



UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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[umt.edu/bigskypoll](http://umt.edu/bigskypoll)

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**\*Use of poll findings requires attribution to the University of Montana Big Sky Poll.**

The University of Montana Big Sky Poll collects and reports information about Montanans' perceptions of local, state, and federal issues. The poll is directed by Sara Rinfret, Associate Professor & Master of Public Administration Director, and Justin Angle, Associate Professor of Marketing.

The UM Big Sky Poll telephone survey was conducted February 1-19, 2018. The survey was conducted with 603 randomly selected Montana registered voters. Survey results are valid with a margin of error (MOE) of +/- 4 at a 95 percent confidence level. Survey results were weighted so that the geographic and gender characteristics more closely represented registered voters in Montana.

### Most Important Issue Facing Montana

In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Montana today?

Issue	Percentage (%)
State Budget	07.9%
Economic performance	09.7%
Jobs/Job creation	16.1%
Managing growth and development	01.3%
Social service issues (includes homelessness, food/nutrition availability, addiction treatment, veteran services)	03.8%
Education	03.4%
Public Safety (includes crime)	02.1%
Drug Use and Addiction	01.5%
Border issues/illegal immigration	00.6%
Immigration/Refugee relocation	00.8%
Taxes – too high	01.8%
Taxes – too low	00.1%
Health Care	08.5%
Mental Health (includes suicide)	00.4%
Energy costs or production	00.2%
Resource extraction - need more (includes coal, oil, natural gas, minerals)	01.1%
Resource extraction – need less (includes coal, oil, natural gas, minerals)	00.4%
Housing Costs	01.9%
Environment, in general	04.1%
Forest management (includes fires)	01.7%
Drought/Lack of rain/snow	00.1%
Climate Change	01.2%
Agriculture	02.0%
Federal Budget	01.1%
Government Regulation - Too Much	00.7%
Gun Laws	01.4%
Immorality	00.9%
Infrastructure	01.2%
Political Polarization	02.5%
Politics	03.9%
President	01.5%
Public Lands	01.3%
Other _____	02.4%
Don't know/refused	12.6%

Elected Officials, Approval Ratings, and Issues

How likely are you to vote in the 2018 mid-term election?

Scale	Percentage (%)
Very Likely	87.4%
Somewhat Likely	4.5%
Neutral	2.7%
Unlikely	3.9%
Don't Know/Refused	1.4%

Do you think (insert name) is doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job in office?

- MT Governor Steve Bullock

Scale	Percentage (%)
Excellent	12.8%
Good	31.5%
Fair	31.8%
Poor	16.8%
Don't Know/Refused	7.0%

- The MT State Legislature

Scale	Percentage (%)
Excellent	1.4%
Good	17.9%
Fair	45.2%
Poor	21.4%
Don't Know/Refused	14.1%

- U.S. House Representative Greg Gianforte

Scale	Percentage (%)
Excellent	6.8%
Good	23.0%
Fair	21.7%
Poor	36.8%
Don't Know/Refused	11.8%

- U.S. Senator Steve Daines

Scale	Percentage (%)
Excellent	8.4%
Good	26.2%
Fair	29.3%
Poor	26.1%
Don't Know/Refused	10.0%

- U.S. Senator Jon Tester

Scale	Percentage (%)
Excellent	18.9%
Good	27.0%
Fair	22.8%
Poor	25.4%
Don't Know/Refused	5.9%

- U.S. President Donald Trump

Scale	Percentage (%)
Excellent	20.3%
Good	23.0%
Fair	12.2%
Poor	41.4%
Don't Know/Refused	3.2%

The November 2018 ballot will include a question from the MT legislature. It will ask Montanans if they want to continue an existing 6-mill property tax levy that has supported the university system since 1948. Without voter approval, it will expire in January 2019. If the election were today, would you vote for or against continuing the 6-mill levy that supports the Montana University System?

Scale	Percentage (%)
Vote For	72.3%
Lean For	2.3%
Vote Against	17.7%
Lean Against	0.7%
Undecided	3.9%
Don't Know/Refused	3.1%

Do you approve or disapprove of the recently adopted tax plan by the U.S. Congress?

Scale	Percentage (%)
Approve	34.4%
Disapprove	40.6%
Don't Know	21.2%
Refused	3.8%

Do you approve or disapprove of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations to decrease the size of national monuments in the Western U.S.?

Scale	Percentage (%)
Approve	28.8%
Disapprove	62.0%
Don't Know	7.8%
Refused	1.4%

### State Seal

Next, I'd like to ask a question about the state seal of Montana. Can you tell me the words displayed on the ribbon of the Montana state seal? What are they?

Scale	Percentage (%)
Oro Y Plata	29.9%
Gold and Silver	4.5%
Don't Know	65.6%

### Demographics

Now, just a few more questions so we can classify your answers. In what year were you born?

Scale	Percentage (%)
18 to 26	5.7 %
27 to 46	19.2 %
47 to 66	35.6 %
67 or older	36.9 %
Prefer not to answer	2.6 %

Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18 now living in your household?

Scale	Percentage (%)
Yes	20.6%
No	78.4 %
Prefer not to answer	1.0%

What is your highest level of education completed?

Scale	Percentage (%)
Some high school	2.3%
High school/GED	22.1%
Some college	22.7%
Associate's degree	7.3%
Bachelor's degree	22.6%
Post baccalaureate	18.3%
Other	2.9%
Prefer not to answer	1.9%

What was your total household income for 2016?

Scale	Percentage (%)
\$0-\$20,000	11.9%
\$20,001-\$37,000	14.8 %
\$37,001-\$46,000	9.8%
\$46,001-\$57,000	11.5%
\$57,001-\$88,000	17.5%
\$88,001-\$150,000	12.8%
\$150,001 and above	7.0%
Prefer not to answer	14.7%

Which political party do you identify with?

Scale	Percentage (%)
American Reform	--
Constitution	0.2 %
Democrat	28.5 %
Green	0.3 %
Independent	13.8 %
Libertarian	2.6 %
Republican (GOP)	33.1 %
Tea Party	0.2 %
Other	7.10%
Prefer not to answer	14.3 %

Which gender do you identify with?

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Woman (Female)	47.4 %
Man (Male)	47.4 %
Other	0.8 %
Prefer not to answer	4.4 %