



RESULTS OF THE OCTOBER 2013 UTAH VOTER POLL  
8 OCTOBER 2013

**Information about the Survey**

Researchers at Brigham Young University's Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy invited members of the Utah Voter Poll panel, a group of voters who were recruited at polling places across Utah on Election Day in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012, to complete an online survey between October 2, 2013 and October 7, 2013. For more about the poll, see the methodology section below.

**Contact**

For further discussion of the results or methodology, please use the following contact information:

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## **Methodology**

Survey Field Dates: October 2, 2013 – October 7, 2013.

### *Sample Size and Margin of Error:*

In total, 1,040 respondents entered the survey; we have at least partial data from 1,040 respondents, while 938 respondents completed the entire survey. The margin of error for a simple random sample with a sample size of 938 is about + or – 3.20%. The Utah Voter Poll is drawn from the Utah Colleges Exit Poll, which has a sophisticated sample design. A “design effect” multiplier would make the margin of error slightly higher than this.

### *Response Rate:*

The response rate for the Utah Voter Poll was 13.24% (see calculations below). Potential respondents were sent three invitations to participate, spaced a few days apart over the survey field period. Our decision to send three invitations follows standard practices for internet surveys seeking to maximize response rates with minimal field time and disruption to potential respondents.

### *Response rate calculation:*

Total email addresses sent invitations: 7,141

Total valid email addresses that received at least one email: 7,084

Total accessed surveys: 1,040

Completed surveys: 938

Response rate =  $938/7,084 = 13.24\%$

### *Weighting:*

The raw data were statistically adjusted using a technique called “rim weighting” to correct for potential nonresponse error and potential coverage error. Nonresponse error would occur if the non-respondents from our sampling pool (the email addresses collected on Election Day 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012) differed significantly from our actual respondents on their responses to the survey items. Coverage error would occur if the group that opted into the Utah Voter Poll on Election Day differed significantly from the group that we are really trying to survey and draw inferences about (all Utah voters). It is impossible to be absolutely certain about the existence of nonresponse and coverage error, and when weighting, we use what we know about nonresponse and coverage to minimize the chances of nonresponse error and coverage error.

Utah has very high computer ownership and internet access rates among the general population. These rates are likely to be even higher among voters. Some literature suggests web surveys will tend to over-represent people with higher incomes, higher levels of education, younger people, and men. Our weighting procedure was designed to take the distributions for age, education, income, gender, race, and religion from the 2010 and 2012 KBYU/Utah Colleges Exit Polls and use them to statistically adjust the data so that respondents belonging to overrepresented groups

are given less weight in the analysis and those in underrepresented groups are given more weight. Rim weighting is when the weights are applied iteratively, one variable at a time, until the distributions for all of the variables of interest closely reflect their targets. The data were weighted by education, age, income, gender, race, and religion.

# 2013 OCTOBER UTAH VOTER POLL RESULTS

Last Modified: 10/08/2013

## 1. Governor Herbert Approval

Answer	Response	%
Strongly approve	121	12%
Approve	621	63%
Disapprove	211	21%
Strongly disapprove	35	4%
Total	988	100%

## 2. Utah Legislature Approval

Answer	Response	%
Strongly approve	30	3%
Approve	542	55%
Disapprove	284	29%
Strongly disapprove	123	13%
Total	979	100%

**3. For each of the following persons, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable impression:**

Question	Very Unfavorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Somewhat Favorable	Very Favorable	No Opinion	Total Responses
Gary Herbert	6.76%	18.51%	43.43%	27.09%	4.21%	965
Orrin Hatch	25.62%	29.28%	30.25%	13.35%	1.51%	965
Mike Lee	39.63%	11.58%	15.53%	24.25%	9.02%	965
Jim Matheson	11.83%	23.79%	41.11%	16.64%	6.63%	964
John Swallow	39.36%	25.05%	16.27%	2.35%	16.98%	963

**4. On October 1, the national government shut down for the first time since 1995. In your opinion, who is most responsible for the current shutdown? You may feel that multiple groups or individuals share responsibility. Please choose the group or individual you think is most responsible.**

Answer	Response	%
Republicans in the House of Representatives	437	45%
Democrats in the Senate	171	18%
President Barack Obama	353	37%
Total	961	100%

