

**INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312****IF YOU HAVE BASIC METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL [information@publicpolicypolling.com](mailto:information@publicpolicypolling.com), OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

## **Tester holds small lead in Montana Senate race**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – PPP's newest poll of the Montana Senate race finds Jon Tester with a small lead over Denny Rehberg, 45-43. Libertarian Dan Cox is polling at 8%, and 3% of voters remain undecided. This is the second survey in a row where we have found Tester with the lead. In late April he was up 48-43.

Montana voters aren't actually happy with the job Tester's doing. The negative ads have taken a toll and only 46% of voters approve of him to 48% who disapprove. But Rehberg's even more unpopular with just 42% of voters happy with the job he's doing in the House to 52% who disapprove. This is the third Senate race in the last two weeks, along with Ohio and Florida, where we've found both candidates under water. That's just the new reality with the amount of outside spending being done on negative ads.

Both candidates have their party base pretty much locked up- Tester's winning 89% of Democrats and Rehberg has 88% of Republicans behind him. Tipping the balance to Tester overall is a 41-33 advantage with independents.

“We’ve polled the Montana Senate race five times and the candidates have been within two points of each other on four out of those five polls,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “It couldn’t be much more of a toss up.”

Mitt Romney's the clear favorite in the Presidential race, although perhaps not by as large a margin as you would expect. He leads Barack Obama 50-45, a 5 point lead unchanged from our last poll of the state in May. Obama is quite unpopular in Montana, with only 44% of voters approving of him to 54% who disapprove. But Romney doesn't lead by a wider margin because he isn't very popular in his own right either- 47% of voters rate him favorably to 48% with a negative opinion.

The race for Montana's open House seat looks like a toss up. Republican Steve Daines has a narrow edge over Democratic opponent Kim Gillan, 40-37, with Libertarian Dave Kaiser at 9%. Gillan has gained 3 points on Daines since our last poll of the race in the spring.

PPP surveyed 656 likely Montana voters on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11th. The margin of error for the overall survey is +/-3.8%. 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* ..... 44%  
*Disapprove*..... 54%  
*Not sure* ..... 2%

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

*Favorable*..... 47%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 48%  
*Not sure* ..... 6%

**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*..... 45%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 50%  
*Undecided*..... 5%

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

*Favorable*..... 9%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 13%  
*Not sure* ..... 78%

**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*..... 43%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 46%  
*Gary Johnson* ..... 7%  
*Undecided*..... 5%

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

*Approve* .....46% *Not sure* ..... 6%  
*Disapprove*.....48%

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

*Approve* .....42% *Not sure* ..... 7%  
*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*..... 3%

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

*Favorable*..... 22%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 22%  
*Not sure* ..... 56%

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

*Favorable*..... 22%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 19%  
*Not sure* ..... 59%

**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* ..... 37%  
*Steve Daines* ..... 40%  
*Dave Kaiser* ..... 9%  
*Undecided*..... 15%





**Q12** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i> .....	13%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i> .....	13%
<i>Moderate</i> .....	28%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i> .....	24%
<i>Very conservative</i> .....	21%

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

<i>Woman</i> .....	52%
<i>Man</i> .....	48%

**Q14** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i> .....	33%
<i>Republican</i> .....	34%
<i>Independent/Other</i> .....	33%

**Q15** If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

<i>White</i> .....	88%
<i>Other</i> .....	12%

**Q16** 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.

<i>18 to 29</i> .....	14%
<i>30 to 45</i> .....	30%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	34%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	22%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>						
Approve	44%	90%	91%	60%	8%	5%
Disapprove	54%	10%	8%	36%	88%	95%
Not sure	2%	-	1%	4%	4%	-

