Montana State University & Montana Television Network  
Montana Pre-Election Survey 2018  
CODEBOOK

**Data collection period:** September 15 – October 6, 2018

**Data collected by:** Human Ecology Learning & Problem Solving (HELPS) Lab  
Montana State University-Bozeman

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

### Variable Name: version
**Variable Type:** Numeric
**Codes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Questionnaire version A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Questionnaire version B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Questionnaire version C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Variable Name: pltcamp
**Variable Type:** Numeric
**Question Text:** How interested have you been in the political campaigns so far this year?
**Response Options and Codes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Very interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Somewhat interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Not much interested</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Variable Name: likevote
**Variable Type:** Numeric
**Question Text:** How likely are you to vote in the upcoming general election this November?
**Response Options and Codes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Definitely will vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Probably will vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Probably will NOT vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Definitely will NOT vote</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Variable Name: senate
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: If the general election for U.S. Senate were held today, for whom would you vote?
Response Options and Codes:
1 Matt Rosendale, Republican
2 Jon Tester, Democrat
3 Rick Breckenridge, Libertarian
11 Other / none of the above
66 Don't know

Variable Name: house
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: If the general election for the U.S. House were held today, for whom would you vote?
Response Options and Codes:
1 Kathleen Williams, Democrat
2 Greg Gianforte, Republican
3 Elinor Swanson, Libertarian
11 Other / none of the above
66 Don't know

Variable Name: pres2016
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: For whom did you vote in the 2016 general election for U.S. president?
Response Options and Codes:
1 Gary Johnson, Libertarian
2 Donald Trump, Republican
3 Hillary Clinton, Democrat
4 Jill Stein, Green
33 Did not vote
55 Was not eligible to vote
66 Don't recall

Variable Name: apptrump
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: For each of the following, do you approve or disapprove or the way the individual is handling his job? Donald Trump as U.S. President
Response Options and Codes:
1 Strongly Approve
2 Approve
3 Disapprove
4 Strongly Disapprove
66 Don't know

Variable Name: apptest
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: For each of the following, do you approve or disapprove or the way the individual is handling his job? Jon Tester as U.S. Senator
Response Options and Codes:
1 Strongly Approve
2 Approve
3 Disapprove
4 Strongly Disapprove
66 Don't know
Variable Name: appdain
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: For each of the following, do you approve or disapprove or the way the individual is handling his job? Steve Daines as U.S. Senator
   1 Strongly Approve
   2 Approve
   3 Disapprove
   4 Strongly Disapprove
   66 Don’t know

Variable Name: appgian
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: For each of the following, do you approve or disapprove or the way the individual is handling his job? Greg Gianforte as U.S. Representative
   1 Strongly Approve
   2 Approve
   3 Disapprove
   4 Strongly Disapprove
   66 Don’t know

Variable Name: appbull
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: For each of the following, do you approve or disapprove or the way the individual is handling his job? Steve bullock as Governor of Montana
   1 Strongly Approve
   2 Approve
   3 Disapprove
   4 Strongly Disapprove
   66 Don’t know

Variable Name: usdir
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: For each of the following, would you say things are generally headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction? United States
Response Options and Codes:
   1 Right direction
   2 Wrong direction
   66 Don’t know

Variable Name: mtdir
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: For each of the following, would you say things are generally headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction? Montana
Response Options and Codes:
   1 Right direction
   2 Wrong direction
   66 Don’t know
Variable Name: commdir
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: For each of the following, would you say things are generally headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction? My community
Response Options and Codes:
1   Right direction
2   Wrong direction
66  Don’t know

Variable Name: trutv
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: How much do you trust information from each of the following sources? Local television news
Response Options and Codes:
1   A lot
2   Some
3   A little
4   Not at all
66  Don’t know

Variable Name: trunewp
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: How much do you trust information from each of the following sources? Local newspaper
Response Options and Codes:
1   A lot
2   Some
3   A little
4   Not at all
66  Don’t know

Variable Name: trupr
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: How much do you trust information from each of the following sources? Public radio
Response Options and Codes:
1   A lot
2   Some
3   A little
4   Not at all
66  Don’t know

Variable Name: trultv
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: How much do you trust information from each of the following sources? Late night television
Response Options and Codes:
1   A lot
2   Some
3   A little
4   Not at all
66  Don’t know
Variable Name: truwsj  
Variable Type: Numeric  
Question Text: How much do you trust information from each of the following sources? Wall Street Journal  
Response Options and Codes:  
1  A lot  
2  Some  
3  A little  
4  Not at all  
66  Don’t know

