1978 Wyoming Election Survey

County Let's begin. What county do you live in?

(1) Albany  (13) Natrona
(2) Big Horn  (14) Niobrara
(3) Campbell  (15) Park
(4) Carbon  (16) Platte
(5) Converse  (17) Sheridan
(6) Crook  (18) Sublette
(7) Fremont  (19) Sweetwater
(8) Goshen  (20) Teton
(9) Hot Springs  (21) Uinta
(10) Johnson  (22) Washakie
(11) Laramie  (23) Weston
(12) Lincoln

1. First, have you been interviewed for a public opinion poll within the past two years—either by telephone or in a personal interview?
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

2. Are you registered to vote in the November General Election?
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
   (If yes, ask) Are you registered as a:

3. Thinking back to the 1976 Presidential Election, when Jimmy Carter ran against Gerald Ford, do you remember for sure whether you voted in that election or not?
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
   (If yes, ask) did you vote for Jimmy Carter or Gerald Ford?
4. Now, thinking back to the 1972 Presidential Election, when George McGovern ran against Richard Nixon, do you remember for sure whether you voted in that election or not?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

(If yes, ask) Did you vote for George McGovern or Richard Nixon?


Next a question about Wyoming. All communities in our state face certain problems which need to be solved.

The following questions ask for your opinions about public officials.

6. First, do you approve of disapprove of the way Jimmy Carter is handling his job as President?

1. Approve  2. Disapprove  8. DK  9. NA

7. Next, do you approve or disapprove of the way Ed Herschler is handling his job as Governor of Wyoming?

1. Approve  2. Disapprove  8. DK  9. NA

8. Now what about Senator Malcolm Wallop. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Senator Wallop is handling his job?

1. Approve  2. Disapprove  8. DK  9. NA

I want to read you four statements which relate to politics and government in general. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each.

9. I don’t think public officials care much about what people like me think.


10. Voting is the only way that people like me can have any say about the way the government runs things.

11. People like me don’t have any say about what the government does.

12. Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person can’t really understand what’s going on.

13. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Would you say:
   1. Just about always  2. Most of the time  3. Some of the time
   4. None of the time  8. DK  9. NA

14. Do you think the people in the government in Washington waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don’t waste very much of it?

15. We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatism. Here is a seven-point scale in which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservatives. Where would you place yourself on this scale politically?
   8. DK  9. NA

16. Next, I’m going to read four different policies’ or objectives which government can work for. Please indicate what two are most desirable to you.
   1. Maintain order in the country
   2. Improve participation of citizens in the political decisions of the government.
   3. Fight rising prices.
4. Guarantee from of expression so that everyone can say freely what he or she thinks.

17. How often would you say you discuss politics and public affairs with other people. Would you say:


This next serious of questions deal with something different. They inquire about your interest in politics and political issue in your community.

18. In the past three or our years, have you attended any political meetings or rallies?

   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

19. In the past three or four years, have you contributed money to a political party or candidate, or to any other political cause?

   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

20. Have you ever done work for one of the political parties or any candidates?

   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

   (If yes, ask) Do you work in most elections, in some elections or only a few?


21. How often would you say you vote in local elections, that is those elections for city or county officials and the like?


   8. DK  9. NA

22. Have you ever worked with others in this community to try to solve some community problems?

   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

23. Have you ever taken part in forming a new group or a new organization to try to solve some community problem?

   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
We were talking earlier about problems that you and other people in this community have.

24. Have you ever personally (a) gone to see, (b) spoken to, or (3) written to some member of the local government or some other person in the community about some problem or need?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

26. During the past two or three years, have you attended meetings of the city council or school board?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

27. During the elections, do you ever try to show people why they should vote for one of the parties or candidates?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

(If yes, ask) How often would you say you do this? Would you say:


The next serious of questions ask about your opinions concerning people with controversial ideas.

28. First, suppose a Communist wanted to make a speech in your community. Should the person be allowed to speak or not?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

29. Suppose a Communist were teaching in the public schools in this community. Should the person be fired or not.

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

30. Now, suppose that a Communist were teaching in of the community colleges or the University of Wyoming Should this person be fired or not?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
31. Second, suppose a homosexual wanted to make a speech in this community. Should that person be allowed to speak or not?

   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

32. Suppose a homosexual were teaching in the public schools in this community. Should the person be fired or not?

   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

33. Finally, suppose a homosexual were teaching in one of the community colleges or the University of Wyoming. Should this person be fired or not?

