1-1-1986

Wyoming Election Survey 1986

Department of Political Science

University of Wyoming

Follow this and additional works at: http://repository.uwyo.edu/wy_wes

Publication Information

http://repository.uwyo.edu/wy_wes/8

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Political Science at Wyoming Scholars Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wyoming Surveys by an authorized administrator of Wyoming Scholars Repository. For more information, please contact scholcom@uwyo.edu.
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

1. First a question about Wyoming. All communities in our state face certain problems which need to be solved. What do you think is the most pressing problem in your community?

2. Thinking back to the 1984 Presidential Election, when Walter Mondale ran against Ronald Reagan, do you remember for sure whether you voted in that election or not?

   1. Yes, voted 2. No, did not vote 8. Don’t Know 9. Refused to answer

2.A. Did you vote for Walter Mondale, Ronald Reagan or some other candidate?


3. First, how would you rate the job Ronald Reagan is doing as President of the United States? Would you say:


4. What about foreign affairs. Would you rate the job Ronald Reagan is doing as:


5. And what about Regan’s handling of the nation’s economy. Would you rate the job he has done as:

6. I am going to read a list of words and phrases people use to describe Ronald Reagan. For each, please tell me whether the word or phrase describes Ronald Reagan extremely well, quite well, not too well or not well at all. In your opinion does the word intelligent describe Reagan extremely well, quite well, not too well or not well at all?

A. Intelligent
   1. Extremely well 2. Quite well 3. Not too well 4. Not well at all
   8. Don’t Know

B. Can make tough decisions
   1. Extremely well 2. Quite well 3. Not too well 4. Not well at all
   8. Don’t Know

C. Cares about people like me
   1. Extremely well 2. Quite well 3. Not too well 4. Not well at all
   8. Don’t Know

D. Can handle a crisis
   1. Extremely well 2. Quite well 3. Not too well 4. Not well at all
   8. Don’t Know

7. Next, how would you rate the job Ed Herschler is doing as Governor of Wyoming? Would you say:

8. Now, what about Malcolm Wallop. How would you rate the job that Wallop is doing as U.S. Senator? Would you say:

9. What about Wyoming’s other U.S. Senator? How would you rate the job Alan Simpson is doing as a U.S. Senator? Would you say:

10. How would you rate the job Dick Cheney is doing as Wyoming’s Congressman in Washington? Would you say:

11. What about the Wyoming legislature? In general, how do you think it has performed in recent years? Have the legislators done an excellent job, a good job, a fair job, or a poor job?


12. Finally, what about Wyoming judges. How do you think they have performed in recent years? Have they done an excellent job, a good job, a fair job, or a poor job?


13. Thinking ahead, are you registered to vote in the General Election which will be held on November 4th?


13.A. Are you registered as:


9. Refused to answer

14. Do you plan to vote in that General Election.

1. Yes 2. No

15. In the race for the Wyoming Governor, Republican Peter Simpson is running against Mike Sullivan, a Democrat. If the election were held today, would you vote for:


8. Undecided/Don’t Know

15.A. Why will you vote for (Mr. Sullivan/Simpson)?

15.B. Is there any other reason? There are two responses of likes and dislikes for both candidates.
16. What about the Congressional election where Republican Dick Cheney is running against Rick Gilmore? If the election were held today, would you vote for:

8. Undecided/Don’t Know

17. How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right? Would you say:


18. 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? Would you say it is run by a:

1. Few big interests 2. For the Benefit of all 3. Or are you undecided 8. Don’t Know

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


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

1. Quite a few crooked 2. Not very many crooked 3. Hardly any crooked 8. Don’t Know

NOW I AM GOING TO GIVE YOU SEVERAL STATEMENTS ABOUT GOVERNMENT POLICIES. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

