

# Aggregate Level Survey Data for Missoula County Voter Survey

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## Brief Overview:

Listed below is aggregate level data for the Missoula County voter survey organized by question. The sample size for this survey was 605 respondents. The margin of error (MOE) is +/- 4 at the 95 percent confidence level. Please note that some questions document that there is missing data (MD). This is because the respondent has the option to not answer a question. However, for questions 7 and 12 there is a slightly larger percentage of missing data. This is because I advised the calling center to no longer read the list of options because it was lengthening the time of the survey, which would have resulted in an increased cost, but will not undermine the overall results of this project. Nonetheless, based upon the data presented here, a formal report will be provided to Missoula County's Board of Elections by the end of March 2016.

## Section 1: Voting Behavior and Beliefs

1.) Do you plan to vote in the next election?

$N=605$ ,  $MD=0$

- **Yes:** 589 (97.4%)
- No: 9 (1.5%)
- Don't Know: 7 (1.2%)

2.) From the list below, please select why you will vote in the next election. Please select all that apply.

$N=589$ ,  $MD=16$

- **Civic duty:** 364 (61.8%)
- I want to have a voice in issues: 84 (14.3%)
- I know my vote matters: 37 (6.3%)
- Important political issues: 34 (5.8%)
- Political party affiliation: 25 (4.2%)
- Belief in democracy: 19 (3.2%)
- I know my representative/I know the candidate: 5 (.8%)
- Don't Know/Refused: 7 (1.2%)
- Other\_\_\_\_: 14 (2.4%)

3.) From the list below, please select why you will not vote in the next election. Please select all that apply.

$N=16$ ,  $MD=589$  [*this was only asked of respondents who said they will not vote in the next election for question 1 (16 respondents said they would not vote, but the survey still continued)*]

- Lack of education on the issues: 1 (0.2%)
- Candidates do not represent me/my issues: 2 (0.3%)
- I do not believe my vote matters: 1 (0.2%)
- I do not like the choices on the ballot: 1 (0.2%)
- I do not care: 2 (0.3%)

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- **I do not know how: 6 (1.0%)**
- Don't Know/Refused: 2 (0.3%)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_: 1 (0.2%)

**Note:** The 1% of respondents that stated, "I don't know how" used reasons such as: lack of understanding residency status, or absentee ballots.

4a) I am confident that my absentee vote is counted

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree: 531 (87.8%)**
- Neutral: 48 (7.9%)
- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 18 (2.9%)
- N/A: 8 (1.3%)

b) I believe that ballots are untampered with and secure

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree: 505 (83.5%)**
- Neutral: 57 (9.4%)
- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 38 (6.3%)
- N/A: 5 (0.8%)

c) I am confident that my confidential information is kept secure

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree: 433 (71.6%)**
- Neutral: 85 (14.0%)
- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 81 (13.4%)
- N/A: 6 (1.0%)

d) I believe that voter rolls are accurate

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree: 381 (63.0%)**
- Neutral: 121 (20.0%)
- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 75 (12.4%)
- N/A: 28 (4.6%)

e) I believe that the media is accurately reporting on issues, candidates, and election results

*N=605, MD=0*

- Strongly Agree/Agree: 170 (28.1%)
- Neutral: 132 (21.8%)
- **Strongly Disagree/disagree: 293 (48.4%)**
- N/A: 10 (1.7%)

f) I can access the information that helps me make an informed vote

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree: 532 (88.0%)**
- Neutral: 41 (6.8%)
- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 29 (4.8%)
- N/A: 3 (0.5%)

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g) I am confident that elections support a stable democracy

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 512 (84.6%)
- Neutral: 49 (8.1%)
- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 29 (6.7%)
- N/A: 3 (0.7%)

h) I believe that technology is useful in conducting elections

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 526 (87.0%)
- Neutral: 40 (6.6%)
- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 39 (6.4%)
- N/A: 0 (0%)

i) I am confident that Missoula County is free of voter fraud

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 443 (73.2%)
- Neutral: 87 (14.4%)
- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 67 (11.1%)
- N/A: 8 (1.3%)

j) I believe my vote is counted

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 557 (92.1%)
- Neutral: 30 (5.0%)
- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 17 (2.8%)
- N/A: 1 (0.2%)

k) I am confident that election results are accurate

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 462 (76.4%)
- Neutral: 78 (12.9%)
- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 64 (10.6%)
- N/A: 1 (0.2%)

