

Montana Poll



2018

31st Edition



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY
BILLINGS

Access & Excellence



Montana Poll

October 2018

31st Edition

Dr. Jason M. Adkins, Director

Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who participated and facilitated the return of the Montana Poll this year. The poll would not have been able to be fielded without the financial assistance from the Provost's Office, which interim provost Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh approved early in the fall semester. Dr. Christine Shearer, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was also instrumental in supporting the return of the Montana Poll. I also want to thank Brenda Dockery and Jessica Perius for their help in setting up the computers, telephone systems, and purchasing the phone numbers necessary to carry out the poll. My colleagues in the Department of the Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, including Dr. Paul Pope and Dr. Jennifer Scroggins, as well as College of Business Associate Dean Dr. Joy Honea deserve thanks for their advice in developing and carrying out the poll. My students in PSCI 342: Media, Public Opinion, and Polling course deserve much of the credit as they sacrificed a lot during the week in order to make phone calls. Last, but not least, is the help provided by Glenda Holbrooke, who provides administrative support for the Department of the Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, Her worth included details of how previous polls were carried out, navigating the odds and ends of the budget process, and helping prepare this report.

Student Participants

Gabbie Aschim
Dylan Barkley
Haley Barthuly
Jacob Batts
Keira Hanley
Tayler Johnson

Jordan Kindsfater
Benjamin McMaster
Sam Muskat
Griffen Pape
Madeline Rutherford
Saige Vacca

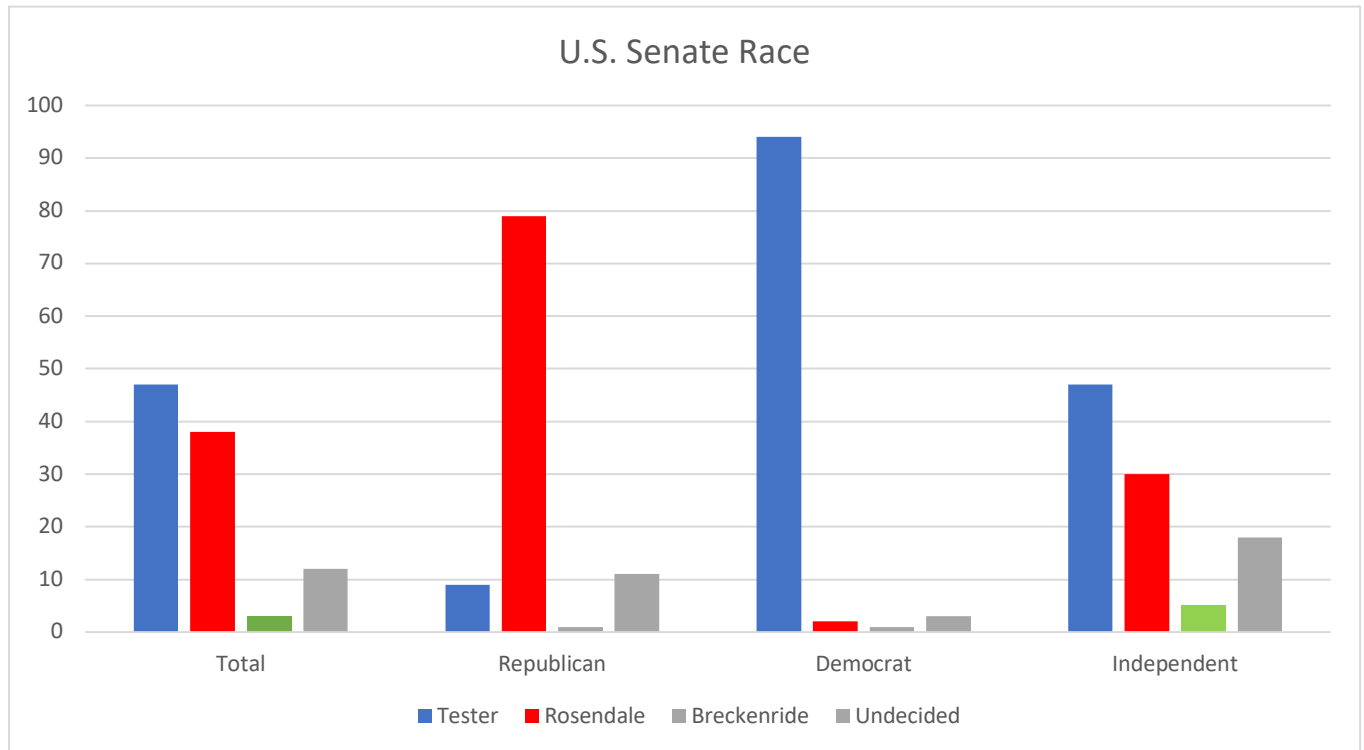
Introduction

The Montana Poll fielded by Montana State University Billings was first conducted in 1989. This year marks the 31st edition of the poll and the 29th year the poll has been conducted. This report summarized the results of a statewide random sample of 471 adult Montanans identified as likely voters. Approximately 82 percent of the survey respondents were contacted via cellphone, while 18 percent were contacted on landline telephone numbers. Randomly generated telephone lists were purchased by the university from Marketing Systems Group based in Horsham, Pa.

The Montana Poll was conducted from October 8-13, 2018, in the Market Research Lab on campus. Students enrolled in PSCI 342: Media, Public Opinion, Polling and additional individuals not affiliated with the university who were employed for the week conducted the interviews. The Montana Poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percent (the actual results if the entire population were surveyed would fall within the margin of error 95 percent of the time if multiple surveys using random representatives samples were conducted). Various subgroups have larger margins of error, which are detailed at the conclusion of the report. The geographic distribution of the poll respondents closely resembles the geographic distribution of Montana residents.

I. Montana issues

1. If you had to choose today, which of the following candidates would you support for U.S. Senate, Republican candidate Matt Rosendale, Democratic candidate Jon Tester, Libertarian candidate Rick Breckenridge, or are you undecided?



LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Rosendale	38%	79%	2%	30%	42%	34%	37%	39%
Tester	47	9	94	47	43	51	50	43
Breckenridge	3	1	1	5	4	2	2	4
DK/NA	12	11	3	18	11	13	11	13

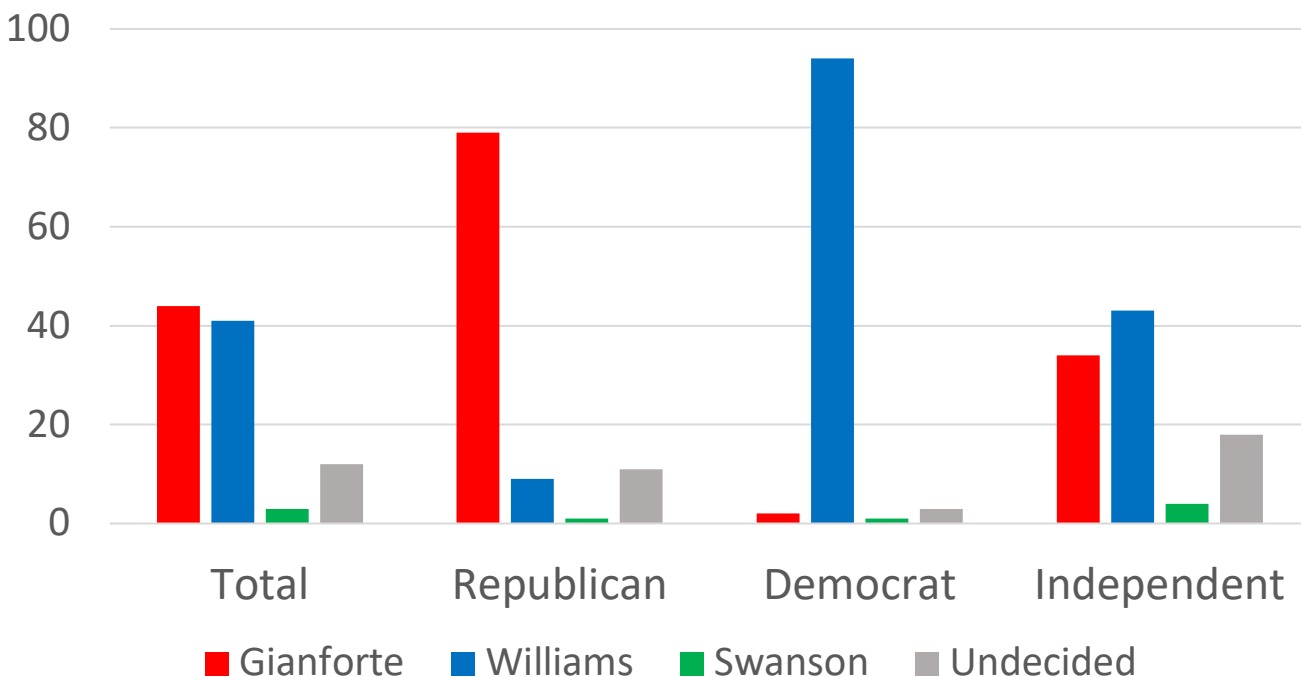
RELIGION.....

