



RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY 2012 UTAH VOTER POLL
19 April 2012

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, and 2010 to complete an online survey between February 27, 2012 and March 12, 2012. 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:

Kelly Patterson, CSED Director, (801) 422-4985
Quin Monson, CSED Associate Director, (801) 422-8017

The Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy
Brigham Young University.
Phone: (801) 422-3716
Email: csed@byu.edu

Methodology

Survey Field Dates: February 27, 2012 – March 12, 2012.

Sample Size and Margin of Error:

The survey was entered by 550 respondents and we have data on at least one question from 528 respondents and completed surveys from 499 respondents. The margin of error for a simple random sample with a sample size of 499 is about + or – 4.39 %. The Utah Voter Poll is drawn from the Utah Colleges Exit Poll, 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 11.08% (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: 5,712

Total valid email addresses that received at least one email: 4,502

Total accessed surveys: 550

Completed surveys: 499

Response rate = $499/4502 = 11.08\%$

Weighting:

There was no weighting done for the February 2012 Utah Voter Poll.

February 2012 Utah Voter Poll Topline Report

Last Modified: 04/19/2012

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Gary Herbert is doing as Utah Governor?

Answer	Response	%
Strongly approve	51	10%
Approve	306	58%
Disapprove	132	25%
Strongly disapprove	39	7%
Total	528	100%

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

Answer	Response	%
Strongly approve	11	2%
Approve	240	46%
Disapprove	153	29%
Strongly disapprove	122	23%
Total	526	100%

3. Which of the following comes closest to your view?

Issue	Response	%
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry.	149	28%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry.	224	43%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship.	153	29%
Total	526	100%

7. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about issues the state government has recently considered:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Responses	Mean
Public schools in Utah should teach about the use of contraceptives.	13.6%	15.7%	12.1%	25.6%	33.1%	523	3.49
Utah liquor stores should be closed on holidays.	18.6%	20.5%	35.2%	14.7%	11.1%	523	2.79
The state should compete to host the Olympics again in 2022.	9.6%	13.6%	24.0%	32.0%	20.9%	522	3.41

8. Several Utah legislators have recently advocated an idea called the "National Popular Vote." Under this proposal, states would pledge their electoral college votes to the candidate who received the most votes nationwide. Currently, Utah gives its electoral college votes to the candidate who received the most votes in the state. Please click on the button that comes closest to your views about Utah's role in electing the president. Utah should give its electoral college votes to the candidate who receives the most votes in the...

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Mean
Nation as a Whole : State of Utah	12.4%	5.8%	8.0%	10.5%	63.4%	516	4.07

9. Below is a pair of words that people might use to describe the abilities and interests of the American public when it comes to politics. For each pair of words or phrases below, click on a circle that comes closest to how you would describe the American public.

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Mean
Informed : Uninformed	1.2%	8.0%	12.1%	54.5%	24.2%	512	3.93
Interested in politics : Uninterested in politics	2.5%	14.6%	31.3%	43.0%	8.6%	514	3.40

10. Below is a pair of words or phrases that people might use to describe the way the American government works. For each pair of words or phrases below, click on a circle that comes closest to how you would describe the way American government works.

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Mean
Unable to solve problems : Able to solve problems	30.7%	41.3%	14.0%	12.7%	1.4%	514	2.13
Representative of what the people want : Unrepresentative of what the people want	3.5%	14.0%	16.9%	35.2%	30.4%	514	3.75
Efficient : Wasteful	2.3%	4.5%	12.5%	33.9%	46.9%	514	4.18
Unfair to ordinary people : Fair to ordinary people	24.6%	33.7%	30.0%	9.8%	2.0%	513	2.31

11. Some people advocate more opportunities for people to vote directly on issues. Other individuals believe the decisions about public policy should be left to elected officials. Generally speaking, which position comes closest to the way you think?

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Mean
Allow people to vote directly on more issues : Leave policy decisions to the elected officials	30.6%	30.6%	15.6%	19.7%	3.5%	513	2.35

12. Imagine for a moment that you could create your own form of government from scratch. As you make choices about how to design this government, you must choose between competing ideas. Please click the circle that comes closest to the ideas that you would use to create your own system of government.

