



Mountain States Poll

November 2023

36th edition

Dr. Hope Dewell Gentry, Director

Introduction

The first version of the Mountain States Poll was conducted by Dr. Craig Wilson in 1989. At that time, it was known as the Eastern Montana College Poll. The name changed to the Mountain States Poll in 2019. This is the 36th version of the Poll. The following report reflects the responses of a statewide random sample of 657 Montanans. Responses were collected between October 2-13, 2023. The Poll was conducted using phone and online sampling methods, with 210 responses from phone calls and 447 responses from online responses. The margin of error is 3.82%, with various subgroups having larger margins of error. The results are weighted based on data from the Census.

For phone responses, we used the Random Digit Dialing (RDD) technique, and phone numbers were provided by Scientific Telephone Samples. Phone calls were conducted in the Liberal Arts building at Montana State University Billings. The online responses were collected by Qualtrics using quota sampling. Funding for the Mountain States Poll was provided by the Montana State University Billings Office of the Provost, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and the Department of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies.

Acknowledgements

The Mountain States Poll is only possible due to a team of support. I want to thank everyone who contributed to the completion of the 2023 Poll. First, thank you to Montana State University Billings Chancellor Stefani Hicswa and Provost Sep Eskandari for your continued support. The Poll would not have been possible without the extensive coordination efforts led by Dean Tami Haaland and Program Coordinator Zack Thatcher, as well as the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. My colleagues in the Department of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, particularly Chair Jennifer Scroggins, Dr. Paul Pope, and Program Coordinator Glenda Holbrook, continue to offer guidance and support in making the Poll a success. I am eternally grateful to Dr. Jessie Perius in the College of Business for training me to run the Poll. We also had a large group of amazing volunteers: Claire Bagnell, Joe Evenson, Joe Giacomini, Ethan Gill, Garth Howley, Tenley Miller, Kat Schoolitz, Jay Smith, Lindsay Stewart, Kayla Stoker, and Allison Liwosz.

Most importantly, recognition needs to go to the PSCI 342 Media, Public Opinion, and Polling 2023 class. It is the students in this class that design the polling questions and conduct the phone interview. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to this project. Wonderful job, class!

PSCI 342 Student Participants

Tyler Armstrong

Jessica Blankenship

Liam Duczek-McColl

Jeffery Flechsing

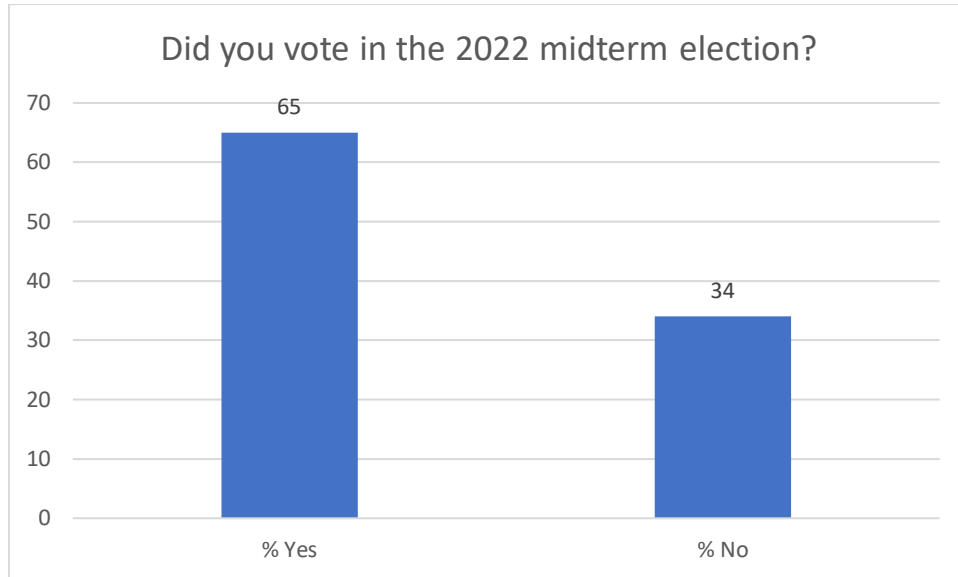
Haydon Harmon

Lori Moss

Alyssa Pearce

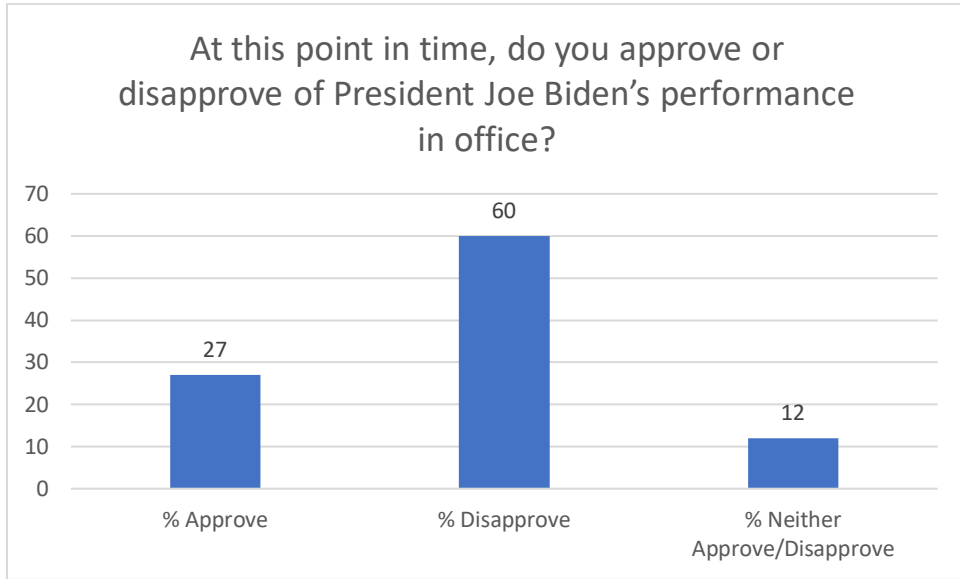
Mikayla VonLangen

Did you vote in the 2022 midterm election?



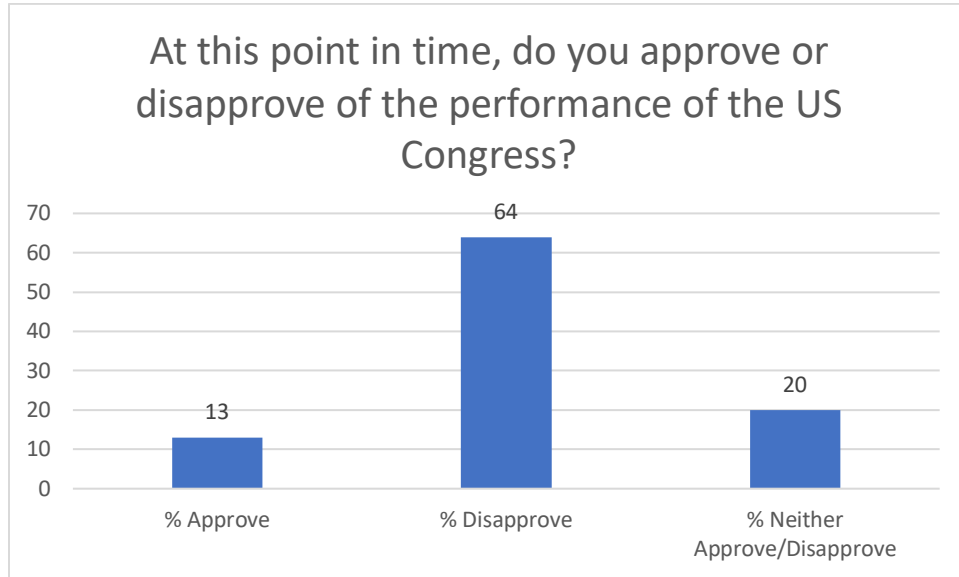
	Party				Gender			
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Yes	65	81	71	66	73	60		
% No	34	19	28	33	27	39		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Yes	31	61	66	93	45	65	80	91
% No	68	38	33	7	53	35	20	9

At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of President Joe Biden’s performance in office?



