



RESULTS OF THE MARCH 2010 UTAH VOTER POLL
15 March 2010

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, and 2008 to complete an online survey between March 3-9, 2010. 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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Complete Results

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Gary Herbert is doing as governor of Utah?

- Strongly approve, 6.0%
- Approve, 68.8%
- Disapprove, 20.9%
- Strongly Disapprove 4.3%
- N=368

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Utah State Legislature is doing?

- Strongly approve, 1.6%
- Approve, 44.0%
- Disapprove, 35.9%
- Strongly disapprove, 18.5%
- N=368

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as President?

- Strongly approve, 10.8%
- Approve, 21.8%
- Disapprove, 26.6%
- Strongly disapprove, 40.9%
- N=372

Do you approve or disapprove of the United States Congress is doing?

- Strongly approve, .5%
- Approve, 9.2%
- Disapprove, 39.0%
- Strongly disapprove, 51.2%
- N=369

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

	Very Favorable	Favorable	Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Haven't Heard Enough to Have an Opinion	N
Gary Herbert	7.65%	58.74%	17.49%	6.28%	9.84%	366
Peter Corroon	8.86%	34.35%	16.34%	5.82%	34.63%	361
Bob Bennett	7.12%	39.18%	29.32%	17.53%	6.85%	365
Orrin Hatch	13.55%	42.28%	23.04%	19.24%	1.90%	369
Rob Bishop	9.04%	29.04%	17.81%	13.42%	30.68%	365
Jim Matheson	11.11%	55.56%	19.51%	6.23%	7.59%	369
Jason Chaffetz	16.58%	32.88%	11.41%	18.75%	20.38%	368

Has Senator Bob Bennett performed his job well enough to deserve reelection or is it time to give a new person a chance?

- Senator Bennett **definitely** deserves reelection, 9.3%
- Senator Bennett **probably** deserves reelection, 28.1%
- It is **probably** time to give someone new a chance, 29.4 %
- It is **definitely** time to give someone new a chance, 33.2%
- N=367

Compared to a year ago, is your personal financial situation better, worse, or about the same?

- Better, 16.2%
- Worse, 41.4 %
- About the same, 42.4%
- N=370

Compared to a year ago, is Utah's economy better, worse, or about the same?

- Better, 5.7%
- Worse, 60.5 %
- About the same, 33.8%
- N=370

Compared to a year ago, is the nation's economy better, worse, or about the same?

- Better, 16.7%
- Worse, 60.9%
- About the same, 22.4%
- N=366

What is your view of the political movement known as the "Tea Party"? Would you say you:

- Strongly support it, 21.4%
- Moderately support it, 28.5%
- Moderately oppose it, 9.5 %
- Strongly oppose it, 17.3%
- Don't know enough about the Tea Party to say, 23.3%
- N=369

On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please choose one circle per line.

	Strongly Disagree 1	2	3	4	Strongly 5 Agree	N
Democracy is about achieving compromise among differing viewpoints.	4.34%	5.69%	17.89%	42.01%	30.08%	369
Freedom depends on diversity.	10.05%	14.67%	24.46%	26.09%	24.73%	368
In politics today there is a battle between good and evil.	20.92%	10.87%	24.46%	19.02%	24.73%	368
The people, not the politicians, should make the most important policy decisions.	3.26%	10.05%	19.29%	26.36%	41.03%	368
The politicians in Congress need to follow the will of the people.	1.63%	2.72%	10.33%	24.46%	60.87%	368
The power of a few special interests prevents our country from making progress.	2.44%	5.15%	9.76%	27.10%	55.56%	369
When our opposition presents new and challenging viewpoints, there is something we can learn by listening.	2.44%	0.54%	16.26%	39.84%	40.92%	369

Do you favor or oppose providing more generous government assistance to the poor?

- Strongly favor, 7.7%
- Favor, 28.0%
- Oppose, 47.5%
- Strongly Oppose, 16.8%
- N=364

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view? Most poor people are poor because of society's failures; or most poor people are poor because of their own individual failures.

- Most are poor because of society's failures, 5.7%
- Most are poor because of individual failures, 30.6%
- Both, 57.7%
- Neither, 6.0%
- N=366

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following: I should do more to solve the problem of poverty in my community.

- Strongly agree, 11.5%
- Agree, 63.4%
- Disagree, 23.5%
- Strongly Disagree, 1.6%

- N=366

Which of the following statements best describes your party registration?

