

# Pharos Research Group

## **Montana Polling Report**

**10/26/12-10/28/12**



## Analysis

Pharos Research Group did a live call poll of 799 likely voters in Montana from October 26, 2012 through October 28, 2012. The breakdown was 384 men, 415 women, representing a 48%/52% split. There were 246 self-identified Democrats, 343 self-identified Republicans and 210 Independents representing a 31/43/26 split.

The numbers read like this: in the general election for President, 43% of respondents indicated an intention to vote for President Barack Obama, while 50% indicated a preference for Republican nominee Willard "Mitt" Romney.

In the United States Senate race, 48.2% prefer the incumbent Democratic Jon Tester, while 46.5% chose Republican nominee, Congressman Dennis Rehberg.

In the state's open house race, Republican businessman Steven Daines leads Democratic State Senator Kim Gillan 52%-45%, while in the open Governor's race, incumbent Attorney General Steve Bullock leads former Republican congressman Rick Hill, 47%-44%.

Compared to the previous two Montana polls, we see a widening lead for the challenger in the Presidential race. While the widening lead is incremental it is now outside of the margin of error. Barring an unforeseen development, Romney should carry the state comfortably in a week.

In the Senate race, the race remains very close, and inside of the margin of error. We see a persistent small lead for the Democrat, Tester, which is a little wider than the previous week. However, the nature of the electorate, Tester's narrow win in a very Democratic year (2006), and the nature of the race against a well known and reasonably well liked seven term incumbent Congressman, suggest that the race, which has tightened since our first survey four weeks ago, will remain tight right up to election day. It is a race that bears further watching.

In the House race, while we have been hesitant to label the race, Daines has put some separation between himself and Gillan and topped the 50% threshold for the first time in our polling. Given the atmospheric we think that while there is room for the race to tighten in the last week. We do expect, barring an unforeseen development, Daines will likely win the seat.

In the Governor's race, Bullock's lead, while inside of the margin of error, remains persistent. Again, given the slightly Republican flavor of the state, it is difficult to call this other than a toss-up, with a slight lean to the Democrats, and the race remains worth watching.

## REPORT

S3) CODE SEX 1= Female 2=Male

1= 415 52%

2= 384 48%

S4) Thinking of the last four general elections (the Presidential Elections in 2004 and 2008 and the Congressional Elections in 2006 and 2010), how many of those elections did you vote in?

CODE: ENTER NUMBER

2= 130 16%

3= 248 31%

4= 421 53%

S5) Are you registered as a Democrat or a Republican or are you an Independent?

CODE 1= Democrat, 2= Republican, 3= Independent

1= 246 31%

2= 343 43%

3= 210 26%

P1) Thinking about the election for President, if the election were held today would you vote for (rotate) Barack Obama or Mitt Romney? (Probe for undecided, ask lean)

CODE 1= Obama, 2= Romney, 3=Undecided/Other

1= 341 42.7%

2= 403 50.4%

3= 55 6.9%

P2) Thinking about the election for the US Senate, if the election were held today would you vote for (rotate) Jon Tester or Dennis Rehberg? (Probe once for undecided, ask lean)

CODE 1= Tester, 2= Rehberg, 3=Undecided/other

1= 385 48.2%

2= 372 46.6%

3= 42 5.2%

P3) Thinking about the Democratic nominee for President, Barack Obama, do you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of him?

CODE 1= Favorable, 2= Unfavorable

1= 348 43%

2= 430 54%

P4) Thinking about the Republican nominee for President, Mitt Romney, do you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of him?

CODE 1= Favorable, 2= Unfavorable

1= 420 53%

2= 365 46%

P5) Thinking about the Republican nominee for the US Senate, Dennis Rehberg, do you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of him?

CODE 1= Favorable, 2= Unfavorable

1=	416	52%
2=	292	37%

P6) Thinking about the Democratic nominee for the US Senate, Jon Tester, do you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of him?

CODE 1= Favorable, 2= Unfavorable

1=	460	58%
2=	308	39%

P7) In the election for the US House of Representatives, do you intend to vote for (rotate) Steven Daines or Kim Gillan?

CODE 1= Gillan, 2= Daines

1=	356	44.6%
2=	412	51.6%
3=	95	3.8%

P8) In the election for Governor, do you intend to vote for (rotate) Steve Bullock or Rick Hill?

CODE 1= Bullock, 2= Hill, 3=Undecided/Other

1=	376	47.1%
2=	355	44.4%
3=	68	8.5%

Particulars: 799 Likely Voters, live call, mixed landline/cell phone called between October 26, 2012 and October 28, 2012. Margin of Error +/- 3.5%