	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Rosendale	42%	38%	38%	36%	37%	63%	26%
Tester	38	47	51	57	46	19	60
Breckenridge	5	2	3	0	6	2	4
DK/NA	16	13	8	7	12	16	11

2. If you had to choose today, which of the following candidates would you support for the U.S. House of Representatives? Would you support Democratic candidate Kathleen

Williams, Republican candidate Greg Gianforte, Libertarian candidate Elinor Swanson, or are you undecided?

U.S. House race



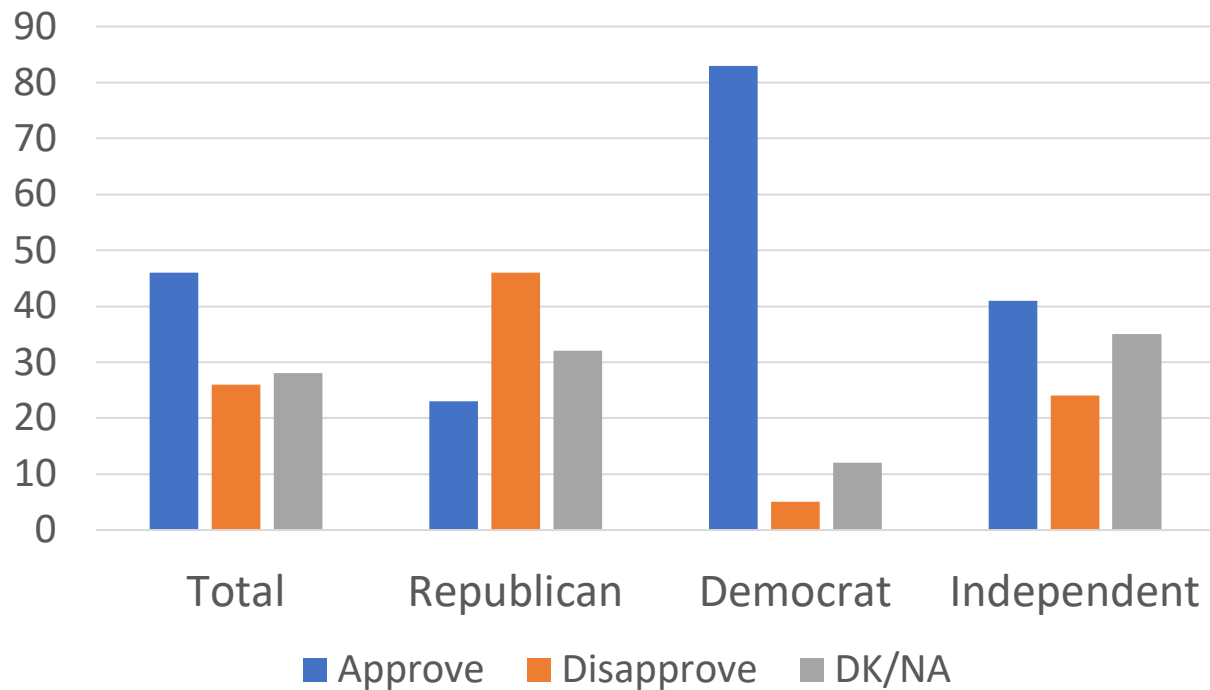
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Gianforte	44%	79%	2%	34%	49%	39%	39%	49%
Williams	41	9	94	43	37	45	45	37
Swanson	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	4
DK/NA	12	11	3	18	11	13	13	10

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Gianforte	49%	44%	43%	36%	47%	69%	31%
Williams	27	41	47	46	34	19	56
Swanson	6	2	2	3	4	1	3
DK/NA	17	12	8	15	14	11	10

3. At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of Governor Steve Bullock's performance in office?

Approve of Gov. Steve Bullock



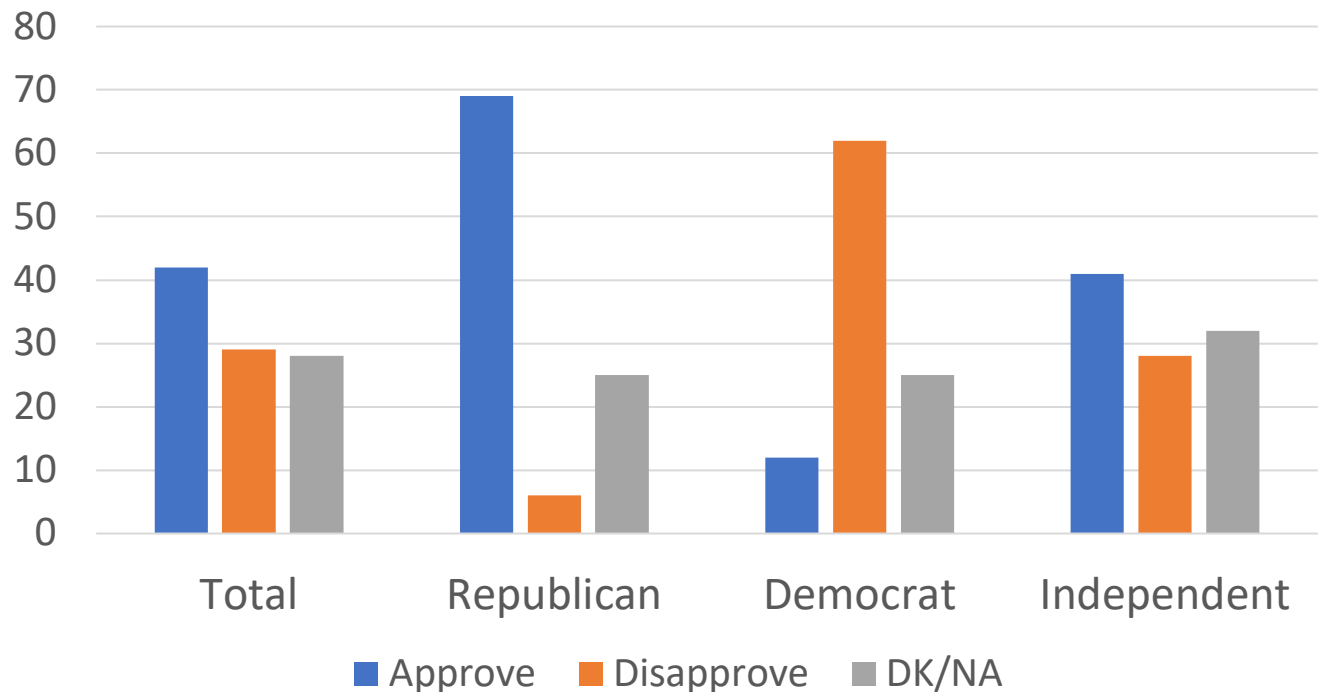
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG...	
							Yes	No
Approve	46%	23%	83%	41%	43%	48%	50%	40%
Disapprove	26	46	5	24	27	25	24	28
DK/NA	28	32	12	35	30	27	31	25

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Approve	36%	46%	49%	53%	48%	30%	51%
Disapprove	15	28	30	26	24	36	19
DK/NA	48	26	21	21	28	34	30

