



June 2005

## Executive Summary:

About 70 percent of Utah voters approve or strongly approve of the job that Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. is doing as governor. The majority of those polled (61.2 percent) indicated they approve of the governor's performance while about 9 percent of those polled strongly approve of the governor's performance.<sup>1</sup> The governor's approval is substantially higher than approval of the state legislature. About 49 percent strongly approve or approve of the job that the state legislature is doing. Slightly less than 37 percent disapprove or strongly disapprove of the legislature's performance. The difference between approval of an executive branch and the legislative branch follows well-known patterns in public opinion. Aggregate approval ratings for legislatures are lower usually lower than those of elected executives.

Most Utah voters approve of the direction and quality of voting and democracy in the state. Majorities believe that the state's elections produce fair outcomes (56.8 percent), that their ballots were accurately counted in the 2004 elections (61.1 percent), and that elections in the United States overall are fair (46.2 percent). Slightly more than 75 percent of voters are satisfied or fairly satisfied with how democracy works in the state.

Overall Utah voters think that conditions at state polling places are good to excellent. Only the quality of posted information did not have a majority rating it as excellent. All other categories (ease of finding the polling place, convenience in finding parking, amount of time waiting in line, and the job performance of the poll workers) had a majority rating them as excellent and over 80 percent rating them as either excellent or good. The quality of voting equipment received less enthusiastic marks. A plurality of Utah voters agree that the voting equipment is easy to use, comfortable, easy to read, and easy to understand, but they do not strongly agree.

Utah voters have widely varying opinions concerning the progress of the US's efforts in Iraq to bring the country order and stability. A slight majority believe that things are going very well or somewhat well. Utah voters have a more favorable view of the situation in Iraq than the national population. A June 10-15 *New York Times*/CBS News poll had a plurality feeling that the situation in Iraq was going somewhat badly, and the majority of respondents (60 percent) either

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<sup>1</sup> These findings contrast with a *Deseret Morning News* poll conducted by Dan Jones in early June where 32 percent of those polled gave the governor their strong approval and 43 percent said somewhat approval. The overall approval level of 75 percent in that poll is roughly the same as the 70.5 percent approval in the June 2005 Utah Voter poll when the margin of error of each survey is taken into account. The difference between the strength of approval on the two surveys is most likely accounted for by the difference in the response options offered to the question. The Dan Jones poll allowed a "strongly approve" or a "somewhat approve" answer while the Utah Voter Poll allowed a "strongly approve" or an "approve" answer.

felt that things were going somewhat badly or very badly while in Utah the majority (52 percent) think things in Iraq are going very well or somewhat well.

**Methodology:**

Survey Field Dates:

June 22 to July 1, 2005

Sample Size and Margin of Error:

The sample size for each question is listed above. The survey was entered by 422 respondents and we have data on at least one question from 399 respondents and completed surveys from 379 respondents. The margin of error for a simple random sample with a sample size of 422 is about + or - 4.7 %. For a slightly smaller sample size (379) this would be about 5%. The Utah Voter Poll is drawn from the KBYU/Utah Colleges Exit Poll which has a more complicated sample design and a “design effect” multiplier that will make the margin of error slightly higher.

Response Rate:

The response rate for the Utah Voter Poll was 28% (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 28% response rate is slightly higher than we expected from our inquiries with other web survey firms and given the length of the survey.

Response rate calculation:

Total email addresses after removes: 1941

Total valid email addresses that received at least one email:  $1941 - 427 = 1514$

Completed surveys: 379

Timed out: 29

Stopped by respondent: 14

Total surveys accessed: 422

Response rate =  $422/1514 = 0.2787$

Response rate including removes =  $422/1523 = 0.2771$

Weighting:

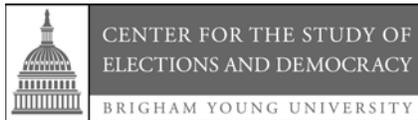
The raw data were statistically adjusted using a technique called “rim weighting” to correct for potential nonresponse error and potential coverage error. Nonresponse error would occur if the nonrespondents from our sampling pool (the email addresses collected on Election Day 2004) differed significantly 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 weighting is when 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 overrepresent 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, and party identification from the 2004 KBYU/Utah Colleges Exit Poll 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.

Rim 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, and partisan identification. Because the party identification weight was applied last, the party id distribution in the Utah Voter Poll exactly reflects the distribution in the KBYU/Utah Colleges Exit Poll. When the weights are applied, the categories for education, age, income, and gender are within one percentage point of their actual values on the exit poll.

**Contact:**

The Utah Voter Poll was conducted under the auspices of the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy at Brigham Young University.



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Questions about the survey can be addressed to [utahvoterpoll@byu.edu](mailto:utahvoterpoll@byu.edu).

