1-1-1988

Wyoming Election Survey 1988

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1988 Wyoming Election Survey

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<td>Let's begin. What county do you live in?</td>
<td>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?</td>
<td>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?</td>
<td>IF VOTED, ASK: Did you vote for Water Mondale, Ronald Reagan or some other candidate?</td>
<td>3. First, how would you rate the job Ronald Reagan is doing as President of the United States? Would you say:</td>
<td>4. Next, how would you rate the job Mike Sullivan is doing as Governor of Wyoming?</td>
<td>5. What about U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop?</td>
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</table>
6. How would you rate the job performance of U.S. Senator, Alan Simpson?

7. Now, Congressman Dick Cheney. How would you rate him?

8. 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?

9. What about Wyoming judges? How do you think they have performed in recent years?

10. OK, now thinking ahead, are you registered to vote in the General Election which will be held on November 8th?

10.A. Are you registered as:

    9. Refused to answer

    IF registered, ask: Do you plan to vote in the General Election?
    1. Yes  2. No

11. In the race for President, Democrat Michael Dukakis is running against George Bush, a Republican. If the election were held today, would you vote for:
    8. Undecided/Don’t Know

11.A. Looking at the two candidates for President: What one thing can you think of that you like most about Michael Dukakis?

11.B. Now what about George Bush. What one thing do you like most about him?
11.C. What about dislikes? What one thing do you like least about Michael Dukakis?

11.D. And what one thing do you like least about George Bush?

12. What about the Senate race? Republican Malcolm Wallop is running against John Vinich, a Democrat. If the election were held today, would you vote for:


8. Undecided/Don’t Know

12.A. Now looking at these two candidates. What one thing do you like most about John Vinich?

12.B. And what one thing do you like most about Malcolm Wallop?

12.C. Again for dislikes. What one thing would you say you like least about Mr. Vinich?

12.D. And what one thing would you say you like least about Mr. Wallop?

13. What about the Congressional election where Republican Dick Cheney is running against Bryan Sherritt? If the election were held today, would you vote for:


8. Undecided/Don’t Know

13.A. Now for the likes and dislikes about these two candidates. What one thing can you think of that you like most about Bryan Sherritt?

13.B. And what about Dick Cheney. What one thing do you like most about him?

13.C. And finally for this dislikes? What do you like least about Mr. Sherritt?

13.D. What one thing do you like least about Mr. Cheney?

14. How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal 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. Now for state government. How much of the time do you think you can trust the state government in Cheyenne to do what is right? Would you say:


16. 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

17. Would you say the government in Cheyenne 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

18. 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?


19. Do you think the people in the state 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 crooked, or do you think hardly any of them are crooked?

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

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

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

22. The United States should maintain present levels of spending for defense.


23. It should be the policy of the United States Government to provide affordable daycare for all American families.


24. The United States Government should provide protection for American industries that are having difficulty competing with industries in other nations.


25. If convicted, the leaders of the drug trade in the United States should be given the death penalty.


26. The federal government should impose an import tax on oil from foreign countries.


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


28. The Congress should refuse to provide funds for President Reagan’s Star Wars or Strategic Defense Initiative proposal.


29. 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
30. People in the United States buy far more from foreign nations than they sell to foreign nations. This has created what is known as the foreign trade deficit. I am going to read two statements. Please tell me which course of action do you believe the United States should take.

1. The United States should reduce the trade deficit even if this means putting limits on the amount of good that foreign nations can sell in the United States
2. The United States should not worry about the trade deficit because free and open trade between nations is beneficial to all nations

31. We have found that lots of Wyoming people have opinions good and bad about the University of Wyoming. Let’s start out with the good. What in your opinion are the good things about the University of Wyoming.

32. Now to the other side of the question, what are the bad things about the University?

33. In past few years there has been discussion about the quality of the University of Wyoming and the size of the University of Wyoming budget. Various statements have been made during this debate and we would like to see what you think of each. Please tell me if you agree strongly, agree, disagree, strongly disagree or don’t have an opinion on each.

34. Wyoming does not have the resources to pay for a University comparable to the best in surrounding states such as the University of Colorado, University of Nebraska or the University of Utah.


35. Considering what the University of Wyoming contributes to the state, the University is spending its budget wisely.


36. I closely follow University of Wyoming Sports teams.


37. The University should reduce the number of degree programs available to students.

38. In general, the University has steadily improved during the last several years.


39. Given the present state of Wyoming’s economy, the University of Wyoming should not be given a budget increase for the foreseeable future.


40. The legislature should increase University of Wyoming faculty salaries.


41. University administrators argue that unless the University of Wyoming receives a budget increase, the quality of the University will begin to decline rapidly. Let’s assume for the moment that University administrators are correct, that budget cuts will lead to a decrease in University quality. How much does this concern you? Would you say it concerns you a great deal, some or not at all?


