1-1-1992

Wyoming Election Survey 1992

Department of Political Science

University of Wyoming

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1992 Wyoming Election Survey

1. What county do you live in?

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

2. All Wyoming counties 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 3. Refused to answer 4. DK

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


5. Please rate the job the following public officials are doing in their performance: excellent, good, fair or poor. United States President George Bush.


6. Wyoming Governor Mike Sullivan?


7. U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop?


8. U.S. Senator Alan Simpson?


10. What about the Wyoming Legislature? How do you think they have performed in recent years?


11. What do you think of Wyoming judges? How do you think they have performed in recent years?


12. Now let’s talk about the upcoming election on November 3. Are you registered to vote in the General Election?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK

13. Are you registered as a Republican, Democrat, Independent or some other party?


14. Do you plan to vote in the upcoming General Election?

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

15. In the race for President, Democrat Bill Clinton is running against George Bush, a Republican. If the election were held today, who would you vote for?


8. DK  9. NA

16. Ross Perot’s name is now on the presidential ballot in all 50 states. If the election were held today, would you be inclined to vote for Ross Perot?

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

17. Do you believe Ross Perot has any chance of winning the Presidency?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
18. What about the Congressional election where Republican Craig Thomas is running against Democrat Jon Herschler? If the election were held today, who would you vote for?

8. DK  9. NA

19. What about the judicial retention elections where a state supreme court justice is asking voters to keep him in office. If elections were held today, would you vote to keep Walter Urbigkit in office?


20. Do you know Justice Urbigkit personally or have you heard or read anything about him?

1. Know personally  2. Have heard or read something about him  3. Neither
8. DK  9. NA

21. Changing subjects. 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

22. Now for the state government. How much of the time do you think you can trust the estate 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

23. 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
24. 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

25. 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?


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


27. 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

28. 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

29. Now I’m going to read several statements about government policies. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree with each statement, or don’t have any opinion concerning the statement. First, people like me don’t have any say about what the federal government in Washington does.

   8. DK  9. NA

30. People like me don’t have any say about what the state government in Cheyenne does.

31. It should be the policy of the United States Government to require paid family leave for all American workers.

32. We should pay less attention to problems overseas and concentrate on problems here at home.

33. The best way to ensure peace is through military strength.

34. The United States has a moral responsibility to support sound environmental policies both at home and abroad.

35. The United States should rely on the United Nations for dealing with most international crisis around the world.

36. Over next set of questions concerns the University of Wyoming. We have found that lots of Wyoming people have good and bad opinions 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?

37. Anything else?

38. Any final comments.
39. New on the other side of the question. What are the bad things about the University?

40. Anything else?

41. Any final comments?

42. In the past few years there has been discussion about the quality of the University of Wyoming and the size of the University 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 strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, or don’t have any opinion on each.

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.

8. DK  9. NA

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

8. DK  9. NA

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

8. DK  9. NA

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

8. DK  9. NA

46. I closely follow the University of Wyoming sports teams.

8. DK  9. NA
47. University administrators argue that unless the University of Wyoming receives a budget increase, the quality of the University will begin to decline. 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.


48. The University of Wyoming through various means offers university courses in many locations throughout the state. Have you heard or read anything about these outreach programs?

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

49. Can you recall the names of any of these outreach programs?

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

50. Would you rate the quality of these programs as excellent, good, fair, poor, or don’t you have enough information to make a judgment?


51. Like all state agencies, the University of Wyoming has limited resources to expand services. But if you were a University administrator, would you increase funding for outreach programs, leave spending at current levels, or decrease spending?

1. Increase spending  2. Leave spending at current levels.

3. Decrease spending  8. DK  9. NA

52. Now a different kind of question. How likely do you think the United States is to get into a nuclear war within the next 10 years? Would you say very likely, fairly likely, fairly unlikely or very unlikely?


8. DK  9. NA

53. During the past year there have been discussions about proposals to build a storage site in Wyoming for nuclear waste. Have you heard or read anything about this MRS proposal?

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
54. (If yes, ask) Would you favor or oppose building a nuclear waste facility in Wyoming?

1. Favor   2. Oppose   8. DK 9. NA

55. During its last session the Wyoming legislature decided to create single-member districts, that is, only one senator and one representative can be elected from a district. Do you feel this was a good change or should the legislature have retained the practice of allowing several senators and representatives to be elected from a single district?

1. Change was good  2. Should have retained multi-member districts  
8. DK 9. NA

56. It has been proposed that limits be placed on the terms of various government officials in Wyoming. Under the proposed law, U.S. Senators and Wyoming state Senators would be limited to twelve years in office, the Wyoming Governor would be limited to either years and office, and U.S. Representatives would be limited to six years in office. Do you think terms of state and federal officials in Wyoming should be limited?

