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Toss Ups in Several Montana Statewide Races

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP's new poll of the Montana Governor's race finds some momentum for Republican Rick Hill over the last month. He now holds the slightest of leads over Steve Bullock, 43-42. He had trailed 44-39 a month ago. Libertarian Ron Vandevender and independent Bill Coate are each polling at 4%.

Bullock remains a good deal more popular personally than Hill with 44% of voters rating him positively to 28% with a negative opinion. Hill's favorability has improved a net 3 points over the last month but that still leaves him under water at a 37/41 spread. The movement in this race over the last few weeks probably has more to do with the deterioration for Democrats in the state overall following Barack Obama's poor debate performance than anything to do with the candidates themselves.

Closeness is the name of the game in several of the other Montana statewide races as well. Democratic Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau leads Republican challenger Sandy Welch just 41-40. It's a similar story in the Secretary of State contest where Democrat Linda McCulloch is at 42% to 41% for Republican Brad Johnson and 8% for Libertarian Roger Roots.

There are two other races where there's a pretty clear leader right now. Republican Tim Fox has a 45-35 lead over Pam Bucy in the open seat race for Attorney General. And Democratic incumbent Monica Lindeen leads Republican challenger Derek Skees 44-37 for reelection as Auditor.

Montana's 'corporations are not people' amendment continues to lead for passage. 52% of voters say they will support it to 22% who are opposed. Democrats (71/12) and independents (59/17) overwhelmingly support it, while Republicans (28/35) are slightly opposed.

Brian Schweitzer has his usual solid approval numbers this month with 54% of voters approving of him to 36% who disapprove.

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 have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Steve Bullock?

Favorable..... 44%
Unfavorable 28%
Not sure 28%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Hill?

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 41%
Not sure 22%

Q3 The candidates for Governor are Democrat Steve Bullock, Republican Rick Hill, Libertarian Ron Vandevender, and independent Bill Coate. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Steve Bullock..... 42%
Rick Hill..... 43%
Ron Vandevender..... 4%
Bill Coate 4%
Undecided..... 7%

Q4 The candidates for Attorney General are Democrat Pam Bucy and Republican Tim Fox. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Pam Bucy 35%
Tim Fox..... 45%
Undecided..... 20%

Q5 The candidates for State Auditor are Democrat Monica Lindeen and Republican Derek Skees. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Monica Lindeen 44%
Derek Skees 37%
Undecided..... 19%

Q6 The candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction are Democrat Denise Juneau and Republican Sandy Welch. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Denise Juneau..... 41%
Sandy Welch..... 40%
Undecided..... 19%

Q7 The candidates for Secretary of State are Democrat Linda McCulloch, Republican Brad Johnson, and Libertarian Roger Roots. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Linda McCulloch 42%
Brad Johnson..... 41%
Roger Roots..... 8%
Undecided..... 9%





Q8 In 2004, Montana voters approved I-148, creating a medical marijuana program for patients with debilitating medical conditions. Senate Bill 423, passed by the 2011 Legislature, repeals I-148 and enacts a new medical marijuana program, which includes: permitting patients to grow marijuana or designate a provider; limiting each marijuana provider to three patients; prohibiting marijuana providers from accepting anything of value in exchange for services or products; granting local governments authority to regulate marijuana providers; establishing specific standards for demonstrating chronic pain; and reviewing the practices of doctors who certify marijuana use for 25 or more patients in a 12-month period. If SB 423 is affirmed by the voters, there will be no fiscal impact because the legislature has funded the costs of its implementation. If SB 423 is rejected by the voters, there may be a small savings to the State. If the election was today, would you vote for or against SB 423?

For 44%
Against..... 30%
Not sure 26%

Q9 Ballot initiative I-166 establishes a state policy that corporations are not entitled to constitutional rights because they are not human beings, and charges Montana elected and appointed officials, state and federal, to implement that policy. With this policy, the people of Montana establish that there should be a level playing field in campaign spending, in part by prohibiting corporate campaign contributions and expenditures and by limiting political spending in elections. Further, Montana’s congressional delegation is charged with proposing a joint resolution offering an amendment to the United States Constitution establishing that corporations are not human beings entitled to constitutional rights. If the election was today, would you vote for or against initiative 166?

For 52%
Against..... 22%
Not sure 26%





Q10 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Brian Schweitzer's job performance?

Approve54% *Not sure*10%
Disapprove.....36%

Q11 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Max Baucus' job performance?

Approve35% *Not sure*11%
Disapprove.....54%

Q12 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%

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

Woman 52%
Man..... 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.

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

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

White 89%
Other..... 11%

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.

