Wyoming Election Survey 1990

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1990 Wyoming Election Survey

1. In what county do you live?

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

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

3. Did you vote in the 1988 Presidential election where Michael Dukakis ran against George Bush?

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

   (If yes, ask) Did you vote for Michael Dukakis, George Bush or some other candidate?


   Please rate the job the following public officials are doing. Is their performance excellent, good, fair or poor?

4. United State President George Bush.


5. Wyoming Governor Mike Sullivan.


7. U.S. Senator Alan Simpson.

8. U.S. Congressman Craig Thomas.


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


Now let’s talk about the upcoming general election on November 6th.

10. Are you registered to vote in the General Election?

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

(If yes, ask) Are you registered as:


   8. DK  9. NA

Do you plan to vote in that General Election.

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

11. In the race for Governor, Democratic Michael Sullivan is running against Mary Mead, a Republican. If the election were held today, would you vote for:


   8. DK  9. NA

12. What about the Senate race? Republican Al Simpson is running against Kathy Helling, a Democrat. If the election were held today, would you vote for:


   8. DK  9. NA

13. What about the Congressional election where Republican Craig Thomas is running against Pete Maxfield? If the election were held today, would you vote or?


   8. DK  9. NA
14. What about the judicial retention elections where two state supreme court justices are asking the voters to keep them in office. If the election were held today, would you vote to keep Justice Michael Golden in office?
   

14a. Do you know Justice Golden personally, or have you heard or read anything about him?

   1. Know personally  2. Have heard or read about him
   3. Don’t know him and have not heard or read about him.
   8. DK  9. NA

14b. How about Justice Richard Thomas? Would you vote to keep him in office?


14c. Do you know Justice Thomas personally, or have you heard or read anything about him?

   1. Know personally  2. Have heard or read about him
   3. Don’t know him and have not heard or read about him.
   8. DK  9. NA

The following questions are to be asked of only the respondents of the counties indicated:

Albany and Carbon counties

14d. What about the judicial retention elections where two district court judges in your district are asking the voters to keep them in office. If the elections were held today, would you vote to keep District Judge Larry Lehman in office?


14e. Do you know Judge Lehman personally, or have you heard or read anything about him?

   1. Know personally  2. Have heard or read about him
   3. Don’t know him and have not heard or read about him.
14f. What about the judicial retention elections where two district court judges in your district are asking the voters to keep them in office. If the elections were held today, would you vote to keep District judge Arthur Hanscum in office?


14g. Do you know Judge Hanscum personally, or have you heard or read anything about him?

1. Know personally  2. Have heard or read about him  
3. Don’t know him and have not heard or read about him.

8. DK  9. NA

Sweetwater, Uinta and Lincoln counties

14h. What about the judicial retention elections where two district court judges in your district are asking the voters to keep them in office. If the elections were held today, would you vote to keep District Judge Jere Ryckman in office?


14i. Do you know Judge Rickman personally, or have you heard or read anything about him?

1. Know personally  2. Have heard or read about him  
3. Don’t know him and have not heard or read about him.

8. DK  9. NA

Park, Big Horn, Washakie and Hot Springs Counties

14j. What about the judicial retention elections where two district court judges in your district are asking the voters to keep them in office. If the elections were held today, would you vote to keep District Judge Gary Hartman in office?


14k. Do you know Judge Hartman personally, or have you heard or read anything about him?
1. Know personally  2. Have heard or read about him  
3. Don’t know him and have not heard or read about him.  
8. DK  9. NA

14l. What about the judicial retention elections where two district court judges in your district are asking the voters to keep them in office. If the elections were held today, would you vote to keep District Hunter Patrick in office?  

14m. Do you know Judge Patrick personally, or have you heard or read anything about him?  
1. Know personally  2. Have heard or read about him  
3. Don’t know him and have not heard or read about him.  
8. DK  9. NA

Teton, Fremont, and Sublette Counties

14n. What about the judicial retention elections where two district court judges in your district are asking the voters to keep them in office. If the elections were held today, would you vote to keep District Judge Elizabeth Kail in office?  

14o. Do you know Judge Kail personally, or have you heard or read anything about him?  
1. Know personally  2. Have heard or read about him  
3. Don’t know him and have not heard or read about him.  
8. DK  9. NA

14p. What about the judicial retention elections where two district court judges in your district are asking the voters to keep them in office. If the elections were held today, would you vote to keep District Judge Terry Rogers in office?  
14q. Do you know Judge Rogers personally, or have you heard or read anything about him?

