

Pharos Research Group

Montana Polling Report

10/19/12-10/21/12



Analysis

Pharos Research Group did a live call poll of 828 likely voters in Montana from October 19, 2012 through October 21, 2012. The breakdown was 399 men, 429 women, representing a 48.19%/51.81% split. There were 255 self-identified Democrats, 354 self-identified Republicans and 219 Independents representing a 31/43/26 split.

The numbers read like this: in the general election for President, 41.3% of respondents indicated an intention to vote for President Barack Obama, while 47.46% indicated a preference for Republican nominee Willard "Mitt" Romney.

In the United States Senate race, 48.43% prefer the incumbent Democratic Jon Tester, while 46.26% chose Republican nominee, Congressman Dennis Rehberg.

In the state's open house race, Republican businessman Steven Daines leads Democratic State Senator Kim Gillen 47%-41%, while in the open Governor's race, incumbent Attorney General Steve Bullock leads former Republican congressman Rick Hill, 46.62%-44.93%.

Compared to the previous two Montana polls, we see a widening lead for the challenger in the Presidential race. While the widening lead is incremental and remains just inside of the margin of error, barring an unforeseen development, Romney should carry the state comfortably in two weeks.

In the Senate race, the race remains very close, and inside of the margin of error. We see a persistent small lead for the Democrat, Tester, which is a little wider than the previous week, but the nature of the electorate and Tester's narrow win in a very Democratic year (2006), and the nature of the race against a well known and reasonably well liked seven term incumbent Congressman, suggest that the race, which has tightened since our first survey four weeks ago, will remain tight right up to election day, and bears further watching.

In the House race, we are hesitant to label the race, in that neither candidate is particularly well known, and the margin is just inside the margin of error, but it seems as though maybe Gillen does not have quite the right profile to win a state-wide race, while Daines has been running a relatively error-free campaign. While the polling bears watching, given the slightly Republican tint to the state, and the large gains Republicans made legislatively, combined with the personal

unpopularity of the President in a Presidential year, we would suggest the race leans Republican.

In the Governor's race, Bullock's lead, while inside of the margin of error, remains persistent but has reverted to the levels seen in the October 5 poll. Again, given the slightly Republican flavor of the state, it is difficult to call this other than a toss-up, with a slight lean to the Democrats, and the race remains worth watching.

REPORT

S3) CODE SEX 1= Female 2=Male

1= 429 51.81%

2= 399 48.19%

S4) Thinking of the last four general elections (the Presidential Elections in 2004 and 2008 and the Congressional Elections in 2006 and 2010), how many of those elections did you vote in?

CODE: ENTER NUMBER

2= 132 15.94%

3= 261 31.52%

4= 435 52.54%

S5) Are you registered as a Democrat or a Republican or are you an Independent?

CODE 1= Democrat, 2= Republican, 3= Independent

1= 255 30.80%

2= 354 42.75%

3= 219 26.45%

P1) Thinking about the election for President, if the election were held today would you vote for (rotate) Barack Obama or Mitt Romney? (Probe for undecided, ask lean)

CODE 1= Obama, 2= Romney, 3=Undecided

1= 342 41.30%

2= 393 47.46%

3= 93 11.23%

P2) Thinking about the election for the US Senate, if the election were held today would you vote for (rotate) Jon Tester or Dennis Rehberg? (Probe once for undecided, ask lean)

CODE 1= Tester, 2= Rehberg, 3=Undecided/other

1= 401 48.43%

2= 383 46.26%

3= 44 5.31%

P3) Thinking about the Democratic nominee for President, Barack Obama, do you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of him?

CODE 1= Favorable, 2= Unfavorable

1= 357 43.12%

2= 444 53.62%

P4) Thinking about the Republican nominee for President, Mitt Romney, do you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of him?

CODE 1= Favorable, 2= Unfavorable

1= 432 52.17%

2= 378 45.65%

P5) Thinking about the Republican nominee for the US Senate, Dennis Rehberg, do you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of him?

CODE 1= Favorable, 2= Unfavorable

1=	438	52.90%
2=	294	35.51%

P6) Thinking about the Democratic nominee for the US Senate, Jon Tester, do you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of him?

CODE 1= Favorable, 2= Unfavorable

1=	477	57.61%
2=	318	38.41%

P7) Thinking about jobs, which of the Presidential candidates do you feel would be best equipped to deal with the prolonged high unemployment?

CODE 1= Obama, 2= Romney, 3=Neither

1=	366	44.20%
2=	420	50.72%
3=	42	5.07%

P8) Thinking about the economy as a whole, do you think the country is on the right track or the wrong track?

CODE 1= Right, 2= Wrong

1=	339	40.94%
2=	489	59.06%

P9) Thinking about your prospects for the next four years personally, do you think that if your preferred candidate is elected, you will be doing better or worse than you are now?

CODE 1=Better, 2= Worse

1=	513	61.96%
2=	156	18.84%

P10) In the election for the US House of Representatives, do you intend to vote for (rotate) Steven Daines or Kim Gillen?

CODE 1= Gillen, 2= Daines

1=	341	41.18%
2=	392	47.34%
3=	95	11.47%

P11) In the election for Governor, do you intend to vote for (rotate) Steve Bullock or Rick Hill?

CODE 1= Bullock, 2= Hill

1=	386	46.62%
2=	372	44.93%
3=	70	8.45%

Particulars: 828 Likely Voters, live call, mixed landline/cell phone called between October 19, 2012 and October 21, 2012. Margin of Error +/- 3.4%