 71.8% of Democrats who were going to back a Democrat held Congress most responsible for the budget deficit, while a plurality (46.8%) saying they would vote for the G.O.P. candidate felt the same way about Congress.
- 83.9% of Democrats backing their candidate for the U.S. House also planned on supporting a Democrat for president, while 87.9% of Republicans backing a G.O.P. candidate for the House said they wanted a Republican for president.

- 89.4% of those who support the Republican candidate feel that in the future healthcare legislation will make healthcare “much worse.” In contrast, 50% of those individuals who support a Democrat for U.S. House feel the legislation will make healthcare “much better.”
- A plurality (41.7%) of those who support the Democratic candidate and a majority (64.7%) of those who support the Republican congressional candidate identify religion as “very important” in their lives.

6. MONTANA STATE HOUSE ELECTION

In reply to a question worded, “If the 2012 election were held today, do you think you would vote for the Republican or Democratic State House candidate in your district,” a plurality (37.3%) said “undecided.” The results for this question fell within the +/- 5% margin of error for this poll.

MONTANA STATE HOUSE ELECTION

<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
26.9%	32.4%	3.4%	37.3%	100%

7. OPINION OF 2011 MONTANA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

In reply to the question: “In general, do you have a positive or negative opinion about how the 2011 Montana legislature performed,” a plurality (34.6%) of those surveyed replied “positive.”

OPINION OF 2011 MONTANA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
34.6%	32.1%	33.3%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A majority (62.0%) of respondents who hold a positive view of the 2011 legislature viewed the president’s overall performance negatively. 53% of individuals with a negative view of the legislature also disapprove of the president’s overall performance.

- A plurality (31.2%) of those with a positive view of the 2011 legislature say the Tea Party “moderately” affects their political views. A plurality (45.5%) of individuals who view the legislature negatively say the group does “not at all” influence their political perspectives.
- A plurality (42.3%) of Republicans have a positive view of the legislature and a plurality (40.4%) of Democrats a negative view.
- A plurality (48.6%) of those with a positive view of the legislature planned on voting for a Republican for president. A plurality (44.7%) of respondents having a negative view of the legislature planned on supporting a Democratic presidential candidate.

III. HEALTHCARE

1. OPINION OF NATIONAL HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

A question was asked which was worded, “Based upon what you know, on a 1-10 scaled question where 1 represents much worse and 10 much better, in terms of the healthcare legislation passed by Congress, if it is fully implemented, do you think the quality of healthcare in the U.S. will get better or worse.” A 66.5% of those responding to some extent said it would get worse. The categories 1-5 were labeled “worse,” and 6-10 “better.”

OPINION OF NATIONAL HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

<u>1-5 (worse)</u>	<u>6-10 (better)</u>	<u>Total</u>
66.5%	33.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- There is a relationship between party affiliation and whether an individual thinks the healthcare legislation will make healthcare better or worse. 86.3% Republicans think the healthcare legislation will make healthcare worse, while 48.5% of Democratic respondents believe it will make healthcare better.
- 68.9% of independents think the legislation will make healthcare worse.
- There is no relationship between opinion of healthcare and gender, education, age or income.

- As expected, 87.6% of those who say they’ll vote for a Republican president feel the legislation will make healthcare worse, while 52.6% who say they’ll vote for the Democrat think the legislation will make healthcare better.
- There is a relationship between the Governor’s race and healthcare legislation. Again, the intensity with Republicans seems stronger. 86% of those who say they’ll vote Republican indicate the healthcare legislation will make healthcare worse, while only 45.7% of those who say they’ll vote Democratic feel the legislation will make healthcare better.
- The contest for the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House mirror the above results

2. HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

When asked to finish the following statement, “I am currently covered by private health insurance, public health insurance, both, or neither,” a plurality (49.1%) of the respondents answered “private” health insurance.