1. Know personally  2. Have heard or read about him
3. Don’t know him and have not heard or read about him.

8. DK  9. NA

Changing subjects, now we would like to know how you feel about the following ideas concerning government in Washington and Cheyenne.

15. 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

16. Now for the 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 about always, most of the time, some of the time or none of the time?

1. Just about always  2. Most of the time  3. Some of the time 4. None of the time  8. Don’t know

17. 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

18. 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?

1. Few big interests  2. Benefit of all  3. Undecided of depends (volunteered)

8. Don’t know

19. 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?

20. 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?


21. 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

22. 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. No very many are 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 strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each statement.

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


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


25. The United States Government war on drugs has been effective.


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

Now a different kind of question.

27. How likely do you think the United States is to get into a nuclear war within the next 10 years? Would you say:


    8. DK   9. NA

28. For much of the past year the University of Wyoming has been involved in a process of internally reallocating funds. Have you seen or read anything about the process?

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

28a. (If yes, ask) From what you have seen or read, has the University of Wyoming done an adequate job of reallocating funds or an inadequate job or don’t you have enough information to make a judgment?

   1. Adequate job   2. Inadequate   8. DK   9. NA

29. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements? The University should reduce the number of degree programs available to students.


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


31. Next we turn to some economic issues. First we are interested in how well people are getting along financially these days. During the last few years has your financial situation been getting better, getting worse, or has it remained the same?


32. Looking ahead to the past year do you think your financial situation will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?


33. 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?

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


35 Do you think the economy of the state will improve within the next couple of years, within the next five years, within the next ten years or may never improve?


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

37. Do you ever contribute money to charity organizations?

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

38. How much money does your household contribute annually to charity organizations?

39. Do you volunteer your time to assist other people either informally or as a member of an organized group?


40. (If yes, ask) Roughly, how many hours per week are you engaged in volunteer work?

41. Now I want to ask you a few questions about the federal budget deficit, the amount government borrows each year to meet expenses that it would not otherwise pay for. Some say the federal budget deficit is a serious problem for the nation’s economy. Other say the deficit may become a serious problem in the future, but that it is not one now. Do you feel the deficit is a very serious problem, a serious problem, a minor problem or not a problem at this time?


4. Not a problem at this time.  8. DK  9. NA

42. Does the federal budget deficit affect your personal economic well-being and standard of living?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
43. President Bush and Congressional leaders have blamed each other for the size of the federal budget deficit. Who do you think is chiefly responsible, the Bush administration, the Congress or are they equally to blame?


44. 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?


These next questions focus upon state-run lotteries.

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

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

(If yes, ask) Did you purchase one during the last month?

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

(If yes, ask) About how many dollars did you spend on lottery tickets last months?

1. $1 to $5  2. $6-$10  3. Over $10  8. DK  9. NA

Did you win anything?

1. No money  2. $1-$5  3. $6-$10  4. $11-$100  5. Over $100  8. DK  9. NA

46. 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 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?

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

Law enforcement and corrections

b. Local public schools

c. Community colleges

d. Street and highways

e. University of Wyoming

f. State economic development

g. Water development

h. Health


48. (If respondent indicated they thought the state should spend more money for at least one of the above items, ask) Would you be willing to have state taxes increased to cover these spending increases?

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

49. Ok, 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, would you favor increasing the following taxes?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROP</td>
<td>e. Property tax&lt;br&gt;1. Yes 2. No 8. DK 9. NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINE</td>
<td>g. Wine&lt;br&gt;1. Yes 2. No 8. DK 9. NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEV</td>
<td>h. Severance&lt;br&gt;1. Yes 2. No 8. DK 9. NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEOLOGY</td>
<td>50. 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?&lt;br&gt;1. Extremely liberal 2. Liberal 3. Slightly liberal 4. Moderate 5. Slightly conservative 6. Conservative 7. Extremely conservative 8. DK 9. NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
51. Ten years ago—in 1980—how would you have described you political views? You may remember, in 1980, Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter were the Republican and Democratic candidates for the Presidency. Would you say that your political views then were:

8. DK  9. NA

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


**Strength of party identification:**

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

53. When you were growing up, did your parents think of themselves as Republicans, Democrats, Independents or what?

Father
Mother

54. 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 or if the parties treat the group the same.

a. Business


b. The aged


c. The poor

d. Agriculture

e. The middle class

f. People who live in the west.

g. People like me.