4. At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of U.S. Senator Steve Daines' performance in office?

Approve of U.S. Sen. Steve Daines



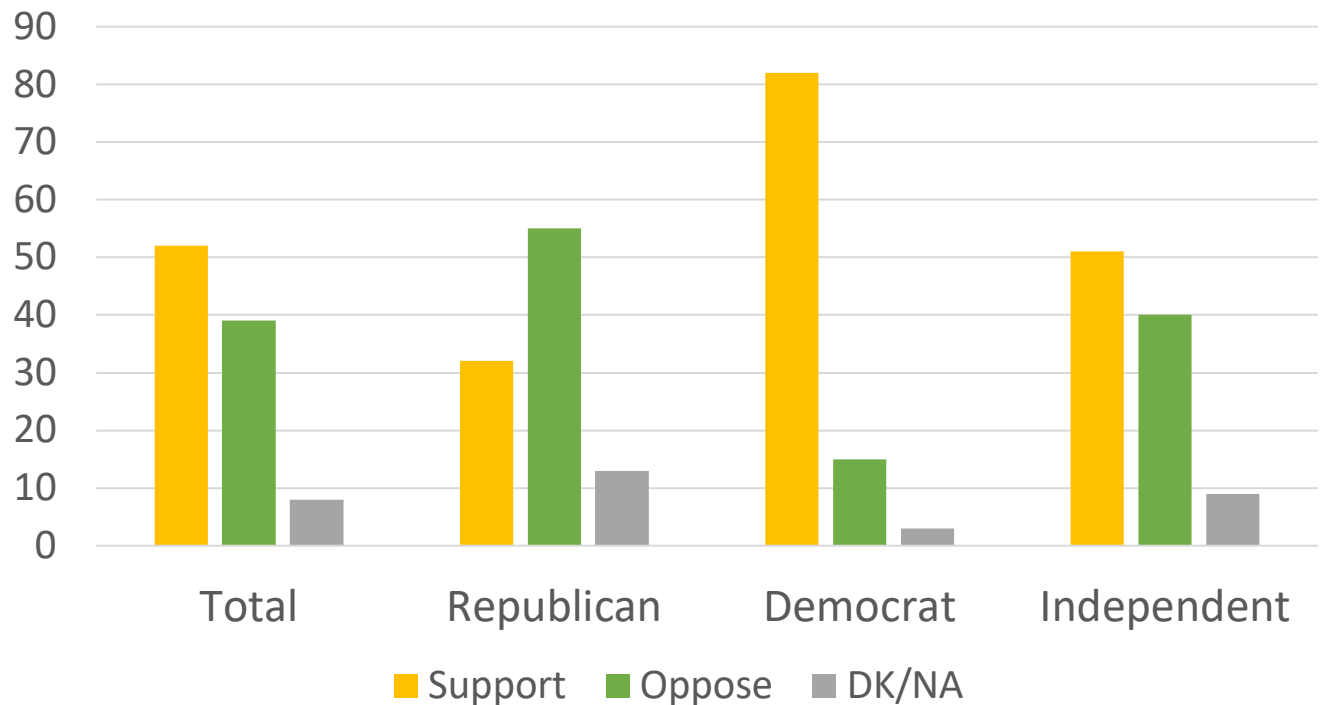
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
Approve	42%	69%	12%	41%	43%	41%	Yes	No
Disapprove	29	6	62	28	27	31	35	23
DK/NA	28	25	25	32	30	28	25	33

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Approve	36%	40%	46%	41%	48%	56%	33%
Disapprove	25	29	34	30	27	13	40
DK/NA	39	31	21	29	26	30	28

5. Initiative 185 would raise taxes on all tobacco products to continue funding the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act. If the election were held today, how would you vote on the measure? Would you vote to support, oppose, or are you undecided on the initiative?

Initiative 185 (Medicaid expansion/tobacco tax)



LIKELY VOTERS.....

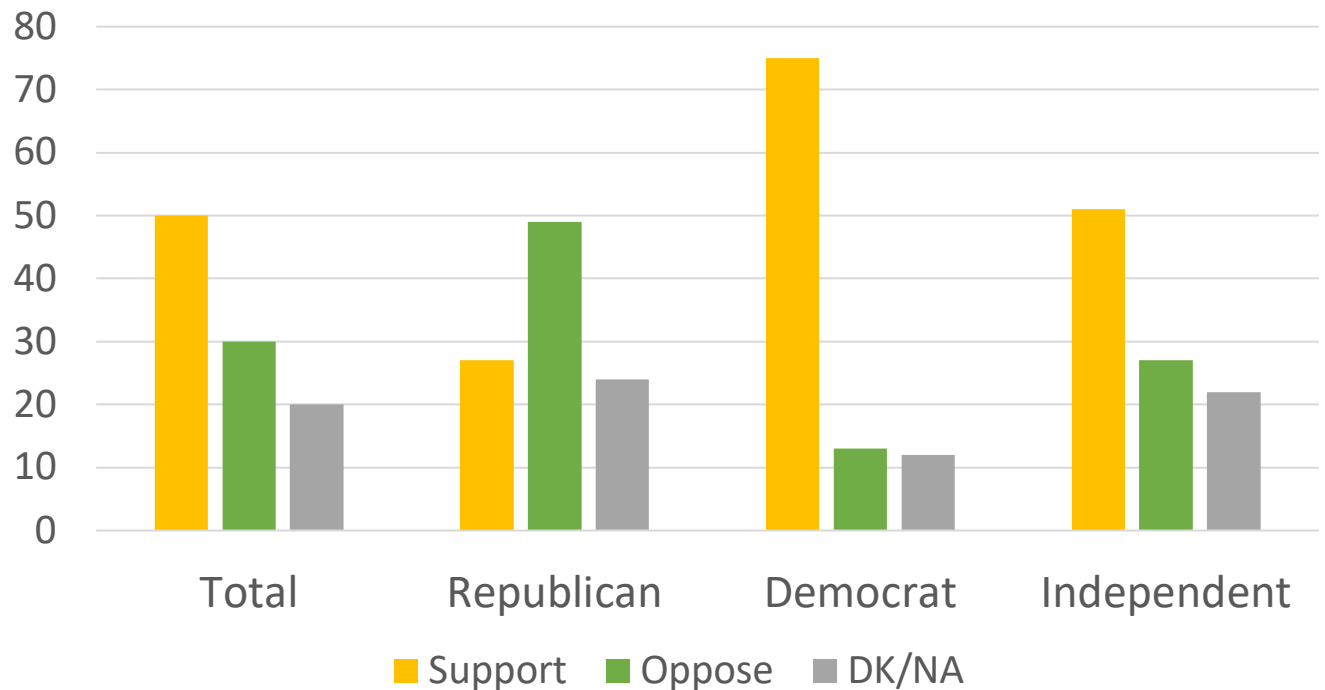
	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Support	52%	32%	82%	51%	48%	57%	58%	47%
Oppose	39	55	15	40	43	35	34	45
DK/NA	8	13	3	9	8	9	8	9

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Support	55%	53%	49%	59%	48%	40%	60%
Oppose	39	39	41	30	40	53	33
DK/NA	6	8	10	11	12	7	7

6. Initiative 186 would require the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to deny a permit for any new hardrock mines in Montana unless mine operators provide clear and convincing evidence that the mine will not require perpetual treatment of water polluted by contaminants. If the election were held today, how would you vote on the measure? Would you vote to support, oppose, or are you undecided on the initiative?

Initiative 186

(Ban on new hardrock mines)



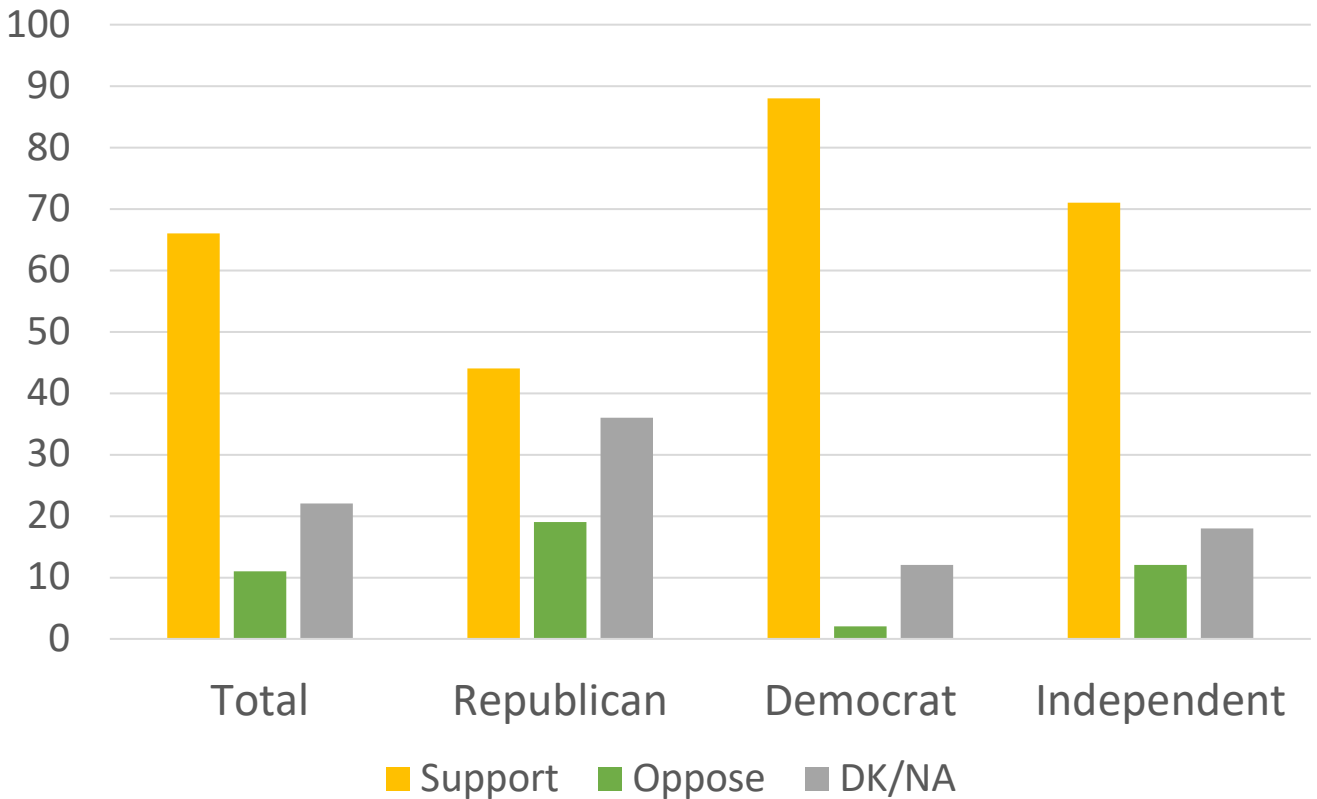
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Support	50%	27%	75%	51%	48%	52%	54%	44%
Oppose	30	49	13	27	35	26	27	34
DK/NA	20	24	12	22	16	23	19	22

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Support	44%	50%	51%	56%	41%	36%	61%
Oppose	30	29	32	33	30	47	19
DK/NA	26	21	18	11	29	17	20

7. Legislative Referendum 128 would allow the continuation of the statewide six-mill levy property tax use to support Montana's State universities and technical schools. If the election were held today, how would you vote on the measure? Do you support, oppose, or are you undecided on the referendum?