21. The Federal government should have the authority to require drug tests of government employees.

22. Mandatory drug tests for college athletes are desirable.

23. The response of the United States government to international terrorism has not been strong enough.

24. The tax reform bill passed recently by congress will lower my income taxes.

25. The Federal government should impose an import tax on oil from foreign countries.

26. The United States should provide military aid to those groups fighting the current government in Nicaragua.

27. The Federal government’s agricultural policies help the American farmer.

28. Congress should refuse to provide funds for President Reagan’s Star Wars proposal.

NOW A FEW QUESTIONS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

29. President Reagan, since his election in 1980, has sought to strengthen the military by increasing defense spending. Do you favor or oppose his policy of increasing defense spending?
   1. Favor 2. Oppose 3. Undecided 8. Don’t Know

30. Now a question about Soviet-American relations. What do you think the United States should do: should it try harder to reduce tensions with the Russians or should the US get tougher in dealings with the Soviet Union?
31. How likely do you think the United States is to get into a nuclear war within the next 10 years? Would you say:

8. Don’t Know

32. Right now, which country—the United States or the Soviet Union—is stronger in nuclear strength? Would you say:

1. The United States is stronger 2. The Soviet Union is stronger
3. Or are they about equal 8. Don’t Know

33. Do you favor or oppose the United States agreeing to a “nuclear freeze” with the Soviet Union—that is, both the Soviet Union and the United States would stop the testing, production and installation of additional nuclear weapons?

1. Favor 2. Oppose 8. Don’t Know/No Opinion

34. The United States has developed a new nuclear weapons system called the MX. Some people, including President Reagan, favor building and installing this system immediately while others oppose this. What about you? Do you:

1. Favor building the MX system 2. Oppose building the system
8. Don’t Know/No Opinion

35. First, we are interested in how well 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

36. Looking ahead to the next year, do you think your financial situation will:

1. Get better 2. Get worse 3. Or, will it stay about the same 8. Don’t Know

37. Now let’s talk about the country as a whole. Would you say that over the past year the nation’s economy has gotten better, stayed the same or gotten worse?


38. What about Wyoming? Would you say that over the past year Wyoming’s economy has gotten better, stayed the same or gotten worse.
39. There has been considerable discussion about when Wyoming’s economy might improve. What about you? Do you think the economy in this state will improve within the next ten years or do you believe as some do, that Wyoming’s economy may never be as prosperous as it was several years ago?

8. Don’t Know

40. Last week, were you employed outside the home, either part-time or full-time, were you unemployed, or what?

1. Not employed-If housewife, retired or student write in below
2. Unemployed 3. Part-time 4. Full-time (Occupation)

40A. Occupational prestige

41. Thinking about the next 12 months, how likely do you think it is that you will lose your job or be laid off? Would you say:

8. Don’t Know

42. If you were to lose your job or were laid off, how seriously would you consider leaving Wyoming and moving to another state? Would you:

1. Very seriously consider moving 2. Somewhat seriously consider moving
3. Would not consider moving 8. Don’t Know

43. Wyoming’s economy has not performed as well as it did in the late 1970s and the early 1980s. I am going to read off a number of persons or groups. For each please tell me if you think the person or group is responsible for the poor condition of Wyoming’s economy?

4. Wyoming Legislature 5. Oil and Mining industry 6. Environmentalists
10. Wyoming ranchers and farmers
44. You indicated that you thought (list those blamed from question above) are to blame. Which do you think is the most responsible for the condition of Wyoming’s economy? (Circle first three mentioned)

4. Wyoming Legislature 5. Oil and Mining industry 6. Environmentalists
10. Wyoming ranchers and farmers

45. Next year, it may be necessary to cut funding to various state agencies and programs. I am going to read a list of agencies and programs. Assuming cuts are necessary, could you tell me if they should be made in the budgets of each of the following:

45.A. Public Schools
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

45.B. Community Colleges
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

45.C. University of Wyoming
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

45.D. State welfare agencies
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

45.E. Roads and Highways
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

45.F. Law Enforcement
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

45.G. Protection of the Environment
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

45.H. Health and Medical programs
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know
45.I. Public recreation
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

45.J. Game and Fish
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

46. Some Wyoming political leaders have suggested the use of state funds to promote business, industry and agriculture in the state. Others say that the use of state funds to promote private enterprise is too risky. What about you? Do you think state funds should be used to promote Wyoming business, industry and agriculture or should such spending be kept to a minimum?
   1. State funds should be used 2. Should be kept to a minimum 8. Don’t Know