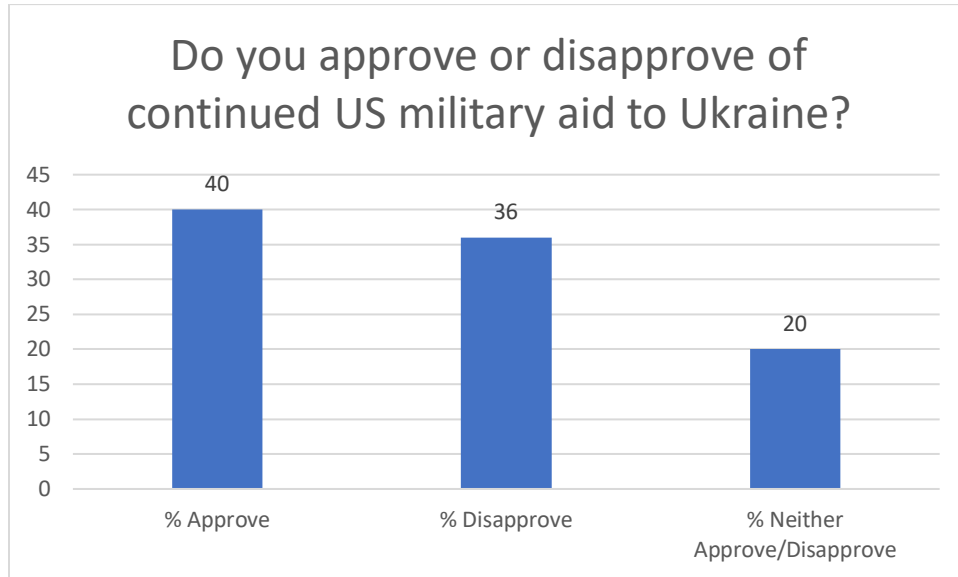
		Party			Gender			
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Approve	27	78	8	22	31	25		
% Disapprove	60	8	91	64	60	59		
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	12	13	1	13	8	14		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Approve	20	28	26	35	16	26	25	47
% Disapprove	53	56	69	57	69	62	68	41
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	25	14	6	6	14	10	7	10

At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the US Congress?



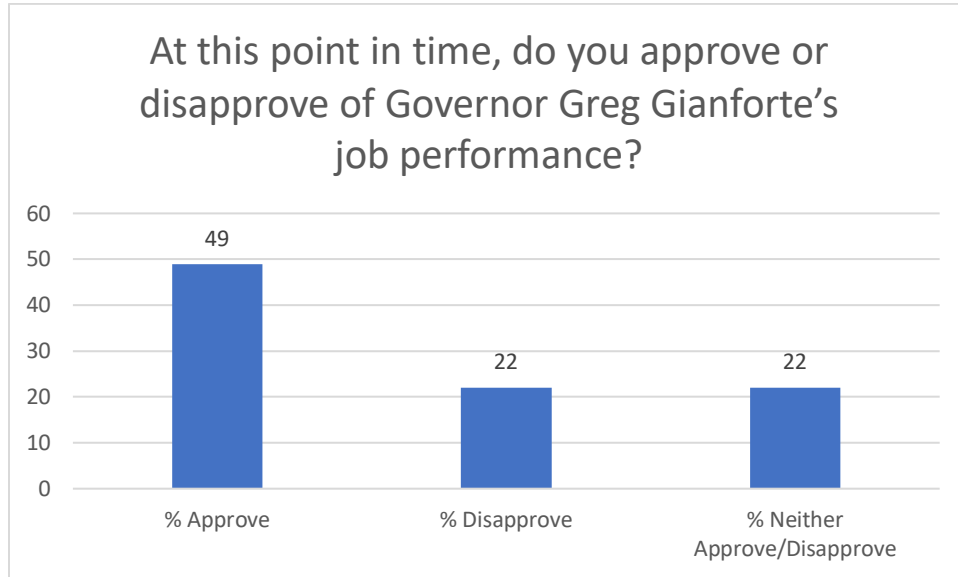
	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Approve	13	20	14	10	22	7		
% Disapprove	64	62	69	65	64	64		
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	20	18	13	2	12	26		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Approve	16	22	7	11	5	11	14	27
% Disapprove	46	57	73	73	68	62	65	59
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	34	16	18	15	23	20	20	14

Do you approve or disapprove of continued US military aid to Ukraine?



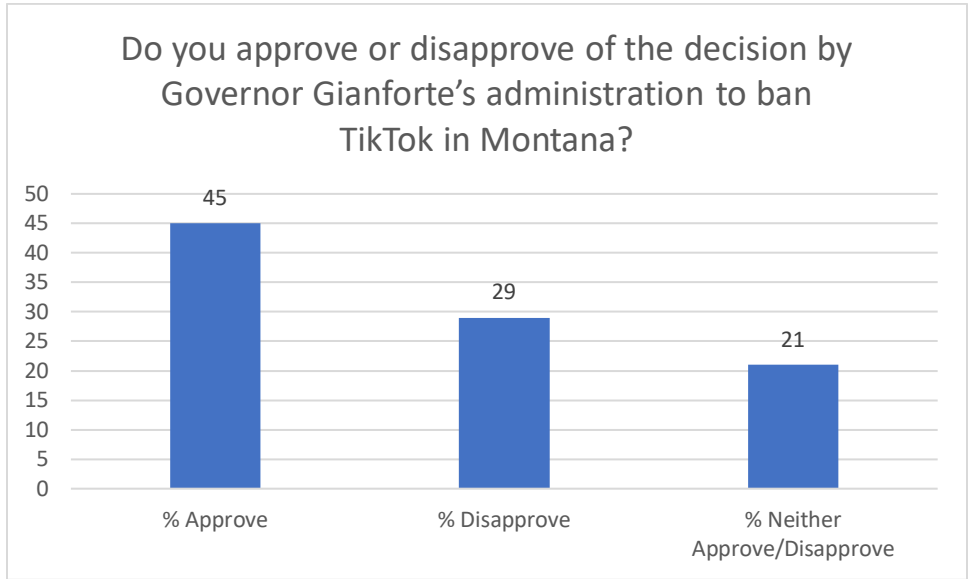
	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Approve	40	79	26	31	45	37		
% Disapprove	36	13	53	40	37	35		
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	20	8	19	26	15	24		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Approve	35	35	35	56	31	43	34	55
% Disapprove	22	34	51	32	40	35	43	29
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	38	26	14	10	25	21	23	13

At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of Governor Greg Gianforte's job performance?