Legislative Referendum 128 (Extend higher-ed tax levy)



LIKELY VOTERS.....

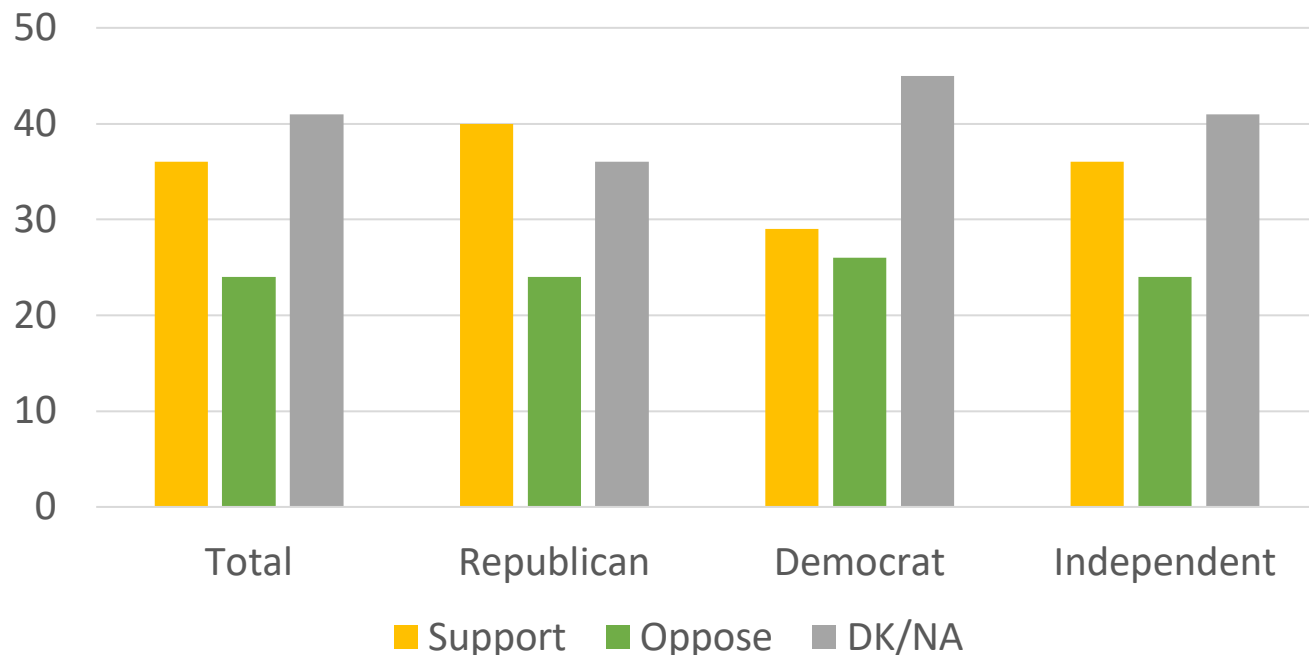
	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Support	66%	44%	88%	71%	67%	65%	73%	59%
Oppose	11	19	2	12	14	9	9	14
DK/NA	22	36	12	18	20	25	18	27

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Support	61%	62%	75%	71%	70%	48%	73%
Oppose	1	14	12	9	9	11	12
DK/NA	38	24	12	20	21	40	14

8. Legislative Referendum 129 would prohibit third-parties from collecting mail-in, absentee, and early voting election ballots, with exceptions for election officials, postal workers, caregivers, members of the household, and individuals who know the person

collecting their ballot. If the election were held today, how would you vote on the measure?
Do you support, oppose, or are you undecided on the referendum?

Legislative Referendum 129 (Ban third-party ballot collection)



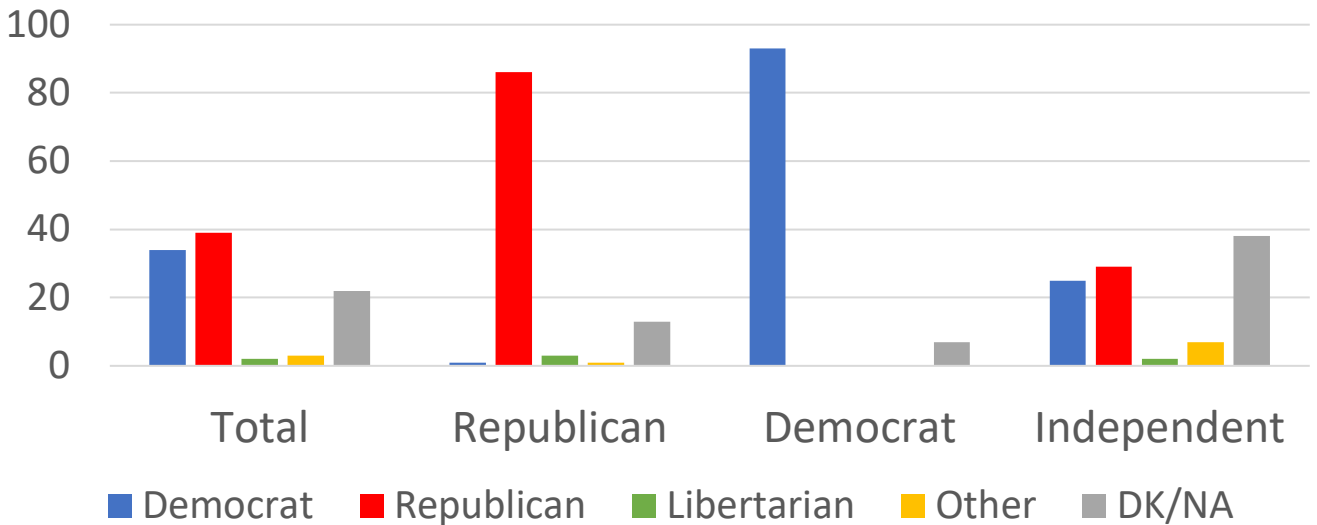
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Support	36%	40%	29%	36%	35%	36%	35%	37%
Oppose	24	24	26	24	25	23	24	23
DK/NA	41	36	45	41	41	41	42	40

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Support	39%	34%	36%	42%	30%	37%	37%
Oppose	16	24	24	24	21	24	27
DK/NA	45	42	40	34	49	40	36

9. If voting for your Montana State Senate candidate today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, Republican candidate, Libertarian candidate, some other candidate, or are you undecided?

