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Wyoming Election Survey 1980

Department of Political Science

University of Wyoming

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Statewide Election Survey

1980

**COUNTY**

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

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**INT**

1. First, have you been interviewed for a public opinion poll within the past 2 years—either by telephone or in a personal interview?

   0. No/don’t know  2. Yes

**REGVOTE**

2. Are you registered to vote in the November 4th Election?

   1. Yes     2. No or don’t know

**REGPARTY**

2a. If registered, Are you registered as’


   8. DK     9. NA

**VOTE76**

3. Thinking back to the 1976 Presidential Election, when Jimmy7 Carter ran against Gerald Ford, do you remember whether you voted in that election or not?

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

**PRES76**

3a. If voted, did you vote for Jimmy Carter or Gerald Ford?

4. If the Presidential Election were held today, would you vote for:

5. Undecided   6. Will abstain this year     8. DK   9. NA

5. We would like to know how strongly you feel about the importance of voting in this Presidential Election. Would you say you care:

1. A great deal whether or not you vote.     2. Care somewhat   3. Don’t care to much this time.     8. DK   9. NA
6. Generally speaking, how much do you care about which candidate wins the Presidential Election this fall? Would you say you care:

   1. A great deal  2. Care somewhat  3. Don’t care too much  8. Don’t know

7. How interested have you been in the Presidential Election campaigns this fall? Would you say that you have been:

   8. Don’t know

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

   1. Approve  2. Disapprove  8. Don’t know

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

   1. Approve  2. Disapprove  8. Don’t know

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

      1. Approve  2. Disapprove  8. Don’t know

11. What about Wyoming’s other Senator, Alan Simpson. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Senator Simpson is handling his job?

       1. Approve  2. Disapprove  8. Don’t know

12. Finally, do you approve or disapprove of the way Richard Cheney is handling his job as Wyoming’s Congressman?

       1. Approve  2. Disapprove  8. Don’t know
13. The U.S. Congressional Election on November 4th will find Democrat Jim Rogers challenging the Republican incumbent Richard Cheney. If the election were held today, would you vote for:

1. the Democrat Jim Rogers  2. the Republican incumbent Richard Cheney
3. some other candidate  4. Are you still undecided
5. or will you not vote in this election  8. Don’t know

14. First, 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. Don’t know

15. Would you say the government in Washington is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?

1. Few big interests  2. Benefit of all  3. Undecided of depends (volunteered)
8. Don’t know

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


17. Do you feel that almost all of the people running the government in Washington are (1) usually smart people who usually know what they are doing, or (2) do you think that quite a few of them don’t seem to know what they are doing?

1. Usually know  2. Few don’t seem to know  8. Don’t know

18. Do you think that (1) quite a few of the people running the government in Washington are a little crooked, (2) not very many are crooked, or (3) do you think hardly any of them are crooked?

1. Quite a few are crooked  2. No very many are crooked 3. Hardly any crooked
8. Don’t know
19. Compared to other countries in the world, is the quality of government in the United States:

1. Better  2. Worse, or  3. About the same  8. Don’t know

20. Here is a list of six possible life goals. Would you please read the list then rank them in order of importance to you. Use a “1” for “most” important, a “2” for second most important down to “6” for least important.

A. Where did you rank A PROSPEROUS LIFE
B. Where did you rank AN IMPORTANT LIFE
C. Where did you rank A SECURE LIFE
D. Where did you rank AN EXCITING LIFE
E. Where did you rank EQUALITY
F. Where did you rank SALVATION


22. How would you rate the quality of life available to you in this community? Are you:

1. Satisfied  2. Dissatisfied  3. Or, do you have mixed feelings about living here

8. Don’t know

23. How big a problem is discrimination against women because of their sex? Would you say it is:

1. A very important problem  2. A somewhat important problem

3. Or, is it not a problem  8. Don’t know

24. How important would you say your religious values are to your life?

1. Not at all important  2. Somewhat  3. Quite  4. Very important

24a. Are you a member of a church or religious group?