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
49.1%	16.5%	17.8%	14.4%	2.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- There is no relationship between gender and healthcare coverage.
- There is a relationship between age and health coverage. Those who have both private and public coverage (75%) are over 61 years of age and 30% of those 29-39 years of age have no healthcare coverage.
- Education and healthcare coverage are related. As expected, 53.7% of respondents with private health insurance have some college or a college degree. When post-college individuals are included, the figure jumps to 66.1%. 68.5% who are uninsured are high school graduates.
- Healthcare coverage has no effect on whom a person will vote for in the presidential race, the Senate race, the House race, and the governor’s race.

3. OVERALL PERSONAL HEALTH

When asked, “on a scale of 1-10 where 1 represents “poor” and 10 “excellent,” how would you rate your overall personal health,” to some extent a majority felt that their health was good. The categories 1-5 were combined into to some extent “poor,” and those responding 6-10 to some extent felt their health was “good.”

OVERALL PERSONAL HEALTH

<u>1-5 (poor)</u>	<u>6-10 (good)</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
17%	81.8%	1.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- There is no relationship to gender, age, or education.
- As income rises so does an individual’s health rating. 78.8% of respondents making over \$75,000 annually feel their health is good or excellent.
- Interestingly, a plurality (27.8%) of those who report their health to be poor make less than \$15,000 a year and 22.2% make over \$75,000.
- There is a relationship between the importance of religion and overall health. 49.5% of those who feel religion is important also report being in good or excellent health.
- Surprisingly, those who say religion is not important (81%), report their overall health is good or excellent.
- There is no relationship between political party and health.
- There is a relationship between health insurance coverage and individual health ratings. Of those who have private insurance, 82.7% report being in good or excellent health. Of those who report poor health there was a fairly even split between who have private, public or no insurance.

4. QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE

When asked “do you think the quality of healthcare in the U.S. will get better or worse,” 66.5% replied to some extent it would deteriorate.

QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE

<u>1-5 (worse)</u>	<u>6-10 (better)</u>	<u>Total</u>
66.5%	33.5%	100%

IV. OTHER QUESTIONS

1. TEA PARTY

When asked, “Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the Tea Party movement,” a plurality (34.8%) answered “favorable.” The results for this question fell within the +/- 5% margin of error for this poll.

TEA PARTY

<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
34.8%	33.6%	31.6%	100%

2. TEA PARTY OPINIONS

When those polled were asked the question, “To what extent does the Tea Party movement reflect your political opinions,” a plurality (29.1%) said “not at all.”

TEA PARTY AFFECT OPINIONS

<u>Great Deal</u>	<u>Moderately</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
10%	23.5%	16.6%	29.1%	20.8%	100%

3. RELIGIOSITY

A question asking how religious the respondents’ thought they were was worded, “In terms of religious beliefs, do you consider yourself to be. . .,” a plurality (49.5%) of those answering this question said “somewhat religious.”

RELIGIOSITY

<u>Very Religious</u>	<u>Somewhat Religious</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
26.9%	49.5%	21.4%	2.2%	100%

4. HOW IMPORTANT RELIGION IN PERSONAL LIFE

When asked a 1-5 scaled question worded, “On a scale of 1-5 with 1 being “not important at all” and 5 being “important,” how important is religion in your life,” a plurality of those surveyed (48.2%) to some extent said “very important.”

<u>1-2 (not important)</u>	<u>3 (neutral)</u>	<u>4-5 (important)</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
24.4%	25.2%	48.2%	2.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- Those aged 18-28 (37.1%) were most likely to say religion was “not important” in their life, while 64.2% of the 61+ age cohort say religion was “very important” in their life.
- To some extent a plurality (24.5%) of Democrats say religion was “not important” in their life and 30.7% of independents agreed,” while 63.4% of Republicans say religion was “very important” to them.
- Of those supporting the new marijuana law, 52.3% feel religion was “very important” in their life. 49% of individuals who say religion is “not important” in their lives also support the law.
- 40.1% of males say religion is “not very important” to them, while 55.4% of females say religion is “very important.”

5. OPINION ABOUT XL KEYSTONE PIPELINE

When asked, “Do you support or oppose the XL Keystone pipeline carrying a type of Canadian oil through Montana, with some Montana crude oil being picked up by the pipeline in this state, and then continuing to Texas where the oil would be refined,” a majority (63.5%) of the respondents said ”support.”