1. Should be limited  2. No, should not  8. DK 9. NA

57. 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?


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


59. 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?

1. /Gotten better  2. Stayed the same  3. Gotten worse 8. DK 9. NA

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

61. 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?

62. Last week were you employed outside the home—either part-time or full-time—or were you unemployed?
   1. Not employed  2. Unemployed  3. Employed part-time
   4. Employed full-time  8. DK  9. NA

63. What was your job?

64. Industry

65. 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

66. 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?

67. Now we turn to the subject of public services and taxes in Wyoming. 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 too high?
68. 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


69. Local public schools


70. Community colleges


71. Street and highways


72. University of Wyoming


73. State economic development


74. Water development


75. Health


76. (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

77. 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?
Cigarettes

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

78. Gasoline

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

79. Beer

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

80. Sales tax

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

81. Property tax

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

82. Hard liquor

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

83. Wine

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

84. Severance

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

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


8. DK  9. NA

86. Generally speaking do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent or other political party?

87. Would you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Republican?
   1. Strong Republican  2. Weak Republican  8. DK  9. NA

88. Would you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Democrat?

89. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party?

Composite Party identification

Now I would like to read you several statements. Please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree or are neutral regarding these statements?

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

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

92. The United States should provide economic aid to promote democracy in Russia.

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

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

95. Men are better suited emotionally for politics than are most women.

96. Political leaders who are men are better able to stand up to foreign enemies than political leaders who are women.
97. Women politicians are more sensitive to the poor and their problems.

98. In general, men are better than women at making decisions about war and peace.

99. Women with children should wait to run for political office until they have raised their families.

100. 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?

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

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

103. Are you a member of a church or religious group?
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

104. (If yes, ask) What denomination is that?

105. How often do you go to church?
   1. Every week  2. Almost every week  3. Once or twice a month
106. 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

107. We would like some background information. In what year were you born? Enter age.

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

1. Grade school  2. Some high school  3. High school graduate
4. Some college 5. Bachelor’s degree  6. Graduate or professional degree
8. DK  9. NA

109. Which of the following groups do you consider yourself a member of: white/Caucasian, Black/African American, Native American, Hispanic, Oriental.


110. What is your marital status?


111. (If married, ask) Is your spouse employed outside the home?


112. (If respondent has a spouse, ask) What is your spouse’s principle occupation?

Industry

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

115. (If respondent has a wife, ask) Does your spouse belong to a labor union?
   1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA

116. Would you tell me what your total family income was in 1991—including 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

117. 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 3rd General Election?
   1. Yes  2. No—discontinue interview

2. 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

3. (If voted, ask) In the U.S. Presidential race did you vote for Bill Clinton, George Bush, Ross Perot or some other candidate?
   5. Did not vote 8. DK  9. NA
4. In the U.S. House race did you vote for Jon Herschler, Craig Thomas or some other candidate?

   8. DK  9. NA

5. In the judicial race, Justice Walter Urbigkit 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 Urbigkit, did you vote to keep him in office or did you vote against him?


6. Was your vote regarding Justice Urbigkit influenced by any of the following items?

   Justice Urbigkit’s political ties

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

7. Wyoming’s State Bar Poll.

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

8. The recommendation by WALT Organization(Wyomingites Against Legal Tyranny)—an organization opposed to Justice Urbigkit’s retention.

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

9. Editorials in newspapers or on television.

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

10. Letters to the editors in newspapers.

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

11. Opinions of your friends and family.

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


    1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
13. Personal contact with Justice Urbigkit.
   1. Yes   2. No   8. DK  9. NA

14. 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

15. Did you go to any political meetings, rallies, dinners or things like that?
   1. Yes   2. No   8. DK  9. NA

16. Did you do any other work for one of the parties or candidates?
   1. Yes   2. No   8. DK  9. NA

17. 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

18. 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

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

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

21. If a person doesn’t care how an election comes out he or she shouldn’t vote in it.
22. On another topic. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement or don’t you have enough information to have an opinion? The University of Wyoming and this state’s community colleges are working together to provide high quality college education for Wyoming students.


23. Here are some questions about the different activities at the University of Wyoming. As I read the list of activities please tell me if you think the activities are over-emphasized, under-emphasized or receive the right amount of emphasis.

Intercollegiate athletics.


24. Undergraduate education.


25. Graduate education.


26. Faculty research.


27. Off-campus instruction


28. UW services to groups outside Laramie.


29. People think about the University in many different ways. I am going to read a list of attributes which some people associate with the University. Please tell me if you associate each attribute with the University or not?

Affordable

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

30. Safe

1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA
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<th>31. Underrated</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Yes  2. No  8. DK  9. NA</td>
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<td>38. Excellent teaching.</td>
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