Now I would like to read you several statements. Please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree.

55. Gorbachev’s leadership in the Soviet Union has greatly reduced tension between that country and the United States.

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

57. I favor an amendment to the United State Constitution that would make all abortions illegal.

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

59. The United States should provide economic aid to promote democracy in the Soviet Union.

60. State spending for economic development has effectively improved Wyoming’s economy.
61. Reducing Wyoming’s severance tax level would promote economic
development in the state.


62. There is little that Wyoming state government can do about Wyoming’s
depressed economy.


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


64. The University of Wyoming should pay a role in the development of the
state’s economy.


65. Every person should volunteer some of his or her time to help other people.


66. It is the responsibility of people to give what they can to charity.


67. Now three questions on our education system. Students are often given
grades of A, B, C, D and F for quality of their work. Suppose the public school in
your community were graded in the same way. What grade would you give your
local public school?


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


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

70. 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. DK  9. NA

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

(If yes, ask) What denomination is that?

72. How often do you got to church? Would you say:

1. Every week   2. Almost every week   3. Once or twice a month

73. Here is a question about American foreign policy. In response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the United States has moved over 150,000 military personnel to the Middle East. In your opinion, was the United States justified in making this military commitment?

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

73a. Assuming that Iraq does not attack United States forces, the United States could follow several courses of action. Among these are:

1. Withdraw immediately  2. Drive Iraq out of Kuwait
3. Remain in the Middle East until economic sanctions force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. 8. DK  9. NA

73b. which of the actions would you prefer that the United States takes?

1. Withdraw  2. Use force  3. Remain until economic sanctions work
8. DK  9. NA

74. There has been some discussion about abortion during recent years. Which one of these opinions best agree with your view? Bay law, abortion should never be permitted; the law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest or when the woman’s life is in danger; They should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman’s life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established; by law a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice.
1. Never be permitted  2. Only in the case of rape, incest etc.
2. Only if need is clearly established  4. By personal choice  8. DK  9. NA

Now for the last set of questions, we would like to have some background material.

75. In what year were you born?
76. Were you born in Wyoming.
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
77. How many years have you lived in Wyoming?
78. What was the last year or grade you completed in school?
79. Which of the following groups do you consider yourself a member of: white/Caucasian, Black/African American, Native American, Hispanic, Oriental.
80. What is your marital status?
81. (If married, ask) Is your spouse employed outside the home?
   . (If respondent has a spouse, ask) What is your spouse’s principle occupation?
82. Do you belong to a labor union?
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
83. What about housing? Do you:
   1. Own you home  2. Rent  3. Other  8. DK  9. NA
84. Would you tell me what your total family income was in 1991—includes spouses income if married.

1. Under $5,000  2. $5,000-$10,000  3. $10,000-$20,000
4. $20,000-$25,000  5. $25,000-$30,000  6. $30,000-$35,000
7. $35,000-$40,000  8. $40,000-$50,000  9. $50,000-$60,000
10. Over $60,000  99. DK/NA

85. Indicate Sex of respondent

1. Male  2. Female  8. DK  9. NA
Post-Election Survey

1. Do you recall being interviewed during the two weeks prior to the November 6th General Election?
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

If no terminate the interview.

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 the time, or because they were not registered. How about you? Did you vote in the November 3rd election?
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

(If respondent voted, ask)

4. In the U.S. senatorial race, did you vote for:
   4. Did not vote in this race.  8. DK  9. NA

5. In the U.S. House race, did you vote for:
   1. Pete Maxfield  2. Craig Thomas  3. Another candidate
   4. Did not vote in this race.  8. DK  9. NA

6. In the Governor’s race, did you vote for:
   1. Mike Sullivan  2. Mary Mead  3. Another candidate
   4. Did not vote in this race.  8. DK  9. NA

7. In the superintendent of Public Instruction race, did you vote for:
   1. Lynn Simon  2. Diana Ohman  3. Another candidate
   4. Did not vote in this race  8. DK  9. NA

8. In the judicial races, Justice Michael Goldman of the Wyoming Supreme Court stood for retention—that is, people voted on whether or not to keep him in office. Do you recall how you voted on Justice Golden? Did you vote to keep him in office, did you vote against him or don’t you recall how you voted?
1. Yes, to keep him  2. Against keeping him  3. Abstained
8. DK  9. NA

How much information did you have about the judicial performance and qualifications of Justice Goldman. Would you say you had:
1. No information  2. Some information  3. A lot  8.DK  9. NA

In the judicial races, Justice Richard Thomas of the Wyoming Supreme Court stood for retention—that is, people voted on whether or not to keep him in office. Do you recall how you voted on Justice Thomas? Did you vote to keep him in office, did you vote against him or don’t you recall how you voted?

