

Montana Human Rights Network
A Statewide Survey of 600 Likely General Election Voters in Montana
March 2008

Gender of respondent	<i>Total</i> <i>(n=600)</i>	<i>Men</i> <i>(n=281)</i>	<i>Women</i> <i>(n=319)</i>
Men.....	48	100	0
Women	52	0	100

Hello. My name is _____. I'm calling for Montana Opinion Surveys. We are conducting a public opinion survey, and I would like to ask you some questions concerning the issues facing our nation and local communities. We are not selling anything, and I will not ask you for a contribution or donation.

May I please speak with the (man/woman) 18 years or older in your household who celebrated a birthday most recently? **[CONFIRM RESPONDENT IS OVER AGE 18]**

1. First, are you registered to vote at this address?

Yes.....	100	100	100
No	TERMINATE		
(Not sure).....	TERMINATE		

2. How likely are you to vote in the November general election for President, Governor, U.S. Senate, Congress and other offices -- are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances about 50-50, are you probably not going to vote, or are you definitely not going to vote?

Almost certain.....	91	90	92
Probably.....	9	10	8
50-50.....	TERMINATE		
Probably not.....	TERMINATE		
Definitely not.....	TERMINATE		
(Don't know).....	TERMINATE		

Please tell me how you would rate the job performance of each of the following? Would you say excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

[RANDOMIZE LIST]

3. _Brian Schweitzer [**rhymes with "WHITE zer"**] as Governor

Excellent.....	17	15	19
Good	42	40	44
Just fair	25	27	23
Poor	9	11	6
(Don't know /refused).....	7	7	7
Excellent /good	59	55	63
Just fair /poor.....	34	38	30

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
5. _SSA: Democrats in the Montana State Legislature			
Excellent	3	2	4
Good	30	28	32
Just fair	33	40	26
Poor	13	15	12
(Don't know /refused).....	21	16	26
Excellent /good	33	30	36
Just fair /poor	46	55	38
6. _SSB: Republicans in the Montana State Legislature			
Excellent	4	3	4
Good	25	24	26
Just fair	34	36	32
Poor	18	16	20
(Don't know /refused).....	19	22	17
Excellent /good	29	27	31
Just fair /poor	52	51	52
7. Here is something different – which do you worry about more:			
[ROTATE CHOICES]			
_The agenda of gay and lesbian groups			
OR			
_The agenda of religious-political conservative groups?			
Gay/lesbian groups.....	23	27	20
Religious/conservative groups.....	41	39	43
(Neither).....	26	25	27
(Both).....	7	6	8
(Don't know).....	2	3	1

Total Men Women

8. Do you favor or oppose changing the state’s human rights law to include sexual orientation so that gays and lesbians are protected from discrimination in the same way that women and minorities are protected?

[IF ANSWER] Is that strongly [favor/oppose] or somewhat [favor/oppose]?

Strongly favor.....	36	28	43
Not so strongly favor.....	19	18	19
Not so strongly oppose.....	10	12	8
Strongly oppose.....	29	35	24
(Don’t know).....	6	6	7
Favor	55	47	62
Oppose	39	47	31

9. Which of these statements do you most agree with when it comes to the issue of gay and lesbian couples:

[READ STATEMENTS, ALTERNATING BETWEEN READING FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AND FROM BOTTOM TO TOP]

_ Gay and lesbian couples should have <u>the same legal right</u> to marry as do a man and a woman.....	20	17	23
_ Gay and lesbian couples should have the same legal right to marry as do a man and a woman, only it should <u>not</u> be called marriage.....	13	12	13
_ Marriage under the law should only be between a man and a woman, but there should be civil unions or <u>some other legal rights</u> that would give same-sex couples many of the benefits and protections of marriage.....	31	31	31
_ There should be <u>NO</u> legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples.....	32	36	29
(Don’t know).....	4	4	4

10. Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples in committed relationships to enter into legally recognized domestic registries that extend certain benefits and responsibilities to them, including property rights and health care benefits.

[IF ANSWER] Is that strongly [favor/oppose] or somewhat [favor/oppose]?

Strongly favor.....	36	30	41
Somewhat favor.....	20	20	21
Somewhat oppose.....	10	11	9
Strongly oppose.....	30	36	24
(Don’t know/refuse).....	4	3	5
Favor	56	50	62
Oppose	40	47	33

Now I am going to read some phrases and I would like to know whether you have a very positive reaction, a somewhat positive reaction, a somewhat negative reaction, or a very negative reaction to each one.