   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

Now we turn to the subject of public services and taxes in Wyoming.

34. Considering all the public services provided to you by state and local government programs, and considering all the taxes you pay, do you think state and local taxes in Wyoming are


   (If too high, ask) Have you written or talked to any public officials in the last year about your taxes being too high?


35. Now, I’m going to read three statements to you. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each.

   a. Even if public services have to be cut back, state and local taxes in Wyoming must be reduced.


   b. A number of unnecessary programs and services are provided by state and local governments in Wyoming.


   c. The minerals industry is paying its fair share of taxes for the privilege of developing Wyoming resources.

36. Governor Ed Herschler has proposed cutting local property taxes in Wyoming by 33 percent and making up the revenue lost from the tax cut by increasing the state mineral severance tax by 5%.

a. Have your heard of this proposal?
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

b. Would you personally favor or oppose such a proposal?
   1. Favor  2. Oppose  8. DK  9. NA

37. A newly formed committee has proposed a constitutional amendment to limit state and local government spending in Wyoming. This proposal would limit future government spending in this state to two favors: 1. Increases in population growth 2. Increases in cost of living—inflation rates. Would you personally favor or oppose such a proposal?
   1. Favor  2. Oppose  8. DK  9. NA

38. Do you think the people in state and local government here in Wyoming waste a lot of money we pay in taxes, waste some of it or don’t waste very much of it?

39. Do you think waste in government spending is inevitable or is it the result of poor management—OR is there some other reasons?
   1. Inevitable  2. Poor management  3. Other  8. DK  9. NA

40. Now a final question about taxes. One legislator recently suggested that the state of Wyoming is approaching a unique situation in that tax revenue is probably going to exceed expenditures. Therefore, the additional money could be used to (1) improve state and local government programs 2. It could be invested to earn interest, or 3 it could be used to lower taxes. What do you think should be done with any excess revenue?
   1. Improve programs  2. Invest for the future  3. Lower taxes.  8. DK  9. NA

Switching to another subject—this time to sources of information about politics.

41. In general, where do you get most of your information about politics. Does most of it come from:
Next, I want to ask how often you watch certain types of TV programs. As I reach each, please tell me whether you watch it.

42. National news broadcast’s on ABC, CBS or NBC.
43. State and local news broadcasts on TV.
44. Documentary programs about political affairs.
45. TV interviews with Wyoming political candidates this fall.
46. Candidate sponsored programs or advertisements this fall.

Some people don’t have time to read the entire newspaper I’s going to read a list of different kinds of stories. As I read each, please tell me whether you read such newspaper stories:

49. News stories about national politics.
50. News stories about state and local politics.
51. News stories about international politics.
52. News stories about crime.
53. Do you read a daily newspaper?
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
54. How often would you say you read newspaper articles about Wyoming political candidates and the issues in the election this fall?


55. How often would you say you listened to radio interviews with the candidates or general discussions of the issues in the election in Wyoming this fall?


57. Today, generally speaking do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent or what?

(If D or R) Would you call yourself a strong (D or R) or not a very strong (D or R)?

(If Independent) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party?

1. Strong Republican  2. Weak Republican  3. Lean Republican
7. Strong Democrat 8. DK  9. NA

This next series of questions deal with economic issues.

58. First, we are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. During the past tow or three years, would you say your financial situation has been:

1. Getting better  2. Getting worse  3. Has it stayed about the same
8. DK  9. NA

Now to some questions about inflation and how you and your family have been effected by increases in the cost of living.

59. During the past year have you:

a. Been able to save as much money as you did the year before?

1. Yes   2. No  8. DK  9. NA
b. Made a major purchase—a home or a car or appliances to avoid future price increases?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

c. Not made a major purchase which you wanted or needed because of rising prices.

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

These next three questions refer both to yourself and your spouse.

60. During the past year, have either of you:

a. Taken a job outside the home for the first time?

   Wife/Woman
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

   Husband/Man
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

b. Lengthened your work week or worked overtime?

   Wife/Woman
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

   Husband/Man
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

c. Taken a second or additional job.

   Wife/Woman
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

   Husband/Man
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

Now we want to ask you some questions about crime and how you have been affected by criminal acts in your community.
61. First, did anyone attempt to break-in or actually break into your home, garage, or other buildings on your property during the past 12 months?

