



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE

- STATE OF MONTANA, MONTANA CD1, AND NATIONAL -

Field Dates:

State of Montana, Montana CD1: May 27 – June 23, 2026

National: February 11-26, 2026

Sample Sizes:

State of Montana: 801

Montana CD1: 500

National: 2,509

Confidence Interval:

State of Montana: +/-6.8%

Montana CD1: +/-6.4%

National: +/- 2.9%

Samples Provided by: Multiple online opt-in panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege. Sample collection and quality control was managed by QuantifyAI under the direction of the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation.

Note: Rows may not add to 100% due to rounding

[Q1-8, 13-17, 37-43 previously released]

[Q9-12, 26-36, 44-59 withheld for future release]

We are now going to look at Federal government programs for people with low incomes. First, we are going to look at SNAP benefits, also known as food stamps.

Q18. For a single person living alone earning about \$860 a month, current SNAP benefits are about \$170 a month. What do you think the amount of monthly SNAP benefits should be? _____ dollars

	More than \$170/month	Median
National	79%	\$250
Republicans	70%	\$200
Democrats	88%	\$250
Independents	80%	\$250
Montana (Statewide)	83%	\$250
Republicans	80%	\$216
Democrats	89%	\$250
Montana CD1	84%	\$250

Republicans	80%	\$250
Democrats	93%	\$250

Q19. For a single mother earning about \$1,150 a month, current SNAP benefits are about \$530 a month. What do you think the amount of monthly SNAP benefits should be? _____ dollars

	More than \$530/month	Median
National	60%	\$600
Republicans	52%	\$550
Democrats	67%	\$600
Independents	58%	\$592
Montana (Statewide)	66%	\$600
Republicans	59%	\$560
Democrats	72%	\$600
Montana CD1	67%	\$600
Republicans	58%	\$560
Democrats	79%	\$650

Q20. Here is another proposal: Provide discounts on fruit and vegetables bought with SNAP benefits

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
National	91%	9%	0%
Republicans	90%	10%	0%
Democrats	93%	7%	1%
Independents	87%	13%	0%
Montana (Statewide)	87%	13%	0%
Republicans	85%	15%	0%
Democrats	91%	9%	0%
Montana CD1	84%	16%	0%
Republicans	84%	16%	0%
Democrats	88%	12%	0%

Now, we'll explore proposals for helping low-income people who are working but are still living under or close to the poverty line.

One federal program that helps low-income workers is called the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**. EITC supplements their income by giving them a tax credit. If they do not owe any Federal taxes, they can get the credit directly.

Here are some proposals for changing the limits on the amount of the credit and who would qualify.

Currently, EITC is much lower for workers without children than workers with children. Here are some proposals for increasing the EITC for workers without children.

Q21. Raise the limit on the maximum amount of the EITC credit from \$630 to \$1,300 a year.

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
National	77%	23%	0%

Republicans	73%	27%	0%
Democrats	82%	18%	0%
Independents	73%	27%	0%
Montana (Statewide)	79%	20%	1%
Republicans	73%	27%	0%
Democrats	85%	15%	0%
Montana CD1	79%	20%	1%
Republicans	75%	25%	0%
Democrats	85%	15%	0%

Q22. Lower the age of eligibility from 25 to 21.

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
National	69%	31%	0%
Republicans	63%	37%	0%
Democrats	76%	24%	0%
Independents	68%	31%	1%
Montana (Statewide)	66%	34%	0%
Republicans	64%	36%	0%
Democrats	67%	33%	0%
Montana CD1	69%	31%	0%
Republicans	67%	33%	0%
Democrats	74%	26%	0%

Q23. Raise the limit on the amount of savings people can have and still get the EITC credit,

- for individuals from \$18,500 to \$24,000
- for married couples from \$25,500 to \$33,000.

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
National	81%	19%	0%
Republicans	77%	22%	0%
Democrats	87%	13%	0%
Independents	77%	23%	0%
Montana (Statewide)	82%	18%	0%
Republicans	79%	21%	0%
Democrats	87%	13%	0%
Montana CD1	83%	16%	1%
Republicans	82%	18%	0%
Democrats	89%	11%	0%

Q24. Another proposal is to raise the Federal Minimum Wage. Currently, it is \$7.25 an hour. Though many states have a higher minimum wage for their state. What do you think the Federal Minimum Wage should be? _____ \$ per hour

Increase minimum wage	Median
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National	94%	\$14
Republicans	90%	\$11
Democrats	97%	\$15
Independents	96%	\$14
Montana (Statewide)	92%	\$13
Republicans	90%	\$12
Democrats	97%	\$15
Montana CD1	90%	\$13
Republicans	89%	\$11
Democrats	94%	\$15

Q25. There has been a debate about how much the Federal government spends on Medicaid, the program for people with low incomes. If spending on Medicaid is reduced, this would result in fewer people being covered by Medicaid. If spending on Medicaid is increased, this would allow more people to be covered by Medicaid.