[READ ITEM] Do you have a very positive reaction, a somewhat positive reaction, a somewhat negative reaction, or a very negative reaction to that?

[RANDOMIZE LIST]

11. **_SSA** Gay marriage

Very positive	13	10	16
Somewhat positive.....	20	19	21
Somewhat negative	20	21	19
Very negative.....	42	45	39
(Don't know/refuse).....	5	5	5
Positive	34	29	38
Negative.....	61	66	57

12. **_SSB** Same-sex marriage

Very positive	14	11	17
Somewhat positive.....	24	24	25
Somewhat negative	20	20	20
Very negative.....	38	43	34
(Don't know/refuse).....	4	4	4
Positive	38	34	42
Negative.....	58	62	54

13. **_SSA** Domestic partnership benefits for unmarried committed couples

Very positive	15	11	19
Somewhat positive.....	34	30	37
Somewhat negative	22	27	16
Very negative.....	25	26	24
(Don't know/refuse).....	5	6	4
Positive	49	41	56
Negative.....	46	53	40

14. **_SSB** Domestic partnerships, which are not gay marriage, but grant some legal protections to gay and lesbian couples in committed relationships

Very positive	22	18	25
Somewhat positive.....	34	27	40
Somewhat negative	16	20	12
Very negative.....	24	28	20
(Don't know/refuse).....	4	6	3
Positive	56	46	65
Negative.....	40	48	32

15. **_SSA** Protections for individuals who are gay, lesbian, or transgender when it comes to employment

Very positive	31	24	38
Somewhat positive.....	36	37	35
Somewhat negative	12	17	6
Very negative.....	18	20	16
(Don't know/refuse).....	4	2	5
Positive	67	61	73
Negative.....	29	37	22

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
16. _SSB Protections for individuals who are gay or lesbian when it comes to employment			
Very positive	36	25	46
Somewhat positive.....	31	31	30
Somewhat negative	13	18	9
Very negative.....	16	23	9
(Don't know/refuse).....	4	3	5
Positive	67	56	77
Negative	29	41	19

Now for something different. I am going to read you a list of several groups of people. For each group please tell me whether you favor or oppose anti-discrimination laws that make it illegal to deny housing or refuse to rent to a person with that background.

[IF ANSWER] Is that strongly [favor/oppose] or somewhat [favor/oppose]?

[RANDOMIZE LIST]

17. _SSA An African American			
Strongly favor.....	60	59	61
Somewhat favor.....	21	20	22
Somewhat oppose.....	5	6	4
Strongly oppose.....	9	10	9
(Don't know).....	5	5	4
Favor	81	79	83
Oppose	14	16	13

18. _SSB An American Indian			
Strongly favor.....	59	55	63
Somewhat favor.....	20	24	17
Somewhat oppose.....	6	8	5
Strongly oppose.....	11	10	11
(Don't know).....	4	3	4
Favor	79	79	80
Oppose	17	18	16

19. _SSA Someone who is gay or lesbian			
Strongly favor.....	47	41	51
Somewhat favor.....	23	22	24
Somewhat oppose.....	10	12	8
Strongly oppose.....	15	16	14
(Don't know).....	6	8	3
Favor	70	63	75
Oppose	25	29	22

20. _SSB Someone who recently legally immigrated to this country			
Strongly favor.....	50	49	51
Somewhat favor.....	25	27	22
Somewhat oppose.....	10	10	10
Strongly oppose.....	11	11	12
(Don't know).....	4	3	5
Favor	75	76	73
Oppose	21	21	22

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
21. <u>SSA</u> An unmarried man and woman who live together			
Strongly favor.....	52	49	55
Somewhat favor.....	23	26	20
Somewhat oppose.....	9	8	11
Strongly oppose.....	12	12	11
(Don't know).....	4	6	3
Favor	75	74	75
Oppose	21	20	22

22. <u>SSB</u> An unmarried gay or lesbian couple			
Strongly favor.....	45	39	51
Somewhat favor.....	25	29	21
Somewhat oppose.....	8	10	6
Strongly oppose.....	18	17	18
(Don't know).....	5	4	5
Favor	70	68	71
Oppose	26	27	24

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

23. How accepting of gays and lesbians do you think your community is? Would you say it is very accepting, somewhat accepting, a little accepting, or not accepting at all?

