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## **Unknown Republicans lead unknown Dems for MT House seat**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Republicans have an eight-point advantage in partisan identification in Montana, and the essentially unknown Republican candidates for Denny Rehberg’s soon-to-be-abandoned at-large U.S. House seat unsurprisingly have a four- to ten-point edge over the equally faceless potential Democratic nominees at this nascent stage in the race.

At most 21% of Big Sky voters have an idea who any of the four tested candidates for the seat are, and that is Steve Daines, the GOP establishment’s choice. As the lieutenant governor nominee just three years ago, he is the only one to have run statewide, yet most have forgotten about him. The only other announced Republican is John Abarr, whose claim to fame is that he is an unabashed Ku Klux Klan member. Yet while Abarr is the least-known and least-liked of the four candidates (3% favorable, 10% unfavorable), there is hardly a difference between his favorability rating and any of the others.

Daines leads Democrats Kim Gillan, 35-27, and Franke Wilmer, 35-25. But Abarr would start out ahead too, based on partisan cues. He leads Gillan, 30-26, and Wilmer, 33-25. With 38-44% undecided—more than favor any one of the candidates—and the names so unfamiliar, this is little more than a baseline generic ballot test.

In all but one matchup, Republicans are slightly more unified behind their theoretical nominee than the Democrats around theirs, and independents seem to be leaning Republican in this contest, as in the presidential race. With little to go on but party labels, respondents not belonging to either party choose the GOP candidate by margins of five to 11 points. As the race shapes up and the candidates become better known, there is potential for Democrats to pick up some independent votes; a previous release showed Jon Tester leading Rehberg by 15 points in his Senate re-election race.

“With none of the candidates having any sort of name recognition at this point it’s hard to say how the race will unfold,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 819 Montana voters from June 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.4%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



## Montana Survey Results

**Q1** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Abarr?

*Favorable*..... 3%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 10%  
*Not sure* ..... 86%

**Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Steve Daines?

*Favorable*..... 9%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 12%  
*Not sure* ..... 79%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Kim Gillan?

*Favorable*..... 7%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 9%  
*Not sure* ..... 84%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Franke Wilmer?

*Favorable*..... 5%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 10%  
*Not sure* ..... 86%

**Q5** If the candidates for House next year were Republican John Abarr and Democrat Kim Gillan, who would you vote for?

*John Abarr* ..... 30%  
*Kim Gillan* ..... 26%  
*Undecided*..... 44%

**Q6** If the candidates for House next year were Republican John Abarr and Democrat Franke Wilmer, who would you vote for?

*John Abarr* ..... 33%  
*Franke Wilmer* ..... 25%  
*Undecided*..... 42%

**Q7** If the candidates for House next year were Republican Steve Daines and Democrat Kim Gillan, who would you vote for?

*Steve Daines* ..... 35%  
*Kim Gillan* ..... 27%  
*Undecided*..... 38%

**Q8** If the candidates for House next year were Republican Steve Daines and Democrat Franke Wilmer, who would you vote for?

*Steve Daines* ..... 35%  
*Franke Wilmer* ..... 25%  
*Undecided*..... 40%

**Q9** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

*Very liberal*..... 9%  
*Somewhat liberal* ..... 19%  
*Moderate*..... 27%  
*Somewhat conservative*..... 25%  
*Very conservative* ..... 21%

**Q10** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 54%  
*Man*..... 46%

**Q11** 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* ..... 31%  
*Republican*..... 39%  
*Independent/Other*..... 30%

**Q12** If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

*White* ..... 93%  
*Other*..... 7%



**Q13** 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.

<i>18 to 29</i> .....	12%
<i>30 to 45</i> .....	28%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	40%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	20%