Variable Name: trumsnbc  
Variable Type: Numeric  
Question Text: How much do you trust information from each of the following sources? MSNBC  
Response Options and Codes:  
1  A lot  
2  Some  
3  A little  
4  Not at all  
66  Don’t know

Variable Name: trufoxn  
Variable Type: Numeric  
Question Text: How much do you trust information from each of the following sources? FOX News  
Response Options and Codes:  
1  A lot  
2  Some  
3  A little  
4  Not at all  
66  Don’t know

Variable Name: trunyt  
Variable Type: Numeric  
Question Text: How much do you trust information from each of the following sources? New York Times  
Response Options and Codes:  
1  A lot  
2  Some  
3  A little  
4  Not at all  
66  Don’t know
Variable Name:  tructr
Variable Type:  Numeric
Question Text:  How much do you trust information from each of the following sources? Conservative talk radio
Response Options and Codes:
1    A lot
2    Some
3    A little
4    Not at all
66    Don’t know

Variable Name:  trucnn
Variable Type:  Numeric
Question Text:  How much do you trust information from each of the following sources? CNN
Response Options and Codes:
1    A lot
2    Some
3    A little
4    Not at all
66    Don’t know

Variable Name:  conmil
Variable Type:  Numeric
Question Text:  How much confidence do you have in each of the following? The military
Response Options and Codes:
1    A great deal
2    Some
3    Not much
4    Not at all
66    Don’t know

Variable Name:  conpres
Variable Type:  Numeric
Question Text:  How much confidence do you have in each of the following? The U.S. presidency
Response Options and Codes:
1    A great deal
2    Some
3    Not much
4    Not at all
66    Don’t know

Variable Name:  concong
Variable Type:  Numeric
Question Text:  How much confidence do you have in each of the following? The U.S. Congress
Response Options and Codes:
1    A great deal
2    Some
3    Not much
4    Not at all
66    Don’t know
Variable Name: conscrt
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: How much confidence do you have in each of the following? The U.S. Supreme Court
Response Options and Codes:
1 A great deal
2 Some
3 Not much
4 Not at all
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: concops
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: How much confidence do you have in each of the following? The police
Response Options and Codes:
1 A great deal
2 Some
3 Not much
4 Not at all
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: conbank
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: How much confidence do you have in each of the following? Big banks
Response Options and Codes:
1 A great deal
2 Some
3 Not much
4 Not at all
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: conrel
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: How much confidence do you have in each of the following? Church/organized religion
Response Options and Codes:
1 A great deal
2 Some
3 Not much
4 Not at all
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: conlgovt
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: How much confidence do you have in each of the following? Local government
Response Options and Codes:
1 A great deal
2 Some
3 Not much
4 Not at all
66 Don’t know
Variable Name: conhcs
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: How much confidence do you have in each of the following? The healthcare system
Response Options and Codes:
  1  A great deal
  2  Some
  3  Not much
  4  Not at all
  66 Don’t know

Variable Name: issue
Variable Type: String
Question Text: What is the most important issue our country is facing today? (Please write your answer in the box below.)

Variable Name: think16
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: When I voted in the 2016 general election for U.S. president, I was thinking ...
Response Options and Codes:
  1  This country needed a big change
  2  This country needed a minor change
  3  This country needed to maintain the course
  11 None of the above
  33 I did not vote
  55 I was not eligible to vote

Variable Name: lifenow
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: For people like me, life in our country now is _______ it was at the start of this decade.
Response Options and Codes:
  1  Better than
  2  The same as
  3  Worse than
  66 Don’t know

Variable Name: health
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: How do you feel about the health care reform law passed in 2010? This law requires all Americans to buy health insurance and requires health insurance companies to accept everyone.
Response Options and Codes:
  1  Favor
  2  Neither favor nor oppose
  3  Oppose
  66 Don’t know
Variable Name: govtsize
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: Generally speaking, which do you favor:
Response Options and Codes:
  1  Smaller government with fewer services
  2  Larger government with more services
  11  Neither
  66  Don’t know

Variable Name: threat
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What do you think is a greater potential threat to the country's future—big business or big government?
Response Options and Codes:
  1  Big business
  2  Big government
  11  Neither
  66  Don’t know

Variable Name: taxlaw
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: From what you have heard or read, do you approve or disapprove of the tax law that was passed by Congress and signed by Donald Trump in December of 2017?
Response Options and Codes:
  1  Approve
  2  Disapprove
  66  Don’t know

Variable Name: tax250k
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: Taxes for households with annual incomes over $250,000 should be ...
Response Options and Codes:
  1  Raised a lot
  2  Raised a little
  3  Kept the same
  4  Lowered a little
  5  Lowered a lot
  66  Don’t know

Variable Name: urbanres
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: The share of state government resources received by urban areas of Montana is ...
Response Options and Codes:
  1  Much more than fair
  2  Somewhat more than fair
  3  About fair
  4  Somewhat less than fair
  5  Much less than fair
  66  Don’t know
Variable Name: ruralres  
Variable Type: Numeric  
Question Text: The share of state government resources received by rural areas of Montana is ...