Very accepting.....	SKIP TO Q28	9	12	7
Somewhat accepting.....	SKIP TO Q28	42	38	46
A little accepting.....	SKIP TO Q28	28	27	29
Not accepting at all.....	SKIP TO Q28	14	17	10
(Don't know/refused).....	SKIP TO Q29-34	7	7	7
Very /somewhat accepting		51	49	53
A little /not accepting at all		42	44	40

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

24. How accepting of gays and lesbians do you think the state of Montana is? Would you say it is very accepting, somewhat accepting, a little accepting, or not accepting at all?

Very accepting.....		4	3	6
Somewhat accepting.....		41	37	46
A little accepting.....		28	29	28
Not at all accepting.....		14	15	13
(Don't know/refused).....	SKIP TO Q29-34	12	16	8
Very /somewhat accepting		46	40	51
A little /not accepting at all		42	44	41

Total Men Women

[ASK IF Q26/27 = 1-4]

25. And, in your mind, is that a good thing, or a bad thing?

Total	(n=540)	(n=249)	(n=291)
Good thing	38	39	38
Bad thing.....	32	27	36
(Neutral/neither/mixed)	25	30	21
(Don't know/refused).....	5	4	5
Accepting	(n=288)	(n=125)	(n=163)
Good thing	52	52	51
Bad thing.....	25	19	29
(Neutral/neither/mixed)	21	27	16
(Don't know/refused).....	3	3	4
Not accepting	(n=252)	(n=124)	(n=128)
Good thing	23	25	22
Bad thing.....	40	35	44
(Neutral/neither/mixed)	31	34	27
(Don't know/refused).....	6	5	7

[RESUME ASKING ALL]

Here are some proposals the Montana state legislature may debate in the coming session. For each one please tell me if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal.

[RANDOMIZE LIST]

26. **_SSA** Extending the state's current equal protection law for things like housing, employment, and benefits to gay, lesbian, or transgender Montanans.

Strongly support.....	29	22	35
Somewhat support.....	29	29	30
Somewhat oppose.....	14	18	11
Strongly oppose.....	22	26	19
(Don't know).....	6	5	6
Support	58	51	65
Oppose	36	44	30

27. **_SSB** Extending the state's current equal protection laws for things like housing, employment, and benefits to gay or lesbian Montanans.

Strongly support.....	32	24	38
Somewhat support.....	30	28	32
Somewhat oppose.....	14	19	10
Strongly oppose.....	21	26	16
(Don't know).....	3	2	4
Support	62	53	70
Oppose	35	45	25

28. **_SSA** Provide specific legal recognition for hate crimes against people who are gay or lesbian.

Strongly support.....	41	36	46
Somewhat support.....	29	34	25
Somewhat oppose.....	7	9	6
Strongly oppose.....	16	15	17
(Don't know).....	6	6	6
Support	70	70	71
Oppose	23	24	23

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
29. _SSB Provide specific legal recognition for hate crimes against people who are gay, lesbian or transgender.			
Strongly support.....	41	33	47
Somewhat support.....	26	30	22
Somewhat oppose.....	7	9	6
Strongly oppose.....	20	23	17
(Don't know).....	6	4	8
Support	67	63	70
Oppose	27	33	22
30. _SSA Allowing gay and lesbian adults in committed relationships to form domestic partnerships that convey some but not all of the rights as marriage.			
Strongly support.....	21	17	24
Somewhat support.....	33	32	34
Somewhat oppose.....	14	13	15
Strongly oppose.....	28	32	24
(Don't know).....	5	6	4
Support	53	49	58
Oppose	41	45	38
31. _SSB Allowing gay and lesbian adults in committed relationships to form domestic partnerships that convey some but not all of the legal protections as marriage.			
Strongly support.....	25	20	29
Somewhat support.....	34	36	32
Somewhat oppose.....	13	13	14
Strongly oppose.....	24	29	20
(Don't know).....	4	2	6
Support	58	56	60
Oppose	38	42	34

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

32. In your opinion, are civil rights laws for gays and lesbians that give their relationships legal recognition an attempt to give lesbians and gays the same rights as other people, or are they an attempt to give them special rights?