0. No  1. Yes---What denomination is that:
25. How often would you say you attend church (or religious) services?
   1. Ever week or nearly every week  2. Once or twice a month  
   3. A few times a year  4. Never attend  8. Don’t know

26. Now for the last question in this series. Taken all together, how would you say things are with you these days? Are you:

27. What is your marital status? Are you:

28. Are you employed outside the home, either on a part-time or full-time basis?
   1. Not employed  2. Part-time  3. Full-time

29. We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. During the last few years, has your financial situation been:
   1. Getting better  2. Getting worse  3. Or, has it remained the same  8. Don’t know

30. Looking ahead to the next year, do you think your financial situation will:
   1. Get better  2. Get worse  3. Or, will it stay the same  8. Don’t know

31. During the past year, have you – or members of your family – had any serious illnesses or accidents? Would you say you’ve
   1. Had a lot  2. Had some  3. No, no serious accidents or illnesses
   8. Don’t know
32. I want to ask how often you watch certain types of TV programs. As I read each of the following, please tell me how often you watch.

A. National news broadcasts on ABC, CBS, or NBC-TV

B. International newscasts on ABC, CBS, or NBC-TV

C. State and local news broadcasts on Wyoming TV

D. Specials or documentary TV programs on political affairs

E. Candidate sponsored programs or advertisements this fall

33. Next, I’m going to read you reasons why some people say they watch political broadcasts on TV. Please tell me which are reasons why you watch.

A. Use as ammunition in arguments with others?
   1. Yes 2. No 3. Don’t know

B. Judge what political candidates are like?
   1. Yes 2. No 3. Don’t know

C. Help make up your mind on how to vote?
   1. Yes 2. No 3. Don’t know

D. Keep up with the main issues of the day?
   1. Yes 2. No 3. Don’t know

E. Inform you of the party’s position on issue?
   1. Yes 2. No 3. Don’t know

F. Enjoy the excitement of an election race?
   1. Yes 2. No 3. Don’t know
G. Judge who is likely to win an election?

   1. Yes  2. No  3. Don’t know

H. Because there is no other choice.

   1. Yes  2. No  3. Don’t know

34. As you may know, there are only four television stations in Wyoming. Therefore, many people watch TV news and entertainment programs telecast from other states. What about you? Where does your TV come from:

   1. Don’t watch TV (or don’t know)  2. Wyoming stations only

Do you watch any Colorado stations? Check all that apply

   ( ) No, none from Colorado
   ( ) Channel 2, KWGN TV
   ( ) Channel 4, KOA-NBC TV
   ( ) Channel 6, KRMA-PBS TV
   ( ) Channel 7, KMGH-CBS TV
   ( ) Channel 9, KBTV-ABC TV

35. Now I’m going to read a list of different kinds of stories found in newspapers. As I read each, please tell me whether you read:

   A. News stories about national politics

      1. Yes  2. No  3. Don’t know

   B. News stories about state and local politics

      1. Yes  2. No  3. Don’t know

   C. News stories about international affairs

      1. Yes  2. No  3. Don’t know
36. In general, where do you get most of your information about politics? Does it come from:

5. Discussions with other people  6. Or, does it come from other sources
8. Don’t know

37. Some persons believe that newspaper and television reporters are too critical of governmental officials while others believe that reporters are not critical enough. What about you? Do you think reporters are:

1. Too critical  2. Not critical enough
3. Or, do you generally approve of news reporting concerning government
8. Don’t know

38. Political officials sometimes argue that the news reporters are not fair to them. What do you think?

1. Generally fair  2. Generally unfair in political reporting
3. Or, don’t you have an opinion  8. Don’t know

39. President Carter has had substantial difficulty in getting congress to accept his programs. The following have been given as reasons for this difficulty. As I read each, please tell me whether you consider it (1) an important reason or (2) an unimportant reason.

A. Congress is controlled by special interest groups

1. Important  2. Unimportant  8. Don’t know

B. President Carter does not understand the Congress

1. Important  2. Unimportant  8. Don’t know

C. President Carter’s programs are not favored by a majority of the voters

1. Important  2. Unimportant  8. Don’t know
D. Congressmen and women are more concerned with the interests of their own districts than the interests of the nation as a whole

1. Important  2. Unimportant  8. Don’t know

40. This is a different type of question. Do you ever think of yourself as a political independent or not?

1. No (Or don’t know)  2. Yes

Do you consider yourself a strong political independent or a not so strong independent?