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>M. Romney Favorability</b>						
Favorable	47%	9%	8%	27%	76%	85%
Unfavorable	48%	87%	87%	65%	17%	12%
Not sure	6%	4%	5%	9%	7%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Romney</b>						
Barack Obama	45%	89%	92%	64%	9%	6%
Mitt Romney	50%	7%	7%	31%	83%	89%
Undecided	5%	5%	1%	5%	7%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Johnson Favorability</b>						
Favorable	9%	6%	6%	11%	9%	9%
Unfavorable	13%	8%	9%	17%	13%	15%
Not sure	78%	87%	85%	73%	78%	76%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Romney/Johnson</b>						
Barack Obama	43%	87%	91%	59%	9%	4%
Mitt Romney	46%	5%	6%	26%	79%	82%
Gary Johnson	7%	2%	2%	8%	8%	10%
Undecided	5%	6%	1%	6%	5%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Tester Approval</b>						
Approve	46%	86%	89%	67%	12%	9%
Disapprove	48%	14%	7%	26%	75%	90%
Not sure	6%	-	4%	7%	13%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Rehberg Approval</b>						
Approve	42%	12%	4%	20%	70%	80%
Disapprove	52%	84%	91%	71%	21%	16%
Not sure	7%	4%	4%	9%	9%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Tester/Rehberg/Cox</b>						
Jon Tester	45%	86%	86%	65%	12%	7%
Denny Rehberg	43%	5%	8%	22%	77%	79%
Dan Cox	8%	5%	5%	8%	8%	11%
Undecided	3%	5%	2%	5%	3%	2%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Daines Favorability</b>						
Favorable	22%	12%	3%	14%	30%	40%
Unfavorable	22%	29%	39%	32%	5%	12%
Not sure	56%	59%	58%	53%	65%	48%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Gillan Favorability</b>						
Favorable	22%	42%	38%	35%	6%	3%
Unfavorable	19%	9%	8%	11%	24%	36%
Not sure	59%	49%	54%	54%	70%	62%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Gillan/Daines/Kaiser</b>						
Kim Gillan	37%	77%	75%	48%	9%	5%
Steve Daines	40%	5%	9%	16%	64%	83%
Dave Kaiser	9%	8%	8%	11%	7%	9%
Undecided	15%	10%	8%	26%	20%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
Approve	44%	44%	43%
Disapprove	54%	54%	54%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>M. Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	47%	47%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	48%	47%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	6%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	45%	47%	44%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	50%	50%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	5%	4%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Johnson Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	9%	4%	13%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	13%	11%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	78%	85%	71%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Romney/Johnson</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	43%	44%	42%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	46%	47%	44%
<b>Gary Johnson</b>	7%	4%	10%
<b>Undecided</b>	5%	5%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Tester Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	46%	46%	47%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	47%	49%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	8%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Rehberg Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	42%	41%	43%
<b>Disapprove</b>	52%	49%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	10%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Tester/Rehberg/Cox</b>			
<b>Jon Tester</b>	45%	47%	43%
<b>Denny Rehberg</b>	43%	42%	45%
<b>Dan Cox</b>	8%	6%	10%
<b>Undecided</b>	3%	5%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Daines Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	20%	24%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	19%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	56%	61%	52%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gillan Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	20%	25%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	19%	17%	21%
<b>Not sure</b>	59%	64%	54%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gillan/Daines/Kaiser</b>			
<b>Kim Gillan</b>	37%	37%	37%
<b>Steve Daines</b>	40%	36%	43%
<b>Dave Kaiser</b>	9%	9%	8%
<b>Undecided</b>	15%	18%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	44%	88%	4%	39%
<b>Disapprove</b>	54%	10%	94%	58%
<b>Not sure</b>	2%	2%	2%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>M. Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	47%	10%	87%	42%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	48%	85%	6%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	5%	7%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	45%	91%	3%	42%
Mitt Romney	50%	9%	94%	45%
Undecided	5%	0%	2%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Johnson Favorability</b>				
Favorable	9%	7%	6%	13%
Unfavorable	13%	11%	13%	16%
Not sure	78%	83%	81%	70%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Romney/Johnson</b>				
Barack Obama	43%	89%	2%	38%
Mitt Romney	46%	9%	91%	36%
Gary Johnson	7%	0%	6%	14%
Undecided	5%	2%	1%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Tester Approval</b>				
Approve	46%	85%	9%	46%
Disapprove	48%	13%	81%	48%
Not sure	6%	3%	9%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Rehberg Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	42%	11%	82%	32%
<b>Disapprove</b>	52%	84%	11%	60%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	5%	7%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Tester/Rehberg/Cox</b>				
<b>Jon Tester</b>	45%	89%	6%	41%
<b>Denny Rehberg</b>	43%	8%	88%	33%
<b>Dan Cox</b>	8%	3%	4%	18%
<b>Undecided</b>	3%	1%	2%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Daines Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	10%	37%	18%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	31%	8%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	56%	59%	55%	56%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gillan Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	38%	4%	24%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	19%	10%	30%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	59%	52%	66%	59%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gillan/Daines/Kaiser</b>				
<b>Kim Gillan</b>	37%	74%	3%	33%
<b>Steve Daines</b>	40%	7%	82%	30%
<b>Dave Kaiser</b>	9%	6%	4%	16%
<b>Undecided</b>	15%	14%	11%	21%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	44%	42%	57%
<b>Disapprove</b>	54%	55%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	2%	3%	-