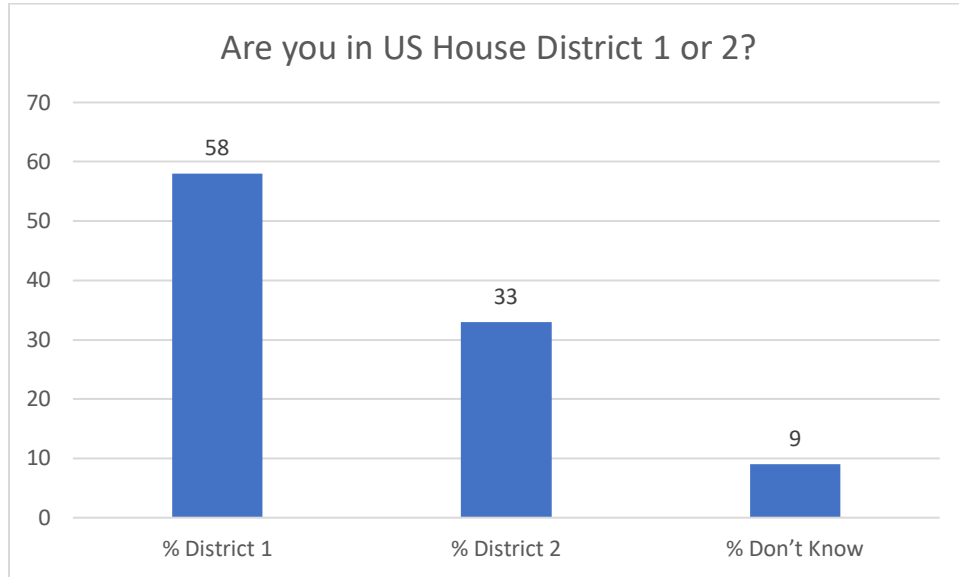
	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Approve	49	25	75	45	59	41		
% Disapprove	22	58	4	21	18	25		
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	22	15	13	31	18	24		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Approve	41	52	47	53	44	52	46	55
% Disapprove	12	20	19	35	12	29	35	27
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	35	20	25	11	31	15	18	16

Do you approve or disapprove of the decision by Governor Gianforte’s administration to ban TikTok in Montana?



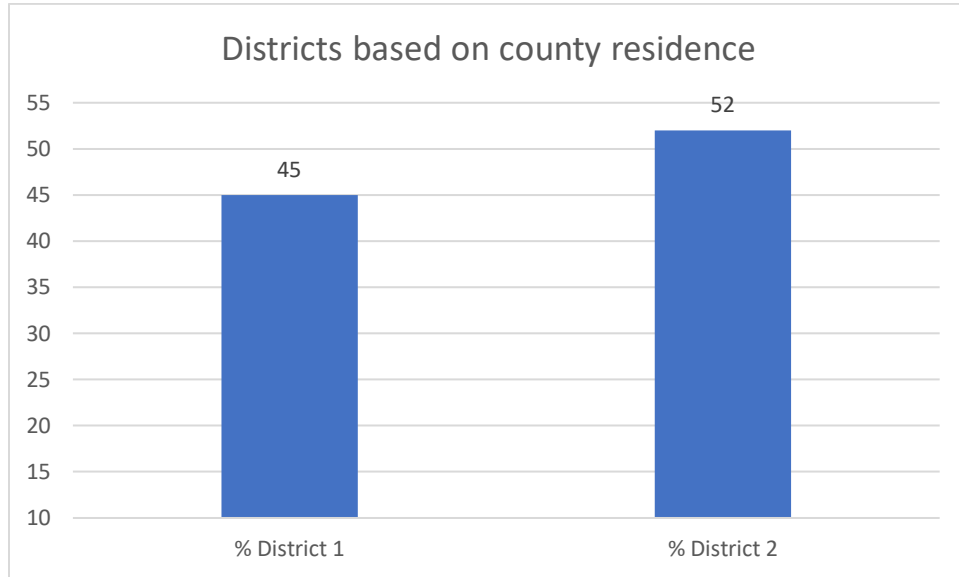
	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Approve	45	29	65	37	60	35		
% Disapprove	29	45	13	33	19	36		
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	21	24	19	26	18	23		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Approve	33	46	43	57	42	48	44	50
% Disapprove	40	26	37	16	32	28	34	25
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	25	24	15	23	20	23	21	20

Are you in US House District 1 or 2? District 1 is on the western side of Montana, and District 2 is on the eastern side. (The table below indicates which district respondents answered they were in.)



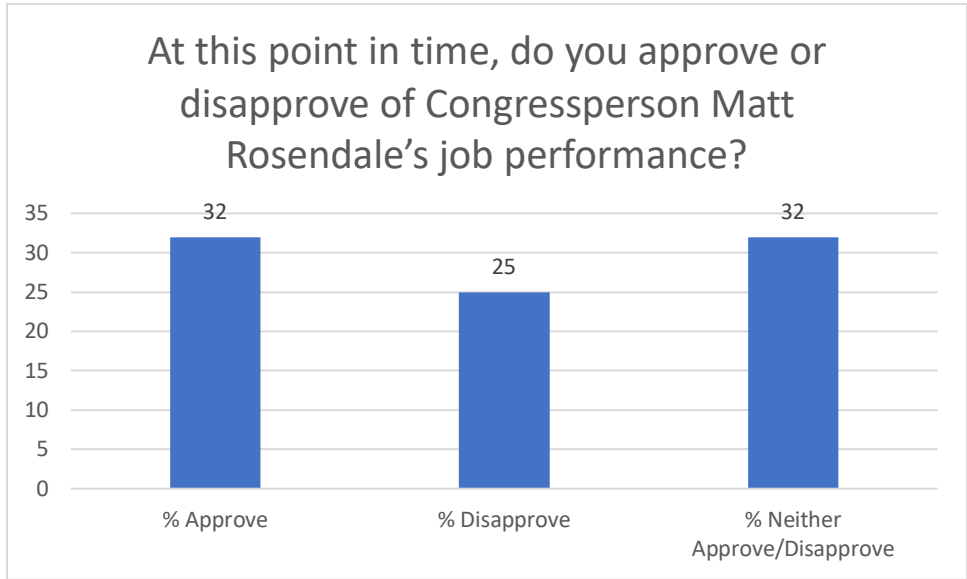
	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% District 1	58	60	55	63	58	58		
% District 2	33	33	36	28	38	29		
% Don't Know	9	7	9	10	3	13		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% District 1	62	63	53	53	50	48	57	65
% District 2	28	31	36	38	36	39	31	31
% Don't Know	10	6	11	10	14	13	11	4

Actual US House District 1 or 2. (The table below indicates which district respondents are in based on the county in which they live.)