42. There are two ways to increase the University budget, through state funding or through tuition increases. But increased state funding may lead to increased taxes while increased tuition may prevent some student from coming to school. What would be your position on how to increase funding for the University of Wyoming.

1. An increase in state funding 2. An increase in tuition

3. An increase in both 4. Or would you oppose any increase

43. First, the current minimum wage is $3.35 and hours. Some people think it should be increased while others think it should be left at present levels. Do you believe the minimum wage should be increased a lot, increased a little bit or not increased at all?

1. Increased a lot 2. Increased a little bit 3. Left the same 8. Don’t Know

44. Second, 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
45. 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

46. 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?


47. What about Wyoming? Would you say that over the past year Wyoming’s economy has gotten better, stayed the same or gotten worse?


48. There has been considerable discussion about when Wyoming’s economy might improve. What about you? Do you think the economy of this state will improve within the next couple of years, within the next five years, 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

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

   1. Not employed—If housewife, retired, or student write in as occupation


49.A. What is your job or occupation?

Occupational prestige

50. 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

51. Wyoming’s economy has not performed as well as it did in the late 1970s and the early 1980s. Last year, Wyoming’s economy had one of the slowest growth rates in the entire United States. Who do you believe is responsible for the economic recession we are having in Wyoming?
51.A. Is there anything else you can think of?

52. 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:

4. Not a problem at this time 8. Don’t Know

53. 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

NOW WE TURN TO THE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND TAXES IN WYOMING:

54. 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?


55. One of the proposals that voters must decide upon in the November 8 elections concerns property tax rates. The proposal would set three rates, one for business, one for home owners and one for agriculture. Have you heard or read anything about this proposal?

1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

IF YES, ASK: If you had to decide today, would you support the three tier proposal or would you oppose it?


56. Do you ever recall ever buying a lottery ticket from a state-run lottery?

1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know
IF ANSWER IS YES, ASK:

56.A. Did you purchase one during the last month?
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

IF ANSWER IS YES, ASK

56.B. About how many dollars did you spend on lottery tickets last month?
   1. $1-$5 2. $6-$10 3. Over $10 8. Don’t Know

56.C. Did you win anything?
   1. No money 2. $1-$5 3. $6-$10 4. $11-$100 5. Over $100 8. Don’t Know
   9. Not Applicable

57. As you may know, a number of states use lotteries, in addition to tax monies, to pay for some public programs and services. Some people in Wyoming think this would be a good way to raise new money for education, state parks and social programs. Others think revenue for public services should come from tax sources rather than a form of legalized, state-sponsored gambling. What about you? Do you favor or oppose the use of state-run lotteries to pay for programs and services provided by Wyoming state government, or don’t you have an opinion on this?

   1. Favor 2. Oppose 3. No opinion 8. Don’t Know

58. Here is a question about the state spending. As I read off a list of areas where state government does spend money, please tell me if you would increase state spending, leave it at present levels or decrease state spending.

58.A. Corrections and law enforcement

58.B. Local public schools

58.C. Community colleges

58.D. Streets and highways
58.E. University of Wyoming

58.F. State economic development

58.G. Water Development

58.H. Health and social services

IF RESPONDENT GAVE A “More” RESPONSE FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE, ASK:

59. You indicated that you thought the state should spend for (List items respondent wishes more spending on). Would you be willing to have state taxes increased to cover these spending increases?
   1. Yes 2. No

60. It is generally agreed that next year income from current taxes will not cover the cost of existing state programs. If taxes had to be increased, which of the following taxes would you favor increasing and which would you oppose.

60.A. Cigarettes
   1. Favor 2. Oppose 8. Don’t Know

60.B. Gasoline
   1. Favor 2. Oppose 8. Don’t Know

60.C. Beer
   1. Favor 2. Oppose 8. Don’t Know

60.D. Sales tax
   1. Favor 2. Oppose 8. Don’t Know

60.E. Property Tax
   1. Favor 2. Oppose 8. Don’t Know
60.F. Hard Liquor
   1. Favor 2. Oppose 8. Don’t Know

60.G. Wine
   1. Favor 2. Oppose 8. Don’t Know

61. 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

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

62.A. If Republican or Democrat, would you consider yourself a “strong” or a “not so strong” Republican/Democrat?

62.B. If Independent or other, do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party?
   0. Neither 1. Strong Republican 2. Weak Republican 3. Leaning Republican

63. I am next going to mention several groups. Please tell me if you think the Republican party is more favorable to the group or if the Democratic party is more favorable to the group? The first group is business. Do you believe the Democratic party or the Republican party is more favorable toward Business.

63.A. Business

63.B. The aged

63.C. The poor
63.D. Agriculture

63.E. The middle class

63.F. People who live in the west

63.G. People like me

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

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

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

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

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

69. State spending for economic development has effectively improved Wyoming’s economy.

70. Even though it would mean increased income for Wyoming, we should not permit other states to dispose of their garbage in Wyoming.
71. There is very little that Wyoming state government can do about Wyoming’s depressed economy.