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>M. Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	47%	48%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	48%	46%	60%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	6%	6%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	45%	44%	57%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	50%	52%	34%
<b>Undecided</b>	5%	4%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Johnson Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	9%	8%	14%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	13%	12%	19%
<b>Not sure</b>	78%	80%	66%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama/Romney/Johnson</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	43%	41%	57%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	46%	47%	34%
<b>Gary Johnson</b>	7%	6%	10%
<b>Undecided</b>	5%	5%	-

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Tester Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	46%	45%	56%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	49%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	6%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Rehberg Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	42%	44%	29%
<b>Disapprove</b>	52%	49%	67%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	7%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Tester/Rehberg/Cox</b>			
<b>Jon Tester</b>	45%	44%	56%
<b>Denny Rehberg</b>	43%	46%	26%
<b>Dan Cox</b>	8%	7%	12%
<b>Undecided</b>	3%	3%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Daines Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	21%	31%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	22%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	56%	58%	48%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Gillan Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	21%	32%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	19%	18%	23%
<b>Not sure</b>	59%	61%	45%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Gillan/Daines/Kaiser</b>			
<b>Kim Gillan</b>	37%	34%	53%
<b>Steve Daines</b>	40%	40%	33%
<b>Dave Kaiser</b>	9%	9%	9%
<b>Undecided</b>	15%	17%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	44%	57%	39%	43%	43%
<b>Disapprove</b>	54%	43%	59%	54%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	2%	-	2%	3%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>M. Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	47%	35%	48%	46%	51%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	48%	62%	45%	47%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	3%	6%	7%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Romney</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	45%	57%	42%	45%	42%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	50%	41%	50%	50%	55%
<b>Undecided</b>	5%	3%	8%	5%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Johnson Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	9%	8%	15%	5%	6%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	13%	24%	8%	13%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	78%	68%	77%	82%	80%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Romney/Johnson</b>					
Barack Obama	43%	54%	38%	44%	41%
Mitt Romney	46%	38%	42%	48%	52%
Gary Johnson	7%	3%	14%	5%	4%
Undecided	5%	5%	6%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Tester Approval</b>					
Approve	46%	57%	42%	47%	44%
Disapprove	48%	35%	50%	50%	48%
Not sure	6%	8%	8%	2%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Rehberg Approval</b>					
Approve	42%	38%	41%	41%	46%
Disapprove	52%	51%	52%	55%	47%
Not sure	7%	11%	8%	4%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Tester/Rehberg/Cox</b>					
Jon Tester	45%	62%	35%	49%	43%
Denny Rehberg	43%	32%	47%	41%	49%
Dan Cox	8%	-	17%	6%	3%
Undecided	3%	5%	2%	4%	4%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Daines Favorability</b>					
Favorable	22%	8%	25%	22%	26%
Unfavorable	22%	22%	17%	24%	23%
Not sure	56%	69%	58%	54%	51%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gillan Favorability</b>					
Favorable	22%	11%	22%	25%	25%
Unfavorable	19%	19%	20%	19%	17%
Not sure	59%	69%	58%	56%	57%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gillan/Daines/Kaiser</b>					
Kim Gillan	37%	41%	35%	37%	37%
Steve Daines	40%	32%	38%	41%	44%
Dave Kaiser	9%	11%	11%	9%	5%
Undecided	15%	16%	17%	14%	15%

