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Schweitzer could win MT in '16 or beat Baucus in '14

Raleigh, N.C. – Montanans do not want Brian Schweitzer to run for president in 2016, but if he did, they would vote for him. 55% think he should not run, and only 26% think he should. But if he were the Democratic nominee, he would beat his generic Republican opponent by a 42-38 margin in a state Democrats have not won at the presidential level since 1992, and that was with the aid of Ross Perot's 26%. Democrats and independents are against a Schweitzer candidacy by similar 34-45 and 30-46 spreads, but presented with his name on the ballot, they would vote for him by 81-7 and 36-28 margins. He would also pull 11% of Republicans, 24% of whom approve of his job performance, helping him to an overall 52-36 approval mark. That ties him for the 12th most popular out of 42 governors on which PPP has polled.

If he wanted to shoot for a different federal office, Schweitzer would also prevail in a Senate primary against Max Baucus if the vote were held two years early. At this point, 48% of Democratic primary voters prefer Schweitzer and 37% the incumbent. Schweitzer prevails by 32 points among the most liberal voters and 15 among those who say they are somewhat liberal, but only by two points among moderates.

Montana still does not favor legal same-sex marriage, but the tide is turning toward it, and the state's voters are already overwhelmingly supportive of giving gay couples the same legal rights as married straight couples. 48% want gay marriage to remain illegal, and 41% want it to be legal. That is half the margin as when PPP last asked the question here last November. Then, 51% opposed and 37% supported. 64% now support at least civil unions for same-sex couples (37% for full marriage equality and 27% for civil unions), while only 32% oppose any legal recognition of these relationships. Support comes from 82% of Democrats, 66% of independents, and even 44% of Republicans.

PPP surveyed 934 Montana voters, including 332 usual Democratic primary voters, from April 26th to 29th. The margin of error for the overall survey is +/-3.2%, and +/-5.4% for the primary portion. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



Montana Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Max Baucus' job performance?

Approve42% Not sure12%
Disapprove.....46%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Brian Schweitzer's job performance?

Approve 52%
Disapprove..... 36%
Not sure 12%

Q3 If the Democratic candidates for Senate in 2014 were Max Baucus and Brian Schweitzer, who would you vote for? (Asked of 332 Democratic primary voters)

Max Baucus 37%
Brian Schweitzer 48%
Not sure 15%

Q4 If Brian Schweitzer were the Democratic nominee for President in 2016, would you vote for him or his Republican opponent?

Brian Schweitzer 42%
Republican opponent 38%
Not sure 21%

Q5 Do you think Brian Schweitzer should run for President in 2016, or not?

He should run 26%
He should not..... 55%
Not sure 19%

Q6 Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal or illegal?

Legal 41%
Illegal 48%
Not sure 11%

Q7 Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship?

Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry 37%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry 27%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship 32%
Not sure 4%

Q8 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 45%
Barack Obama..... 42%
Someone else/Don't remember 13%

Q9 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 8%
Somewhat liberal 16%
Moderate..... 32%
Somewhat conservative..... 26%
Very conservative 18%

Q10 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q11 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 30%
Republican..... 33%
Independent/Other..... 37%