**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Abarr Favorability</b>						
Favorable	3%	16%	4%	3%	2%	0%
Unfavorable	10%	25%	9%	10%	10%	6%
Not sure	86%	59%	88%	88%	88%	93%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Daines Favorability</b>						
Favorable	9%	9%	0%	7%	12%	13%
Unfavorable	12%	23%	18%	14%	7%	7%
Not sure	79%	67%	81%	79%	81%	80%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Gillan Favorability</b>						
Favorable	7%	20%	6%	10%	4%	1%
Unfavorable	9%	15%	11%	8%	8%	7%
Not sure	84%	66%	83%	82%	88%	92%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Wilmer Favorability</b>						
Favorable	5%	13%	8%	6%	1%	1%
Unfavorable	10%	17%	11%	10%	8%	7%
Not sure	86%	70%	82%	84%	90%	92%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Abarr/Gillan</b>						
John Abarr	30%	11%	9%	16%	39%	64%
Kim Gillan	26%	63%	46%	29%	10%	6%
Undecided	44%	27%	45%	55%	51%	30%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Abarr/Wilmer</b>						
John Abarr	33%	10%	8%	19%	44%	71%
Franke Wilmer	25%	62%	47%	30%	9%	2%
Undecided	42%	28%	45%	51%	47%	27%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Daines/Gillan</b>						
Steve Daines	35%	4%	5%	19%	52%	75%
Kim Gillan	27%	76%	54%	30%	7%	1%
Undecided	38%	20%	41%	50%	41%	24%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Daines/Wilmer</b>						
Steve Daines	35%	3%	5%	21%	52%	74%
Franke Wilmer	25%	68%	53%	26%	7%	2%
Undecided	40%	28%	42%	53%	40%	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Abarr Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	3%	4%	3%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	10%	8%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	86%	88%	84%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Daines Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	9%	8%	10%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	12%	10%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	79%	83%	75%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gillan Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	7%	6%	8%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	9%	7%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	84%	87%	81%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Wilmer Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	5%	5%	5%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	10%	7%	12%
<b>Not sure</b>	86%	88%	83%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Abarr/Gillan</b>			
John Abarr	30%	30%	30%
Kim Gillan	26%	25%	26%
Undecided	44%	45%	44%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Abarr/Wilmer</b>			
John Abarr	33%	33%	33%
Franke Wilmer	25%	24%	27%
Undecided	42%	43%	41%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Daines/Gillan</b>			
Steve Daines	35%	35%	34%
Kim Gillan	27%	26%	29%
Undecided	38%	39%	37%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Daines/Wilmer</b>			
Steve Daines	35%	35%	35%
Franke Wilmer	25%	23%	28%
Undecided	40%	42%	37%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Abarr Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	3%	6%	2%	2%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	10%	14%	10%	7%
<b>Not sure</b>	86%	80%	88%	91%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Daines Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	9%	4%	14%	7%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	12%	20%	8%	10%
<b>Not sure</b>	79%	76%	78%	83%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gillan Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	7%	10%	3%	8%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	9%	12%	8%	7%
<b>Not sure</b>	84%	78%	89%	84%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Wilmer Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	5%	8%	2%	4%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	10%	12%	8%	9%
<b>Not sure</b>	86%	80%	89%	86%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Abarr/Gillan</b>				
John Abarr	30%	10%	52%	22%
Kim Gillan	26%	56%	8%	17%
Undecided	44%	34%	39%	61%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Abarr/Wilmer</b>				
John Abarr	33%	9%	61%	22%
Franke Wilmer	25%	58%	5%	16%
Undecided	42%	33%	33%	62%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Daines/Gillan</b>				
Steve Daines	35%	5%	66%	26%
Kim Gillan	27%	65%	4%	18%
Undecided	38%	30%	30%	56%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Daines/Wilmer</b>				
Steve Daines	35%	4%	67%	25%
Franke Wilmer	25%	62%	4%	14%
Undecided	40%	33%	29%	60%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Abarr Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	3%	3%	8%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	10%	9%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	86%	87%	72%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Daines Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	9%	9%	3%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	12%	12%	15%
<b>Not sure</b>	79%	79%	82%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Gillan Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	7%	7%	6%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	9%	8%	18%
<b>Not sure</b>	84%	85%	77%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Wilmer Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	5%	5%	4%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	10%	9%	15%
<b>Not sure</b>	86%	86%	81%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Abarr/Gillan</b>			
John Abarr	30%	31%	13%
Kim Gillan	26%	25%	32%
Undecided	44%	43%	55%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Abarr/Wilmer</b>			
John Abarr	33%	35%	10%
Franke Wilmer	25%	24%	40%
Undecided	42%	41%	50%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Daines/Gillan</b>			
Steve Daines	35%	37%	11%
Kim Gillan	27%	25%	46%
Undecided	38%	38%	43%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Daines/Wilmer</b>			
Steve Daines	35%	37%	10%
Franke Wilmer	25%	24%	44%
Undecided	40%	39%	46%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Abarr Favorability</b>					
Favorable	3%	10%	3%	2%	2%
Unfavorable	10%	8%	11%	11%	9%
Not sure	86%	83%	86%	87%	89%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Daines Favorability</b>					
Favorable	9%	10%	10%	8%	8%
Unfavorable	12%	8%	11%	15%	12%
Not sure	79%	83%	79%	77%	81%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gillan Favorability</b>					
Favorable	7%	8%	8%	7%	4%
Unfavorable	9%	5%	9%	11%	8%
Not sure	84%	88%	82%	82%	89%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Wilmer Favorability</b>					
Favorable	5%	10%	3%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	10%	8%	8%	11%	9%
Not sure	86%	83%	90%	83%	86%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Abarr/Gillan</b>					
<b>John Abarr</b>	<b>30%</b>	25%	28%	32%	31%
<b>Kim Gillan</b>	<b>26%</b>	28%	21%	30%	23%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>44%</b>	48%	51%	38%	45%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Abarr/Wilmer</b>					
<b>John Abarr</b>	<b>33%</b>	33%	31%	35%	32%
<b>Franke Wilmer</b>	<b>25%</b>	25%	20%	28%	25%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>42%</b>	43%	49%	37%	43%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Daines/Gillan</b>					
<b>Steve Daines</b>	<b>35%</b>	33%	33%	37%	36%
<b>Kim Gillan</b>	<b>27%</b>	30%	23%	30%	25%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>38%</b>	38%	44%	34%	39%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Daines/Wilmer</b>					
<b>Steve Daines</b>	<b>35%</b>	30%	35%	36%	37%
<b>Franke Wilmer</b>	<b>25%</b>	28%	20%	27%	26%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>40%</b>	43%	45%	37%	37%

