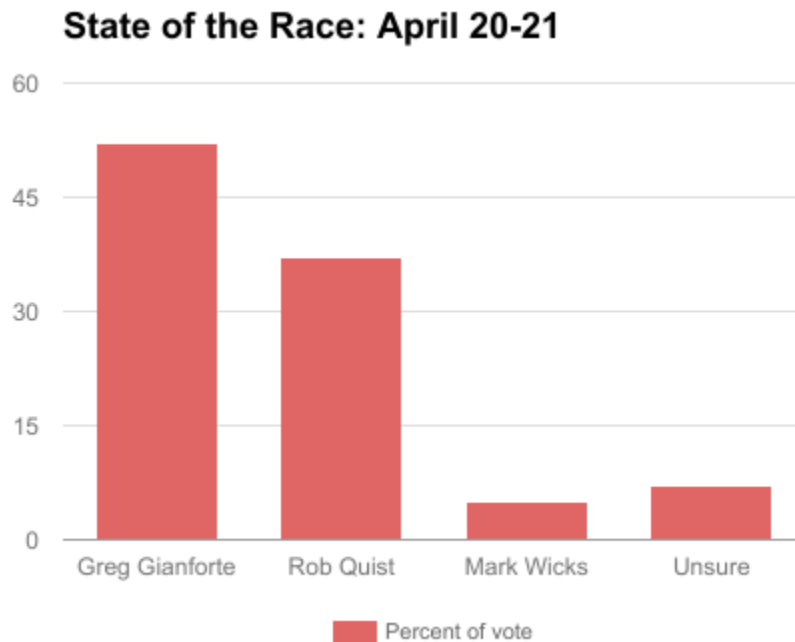


April 25, 2017

Emerson College Poll: Greg Gianforte (R) coasts with double-digit lead in MT congressional race. Voters show favorable opinion of Donald Trump, strong support of Keystone XL pipeline.

BOSTON, MA – A new poll shows Republican Greg Gianforte ahead of Democrat Rob Quist in the race for Montana’s newly-vacant congressional seat. Gianforte yields 52% of the vote to Quist’s 37%. Libertarian Mark Wicks takes 5% of the vote, while 7% of Montana voters remain undecided. Since Montana has only one congressional district, this will be the first statewide election since President Trump took office.



This data collected April 20-21 has a margin of error of 3.8 percentage points.

Gianforte had 90% of the Republican vote, and 38% of the Independent vote. Quist picks up 69% of the Democratic Party’s vote, with 26% of Democrats report planning to cross party lines and vote for Gianforte. Gianforte is getting 87% of Trump voters, while 88% of Clinton voters are likely to vote for Quist.

Rep. Ryan Zinke was tapped by the Trump Administration to fill the Secretary of the Interior position in February. He leaves office with a favorable rating of 60% and an unfavorable rating of 27%. Of the major candidates to replace him, Gianforte has the highest level of favorability, with 52% of voters indicating a favorable opinion. and 43% having an unfavorable opinion. A plurality of voters (48%) find Quist unfavorable, while 43% of voters find him favorable.

Bernie Sanders announced last week he would campaign on Quist's behalf, though this data suggests a plurality of Montana voters view Sanders unfavorably: 48% of Montanans have an unfavorable opinion Sanders while 40% have a favorable opinion. This contrasts to 74% of Montana Democrats who view Sanders favorably. Only 35% of Independents share that view.

Regionally, Quist finds his greatest support in South Central/Yellowstone Montana, with 52% of the vote. Unfortunately for Quist, Gianforte is likely to win much of the rest of the state, including Northwest Montana (72% of the vote), Northeast Montana (48% of the vote), Southeast Montana (49% of the vote), and Missoula's surrounding area (55% of the vote).

Montana voters are in favor of the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which will pass through the eastern part of the state. 63% of Montanans support the construction while 27% oppose it. Both Sen. Steve Daines (viewed as 55% favorable to 33% unfavorable) and Sen. Jon Tester (viewed as 51% favorable to 39% unfavorable) are in favor of the measure.

Montanans continue to feel positively about President Trump. As a whole, 55% of the state views the President favorably, while 41% of the state views him unfavorably. 91% of those who voted for Trump continue to support him. When the sample is broken down by age, the President's strongest support comes from the 18-34 age range. A total of 59% of that group view him favorably, while 33% view him unfavorably.