How much information did you have about the judicial performance and qualifications of Justice Thomas. Would you say you had:
1. No information  2. Some information  3. A lot  8.DK  9. NA

Ask questions only if interviewing in one of the relevant counties.

Albany and Carbon counties

In this county, District Court Judge Arthur Hanscum stood for retention. Do you recall how you voted on Judge Hanscum? Did you vote to keep him in office; against keeping him or don’t you recall how you voted on him?

How much information did you have about the judicial performance and qualifications of Judge Hanscum? Would you say you?
1. No information about his judicial performance and qualifications
2. Some information  3. A lot of information  8.DK  9. NA

In this county, District Court Judge Larry Lehman stood for retention. Do you recall how you voted on Judge Lehman? Did you vote to keep him in office; against keeping him or don’t you recall how you voted on him?
How much information did you have about the judicial performance and qualifications of Judge Lehman? Would you say you?

1. No information about his judicial performance and qualifications
2. Some information  3. A lot of information  8.DK  9. NA

Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park ,and Washakie counties

In this county, District Court Judge Gary Hartman stood for retention. Do you recall how you voted on Judge Hartman? Did you vote to keep him in office; against keeping him or don’t you recall how you voted on him?


How much information did you have about the judicial performance and qualifications of Judge Hartman? Would you say you?

1. No information about his judicial performance and qualifications
2. Some information  3. A lot of information  8.DK  9. NA

In this county, District Court Judge Hunter Patrick stood for retention. Do you recall how you voted on Judge Patrick? Did you vote to keep him in office; against keeping him or don’t you recall how you voted on him?


How much information did you have about the judicial performance and qualifications of Judge Patrick? Would you say you?

1. No information about his judicial performance and qualifications
2. Some information  3. A lot of information  8.DK  9. NA

Fremont, Sublette and Teton counties

In this county, District Court Judge Elizabeth Kail stood for retention. Do you recall how you voted on Judge Kail? Did you vote to keep him in office; against keeping him or don’t you recall how you voted on him?


How much information did you have about the judicial performance and qualifications of Judge Kail? Would you say you?

1. No information about his judicial performance and qualifications
In this county, District Court Judge Terry Rogers stood for retention. Do you recall how you voted on Judge Rogers? Did you vote to keep him in office; against keeping him or don’t you recall how you voted on him?


How much information did you have about the judicial performance and qualifications of Judge Rogers? Would you say you?

1. No information about his judicial performance and qualifications
2. Some information 3. A lot of information 8.DK 9. NA

Lincoln, Sweetwater and Uinta counties

In this county, District Court Judge Jere Ryckman stood for retention. Do you recall how you voted on Judge Ryckman? Did you vote to keep him in office; against keeping him or don’t you recall how you voted on him?


How much information did you have about the judicial performance and qualifications of Judge Ryckman? Would you say you?

1. No information about his judicial performance and qualifications
2. Some information 3. A lot of information 8.DK 9. NA

9. Now we want to know how much people participated in political activities in the 1992 political campaign. Did you buy any tickets or give money to help the campaign for one of the parties or candidates?

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

10. Did you go to any political meetings, rallies, dinners or things like that?

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

11. Did you do any other work for one of the parties or candidates?

1. Yes 2. No 8. DK 9. NA
12. Did you talk to any people to try to show them why they should vote for one of the parties or candidates?

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

13. Now we would like to know whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree or don’t have an opinion about the following statements.

It isn’t important to vote when you know your party doesn’t have a chance to win.


8. DK  9. NA

14. Many local elections aren’t important enough to bother with.


15. So many people vote in the nationals elections that it doesn’t matter much to me whether I vote or not.


16. If a person doesn’t care how an election comes out he or she shouldn’t vote in it.