Generic Montana State Senate ballot



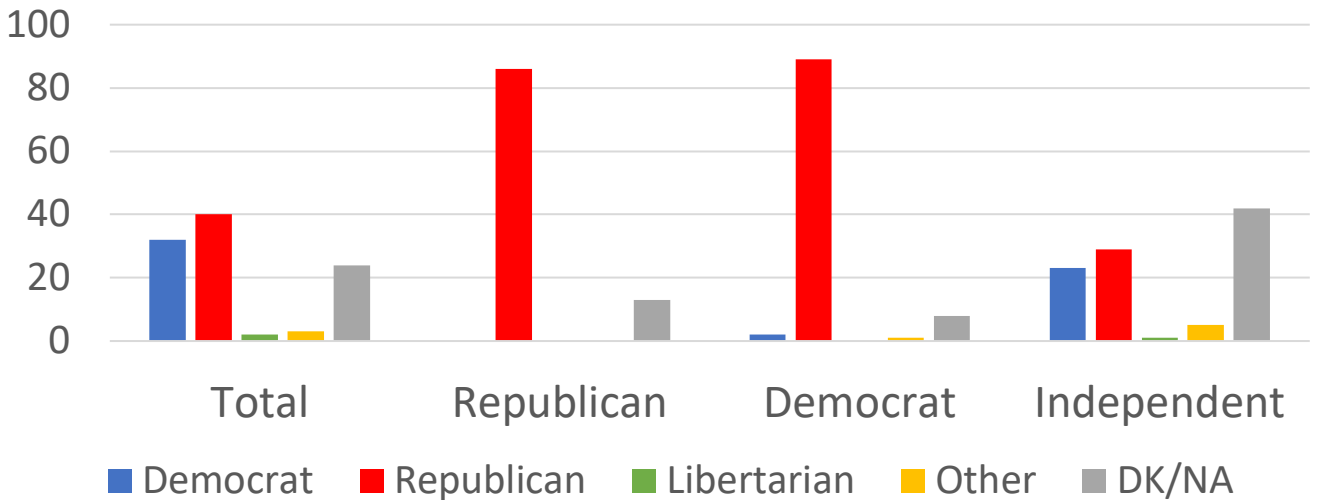
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Democrat	34%	1%	93%	25%	27%	41%	36%	31%
Republican	39	86	0	29	41	36	38	39
Libertarian	2	3	0	2	4	0	2	2
Other	3	1	0	7	3	4	3	4
DK/NA	22	13	7	38	25	19	25	19

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Democrat	31%	32%	38%	41%	27%	17%	43%
Republican	34	41	40	30	47	61	27
Libertarian	5	1	1	1	2	0	4
Other	3	3	3	4	2	2	3
DK/NA	27	23	18	23	22	20	23

10. If voting for your Montana State House of Representatives candidate today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate, Republican candidate, Libertarian candidate, some other candidate, or are you undecided?

Generic Montana State House of Representatives ballot



LIKELY VOTERS.....

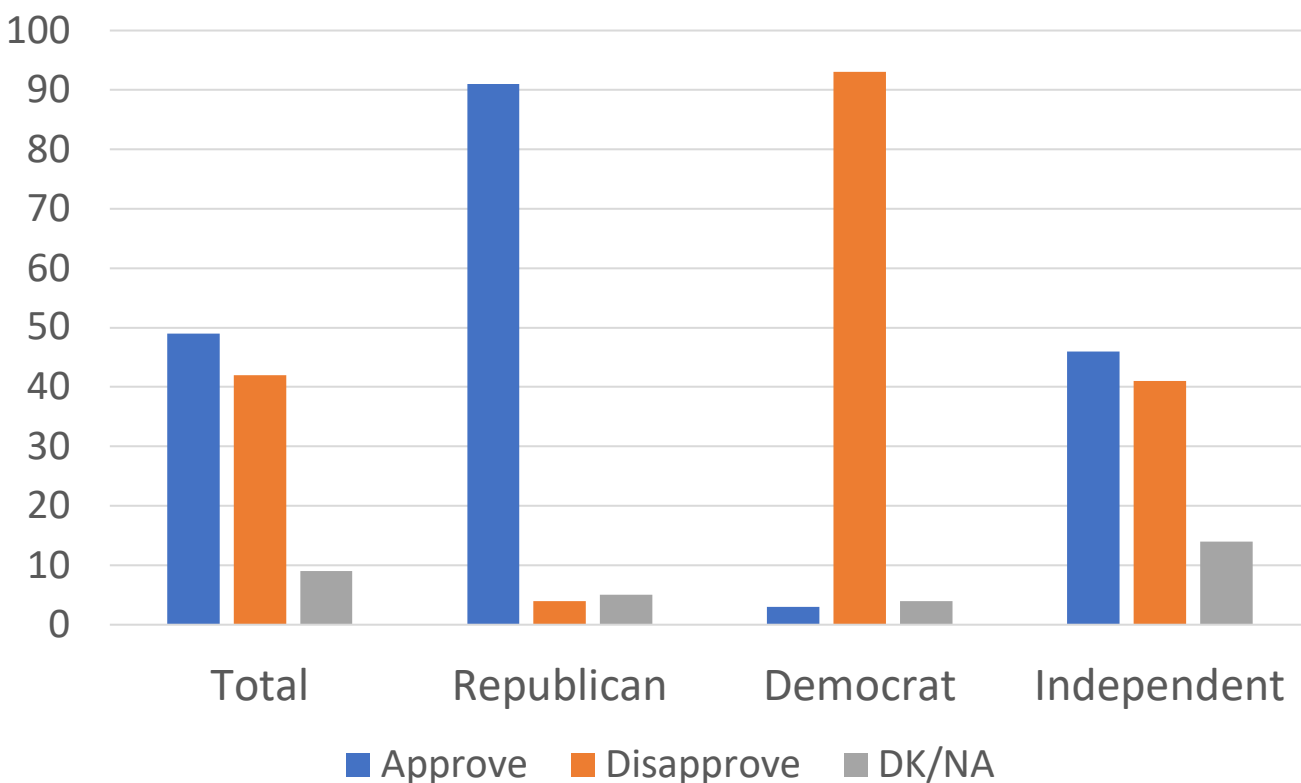
	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Democrat	32%	0%	2%	23%	27%	38%	35%	29%
Republican	40	86	89	29	41	39	39	40
Libertarian	2	0	0	1	3	0	2	2
Other	3	0	1	5	2	3	2	3
DK/NA	24	13	8	42	27	21	22	27

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Democrat	29%	30%	37%	39%	28%	17%	38%
Republican	36	41	41	34	46	62	26
Libertarian	4	1	1	0	2	0	3
Other	1	3	2	4	0	2	3
DK/NA	30	25	19	22	24	19	29

II. U.S. issues

11. At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of President Donald Trump's performance in office?

Approve of Pres. Trump



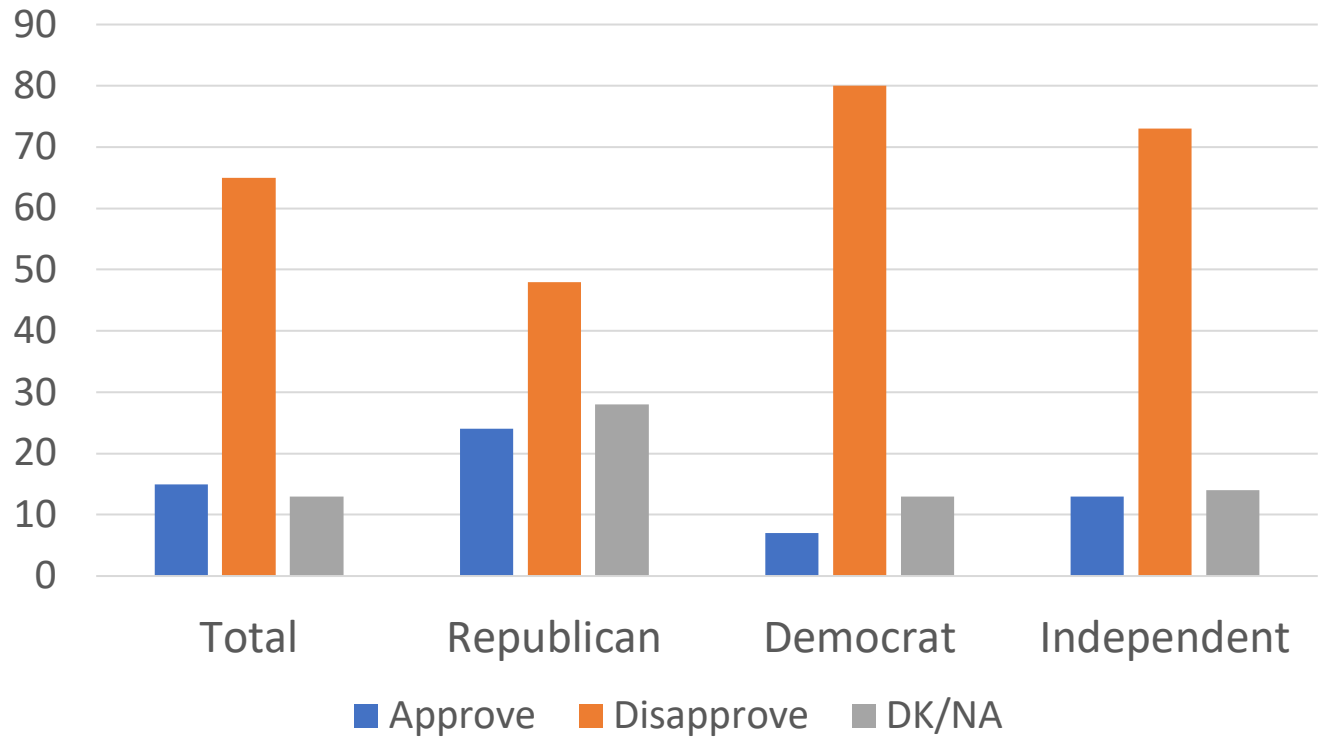
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG...	
							Yes	No
Approve	49%	91%	3%	46%	54%	44%	45%	54%
Disapprove	42	4	93	41	36	48	47	37
DK/NA	9	5	4	14	9	8	9	9