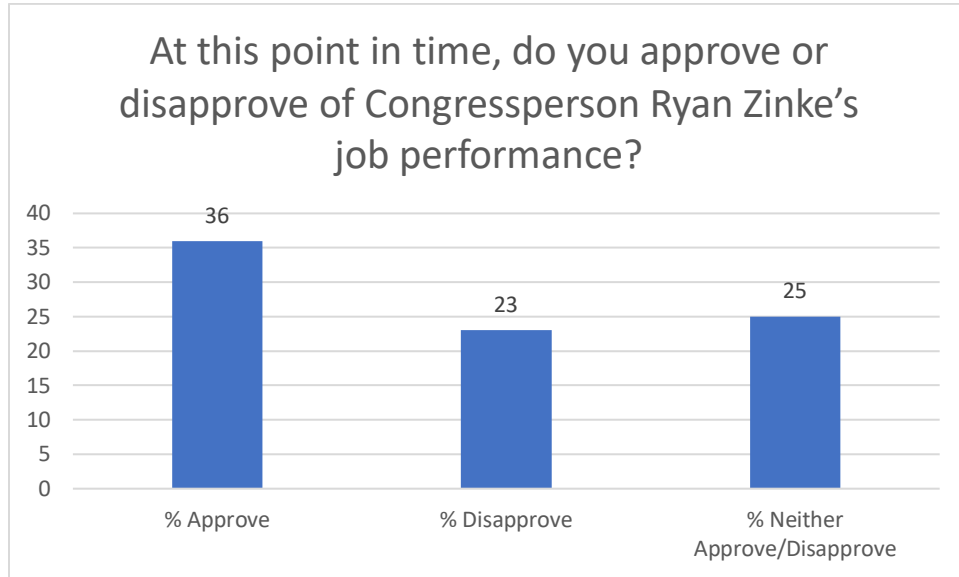
	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% District 1	45	46	42	50	41	49		
% District 2	52	47	57	47	54	50		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% District 1	54	43	41	49	43	42	47	47
% District 2	46	52	59	49	55	57	53	49

At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of Congressperson Matt Rosendale's job performance?



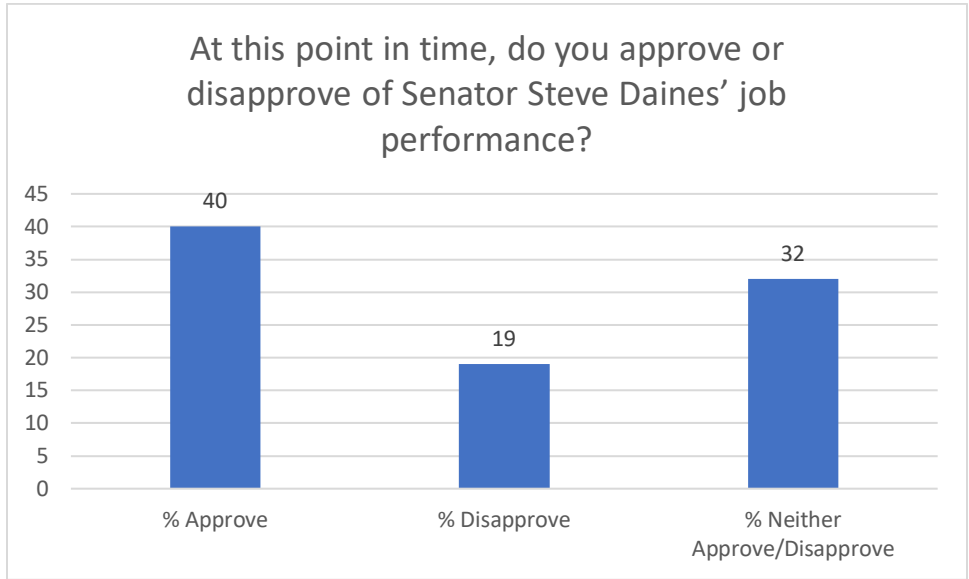
	Total	Party			Gender				
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman			
% Approve	32	17	48	27	43	24			
% Disapprove	25	57	14	21	25	25			
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	32	20	28	45	24	37			
	Age				Education				
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+	
% Approve	27	32	27	41	24	33	39	37	
% Disapprove	11	16	23	42	18	26	29	31	
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	42	42	38	11	40	33	28	27	

At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of Congressperson Ryan Zinke's job performance?



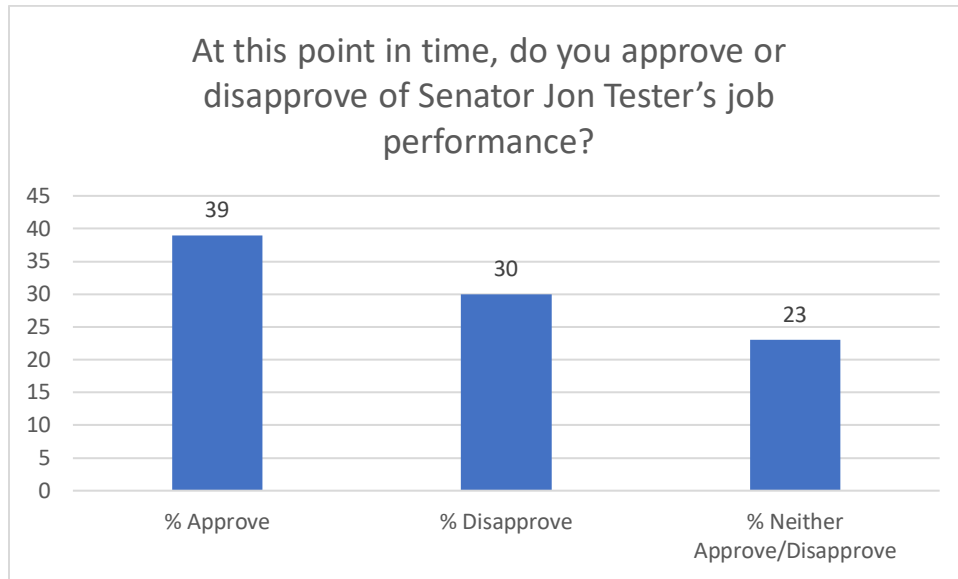
	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Approve	36	20	53	32	54	23		
% Disapprove	23	55	12	21	21	25		
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	25	13	18	40	16	31		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Approve	26	45	29	44	26	38	37	49
% Disapprove	37	17	23	34	19	27	23	28
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	16	26	30	11	32	24	27	14

At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of Senator Steve Daines' job performance?



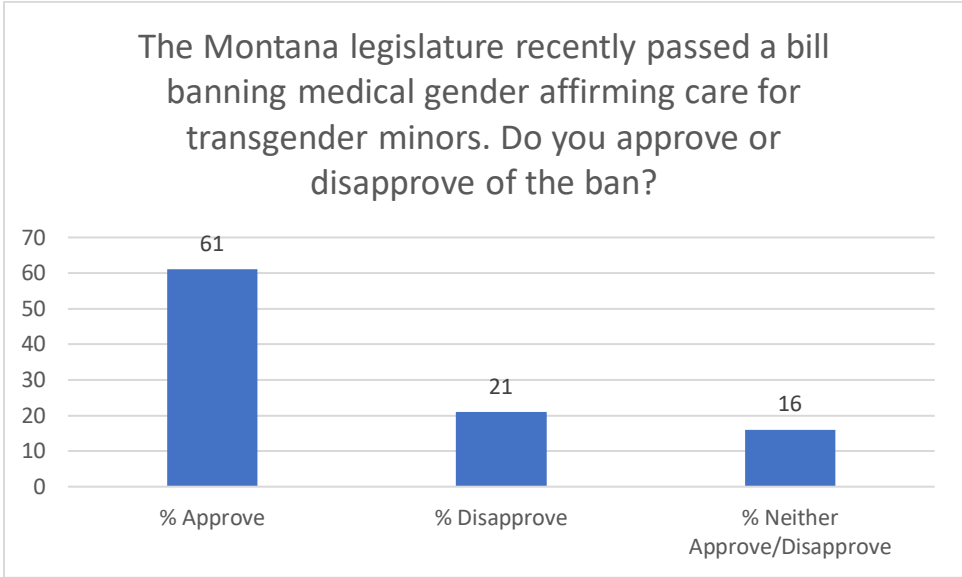
	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Approve	40	24	57	38	52	31		
% Disapprove	19	47	8	17	19	19		
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	32	25	26	41	23	39		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Approve	31	35	37	53	32	43	47	48
% Disapprove	14	14	20	26	13	19	19	29
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	42	43	36	14	44	33	23	17

At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jon Tester’s job performance?



