



## Montana Likely Voter Survey

### U.S. Senate Race

#### **Senator Steve Daines (R) Narrowly Leads Gov. Steve Bullock (D) in the Race for US Senate**

First-term Republican Senator, Steve Daines, has a three-point lead over his Democratic challenger, Governor Steve Bullock, according to a new poll from AARP. According to the survey of 800 likely Montana voters, if the election were held today Daines would get 50% of the vote and Bullock 47%. And while Daines holds an eight-point lead among voters under 50, he is down one point among voters age 50 and older.

The race has a significant gender gap, with Daines leading among men by 17 points and Bullock leading among women by 12 points.

In a state with a clear advantage for Republicans (+11) based on professed partisan affiliation, the closeness of the race has to do with Bullock maximizing his partisan vote (97% among Dems), Daines not quite maximizing his (85% among GOP), and unaffiliated voters giving Daines a two-point margin.

Education level is playing a role in the Senate race, especially when viewed by gender. Daines has a 30-point lead among men with less than a college degree, while Bullock leads by 36-points among women with at least a college degree. Bullock leads by 6 among college-educated men, while Daines leads by 2 among women without a college degree.

Q: Now, if the election for U.S. Senator were held today and the candidates were (ROTATE) Steve Daines, the Republican and Steve Bullock, the Democrat, for whom would you vote? IF UNDECIDED: Just for the purposes of this survey, if you had to decide today, do you think you would vote for (ROTATE) Steve Daines, the Republican, or Steve Bullock, the Democrat?

	All	18-49	50+	Women	Men	GOP	Ind	Dem	Women <Col	Women Col+	Men <Col	Men Col+
Daines (R)	50%	52%	48%	43%	57%	85%	48%	3%	49%	31%	64%	45%
Bullock (D)	47%	44%	49%	55%	40%	14%	46%	97%	47%	67%	34%	51%
<i>Net Daines</i>	<b>+3</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>+17</b>	<b>+71</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>-94</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>-36</b>	<b>+30</b>	<b>-6</b>



**Presidential Race**

**President Trump holds a 7-point lead over Joe Biden in Montana.**

Fifty percent of Montana voters would vote for Donald Trump while 43% would vote for Joe Biden. The race is much more competitive among voters 50+, with Trump getting 48% of votes and Biden receiving 47%.

While there is a significant gender gap, with Trump winning men by a 16-point margin and Biden holding a slight 1-point advantage among women, Trump is more competitive with women voters vs. Biden than Daines is vs. Bullock.

Trump wins Republicans by a smaller margin (78-points) than Biden wins Democrats (95-points). However, GOP voters outnumber Democrats and Trump holds an 8-point lead among Independents, who make up a plurality of the electorate.

The presidential election in Montana also has a large education gap, women without a degree support Trump by a 14-point margin while Biden holds a 32-point lead with college educated women. Trump’s advantage among men without a degree is 32-points while Biden leads with college educated men by 8-points.

Q: Now, if the election for President were held today and the candidates were (ROTATE) Donald Trump, the Republican and Joe Biden, the Democrat, for whom would you vote?

	All	18-49	50+	Women	Men	GOP	Ind	Dem	Women <Col	Women Col+	Men <Col	Men Col+
Trump (R)	50%	53%	48%	47%	54%	88%	47%	2%	55%	31%	62%	41%
Biden (D)	43%	38%	47%	48%	38%	10%	39%	97%	41%	63%	30%	49%
<i>Net Trump</i>	+7	+15	+1	-1	+16	+78	+8	-95	+14	-32	+32	-8

**Method of Voting**

**Majority of Montana Voters Will Vote by Mail - Likelihood Increases with Age.**

The survey shows that a large majority of Montana voters (60%) will vote absentee/by mail. And while a narrow majority (54%) of voters under 50 will vote absentee/by mail, nearly two-thirds of voters 50+ (65%) say they will.

Voters’ method of casting their ballots is also influenced by their party. A plurality (47%) of Republicans say they will vote absentee/by mail, while a large majority (59%) of Unaffiliated voters, and even larger majority (80%) of Democrats will.