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Approve	51%	50%	47%	44%	54%	73%	34%
Disapprove	35	43	46	51	32	18	58
DK/NA	14	7	8	4	13	9	8

12. At this point in time, do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the U.S. Congress?

Approve of Congress



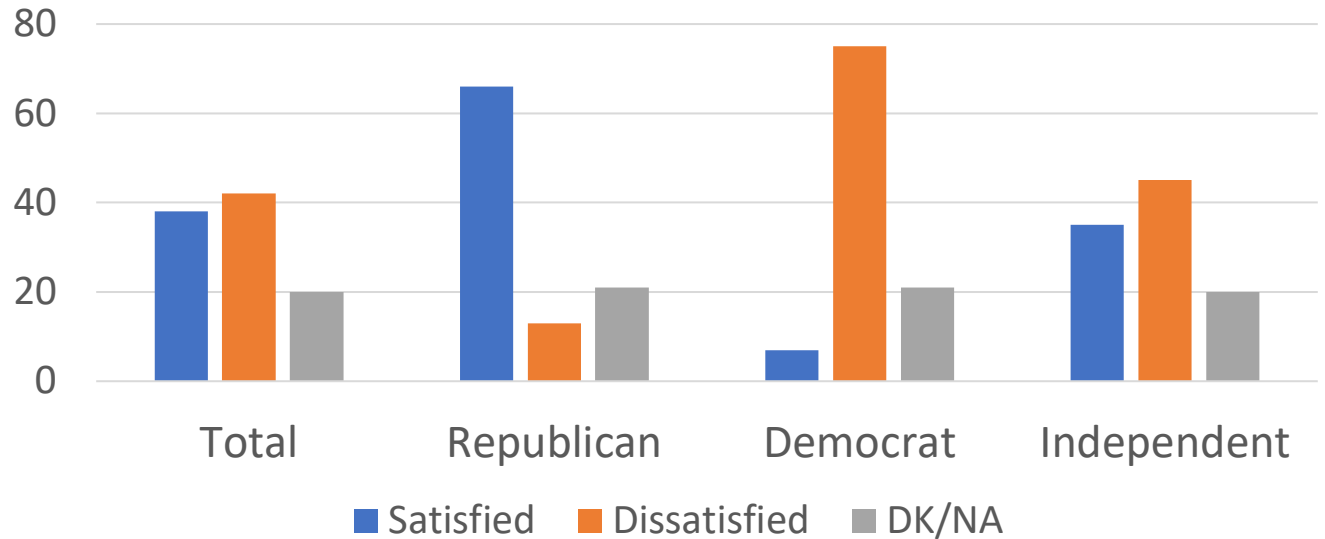
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
Approve	15%	24%	7%	13%	15%	15%	Yes	No
Disapprove	65	48	80	73	65	66	71	60
DK/NA	13	28	13	14	20	19	17	23

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Approve	26%	14%	12%	14%	16%	25%	10%
Disapprove	44	67	72	67	62	51	74
DK/NA	30	19	16	19	22	25	16

13. In general, are you satisfied, dissatisfied, or unsure with the way things are going in the United States at this time?

Satisfaction with direction of country



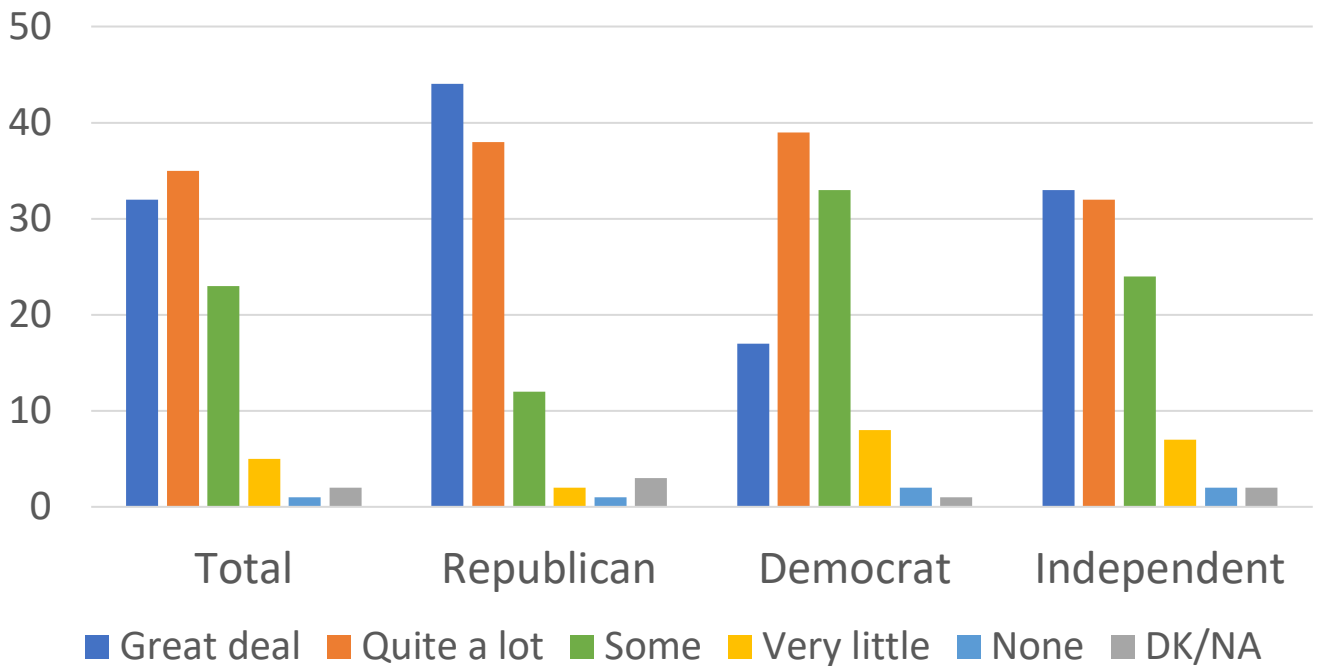
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG...	
							Yes	No
Satisfied	38%	66%	7%	35%	44%	31%	37%	39%
Dissatisfied	42	13	75	45	37	48	47	37
DK/NA	20	21	21	20	19	21	17	23

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Satisfied	40%	41%	33%	42%	37%	54%	28%
Dissatisfied	34	42	47	43	44	24	53
DK/NA	26	17	21	16	19	22	19

**14. In general, how much confidence do you have of law enforcement in the United States?
Is it a great deal of confidence, quite a lot, some, very little, none, or don't know?**

Confidence in law enforcement



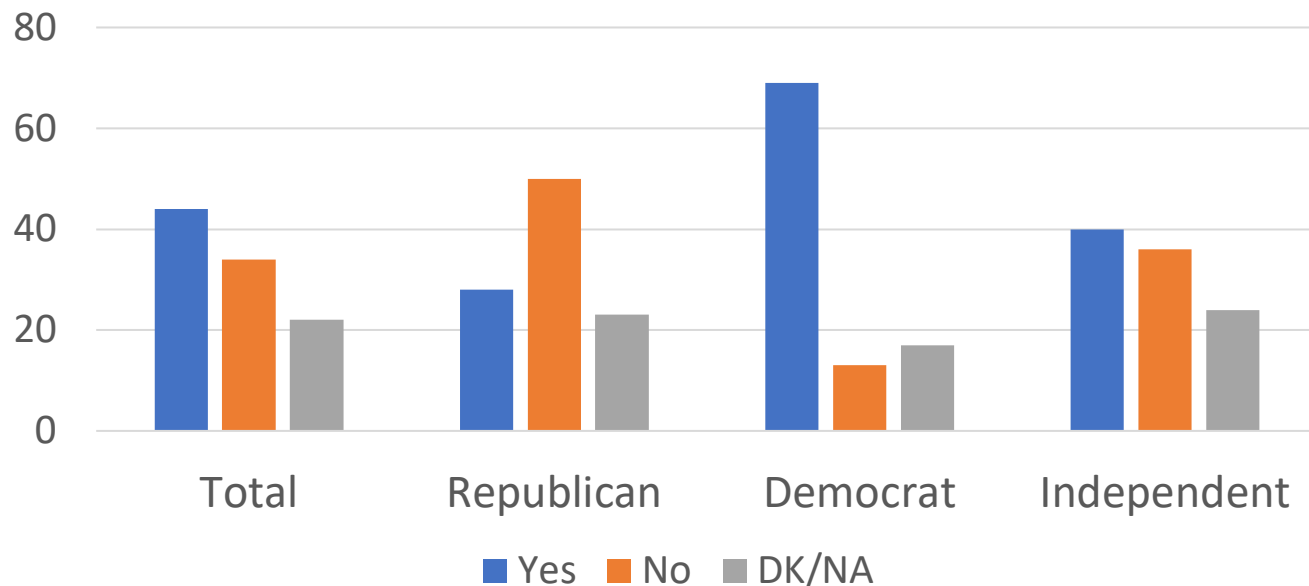
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Great deal	32%	44%	17%	33%	37%	27%	34%	31%
Quite a lot	35	38	39	32	32	39	36	35
Some	23	12	33	24	20	26	23	23
Very little	5	2	8	7	6	4	4	7
None	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2
DK/NA	2	3	1	2	2	3	2	2

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Great deal	23%	33%	35%	36%	37%	40%	25%
Quite a lot	37	34	40	24	40	35	37
Some	27	21	22	31	19	16	26
Very little	8	7	2	3	1	8	8
None	1	3	1	3	1	0	3
DK/NA	4	2	1	3	2	2	2

15. Do you believe that legitimate allegations of sexual assault or abuse, even if the incident would have happened before someone took office or occurred when they were juveniles, are grounds for elected officials and judges (either elected or appointed) to be removed from office?