1. Strong  2. Not so strong  8. Don’t Know

41. Do you agree or disagree. In terms of what the federal bureaucracy does, it makes no difference which party—the Republicans or Democrats—controls the presidency. Do you:

1. Agree  2. Disagree  8. Don’t Know

42. In terms of the laws passed by Congress, it makes no difference which political party controls the Presidency. Do you:

1. Agree  2. Disagree  8. Don’t Know

43. No matter who is elected president in the upcoming General Election, this election—like most others—won’t make my life any better or any worse. Do you:

1. Agree  2. Disagree  8. Don’t Know

44. Do you plan to vote in the November 4th General Election?

1. No (or Don’t Know/Not Sure, Go to #53)  2. Yes

45. During the past several years, there has been a great deal of discussion about increasing the state coal severance tax. Do you think the present 10.5% coal severance tax should be:

1. Increased  2. Left the same  3. Decreased

4. Or, don’t you have an opinion on the issue (Don’t Know)
46. Do you recall the names of any State Legislators from your county who generally oppose increases in the coal severance tax or who have voted against such increases in the Legislature?

1. No (Can’t remember just now or Don’t Know)  2. Yes

Can you give me one or more names of Legislators in your county who oppose increasing the tax?

47. Governor Herschler has said that the mineral industry is not paying its fair share of taxes because of the socio-economic impacts caused by the industry. How do you feel about this? Do you:

1. Agree  2. Disagree  3. Or, are you undecided  8. Don’t Know

48. Some people in the state say we need more tax revenue to meet future governmental needs while other say we don’t need more money. What about you? Do you think Wyoming:

1. Needs additional tax money  2. Does not need more tax money

3. Or, don’t you have an opinion on this (Don’t Know)

49. If Wyoming’s severance tax on coal were increased from the present 10.5%, who do you believe would pay the bulk of the increase?

1. Wyoming residents  2. Out-of-state residents

3. Or, don’t you know who would pay the increase

50. Are you more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for the Wyoming State Legislature who favors increasing the state’s coal severance tax, or will this issue no influence your vote?

51. Now a question on the courts. In Wyoming—as you may know—District Court Judges and Supreme Court Justices are appointed by the Governor from a list of 3 names submitted by an independent nominating committee. One year after appointment, the people vote on whether to retain, or keep, a Judge of Justice on the bench for terms of six or eight years. At the end of the first term, they must again win the popular approval of a majority of voters to continue on the bench. How do you feel about this method of appointing and retaining District Court Judges and Supreme Court Justices? Are you:

1. Satisfied with the system  2. Dissatisfied
3. Or, don’t you have an opinion about it  8. Don’t Know

52. In the upcoming General Election, two Supreme Court Justices—John Raper and John Rooney—will stand for retention. How do you think you will vote on keeping them in office? Will you:

1. Vote to keep both on the bench 2. Vote for one but against the other
3. Vote against both  4. Or, are you undecided on how you will vote
8. Don’t Know

53. During the past few years, there has been considerable discussion about differences between the Republican and Democratic parties. How much difference do you feel there is between the Republicans and Democrats on political issues? Is there:

1. A great deal of difference  2. Some difference
3. Or is there very little difference  8. Don’t Know

54. Today, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what? (If Republican or Democrat ask: Would you call yourself a “strong” or “not so strong” Republican/Democrat. If Independent or Other, ask: Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic Party?)

55. We hear a lot of talk these days about “liberals” and “conservatives”. Here is a scale on which political views that people might hold are arranged. Where would you place yourself on this scale politically speaking?

1. Extremely liberal  2. Liberal  3. Slightly liberal
4. Moderate—middle of the road  5. Slightly conservative  6. Conservative
7. Extremely conservative  8. Don’t know

56. Here are four different policies or objectives which governments can work for. Please tell me which 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 raising prices
4. Guarantee freedom of expression so that everyone can say freely what he or she thinks

57. Although the Wyoming Legislature has voted to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, some groups in the state want to withdraw or rescind Wyoming’s support for the amendment. What about you? Do you:

1. Favor such efforts  2. Oppose such efforts  3. Or, are you undecided
4. Don’t know

59. Now for the last question on this topic. How often would you say that you can trust state and local government to do what is right? Would you say

1. Just about always  2. Most of the time  3. Some of the time
4. Don’t know

60. Have you ever lived in or visited any foreign countries?

1. Lived overseas  2. Visited (but not lived)  3. Both lived visited
4. No, neither  8. Don’t Know
61. Next, how closely do you follow international affairs and U.S. foreign policy problems? Would you say:

1. Not very closely (or don’t know)  2. Somewhat closely  3. Quite closely

62. How important for the U.S. is:

A. Strengthening the military
   1. Very Important  2. Somewhat Important 3. Not important at all
   8. Don’t Know

B. Securing adequate energy supplies
   1. Very Important  2. Somewhat Important 3. Not important at all
   8. Don’t Know

