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Obama drops, Tester steady in Montana

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP's newest Montana poll finds a steep drop for Barack Obama in the state compared to a month ago. He now trails Mitt Romney by 11 points, 52-41. Previously he had been behind by only 5 points at 50-45.

Montanans have really warmed up to Mitt Romney in the last month. 52% of voters have a favorable opinion of him to 44% with a negative one. That's up a net 9 points from last month when was at a -1 spread (47/48). At the same time Obama's already poor approval numbers have sunk even further. He was already at a 44/54 approval spread last month and that has declined further to 40% now with 56% of voters disapproving of him.

When Gary Johnson is included in the poll he gets 6% with Romney leading Obama 50-40. That's consistent with our general finding that Johnson doesn't pull too disproportionately from either Obama or Romney and is thus unlikely to play a spoiler effect in the contest.

The good news for Democrats is that even as Obama's standing has deteriorated in the last month, Jon Tester's has remained unchanged. Last month we found him leading Denny Rehberg 45-43 with Libertarian Dan Cox at 8% and this month we find the exact same numbers for all three candidates. Tester leads thanks to a 45-36 lead with independents and because he's taking 88% of the Democratic vote while only 78% of Republicans stand behind Rehberg.

Montanans aren't thrilled with the job Tester is doing. 42% approve while 50% disapprove. The reason he has a slight advantage at this point is that they like Rehberg even less. He has only a 41% approval rating with 52% of voters disapproving of him.

“Barack Obama’s likely to lose big in Montana this fall but so far Jon Tester’s hanging on,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “It’s important for Tester that the Libertarian candidate hold on to his current level of support.”

PPP surveyed 737 likely Montana voters from October 8th to 10th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.6% This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



Montana Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 40%
Disapprove..... 56%
Not sure 4%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 52%
Unfavorable 44%
Not sure 4%

Q3 The candidates for President are Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 41%
Mitt Romney..... 52%
Undecided..... 6%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Gary Johnson?

Favorable..... 5%
Unfavorable 12%
Not sure 83%

Q5 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama, Republican Mitt Romney, and Libertarian Gary Johnson, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 40%
Mitt Romney..... 50%
Gary Johnson 6%
Undecided..... 4%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jon Tester's job performance?

Approve 42% Not sure 8%
Disapprove..... 50%

Q7 Do you approve or disapprove of Congressman Denny Rehberg's job performance?

Approve 41% Not sure 8%
Disapprove..... 52%

Q8 The candidates for US Senate are Democrat Jon Tester, Republican Denny Rehberg, and Libertarian Dan Cox. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Jon Tester..... 45%
Denny Rehberg..... 43%
Dan Cox..... 8%
Undecided..... 4%

Q9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Steve Daines?

Favorable..... 30%
Unfavorable 20%
Not sure 50%

Q10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Kim Gillan?

Favorable..... 24%
Unfavorable 26%
Not sure 50%

Q11 The candidates for Congress are Democrat Kim Gillan, Republican Steve Daines, and Libertarian Dave Kaiser. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Kim Gillan 34%
Steve Daines 43%
Dave Kaiser 10%
Undecided..... 12%





Q12 Do you think the Bureau of Labor Statistics is manipulating the unemployment numbers to help Barack Obama, or not?

It is.....45% *Not sure*.....11%
It is not.....44%

Q13 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 10%
Somewhat liberal 15%
Moderate.....28%
Somewhat conservative.....26%
Very conservative20%

Q14 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man.....48%

Q15 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..... 29%
Republican..... 36%
Independent/Other..... 35%

Q16 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 89%
Other..... 11%

Q17 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..... 15%
30 to 45..... 24%
46 to 65..... 41%
Older than 65..... 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	40%	65%	90%	56%	15%	0%
Disapprove	56%	31%	6%	35%	83%	100%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	9%	2%	-