Removal from office due to sexual assault allegations



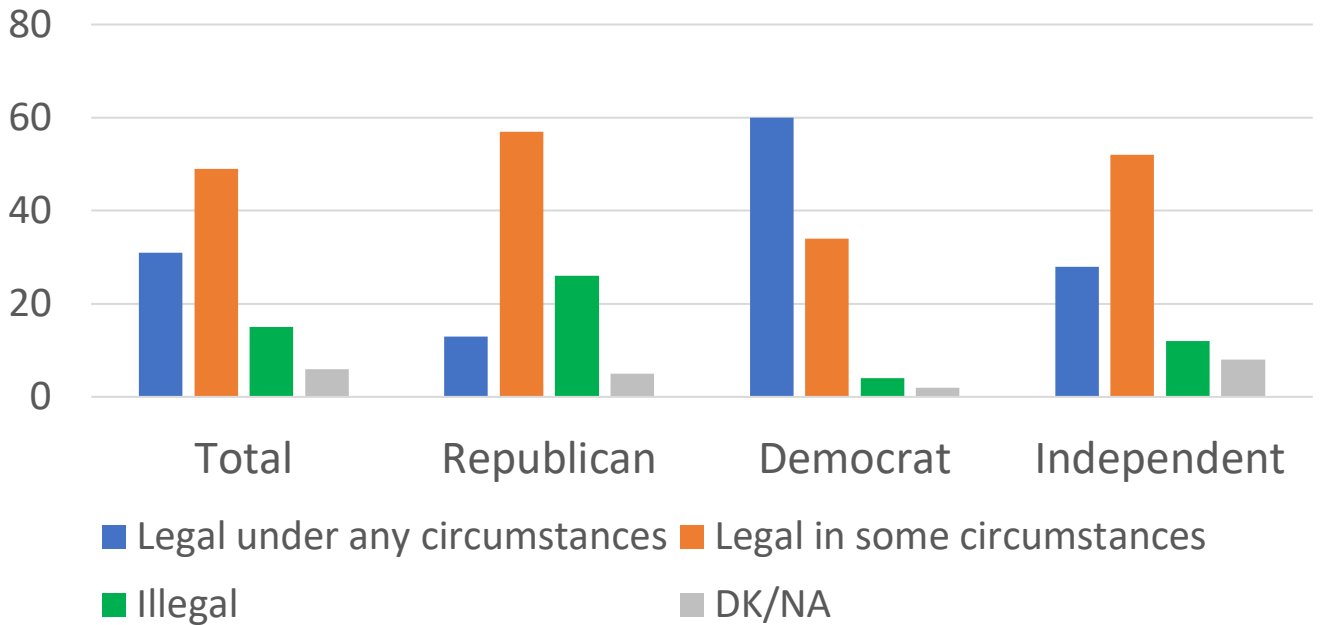
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Yes	44%	28%	69%	40%	41%	47%	48%	40%
No	34	50	13	36	37	31	33	35
DK/NA	22	23	17	24	22	22	19	25

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Yes	47%	42%	45%	47%	37%	31%	51%
No	37	35	36	24	40	48	27
DK/NA	17	23	19	29	23	20	22

16. Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances or illegal in all circumstances?

Abortion

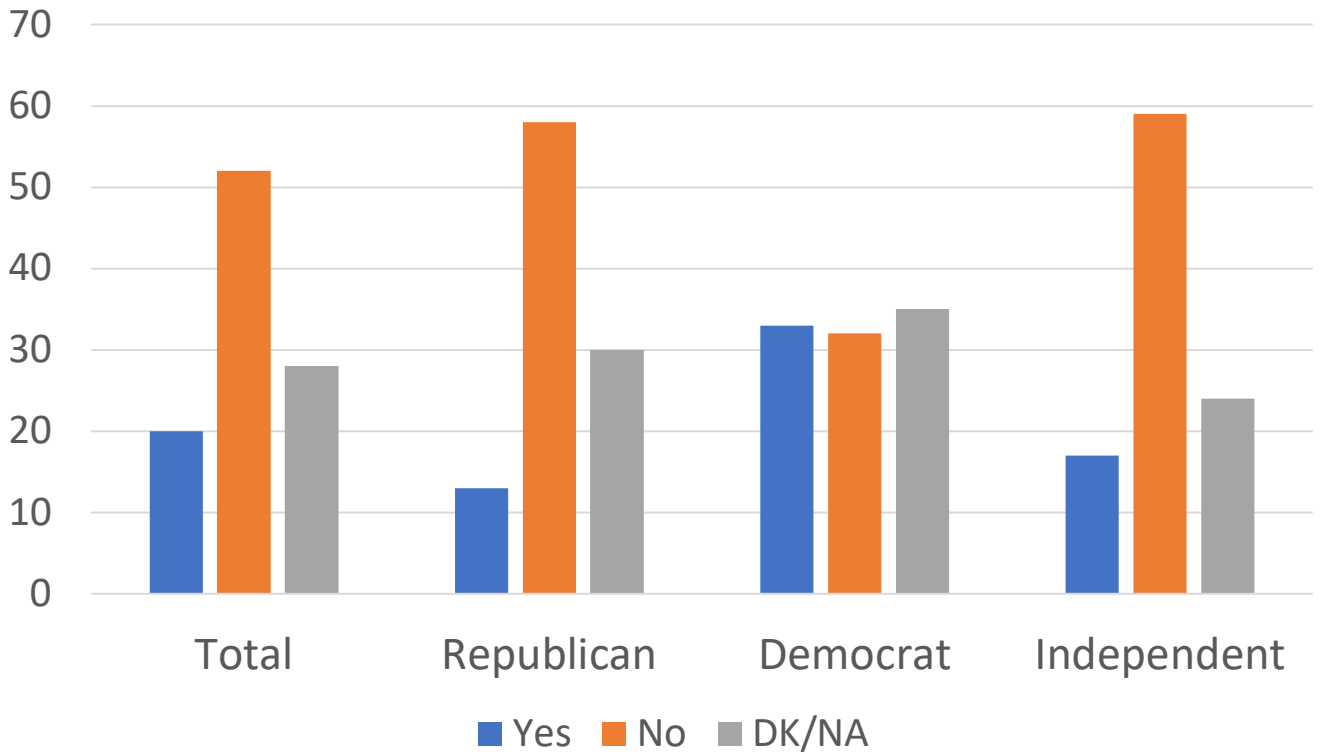


	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
Legal-any	31%	13%	60%	28%	32%	31%	Yes	No
Legal-some	49	57	34	52	46	52	46	52
Illegal	15	26	4	12	15	14	14	15
DK/NA	6	5	2	8	7	3	5	6

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Legal-any	26%	35%	30%	31%	30%	15%	47%
Legal-some	44	43	56	43	56	54	40
Illegal	25	14	11	16	10	28	6
DK/NA	5	8	3	10	4	3	6

17. Do you believe the Supreme Court will overturn the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide with the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh as the newest justice on the court? Yes, the Supreme Court will overturn Roe vs. Wade or No, the Court will not overturn Roe vs. Wade.?