C. Pursuing a human rights policy
   1. Very Important  2. Somewhat Important 3. Not important at all
   8. Don’t Know

D. Nuclear arms limitation & control
   1. Very Important  2. Somewhat Important 3. Not important at all
   8. Don’t Know

E. Combatting world hunger
   1. Very Important  2. Somewhat Important 3. Not important at all
   8. Don’t Know

F. Defending the State of Israel
   1. Very Important  2. Somewhat Important 3. Not important at all
   8. Don’t Know

G. Protecting weaker nations against foreign aggression
   1. Very Important  2. Somewhat Important 3. Not important at all
   8. Don’t Know
H. Helping to improve the standard of living in poor countries
   1. Very Important  2. Somewhat Important 3. Not important at all
   8. Don’t Know

63. Are the foreign policy interests of the U.S. and:
   A. the Soviet Union
      8. Don’t Know
   B. Communist China
      8. Don’t Know
   C. West Germany
      8. Don’t Know
   D. Japan
      8. Don’t Know
   E. Saudi Arabia
      8. Don’t Know
   F. Israel
      8. Don’t Know
   G. Egypt
      8. Don’t Know
H. Iran


8. Don’t Know

I. South Africa


8. Don’t Know

64. Fact: Suppose a person—a man, a woman, or a youth under 18—were arrested for possessing marijuana and cocaine. If that person were found guilty by a court, what should that person’s punishment be?

A. A man should be punished by

1. Fine  2. Probation  3. Time in County Jail


8. Other

B. A woman should be punished by

1. Fine  2. Probation  3. Time in County Jail


8. Other

C. A juvenile should be punished by

1. Fine  2. Probation  3. Time in County Jail


8. Other

65. Fact: Suppose a grocery store in your community is missing $15,000. A person who works at the store is arrested for embezzlement of the money. If that person were found guilty by a court, what should that person’s punishment be?

A. A man should be punished by

1. Fine  2. Probation  3. Time in County Jail

B. A woman should be punished by

1. Fine  2. Probation  3. Time in County Jail
8. Other

C. A juvenile should be punished by

1. Fine  2. Probation  3. Time in County Jail
8. Other

66. Fact: Suppose a person is arrested in your community for child abuse after the person’s child is brought to the hospital unconscious from a severe beating. If that person is found guilty in court, what should that person’s punishment be?

A. A father, stepfather, or other man should be punished by

1. Fine  2. Probation  3. Time in County Jail
8. Other

B. A mother, stepmother, or other woman should be punished by

1. Fine  2. Probation  3. Time in County Jail
8. Other

C. A juvenile—brother, sister, or other youth—should be punished by

1. Fine  2. Probation  3. Time in County Jail
8. Other

67. First, what is your age? (Code actual age, or “99” if refused)
A. If under 65, ask: Do you have any children living at home now?
   0. No  1. Yes—How many live there?

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

69. How many years have you lived in Wyoming?

70. In the past five years, how many times have you moved from one town/city to another? (Code “0” for none, “1” for one, etc.)

71. About your housing, do you (1) OWN or (2) RENT
   A. House is

72. Do you or your spouse—if you are married—belong to a labor union?
   1. Respondent only  2. Spouse only  3. Both respondent and spouse
   4. No, neither belong  8. Don’t Know

73. How much formal schooling have you completed?
   1. Less than High School Graduate  2. High School Graduate (or GED)
   3. Vo-tech Program  4. Attended College (2 or 4 year institutions)
   5. College Graduate (Bachelor’s Degree)
   6. Post-graduate Study/ Professional Degrees

74. Would you please tell me your total family income for 1979----that is, for yourself and your spouse if married, before taxes? The categories are:
   1. Under $3,000  2. $3,000-$9,000  3. $9,000-$15,000  4. $15,000-21,000
   5. $21,000-27,000  6. $27,000-$33,000  7. More than $33,000
   9. Preferred Not To Say
Presidential Election Issues

These next questions focus on the Presidential Election, and how you see various issues and where you think the candidates stand on them. As I read each issue, please tell me where you would place:

4. Independent John Anderson

Issue 1: Favoring or opposing a reduction in spending for social welfare programs.

Oppose: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Favor: 1,2,3

Issue 2: Favoring or opposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution making abortions unconstitutional.