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	52%	24%	5%	31%	81%	92%
Unfavorable	44%	76%	94%	62%	15%	3%
Not sure	4%	-	1%	7%	5%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	41%	77%	91%	59%	11%	-
Mitt Romney	52%	14%	6%	30%	84%	98%
Undecided	6%	9%	4%	11%	4%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Johnson Favorability						
Favorable	5%	8%	3%	6%	4%	4%
Unfavorable	12%	14%	12%	13%	14%	8%
Not sure	83%	77%	86%	81%	82%	88%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney/Johnson						
Barack Obama	40%	69%	88%	59%	10%	-
Mitt Romney	50%	12%	8%	29%	79%	93%
Gary Johnson	6%	16%	4%	5%	5%	6%
Undecided	4%	3%	-	7%	6%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Tester Approval						
Approve	42%	67%	88%	61%	16%	2%
Disapprove	50%	27%	5%	29%	77%	91%
Not sure	8%	5%	7%	10%	7%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Rehberg Approval						
Approve	41%	27%	3%	23%	61%	75%
Disapprove	52%	70%	92%	69%	32%	13%
Not sure	8%	3%	5%	8%	8%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Tester/Rehberg/Cox						
Jon Tester	45%	78%	94%	62%	17%	2%
Denny Rehberg	43%	16%	3%	25%	67%	82%
Dan Cox	8%	5%	3%	8%	11%	11%
Undecided	4%	-	-	5%	5%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Daines Favorability						
Favorable	30%	12%	4%	24%	45%	46%
Unfavorable	20%	40%	38%	28%	7%	4%
Not sure	50%	48%	58%	48%	48%	49%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gillan Favorability						
Favorable	24%	44%	42%	34%	12%	-
Unfavorable	26%	12%	6%	18%	35%	46%
Not sure	50%	44%	52%	47%	53%	54%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gillan/Daines/Kaiser						
Kim Gillan	34%	59%	69%	53%	10%	1%
Steve Daines	43%	18%	3%	23%	67%	84%
Dave Kaiser	10%	14%	15%	10%	6%	10%
Undecided	12%	9%	13%	14%	18%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Is BLS Manipulating Data to Help Obama?						
It is	45%	26%	7%	29%	61%	82%
It is not	44%	69%	87%	61%	22%	7%
Not sure	11%	5%	6%	10%	17%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	40%	42%	38%
Disapprove	56%	54%	57%
Not sure	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	52%	49%	54%
Unfavorable	44%	46%	42%
Not sure	4%	5%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	41%	44%	38%
Mitt Romney	52%	52%	53%
Undecided	6%	4%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Johnson Favorability			
Favorable	5%	2%	8%
Unfavorable	12%	11%	14%
Not sure	83%	87%	79%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney/Johnson			
Barack Obama	40%	43%	36%
Mitt Romney	50%	51%	50%
Gary Johnson	6%	3%	9%
Undecided	4%	3%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Tester Approval			
Approve	42%	45%	39%
Disapprove	50%	46%	55%
Not sure	8%	9%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rehberg Approval			
Approve	41%	38%	43%
Disapprove	52%	52%	51%
Not sure	8%	10%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Tester/Rehberg/Cox			
Jon Tester	45%	48%	41%
Denny Rehberg	43%	42%	45%
Dan Cox	8%	6%	11%
Undecided	4%	4%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Daines Favorability			
Favorable	30%	27%	33%
Unfavorable	20%	19%	22%
Not sure	50%	53%	46%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gillan Favorability			
Favorable	24%	27%	21%
Unfavorable	26%	21%	31%
Not sure	50%	52%	49%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gillan/Daines/Kaiser			
Kim Gillan	34%	37%	31%
Steve Daines	43%	41%	45%
Dave Kaiser	10%	6%	15%
Undecided	12%	15%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Is BLS Manipulating Data to Help Obama?			
It is	45%	39%	50%
It is not	44%	46%	41%
Not sure	11%	14%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	40%	85%	4%	40%
Disapprove	56%	11%	96%	52%
Not sure	4%	4%	1%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	52%	10%	89%	49%
Unfavorable	44%	89%	8%	43%
Not sure	4%	2%	3%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	41%	88%	5%	39%
Mitt Romney	52%	9%	93%	48%
Undecided	6%	3%	2%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Johnson Favorability				
Favorable	5%	4%	3%	8%
Unfavorable	12%	15%	12%	10%
Not sure	83%	81%	85%	82%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney/Johnson				
Barack Obama	40%	86%	3%	39%
Mitt Romney	50%	10%	90%	44%
Gary Johnson	6%	3%	5%	10%
Undecided	4%	2%	2%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Tester Approval				
Approve	42%	82%	7%	44%
Disapprove	50%	10%	86%	47%
Not sure	8%	7%	7%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rehberg Approval				
Approve	41%	10%	74%	32%