47. There has also been discussion about which sector of Wyoming’s economy should receive aid. Generally the three most of ten mentioned areas are the promotion of tourism, attempts to bring new business and industry to the state and more aid to promote and improve agriculture. If you had to choose among the three, where do you believe state funds should be spent:
   1. On the promotion of tourism in the state 2. In an attempt to attract new business and industry 3. In an attempt to improve and promote Wyoming agriculture 8. Don’t Know

48. Some people say the federal budget deficit is a serious problem for the nation’s economy. Others say the deficit may become a serious problem in the future, but that it is not one now. How about you? Do you think the deficit is:

49. President Reagan and Congressional leaders have blamed each other for the size of the Federal Budget deficit. Who do you think is chiefly responsible? Is it the Reagan administration, the Congress or are the President and Congress equally to blame?
   1. President Reagan 2. Congress 3. Equally to blame 8. Don’t Know
50. 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 generally reasonable or do you think they are too high?


50.A. Have you written or talked to any public officials in the last year about your taxes being too high?


51. In Wyoming, there are 6 taxes which can be used to pay for schools, streets and highways, health facilities and other public services. Suppose that additional money were needed to pay for such services. Which of the following taxes would you favor increasing and which would you oppose?

52. Increased local property tax


53. Use of the 1% local sales tax


54. Increased state sales tax


55. Increased mineral severance tax


56. Use of a state property tax


57. Use of a state income tax


If respondent favors more than one, ask:

58. Of those you favor, which one should be increased first:


59. More generally, we hear a lot of talk these days about “liberals” and “conservatives”. Today, how would you describe your “political views?” Would you say your views are:

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

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

60.A. If Republican or Democrat: Would you consider yourself a ‘strong’ or ‘not so strong’ Republican/Democrat

5. Leaning Democrat 6. Weak Democrat 7. Strong Democrat

60.B. If Independent or other: Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic Party?

61. The public schools should teach students that the universe was created by God as described in the Bible.


62. The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally word for word.


63. The country would be better off if we had good gun control laws.


64. I favor an amendment to the United States Constitution that would make all abortions illegal.


65. I favor an amendment to the United States Constitution that would permit organized prayers in public schools.

66. Government has an obligation to provide every person a minimal standard of living, including an adequate diet and basic health care.


67. Sex education classes taught by qualified teachers should be offered to students in all public schools.


68. Persons convicted of first degree murder should receive the death penalty.


69. The Federal government should help reduce income differences between the rich and poor.


70. The University of Wyoming should provide more educational programs in Wyoming communities even if these programs would lead to a decline in the quality of University programs on the Laramie campus.


71. Two years ago, Congress passed a bill which would give states the choice of either increasing the legal drinking age to 21 or having federal highway funds substantially reduced. Do you believe the drinking age should be:

1. Be increased to 21 so that the state does not lose funds.
2. Kept at 19 with the loss of federal highway funds
8. Or don’t you have an opinion on this issue

72. This has been considerable discussion among Wyoming political leaders and in the press about the cost of liability insurance. Some cities and counties have had difficulty obtaining liability insurance and have thus faced the prospect of canceling some of their activities. Have you heard or read anything about this problem?

1. Yes 2. No
73. There is a little agreement about who is responsible for the high cost of liability insurance. Some blame the insurance companies, some the courts system, some blame lawyers while others feel that persons who sue are responsible. If you had to place the responsibility, where would you put it? Would it be with:

5. Or is no one to blame 8. Don’t Know

74. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D and F for the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools in your community were graded in the same way. What grade would you give your local public schools?


75. What about the state’s community colleges? What grade would you give them?


76. And finally, what about the University of Wyoming? What grade would you give the University for the quality of its work?


77. In each session of the Wyoming Legislature, legislators consider a variety of issues. Do you think that citizens in this county are informed about issues that might affect them? Would you say they are almost always informed, sometimes informed or seldom informed?


78. How often do you think the legislators who represent your area in the Wyoming Legislature know how you and other citizens feel about issues? Do they almost always know, sometimes know or seldom know?