Roe vs. Wade repealed



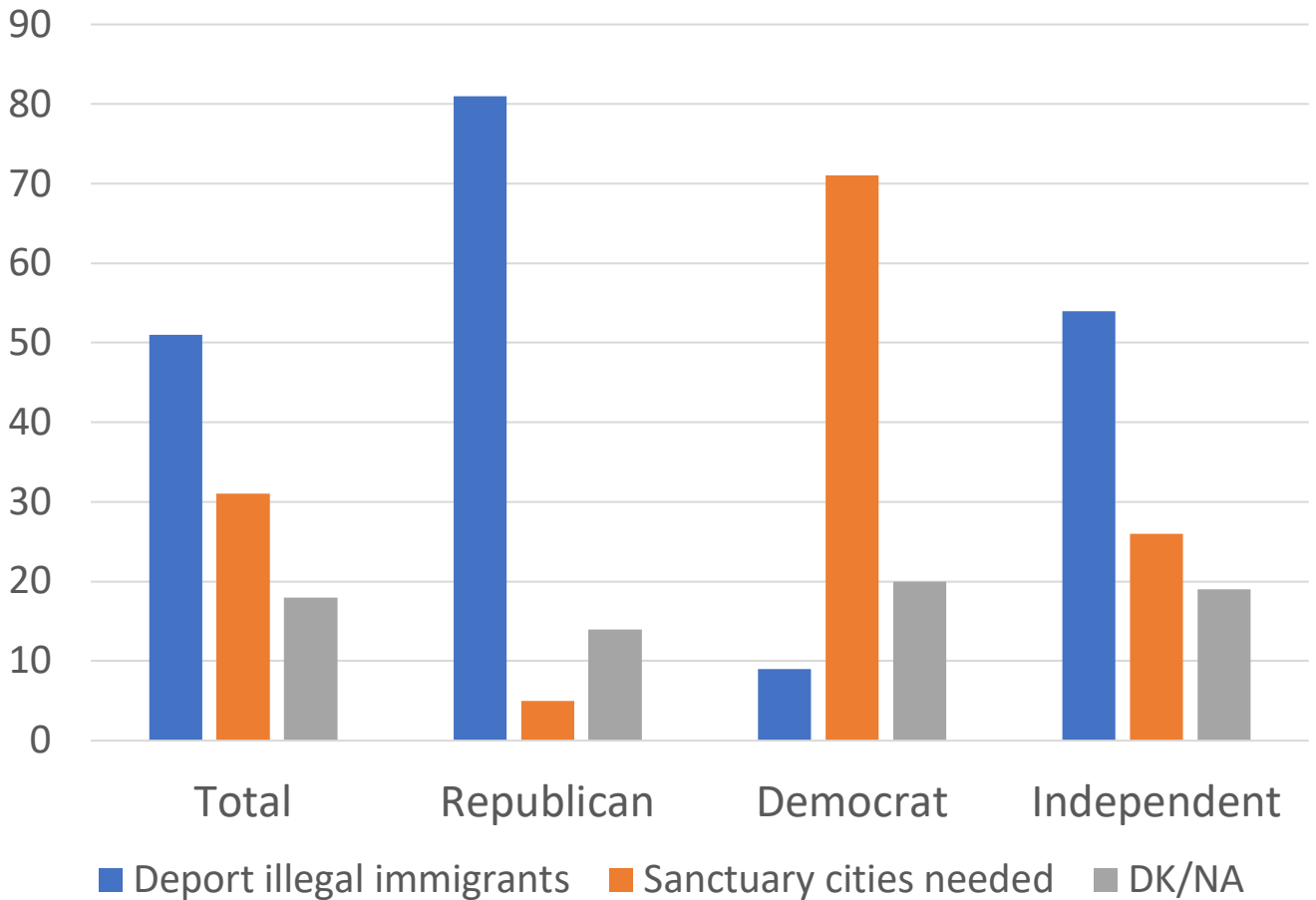
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
Yes	20%	13%	33%	17%	20%	19%	Yes	No
No	52	58	32	59	55	49	57	47
DK/NA	28	30	35	24	25	31	23	34

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Yes	18%	18%	22%	14%	16%	16%	28%
No	53	57	47	50	60	62	47
DK/NA	29	25	32	36	24	22	24

18. “Sanctuary City” is a term used to describe U.S. cities which do not enforce immigration laws and allow undocumented immigrants to live there and, in many cases, receive services. Which comes closer to your opinion? Undocumented immigrants should be deported so there is no reason to have sanctuary cities. Sanctuary cities are needed to provide services to undocumented immigrants while they are in this country.

Immigration attitudes



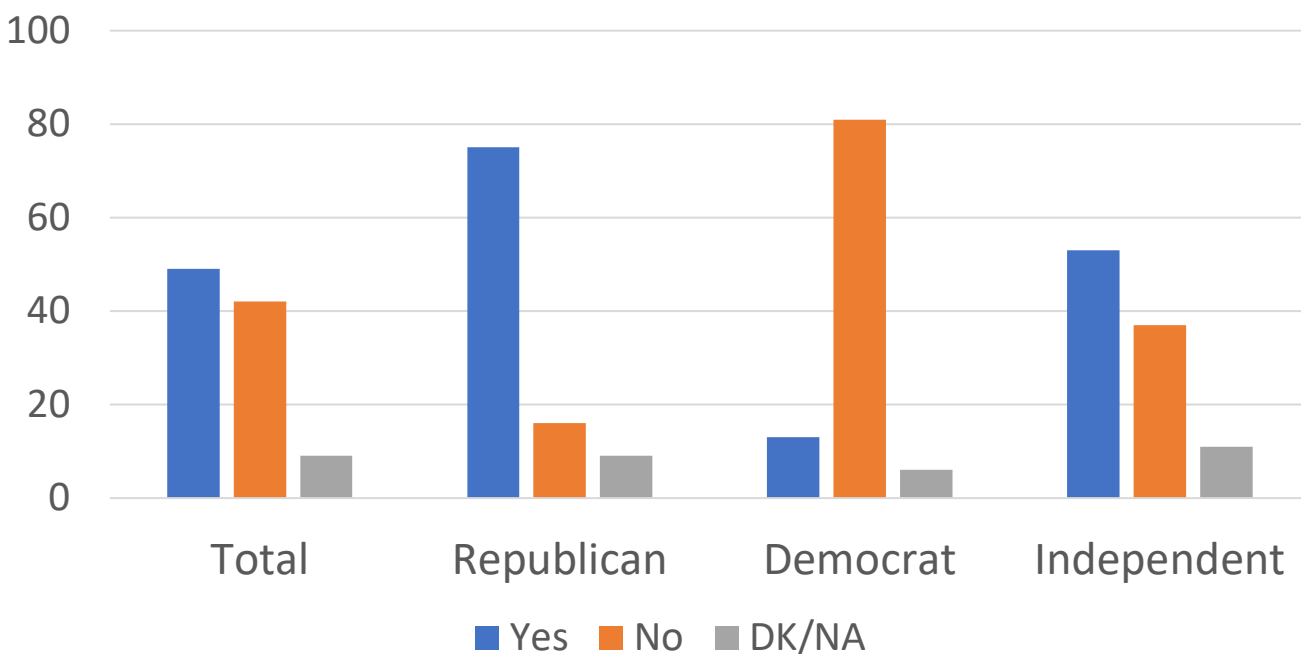
LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Deported	51%	81%	9%	54%	57%	45%	50%	53%
SCs needed	31	5	71	26	27	35	33	28
DK/NA	18	14	20	19	16	19	17	19

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Deported	45%	55%	49%	41%	57%	72%	42%
SCs needed	39	27	33	39	24	18	37
DK/NA	16	18	18	20	19	10	21

19. Do you support or oppose the federal government cutting funds to cities that provide sanctuary for undocumented immigrants?

Cut federal funds for sanctuary cities



LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot.	Rep,	Dem.	Ind.	Men	Wom.	COLL. DEG.....	
							Yes	No
Support	49%	75%	13%	53%	54%	44%	49%	50%
Oppose	42	16	81	37	38	45	45	38
DK/NA	9	9	6	11	7	11	6	12

	AGE IN YRS.....			RELIGION.....			
	18-34	35-64	65+	Cath.	Main.	Evan.	None
Support	45%	51%	50%	43%	51%	66%	42%
Oppose	43	41	40	50	34	24	53
DK/NA	12	8	10	7	14	10	5

Demographic Features (Percentages and Margin of Errors of Sub-Samples)

Gender:

Male 52% (+/-6.3)

Female 48% (+/-6.5)

Party ID:

Republicans 32% (+/-8.0)

Democrats 26% (+/-8.9)

Libertarians 4% (+/-23.1)

Independent 38% (+/-7.3)

College Graduate:

Yes 53% (+/-6.2)

No 47% (+/-6.6)

Age:

18-34 17% (+/-11.1)

35-64 50% (+/-6.6)

65+ 33 (+/-8.1)

Religion:

Catholic 15% (+/-11.8)

Mainline Protestant 19% (+/-10.3)

Evangelical Protestant 19% (+/-10.4)

Other Christian 3% (+/-28.3)

Other not disclosed 11% (+/-14.0)

None 33% (+/-7.8)