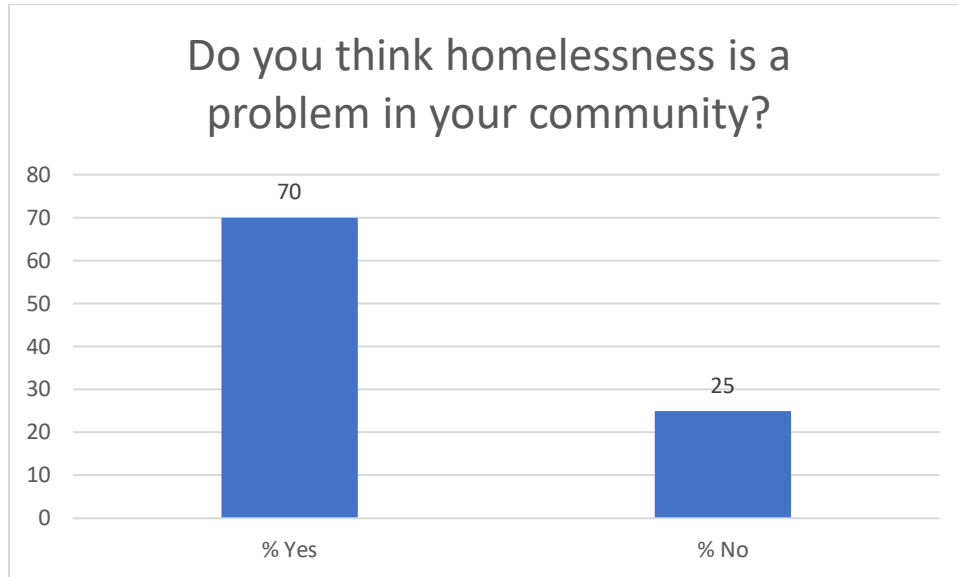
	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Approve	39	78	29	36	45	35		
% Disapprove	30	4	48	29	34	27		
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	23	16	18	34	16	27		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Approve	37	55	28	41	31	33	43	57
% Disapprove	21	16	34	42	26	38	37	26
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	35	23	28	9	31	23	15	14

The Montana legislature recently passed a bill banning medical gender affirming care for transgender minors. Do you approve or disapprove of the ban?



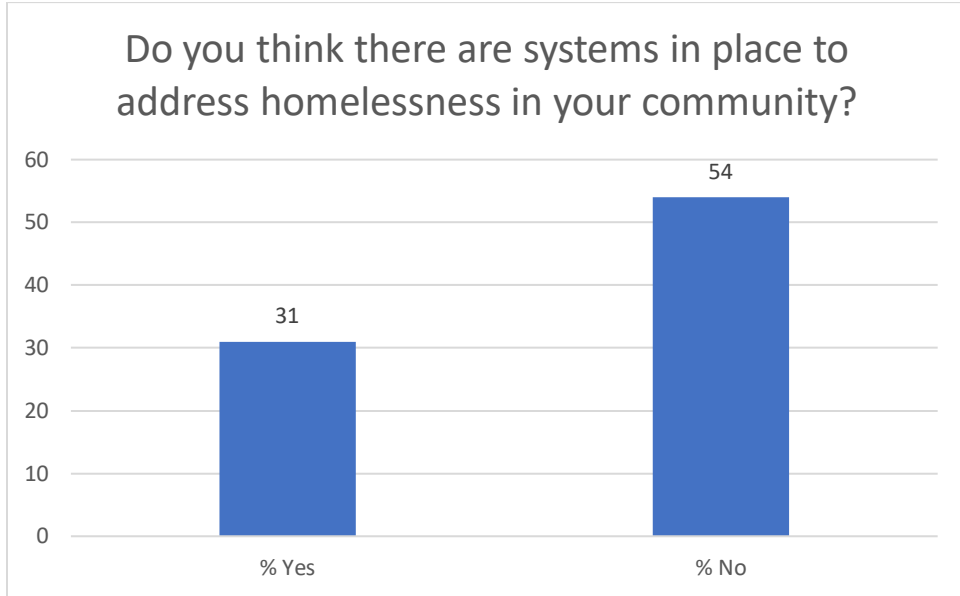
		Party			Gender			
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Approve	61	30	81	63	67	57		
% Disapprove	21	54	10	14	19	23		
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	16	15	8	21	12	19		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Approve	50	63	67	62	62	60	68	61
% Disapprove	27	14	17	29	20	16	20	28
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	23	19	16	8	17	22	10	11

Do you think homelessness is a problem in your community?



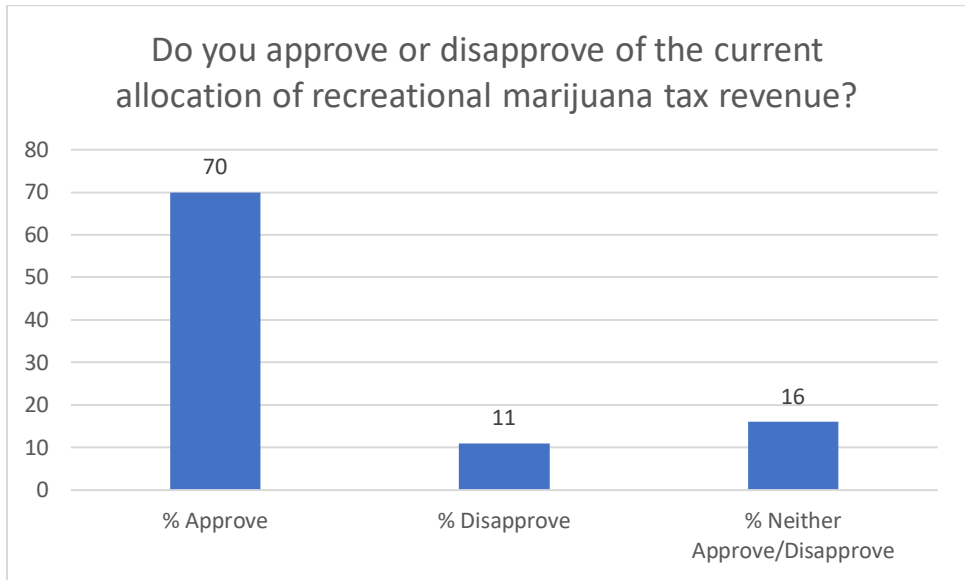
	Party				Gender			
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Yes	70	77	68	71	68	71		
% No	25	18	30	21	28	24		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Yes	72	67	76	65	69	74	80	65
% No	28	28	19	30	25	23	15	33

Do you think there are systems in place to address homelessness in your community?