5.) Using the same scale, please rate your level of agreement with the following statements. I trust my:

- Local Representatives

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 345 (57.0%)
- Neutral: 171 (28.3%)
- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 82 (13.6%)
- N/A: 7 (1.2%)

- State Representatives

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 315 (52.1%)
- Neutral: 184 (30.4%)

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- Strongly Disagree/disagree: 101 (16.6%)
- N/A: 5 (0.8%)
- Federal Representatives  
*N=603, MD=2*
  - **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 208 (34.5%)
  - Neutral: 194 (32.2%)
  - Strongly Disagree/disagree: 53 (32%)
  - N/A: 8 (1.3%)
- Tribal Representatives  
*N=596, MD=9*
  - Strongly Agree/Agree: 101 (16.9%)
  - **Neutral:** 131 (22%)
  - Strongly Disagree/disagree: 34 (5.7%)
  - N/A: 330 (55.4%)

### Section 2 – Missoula County Election Practices

6.) What is the distance you would be willing to travel to a polling place?

*N=605, MD=0*

- I would not travel to vote: 29 (4.8%)
- 1-5 blocks: 33 (5.5%)
- 1-3 miles: 190 (31.4%)
- **4-10 miles:** 241 (39.8%)
- 11-24 miles: 9 (1.5%)
- 25-50 miles: 13 (2.1%)
- Centralized polling place: 49 (8.1%)
- Other\_\_\_\_: 1 (0.2%)

7a.) From the list below, which, in your opinion is the **most** important for the election?

*N=514, MD=91*

- **Responsible use of tax dollars:** 177 (34.4%)
- Ensuring that elections are accessible to all individuals: 142 (27.6%)
- Increasing voter participation: 101 (19.6%)
- Limiting voter fraud: 69 (13.4%)
- Utilization of election technology: 13 (2.5%)
- Don't Know/Refuse to Answer: 12 (2.3%)

7b.) From the list below, which, in your opinion is the **least** important for the election?

*N=514, MD=91*

- **Utilization of election technology:** 242 (47.1%)
- Limiting voter fraud: 101 (19.6%)
- Increasing voter participation: 53 (10.3%)
- Ensuring that elections are accessible to all individuals: 43 (8.4%)

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- Responsible use of tax dollars: 36 (7.0%)
- Don't Know/Refuse to Answer: 39 (7.6%)

8.) I favor reducing the number of polling places in order to free up budget dollars for other election uses.  
(Combined strongly agree/agree and strongly disagree/disagree)

*N=605, MD=0*

- Strongly Agree/Agree: 184 (30.5%)
- Neutral: 123 (20.3%)
- **Strongly Disagree/disagree: 285 (47.1%)**
- N/A: 13 (2.1%)

9.) Which would you **most** like to see in Missoula County?

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Online voter-registration and change of address: 106 (17.5%)**
- Technology that allows voting at any polling location: 103 (17.0%)
- Increased accessibility for the disabled: 99 (16.4%)
- Return postage for absentee ballots: 69 (11.4%)
- County-produced election guide: 56 (9.3%)
- Don't Know/Refuse to Answer: 55 (9.1%)
- County-sponsored candidate forum: 46 (7.6%)
- Touchscreen voting (updating technology in voting booth): 32 (5.3%)
- Something else (e.g. greater engagement with schools, voter education, education on nonpartisan elections such as sheriff): 39 (6.4%)

### Section 3 – Efficiency and Ease of the Voting Process

10.) Which of the following impact if you vote in an election (please select all that apply)

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Not enough information on candidates and issues: 184 (30.4%)**
- Lack of time: 60 (9.9%)
- Conflicts with work, childcare, etc.: 50 (8.3%)
- Location of polling place: 40 (6.6%)
- Uncertain of voter registration status: 22 (3.6%)
- Paying for stamps: 21 (3.5%)
- Transportation: 21 (3.5%)
- Uncertain of election date: 19 (3.1%)
- Anything Else (e.g. whether I have an effect on the outcome, how easy it is): 4 (0.7%)
- **None of the above: 184 (30.4%)**

