

INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

MT GOP narrowly favors Racicot for Sen., Palin for Pres.

Raleigh, N.C. – Former Governor Marc Racicot and former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin are preferred by Montana’s Republican primary voters to lead the ticket in 2012, but by the thinnest of margins over Denny Rehberg and Mike Huckabee.

Racicot is not currently in the picture, but is certainly a heavy hitter who could raise a lot of money if he decides to get back into elective politics by challenging Jon Tester for Senate. He gets the support of 40% when his party’s voters are asked who they would prefer as their Senate nominee. Close behind is more likely candidate Denny Rehberg, at 37%. No one else, including likely contenders Neil Livingstone and Steve Daines, gets more than 5%. Rehberg is actually better known and much better liked, with a 75-14 favorability rating to Racicot’s not-too-shabby 58-12. The two men split the 74% who call themselves conservative, with Rehberg at 39% to Racicot at 38%. But Racicot pulls ahead with his 49-30 edge with the 24% share of moderates.

When it comes to the presidential race, Republicans are now ready to select perhaps their least electable choice to face the president. Palin has enormous favor with her base, but as yesterday’s release shows, she is in the basement with Democrats and independents, and therefore leads President Obama by only two points in this heavily Republican state. She now pulls 23% in the primary, but breathing down her neck is Huckabee at 22%. Huckabee is much better liked across the aisle, and would put Montana’s three electoral votes out of reach for Obama. Following the two leaders are Newt Gingrich at 16% and a candidate almost as electable as Huckabee, Mitt Romney, at only 12%, barely ahead of Ron Paul’s 9%. John Thune, from bordering South Dakota, Tim Pawlenty, and Mitch Daniels get support in the low single digits, and 10% are either undecided or prefer someone unnamed. Unlike in other states, Palin actually has a wide lead with moderates, and only 10% of them prefer Romney, who usually cleans up with centrists.

“Sarah Palin and Mike Huckabee are racking up Republican support in a lot of rural, blue-collar red and swing states, but the only one of the two who has crossover appeal and gives President Obama a run for his money is Huckabee,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 545 usual Montana Republican primary voters from November 10th to 13th. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Montana Survey Results

Q1 Generally speaking, do you vote in Democratic or Republican primaries?

Democratic primaries 0%
Republican primaries 100%
Don't usually vote in primaries 0%

Q2 Between Denny Rehberg, Steve Daines, Neil Livingstone, and Marc Racicot who would you most like to see as the Republican Senate nominee in 2012?

Denny Rehberg 37%
Steve Daines 5%
Neil Livingstone 4%
Marc Racicot 40%
Someone else 3%
Not sure 11%

Q3 If the Republican candidates for President in 2012 were Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and John Thune who would you vote for?

Mitch Daniels 2%
Newt Gingrich 16%
Mike Huckabee 22%
Sarah Palin 23%
Ron Paul 9%
Tim Pawlenty 3%
Mitt Romney 12%
John Thune 3%
Someone else/Undecided 10%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable 58% *Not sure* 21%
Unfavorable 21%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

Favorable 71% *Not sure* 13%
Unfavorable 16%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable 76% *Not sure* 6%
Unfavorable 18%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable 58% *Not sure* 19%
Unfavorable 24%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Denny Rehberg?

Favorable 75% *Not sure* 11%
Unfavorable 14%

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

Favorable 10% *Not sure* 77%
Unfavorable 14%

Q10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Neil Livingstone?

Favorable 4% *Not sure* 88%
Unfavorable 8%

Q11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Marc Racicot?

Favorable 58% *Not sure* 30%
Unfavorable 12%

Q12 If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal 2%
Moderate 24%
Conservative 74%