79. If your legislator’s personal opinion about a bill conflicted with what he or she thought citizens in the district wanted, what do you think the legislator should do? Should the legislator do what he or she thought was best, support the citizens’ view or would it depend on the situation?

1. Do what he/she thought was best 2. Support citizens’ view
3. Depends on situation 8. Don’t Know

80. Each year the Wyoming Legislature meets for either a 40-day general session or a 20-day budget session. Some people think it isn’t long enough and others think it is about the right length of time. Do you think the sessions are long enough or would you like to see the legislature meet more?

1. Meet longer 2. Present sessions are long enough

81. Longer sessions would mean the legislature would spend more money.


8. Don’t Know

82. Current sessions allow legislators to spend more time in their own communities keeping in touch with the citizens they represent.


8. Don’t Know

83. The current arrangement produces citizen legislators who depend on common sense rather than political wheeling and dealing to make decisions.


8. Don’t Know

84. Suppose a law were being considered by the state legislature that you considered to be very unjust or harmful. If you made an effort to change this regulation, how likely is it that you would succeed? Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not likely at all?


8. Don’t Know

85. If such a case arose, how likely is it that you could take the time to get involved? Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not likely at all?


8. Don’t Know
86. These agencies sometimes hold meetings or other events to encourage public participation in land management decisions. Have you attended such meetings in the last two years?

1. Yes 2. No 9. Don’t Know/Not Applicable

87. How many of these meetings did you attend in the last year?

88. In general, do you think you have much influence on decisions as a result of these meetings and events?


89. The Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management sometimes seek public comments on decisions they will make. If a meeting were held in your community to discuss the amount of timber to be cut in a national forest, would you go or would you not attend because you were uninterested or too busy?

90. The amount of timber cut in national forests


91. Opportunities to hike, fish or hunt public lands


92. Road construction in National Forests


93. Preservation of wildlife habitat


94. Exploration for coal, oil or gas


95. Grazing fees

96. Designation of certain lands as wilderness areas

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT:

97. Are you a member of a church or religious group?
   1. No 2. Yes—What denomination is that?

98. How often do you go to church? Would you say:
   1. Every week 2. Almost every week 3. Once or twice a month
   4. A few times a year 5. Never

99. Does your minister or clergyman ever say anything about politics or speak out on political social issues in church?
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

100. Would you say you regularly watch preachers on television or listen to them on radio?
    1. Yes, regularly watch 2. No, do not watch 8. Don’t Know

101. We occasionally hear various terms applied to religious groups. Among the most common in recent years have been the names evangelical and fundamentalist. Have you heard or read about the term evangelical Christian?
    1. Yes 2. No

101.A. Do you consider yourself to be an evangelical Christian or don’t you know?
    1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

102. Have you heard or read about the term fundamentalist or don’t you know?
    1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

102.( If yes, ask) A. Do you consider yourself to be a fundamentalist Christian?
    1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know
103. Now the final question on religion. Some people have had deeply religious experiences which have changes their lives. I’m thinking of experiences sometimes described as “being born again in one’s life.” There are some deeply religious people who have not had an experience of this sort. How about you, have you had such an experience?

1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

NOW FOR THE LAST SET OF QUESTIONS, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME BACKGROUND MATERIAL.

104. In what year were you born?

105. What was the last year or grade you completed in school? (H.S. =12, College Grad =16, Law degree =19)

IF RESPONDENT ATTENDED COLLEGE, ASK:

106. Did you attend the University of Wyoming?

1. Yes 2. No

107. Did you attend one of the state’s Community Colleges?

1. Yes 2. No

107.A. Which one?

   4. Laramie Community College 5. Northwest Community College
   6. Sheridan College 7. Western Wyoming College

108. What is your marital status? Are you:

   8. Don’t Know

108.A. Is your (husband or wife) employed outside the home?

