



RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 2014 UTAH VOTER POLL
9 DECEMBER 2014

Information about the Survey

Researchers at Brigham Young University's Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy invited members of the Utah Voter Poll panel, a group of voters who were recruited at polling places across Utah on Election Day in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012, to complete an online survey between November 14, 2014 and November 23, 2014. For more about the poll, see the methodology section below.

Contact

For further discussion of the results or methodology, please use the following contact information:

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Note: Additional questions fielded on this survey are not included on this topline. Those questions were part of student and other academic projects and will be reported publicly at a later date. If you would like to see the results of those projects, please contact the Utah Voter Poll using the contact information above.

The Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy (CSED) at Brigham Young University is a nonpartisan academic research center seeking to increase knowledge about the practice of American democracy. CSED is committed to the production and dissemination of research that meets high academic standards, is useful to policy makers, and informs citizens. Those who are interested in additional details about the results, including additional analysis or raw data, should contact CSED for more information. Neither CSED nor the Utah Voter Poll are affiliated with any political party or candidate.

Methodology

Survey Field Dates: November 14, 2014 – November 23, 2014

Sample Size and Margin of Error:

In total, 717 respondents entered the survey; we have at least partial data from 717 respondents, and 657 respondents completed the entire survey. The margin of error for a simple random sample with a sample size of 657 is about + or – 3.64%. The Utah Voter Poll sample is drawn from the Utah Colleges Exit Poll sample, which has a sophisticated sample design. A “design effect” multiplier would make the margin of error slightly higher than this.

Response Rate:

The response rate for the Utah Voter Poll was 9.58% (see calculations below). Potential respondents were sent three invitations to participate, spaced a few days apart over the survey field period. Our decision to send three invitations follows standard practices for internet surveys seeking to maximize response rates with minimal field time and disruption to potential respondents.

Response rate calculation:

Total email addresses sent invitations: 6,898

Total valid email addresses that received at least one email: 6,855

Total accessed surveys: 731

Completed surveys: 657

Response rate = $657/6,855 = 9.58\%$

Weighting:

The raw data were statistically adjusted using a technique called “rim weighting” to correct for potential nonresponse error and potential coverage error. Nonresponse error would occur if the non-respondents from our sampling pool (the email addresses collected on Election Day 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012) differed significantly from our actual respondents on their responses to the survey items. Coverage error would occur if the group that opted into the Utah Voter Poll on Election Day differed significantly from the group that we are really trying to survey and draw inferences about (all Utah voters). It is impossible to be absolutely certain about the existence of nonresponse and coverage error, and when weighting, we use what we know about nonresponse and coverage to minimize the chances of nonresponse error and coverage error.

Utah has very high computer ownership and internet access rates among the general population. These rates are likely to be even higher among voters. Some literature suggests web surveys will tend to over-represent people with higher incomes, higher levels of education, younger people, and men. Our weighting procedure was designed to take the distributions for age, education, income, gender, race, and religion from the 2010 and 2012 KBYU/Utah Colleges Exit Polls and

use them to statistically adjust the data so that respondents belonging to overrepresented groups are given less weight in the analysis and those in underrepresented groups are given more weight. Raking weighting is when the weights are applied iteratively, one variable at a time, until the distributions for all of the variables of interest closely reflect their targets. The data were weighted by education, age, income, gender, race, and religion. At the end of the weighting process, the weights were trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to prevent outliers from skewing the results.

1. Governor Herbert Approval

Answer	Response	%
Strongly approve	118	17%
Approve	400	57%
Disapprove	142	20%
Strongly disapprove	44	6%
Total	704	100%

2. Do you approve or disapprove of how the Utah State Legislature is handling its job?

Answer	Response	%
Strongly approve	17	3%
Approve	417	59%
Disapprove	176	25%
Strongly disapprove	91	13%
Total	701	100%

3. For each of the following persons, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable impression:

Question	Very Unfavorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Somewhat Favorable	Very Favorable	No Opinion	Total Responses
Orrin Hatch	24%	25%	29%	21%	1%	692
Mike Lee	33%	12%	21%	31%	3%	691
Mia Love	25%	17%	20%	27%	10%	691
Chris Stewart	10%	16%	27%	18%	29%	690
Jason Chaffetz	22%	17%	17%	40%	4%	691
Rob Bishop	16%	18%	30%	20%	16%	689

4. In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, or they just didn't have time. How about you--did you vote in the November 2014 midterm election?