11.) I would be more likely to vote:

a) If elections were at the same time every year

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree: 334 (55.2%)**

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- Neutral: 127 (21.0%)
- Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 138 (22.8%)
- N/A: 6 (1.0%)

b) If elections for local, state, and federal office happened on the same date

$N=605$ ,  $MD=0$

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 445 (73.5%)
- Neutral: 71 (11.7%)
- Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 82 (13.5%)
- N/A: 7 (1.2%)

c) If elections were made a public holiday

$N=605$ ,  $MD=0$

- Strongly Agree/Agree: 205 (33.9%)
- Neutral: 84 (13.9%)
- **Strongly Disagree/Disagree:** 311 (51.4%)
- N/A: 5 (0.8%)

12a.) From the following list of polling options, please tell me which do you **most** prefer?

$N=514$ ,  $MD=91$

- **District polling places (current system):** 198 (38.5%)
- No polling places, all absentee: 127 (24.7%)
- A handful of centralized polling places (just a few polling locations): 98 (19.1%)
- Frequented location (e.g. mall, grocery store, etc.): 59 (11.5%)
- One centralized polling place (e.g. fairgrounds): 27 (5.3%)
- Don't Know/Refuse to Answer: 5 (1.0%)

12b.) From the following list of polling options, please tell me which do you **least** prefer?

$N=514$ ,  $MD=91$

- **One centralized polling place (e.g. fairgrounds):** 232 (45.1%)
- No polling places, all absentee: 132 (25.7%)
- Frequented location (e.g. mall, grocery store, etc.): 66 (12.8%)
- A handful of centralized polling places (just a few polling locations): 37 (7.2%)
- District polling places (current system): 28 (5.4%)
- Don't Know/Refuse to Answer: 19 (3.7%)

13.)

a) The voter registration system is easy and reliable

$N=605$ ,  $MD=0$

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 454 (75.0%)
- Neutral: 92 (15.2%)
- Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 54 (9.0%)

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- N/A: 5 (0.8%)

b) The change-of-address system is easy and reliable

$N=605, MD=0$

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 349 (57.7%)
- Neutral: 154 (25.5%)
- Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 69 (11.4%)
- N/A: 33 (5.5%)

14.) I would support voter registration:

a) As a check-box on my driver's license or state identification card application

$N=605, MD=0$

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 429 (70.9%)
- Neutral: 62 (10.2%)
- Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 110 (18.2%)
- N/A: 4 (0.7%)

b) With registration online

$N=605, MD=0$

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 374 (61.8%)
- Neutral: 53 (8.8%)
- Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 173 (28.5%)
- N/A: 5 (0.8%)

c) When a county resident turns 18 they are automatically registered to vote (and must choose to un-register if they wish)

$N=605, MD=0$

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 354 (58.5%)
- Neutral: 79 (13.1%)
- Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 169 (27.9%)
- N/A: 3 (0.5%)

d) Maintaining the current system, including paper registration and same-day registration

$N=605, MD=0$

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 366 (60.5%)
- Neutral: 103 (17.0%)
- Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 134 (22.2%)
- N/A: 2 (0.3%)

e) No registration system

$N=605, MD=0$

- **Strongly Agree/Agree:** 39 (6.4%)

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- Neutral: 43 (7.1%)
- **Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 511 (84.4%)**
- N/A: 12 (2.0%)

15.) I would feel more confident in my vote choice if:

a) I had an election guide for every election (and/or issue)

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree: 437 (72.2%)**
- Neutral: 76 (12.6%)
- Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 91 (15.1%)
- Don't Know/Refused: 1 (0.2%)

b) Candidate forums were held in my community

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree: 400 (66.1%)**
- Neutral: 127 (21.0%)
- Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 73 (12.1%)
- Don't Know/Refused: 5 (0.8%)

c) A centralized, dedicated candidate and issue information website was available

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Strongly Agree/Agree: 426 (70.4%)**
- Neutral: 97 (16.0%)
- Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 76 (12.5%)
- Don't Know/Refused: 6 (1.0%)

### Section 4 – Demographics

16.) In what year were you born?