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
Bullock Favorability						
Favorable	44%	63%	75%	62%	22%	11%
Unfavorable	28%	17%	4%	15%	42%	52%
Not sure	28%	20%	21%	23%	35%	37%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Hill Favorability						
Favorable	37%	15%	8%	21%	54%	69%
Unfavorable	41%	67%	71%	59%	20%	7%
Not sure	22%	18%	21%	20%	26%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bullock/Hill/Vandevender/Coate						
Steve Bullock	42%	67%	80%	62%	18%	4%
Rick Hill	43%	23%	5%	22%	64%	86%
Ron Vandevender	4%	3%	5%	5%	2%	6%
Bill Coate	4%	4%	5%	2%	6%	2%
Undecided	7%	3%	5%	9%	10%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bucy/Fox AG						
Pam Bucy	35%	55%	76%	50%	14%	1%
Tim Fox	45%	28%	4%	25%	66%	85%
Undecided	20%	17%	19%	25%	20%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Lindeen/Skees Auditor						
Monica Lindeen	44%	72%	83%	61%	24%	6%
Derek Skees	37%	17%	3%	18%	51%	78%
Undecided	19%	11%	14%	21%	24%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Juneau/Welch DPI						
Denise Juneau	41%	69%	75%	56%	24%	4%
Sandy Welch	40%	20%	5%	24%	53%	80%
Undecided	19%	11%	20%	20%	23%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCulloch/Johnson/Roots SOS						
Linda McCulloch	42%	69%	81%	60%	18%	5%
Brad Johnson	41%	14%	5%	23%	63%	78%
Roger Roots	8%	10%	4%	10%	8%	8%
Undecided	9%	6%	10%	7%	12%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
I-148						
For	44%	34%	39%	39%	45%	60%
Against	30%	41%	32%	35%	29%	17%
Not sure	26%	25%	29%	27%	25%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
I-166						
For	52%	57%	82%	65%	32%	33%
Against	22%	23%	3%	13%	36%	30%
Not sure	26%	20%	15%	22%	32%	37%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Schweitzer Approval						
Approve	54%	84%	95%	73%	31%	15%
Disapprove	36%	8%	1%	17%	58%	73%
Not sure	10%	9%	4%	10%	11%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Baucus Approval						
Approve	35%	56%	69%	51%	14%	6%
Disapprove	54%	30%	14%	40%	72%	90%
Not sure	11%	14%	16%	10%	15%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bullock Favorability			
Favorable	44%	46%	41%
Unfavorable	28%	23%	34%
Not sure	28%	32%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hill Favorability			
Favorable	37%	32%	41%
Unfavorable	41%	41%	41%
Not sure	22%	26%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bullock/Hill/Vandevender/Coate			
Steve Bullock	42%	45%	39%
Rick Hill	43%	39%	48%
Ron Vandevender	4%	3%	5%
Bill Coate	4%	4%	3%
Undecided	7%	9%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bucy/Fox AG			
Pam Bucy	35%	40%	30%
Tim Fox	45%	42%	49%
Undecided	20%	19%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Lindeen/Skees Auditor			
Monica Lindeen	44%	48%	41%
Derek Skees	37%	34%	40%
Undecided	19%	19%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Juneau/Welch DPI			
Denise Juneau	41%	47%	35%
Sandy Welch	40%	34%	45%
Undecided	19%	19%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCulloch/Johnson/ Roots SOS			
Linda McCulloch	42%	47%	36%
Brad Johnson	41%	38%	45%
Roger Roots	8%	5%	11%
Undecided	9%	10%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
I-148			
For	44%	43%	46%
Against	30%	29%	31%
Not sure	26%	28%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
I-166			
For	52%	52%	51%
Against	22%	18%	26%
Not sure	26%	30%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Schweitzer Approval			
Approve	54%	63%	46%
Disapprove	36%	29%	43%
Not sure	10%	8%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Baucus Approval			
Approve	35%	42%	27%
Disapprove	54%	43%	65%
Not sure	11%	15%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bullock Favorability				
Favorable	44%	73%	18%	45%
Unfavorable	28%	11%	45%	26%
Not sure	28%	16%	37%	30%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Hill Favorability				
Favorable	37%	11%	63%	31%
Unfavorable	41%	72%	14%	43%
Not sure	22%	18%	22%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bullock/Hill/Vandevender/Coate				
Steve Bullock	42%	81%	11%	41%
Rick Hill	43%	10%	77%	37%
Ron Vandevender	4%	0%	2%	10%
Bill Coate	4%	4%	3%	4%
Undecided	7%	5%	7%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bucy/Fox AG				
Pam Bucy	35%	77%	5%	32%
Tim Fox	45%	10%	79%	38%
Undecided	20%	13%	16%	30%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Lindeen/Skees Auditor				
Monica Lindeen	44%	86%	11%	47%
Derek Skees	37%	6%	69%	28%