Answer	Response	%
Yes, I voted on Election Day at my regular polling place.	337	49%
Yes, I voted in person before Election Day at an early voting location set up by the county.	91	13%
Yes, I voted by mail.	187	27%
No, I did not vote in the midterm election this time.	54	8%
Yes, I filled out my ballot at home and then dropped off my completed ballot at an official ballot drop-off location or at my polling place before or on Election Day.	20	3%
Total	689	100%

All respondents were asked the question of whether or not they felt that voting was a duty or a choice (Q5). In order to prevent question wording from biasing the results, the order of “duty” and “choice” in the question was randomly assigned for each respondent. The numbers below are the aggregate results for both versions of the question.

5. Different people feel differently about voting. For some, voting is a duty – they feel they should vote in every election no matter how they feel about the candidates and parties. For others voting is a choice – they feel free to vote or not to vote, depending on how they feel about the candidates and parties. For you personally, is voting mainly a duty, a choice, or neither a duty nor a choice?

Answer	Response	%
Mainly a duty	473	69%
Mainly a choice	174	25%
Neither a choice nor a duty	43	6%
Total	690	100%

6. How strongly do you feel that voting is a choice?

Answer	Response	%
Very strongly	113	63%
Moderately strongly	58	33%
Not very strongly	7	4%
Total	178	100%

7. How strongly do you feel that voting is a duty?

Answer	Response	%
Very strongly	338	73%
Moderately strongly	119	25%
Not very strongly	7	2%
Total	464	100%

In Question 8, if respondents answered "other", they could fill in another reason in an open-ended text box.

8. In this last election in Utah, only about 30% of people who are eligible to vote actually voted. In your view, what is the most important reason why voter turnout in Utah is so low?

Answer	Response	%
People in Utah are too busy to vote.	24	4%
People think the elections in Utah are not competitive so it doesn't matter.	392	57%
People in Utah generally think voting is too hard.	8	1%
People in Utah just do not care about politics.	103	15%
Other	159	23%
Total	686	100%

Questions 9 and 10 were introduced with the following paragraph: “In the recent elections, Republicans won enough seats in the Senate to take control from the Democrats. Republicans also expanded their majority in the House of Representatives. The next questions are about what Republicans in Congress and President Obama should do next.”

9. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion about what Republicans in Congress should do? Republicans in Congress should...

Answer	Response	%
Stand up to Barack Obama on issues that are important to Republican supporters, even if it means less gets done in Washington.	217	32%
Try as best they can to work with Barack Obama to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some groups of Republican supporters.	452	66%
Don't Know	17	2%
Total	686	100%

10. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion about what President Barack Obama should do? Barack Obama should...

Answer	Response	%
Stand up to the Republicans on issues that are important to Democratic supporters, even if it means less gets done in Washington.	75	11%
Try as best he can to work with Republican leaders to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some groups of Democratic supporters.	576	84%
Don't Know	31	5%
Total	682	100%

11. There has been a proposal to discontinue daylight savings within Utah. Clocks would remain on either Mountain Standard Time (currently used in winter) or on Mountain Daylight Time (currently used in summer) all year long. What would you like to see happen?

Answer	Response	%
Do nothing. Continue shifting changing our clocks each November and March.	187	27%
Stay on Mountain Standard Time (MST) all year long.	264	39%
Stay on Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) all year long.	228	34%
Total	679	100%

Questions 12 and 13 ask about liquor laws in Utah. All respondents were asked question 12, however the question text randomly included or excluded the following sentence (bracketed in the prompt): "Critics call this barrier the Zion curtain." The question text below includes the special text. The below totals show the combined percentages for all respondents.