1. Not employed—if Housewife, retired, or student, write in as occupation

Occupation prestige
109. Do you belong to a labor union? If married, what about your spouse?
   1. Respondent only 2. Spouse only 3. Both respondent and spouse
   4. No, either 8. Don’t Know

110. What about your housing. Do you:
   1. Own 2. Rent 3. Other 8. Don’t Know

111. Would you tell me what your total family income was in 1985; that is, for yourself and (if married: your spouse)—before taxes?
   01. Under $5,000 02. $5-10,000 03. 10-15,000 04. 15-20,000 05. 20-25,000
   06. 25-30,000 07. 30-35,000 08. 35-40,000 09. 40-50,000 10. 50-60,000

Gender 1. Male 2. Female 8. DK 9. NA

**Election Survey Callback**

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

2. How good of a job did the interviewer do in completing the pre-election interview? Would you say the person did:
   1. A good job 2. A fair job 3. Or, a poor job 8. Don’t Know/No Opinion

3. 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 November 4th or did something keep you from voting?
   1. Yes, voted 2. No, didn’t vote/can’t recall

4. In the Gubernatorial race, did you vote for:
   1. Democrat, Mike Sullivan 2. Republican, Pete Simpson
   3. Some other candidate 4. Did not vote in this race
   5. Or, do you not recall how you voted 8. Don’t Know
9. Refused to answer

5. In the Congressional race, did you vote for:
   1. Democrat, Rick Gilmore 2. Republican, Dick Cheney
   3. Some other candidate 4. Did you not vote on this race
   5. Or, do you not recall how you voted 8. Don’t Know
   9. Refused to answer

6. In the Secretary of State race, did you vote for:
   1. Democrat, Kathy Karpen 2. Republican, K.C. Thompson
   3. Some other candidate 4. Did you not vote on this race
   5. Or, do you not recall how you voted 8. Don’t Know
   9. Refused to answer

7. In this county, District Court Judge _______ stood for retention—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 didn’t you recall how you voted?
   1. For 2. Against 3. Abstained 8. Don’t Know

8. For instance, did you give any money or buy any tickets to help the campaign of one of the political parties or candidates?

9. Did you go to any political meetings, rallies, dinners or events during the campaign?

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

11. Did you talk to any people to try to show them why they should vote for one of the political parties or candidates?
12. At a more general level, do you volunteer your time and services to nonprofit or voluntary groups such as United Way, Big Brothers, or groups such as the Lions?

   1. Yes 2. No

12.A. If yes, what group did you work for?

13. During the average month, how many hours total would you say you work for this group or groups?

14. Now what financial contributions. Do you ever give financial contributions to nonprofit or voluntary groups such as the United Way, the Heart Fund, and the Cancer Society?

   1. Yes 2. No

14.A. If yes, to which groups would you say you regularly give funds?

15. Overall, approximately how much do you give these groups each year?

16. In general, should government require mothers on welfare to go to work or do you believe it would be better for these mothers to stay at home with their children?

   1. Require Work 2. Stay at home
17. Should the age of the children be taken into consideration? For instance, should a welfare mother be required to go to work if she has a child less than six months old?

   1. Yes 2. No

18. What about three years of age? Should government require a welfare mother to work if her youngest child is three years of age?

   1. Yes 2. No

19. Next, what about six years of age? Should a mother whose youngest child is six years of age be required to work?

   1. Yes 2. No

ASK THOSE PERSONS WHO ANSWER YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE FOUR QUESTIONS

19.A. There has also been controversy about the nature of the job that a welfare mother should be required to take. For instance, should a welfare mother be required to take a job even if it is minimum wage position?

   1. Yes 2. No

19.B. Now what if it is impossible to get a job in private business? Should the welfare mother be required to take jobs especially created by government for persons on welfare?

   1. Yes 2. No

19.C. There is a controversy about how much educational support the government should provide for welfare mothers. Some argue that it would be best for the government to support welfare mothers who are attending college in the hopes that upon graduation they would be able to support their children. Others argue that this is not the responsibility of the government and that welfare mothers should be required to take whatever work is available to support their children. What about you? Should the government provide educational assistance or should it refrain from providing such aid?

   1. Government should provide aid 2. Government should not provide aid

19.D. Finally, do you have any children six years of age or under?

   1. Yes 2. NO
19.E. If yes, do your children regularly receive day care in a nursery school or private home?