Response Options and Codes:
1 Much more than fair  
2 Somewhat more than fair  
3 About fair  
4 Somewhat less than fair  
5 Much less than fair  
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: hins  
Variable Type: Numeric  
Question Text: Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each statement: States should be allowed to require that able-bodied adults be working or looking for work in order to obtain health insurance through Medicaid.

Response Options and Codes:
1 Strongly agree  
2 Agree  
3 Neither  
4 Disagree  
5 Strongly disagree  
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: teachgun  
Variable Type: Numeric  
Question Text: Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each statement: Public school teachers and other school teachers should be allowed to carry guns in schools if they are licensed to carry a gun.

Response Options and Codes:
1 Strongly agree  
2 Agree  
3 Neither  
4 Disagree  
5 Strongly disagree  
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: illimmgr  
Variable Type: Numeric  
Question Text: Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each statement: Illegal immigration in the United States is a serious problem.

Response Options and Codes:
1 Strongly agree  
2 Agree  
3 Neither  
4 Disagree  
5 Strongly disagree  
66 Don’t know
Variable Name: prek
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each statement: The state of Montana should offer a publicly funded, voluntary pre-school program.
Response Options and Codes:
1 Strongly agree
2 Agree
3 Neither
4 Disagree
5 Strongly disagree
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: fedland
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each statement: It is important to protect federal lands such as national parks, national forests, and wilderness in the state of Montana.
Response Options and Codes:
1 Strongly agree
2 Agree
3 Neither
4 Disagree
5 Strongly disagree
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: incmequl
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each statement: The federal government should pursue policies designed to reduce income inequality in the United States.
Response Options and Codes:
1 Strongly agree
2 Agree
3 Neither
4 Disagree
5 Strongly disagree
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: pinfra
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What do you think about the level of national spending on each of the following?
Physical infrastructure like highways and bridges
Response Options and Codes:
1 Too much
2 About right
3 Too little
66 Don’t know
Variable Name: crmrt
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What do you think about the level of national spending on each of the following?
Reducing the crime rate
Response Options and Codes:

1  Too much
2  Too little
3  About right
66  Don’t know

Variable Name: proenv
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What do you think about the level of national spending on each of the following?
Protecting the environment
Response Options and Codes:

1  Too much
2  Too little
3  About right
66  Don’t know

Variable Name: farmers
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What do you think about the level of national spending on each of the following?
Assistance to farmers
Response Options and Codes:

1  Too much
2  Too little
3  About right
66  Don’t know

Variable Name: science
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What do you think about the level of national spending on each of the following?
Supporting scientific research
Response Options and Codes:

1  Too much
2  Too little
3  About right
66  Don’t know

Variable Name: minority
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What do you think about the level of national spending on each of the following?
Improving the condition of minorities
Response Options and Codes:

1  Too much
2  Too little
3  About right
66  Don’t know
Variable Name: ntldef
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: The military, armaments, and national defense
Response Options and Codes:
   1   Too much
   2   Too little
   3   About right
   66  Don’t know

Variable Name: intlasst
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What do you think about the level of national spending on each of the following?
Assistance to other countries
Response Options and Codes:
   1   Too much
   2   Too little
   3   About right
   66  Don’t know

Variable Name: natledu
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What do you think about the level of national spending on each of the following?
Improving the nation’s education system
Response Options and Codes:
   1   Too much
   2   Too little
   3   About right
   66  Don’t know

Variable Name: socsec
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What do you think about the level of national spending on each of the following? Social
Security
Response Options and Codes:
   1   Too much
   2   Too little
   3   About right
   66  Don’t know

Variable Name: school
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?
Response Options and Codes:
   1   Less than high school
   2   High school diploma/GED
   3   Associate/junior college degree
   4   Bachelor’s degree
   5   Graduate degree
   66  Don’t know
Variable Name: gender
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What is your gender?
Response Options and Codes:
   1  Female
   2  Male
   11 Other

Variable Name: white
Variable Type: Numeric (binary)
Question Text: What is your race? White
Response Options and Codes:
   0  Not selected
   1  Selected

Variable Name: black
Variable Type: Numeric (binary)
Question Text: What is your race? Black
Response Options and Codes:
   0  Not selected
   1  Selected