**Full results:**

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. is doing as Utah Governor?

- Strongly approve – 9.3%
- Approve – 61.2%
- Disapprove – 11%
- Strongly disapprove – 6%
- Don't know – 12.4%
- N = 398

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

- Strongly approve – 2.3%
- Approve – 46.3%

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- Disapprove – 23.6%
- Strongly disapprove – 13%
- Don't know – 14.8%
- N = 399

3. In the November 2004 presidential election, did you vote for:

- George W. Bush / Dick Cheney, Republican – 69.8%
- John F. Kerry / John Edwards, Democratic – 24.9%
- Someone else – 5%
- Don't remember – 0%
- Did not vote for president – 0.3%
- N = 396

4. In the November 2004 election for governor, did you vote for:

- Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. / Gary R. Herbert, Republican – 59.1%
- Scott M. Matheson, Jr. / Karen Hale, Democratic – 36.6%
- Someone else – 0.9%
- Don't remember – 3.3%
- Did not vote for governor – 0.2%
- N = 396

5. US House:

5a. First District: In the November 2004 election for the U.S. House of Representatives, did you vote for:

- Rob Bishop, Republican – 47.9%
- Steve Thompson, Democratic – 30%
- Someone else – 3.9%
- Don't remember – 18.2%
- Did not vote for U.S. House – 0%
- N = 133

5b. Second District: In the November 2004 election for the U.S. House of Representatives, did you vote for:

- John Swallow, Republican – 40.5%
- Jim Matheson, Democratic – 39.5%
- Someone else – 2.2%
- Don't remember – 17.3%
- Did not vote for U.S. House – 0.5%
- N = 126

5c. Third District: In the November 2004 election for the U.S. House of Representatives, who did you vote for:

- Chris Cannon, Republican – 46.4%
- Beau Babka, Democratic – 25.6%
- Someone else – 13.4%
- Don't remember – 14.6%
- Did not vote for U.S. House – 0%
- N = 137

6. Last November, how did you vote on Constitutional Amendment Number 3, regarding the legal definition of marriage?

- For – 50.9%
- Against – 36.6%
- Don't remember – 11.6%
- Did not vote on the amendment – 0.9%
- N = 391

7. Respondents randomly assigned one of the following questions.

7a. In the November 2004 general election, how did you vote on Initiative 1, the Open Spaces Initiative?

- For – 30.6%
- Against – 21.6%
- Don't remember – 47.1%
- Did not vote on the initiative – 0.6%
- N = 199

7b. In the November 2004 general election, how did you vote on Initiative 1, the Open Spaces Initiative, which would have allowed the state to increase the sales tax and to issue bonds to fund open space projects?

- For – 30.6%
- Against – 47.4%
- Don't remember – 20.7%
- Did not vote on the initiative – 1.3%
- N = 191

8. How confident are you that the current election process in Utah produces fair election outcomes?

- Very confident – 56.8%
- Somewhat confident – 36.2%
- Not too confident – 5.5%
- Not at all confident – 1.5%
- N = 388

9. How confident are you that your ballot was counted accurately in the 2004 election?

- Very confident – 61.1%
- Somewhat confident – 33.6%
- Not too confident – 4%
- Not at all confident – 1.3%
- N = 389

10. On the whole, are you satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in the state of Utah?

- Satisfied – 36.6%
- Fairly satisfied – 39.1%
- Not very satisfied – 16.5%
- Not at all satisfied – 7.7%
- N = 386

11. In some countries, people believe their elections are conducted fairly. In other countries, people believe that their elections are conducted unfairly. Thinking of the last election in the United States, do you believe it was:

- Very Fair – 46.2%
- Somewhat fair – 33.4%
- Neither fair nor unfair – 4.1%
- Somewhat unfair – 10.4%
- Very unfair – 5.9%
- N = 389

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12. Please rate the conditions of the polling place where you voted in the 2004 Election:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N
Ease of finding polling place	65.7%	26.6%	5.3%	2.3%	386
Convenience in parking	52.6%	31.1%	12.8%	3.5%	385
Amount of time waiting in line	50.8%	35%	9.4%	4.8%	385
Helpfulness of posted information	42.1%	43.1%	13.2%	1.5%	387
Job precinct poll-workers performed	60.1%	35.4%	3.5%	0.9%	387

13. Please indicate how much you DISAGREE or AGREE with the following statements about voting in the 2004 election.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	N
The voting equipment was easy to use:	3%	2.4%	3.4%	3.4%	14.8%	41.7%	31.2%	385
I felt comfortable using the equipment:	3.7%	0.8%	4.1%	5.1%	14.1%	41.3%	30.9%	385
Characters on the ballot were easy to read:	3.4%	1%	3.8%	4.6%	10.4%	46%	30.8%	385
The wording on the ballot was easy to understand:	3.4%	4.3%	9.8%	5.6%	20.5	36.7%	19.8%	383
I am confident that my vote was accurately recorded:	3.6%	2.2%	1.5%	6.3%	17.2%	35.5%	33.7%	384

14. As you may know, elections in Utah are run by elected officials who are members of a political party. Overall, what effect do you think this has on the fairness of Utah elections?

