

INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

Schweitzer popular, but Republican preferred for successor

Raleigh, N.C. – When Brian Schweitzer was sworn in almost six years ago, he was the first Democrat to serve as Montana’s governor in 16 years, and the first elected in 24. He is now one of the most popular governors in the country, and has made a name for himself within the national party as an effective chief executive in a heavily red state. In PPP’s early look toward the 2012 election, however, it appears a Republican may be sitting at the term-limited Schweitzer’s desk come January 2013.

Schweitzer posts a 55-33 job approval rating, good for fourth most popular of over 30 governors PPP has measured in 2010. He gets the nod from 28% of Republicans, an unusual level of crossover good feelings in this highly polarized environment. That goes along with a 58-29 margin among independents and 86-6 with Democrats.

Currently, however, neither a generic Democrat nor an actual candidate is favored by voters to retain the office for Schweitzer’s party. A generic Republican beats an unnamed Democrat, 49-39. Republican former Congressman Rick Hill leads Democratic Attorney General Steve Bullock by a similar 41-31 margin, though 28% are as yet undecided. The generic Republican tops the Democrat, 38-36, with independents, but Bullock bests Hill, 30-26. Bullock’s main problem is not only the Republican turnout advantage, but that he earns the support of only 68% of his party, with Hill at 79% of the GOP. The generic candidates are more evenly matched on that front, 89% for the Democrat and 94% for the Republican, so Bullock has room to grow.

Neither man is well known, with over 60% having no opinion, but Bullock has a decent 22-14 favorability rating to Hill’s mediocre 16-19. Bullock is very well liked in his own party and by independents, and almost breaks even with Republicans, but Hill has a 5-35 with Democrats and a 12-18 with independents. If Bullock can take advantage of Hill’s negatives, he could woo the undecided, particularly the huge 44% plurality of independents who are still unsure.

“Two years out, this race is obviously wide open,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 1,176 Montana voters from November 10th to 13th. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Montana Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Brian Schweitzer's job performance?

Approve 55%
Disapprove..... 33%
Not sure 12%

Q2 If there was an election for Governor today in Montana generally speaking do you think you would vote for a Democrat or a Republican?

Democrat 39% *Not sure* 12%
Republican 49%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Steve Bullock?

Favorable 22% *Not sure* 64%
Unfavorable..... 14%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Hill?

Favorable 16% *Not sure* 65%
Unfavorable..... 19%

Q5 If the candidates for Governor in 2012 were Democrat Steve Bullock and Republican Rick Hill, who would you vote for?

Steve Bullock..... 31%
Rick Hill..... 41%
Undecided..... 28%

Q6 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 47%
Barack Obama..... 43%
Someone else/Don't remember 10%

Q7 If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 18%
Moderate..... 40%
Conservative..... 42%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q9 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 29%
Republican..... 38%
Independent/Other..... 32%

Q10 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 95%
Other..... 5%

Q11 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 15%
30 to 45..... 30%
46 to 65..... 33%
Older than 65..... 22%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Schweitzer Approval				
Approve	55%	31%	81%	55%
Disapprove	33%	54%	10%	31%
Not sure	12%	16%	8%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Generic Gov Ballot				
Democrat	39%	4%	80%	21%
Republican	49%	85%	9%	51%
Not sure	12%	11%	11%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bullock Favorability				
Favorable	22%	11%	35%	17%
Unfavorable	14%	16%	14%	9%
Not sure	64%	74%	51%	73%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Hill Favorability				
Favorable	16%	24%	8%	11%
Unfavorable	19%	9%	30%	15%
Not sure	65%	67%	62%	74%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bullock/Hill				
Steve Bullock	31%	5%	61%	21%
Rick Hill	41%	72%	10%	27%
Undecided	28%	23%	29%	52%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Schweitzer Approval				
Approve	55%	84%	70%	29%
Disapprove	33%	5%	21%	55%
Not sure	12%	10%	9%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Generic Gov Ballot				
Democrat	39%	85%	53%	5%
Republican	49%	6%	29%	86%
Not sure	12%	9%	18%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Bullock Favorability				
Favorable	22%	30%	31%	10%
Unfavorable	14%	17%	14%	14%
Not sure	64%	53%	55%	77%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Hill Favorability				
Favorable	16%	6%	13%	22%
Unfavorable	19%	31%	26%	7%
Not sure	65%	63%	61%	71%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Bullock/Hill				
Steve Bullock	31%	66%	43%	5%
Rick Hill	41%	8%	23%	72%
Undecided	28%	26%	34%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Schweitzer Approval			
Approve	55%	57%	53%
Disapprove	33%	29%	36%
Not sure	12%	14%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Gov Ballot			
Democrat	39%	44%	33%
Republican	49%	47%	51%
Not sure	12%	9%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bullock Favorability			
Favorable	22%	21%	23%
Unfavorable	14%	10%	19%
Not sure	64%	69%	59%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hill Favorability			
Favorable	16%	13%	19%
Unfavorable	19%	17%	21%
Not sure	65%	70%	60%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bullock/Hill			
Steve Bullock	31%	33%	29%
Rick Hill	41%	35%	47%
Undecided	28%	32%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Schweitzer Approval				
Approve	55%	86%	28%	58%
Disapprove	33%	6%	55%	29%
Not sure	12%	8%	16%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Gov Ballot				
Democrat	39%	89%	2%	36%
Republican	49%	3%	94%	38%
Not sure	12%	8%	4%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bullock Favorability				
Favorable	22%	33%	10%	26%
Unfavorable	14%	13%	15%	14%
Not sure	64%	54%	75%	60%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Hill Favorability				
Favorable	16%	5%	27%	12%
Unfavorable	19%	35%	7%	18%
Not sure	65%	60%	66%	70%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bullock/Hill				
Steve Bullock	31%	68%	3%	30%
Rick Hill	41%	7%	79%	26%
Undecided	28%	24%	18%	44%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Schweitzer Approval			
Approve	55%	54%	69%
Disapprove	33%	33%	26%
Not sure	12%	13%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Generic Gov Ballot			
Democrat	39%	38%	49%
Republican	49%	49%	38%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Bullock Favorability			
Favorable	22%	21%	29%
Unfavorable	14%	14%	18%
Not sure	64%	65%	53%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Hill Favorability			
Favorable	16%	16%	13%
Unfavorable	19%	18%	26%
Not sure	65%	66%	62%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Bullock/Hill			
Steve Bullock	31%	30%	46%
Rick Hill	41%	41%	37%
Undecided	28%	29%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Schweitzer Approval					
Approve	55%	61%	51%	55%	56%
Disapprove	33%	27%	37%	33%	30%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%	11%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Gov Ballot					
Democrat	39%	51%	37%	35%	38%
Republican	49%	40%	51%	51%	48%
Not sure	12%	9%	12%	13%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bullock Favorability					
Favorable	22%	21%	18%	24%	25%
Unfavorable	14%	24%	12%	14%	12%
Not sure	64%	55%	71%	62%	64%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hill Favorability					
Favorable	16%	10%	12%	19%	20%
Unfavorable	19%	21%	13%	19%	24%
Not sure	65%	69%	75%	61%	56%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bullock/Hill					
Steve Bullock	31%	33%	28%	32%	32%
Rick Hill	41%	42%	39%	41%	41%
Undecided	28%	25%	33%	26%	28%

