



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

DEMAND FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- STATE OF 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

[Q1-43 previously released]

Q44. Imagine the Founders of the American republic were somehow able to observe how the US government is operating today. In your opinion, would the Founders think that the US government is fulfilling the vision they had:

	Very well	Somewhat well	Well	Not that well	Not well at all	Not well	Ref/DK
National	14%	23%	37%	28%	35%	63%	0%
Republicans	21%	29%	50%	28%	22%	50%	0%
Democrats	9%	17%	27%	26%	48%	73%	0%
Independents	5%	22%	27%	36%	37%	73%	0%
Montana (statewide)	16%	30%	47%	22%	31%	53%	1%
Republicans	21%	30%	51%	24%	25%	49%	0%
Democrats	12%	30%	42%	19%	38%	58%	1%
Montana CD1	16%	31%	47%	23%	30%	53%	0%
Republicans	19%	27%	46%	27%	27%	54%	0%
Democrats	14%	29%	43%	19%	38%	57%	0%

Q45. Thinking about what the Founders of the American republic were trying to achieve when they designed the American system of government, do you think that the amount of influence the American people have on the government in Washington is:

	much less than they intended	somewhat less than they intended	Less than intended	about the same as they intended	More than intended	somewhat more than they intended	much more than they intended	Ref/DK
National	36%	23%	59%	19%	23%	14%	8%	0%
Republicans	29%	23%	52%	18%	30%	20%	10%	0%
Democrats	41%	24%	65%	18%	17%	10%	7%	0%
Independents	39%	22%	60%	22%	17%	12%	6%	0%
Montana (statewide)	42%	23%	65%	17%	17%	9%	8%	1%
Republicans	42%	20%	62%	18%	20%	11%	8%	1%
Democrats	46%	27%	73%	13%	13%	8%	6%	0%
Montana CD1	41%	26%	67%	15%	17%	10%	6%	1%
Republicans	46%	22%	68%	16%	17%	12%	5%	0%
Democrats	45%	29%	75%	13%	12%	9%	4%	0%

Q46. Do you believe that currently there is or is not an adequate system in place for the voice of the American people to be heard in Congress?

	There is an adequate system	There is not an adequate system	Ref/DK
National	39%	61%	0%
Republicans	50%	49%	1%
Democrats	33%	67%	0%
Independents	24%	76%	0%
Montana (statewide)	40%	59%	1%
Republicans	44%	54%	1%
Democrats	31%	68%	0%
Montana CD1	43%	55%	2%
Republicans	42%	56%	3%
Democrats	32%	68%	0%

Q47. In general, how well do you think Members of Congress understand the views of most of the people in their district or state on public policy issues?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Well	Not very well	Not well at all	Not well	Ref/DK
National	15%	34%	49%	35%	17%	51%	0%
Republicans	21%	39%	59%	29%	12%	41%	0%
Democrats	12%	30%	42%	38%	19%	57%	1%
Independents	4%	30%	34%	43%	23%	66%	0%
Montana (statewide)	14%	31%	46%	32%	22%	54%	0%
Republicans	17%	33%	49%	30%	20%	51%	0%
Democrats	12%	24%	37%	38%	25%	63%	0%

Montana CD1	15%	29%	43%	36%	20%	56%	0%
Republicans	18%	26%	44%	37%	19%	56%	0%
Democrats	10%	24%	34%	38%	28%	66%	0%

Q48. As a general rule, when Members of Congress are deciding how to vote on major bills, how much do you think they **should be** guided by the views of the people in their state or district?

	Means	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref./DK
National	8.2	7%	5%	87%	1%
Republicans	8.3	5%	5%	90%	0%
Democrats	8.3	6%	3%	89%	1%
Independents	7.3	16%	10%	74%	1%
Montana (statewide)	7.9	8%	5%	86%	2%
Republicans	8.1	5%	4%	89%	2%
Democrats	8.0	9%	2%	88%	0%
Montana CD1	8.1	7%	4%	87%	2%
Republicans	8.2	6%	4%	88%	2%
Democrats	8.3	5%	4%	91%	0%

Q49. As a general rule, when Members of Congress are deciding how to vote on major bills, how much do you think they **are** guided by the views of the people in their state or district?

	Means	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref./DK
National	5.0	44%	11%	44%	0%
Republicans	5.7	35%	10%	54%	1%
Democrats	4.7	48%	13%	39%	0%
Independents	4.1	59%	12%	28%	0%
Montana (statewide)	5.4	38%	13%	48%	1%
Republicans	5.7	35%	14%	50%	1%
Democrats	5.2	44%	10%	45%	1%
Montana CD1	5.6	36%	12%	52%	1%
Republicans	5.6	36%	14%	49%	1%
Democrats	5.3	43%	9%	48%	0%

Q48-49 COMBINED.