   1. No   Yes

   (If yes, ask) Was that an attempt or an actual break-in?

   1. Attempt only  2. Actual break-in  3. At least one tempt and one actual.

   8. DK  9. NA

Did you report this to the police?

   1. Yes   2. No  8. DK  9. NA

62. Did anyone attempt or actually take something from you by using force or violence or by threatening you with force or violence during the past 12 months in this community?

   1. No  2. Yes  8. DK 9. NA

   (If yes, ask) What was the cost of the item or items stolen?

   1. No  2. Yes—what was the cost of the items or items stolen?

Did you report this to the police?

   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

63. Next, did you have anything stolen—such as automobile accessories, bicycles, garden hose, or other property left outside your house—but where force or violence was not used—also within the last year?

   1. No  2. Yes  8. DK 9. NA

   (If yes, ask) What dollar value would you place on this loss?

Did you report this to the police?

   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

64. Did you own any property which was vandalized—that is willfully destroyed or defaced—during the past 12 months in this community?

   1. No  2. Yes  8. DK  9. NA

   (If yes, ask) What was the cost of the damage done?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VANDLRPT</th>
<th>Did you report this to the police?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA</td>
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<tr>
<th>ASSLT1</th>
<th>65. Did anyone attempt or actually assault you—that is physically beat your up or attack you with a deadly weapon—within the past 12 months in this community?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. No  2. Yes  8. DK  9. NA</td>
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<tr>
<th>ASSLT2</th>
<th>(If yes, ask) Was that an attempt or an actual assault?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Attempt only  2. Actual assault  3. At least one attempt and one actual.  8. DK  9. NA</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th>ASSRPT</th>
<th>Did you report this to the police?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA</td>
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Now some questions which ask about a related concern.

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<tr>
<th>SAFE</th>
<th>66. Some people are fearful for their personal safety which others have said that Wyoming is one of the safest places in this country to live. What about you—how safe do you feel living in this community? Do you feel:</th>
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<tr>
<th>POLSUC</th>
<th>67. Next, suppose that you were the victim of a crime such as burglary, robbery, larceny or an act of vandalism. If you reported this crime to the police in your local community, how likely is it that those who committed the crime would be arrested?</th>
</tr>
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</table>
68. In general, do you think the courts in this area of Wyoming deal “too harshly” or “not harshly enough” with criminals?

1. Too harshly  2. Not harshly enough  3. About right 4.DK or refused

Now we want to ask some questions about gambling, prostitution, and drug trafficking in the community.

69. First, based on what you know or have heard, how serious a problem for this community would you say gambling, prostitution and drug trafficking are?

**Gambling**


**Prostitution**


**Drug Trafficking in Marijuana**


**Drug trafficking in harder drugs.**


70. Second the enforcement of law prohibiting gambling, prostitution, and drug trafficking various from community to community in Wyoming. Thinking about your own community, would you like to see the laws concerning these offenses enforced (1) more strictly, (2) about the same as now, (3) do your favor the legalization of gambling, prostitution or drug trafficking in Wyoming.

**Gambling**


**Prostitution**


**Drug Trafficking in Marijuana**

Drug Trafficking in harder drugs

71. What is your age?

72. How many years of formal schooling did you complete?

73. Are you married or single?
   (If married, ask) Is your spouse employed outside the house, either

74. Are you employed outside the house, either on a part-time basis of full-time?

75. Do you belong to a labor union?
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

76. Would you please indicate into which of the 10 categories your total family income falls?
   1. Under $3,000  2. $3,000-$5,999  3. $6,000 to $8,999  4. $9,000-$11,999
   5. $12,000-$14,999  6. $15,000-$17,999  7. $18,000-$20,999
   8. $21,000-$23,999  9. $24,000-$26,999  10. $27,000 and over
   99. DK/NA

77. Sex of respondent.
   1. Male  2. Female  8. DK  9. NA

78. Spouse’s occupation

79. Respondent’s occupation
Place an x on the scale to indicate your feelings about the candidates. For instance, in the following example if you feel that Jimmy Carter is quite honest you would put an X in the position 2. On the other hand if you feel that Carter is quite dishonest you would place a X in position 13.