Variable Name: nativeam
Variable Type: Numeric (binary)
Question Text: What is your race? American Indian or Alaska Native
Response Options and Codes:
   0  Not selected
   1  Selected

Variable Name: asian
Variable Type: Numeric (binary)
Question Text: What is your race? Asian
Response Options and Codes:
   0  Not selected
   1  Selected

Variable Name: pacislhi
Variable Type: Numeric (binary)
Question Text: What is your race? Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian
Response Options and Codes:
   0  Not selected
   1  Selected

Variable Name: othrace
Variable Type: Numeric (binary)
Question Text: What is your race? Other
Response Options and Codes:
   0  Not selected
   1  Selected
Variable Name: religser  
**Variable Type:** Numeric  
**Question Text:** How often do you attend religious services?  
**Response Options and Codes:**
1. More than once a week  
2. Once a week  
3. Once or twice a month  
4. A few times a year  
5. Seldom  
6. Never

Variable Name: livemt  
**Variable Type:** Numeric  
**Question Text:** How long have you lived in Montana?  
**Response Options and Codes:**
1. 0-5 years  
2. 6-10 years  
3. 11-15 years  
4. 16-20 years  
5. 21-30 years  
6. More than 30 years  
66. Don’t know

Variable Name: student  
**Variable Type:** Numeric  
**Question Text:** Are you currently a part-time or full-time student?  
**Response Options and Codes:**
0. No  
1. Yes

Variable Name: jobstat  
**Variable Type:** Numeric  
**Question Text:** Which of the following best describes your current employment status?  
**Response Options and Codes:**
1. Employed full time (40 or more hrs./week)  
2. Employed part time (1-39 hrs./week)  
3. Working but not for compensation  
4. Not employed, looking for work  
5. Not employed, not looking for work  
6. Retired  
7. Disabled, not able to work
Variable Name: income
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: What was your total household income in 2017 before taxes?
Response Options and Codes:
1  $0 – 9,999
2  $10,000 – 29,999
3  $30,000 – 49,999
4  $50,000 – 69,999
5  $70,000 – 89,999
6  $90,000 – 109,999
7  $110,000 – 129,999
8  $130,000 – 149,999
9  $150,000 – 169,999
10 $170,000 or more
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: armedfor
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: Did you serve or are you currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Reserve or National Guard?
Response Options and Codes:
0  No
1  Yes

Variable Name: married
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: Are you currently married?
Response Options and Codes:
0  No
1  Yes

Variable Name: ychild
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: Do you have any children who are 25 years old or younger?
Response Options and Codes:
0  No
1  Yes

Variable Name: usuvote
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: Which one of the following best describes how you usually vote?
Response Options and Codes:
1  Mostly or only for Democrats
2  A few more Democrats than Republicans
3  Independent
4  A few more Republicans than Democrats
5  Mostly or only for Republicans
Variable Name: ideology
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: Where do you place yourself on the political ideological scale below?
Response Options and Codes:
1 Extremely conservative
2 Conservative
3 Slightly conservative
4 Moderate; middle of the road
5 Slightly liberal
6 Liberal
7 Extremely liberal

Variable Name: party
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else?
Response Options and Codes:
1 Democrat
2 Republican
3 Independent
11 Something else

Variable Name: tobacc
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: The ballot for the general election in Montana will include a measure (I-185) that raises taxes on all tobacco products, amends the definition to include e-cigarettes and vaping products, and dedicates funds for health-related programs. The measure also eliminates the sunset date for expanded Medicaid services for certain low-income adults. How will you vote on this ballot measure?
Response Options and Codes:
0 No on I-185
1 Yes on I-185
33 Will not vote on this measure
66 Don’t know

Variable Name: mines
Variable Type: Numeric
Question Text: The ballot for the general election in Montana will include a measure (I-186) that would require the Department of Environmental Quality to deny a permit for any new hardrock mines in Montana unless the reclamation plan provides clear and convincing evidence that the mine will not require perpetual treatment of water polluted by acid mine drainage or other contaminants. How will you vote on this ballot measure?
Response Options and Codes:
0 No on I-186
1 Yes on I-186
33 Will not vote on this measure
66 Don’t know
**Variable Name:** levy

**Variable Type:** Numeric

**Question Text:** The ballot for the general election in Montana will include a measure (LR-128) that asks Montana voters to continue the existing 6-mill levy to support Montana's public colleges and universities. How will you vote on this ballot measure?

**Response Options and Codes:**

- 0  No on LR-128
- 1  Yes on LR-128
- 33 Will not vote on this measure
- 66 Don’t know