Q13 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q14 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..... 10%
30 to 45..... 29%
46 to 65..... 37%
Older than 65..... 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Primary Vote				
Republican primaries	100%	100%	100%	100%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Sen Nom Preference				
Denny Rehberg	37%	48%	30%	39%
Steve Daines	5%	6%	6%	4%
Neil Livingstone	4%	-	3%	4%
Marc Racicot	40%	17%	49%	38%
Someone else	3%	6%	6%	2%
Not sure	11%	23%	5%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Mitch Daniels	2%	-	2%	2%
Newt Gingrich	16%	11%	15%	17%
Mike Huckabee	22%	12%	18%	23%
Sarah Palin	23%	12%	25%	22%
Ron Paul	9%	18%	12%	7%
Tim Pawlenty	3%	29%	3%	3%
Mitt Romney	12%	6%	10%	13%
John Thune	3%	-	2%	3%
Someone else/Undecided	10%	12%	12%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	58%	35%	43%	63%
Unfavorable	21%	47%	32%	17%
Not sure	21%	18%	26%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	71%	53%	61%	75%
Unfavorable	16%	12%	21%	15%
Not sure	13%	35%	18%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	76%	88%	57%	81%
Unfavorable	18%	12%	37%	12%
Not sure	6%	-	5%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	58%	53%	49%	61%
Unfavorable	24%	23%	33%	21%
Not sure	19%	24%	18%	19%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Rehberg Favorability				
Favorable	75%	59%	66%	78%
Unfavorable	14%	12%	23%	12%
Not sure	11%	29%	11%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Daines Favorability				
Favorable	10%	6%	8%	11%
Unfavorable	14%	18%	21%	11%
Not sure	77%	76%	72%	78%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Livingstone Favorability				
Favorable	4%	6%	5%	4%
Unfavorable	8%	6%	16%	6%
Not sure	88%	88%	79%	91%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Racicot Favorability				
Favorable	58%	41%	66%	56%
Unfavorable	12%	24%	15%	11%
Not sure	30%	35%	19%	33%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Primary Vote			
Republican primaries	100%	100%	100%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Sen Nom Preference			
Denny Rehberg	37%	42%	32%
Steve Daines	5%	2%	8%
Neil Livingstone	4%	3%	5%
Marc Racicot	40%	37%	44%
Someone else	3%	4%	3%
Not sure	11%	13%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Mitch Daniels	2%	1%	2%
Newt Gingrich	16%	15%	17%
Mike Huckabee	22%	25%	18%
Sarah Palin	23%	22%	24%
Ron Paul	9%	9%	9%
Tim Pawlenty	3%	3%	4%
Mitt Romney	12%	13%	12%
John Thune	3%	2%	3%
Someone else/Undecided	10%	10%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	58%	54%	62%
Unfavorable	21%	22%	21%
Not sure	21%	24%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	71%	67%	76%
Unfavorable	16%	16%	16%
Not sure	13%	17%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	76%	74%	77%
Unfavorable	18%	19%	17%
Not sure	6%	7%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	58%	56%	59%
Unfavorable	24%	21%	26%
Not sure	19%	22%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rehberg Favorability			
Favorable	75%	75%	75%
Unfavorable	14%	15%	13%
Not sure	11%	10%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Daines Favorability			
Favorable	10%	9%	11%
Unfavorable	14%	11%	16%
Not sure	77%	80%	73%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Livingstone Favorability			
Favorable	4%	4%	4%
Unfavorable	8%	5%	12%
Not sure	88%	91%	84%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Racicot Favorability			
Favorable	58%	56%	60%
Unfavorable	12%	9%	16%
Not sure	30%	35%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Primary Vote					
Republican primaries	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Sen Nom Preference					
Denny Rehberg	37%	33%	30%	37%	46%
Steve Daines	5%	5%	3%	6%	6%
Neil Livingstone	4%	-	4%	4%	4%
Marc Racicot	40%	43%	47%	42%	30%
Someone else	3%	5%	1%	3%	6%
Not sure	11%	14%	15%	8%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Mitch Daniels	2%	-	3%	1%	2%
Newt Gingrich	16%	5%	16%	15%	22%
Mike Huckabee	22%	29%	21%	21%	21%
Sarah Palin	23%	10%	26%	27%	18%
Ron Paul	9%	10%	15%	7%	4%
Tim Pawlenty	3%	5%	1%	4%	4%
Mitt Romney	12%	24%	10%	11%	14%
John Thune	3%	5%	1%	3%	2%
Someone else/Undecided	10%	14%	7%	11%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	58%	43%	48%	59%	73%
Unfavorable	21%	19%	29%	22%	13%
Not sure	21%	38%	23%	19%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	71%	71%	63%	70%	81%
Unfavorable	16%	14%	21%	17%	10%
Not sure	13%	14%	16%	12%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	76%	81%	77%	76%	72%
Unfavorable	18%	19%	18%	18%	18%
Not sure	6%	-	5%	6%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	58%	62%	52%	56%	64%
Unfavorable	24%	24%	26%	24%	20%
Not sure	19%	14%	22%	19%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rehberg Favorability					
Favorable	75%	52%	75%	76%	83%
Unfavorable	14%	33%	12%	13%	10%
Not sure	11%	14%	12%	11%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Daines Favorability					
Favorable	10%	19%	4%	11%	12%
Unfavorable	14%	14%	14%	12%	15%
Not sure	77%	67%	82%	77%	73%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Livingstone Favorability					
Favorable	4%	5%	3%	4%	6%
Unfavorable	8%	-	5%	10%	12%
Not sure	88%	95%	92%	86%	82%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Racicot Favorability					
Favorable	58%	71%	53%	63%	52%
Unfavorable	12%	5%	8%	13%	19%
Not sure	30%	24%	38%	24%	30%