**5. In the state of Utah elections are mostly administered by county clerks. Do you approve or disapprove of how your county clerk administers elections in your county?**

Answer	Response	%
Strongly approve	165	17%
Approve	734	77%
Disapprove	42	5%
Strongly disapprove	12	1%
Total	953	100%

**6. Which option is closest to your opinion about how elections in Utah should be conducted in the future, even if none of them are exactly right?**

Answer	Response	%
We should keep the current system with a choice of absentee voting by mail, early in-person voting, or voting on Election Day	838	87%
We should use only mail ballots for all voters	26	3%
We should keep traditional voting on Election Day, and eliminate mail voting and early in-person voting	97	10%
Total	961	100%

**7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about an election in which mail ballots are used for all voters?**

Question	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Responses
I am concerned I would return a mail ballot too late for it to be counted.	15.74%	32.40%	29.30%	22.57%	952
I could vote with a mail ballot in privacy.	38.05%	44.13%	11.19%	6.62%	952
An election conducted entirely by mail would cost less than elections do now.	8.88%	33.71%	42.79%	14.62%	946
Casting a ballot by mail would be more convenient for me.	24.11%	36.63%	24.46%	14.79%	952
An election with mail ballots would encourage fraud.	29.38%	36.27%	22.89%	11.47%	951
A single day where all voters cast their ballots is a valuable part of our election system.	29.56%	35.17%	25.14%	10.13%	953
I worry that I would cast my ballot early and then hear important information that might change my vote.	15.53%	40.21%	29.20%	15.06%	953

**8. Have you ever voted using a mail-in absentee ballot?**

Answer	Response	%
Yes, I voted by mail in 2012.	174	18%
Yes, I voted by mail at another time in the past.	187	20%
No, I have never voted by mail.	596	62%
Total	957	100%

**9. In the debate about the budget, Senator Mike Lee has argued that continued funding for the national government should be tied to**

**defunding or delaying the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare). Other Republicans have argued that insisting on this strategy is not productive because the result is a government shutdown. Which of the following best represents your view on the issue?**

Answer	Response	%
Senator Mike Lee should stand by his principles, even when the result is a government shutdown.	406	43%
Senator Mike Lee should be more willing to compromise, even if that means passing a budget with funding for the Affordable Care Act.	548	57%
Total	954	100%

### **10. How strongly do you feel about that view?**

Answer	Response	%
Very strongly	667	70%
Somewhat strongly	218	23%
Not very strongly	49	5%
Not at all strongly	18	2%
Total	952	100%



**11. As you may know, the media have reported several accusations about the activities of Attorney General John Swallow. Based on what you have heard or read, which of the following statements best describes your view of what John Swallow might have done?**

Answer	Response	%
John Swallow has done something illegal.	242	26%
John Swallow has done nothing illegal, but has done something unethical.	603	66%
John Swallow has done nothing unethical.	75	8%
Total	920	100%

**12. Recently, the media reported that the U.S. Department of Justice had finished its investigation into John Swallow and had cleared him of bribery charges. Given the accusations against Attorney General John Swallow, do you think the Utah House of Representatives should continue its investigation of him or not?**

Answer	Response	%
Definitely continue	52	26%
Probably continue	48	24%
Probably not continue	42	21%
Definitely not continue	36	17%
Don't know/No opinion	24	12%
Total	202	100%

**13. Recently, the media reported that the U.S. Department of Justice had finished its investigation into John Swallow and decided not to press bribery charges against him. Given the accusations against Attorney General John Swallow, do you think the Utah House of Representatives should continue its investigation of him or not?**

Answer	Response	%
Definitely continue	56	30%
Probably continue	43	23%
Probably not continue	54	28%
Definitely not continue	18	9%
Don't know/No opinion	20	10%
Total	191	100%

**14. Recently, the media reported that the U.S. Department of Justice had finished its investigation into John Swallow and had cleared him of bribery charges. Investigations by the Utah Lieutenant Governor's office, county attorneys in Salt Lake and Weber counties, and the Utah State Bar are ongoing. Given the accusations against Attorney General John Swallow, do you think the Utah House of Representatives should continue its investigation of him or not?**

Answer	Response	%
Definitely continue	49	28%
Probably continue	49	29%
Probably not continue	43	25%
Definitely not continue	14	8%
Don't know/No opinion	18	10%
Total	173	100%