The Montana congressional election poll was conducted April 20-21 by Peyton Lewis '18, under the supervision of Professor Spencer Kimball. The sample consisted of voters, n=648, who indicated they were very likely to vote in the May 25th special election to replace Rep. Ryan Zinke. The margin of error (MOE) for this survey is +/- 3.8%, with a 95% confidence interval. The data was weighted by 2016 election results, age, education, gender, and region. Data was collected using an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system of landlines. The full methodology and results of this survey is posted on www.theecps.com, and this survey's full instrument can be found below.

Survey Instrument

1. To start, how likely are you to vote in the May 25th special election for Montana's congressional seat?

Press 1 if you are very likely to vote

Press 2 if you are somewhat likely to vote

Press 3 if you are 50-50

Press 4 if you are not likely to vote

2. Can you please tell me your gender?

Press 1 for Male

Press 2 for Female

3. Are you currently registered to vote with a political party?

Press 1 for Democrat

Press 2 for Republican

Press 3 for Independent or Other

Press 4 if you are not registered to vote

4. For whom did you vote in the 2016 Presidential election?

Press 1 for Donald Trump

Press 2 for Hillary Clinton

Press 3 for Gary Johnson

Press 4 for Jill Stein

Press 5 for somebody else

Press 6 if you did not vote

5. Is your opinion of Donald Trump generally favorable or generally unfavorable?

Press 1 for favorable

Press 2 for unfavorable

Press 3 for neutral or no opinion

Press 4 if you have never heard of this public figure

6. Is your opinion of Greg Gianforte generally favorable or generally unfavorable?

Press 1 for favorable

Press 2 for unfavorable

Press 3 for neutral or no opinion

Press 4 if you have never heard of this public figure

7. Is your opinion of Rob Quist generally favorable or generally unfavorable?

Press 1 for favorable

Press 2 for unfavorable

Press 3 for neutral or no opinion

Press 4 if you have never heard of this public figure

8. Is your opinion of Mark Wicks generally favorable or generally unfavorable?

Press 1 for favorable

Press 2 for unfavorable

Press 3 for neutral or no opinion

Press 4 if you have never heard of this public figure

9. If the May 25th special election for Montana's congressional district were held today and the candidates were Republican Greg Gianforte, Democrat Rob Quist and Libertarian Mark Wicks, for whom would you vote or lean towards voting?

Press 1 for Greg Gianforte

Press 2 for Rob Quist

Press 3 for Mark Wicks

Press 4 if you are unsure

10. Do you support or oppose the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline?

Press 1 for support

Press 2 for oppose

Press 3 for neutral or no opinion

Press 4 if you are unsure

Now I would like to ask you about a few more public figures. For each please tell

11. Is your opinion of Ryan Zinke generally favorable or generally unfavorable?

Press 1 for favorable

Press 2 for unfavorable

Press 3 for neutral or no opinion

Press 4 if you have never heard of this public figure

12. Is your opinion of Bernie Sanders generally favorable or generally unfavorable?

Press 1 for favorable

Press 2 for unfavorable

Press 3 for neutral or no opinion

Press 4 if you have never heard of this public figure

13. Is your opinion of Jon Tester generally favorable or generally unfavorable?

Press 1 for favorable

Press 2 for unfavorable

Press 3 for neutral or no opinion

Press 4 if you have never heard of this public figure

14. Is your opinion of Steve Daines generally favorable or generally unfavorable?

Press 1 for favorable

Press 2 for unfavorable

Press 3 for neutral or no opinion
Press 4 if you have never heard of this public figure

15. Is your opinion of Steve Bullock generally favorable or generally unfavorable?

Press 1 for favorable

Press 2 for unfavorable

Press 3 for neutral or no opinion

Press 4 if you have never heard of this public figure

16. What is your age range?

Press 1 for 18-34 years

Press 2 for 35-54 years

Press 3 for 55-74 years

Press 4 for 75 or more years

17. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

Press 1 for high school or less

Press 2 for some college

Press 3 for college graduate

Press 4 for postgrad or higher

Thank you for participating! Have a great day!