

The Montana U.S. House Race, MSU-MTN POLL Results

Tabular data and analysis provided by:

Dr. David C. W. Parker, Dr. Eric D. Raile, Dr. Sara Guenther, and Dr. Elizabeth A. Shanahan
Department of Political Science, Montana State University-Bozeman

Table 1: The Vote for the U.S. House among Registered Voters

Williams	Gianforte	Swanson	Other	Don't Know
40.1%	47.6%	2.4%	1.3%	8.6%

Republican Representative Gianforte (with a margin of error that covers 45.5% to 49.8%) has a statistically discernible lead over his Democratic opponent, Kathleen Williams (38.0% to 42.2%). If the undecideds break for Kathleen Williams or Democrats turn out their vote in high numbers, there is a chance Williams could eke out a win on Election Day. House races have always been subject to national partisan forces, and it appears—at least from when we collected our data—the Montana House races seems to follow that pattern with a Republican-leaning electorate indicating support for the incumbent Republican Representative.

Table 2: House Vote by Party, Registered Voters

	Williams	Gianforte	Swanson	Other	Don't Know
Democrat	94.9%	1.8%	0.1%	0.2%	3.1%
Republican	3.9%	88.2%	1.2%	0.3%	6.4%
Independent	46.6%	34.2%	5.8%	2.1%	11.4%
Other	36.9%	34.0%	4.4%	5.6%	19.1%

Williams enjoys near universal support of Democrats, like Tester in the Senate race. More Republicans support incumbent Gianforte than Rosendale in the Senate race, and independents—while favoring Democrat Williams—do so by a far narrower margin than Tester (at a bit more than 12 points compared to Tester's near 30-point margin.)

Table 3: House by Gender, Registered Voters

	Williams	Gianforte	Swanson	Other	Don't Know
Female	46.8%	41.1%	1.6%	0.7%	9.8%
Male	33.8%	53.9%	3.4%	2.0%	6.9%

Interestingly, Williams receives less support from women than Jon Tester. More challenging for Williams, however, is the 20-point gap in male voters who overwhelmingly support incumbent Republican Gianforte.

Table 4: House by Gender-by-Marital Status, Registered Voters

	Williams	Gianforte	Swanson	Other	Don't Know
Female, married	39.5%	47.0%	2.0%	0.3%	11.2%
Female, not married	58.7%	31.4%	1.0%	1.2%	7.7%
Male, married	30.2%	58.5%	3.6%	1.4%	6.3%
Male, not married	40.3%	45.6%	3.0%	3.2%	8.0%

Married men support Congressman Gianforte by nearly 30 percentage points, while unmarried women indicate similar levels of support for Democrat Kathleen Williams. Interestingly, married women support Gianforte slightly more than State Auditor Matt Rosendale in the Senate race. Also of note is the high level of undecideds among married women, perhaps indicating an opening for the Williams campaign to exploit.

Table 5: House by Age, Registered Voters

	Williams	Gianforte	Swanson	Other	Don't Know
18-29	42.8%	37.7%	5.6%	1.7%	12.2%
30-39	43.3%	38.6%	2.9%	1.9%	13.3%
40-49	29.2%	55.3%	1.7%	2.2%	11.7%
50-59	35.9%	54.9%	1.7%	0.8%	6.8%
60-69	43.3%	49.8%	1.2%	1.0%	4.7%
70+	43.6%	49.3%	1.4%	0.6%	5.1%

The pattern here is similar to the Senate race, with the exception that Williams does less well among younger AND older voters than Jon Tester. In fact, she only leads among voters 39 years older or less. Democrats need to draw at least even among older voters and win younger voters by a solid margin in order to win in Montana.

Table 6: House by Education, Registered Voters

	Williams	Gianforte	Swanson	Other	Don't Know
Less than high school	25.2%	62.5%	2.8%	0.0%	9.4%
High school/GED	34.2%	50.9%	2.4%	1.6%	10.9%
Associate/junior college	30.3%	55.7%	3.3%	1.7%	9.0%
Bachelor's degree	53.6%	37.1%	1.3%	1.2%	6.8%
Graduate degree	64.8%	28.3%	2.2%	0.4%	4.2%

The divide between college and non-college educated voters is starker in the House race than the Senate race—echoing the pattern that gave Donald Trump his surprise victory in 2016 nationally. To win, Williams likely must make up serious ground among less-educated individuals.

Table 7: House by Ideology, Registered Voters

	Williams	Gianforte	Swanson	Other	Don't Know
Extremely conservative	4.1%	91.3%	0.4%	0.0%	4.3%
Conservative	4.0%	90.4%	1.5%	0.9%	3.2%
Slightly conservative	19.7%	58.2%	5.0%	1.0%	16.2%
Moderate	52.0%	25.6%	3.0%	3.0%	16.4%
Slightly liberal	91.5%	5.0%	0.2%	0.3%	3.0%
Liberal	94.5%	1.2%	3.6%	0.0%	0.6%
Extremely liberal	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

What is notable here is that conservatives of all stripes support Gianforte—although the high numbers of undecideds among “slightly conservative” individuals and among moderates provide an opportunity for Kathleen Williams in the closing weeks.

Table 8: House by Trump Support, Registered Voters

	Williams	Gianforte	Swanson	Other	Don't Know
Strongly approve	1.0%	92.6%	1.6%	0.2%	4.6%
Approve	7.0%	72.2%	3.0%	2.3%	15.6%
Disapprove	56.6%	18.2%	3.9%	5.5%	15.8%
Strongly disapprove	93.4%	1.2%	1.7%	1.0%	2.6%
Don't know	11.9%	7.4%	11.7%	0.0%	69.0%

People who approve of the job being done by President Trump also prefer Congressman Gianforte. Additionally, nearly 20 percent who *disapprove* of the president's work indicate they will vote for Congressman Gianforte.