Disapprove	52%	88%	17%	56%
Not sure	8%	3%	8%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Tester/Rehberg/Cox				
Jon Tester	45%	88%	9%	45%
Denny Rehberg	43%	10%	78%	36%
Dan Cox	8%	1%	8%	15%
Undecided	4%	1%	5%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Daines Favorability				
Favorable	30%	10%	45%	31%
Unfavorable	20%	38%	5%	21%
Not sure	50%	52%	50%	48%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gillan Favorability				
Favorable	24%	44%	6%	26%
Unfavorable	26%	8%	38%	28%
Not sure	50%	48%	56%	47%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gillan/Daines/Kaiser				
Kim Gillan	34%	73%	3%	33%
Steve Daines	43%	7%	80%	36%
Dave Kaiser	10%	9%	5%	16%
Undecided	12%	11%	11%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Is BLS Manipulating Data to Help Obama?				
It is	45%	13%	74%	40%
It is not	44%	78%	10%	52%
Not sure	11%	9%	16%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	40%	40%	42%
Disapprove	56%	56%	52%
Not sure	4%	4%	6%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	52%	53%	41%
Unfavorable	44%	43%	54%
Not sure	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	41%	41%	48%
Mitt Romney	52%	55%	34%
Undecided	6%	5%	17%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Johnson Favorability			
Favorable	5%	5%	6%
Unfavorable	12%	11%	25%
Not sure	83%	85%	69%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney/Johnson			
Barack Obama	40%	40%	40%
Mitt Romney	50%	52%	35%
Gary Johnson	6%	5%	15%
Undecided	4%	3%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Tester Approval			
Approve	42%	42%	42%
Disapprove	50%	51%	44%
Not sure	8%	7%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rehberg Approval			
Approve	41%	40%	41%
Disapprove	52%	51%	54%
Not sure	8%	8%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Tester/Rehberg/Cox			
Jon Tester	45%	45%	44%
Denny Rehberg	43%	44%	37%
Dan Cox	8%	8%	13%
Undecided	4%	4%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Daines Favorability			
Favorable	30%	31%	19%
Unfavorable	20%	20%	26%
Not sure	50%	49%	55%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gillan Favorability			
Favorable	24%	24%	25%
Unfavorable	26%	26%	23%
Not sure	50%	50%	52%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gillan/Daines/Kaiser			
Kim Gillan	34%	35%	31%
Steve Daines	43%	45%	30%
Dave Kaiser	10%	9%	24%
Undecided	12%	12%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Is BLS Manipulating Data to Help Obama?			
It is	45%	45%	47%
It is not	44%	44%	43%
Not sure	11%	11%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	40%	47%	36%	38%	45%
Disapprove	56%	47%	57%	59%	53%
Not sure	4%	5%	7%	3%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	52%	37%	52%	58%	51%
Unfavorable	44%	61%	42%	39%	45%
Not sure	4%	3%	7%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	41%	54%	38%	37%	45%
Mitt Romney	52%	30%	55%	59%	53%
Undecided	6%	16%	7%	4%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Johnson Favorability					
Favorable	5%	5%	3%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	12%	18%	11%	11%	10%
Not sure	83%	76%	85%	83%	84%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney/Johnson					
Barack Obama	40%	47%	36%	36%	44%
Mitt Romney	50%	29%	51%	57%	52%
Gary Johnson	6%	16%	8%	4%	2%
Undecided	4%	8%	5%	3%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Tester Approval					
Approve	42%	45%	42%	40%	45%
Disapprove	50%	34%	53%	56%	47%
Not sure	8%	21%	6%	4%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rehberg Approval					
Approve	41%	29%	40%	44%	43%
Disapprove	52%	61%	49%	50%	52%
Not sure	8%	11%	10%	7%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Tester/Rehberg/Cox					
Jon Tester	45%	61%	39%	40%	48%
Denny Rehberg	43%	29%	40%	49%	45%
Dan Cox	8%	8%	13%	8%	4%
Undecided	4%	3%	7%	3%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Daines Favorability					
Favorable	30%	29%	22%	34%	32%
Unfavorable	20%	18%	13%	22%	28%
Not sure	50%	53%	64%	45%	40%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gillan Favorability					
Favorable	24%	24%	18%	26%	27%
Unfavorable	26%	24%	20%	30%	25%
Not sure	50%	53%	62%	45%	47%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gillan/Daines/Kaiser					
Kim Gillan	34%	38%	29%	33%	40%
Steve Daines	43%	32%	38%	49%	44%
Dave Kaiser	10%	19%	15%	7%	4%
Undecided	12%	11%	18%	10%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Is BLS Manipulating Data to Help Obama?					
It is	45%	35%	43%	50%	43%
It is not	44%	54%	41%	41%	45%
Not sure	11%	12%	16%	8%	12%