*N=605, MD=0*

- 1923 – 1929 (87 or older): 8 (1.3%)
- 1930 – 1939 (77-86): 51 (8.4%)
- **1940 – 1949 (67-76): 118 (19.5%)**
- 1950 – 1959 (57-66): 116 (19.2%)
- 1960 – 1969 (47-56): 73 (12.1%)
- 1970 – 1979 (37-46): 70 (11.6%)
- 1980 – 1989 (27-36): 102 (16.9%)
- 1990 – 1998 (18-26): 67 (11.1%)

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17.) Please indicate with which gender you identify

*N=605, MD=0*

- Male: 304 (50.2%)
- Female: 301 (49.8%)

18.) In the last four years, please indicate in which elections you have participated (please select all that apply):

*N=605, MD=0*

- Federal (Eg. president, US congress, etc.): 555 (91.7%)
- State (Eg. governor, representative, ballot initiative, etc.): 540 (89.3%)
- Local (Eg. mayor, city council, county commission, school board, etc.): 496 (82.0%)
- Tribal (if applicable. Eg. tribal council, etc.): 13 (.02%)
- None of the above: 22 (.04%)
- Prefer not to answer: 11 (.02%)

19.) With which political party do you identify?

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Democrat:** 215 (35.5%)
- Republican: 128 (21.2%)
- Independent: 109 (18%)
- Libertarian: 6 (1%)
- Green: 2 (.3%)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_: 55 (9.1%)
- Prefer not to answer: 90 (14.9%)

20.) What is your highest level of education?

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Bachelor's degree:** 189 (31.2%)
- Some college: 128 (21.2%)
- Master's or Professional degree: 115(18.5%)
- High school diploma/GED: 88 (14.5%)
- Associate's degree: 43 (7.1%)
- PhD, MD, EdD, etc.: 17 (2.8%)
- Technical certification: 13 (2.1%)
- Some high school: 1 (.2%)
- Prefer not to answer: 14 (2.3%)

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21.) What was your tax filing status last year?

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Married: (47.8%)**
- Single: 198 (32.7%)
- I do not file taxes: 31 (5.1%)
- Head of household: 26 (4.3%)
- Widow/Widower: 19 (3.1%)
- Married filing separately: 7 (1.2%)
- Prefer not to answer: 35 (5.8%)

22.) From the list below, please select the range that best reflects your total household income for 2015:

*N=605, MD=0*

- \$0 - 12,000: 59 (9.8%)
- \$12,001 - 20,000: 47 (7.8%)
- \$20,001 - 30,000: 70 (11.6%)
- \$30,001 - 40,000: 49 (8.1%)
- \$40,001 - 50,000: 47 (7.8%)
- \$50,001 - 60,000: 40 (6.6%)
- \$60,001 - 70,000: 38 (6.3%)
- \$70,001 - 80,000: 21 (3.5%)
- \$80,001 - 100,000: 50 (8.3%)
- \$100,001-120,000: 28 (4.6%)
- \$120,001 and above: 37 (6.1%)
- **Prefer not to answer: 119 (19.7%)**

23.) In what zip code do you live?

*N=605, MD=0*

- **59081: 163 (26.9%)**
- 59803: 85 (14.0%)
- 59808: 76 (12.6%)
- 59802: 73 (12.1%)
- 59804: 48 (7.9%)
- 59847: 27 (4.5%)
- 59868: 18 (3.0%)
- 59825: 16 (2.6%)
- 59834: 13 (2.1%)
- 59846: 13 (2.1%)
- 59823: 8 (1.3%)
- Other: 39 (6.5%)
- Don't know/Refused: 26 (4.3%)

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24.) How long have you lived in your neighborhood or voting district?

*N=605, MD=0*

- Less than one year: 66 (10.9%)
- 1 to 3 years: 108 (17.9%)
- 3 to 5 years: 77 (12.7%)
- 5 to 10 years: 118 (14.9%)
- 10 to 20 years: (19.5%)
- **More than 20 years:** 129 (21.3%)
- Prefer not to answer: 17 (2.8%)

25.) Which do you use most often?

*N=605, MD=0*

- **Absentee ballot:** 374 (61.8%)
- Vote at a polling place: 212 (35%)
- Do not vote: 19 (3.1%)