12. Utah state law requires most restaurants with a liquor license to prepare alcoholic beverages out of sight of customers. At a minimum, restaurants must erect a seven-foot-high barrier separating the alcohol-preparation area from the dining area. [Critics call this barrier "the Zion curtain."] Some Utah legislators have proposed eliminating this requirement. If it were eliminated, alcoholic beverages could be prepared within sight of restaurant customers. Please indicate on the following scale your view about these barriers.

Question	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Responses
Erecting these barriers has decreased alcohol consumption.	2%	8%	22%	23%	45%	671
Removing these barriers would increase alcohol consumption.	3%	12%	18%	23%	44%	674
Erecting these barriers has helped parents teach their children to make wise choices about alcohol.	3%	8%	21%	21%	47%	674
Removing these barriers would help parents teach their children to make wise choices about alcohol.	9%	22%	34%	16%	19%	671

13. Listed below are three proposals that legislators have considered. Please indicate your support for or opposition to each proposal.

Question	Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Neither Oppose not Support	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support	Total Responses
Allow restaurants to remove these barriers and prepare alcohol within sight of customers.	8%	9%	20%	28%	35%	674
Allow restaurants to remove these barriers if they post a sign at the door advising patrons that alcohol is prepared within sight of customers.	15%	10%	32%	30%	13%	666
Change nothing; continue to require these barriers.	40%	24%	21%	8%	7%	667

This next section asked respondents about expanding the Medicaid program in Utah. Question 14 was part of an experiment to see how differing levels of information about Medicaid affect responses. Respondents were randomly assigned to receive only one of the question options (a, b, c, or d). Question 15 is separate from the experiment and asks about the Affordable Care Act in the Supreme Court.

14a. Recently, the expansion of Medicaid in Utah has been a subject of debate. Which of the following proposals for expanding health coverage in Utah do you prefer?

Answer	Response	%
Provide health coverage to 110,000 additional poor and very low income adults by expanding the Medicaid program. These individuals would not be required to pay any insurance costs out of their own pockets.	37	22%
Provide health coverage to 110,000 additional poor and very low income adults in Utah by giving them subsidies to purchase private health insurance. This program would not expand Medicaid, and individuals may need to pay part of the cost out of their own pockets.	55	32%
Keep Utah's current insurance system with no changes in coverage for now.	31	18%
Provide health coverage to about 54,000 additional poor and very low income adults through a partial expansion of the Medicaid program. These individuals would not be required to pay any insurance costs out of their own pockets.	6	4%
Don't Know	41	24%
Total	170	100%

14b. Recently, the expansion of Medicaid in Utah has been a subject of debate. Medicaid is a program that pays medical bills for people who have low incomes or cannot afford the cost of health care.

Under current Utah law, some adults whose incomes fall below the federal poverty level are not eligible for Medicaid. For example, most adults with children are currently eligible for Medicaid only if they make slightly less than half the federal poverty level. For a family of four, the 2014 poverty level is \$23,850. Other adults who do not have children are not eligible for Medicaid and do not make enough money to receive federal assistance to purchase private insurance. Some states have chosen to expand Medicaid to include all adults making 138% of the federal poverty level or lower. Other states have chosen not to expand the Medicaid program. The federal government will pay 100% of the cost of expanding the Medicaid program for the first few years, phasing down to 90% of the cost in 2020 and afterwards. Some worry that federal funding could further decline in the future, leaving states with a greater burden to fund the program.

Which of the following proposals for expanding health coverage in Utah do you prefer?

Answer	Response	%
Provide health coverage to 110,000 additional poor and very low income adults by expanding the Medicaid program. These individuals would not be required to pay any insurance costs out of their own pockets.	46	29%
Provide health coverage to 110,000 additional poor and very low income adults in Utah by giving them subsidies to purchase private health insurance. This program would not expand Medicaid, and individuals may need to pay part of the cost out of their own pockets.	51	32%
Keep Utah's current insurance system with no changes in coverage for now.	28	18%
Provide health coverage to about 54,000 additional poor and very low income adults through a partial expansion of the Medicaid program. These individuals would not be required to pay any insurance costs out of their own pockets.	8	5%
Don't Know	24	16%
Total	157	100%

14c. Recently, the expansion of Medicaid in Utah has been a subject of debate. Which of the following proposals for expanding health coverage in Utah do you prefer?