	Decisions should be guided by views of the people more than they are	Decisions are decided by views of the people as much as they should	Decisions are guided by views of the people more than they should	Ref./DK
National	68%	21%	12%	0%
Republicans	64%	21%	15%	0%
Democrats	74%	17%	10%	0%
Independents	61%	32%	7%	0%
Montana (statewide)	56%	26%	18%	0%

Republicans	56%	26%	18%	0%
Democrats	59%	21%	20%	0%
Montana CD1	57%	25%	18%	0%
Republicans	59%	22%	19%	0%
Democrats	62%	20%	17%	0%

Q50. Suppose a clear majority of the people in a state or district agrees on what should be done about a policy issue. How much influence should that have on their Members of Congress?

	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref./DK
National	7.8	10%	7%	83%	0%
Republicans	8.1	8%	5%	87%	0%
Democrats	7.9	8%	8%	84%	0%
Independents	6.8	19%	14%	66%	1%
Montana (statewide)	7.7	10%	6%	83%	1%
Republicans	8.0	9%	4%	87%	0%
Democrats	8.0	8%	3%	88%	1%
Montana CD1	7.9	9%	5%	86%	0%
Republicans	8.2	8%	2%	91%	0%
Democrats	7.8	8%	4%	88%	0%

Q51. When Congress gets stuck in gridlock, do you think:

	If Congress were to take into account the views of the people this would help break the logjam, because the people are less polarized than Congress.	Taking into account the views of the people would not help, because the gridlock in Congress is just a reflection of the polarization among the people.	Ref/DK
National	72%	28%	1%
Republicans	71%	30%	0%
Democrats	75%	25%	1%
Independents	66%	32%	2%
Montana (statewide)	74%	24%	3%
Republicans	73%	25%	3%
Democrats	78%	20%	1%
Montana CD1	79%	19%	2%
Republicans	75%	22%	3%
Democrats	85%	12%	3%

Q52. If the members of Congress were more influenced by the people than they are now, do you think they would be more likely or less likely to find common ground?

	Much more	Somewhat more	More	Somewhat less	Much less	Less	Ref/DK
National	35%	52%	88%	9%	3%	12%	0%

Republicans	38%	51%	89%	8%	2%	10%	0%
Democrats	35%	53%	88%	9%	3%	12%	0%
Independents	28%	55%	83%	12%	5%	17%	0%
Montana (statewide)	35%	56%	90%	7%	3%	9%	1%
Republicans	34%	58%	93%	5%	3%	7%	0%
Democrats	37%	54%	91%	6%	3%	9%	0%
Montana CD1	34%	58%	91%	5%	2%	8%	1%
Republicans	37%	55%	92%	5%	3%	7%	1%
Democrats	35%	60%	94%	4%	2%	6%	0%

Q53. If the members of Congress were more influenced by the people than they are now, do you think they would be more likely or less likely to serve the common good? (Note: National data is not available for this question)

	Much more	Somewhat more	More	Somewhat less	Much less	Less	Ref/DK
Montana (statewide)	38%	50%	88%	8%	2%	10%	2%
Republicans	38%	52%	90%	7%	2%	9%	1%
Democrats	43%	49%	91%	7%	1%	8%	1%
Montana CD1	40%	48%	88%	9%	1%	10%	2%
Republicans	43%	45%	88%	8%	2%	10%	2%
Democrats	43%	46%	89%	11%	0%	11%	0%

Q54. What is your impression: About what percentage of the time do elected officials in the federal government make decisions that are the same as the decisions that the majority of Americans would make? [0-100]

	Mean
National	41%
Republicans	47%
Democrats	38%
Independents	35%
Montana (statewide)	36%
Republicans	38%
Democrats	33%
Montana CD1	38%
Republicans	37%
Democrats	38%

Q55. When news outlets are reporting on a policy issue, and there is reliable information about public opinion on that issue, how often do you think the news outlet should include that information?

	Always	Most of the time	Always - most of the time	Some of the time	Rarely - never	Rarely	Never	Ref/DK
National	46%	32%	78%	16%	6%	4%	2%	0%
Republicans	44%	34%	79%	17%	4%	2%	1%	0%

Democrats	49%	32%	81%	15%	4%	3%	1%	0%
Independents	38%	29%	66%	18%	15%	8%	8%	1%
Montana (statewide)	40%	40%	80%	17%	3%	2%	1%	0%
Republicans	40%	38%	78%	20%	3%	2%	1%	0%
Democrats	44%	43%	87%	12%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Montana CD1	43%	37%	80%	17%	3%	2%	1%	1%
Republicans	41%	39%	80%	18%	3%	3%	0%	0%
Democrats	53%	35%	88%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Q56. If Congress is about to vote on a law, how important is it for news outlets to report on whether a majority of Americans favor or oppose that law?