Undecided	19%	8%	20%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Juneau/Welch DPI				
Denise Juneau	41%	82%	12%	39%
Sandy Welch	40%	6%	72%	33%
Undecided	19%	12%	16%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCulloch/Johnson/ Roots SOS				
Linda McCulloch	42%	86%	10%	40%
Brad Johnson	41%	6%	77%	33%
Roger Roots	8%	3%	7%	13%
Undecided	9%	4%	7%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
I-148				
For	44%	40%	51%	41%
Against	30%	37%	22%	32%
Not sure	26%	23%	27%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
I-166				
For	52%	71%	28%	59%
Against	22%	12%	35%	17%
Not sure	26%	16%	37%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Schweitzer Approval				
Approve	54%	88%	26%	57%
Disapprove	36%	6%	61%	33%
Not sure	10%	6%	12%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Baucus Approval				
Approve	35%	71%	14%	29%
Disapprove	54%	19%	76%	58%
Not sure	11%	10%	11%	13%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Bullock Favorability			
Favorable	44%	44%	37%
Unfavorable	28%	27%	36%
Not sure	28%	29%	26%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Hill Favorability			
Favorable	37%	38%	29%
Unfavorable	41%	40%	48%
Not sure	22%	22%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Bullock/Hill/Vandevender/Coate			
Steve Bullock	42%	43%	34%
Rick Hill	43%	44%	34%
Ron Vandevender	4%	3%	13%
Bill Coate	4%	3%	12%
Undecided	7%	7%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Bucy/Fox AG			
Pam Bucy	35%	36%	29%
Tim Fox	45%	45%	41%
Undecided	20%	19%	30%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Lindeen/Skees Auditor			
Monica Lindeen	44%	45%	43%
Derek Skees	37%	38%	26%
Undecided	19%	18%	31%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Juneau/Welch DPI			
Denise Juneau	41%	41%	46%
Sandy Welch	40%	41%	31%
Undecided	19%	19%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
McCulloch/Johnson/Roots SOS			
Linda McCulloch	42%	42%	42%
Brad Johnson	41%	43%	27%
Roger Roots	8%	6%	25%
Undecided	9%	9%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
I-148			
For	44%	45%	41%
Against	30%	31%	21%
Not sure	26%	24%	38%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
I-166			
For	52%	52%	48%
Against	22%	22%	24%
Not sure	26%	26%	29%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Schweitzer Approval			
Approve	54%	54%	59%
Disapprove	36%	37%	25%
Not sure	10%	9%	16%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Baucus Approval			
Approve	35%	34%	39%
Disapprove	54%	55%	43%
Not sure	11%	10%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bullock Favorability					
Favorable	44%	47%	39%	44%	45%
Unfavorable	28%	18%	27%	32%	29%
Not sure	28%	34%	34%	24%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hill Favorability					
Favorable	37%	18%	36%	42%	41%
Unfavorable	41%	45%	38%	41%	43%
Not sure	22%	37%	26%	18%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bullock/Hill/Vandevender/Coate					
Steve Bullock	42%	50%	38%	40%	46%
Rick Hill	43%	32%	43%	47%	44%
Ron Vandevender	4%	8%	8%	2%	2%
Bill Coate	4%	5%	6%	3%	1%
Undecided	7%	5%	6%	8%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bucy/Fox AG					
Pam Bucy	35%	33%	33%	33%	42%
Tim Fox	45%	33%	45%	50%	43%
Undecided	20%	33%	22%	17%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Lindeen/Skees Auditor					
Monica Lindeen	44%	44%	41%	46%	46%
Derek Skees	37%	24%	36%	41%	39%
Undecided	19%	32%	22%	14%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Juneau/Welch DPI					
Denise Juneau	41%	39%	38%	42%	44%
Sandy Welch	40%	33%	39%	42%	41%
Undecided	19%	27%	24%	16%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCulloch/Johnson/-Roots SOS					
Linda McCulloch	42%	55%	36%	38%	47%
Brad Johnson	41%	27%	41%	46%	41%
Roger Roots	8%	6%	14%	7%	4%
Undecided	9%	12%	8%	9%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
I-148					
For	44%	38%	51%	45%	39%
Against	30%	28%	24%	34%	30%
Not sure	26%	34%	25%	20%	32%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
I-166					
For	52%	58%	43%	53%	55%
Against	22%	19%	24%	24%	18%
Not sure	26%	23%	33%	23%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Schweitzer Approval					
Approve	54%	62%	47%	53%	60%
Disapprove	36%	23%	42%	39%	34%
Not sure	10%	15%	11%	8%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Baucus Approval					
Approve	35%	23%	28%	36%	47%
Disapprove	54%	54%	58%	56%	46%
Not sure	11%	23%	13%	8%	7%