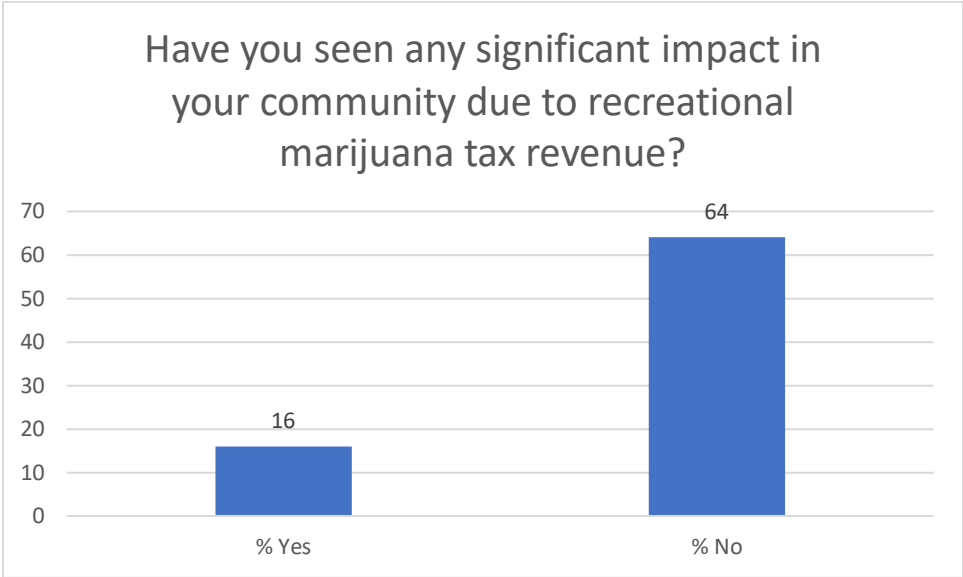
		Party			Gender			
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Yes	31	35	33	29	37	26		
% No	54	53	49	58	47	59		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Yes	32	35	23	33	21	28	45	44
% No	51	59	63	43	61	57	44	44

Montana state tax revenue brought in from the legalization of recreational marijuana goes toward multiple state accounts, such as ones aimed at fighting addiction, protecting wildlife, and supporting veterans. Do you approve or disapprove of the current allocation of recreational marijuana tax revenue?



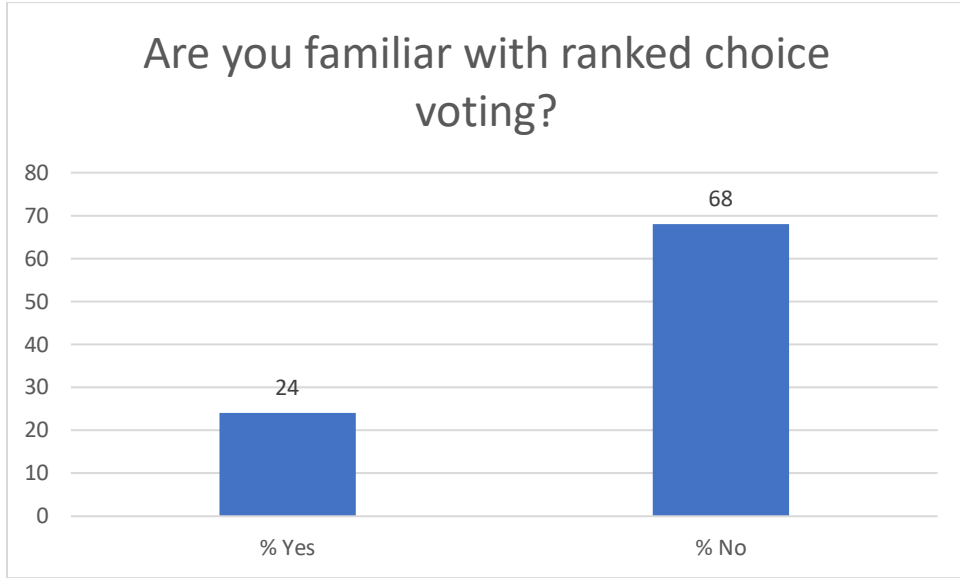
	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Approve	70	80	67	73	75	67		
% Disapprove	11	9	15	9	13	11		
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	16	9	16	17	10	20		
	18-29	Age			Education			
		30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Approve	78	66	73	67	66	76	71	73
% Disapprove	3	10	12	19	13	12	9	11
% Neither Approve/Disapprove	16	21	15	13	18	11	18	15

Have you seen any significant impact in your community due to recreational marijuana tax revenue?



		Party			Gender				
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman			
% Yes	16	22	18	16	23	11			
% No	64	67	66	66	59	68			
	Age				Education				
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+	
% Yes	24	33	8	5	13	15	14	22	
% No	47	54	75	74	64	62	71	66	

Are you familiar with ranked choice voting?

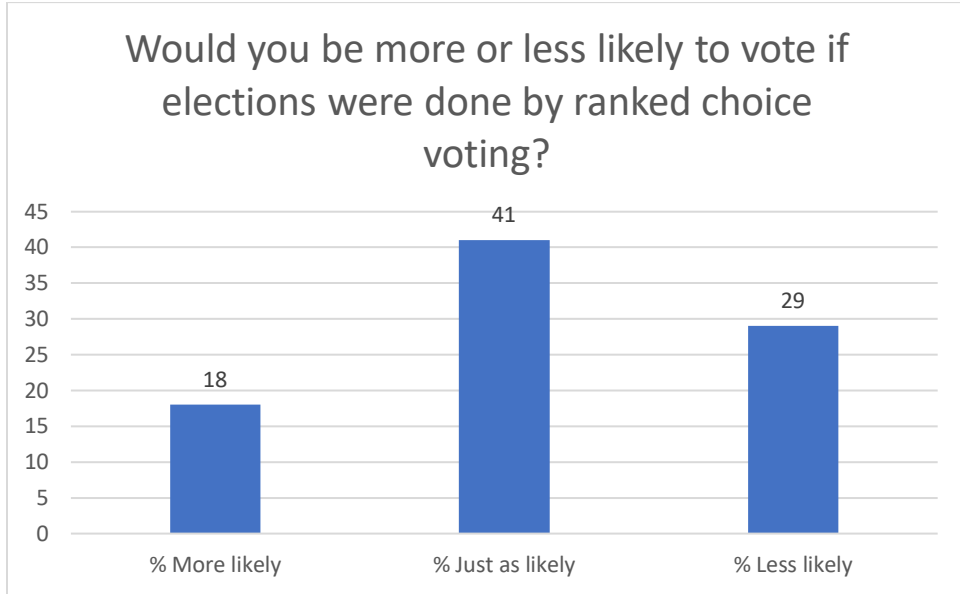


	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Yes	24	41	18	30	29	20		
% No	68	53	69	66	59	74		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Yes	33	36	17	18	8	25	33	45
% No	65	50	80	72	78	72	64	50

If the respondent was not familiar with ranked choice voting, they were supplied with the following explanation:

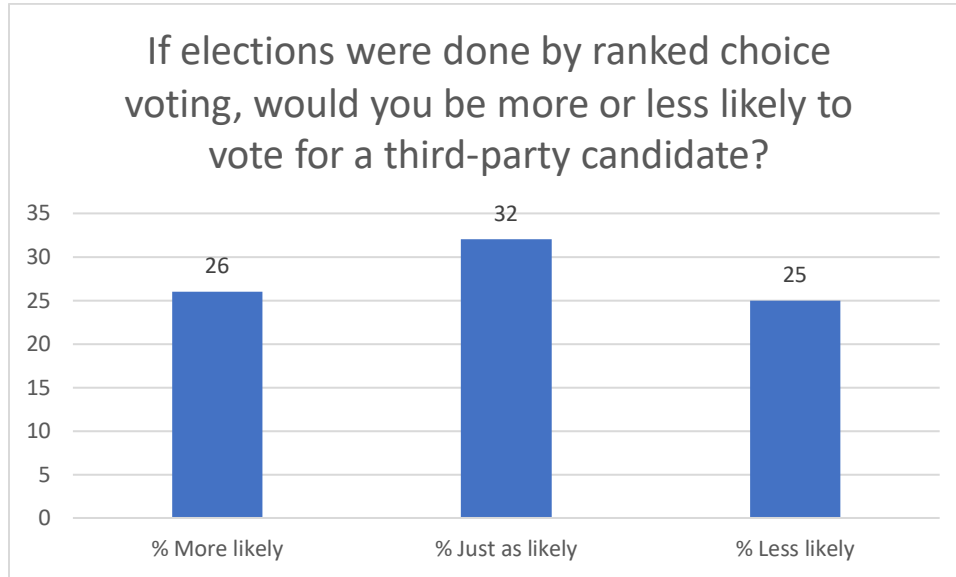
Ranked choice voting is an electoral system where voters rank all candidates on the ballot in order of preference. If one of the candidates wins a majority of the first preference votes, then that candidate is declared the winner. If **no** candidate gets a majority of the vote, the candidate with the least amount of votes is eliminated, and the ballot is recalculated. If the voter's first choice got eliminated, then the voter's second choice is used. This process repeats until a candidate wins the majority of the votes.

Would you be more or less likely to vote if elections were done by ranked choice voting?



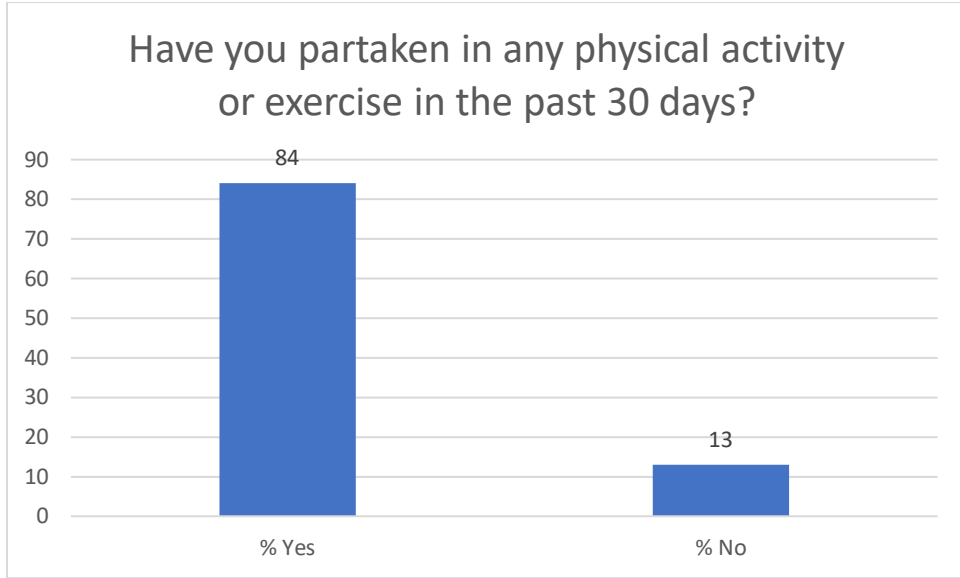
	Total	Party			Gender		Know RCV	
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman	Know	Don't Know
% More likely	18	28	12	16	21	16	34	14
% Just as likely	41	44	44	46	44	39	53	37
% Less likely	29	22	33	25	26	32	12	34
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% More likely	34	25	14	6	17	17	16	21
% Just as likely	45	46	42	36	39	39	43	47
% Less likely	12	20	32	45	30	35	29	23

If elections were done by ranked choice voting, would you be more or less likely to vote for a third-party candidate?



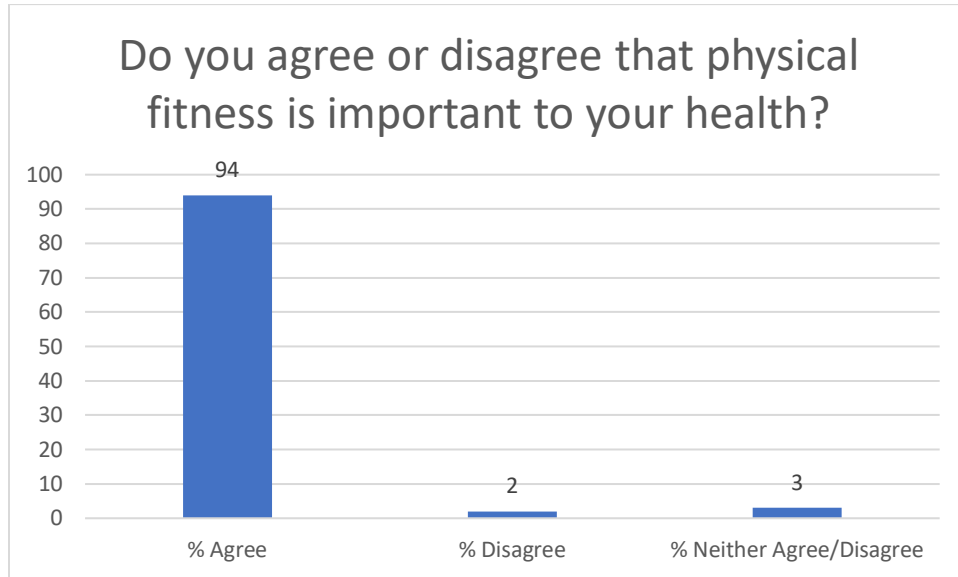
	Total	Party			Gender		Know RCV	
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman	Know	Don't Know
% More likely	26	26	20	28	29	23	37	25
% Just as likely	32	42	29	33	32	32	37	26
% Less likely	25	22	33	17	29	22	16	29
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% More likely	37	27	28	14	21	31	27	30
% Just as likely	34	41	32	23	33	31	32	30
% Less likely	13	20	20	42	26	19	29	26

Have you partaken in any physical activity or exercise in the past 30 days?



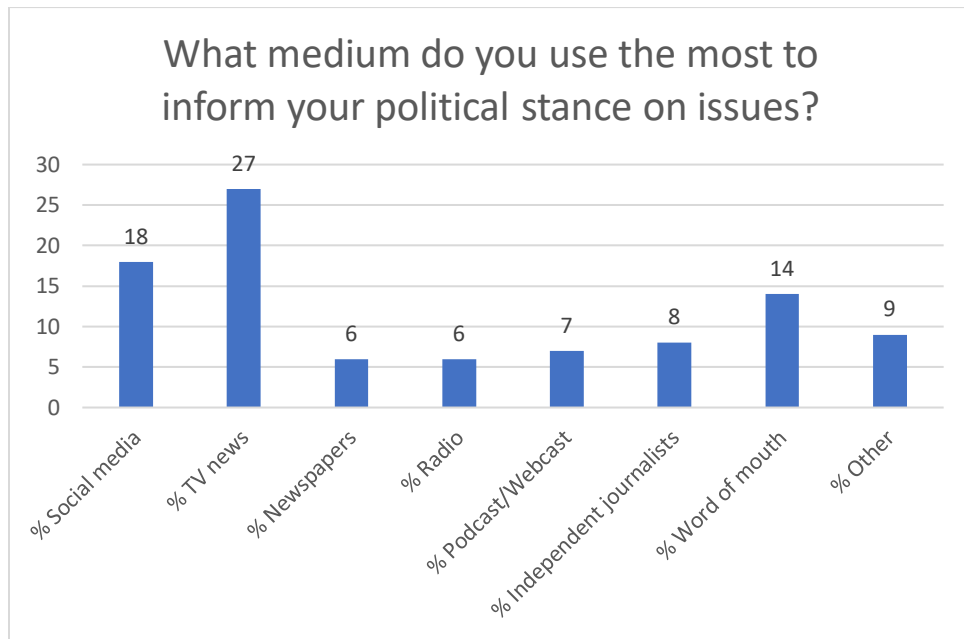
	Party				Gender			
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Yes	84	89	84	85	87	82		
% No	13	10	15	11	11	15		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Yes	88	89	86	77	81	85	88	88
% No	12	5	13	22	16	13	12	10

Do you agree or disagree that physical fitness is important to your health?