Same rights.....	48	45	51
Special rights.....	34	37	32
(Both).....	5	3	7
(Don't know).....	12	15	10

[SKIP TO Q37]

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

33. In your opinion, are civil rights laws to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination an attempt to give gays and lesbians the same rights as other people, or are they an attempt to give them special rights?

Same rights.....	56	46	65
Special rights.....	32	42	24
(Both).....	5	5	4
(Don't know).....	7	6	8

[RESUME ASKING ALL]

34. Generally speaking, if gay and lesbian couples were given some type of legal recognition in Montana that would allow them to share health care benefits and grant them some of the legal benefits that married couples enjoy, what would best describe your opinion:

[READ STATEMENTS, ALTERNATING BETWEEN READING FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AND FROM BOTTOM TO TOP]

It would be acceptable to you	44	37	51
You would not like it, but it would be acceptable	25	31	19
You would not like it, and it would be unacceptable	27	29	26
(Don't know).....	4	3	4

I am going to read you a series of statements. After each one I read, please tell me if you agree or disagree with that statement. **[READ STATEMENT]**

[IF AGREE/DISAGREE] Is that strongly or somewhat agree/disagree?

[RANDOMIZE LIST]

35. SSA The government should not decide whether two consenting adults in committed relationships can share employee-based benefits.

Strongly agree	37	35	39
Somewhat agree.....	25	24	27
Somewhat disagree	15	16	14
Strongly disagree.....	16	19	13
(Don't know).....	6	6	6
Agree.....	63	59	67
Disagree.....	31	35	28

36. SSA Gay couples and their children deserve the same legal protections as other people.

Strongly agree	57	53	61
Somewhat agree.....	27	30	24
Somewhat disagree	5	6	4
Strongly disagree.....	8	9	7
(Don't know).....	3	2	3
Agree.....	84	83	85
Disagree.....	13	15	11

37. SSB Gay people deserve the same legal protections as other people.

Strongly agree	58	50	64
Somewhat agree.....	25	29	22
Somewhat disagree	6	5	7
Strongly disagree.....	8	13	4
(Don't know).....	3	2	3
Agree.....	83	80	86
Disagree.....	14	18	11

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
38. _SSA No one should be discriminated against in the workplace solely because they are gay or lesbian.			
Strongly agree	67	59	74
Somewhat agree.....	21	27	15
Somewhat disagree	6	9	3
Strongly disagree.....	4	5	4
(Don't know).....	3	1	5
Agree	87	86	89
Disagree	10	13	7
39. _SSB No one should be subjected to harassment, verbal abuse, or physical threats solely because they are gay or lesbian.			
Strongly agree	70	61	78
Somewhat agree.....	21	26	17
Somewhat disagree	3	2	3
Strongly disagree.....	4	9	0
(Don't know).....	2	2	2
Agree	91	87	95
Disagree	7	11	3
40. _SSA I may not agree with homosexuality, but I think we should stay out of what other people do in their personal lives.			
Strongly agree	64	63	64
Somewhat agree.....	24	24	24
Somewhat disagree	7	8	6
Strongly disagree.....	4	4	4
(Don't know).....	2	2	2
Agree	87	86	88
Disagree	11	11	11
41. _SSB I may not agree with people who live together outside of marriage, but I think we should stay out of what other people do in their personal lives.			
Strongly agree	69	65	72
Somewhat agree.....	21	24	18
Somewhat disagree	6	5	6
Strongly disagree.....	4	6	2
(Don't know).....	1	1	1
Agree	89	88	90
Disagree	10	11	9

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
42. <u>SSA</u> In Montana the government should not get involved in the personal relationships of gay and lesbian couples.			
Strongly agree	58	55	61
Somewhat agree.....	24	25	24
Somewhat disagree	9	10	8
Strongly disagree.....	5	6	4
(Don't know).....	4	4	4
Agree.....	82	80	84
Disagree.....	14	16	12

43. <u>SSB</u> In Montana we should not get involved in the personal relationships of gay and lesbian couples.			
Strongly agree	56	48	63
Somewhat agree.....	26	30	22
Somewhat disagree	8	7	8
Strongly disagree.....	5	8	3
(Don't know).....	5	7	4
Agree.....	82	78	85
Disagree.....	13	15	11

[SPLIT SAMPLE A: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION]

44. And, all other things being equal, if a candidate for the State Legislature stood for most of the things you believe in but took a stand on anti-discrimination laws for gays and lesbians that you really disagreed with, would you definitely vote for that candidate, probably vote for that candidate, probably not vote for that candidate, or would you definitely not vote for that candidate?