A small number of Montana voters say they will vote in-person before Election Day, leaving 29% of the electorate saying they will vote in-person on Election Day.



Q: For this November's election, how will you be voting?						
	All	18-49	50+	GOP	Ind	Dem
<b>Total Before Election Day</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>85%</b>
Absentee/By Mail	60%	54%	65%	47%	59%	80%
Early In-Person	9%	10%	8%	9%	11%	6%
<b>In-Person on Election Day</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>10%</b>

### Reduction in Postal Service

#### **Significant Concerns Over Reductions in Postal Service Impacting Votes Being Counted Among 50+ Voters.**

A majority (61%) of Montana Voters 50+ express some concern about the impact of postal service reductions on votes being counted, with 43% of 50+ voters saying they are “very concerned.” Views on the impact of cuts to postal service in this election are strongly influenced by party. Eighty-four percent of Democrats express concern while Republicans are evenly divided. More 50+ Women (65%) than 50+ Men (57%) express concern, although a majority of both do.

Concern about the election impact to reductions in the postal service is higher among those planning to vote absentee (66%), than among those who plan to vote in-person on Election Day (47%).

ASKED ONLY OF 50+ - Q: How concerned are you that reductions in the postal service are going to prevent votes from being counted?									
	50+	Women	Men	GOP	Ind	Dem	Vote Abs/ Mail	Vote Early In Pers	Vote Election Day
<b>Concerned</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Not Concerned</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>51%</b>
Very concerned	43%	46%	40%	31%	37%	68%	48%	44%	29%
Somewhat concerned	18%	19%	17%	18%	20%	17%	18%	18%	18%
Not too concerned	11%	12%	9%	11%	15%	5%	11%	9%	11%
Not at all concerned	27%	21%	33%	38%	27%	11%	23%	23%	41%
<i>Net Concerned</i>	<b>+23</b>	<b>+32</b>	<b>+15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+13</b>	<b>+68</b>	<b>+32</b>	<b>+30</b>	<b>-4</b>



## Vaccine

### **A Majority of Montanans Would Not Get FDA-Approved COVID Vaccine if Available Now**

A majority of Montana voters (51%) say they would not agree to be vaccinated if an FDA-approved vaccine to prevent coronavirus was available right now at no cost; 43% said they would. A plurality of voters 50+ seniors (47%) would agree to get the vaccine, while substantially fewer voters 18-49 (38%) would.

Voters with at least a four-year college education (51%) are more likely than those without a college degree (38%) to get vaccinated.

Partisanship has influence in the decision to vaccinate. Democrats (61%) are more likely to get vaccinated than Unaffiliated voters (43%), who in turn are more likely to get vaccinated than Republicans (30%).

Q: If an FDA-approved vaccine to prevent coronavirus was available right now at no cost, would you agree to be vaccinated?								
	All	18-49	50+	GOP	Ind	Dem	Less than Col	Col+
Yes	43%	38%	47%	30%	43%	61%	38%	51%
No	51%	56%	45%	65%	50%	32%	55%	42%
Unsure/Refused	7%	6%	8%	5%	7%	7%	7%	8%



**Methodology Statement**

Fabrizio Ward and Hart Research conducted a statewide survey of 800 likely general election voters from August 30-September 5, 2020 in Montana, with an oversample of 400 likely general election voters 50+ for a total of 837 voters 50+.

- Seventy percent of the interviews were conducted via cell phone and 30% via landline, using live operators.
- Geography was matched to past voter turnout in recent Presidential elections. The 50+ universe was weighted on gender, age and party affiliation based off targets from voter file, and then weighted down into its share within the full voter universe.
- The full universe was weighted to targets on gender, age, party affiliation, race/ethnicity and education, which were derived from voter file data, recent exit polls and the Census.
- Respondents were randomly selected from lists of all registered voters.
- The margin of sampling error at the 95% confidence interval for 800 voters is  $\pm 3.5\%$ ; 837 voters 50+ is  $\pm 3.4\%$ .