Oppose: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Favor: 1,2,3

Issue 3: Favoring or opposing an equal rights amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution.

Oppose: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Favor: 1,2,3

Issue 4: Favoring or opposing a substantial increase in the defense budget.

Oppose: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Favor: 1,2,3
Issue 5: Favoring or opposing a renewal of the military draft
   Oppose: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Favor: 1,2,3

Issue 6: Favoring or opposing an increase of American power and influence in the world.
   Oppose: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Favor: 1,2,3

Issue 7: Favoring or opposing a tougher policy to free the American hostages held by Iran.
   Oppose: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Favor: 1,2,3

Issue 8: Favoring or opposing a substantial cut in Federal taxes.
   Oppose: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Favor: 1,2,3

Issue 9: Favoring or opposing a reduction of Governmental regulations on businesses
   Oppose: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Favor: 1,2,3

Issue 10: Favoring or opposing the use of nuclear power to generate electricity
   Oppose: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Favor: 1,2,3
Issue 11: Favoring or opposing an energy policy which includes energy production and conservation programs but which emphasizes increasing energy production more.

Oppose: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Favor: 1,2,3

Issue 12: Having a political leader who is born again Christian

Born Bad: -3,-2,-1  Undecided, Don’t Know: 0  Born Good: 1,2,3

Where would you place the three presidential candidates on each characteristic. Just give a number from “1” to “7” or, an “8” if you are undecided.

Competent----Incompetent
7. Very

Unintelligent----Intelligent
7. Very

Strong-----Weak
7. Very

Dishonest----Honest
7. Very

Liberal----Conservative
7. Very
Republican----Democrat


Born Again Christian---Not Born Again Christian

Post-Election Callback

1. Do you recall being interviewed during the three weeks before the November 4th General Election?
   1. Yes  2. No, not interviewed/can’t remember

2. First, in talking with people about the election, we find that a lot of people weren’t able to vote because they were sick, or they didn’t have time, or because they weren’t registered. How about you? Did you vote or did something keep you from voting?
   1. Yes, voted  2. No, didn’t vote/can’t remember

3. In the Presidential Election, did you vote for:
   1. the incumbent Jimmy Carter  2. the Republican Ronald Reagan
   3. the Independent John Anderson  4. Some other candidate
   5. Did you abstain
   6. or, don’t you recall how you voted

4. In the Congressional race, did you vote for:
   1. the incumbent Richard Cheney  2. the Democratic challenger Jim Rogers
   3. some other candidate  4. did you abstain
   5. or, don’t recall how you voted

5. Do you recall how you voted on Justice John Raper? Did you:
   1. vote to keep him on the Supreme Court  2. did you vote to replace him
   3. did you NOT vote on this issue  4. Or, you don’t recall how you voted
6. Do you recall how you voted on Justice John Rooney? Did you:

1. vote to keep him on the Supreme Court 2. did you vote to replace him

3. did you NOT vote on this issue 4. Or, you don’t recall how you voted

7. Overall, how much information did you have about the records and qualifications of Justice Raper and Justice Rooney to serve as Supreme Court Justices in Wyoming?

Would you say you had:

1. No information at all 2. Some information

3. Or, a great deal of information

8. Where did you get information about the Supreme Court Justices?

1. Did you hear about the Justices—in the media or in talking

with friends—Because of any decisions made by the Supreme Court

1. Yes 2. No

2. Did you hear about the lawyers’ recommendations in the Wyoming State Bar Poll?

1. Yes 2. No

3. What about paid political advertisements? Did you see or hear any of these which favored or opposed the Justices

1. Yes 2. No

4. What about news stories or editorials on radio, TV or in newspapers? Did you see any of these

1. Yes 2. No
9. We are attempting to find out how much people participated in political activities during the past election campaign. For instance, did you give any money or buy any tickets to help the campaign for one of the political parties or any candidates?

1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

10. Did you go to any political meetings, rallies, dinners or things during the election campaigns?

1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

11. Did you do any work for one of the parties or any of the local, state or national candidates this year?

1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

12. Did you talk to any people to try to show them why they should vote for one of the political parties or candidates?

1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

13. Did you see or hear the Presidential Debate between Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan on October 28th?

1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

Who do you think ‘won’ the debate or would you rate it a ‘tie between the two candidates’?


8. Don’t Know

Did the debate between Carter and Reagan help you make up your mind on which Presidential candidate to vote for?