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Mean
Rely on the virtue of elected officials to control government : Rely on the organization of government to keep government in check	3.6%	10.3%	16.4%	38.7%	31.0%	506	3.83
Make it easy for the government to solve problems quickly, even if it means a loss of some individual liberty : Make it difficult for the government to solve problems quickly in order to preserve individual liberties	2.2%	10.6%	25.2%	38.6%	23.4%	508	3.70
Elections to choose government officials should be held frequently : Elections to choose government officials should only be held rarely	36.0%	38.4%	20.1%	4.9%	0.6%	508	1.96
Political power should mostly be held by a national government : Political power should mostly be held by state and local governments	3.7%	11.8%	22.0%	25.7%	36.7%	509	3.80

13. Recently, some politicians have criticized the 17th Amendment, which calls for the people within a state to elect their senators directly. Prior to the 17th Amendment, senators were elected by state legislators, not directly by the people. Please click on the button that best reflects your views about how senators should be elected.

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Responses	Mean
By the state legislature : By the people directly	3.9%	2.8%	1.8%	7.3%	84.3%	510	4.65

14. Internet use

Answer	Response	%
Once or more a day	492	97%
A few times a week	15	3%
A few times a month	0	0%
Hardly ever	1	0%
I do not have access to the internet.	0	0%
Total	508	100%

15. Are you:

Answer	Response	%
Male	313	62%
Female	194	38%
Total	507	100%

16. Please select the year you were born: (Grouped into age categories)

Age Category	Response	%
18–24	7	1.4%
25–34	66	13.2%
35–44	111	22.1%
45–54	128	25.5%
55–64	124	24.7%
65 and older	66	13.2%
Total	502	100%

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

Answer	Response	%
Strong Democrat	48	9%
Not so strong Democrat	26	5%
Independent leaning Democrat	64	13%
Independent	56	11%
Independent leaning Republican	115	23%
Not so strong Republican	66	13%
Strong Republican	113	22%
Other	19	4%
Don't know	1	0%
Total	508	100%

18. On most political matters do you consider yourself:

Answer	Response	%
Strongly conservative	113	22%
Moderately conservative	177	35%
Neither, middle of the road	75	15%
Moderately liberal	92	18%
Strongly liberal	47	9%
Don't know	3	1%
Total	507	100%

19. How closely do you follow news and current events in Utah?

Answer	Response	%
Very closely	215	42%
Somewhat closely	256	50%
Not very closely	35	7%
Not at all	1	0%
Total	507	100%

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

Answer	Response	%
Some high school or less	2	0%
High school graduate	17	3%
Some college	128	25%
College graduate	185	36%
Post-graduate	175	35%
Total	507	100%

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

Answer	Response	%
Protestant	20	4%
Catholic	22	4%
LDS / Mormon	335	66%
Jewish	2	0%
Other	16	3%
No preference / No religious affiliation	84	17%
Prefer not to say	28	6%
Total	507	100%

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

Answer	Response	%
Very active	330	78%
Somewhat active	43	10%
Not very active	16	4%
Not active	20	5%
Does not apply / Prefer not to say	14	3%
Total	423	100%

23. What is your current employment status?

Answer	Response	%
Self-employed	67	13%
Employed by someone else	295	59%
Unemployed	10	2%
Homemaker	44	9%
Retired	71	14%
Student	15	3%
Total	502	100%

24. Are you:

Answer	Response	%
American Indian / Native American	5	1%
Asian	1	0%
Black / African American	0	0%
Hispanic / Latino	13	3%
White / Caucasian	478	95%
Pacific Islander	2	0%
Other	2	0%
Total	501	100%

25. Are you currently:

Answer	Response	%
Married	410	82%
Divorced	35	7%
Widowed	8	2%
Living with partner	7	1%
Single	41	8%
Total	501	100%

26. What do you expect your 2012 family income to be?

Answer	Response	%
Under \$25,000	27	5%
\$25,000 – \$39,999	53	11%
\$40,000 – \$49,999	48	10%
\$50,000 – \$74,999	108	22%
\$75,000 – \$99,999	105	21%
\$100,000 – \$124,999	66	13%
\$125,000 – \$149,999	32	7%
Over \$150,000	53	11%
Total	492	100%