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


73. The federal government should help reduce income differences between the rich and poor.


74. Students are often given 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 school?


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. Here is a question about your community. Some people are fearful for their personal safety while others have said that Wyoming is one of the safest places in this country to live. What about you? How safe do you fell living in your community:


   8. Don’t Know

78. 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? Would you say:


   8. Don’t Know
79. In general, do you think the courts in your area of Wyoming deal too harshly or not harshly enough with criminal?

1. Too harshly 2. Not harshly enough 3. Volunteer—about right

80. Here is a question about where you find out about politics. In general, where do you get most of your information about politics? Does it come from television, radio, newspapers, magazines, discussions with friends or some other source?


8. Don’t Know

81. The Casper Star-Tribune is the most widely read newspaper in Wyoming. Have you ever read about politics in the Casper Star-Tribune?

1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

81.A. Some people think the Star-Tribune is generally fair and unbiased while others believe it is generally unfair and quite biased. What about you? Do you believe the Star-Tribune is generally fair or unfair in its reporting of politics.

1. Fair 2. Unfair 8. Don’t Know

81.B. Do you believe the Star-Tribune is generally unfair to Democrats, Republicans or unfair to persons from both parties.


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

1. Yes 2. No

82.A. What denomination is that?

9. Not Applicable

83. 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 8. Don’t Know

84. In what year were you born?

85. Were you born in Wyoming?

1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know
86. How many years have you lived in Wyoming?

87. What was the last year or grade you completed in school?

88. Did you attend the University of Wyoming?
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

89. Has anyone in your family attended the University of Wyoming?
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know

90. Of which of the following groups do you consider yourself a member? Would you say:
   8. Don’t Know

91. What is your marital status? Are you:

92. Is your husband or wife employed outside the home?
   1. Not employed—If housewife, retired, or student write in below

93. What is your husband’s or wife’s principle occupation?

94. Do you belong to a labor union? What about your spouse?
   1. Respondent only 2. Spouse only 3. Both respondent and spouse
   4. No, neither 8. Don’t Know

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

96. Do you have any children living at home under 18 years of age?
   1. Yes 2. No 8. Don’t Know/Not Applicable
97. What was your total family income was in 1987; that is, for yourself—and your spouse—before taxes?

1. Under $5,000 2. $5-10,000 3. $10-15,000 4. $15-20,000 5. $20-25,000
6. $25-30,000 7. $30-35,000 8. $35-40,000 9. $40-50,000 10. $50-60,000
11. Over $60,000

Election Call Back Survey

1. Do you recall being interviewed during the two weeks prior to the November 8th General Election?

1. Yes 2. No

2. How good a job did the interviewer do in conducting the interview. Would you say the person did:


3. In talking with people about the election, we find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they were sick, or they didn’t have time, or because they were not registered. How about you? Did you vote in the November 8th election or did something keep you from voting?


4. In the Presidential race did you vote for:

1. Dukakis 2. Bush 3. Another candidate 4. Or did you not vote in this race
8. Don’t Know 9. Not Applicable

5. In the Senatorial race did you vote for:

1. Vinich 2. Wallop 3. Another candidate 4. Or did you not vote in this race
8. Don’t Know 9. Not Applicable

6. Finally, in the race for Congress did you vote for:

1. Sharratt 2. Cheney 3. Another candidate
4. Or did you not vote in this race 8. Don’t Know 9. Not Applicable
7. 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?

1. For 2. Against 3. Abstained 8. Don’t Know

8. How much information did you have about the judicial performance and qualification of Judge ____? Would you say you had:

1. No information about his judicial performance and qualifications.
2. Some information 3. A lot of information 8. Don’t Know

9. Not Applicable

9. We want to know how much people participated in political activities in the 1988 political campaign. For instance, did you give any money or buy any tickets to help the campaign of one of the political parties or candidates?


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


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


12. Did you visit your local party headquarters during the last election?


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


14. Thinking back to the Primary election in September, do you recall if you voted in it?

15. Some people argue that the Republican and Democratic parties should have more control over who the candidates are in elections, that is, the Republicans party should have more say who runs as Republican and the Democrats should have more say over who runs as a Democrat. Others disagree believe our current methods of choosing candidates to run for election is OK. One way for the Republican or Democratic party to have greater say in this process would be to permit the parties to endorse candidates prior to the primary election. Would you favor or oppose a policy of letting the parties endorse candidates?


16. Another proposal would be to simply eliminate the primaries and allow the Republican party and the Democratic party to nominate candidates for the general election. Would you favor or oppose such a policy?


17. A couple of final questions about the political parties. First, do you regularly receive newsletters from a political party?


18. Finally, if you had a problem or concern with government, which of the following would you be likely to contact?

18.A. An elected official

1. Yes 2. No

18.B. A political party official

1. Yes 2. No

18.C. A member of the press

1. Yes 2. No