HONEST ___3___:___2___:___1___:___0___:___-1___:___-2___:___-3__Dishonest
Extremely  Quite   Slightly   No opinion  Slightly Quite Extremely

**John Ostlund**

Liberal---Conservative
Honest---Dishonest
Weak---Strong
Intelligent---Unintelligent
Unpleasant---Pleasant
Good---Bad
Incapable---Capable
Republican---Democrat

**Ed Herschler**

Liberal---Conservative
Honest---Dishonest
Weak---Strong
Intelligent---Unintelligent
Unpleasant---Pleasant
Good---Bad
Incapable---Capable
Republican---Democrat

**Ray Whitaker**
Liberal---Conservative
Honest---Dishonest
Weak---Strong
Intelligent---Unintelligent
Unpleasant---Pleasant
Good---Bad
Incapable---Capable
Republican---Democrat

**Al Simpson**
Liberal---Conservative
Honest---Dishonest
Weak---Strong
Intelligent---Unintelligent
Unpleasant---Pleasant
Good---Bad
Incapable---Capable
Republican---Democrat
Place an X on the scale to indicate your position on the various issues. Using the example: The University of Wyoming Football Team, if you place the x in the position one, it means that you think the team is extremely good. And if you place the X in the position -1, it means that you think the football team is slightly bad.

Good___3___:__2____:__1____:__0___:__-1__:__-2__:__-3__Bad

Extremely  Quite    Slightly    No opinion    Slightly Quite Extremely

1. Forcing the Federal Government to balance the national budget each year except in time of war.

2. Removing Federal controls on the price of oil and natural gas.

3. The quality of education provided by the University of Wyoming.

4. Fighting inflation by cutting national governmental spending.

5. Retaining the provision in national law permitting states to enact right-to-work laws.

6. Increasing the size of the United States’ defense budget.

7. The Carter administration’s policy of promoting human rights in the world.

8. Supporting President Carter.


10. Proving tax relief for business and industry even if such relief might result in smaller tax cuts for middle and lower income groups.

11. A four year state supported college in Casper.

12. Giving priority to the protection of the environment even at the expense of limiting the development of Wyoming mineral resources.

13. Reducing the property tax by raising the state severance tax on oil, gas, coal and other minerals mined in Wyoming.

14. A vigorous prosecution of organized crime, that is gambling, prostitution and drug trafficking in Wyoming.
15. Building a coal slurry pipeline to ship Wyoming coal out of state.

16. The retention of the state’s right-to-work law.

17. An amendment to the state constitution which would limit spending by state and local government.

18. Developing a four year medical school to train physicians with programs in Casper, Cheyenne and Laramie.

For these next items, place an X on the scale in the position you believe to be the most accurate. For example, the University of Wyoming football team.

Probable__3__:_2__:_1__:_0__:_-1__:_-2__:_-3__Improbable

   Extremely  Quite  Slightly  No opinion  Slightly Quite  Extremely

1. Favors forcing the Federal Government to balance the national budget each year except in time of war.

   Simpson

   Whitaker

2. Favors removing Federal controls on the price of oil and natural gas.

   Simpson

   Whitaker

3. Favors fighting inflation by cutting national governmental spending.

   Simpson

   Whitaker

4. Favors retaining the provision in national law permitting states to enact right-to-work laws.

   Simpson

   Whitaker

5. Favors increasing the size of the United States’ defense budget.

   Simpson

   Whitaker
6. Supports the Carter administration’s policy of promoting human rights in the world.
   Simpson
   Whitaker

7. Favors supporting President Carter.
   Simpson
   Whitaker

   Simpson
   Whitaker

9. Favors providing Federal tax relief for business and industry even if such relief might result in small tax cuts for middle and lower income groups.
   Simpson
   Whitaker (Not Available).

10. Favors a four year state supported college in Casper.
    Ostlund
    Herschler

11. Favors giving priority to the protection of the environment even at the expense of limiting the development of Wyoming mineral resources.
    Simpson
    Whitaker
    Ostlund
    Herschler

12. Favors reducing the property tax by raising the state severance tax on oil, gas, coal and other minerals mined in Wyoming.
    Ostlund
Herschler

