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More than half of Montanans polled say they are conservatives or lean that way

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MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE THAN HALF OF MONTANANS POLLED SAY
THEY ARE CONSERVATIVES OR LEAN THAT WAY

MISSOULA--

Although some Montanans won't politically label themselves as liberal or conservative, the ones who do are more likely to say they lean toward the right, according to a University of Montana researcher.

Susan Selig Wallwork, research associate at UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, discussed various findings from the Montana Poll, including Montanans' political characteristics, in the spring issue of the Montana Business Quarterly. The Montana Poll is a quarterly opinion survey sponsored by the bureau and the Great Falls Tribune.

Wallwork said that when it comes to politics, almost 20 percent of Montana's adults refuse to accept a political label to begin with. But well over half say they are either conservatives or leaning more in that direction. At the same time, barely two Montanans in 10 would call themselves liberal or leaning more that way.

Interestingly enough, the stereotype that often connects conservatives to the Republican Party and liberals to the Democratic Party does not hold true in Montana.

Wallwork said almost equal numbers of Montanans, roughly 40 percent in each case, call themselves either Republicans or Democrats or leaning more toward one party than the other.

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