Answer	Response	%
Provide health coverage to 110,000 additional poor and very low income adults by expanding the Medicaid program. These individuals would not be required to pay any insurance costs out of their own pockets. Some estimates say that by 2020, this program could cost the state as much as \$60 million per year, with the federal government providing the remaining funds.	30	17%
Provide health coverage to 110,000 additional poor and very low income adults in Utah by giving them subsidies to purchase private health insurance. This program would not expand Medicaid, and individuals may need to pay part of the cost out of their own pockets. Some estimates say that by 2020, this program could cost the state as much as \$40 million per year, with the federal government providing the remaining funds.	54	31%
Keep Utah's current insurance system with no changes in coverage for now. This option would not change the costs to the state, and no additional federal Medicaid funds would be given to the state.	49	28%
Provide health coverage to about 54,000 additional poor and very low income adults through a partial expansion of the Medicaid program. These individuals would not be required to pay any insurance costs out of their own pockets. Some estimates say that by 2020, this program could cost the state as much as \$25 million per year, with the federal government providing the remaining funds.	21	12%
Don't Know	20	12%
Total	174	100%

14d. Recently, the expansion of Medicaid in Utah has been a subject of debate. Medicaid is a program that pays medical bills for people who have low incomes or cannot afford the cost of health care.

Under current Utah law, some adults whose incomes fall below the federal poverty level are not eligible for Medicaid. For example, most adults with children are currently eligible for Medicaid only if they make slightly less than half the federal poverty level. For a family of four, the 2014 poverty level is \$23,850. Other adults who do not have children are not eligible for Medicaid and do not make enough money to receive federal assistance to purchase private insurance. Some states have chosen to expand Medicaid to include all adults making 138% of the federal poverty level or lower. Other states have chosen not to expand the Medicaid program. The federal government will pay 100% of the cost of expanding the Medicaid program for the first few years, phasing down to 90% of the cost in 2020 and afterwards. Some worry that federal funding could further decline in the future, leaving states with a greater burden to fund the program.

Which of the following proposals for expanding health coverage in Utah do you prefer?

Answer	Response	%
Provide health coverage to 110,000 additional poor and very low income adults by expanding the Medicaid program. These individuals would not be required to pay any insurance costs out of their own pockets. Some estimates say that by 2020, this program could cost the state as much as \$60 million per year, with the federal government providing the remaining funds.	40	24%
Provide health coverage to 110,000 additional poor and very low income adults in Utah by giving them subsidies to purchase private health insurance. This program would not expand Medicaid, and individuals may need to pay part of the cost out of their own pockets. Some estimates say that by 2020, this program could cost the state as much as \$40 million per year, with the federal government providing the remaining funds.	42	25%
Keep Utah's current insurance system with no changes in coverage for now. This option would not change the costs to the state, and no additional federal Medicaid funds would be given to the state.	33	20%
Provide health coverage to about 54,000 additional poor and very low income adults through a partial expansion of the Medicaid program. These individuals would not be required to pay any insurance costs out of their own pockets. Some estimates say that by 2020, this program could cost the state as much as \$25 million per year, with the federal government providing the remaining funds.	18	10%
Don't Know	36	21%
Total	169	100%

15. Recently, the Supreme Court decided to hear an important lawsuit about the Affordable Care Act (sometimes called Obamacare). The act allowed the states and the federal government to establish insurance exchanges, which are places where consumers can go to choose from different health insurance plans. Some states established their own exchanges and other states, like Utah, did not. Citizens in states without a state exchange can use the federal exchange instead.

The lawsuit is about whether or not the federal government can provide tax credits for purchasing health insurance to citizens in states like Utah that use the federal insurance exchange instead of an exchange established directly by the state. Currently, Utah citizens who qualify can receive tax credits to help them purchase insurance on the federal exchange. If the lawsuit succeeds, tax credits for purchasing insurance will no longer be available to Utah citizens and the cost of purchasing health insurance would rise for those who are currently receiving such credits. However, citizens in states that established their own exchanges would still be eligible to receive tax credits.