Thinking about federal spending on Medicaid over the last few years, do you think spending should be:

	Increased a lot	Increased some	Increased a little	Increased	Kept the same	Reduced	Reduced a little	Reduced some	Reduced a lot	Ref/DK
National	28%	27%	15%	70%	21%	9%	4%	1%	3%	0%
Republicans	19%	24%	16%	59%	28%	13%	6%	2%	5%	0%
Democrats	39%	32%	13%	83%	14%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%
Independents	24%	25%	21%	69%	22%	9%	5%	1%	4%	0%
Montana (Statewide)	25%	34%	17%	75%	16%	8%	4%	2%	3%	0%
Republicans	17%	31%	17%	65%	24%	11%	5%	2%	4%	0%
Democrats	32%	43%	16%	91%	7%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Montana CD1	27%	29%	17%	73%	17%	9%	5%	2%	3%	1%
Republicans	18%	24%	17%	59%	30%	11%	7%	1%	4%	0%
Democrats	40%	34%	17%	91%	5%	3%	2%	1%	0%	1%

Methodology

Fielding and Sample Size: The surveys were fielded by the Program for Public Consultation (PPC) at the University of Maryland's Civic Innovation Center, with representative non-probability samples obtained from multiple online panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege.

National

Field Dates: February 11-26, 2026 Total Sample Size: 2509 Response Rate: 7.6%
Four-fifth Sample Sizes: 1991 to 2020

State of Montana

Field Dates: May 27 – June 23, 2026 Sample Size: 801 Response Rate: 8.1%

Montana CD1

Field Dates: May 27 – June 23, 2026 Sample Size: 500 Response Rate: 8.7%

Pre-Stratification and Weighting: The samples were pre-stratified and weighted by age, race, ethnicity, gender, educational attainment, household income, and home ownership. Benchmarks were obtained from the Census Bureau's 2024 and 2025 American Community Surveys, as well as the 2024 Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

The national sample was also weighted by Census region and partisan affiliation. In the Montana samples, the distribution of partisan affiliation was weighted to be within expectations, based on voter registration data for non-leaners and/or Cook's Partisan Voting Index for leaners.

National

Confidence Interval of Four-fifth Samples: +/-2.9% Min Weight: 0.25 Max Weight: 2.51 Mean Weight: 1.0

State of Montana

Confidence Interval: +/-6.8% Min Weight: 0.05 Max Weight: 6.62 Mean Weight: 1.0

Montana CD1

Confidence Interval: +/-6.4% Min Weight: 0.05 Max Weight: 6.62 Mean Weight: 1.0

Confidence Intervals were calculated using the sample variance of the weights using the following formula:

CI = Square root ((1+variance)/sample size)

Sample Collection: Sample collection was managed by Quant-E with oversight from PPC. Samples were drawn from multiple large online panels, including Cint, Prodege, and Dynata, whose members are recruited using non-probability sampling methods. The selected sample was invited to participate via email invitation, push notification, or SMS for cell phone users. Respondents were offered cash or cash-equivalent incentives to participate in the survey.

Data Collection and Privacy: Survey responses were collected directly on the Qualtrics platform. Only respondents with a provided link could take the survey, using their computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile phone.

Privacy and security measures were taken to ensure that data was collected in adherence to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation policies for data privacy and security, as well as the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA).

Quality Control: Quality control measures in the sample collection process to disqualify duplicate respondents and survey bots included:

- checking respondents' IP addresses to determine if there are duplicate respondents
- employing an "operating system & Web browser check" to determine if there are any cross-panel duplicates
- using hCaptcha to detect and disqualify survey bots.

Quality control measures within the survey to disqualify dishonest or mischievous respondents, as well as survey bots, included:

- an attention-check question, e.g. Select the word that does not belong. [Tuesday]; [Friday]; [April]; [Wednesday]
- an honesty question, e.g. What have you done in the past week? Select all that apply. [Won a gold medal at the Olympics]; [Watched TV]; [Got a license to operate a Class SSGN submarine]; [Read a book]
- a speed limit, which disqualified respondents who moved through the first quarter of the survey at a pace roughly triple the average reading speed.

Lastly, respondents were removed from the sample who answered less than half the substantive questions, or who engaged in straight-lining.