



UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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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 Dr. Sara Rinfret, Associate Professor and Director of the Master of Public Administration Program, and Dr. Justin Angle, Associate Professor of Marketing and Warren and Betsy Wilcox Faculty Fellow.

The UM Big Sky Poll telephone survey was conducted from August 13-31, 2018 with 618 registered Montana voters. The margin of error (MOE) is +/- 4 at a 95 percent confidence level. Survey results were weighted by geography and gender to more accurately reflect demographics of the registered voter population in Montana. Section I and Section III results reflect the responses of the entire sample, while Section II results reflect the responses of 466 likely Montana voters. The margin of error for Section II is +/-4.5 at a 95 percent confidence level with the same weighting as the rest of the document. Due to rounding, totals may not equal 100 percent.

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

## Section I: Questions Asked of All Survey Respondents

### Montana Issues and Trivia

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

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Jobs/Job Creation	12%
Health Care	11%
Economic Performance	10%
Public Lands (e.g., national monuments)	9%
Political Polarization	7%
Environment (e.g., climate change, water quality)	6%
Education	5%
Wildfires	5%
Social Service Issues (e.g., homelessness, food/nutrition availability, addiction treatment, veteran care, senior care, social security)	4%
State Budget	3%
Taxes	2%
Public Safety (e.g., crime)	2%
Housing Costs	1%
Infrastructure	1%
Other	22%

Q: Can you tell me the name of the highest natural point in Montana? What is it?

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Granite Peak	22%
Beartooth Mountains	3%
Other	13%
Don't Know	63%

## Elected Officials, Job Performance, and Issues

Q: Do you think (*name of official*) is doing an excellent, good, fair or poor job in office?

### **President Donald Trump**

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Excellent	23%
Good	21%
Fair	13%
Poor	43%

### **Senator Jon Tester**

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Excellent	29%
Good	26%
Fair	18%
Poor	27%

### **Senator Steve Daines**

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Excellent	10%
Good	27%
Fair	36%
Poor	27%

### **House Representative Greg Gianforte**

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Excellent	8%
Good	26%
Fair	23%
Poor	43%

### **Governor Steve Bullock**

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Excellent	15%
Good	42%
Fair	26%
Poor	17%

Q: Do you think having an increasing number of people of many different races, ethnic groups and nationalities in the United States makes this country a better place to live, a worse place to live, or doesn't make much difference either way?

Scale	Percentage
Better place to live	53%
Worse place to live	9%
Doesn't make much difference either way	38%

Q: In general, do you think it should be harder or easier for individuals to legally immigrate to the United States?

Scale	Percentage
Harder	48%
Easier	52%

### Defining Likely Voters

Q: Did you vote in the November 2016 presidential election?

Answer	Percentage
Yes, voted	96%
No, did not vote but was eligible to vote in 2016	3%
No, did not vote and was not eligible to vote in 2016	1%

Q: How much attention have you given to the candidates in this November's midterm election – quite a lot, some, or only a little?

Answer	Percentage
Quite a lot	46%
Some	33%
Only a little	19%
None	2%

Q: How likely are you to vote in this November's midterm election?

Answer	Percentage
Very Likely	91%
Somewhat Likely	5%
Somewhat Unlikely	2%
Very Unlikely	2%

## **Section II: Survey of Likely Voters**

### **Montana Ballot Issues**

Q: The November 5, 2018 ballot will include a referendum created by the Montana Legislature on the 6-mill levy that supports the Montana University System. How familiar are you with this referendum?

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Extremely familiar	7%
Moderately familiar	19%
Somewhat familiar	28%
Not at all familiar	46%

Q: The referendum reads as follows: An Act Submitting A 6-Mill Levy For Continued Support Of The Montana University System To The Electorate; And Providing An Effective Date And A Termination Date. The ballot asks whether you are FOR continuing to levy six mills for the support of the Montana University System or AGAINST continuing to levy six mills for the support of the Montana University System. If the election were today, would you vote for or against continuing the 6-mill levy?

	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Vote For: 71%	Sure about my vote	81%
	Might change my vote	20%
Vote Against: 21%	Sure about my vote	65%
	Might change my vote	35%
Undecided: 8%	N/A	

Q: The referendum we have been speaking about would continue a statewide property tax that funds the Montana University System and costs the owner of a \$200,000 house about \$24 per year. Knowing this additional information, if the election were today, would you vote for or against continuing the 6-mill levy?

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Vote for	70%
Vote against	23%
Undecided	7%

### Federal Races

Q: If the election were held today for U.S. Senate, which candidate would you vote for?

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Democrat Jon Tester	56%
Republican Matt Rosendale	32%
Libertarian Rick Breckenridge	2%
Undecided	9

Q: If the election were held today for the U.S. House of Representatives, which candidate would you vote for?

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Democrat Kathleen Williams	51%
Republican Greg Gianforte	38%
Libertarian Elinor Swanson	3%
Undecided	8%

## **Section III: Demographics**

Q: Age?

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
18 to 26	5%
27 to 46	22%
47 to 66	36%
67 or older	38%

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

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Yes	19%
No	81%

Q: What is your highest level of education completed?

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Some high school	2%
High school/GED	19%
Some college	23%
Associate's degree	10%
Bachelor's degree	25%
Post-Baccalaureate (Master's, PH.D., J.D., etc.)	19%
Other	3%

Q: What was your total household income for 2017?

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
\$0 - \$20,000	9%
\$20,001 - \$37,000	17%
\$37,001 - \$46,000	14%
\$46,001 - \$57,000	13%
\$57,001 - \$88,000	19%
\$88,001 - \$150,000	18%
\$150,001 and above	10%

Q: Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, an Independent, or what?

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Constitution	0%
Democrat	30%
Independent	31%
Libertarian	1%
Republican (GOP)	28%
Tea Party	0%
Other	10%

Q: Which gender do you identify with?

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Female	51%
Male	49%
Other	1%