Which of the following best represents your opinion about what Utah should do if the lawsuit succeeds and federal tax credits for purchasing insurance are no longer available to Utah citizens?

Answer	Response	%
Utah should establish its own exchange so that qualifying citizens can receive tax credits for purchasing insurance.	189	28%
Utah should encourage Congress to fix the law so that qualifying citizens in states that use the federal exchange can receive tax credits, too.	263	39%
Utah should not do anything, even if that means the cost of health insurance will increase for Utahns who currently receive tax credits, because Utah should not support programs like the Affordable Care Act.	143	22%
Don't Know	70	11%
Total	665	100%

16. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the political movement known as the Tea Party?

Answer	Response	%
Strongly favorable	95	14%
Somewhat favorable	150	22%
Somewhat unfavorable	118	18%
Strongly unfavorable	274	41%
Don't know / No opinion	30	5%
Total	667	100%

17. Do you consider yourself to be an active supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	91	14%
No	543	81%
Don't know / No opinion	34	5%
Total	668	100%

Demographics

18. Gender

Answer	Response	%
Male	325	49%
Female	341	51%
Total	666	100%

19. Age

Answer	Response	%
18-24	16	3%
25-34	104	16%
34-44	107	16%
45-54	128	19%
55-64	146	22%
65 or older	161	24%
Total	662	100%

20. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a(n):

Answer	Response	%
Strong Democrat	61	9%
Not so strong Democrat	19	3%
Independent leaning Democrat	99	15%
Independent	72	11%
Independent leaning Republican	153	23%
Not so strong Republican	55	8%
Strong Republican	179	27%
Other	26	4%
Don't know	2	0%
Total	666	100%

21. On most political matters do you consider yourself:

Answer	Response	%
Strongly conservative	186	28%
Moderately conservative	213	32%
Neither, middle of the road	111	17%
Moderately liberal	102	15%
Strongly liberal	53	8%
Don't know	2	0%
Total	667	100%

22. What was the last year of school you completed?

Answer	Response	%
Some high school or less	2	0%
High school graduate	62	9%
Some college	198	30%
College graduate	215	33%
Post-graduate	188	28%
Total	665	100%

23. What, if any, is your religious preference?

Answer	Response	%
Protestant	50	8%
Catholic	21	3%
LDS / Mormon	476	71%
Jewish	2	0%
Other	23	4%
No preference / No religious affiliation	80	12%
Prefer not to say	15	2%
Total	667	100%

24. How active do you consider yourself in the practice of your religious preference?

Answer	Response	%
Very active	415	62%
Somewhat active	79	12%
Not very active	45	7%
Not active	56	8%
Does not apply / Prefer not to say	71	11%
Total	666	100%

25. What is your current employment status?

Answer	Response	%
Self-employed	65	10%
Employed by someone else	345	52%
Unemployed	22	3%
Homemaker	63	10%
Retired	153	23%
Student	17	2%
Total	665	100%

26. Are you: (check all that apply)

Answer	Response	%
American Indian / Native American	7	1%
Asian	9	1%
Black / African American	4	1%
Hispanic / Latino	23	3%
White / Caucasian	629	95%
Pacific Islander	3	0%
Other	10	2%

27. Are you currently:

Answer	Response	%
Married	507	76%
Divorced	49	8%
Widowed	21	3%
Living with partner	20	3%
Single	67	10%
Total	664	100%

28. What do you expect your 2014 family income to be?

Answer	Response	%
Under \$25,000	70	11%
\$25,000 - \$39,999	85	13%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	68	10%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	120	18%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	150	23%
\$100,000 - \$124,999	71	11%
\$125,000 - \$149,999	25	4%
Over \$150,000	66	10%
Total	655	100%

29. Finally, for quality control purposes, please rate your experience taking this poll. Would you consider the experience:

Answer	Response	%
Excellent	235	35%
Good	367	55%
Fair	52	8%
Poor	10	2%
Don't Know	2	0%
Total	666	100%