Definitely vote	7	7	7
Probably vote.....	37	38	36
Probably not vote.....	29	30	27
Definitely not vote	17	18	17
(Don't know/refused).....	10	7	13
Vote	44	45	43
Not vote	46	48	44

[SPLIT SAMPLE B: EQUAL RIGHTS]

45. And, all other things being equal, if a candidate for the State Legislature stood for most of the things you believe in but took a stand on equal rights laws for gays and lesbians that you really disagreed with, would you definitely vote for that candidate, probably vote for that candidate, probably not vote for that candidate, or would you definitely not vote for that candidate?

Definitely vote	9	7	11
Probably vote.....	30	27	33
Probably not vote.....	33	36	30
Definitely not vote	21	24	17
(Don't know/refused).....	8	7	8
Vote	39	33	45
Not vote	53	60	47

[RESUME ASKING ALL]

Finally, I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

46. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else?

[IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT:] Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not-so-strong (Republican/Democrat)?

[IF INDEPENDENT:] Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?

Strong Republican	20	21	19
Not-so-strong Republican	8	9	7
Independent - lean Republican	10	13	8
Republican	38	42	34
Independent	26	29	24
Democratic	30	26	34
Independent - lean Democratic.....	8	6	8
Not-so-strong Democrat	5	6	5
Strong Democrat	17	14	20
(Don't know/other)	6	3	8

47. What is your age? I am going to read you some categories. Stop me when we get to your category.

READ CATEGORIES:

18-24 years.....	8	9	7
25-29	9	10	8
30-34	7	9	6
35-39	8	9	6
40-44	9	9	10
45-49	9	8	10
50-54	10	8	11
55-59	9	10	8
60-64	8	8	8
65-69.....	6	5	8
70-74.....	5	5	4
75 and over.....	11	8	13
(Refused)	1	1	1

48. What was the last year of education you completed? **[DO NOT READ ANSWERS]**

1-11 th grade	4	5	3
High school graduate.....	25	26	25
Non-college post HS.....	2	1	3
Some college	28	26	29
College graduate	27	27	27
Post-graduate education.....	13	14	13
Refused	1	1	0

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
49. From what you know, do most people have a choice about whether or not to be gay or lesbian, or do most people not have a choice and are born that way? [PROBE] Do you feel that way strongly or not?			
Strongly – a choice	31	35	28
Not strongly – a choice	8	9	8
Not strongly – born that way	11	9	13
Strongly- born that way	29	23	34
(Both)	8	7	9
(Don't know).....	13	17	9
A choice	40	44	35
Born that way	40	32	47
50. How would you describe your marital status? Are you -			
Married.....	62	60	64
Unmarried but living with another person as a couple.....	4	3	4
Single.....	18	24	12
Separated	1	1	1
Divorced.....	6	4	8
Widowed	8	5	10
Refused	1	1	1
51. How often do you attend religious services?			
Every week	33	32	34
Once or twice a month.....	17	19	15
Several times a year	17	17	18
Hardly ever	18	18	19
Never	13	12	13
Refused	2	2	1
52. About how many gay or lesbian people do you personally know?			
None	18	22	15
1 - 2.....	15	15	16
3 - 5.....	26	26	25
6 - 7.....	13	12	13
10 or more	22	18	25
(Don't know).....	7	7	6
[IF Q55 IS GREATER THAN ZERO]			
53. Is any gay or lesbian person you know a close friend or a close family member? [CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY]			
Yes, close friend	38	35	42
Yes, close family member.....	23	19	27
Yes, self, I am gay or lesbian (do not read).....	1	1	1
No, not close friend or close family member.....	40	43	38
(Don't know/refused).....	6	9	4
54. Do you personally know someone gay or lesbian who is part of a couple in a committed relationship?			
Yes, know someone	66	58	72
No, don't know someone	27	32	23
(Don't know/refused).....	7	9	5

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Region			
Great Falls	9	10	8
Billings	16	16	15
Rural east	16	16	16
Bozeman.....	15	15	15
Helena /Butte	12	12	12
Missoula.....	20	19	21
Flathead.....	13	13	13

This completes our survey. Thank you very much for your time, and have a pleasant (day/evening)!