OPINION ABOUT XL KEYSTONE PIPELINE

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
63.5%	14%	22.5%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- 51.0% of Democrats oppose the pipeline and 71.5% of Republicans support the pipeline. 65.9% of independents also support the pipeline.
- 74.5% males support the pipeline and 16.9% females oppose it.
- 50.0% of those who oppose the pipeline say they were economically worse off than 5 years ago, while 16.5% of those who support the line were better off economically.

6. GLOBAL WARMING OCCURRING

In response to a question phrased, “On a global basis, do you feel that global warming is occurring,” a majority (55%) replied “yes.”

GLOBAL WARMING OCCURRING

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
55%	33.8%	11.2%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationship:

- 75.8% of Democrats feel global warming was occurring, while 50.0% of Republicans disagreed.
- There is no relationship between belief in global warming and education level, age, income, and gender.

7. MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGISLATION

A question about medical marijuana was phrased, “The 2011 Montana Legislature passed a law placing stricter limits regulating the marijuana industry. This law placed more restrictions on medical marijuana use, made it harder to obtain medical marijuana

cards and prevented those growing medical marijuana from advertising or selling the drug. Do you support or oppose this legislation?” A majority (62.3%) of the respondents said “support.”

MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGISLATION

<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
62.3%	28.3%	9.4%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- 69.1% of those who support a Republican gubernatorial candidate also support the medical marijuana law. A plurality (41.1%) of those who support a Democratic gubernatorial candidate oppose the law.
- A plurality (41.9%) of those who oppose the medical marijuana law will support the Democratic candidate in the U.S. House race, while a plurality (38.1%) who support the medical marijuana law will vote for the Republican candidate.
- 72.6% of those with both public and private insurance support the medical marijuana legislation, while a plurality (45.8%) of those who do not have insurance oppose the new legislation.
- 68.4% of respondents who oppose the passage of the new marijuana law also oppose medical marijuana users ability to buy guns or ammunition.

8. MEDICAL MARIJUANA – GUNS

In reply to a question which asked the respondents if they, “believe that medical marijuana users should be allowed to buy guns or ammunition,” a majority (54.6%) of those polled said “no.”

MEDICAL MARIJUANA – GUNS

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
30.2%	54.6%	15.2%	100%

9. BUYING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

In answer to a question phrased, “This Christmas, when buying presents, compared to last year, how much do you think you will spend,” a majority (53.6%) of those interviewed said “about the same.”

BUYING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

<u>More</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>About The Same</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
8%	34.5%	53.6%	3.9%	100%

Statistically Significant Relationships:

- A plurality (36.4%) of those most likely to spend more for Christmas are 18-28 years of age. A plurality (30.5%) of those least likely to spend more are 61+ years of age or more.
- A plurality (42.4%) of those most likely to buy more were in the \$75,001+ income category and those most likely to spend less earned \$45,000-\$75,000.
- 71.6% of those who will spend less, disapprove of Obama overall, while 67.4% of those who approve of President Obama overall will spend about the same.
- 71.8% of those who will spend less this year for Christmas think they are worse off than they were 5 years ago, while 36.4% of those who will spend more feel they are better off than they were 5 years ago.

10. BETTER OR WORSE OFF ECONOMICALLY THAN 5 YEARS AGO

A plurality (45.4%) of those polled say “worse off” when asked, “compared to five years ago, in economic terms, do you feel that you and/or your family are better off, worse off, or about the same.”

BETTER OR WORSE OFF ECONOMICALLY

<u>Better Off</u>	<u>Worse Off</u>	<u>About The Same</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
15%	45.4%	37.4%	2.2%	100%

11. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND – MONTANA

When asked the query, “Based on what you know, do you believe that in Montana the No Child Left Behind program has been a success or failure, a plurality (46.1%) of those polled replied “failure.”

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND - MONTANA

<u>Success</u>	<u>Failure</u>	<u>Some of Both</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>
16.5%	46.1%	14.8%	22.6%	100%