

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,
1956-present

University Relations

12-22-1995

Montana poll shows Racicot still popular

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Montana poll shows Racicot still popular" (1995). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 13954.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/13954>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-2522

This release is available electronically on INN (News Net).

Dec. 22, 1995

MONTANA POLL SHOWS RACICOT STILL POPULAR

MISSOULA --

Gov. Marc Racicot's marks for job performance remained high at year's end, but Montanans were less complimentary of their congressional delegation and other national leaders, according to the latest Montana Poll.

For this edition of the Montana Poll, 410 adult Montanans were polled statewide Dec. 7-11. The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research conducted the poll.

Eighty percent of Montanans polled said they approved of Racicot's handling of his job. That's the highest rating he's received in the Montana Poll since he took office in January 1993, according to Susan Selig Wallwork, director of the poll. Ten percent disapproved of his performance, and the other 10 percent were undecided.

Montanans continued to be less complimentary about their congressional delegation, Wallwork said.

Fifty-four percent approved of Sen. Max Baucus' job performance, an improvement from June, while 31 percent disapproved.

Approval of Sen. Conrad Burns' performance was 47 percent, compared with 49 percent at midyear, but 38 percent disapproved of his performance, a 12-point increase from June.

Forty-six percent approved of Rep. Pat Williams' job performance, slightly more than at

-more-

midyear, while a third of respondents disapproved. Twenty-one percent were undecided.

Montanans' 42-percent approval rating of President Bill Clinton was roughly the same as in June, Wallwork said. His negatives increased to 54 percent, however, up about nine points from midyear, and only 5 percent of respondents were undecided.

U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich continued to receive the least favorable performance ratings from Montanans, Wallwork said. Twenty-two percent approved of his performance; 65 percent disapproved, up more than 20 points from midyear. Thirteen percent were undecided, compared with almost a third in June.

The poll added two new categories this time: Democrats in Congress and Republicans in Congress. Democrats had a 36-percent approval rating; Republicans, 38 percent. Their disapproval ratings tied at 52 percent.

Republican officeholders tended to receive their highest approval ratings from fellow Republicans as did Democrats from fellow Democrats. The exception was Racicot, who received a 79-percent approval rating from Democrats and 87 percent from Republicans in the state.

Each official had pockets of greater approval throughout the state, Wallwork said. Racicot, for example, received higher approval from east of the Divide, with 84 percent overall and 86 percent in the northeast. His highest approval rating, 96 percent, came from Lewis and Clark County, his county of residence and the seat of state government.

Baucus did slightly better in the west, 57 percent, and northeast, 55 percent, than he did in the southeast, 51 percent. His Butte-Silver Bow County approval rating was 76 percent; for Lewis and Clark County, it was 65 percent.

Williams also did better in the west, especially in strongly Democratic Butte-Silver Bow County, where he scored a 72-percent approval rating.

Burns did slightly better in eastern Montana than in the west, with 50 percent approval in the east, 42 percent in the west. But his highest approval rating, 58 percent, came from Flathead County in the west. Yellowstone County residents were almost evenly divided about his job performance -- 42-percent approval vs. 46-percent disapproval.

Clinton did best in Butte-Silver Bow County, getting 68 percent there. But he also did well, 56 percent, in Yellowstone County, hardly a Democratic stronghold.

Gingrich did not do well in any major areas of the state.

The Montana Poll's statewide sample was drawn using the bureau's two-stage random sampling process that generates a representative cross section of Montana's adult population. Its random digit telephone sampling program generates a statewide sample of telephone numbers, proportionate with the distribution of households in the state. A second random sampling procedure is then used to select one adult respondent in each household, taking into account the number and gender of adults in the household. The total sample (all respondents) has a potential maximum error margin of plus or minus 5 percentage points. The error margin for any subgroups or areas in the state would be larger depending on the size of the group.

###

Contact: Susan Selig Wallwork, (406) 243-5113.

SJ/tb
State and weeklies
Mpolgov2.rl

MONTANA POLL

Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana (Missoula, Montana 59812).

Sample: Montana, adult residents

Topic: Job Performance Ratings

Dates and Sample Sizes: December 7-11, 1995 (n=410); June 22-27, 1995 (n=402)

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Governor Marc Racicot (R)			
December 1995	80%	10%	10%
June 1995	77%	6%	17%
Representative Pat Williams (D)			
December 1995	46%	33%	21%
June 1995	42%	27%	31%
Senator Max Baucus (D)			
December 1995	54%	31%	15%
June 1995	48%	28%	24%
Senator Conrad Burns (R)			
December 1995	47%	38%	15%
June 1995	49%	26%	25%
President Bill Clinton (D)			
December 1995	42%	54%	5%
June 1995	41%	45%	14%
Speaker Newt Gingrich (R), U.S. House			
December 1995	22%	65%	13%
June 1995	26%	42%	32%
Democrats in Congress			
December 1995	36%	52%	12%
June 1995	----	----	----
Republicans in Congress			
December 1995	38%	52%	10%
June 1995	----	----	----

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding. Democrats/Republicans in Congress were not included in the June 1995 Poll.

Contact: Susan Selig Wallwork
 Director of Survey Research, BBER
 Missoula MT 59812

(406) 243-5113
 FAX (406) 243-2086

12/20/95