- I am officially registered as a Republican, 55.8%
- I am officially registered as a Democrat, 14.6%
- I am currently unaffiliated with a party, but will register as a Republican before the June 2010 Utah Primary Election, 1.1%
- I am currently unaffiliated with a party, but will register as a Democrat before the June 2010 Utah Primary Election, 2.2%
- I am officially unaffiliated with a party, 26.4%

[The primary election questions were only asked of registered Republicans or respondents who reported they planned to register as Republicans before the June 2010 primary election.]

Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in June 22, 2010 Primary election?

- A great deal of interest, 43.8%
- A fair amount of interest, 39.4%
- Only a little interest, 16.3%
- No interest at all, 0.5%
- N=208

Sometimes at election time things come up that keep a person from voting. Think about all the things that may or may not have kept you from voting in past elections and whether or not something may come up that will keep you from voting this time. Indicate on the scale below how likely it is that you will vote in the election on November 6, 2007.

- No chance I will vote (0), 0%
- 1, 0%
- 2, 0.5%
- 3, 1.0%
- 4, 1.0%
- 5, 1.9%
- 6, 2.9%
- 7, 4.4%
- 8, 11.7%
- 9, 26.2%
- Completely certain I will vote (10), 50.5%
- N=206

Suppose the June 22, 2010 Republican Primary Election for U.S. Senate was being held today. For each possible match up, please indicate for whom you would vote.

Bob Bennett vs. Mike Lee

- Bennett, 62.1%
- Lee, 37.9%
- N=182

Bob Bennett vs. Cherilyn Eager

- Bennett, 68.5%
- Eager, 31.5%
- N=178

Bob Bennett vs. Tim Bridgewater

- Bennett, 62.4%
- Bridgewater, 37.6%
- N=178

Bob Bennett vs. Merrill Cook

- Bennett, 73.2%
- Cook, 26.8%
- N=179

[The following questions are open-ended response questions with each respondent randomly assigned one question. Written responses are too lengthy to list here and will be analyzed further in future analysis.]

Suppose a friend sends you a recent article, a segment of which appears below. Your friend does not know what to think about it and needs your help. Please read the segment in its entirety and provide a response to your friend in the box below. Help your friend decide whether or not they should agree with the segment and why. (Total N=272)

1. In one part of the United States, by law any remodeling to a home or commercial building that costs more than \$1,000 in materials and labor must be performed by a licensed contractor.

According to the Associated General Contractors of this state, the law is needed to ensure building safety through quality work. However, some people criticize the limit because it restricts non-licensed repairmen from doing small jobs; the fear is that general contractors are consciously trying to restrict competition and protect their industry.

An added concern is that the current law leads to inflated costs for ordinary repairs, because general contractors admit that they generally cannot make a bid of less than \$5,000 for a job if they want to recover their losses. (N=62)

2. In one part of the United States, by law any remodeling to a home or commercial building that cost more than \$1,000 in materials and labor must be performed by a licensed contractor.

The contractors in this state claim that this law is needed to ensure building safety through quality work. However, this is a deliberate arrangement between industry lobbyists and the politicians to restrict honest, non-licensed repairmen from doing small jobs; the contractors and their friends will do anything to squeeze out low-price competitors.

Furthermore, the current law means the contractors can keep charging us inflated prices for ordinary repairs, since no contractor will ever charge less than \$5,000 for a job because they charge us hefty fees to cover what they call their “overhead.” (N=74)

3. In July 2009, Congress passed and the President signed a \$700 billion plan to prevent the collapse of the entire financial industry, arguing that many of these institutions were too essential to let fail.

Taxpayers necessarily assumed the risk of default. Later that same year, the three largest U.S. automakers were extended \$23 billion in loans from the government to prevent bankruptcy; again, taxpayers would assume the risk of default. And a few months later, Congress passed and the President signed a \$787 billion stimulus package designed to create jobs and stabilize the U.S. economy. This brought the eventual deficit to over \$100 trillion.

Because of this government assistance, the banking industry is beginning to make a turnaround. But small businesses are still not receiving the loans they need, and unemployment has continued to rise. The banking industry and government officials have created an enormous debt obligation that will have to be repaid by U.S. citizens over the next few decades. (N=66)

4. In July 2009, the government passed a \$700 billion plan to prevent the collapse of the banking industry, arguing that many of these institutions were “too big to fail.”