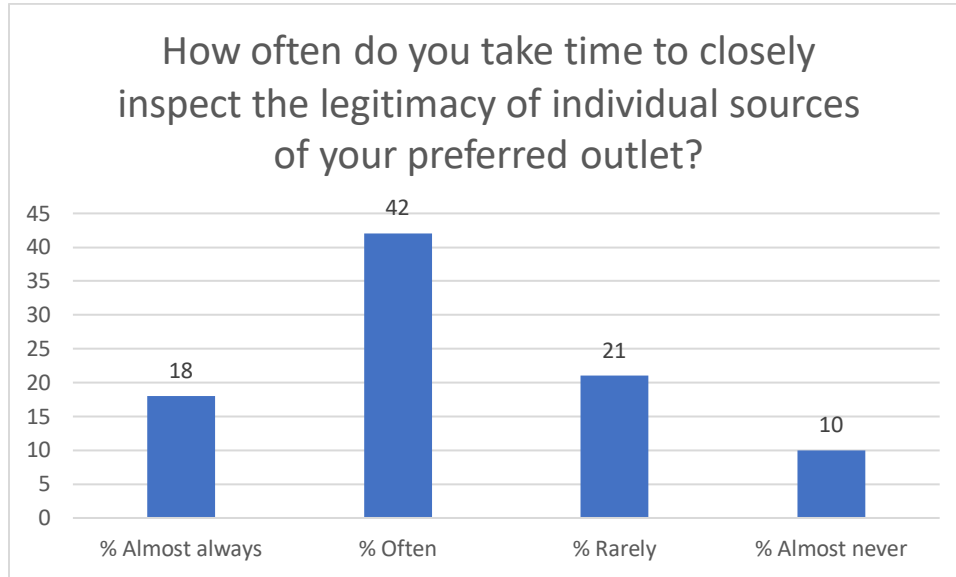
		Party			Gender				
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman			
% Agree	94	98	91	95	92	95			
% Disagree	2	1	1	3	1	2			
% Neither Agree/Disagree	3	2	6	1	5	2			
	Age				Education				
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+	
% Agree	99	90	96	93	93	97	96	94	
% Disagree	0	5	1	1	2	3	3	2	
% Neither Agree/Disagree	1	3	2	6	3	0	1	3	

What medium do you use the most to inform your political stance on issues?



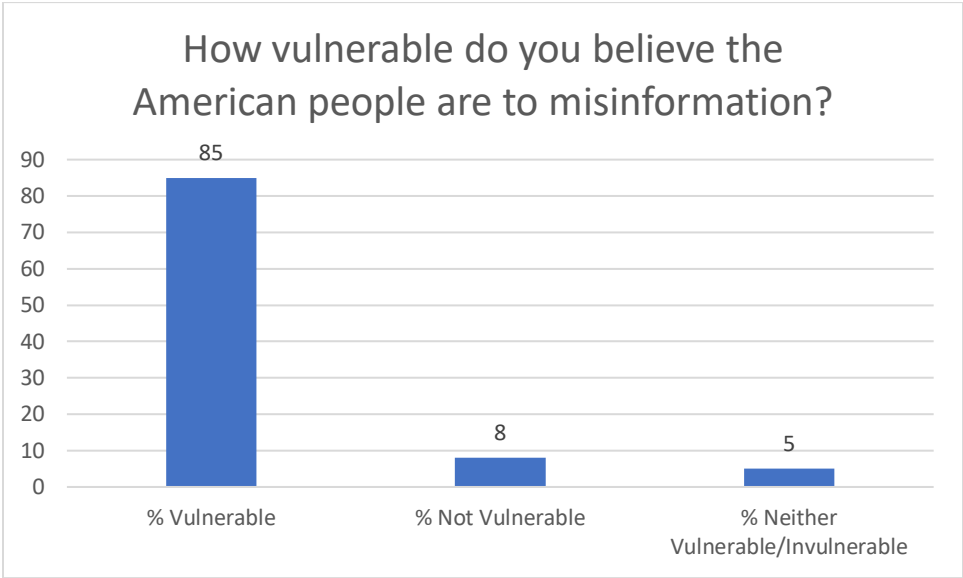
	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Social media	18	19	15	17	15	19		
% TV news	27	35	34	23	28	27		
% Newspapers	6	9	5	7	6	6		
% Radio	6	6	6	5	5	6		
% Podcast/Webcast	7	8	7	5	11	3		
% Independent journalists	8	8	6	13	10	6		
% Word of mouth	14	7	14	18	14	15		
% Other	9	6	8	11	8	9		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Social media	37	23	15	3	18	19	18	16
% TV news	11	14	19	58	28	27	26	29
% Newspapers	6	6	7	5	2	7	4	12
% Radio	2	10	7	3	7	3	4	6
% Podcast/Webcast	10	10	5	3	5	6	12	8
% Independent journalists	4	7	11	8	4	11	15	11
% Word of mouth	19	19	14	7	21	13	8	7
% Other	7	5	13	9	7	11	10	10

How often do you take time to closely inspect the legitimacy of individual sources of your preferred outlet?



	Total	Party			Gender			
		Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Almost always	18	20	16	18	24	15		
% Often	42	49	50	37	45	40		
% Rarely	21	12	24	18	20	21		
% Almost never	10	12	5	11	6	13		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Almost always	21	21	14	19	18	13	11	26
% Often	37	52	42	39	33	44	71	46
% Rarely	24	14	21	24	21	26	13	19
% Almost never	8	9	10	12	15	8	4	7

How vulnerable do you believe the American people are to misinformation?



		Party			Gender			
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Man	Woman		
% Vulnerable	85	86	88	82	85	86		
% Not Vulnerable	8	5	6	13	6	9		
% Neither Vulnerable/Invulnerable	5	9	5	2	8	4		
	Age				Education			
	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
% Vulnerable	75	74	95	92	85	90	89	82
% Not Vulnerable	12	11	0	2	11	5	4	10
% Neither Vulnerable/Invulnerable	13	13	4	4	3	3	7	8

Full Sample Composition Before Weighting

Party				Gender			
Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Other	Man	Woman		
176	227	144	36	298	346		
Age				Education			
18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Up to high school	Some college	2-year degree	4-year degree+
92	267	140	144	112	112	83	329
Race							
White	Black	Native American	More than one				
575	21	17	10				