**15. Recently, the media reported that the U.S. Department of Justice had finished its investigation into John Swallow and decided not to press bribery charges against him. Investigations by the Utah Lieutenant Governor's office, county attorneys in Salt Lake and Weber counties, and the Utah State Bar are ongoing. Given the accusations against Attorney General John Swallow, do you think the Utah House of Representatives should continue its investigation of him or not?**

Answer	Response	%
Definitely continue	59	31%
Probably continue	47	25%
Probably not continue	47	24%
Definitely not continue	26	13%
Don't know/No opinion	13	7%
Total	192	100%

**16. Given the accusations against Attorney General John Swallow, do you think the Utah House of Representatives should continue its investigation of him or not?**

Answer	Response	%
Definitely continue	94	49%
Probably continue	51	26%
Probably not continue	19	10%
Definitely not continue	10	5%
Don't know/No opinion	20	10%
Total	194	100%

**17. Thinking about everything you have read or heard about the John Swallow situation, which of the following comes closest to your view of what should happen right now?**

Answer	Response	%
John Swallow should resign.	651	71%
John Swallow should stay in office.	271	29%
Total	922	100%

**18. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the political movement known as the Tea Party?**

Answer	Response	%
Strongly favorable	165	17%
Somewhat favorable	188	20%
Somewhat unfavorable	134	14%
Strongly unfavorable	388	41%
Don't know / No opinion	75	8%
Total	950	100%

**19. Do you consider yourself to be an active supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?**

Answer	Response	%
Yes	127	13%
No	701	74%
Don't know / No opinion	122	13%
Total	950	100%

## 20. Gender

Answer	Response	%
Male	451	48%
Female	495	52%
Total	946	100%

## 21. Age

Answer	Response	%
18-24	86	9%
25-34	157	17%
34-44	151	16%
45-54	163	17%
55-64	193	21%
65 and older	190	20%
Total	940	100%

## 22. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a(n):

Answer	Response	%
Strong Democrat	77	8%
Not so strong Democrat	30	3%
Independent leaning Democrat	162	17%
Independent	101	11%
Independent leaning Republican	199	21%
Not so strong Republican	120	12%
Strong Republican	197	21%
Other	54	6%
Don't know	9	1%
Total	949	100%

### 23. On most political matters do you consider yourself:

Answer	Response	%
Strongly conservative	238	25%
Moderately conservative	318	33%
Neither, middle of the road	153	16%
Moderately liberal	176	19%
Strongly liberal	60	6%
Don't know	5	1%
Total	950	100%

### 24. What was the last year of school you completed?

Answer	Response	%
Some high school or less	3	0%
High school graduate	95	10%
Some college	317	33%
College graduate	320	34%
Post-graduate	214	23%
Total	949	100%

### 25. What, if any, is your religious preference?

Answer	Response	%
Protestant	49	5%
Catholic	38	4%
LDS / Mormon	648	68%
Jewish	4	0%
Other	67	7%
No preference / No religious affiliation	118	13%
Prefer not to say	25	3%
Total	949	100%

## 26. How active do you consider yourself in the practice of your religious preference?

Answer	Response	%
Very active	610	64%
Somewhat active	111	12%
Not very active	60	6%
Not active	67	7%
Does not apply / Prefer not to say	101	11%
Total	949	100%

## 27. What is your current employment status?

Answer	Response	%
Self-employed	101	11%
Employed by someone else	488	51%
Unemployed	22	2%
Homemaker	114	12%
Retired	186	20%
Student	38	4%
Total	949	100%

## 28. Are you:

Answer	Response	%
American Indian / Native American	1	0%
Asian	27	3%
Black / African American	1	0%
Hispanic / Latino	39	4%
White / Caucasian	867	92%
Pacific Islander	2	0%
Other	10	1%
Total	947	100%

## 29. Are you currently:

Answer	Response	%
Married	704	74%
Divorced	43	5%
Widowed	41	4%
Living with partner	32	3%
Single	129	14%
Total	949	100%



### 30. What do you expect your 2013 family income to be?

Answer	Response	%
Under \$25,000	108	12%
\$25,000 - \$39,999	135	14%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	87	9%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	212	23%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	172	18%
\$100,000 - \$124,999	92	10%
\$125,000 - \$149,999	90	10%
Over \$150,000	39	4%
Total	935	100%