	Extremely	Very	Extremely - very	Somewhat	A little - not at all	A little	Not at all	Ref/DK
National	42%	34%	75%	20%	5%	3%	2%	0%
Republicans	44%	35%	79%	17%	4%	2%	2%	0%
Democrats	43%	33%	75%	21%	3%	3%	1%	1%
Independents	31%	32%	64%	25%	11%	5%	6%	1%
Montana (statewide)	37%	41%	78%	17%	5%	3%	2%	0%
Republicans	35%	44%	79%	16%	6%	4%	2%	0%
Democrats	44%	38%	82%	15%	3%	2%	2%	0%
Montana CD1	38%	39%	77%	18%	5%	3%	1%	1%
Republicans	34%	44%	79%	17%	5%	4%	0%	0%
Democrats	48%	33%	81%	16%	2%	2%	1%	0%

We will now show you a series of statements that your Congressional representatives (in the House or Senate) might make. We would like to know how you would respond to them. Here is the first one:

Q57. "I have confidence in the American people. Evidence shows that when Americans have the opportunity to think through important policy issues, this often reveals that Republicans and Democrats agree on many issues, even ones that Congress is polarized on."

If your Congressional representatives were to make that statement, would you see that as:

	Extremely positive	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Lean positive	Total positive	Lean negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Extremely negative	Total negative	Ref/DK
National	16%	31%	26%	18%	91%	5%	2%	1%	1%	9%	0%
Republicans	17%	35%	23%	17%	92%	4%	1%	2%	1%	8%	0%
Democrats	17%	30%	28%	17%	92%	5%	2%	0%	1%	8%	0%
Independents	10%	22%	31%	24%	86%	4%	6%	0%	4%	14%	0%
Montana (statewide)	16%	36%	27%	14%	92%	4%	2%	1%	1%	8%	0%
Republicans	15%	40%	27%	10%	93%	4%	3%	0%	0%	7%	0%
Democrats	20%	31%	26%	17%	94%	3%	2%	0%	1%	6%	0%
Montana CD1	19%	34%	27%	13%	93%	3%	3%	1%	0%	7%	0%
Republicans	21%	33%	27%	11%	92%	3%	5%	1%	0%	8%	0%
Democrats	18%	28%	33%	16%	95%	4%	0%	1%	0%	5%	0%

Q58. Here is the next statement in the series:

“As your representative, I will pay close attention when scientifically selected representative samples of the people I represent are consulted on issues before Congress—either through surveys or in-person meetings. I will respond thoughtfully to their conclusions and give them major consideration when I make decisions.”

Would your response be:

	Extremely positive	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Lean positive	Total positive	Lean negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Extremely negative	Total negative	Ref/DK
National	22%	31%	25%	13%	91%	5%	2%	1%	1%	9%	0%
Republicans	22%	36%	24%	9%	91%	5%	3%	2%	1%	9%	0%
Democrats	23%	30%	25%	14%	93%	4%	2%	1%	1%	7%	0%
Independents	17%	21%	28%	18%	84%	8%	4%	2%	2%	16%	1%
Montana (statewide)	17%	31%	25%	18%	91%	4%	3%	1%	1%	9%	0%
Republicans	17%	34%	27%	15%	92%	4%	3%	1%	0%	8%	0%
Democrats	16%	30%	23%	21%	90%	3%	4%	0%	2%	10%	0%
Montana CD1	20%	28%	26%	16%	90%	5%	3%	2%	0%	9%	0%
Republicans	21%	26%	30%	13%	90%	5%	4%	2%	0%	10%	0%
Democrats	14%	31%	24%	22%	91%	6%	2%	1%	0%	9%	0%

Q59. Here is the next statement in the series:

“When majorities of Republicans and Democrats who I represent, and nationwide, agree on how to address key issues, I will look for opportunities to develop and advance legislation that builds on that bipartisan common ground.”

Would your response be:

	Extremely positive	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Lean positive	Total positive	Lean negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Extremely negative	Total negative	Ref/DK
National	20%	32%	24%	15%	90%	5%	2%	1%	2%	9%	0%
Republicans	21%	37%	24%	12%	94%	3%	1%	0%	1%	6%	0%
Democrats	20%	31%	23%	16%	90%	6%	2%	1%	2%	10%	0%
Independents	14%	25%	25%	19%	82%	7%	4%	1%	5%	18%	0%
Montana (statewide)	22%	32%	22%	13%	89%	7%	3%	0%	1%	11%	0%
Republicans	20%	40%	21%	11%	91%	6%	2%	0%	0%	9%	0%
Democrats	26%	29%	18%	14%	87%	9%	2%	0%	1%	13%	0%
Montana CD1	24%	32%	21%	12%	90%	7%	2%	1%	1%	10%	0%
Republicans	25%	36%	20%	13%	93%	6%	1%	0%	0%	7%	0%
Democrats	22%	32%	23%	9%	86%	10%	3%	0%	0%	14%	0%

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.