The taxpayers, of course, would foot the bill. Later that same year, the three largest U.S. automakers were handed \$23 billion in loans from the government to keep them from going broke; again, we taxpayers would have to pay the tab if the automakers defaulted. And a few months later, the government signed a \$787 billion stimulus package supposedly designed to create jobs and stabilize the U.S. economy, bringing our eventual deficit to over \$100 trillion.

Thanks to all this taxpayer assistance, the banking industry is starting to turn a handsome profit. But small businesses are being turned away when they ask for loans, and the number of jobs continues to shrink. The bankers and their friends in government have created an enormous debt that will burden us and our children for years to come. (N=70)

How often do you use the Internet?

- Once or more per day, 93.3%
- A few times a week, 6.4%
- A few times a month, 0.3%
- Hardly ever, 0%
- I do not have access to internet, 0%
- N=358

Are you:

- Male, 58.5%
- Female, 41.5%
- N=357

What year were you born?

- 18-24, 1.9%
- 25-34, 15.0%
- 35-44, 22.4%
- 45-54, 24.4%
- 55-64*, 22.7%
- 65 or older, 13.6%
- N=353

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

- Strong Democrat, 5.9%
- Not so strong Democrat, 2.0%
- Independent leaning Democrat, 13.4%
- Independent, 12.6%
- Independent leaning Republican, 21.6%
- Not so strong Republican, 15.4%
- Strong Republican, 23.5%
- Other, 5.0%
- Don't know, 0.6%
- N=357

On most political matters do you consider yourself:

- Strongly conservative, 29.9%
- Moderately conservative, 34.1%
- Neither, middle of the road, 15.5%
- Moderately liberal, 15.8%
- Strongly liberal, 4.8%
- N=355

What was the last year of school you completed?

- Some high school or less, 0%
- High school graduate, 5.0%
- Some college, 28.0%
- College graduate, 36.1%
- Post-graduate, 30.8%
- N=414

What, if any, is your religious preference?

- Protestant, 3.7%
- Catholic, 4.2%
- LDS / Mormon, 66.8%
- Jewish, 0.3%
- Other, 3.7%
- No preference / No religious affiliation, 17.2%
- Prefer not to say, 4.2%
- N=355

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

- Very active, 63.6%
- Somewhat active, 11.2%
- Not very active, 4.2%
- Not active, 7.8%
- Does not apply/Prefer not to say, 13.2%
- N=357

Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

- Self-employed, 15.2%
- Employed by someone else, 57.3%
- Unemployed, 1.4%
- Homemaker, 9.8%
- Retired, 12.1%
- Student, 4.2%
- N=356

Are you:

- American Indian / Native American, 0%
- Asian, 0%
- Black / African American, 0.6%
- Hispanic / Latino, 3.7%
- White / Caucasian, 94.9%
- Pacific Islander, 0.3%
- Other, 0.6%
- N=354

What is your marital status?

- Married, 83.1%
- Divorced, 5.1%
- Widowed, 1.1%
- Single, 7.6%
- Living with partner, 3.1%
- N=356

What do you expect your 2010 family income to be?

- Under \$25,000, 6.9%
- \$25,000 - \$39,999, 10.7%
- \$40,000 - \$54,999, 13.0%
- \$55,000 - \$69,999, 18.2%
- \$70,000 - \$84,999, 15.9%
- \$85,000 - \$99,999, 11.0%

- \$100,000 - \$149,999, 16.8%
- Over \$150,000, 7.5%
- N=346

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

- Excellent, 22.0%
- Good, 60.5%
- Fair, 16.4%
- Poor, 0.8%
- Don't know, 0.3%
- N=354

Methodology

Survey Field Dates: March 3-9, 2010.

Sample Size and Margin of Error:

The survey was entered by 378 respondents and we have data on at least one question from 370 respondents and completed surveys from 355 respondents. The margin of error for a simple random sample with a sample size of 355 is about + or – 5.2 %. The Utah Voter Poll is drawn from the Utah Colleges Exit Poll, which has a more complicated 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 15% (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. Our 15% response rate is lower than our previous Utah Voter Poll surveys. We have no method to actually measure whether or not survey respondents actually received the email invitations. One explanation for the drop in response rates could be increased use of spam blocking software. Another explanation could be related to the length of time that some of the email addresses have been in the panel.

Response rate calculation:

Total email addresses after removes: 3,049
 Total valid email addresses that received at least one email: 2508
 Total accessed surveys: 378
 Completed surveys: 355
 Response rate = $378/2508 = 15\%$

Weighting:

There was no weighting done for the March 2010 Utah Voter Poll.