Q12 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 89%
Other..... 11%

Q13 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 13%
30 to 45..... 31%
46 to 65..... 36%
Older than 65..... 20%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Baucus Approval				
Approve	42%	20%	70%	31%
Disapprove	46%	70%	19%	48%
Not sure	12%	10%	11%	22%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Schweitzer Approval				
Approve	52%	30%	79%	45%
Disapprove	36%	57%	12%	39%
Not sure	12%	13%	9%	16%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
2014 Baucus/Schweitzer Sen Primary				
Max Baucus	37%	38%	37%	27%
Brian Schweitzer	48%	48%	49%	38%
Not sure	15%	14%	14%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Schweitzer or GOP Opponent, Pres 2016				
Brian Schweitzer	42%	15%	72%	35%
Republican opponent	38%	67%	7%	32%
Not sure	21%	17%	21%	34%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Should Schweitzer Run in 2016?				
He should run	26%	15%	37%	27%
He should not	55%	72%	40%	46%
Not sure	19%	13%	23%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal				
Legal	41%	19%	69%	27%
Illegal	48%	73%	20%	54%
Not sure	11%	8%	12%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	37%	14%	64%	28%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	27%	36%	20%	18%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	32%	48%	13%	42%
Not sure	4%	3%	3%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Baucus Approval						
Approve	42%	77%	68%	55%	24%	8%
Disapprove	46%	18%	21%	30%	62%	84%
Not sure	12%	5%	12%	15%	14%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Schweitzer Approval						
Approve	52%	84%	76%	68%	32%	19%
Disapprove	36%	10%	15%	21%	53%	67%
Not sure	12%	6%	9%	12%	15%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2014 Baucus/Schweitzer Sen Primary						
Max Baucus	37%	31%	36%	40%	36%	20%
Brian Schweitzer	48%	63%	51%	42%	35%	68%
Not sure	15%	6%	13%	18%	29%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Schweitzer or GOP Opponent, Pres 2016						
Brian Schweitzer	42%	87%	74%	51%	17%	9%
Republican opponent	38%	9%	9%	19%	61%	76%
Not sure	21%	5%	17%	30%	22%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Should Schweitzer Run in 2016?						
He should run	26%	41%	34%	31%	16%	16%
He should not	55%	36%	45%	44%	67%	75%
Not sure	19%	23%	21%	25%	16%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal						
Legal	41%	76%	69%	54%	19%	7%
Illegal	48%	18%	19%	30%	70%	88%
Not sure	11%	6%	11%	16%	11%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	37%	74%	65%	48%	15%	5%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	27%	13%	19%	30%	33%	27%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	32%	13%	13%	18%	47%	63%
Not sure	4%	1%	2%	4%	5%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Baucus Approval			
Approve	42%	47%	37%
Disapprove	46%	41%	52%
Not sure	12%	13%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Schweitzer Approval			
Approve	52%	51%	53%
Disapprove	36%	34%	38%
Not sure	12%	15%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2014 Baucus/Schweitzer Sen Primary			
Max Baucus	37%	36%	38%
Brian Schweitzer	48%	48%	48%
Not sure	15%	16%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Schweitzer or GOP Opponent, Pres 2016			
Brian Schweitzer	42%	44%	39%
Republican opponent	38%	36%	39%
Not sure	21%	20%	22%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should Schweitzer Run in 2016?			
He should run	26%	22%	29%
He should not	55%	57%	54%
Not sure	19%	21%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal			
Legal	41%	45%	36%
Illegal	48%	46%	51%
Not sure	11%	9%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	37%	41%	32%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	27%	26%	29%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	32%	30%	35%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Baucus Approval				
Approve	42%	75%	17%	38%
Disapprove	46%	15%	69%	50%
Not sure	12%	10%	14%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Schweitzer Approval				
Approve	52%	82%	24%	53%
Disapprove	36%	12%	60%	34%
Not sure	12%	6%	15%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
2014 Baucus/Schweitzer Sen Primary				
Max Baucus	37%	38%	24%	35%
Brian Schweitzer	48%	47%	42%	51%
Not sure	15%	15%	35%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Schweitzer or GOP Opponent, Pres 2016				
Brian Schweitzer	42%	81%	11%	36%
Republican opponent	38%	7%	76%	28%
Not sure	21%	12%	13%	36%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Should Schweitzer Run in 2016?				
He should run	26%	34%	13%	30%
He should not	55%	45%	75%	46%
Not sure	19%	21%	12%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal				
Legal	41%	71%	15%	38%
Illegal	48%	19%	76%	48%
Not sure	11%	10%	8%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	37%	67%	12%	33%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	27%	15%	32%	33%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	32%	15%	51%	30%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Baucus Approval			
Approve	42%	43%	40%
Disapprove	46%	45%	53%
Not sure	12%	13%	7%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Schweitzer Approval			
Approve	52%	52%	50%
Disapprove	36%	36%	37%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
2014 Baucus/Schweitzer Sen Primary			
Max Baucus	37%	38%	26%
Brian Schweitzer	48%	47%	59%
Not sure	15%	15%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Schweitzer or GOP Opponent, Pres 2016			
Brian Schweitzer	42%	41%	46%
Republican opponent	38%	38%	36%
Not sure	21%	21%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Should Schweitzer Run in 2016?			
He should run	26%	25%	32%
He should not	55%	56%	48%
Not sure	19%	19%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal			
Legal	41%	42%	29%
Illegal	48%	47%	58%
Not sure	11%	11%	13%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	37%	38%	29%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	27%	26%	35%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	32%	33%	31%
Not sure	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Baucus Approval					
Approve	42%	46%	46%	41%	35%
Disapprove	46%	32%	43%	50%	52%
Not sure	12%	21%	11%	9%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Schweitzer Approval					
Approve	52%	46%	55%	51%	53%
Disapprove	36%	25%	36%	38%	38%
Not sure	12%	29%	8%	11%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2014 Baucus/Schweitzer Sen Primary					
Max Baucus	37%	32%	31%	40%	40%
Brian Schweitzer	48%	41%	46%	50%	51%
Not sure	15%	27%	23%	10%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Schweitzer or GOP Opponent, Pres 2016					
Brian Schweitzer	42%	42%	48%	40%	34%
Republican opponent	38%	30%	31%	41%	46%
Not sure	21%	28%	21%	19%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should Schweitzer Run in 2016?					
He should run	26%	35%	31%	21%	20%
He should not	55%	38%	50%	63%	60%
Not sure	19%	27%	19%	16%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal					
Legal	41%	57%	46%	39%	26%
Illegal	48%	33%	44%	51%	59%
Not sure	11%	10%	10%	10%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	37%	52%	41%	35%	24%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	27%	16%	28%	29%	29%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	32%	30%	26%	34%	41%
Not sure	4%	2%	5%	3%	5%