**Party Affiliation**

	All	50+
Democrat	25	28
Independent/Other	39	31
Republican	36	41

**Gender**

	All	50+
Female	51	52
Male	49	48

**Age**

	All	50+
18-29	15	-
30-39	16	-
40-49	16	-
50-64	25	47
65+	28	53

**Race**

	All	50+
White	88	89
American Indian/ Native American	3	4
Latino or Hispanic	1	1
African American	1	1
Asian American	1	1
Other	3	3
Refused	2	2

**Education**

	All	50+
Some Grade School	1	1
Some High School	1	1
High School Grad	21	20
Tech/Vocational	6	8
Some College	23	23
2-Year College Grad	12	12
4-Year College Grad	25	22
Post Grad	11	12
Refused	1	1

**Media Market**

	All	50+
Missoula DMA	30	29
Missoula Co.	12	9
Flathead Co.	9	10
Billings DMA	22	22
Yellowstone Co.	14	12
Butte-Bozeman DMA	19	18
Gallatin Co.	11	9
Great Falls DMA	15	16
Helena DMA	8	7
Minot-Bismarck- Dickinson DMA	3	2
Spokane DMA	2	3
Glendive DMA	1	2
Rapid City DMA	*	*



Q. With which political party are you registered?

**ASK IF REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT**

Q. Do you consider yourself to be a strong (REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT) or a not so strong (REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT)?

**ASK IF INDEPENDENT/SOMETHING ELSE**

Q. Do you consider yourself closer to (ROTATE) the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

	All	50+
<b>REPUBLICAN</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT/CLOSER TO...</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>DEMOCRAT</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28</b>
Strong Republican	27	32
Not so strong Republican	9	9
Closer to the Republican Party	14	10
Purely Independent	12	10
Closer to the Democratic Party	13	11
Not so strong Democrat	5	4
Strong Democrat	20	24
DK/Refused (DO NOT READ)	1	1

Q. Now, if the election for President were held today and the candidates were (ROTATE) Donald Trump, the Republican and Joe Biden, the Democrat, for whom would you vote? (PROBE: Definitely/Probably)

	All	50+
<b>DONALD TRUMP</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>JOE BIDEN</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>47</b>
Definitely Trump	47	46
Probably Trump	3	2
Probably Biden	3	3
Definitely Biden	39	44
Will Not Vote / Will Not Vote for President (DO NOT READ)	*	*
Undecided (DO NOT READ)	6	5



Q. Now, if the election for U.S. Senator were held today and the candidates were (ROTATE) Steve Daines, the Republican and Steve Bullock, the Democrat for whom would you vote? (PROBE: Definitely/Probably)

**IF "UNDECIDED" IN Q15 ASK:**

Q. Just for the purposes of this survey, if you had to decide today, do you think you would vote for (ROTATE) Steve Daines, the Republican, or Steve Bullock, the Democrat?

	All	50+
<b>STEVE DAINES (WITH LEANERS)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>STEVE BULLOCK (WITH LEANERS)</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>49</b>
Definitely Daines	42	42
Probably Daines	6	5
Lean Daines	2	1
Lean Bullock	1	*
Probably Bullock	6	4
Definitely Bullock	40	45
Will Not Vote / Will Not Vote for U.S. Senate (DO NOT READ)	1	*
Undecided (DO NOT READ)	2	2

Q. For this November's election, how will you be voting? (READ AND ROTATE)

	All	50+
Vote by absentee or mail-in ballot	60	65
Vote early in person	9	8
Vote in-person on election day	29	24
Unsure/Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	2	2

Q. How concerned are you that reductions in the postal service are going to prevent votes from being counted? (READ AND ROTATE 1-4; 4-1)

	50+
<b>CONCERNED</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>NOT CONCERNED</b>	<b>38</b>
Very concerned	43
Somewhat concerned	18
Not too concerned	11
Not at all concerned	27
DK/Refused (DO NOT READ)	1



Q. If an FDA-approved vaccine to prevent coronavirus was available right now at no cost, would you agree to be vaccinated?

	All	50+
Yes	43	47
No	51	45
Unsure (DO NOT READ)	6	8
DK/Refused (DO NOT READ)	1	*