13. Favors vigorous prosecution of organized crime, that is gambling, prostitution and drug trafficking in Wyoming.

Ostlund

Herschler

14. Favors building a coal slurry pipeline to ship Wyoming coal out of state.

Ostlund

Herschler

15. Favors the retention of the state’s right-to-work law.

Ostlund

Herschler

16. Favors an amendment to the state constitution which would limit spending by state and local government.

Ostlund

Herschler

17. Favors developing a four year medical school to train physicians with programs in Casper, Cheyenne and Laramie.

Ostlund

Herschler

18. My best friends will vote for Simpson.

19. My best friends will vote for Whitaker.

20. My best friends will vote for Ostlund.

21. My best friends will vote for Herschler.

22. I will vote for Simpson.

23. I will vote for Whitaker.

24. I will vote for Ostlund.
25. I will vote for Herschler.
26. I will vote for Cheney.
27. I will vote for Bagley.
28. I will not vote.
Post-Election Wyoming Election Survey

1. Do you recall being interviewed during the three weeks before the November 7th General Election?

   1. Yes  2. No—terminate interview.

2. First, during the recent election campaign, were you contacted personally either by political candidate or by a worker for the Republican or Democratic parties?

   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK 9. NA

   (If yes, ask) Did the person represent the Republican or Democratic party, or were you contacted personally by both?


3. In talking with people about the election, we find that a lot of people weren’t able to vote because they weren’t registered, or that they were sick, or they just didn’t have time. How about your. Did you vote in the November 7th election or did something keep you from voting?

   1. Yes, voted  2. No, didn’t’ vote

4. (If voted, ask) In the race for governor, did you vote for Ed Herschler or for John Ostlund?


5. In the contest for Wyoming’s congressional seat, id you vote for Bill Bagley or Dick Cheney?


6. In the Senate race, did you vote for Ray Whitaker or Al Simpson?


7. What about the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Did you vote for the incumbent Robert Schrader or for the challenger Lynn Simons?

8. As you know, the optional one percent sales tax was on the ballot in your county. Do you recall how you voted on the question? Did you vote for the one cent increase, did you vote against the increase, or don’t you recall how you voted?


9. In this county, district Court Judge----stood for retain—that is, people voted on whether to keep him in office or whether to replace him. Do you recall how you voted on Judge----? Did you vote to keep him in office, did you vote against him, or don’t you recall how you voted?


10. Overall, how much information did you have about the record and qualifications of Judge---to serve as a District Court judge in your county? Would you say you had:

1. No information at all—(if none) skip to Question 13.


11. Last summer, the State Bar Association conducted a poll of lawyers who had practiced before Judge____. These lawyers were asked whether the judge should be kept in office or not. Did you read or hear about the findings of this poll?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

(If yes, ask) How important were the results of the lawyers’ poll in your decision to vote for or against the judge?

1. Very important  2. Somewhat important  3. Not at all important

8. DK  9. NA

13. Which of the following sources of information were important to you in making up your mind about voting for or against Judge____?
a. Were personal contacts or observations of the judge important?

1. Yes 2. No 8. DK 9. NA

b. Were the media—radio, newspapers, and TV—important sources of information?

1. Yes 2. No 8. DK 9. NA
c. Were conversations with friends or acquaintances important?

1. Yes 2. No 8. DK 9. NA

In addition to these questions on voting, we want to ask several other questions which were raised in the pre-election survey.

13. First, during the election campaign, there was a good deal of discussion about taxes. One proposal discussed was to remove the sales tax on food and drugs. Would you favor or oppose removing the sales tax on food and drugs, or do you not have an opinion on this question?

1. Favor 2. Oppose 3. No opinion

14. Second, we have some questions on crime and law enforcement. Do you believe that gambling, prostitution and drug-trafficking in this state are controlled by Wyoming people or by people out-of-state or are both involved?


15. Do you agree or disagree that law enforcement agencies in Wyoming have the resources to vigorously prosecute organized criminal activities—that is, gambling, prostitution and drug-trafficking—in Wyoming?


16. Third in some communities, residents and merchants give gifts to police officers. I am going to read a list of gifts which might be given. Which ones do you believe are OK for an officer to accept and which are not?

a. Free coffee from restaurants.

1. OK 2. No 8. DK 9. NA
b. Free meals or discounts on meals.
   1. OK  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

c. A turkey or a bottle of liquor during the holiday season.
   1. OK  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

d. Gifts of case or merchandise worth between $25 and $50.
   1. OK  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

e. Gifts of case or merchandise worth between $50 and $100.
   1. OK  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

17. Do you agree or disagree that gifts to police officers, such as those listed above can lead to corruption of the police?

18. Were you born in Wyoming or some other state?
   1. Wyoming  2. Other state  8.DK  9. NA

19. How many years have you lived in Wyoming?

20. How many years have you lived in this community?