- Positive. It makes them more fair. – 15.4%
- Neutral. It does nothing to fairness. – 46.9%
- Negative. It hurts fairness. – 21.8%
- Don't know. – 15.8%
- N = 384

15. How are things going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq?

- Very well – 16%
- Somewhat well – 36.4%
- Somewhat badly – 19.5%
- Very badly – 24.7%
- No opinion – 3.4%
- N = 385

16. How often do you use the Internet?

- Once or more per day – 80.3%
- A few times a week – 17.7%
- A few times a month – 1.6%
- Hardly ever – 0.4%
- N = 381

17. What year were you born?

- 18 to 24 – 14.6%
- 25 to 34 – 24%
- 35 to 44 – 19.7%
- 45 to 54 – 19.8%
- 55 to 64 – 12.7%
- 64 and older – 9.3%
- N = 379

18. Are you:

- Male – 45.3%
- Female – 54.7%
- N = 380

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

- Strong Democrat – 9.6%
- Not so strong Democrat – 3.6%
- Independent leaning Democrat – 9.2%
- Independent – 8.7%
- Independent leaning Republican – 12.4%
- Not so strong Republican – 12.3%
- Strong Republican – 31.1%
- Other – 2.4%
- Don't know – 0.6%
- No answer – 0.3%
- N = 381

20. On most political matters do you consider yourself:

- Strongly conservative – 22.3%
- Moderately conservative – 33.3%
- Neither, middle of the road – 16.5%
- Moderately liberal – 15.1%
- Strongly liberal – 7.5%
- Don't know – 5.3%
- N = 381

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

- Eighth grade or less – 0%
- Some high school – 2%
- High school graduate – 13.9%
- Some college – 39.4%
- College graduate – 29.1%
- Post-graduate – 15.7%
- N = 380

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

- Protestant – 5.2%
- Catholic – 3.7%
- LDS / Mormon – 67.5%
- Jewish – 0%
- Other – 6.4%
- No preference / No religious affiliation – 12.8%
- Prefer not to say – 4.3%
- N = 381

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

- Very active – 59%
- Somewhat active – 11.7%
- Not very active – 5.3%
- Not active – 6.5%
- Does not apply – 12.2%
- Prefer not to say – 5.3%
- N = 381

24. What is your current employment status?

- Self-employed – 11.3%
- Employed by someone else – 59.5%
- Unemployed – 3.8%
- Home-maker – 10.8%
- Retired – 9.3%
- Student – 5.3%
- N = 379

25. Are you:

- Native American – 0.3%
- Asian – 0.2%
- Black / African American – 0.9%
- Hispanic / Latino – 1.3%
- White / Caucasian – 95.8%
- Pacific Islander – 0.6%
- Other – 0.8%
- N = 380

26. What is your marital status?

- Married, living with spouse – 71.4%
- Separated – 1.4%
- Divorced – 7.3%
- Widowed – 2%
- Never married – 17.1%
- Domestic partnership – 0.8%
- N = 380

27. What do you expect your 2005 family income to be?

- Under \$25,000 – 15.9%
- \$25,000 - \$39,000 – 18.6%
- \$40,000 - \$49,000 – 12.6%
- \$50,000 - \$74,999 – 25%
- \$75,000 - \$99,999 – 13.7%
- \$100,000 - \$149,999 – 9.9%
- Over \$150,000 – 4.3%
- N = 373

28. Does anyone else use the email address to which this survey's invitation was sent?

- Yes, someone else uses the same email address as I do. – 14.6%
- No, no one else uses my email address. – 85.2%
- I'm not sure if anyone else uses my email address. – 0.2%
- N = 378

29. Would you like to receive an email detailing the results of this survey?

- Yes – 88.2%
- No – 11.8%
- N = 379

30. If invited, how likely will you be to complete another survey for the Utah Voter Poll in the NEXT 3 MONTHS?

- Definitely will not – 1.1%
- Will not – 1.5%
- Probably will not – 4.2%
- Uncertain if I will – 7.5%
- Probably will – 39.5%
- Will – 22.8%
- Definitely will – 23.4%
- N = 379

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

- Excellent – 29.5%
- Good – 58.4%
- Fair – 9.5%
- Poor – 0.8%
- Don't know – 1.8%
- N = 378

32. If you have any comments or suggestions about this survey or about your voting experience in the November 2004 general election, please enter them here. [Responses Omitted]