



Montana Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of President Joe Biden's job performance?

Approve 38%
Disapprove..... 56%
Not sure 6%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Greg Gianforte's job performance?

Approve 52%
Disapprove..... 35%
Not sure 13%

Q3 There is currently a bill in the Montana Legislature that would allow NorthWestern Energy, a monopoly electric utility, to purchase an additional interest in the Colstrip coal fired power plant. Currently the Montana Public Service Commission oversees such purchases to ensure ratepayers are protected. The bill reduces the Public Service Commission's oversight from this transaction and allows increased costs to be passed on to ratepayers. Based on what you know, would you say you support or oppose this bill?

Support this bill 14%
Oppose this bill 61%
Not sure 25%

Q4 I'm going to read you some statements about this bill, and for each one, ask you if it gives you very serious concerns, somewhat serious concerns, or no real concerns about the bill that would allow NorthWestern Energy to purchase an additional interest in the Colstrip coal fired power plant. Here's the first one: The bill would raise your monthly rates to allow NorthWestern Energy to increase their profits, and doesn't explicitly save Colstrip. Does hearing this give you very serious concerns, somewhat serious concerns, or no real concerns about the bill that would allow NorthWestern Energy to purchase an additional interest in the Colstrip coal fired power plant?

Very serious concerns 59%
Somewhat serious concerns..... 24%
No real concerns..... 10%
Not sure 7%

Q5 Here's the next one: The legislation will force the Public Service Commission to increase Northwestern Energy customers utility bills up to \$700 dollars a year, even without a guarantee that the Colstrip coal plant will continue operating. Does hearing this give you very serious concerns, somewhat serious concerns, or no real concerns about the bill that would allow NorthWestern Energy to purchase an additional interest in the Colstrip coal fired power plant?

Very serious concerns 69%
Somewhat serious concerns..... 17%
No real concerns..... 7%
Not sure 7%





Q6 Here's the next one: This legislation could force Northwestern Energy customers to pay over hundreds of millions of dollars for Colstrip cleanup, long after the plant has closed. Does hearing this give you very serious concerns, somewhat serious concerns, or no real concerns about the bill that would allow NorthWestern Energy to purchase an additional interest in the Colstrip coal fired power plant?

- Very serious concerns* 68%
- Somewhat serious concerns*..... 16%
- No real concerns*..... 8%
- Not sure* 7%

Q7 Here's the next one: NorthWestern executives can go out and buy more of Colstrip today without the Legislature passing this bill. If it's such a good deal they should do it. All this bill does is force ratepayers to be on the hook for millions of dollars of costs associated with operating Colstrip. Does hearing this give you very serious concerns, somewhat serious concerns, or no real concerns about the bill that would allow NorthWestern Energy to purchase an additional interest in the Colstrip coal fired power plant?

- Very serious concerns* 70%
- Somewhat serious concerns*..... 14%
- No real concerns*..... 8%
- Not sure* 8%

Q8 Supporters of the bill say that Colstrip powers Montana during the coldest winter months and makes sure we can keep the lights on. It is one of the most reliable sources of power available to Montana customers, and if we don't pass this bill the Colstrip plant could close and we could lose the good paying jobs that the plant provides. Do you think this is a very strong reason, somewhat strong reason, not a strong reason to support the bill that would allow NorthWestern Energy to purchase an additional interest in the Colstrip coal fired power plant?

- Very strong reason to support the bill* 18%
- Somewhat strong reason to support the bill*... 27%
- Not a strong reason to support the bill* 41%
- Not sure* 15%

Q9 Having heard all the information in this poll, let me ask you again: There is currently a bill in the Montana Legislature that would allow NorthWestern Energy, a monopoly electric utility, to purchase an additional interest in the Colstrip coal fired power plant. Currently the Montana Public Service Commission oversees such purchases to ensure ratepayers are protected. The bill reduces the Public Service Commission's oversight from this transaction and allows increased costs to be passed on to ratepayers. Based on what you know, would you say you support or oppose this bill?

- Support this bill* 13%
- Oppose this bill* 61%
- Not sure* 27%

Q10 In the most recent election for President, did you vote for Republican Donald Trump, Democrat Joe Biden, someone else, or did you not vote in the election?

- Donald Trump* 56%
- Joe Biden*..... 40%
- Someone else / Did not vote*..... 4%



Q11 If you're a woman, press 1. If you're a man, press 2.

Woman 53%

Man..... 47%

Q12 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If an independent, press 3.

Democrat 26%

Republican..... 40%

Independent..... 34%

Q13 If you are 18-45 years old, press 1. If 46-65, press 2. If older than 65, press 3.

18 to 45..... 31%

46 to 65..... 40%

Older than 65..... 28%

Q14 Mode

Landline 50%

Text..... 50%



	Bas- e	2020 Vote		
		Donal- d Tru...	Joe Bid...	Someone els- e / Did not v...
Biden Approval				
Approve	38%	1%	91%	25%
Disapprove	56%	97%	1%	39%
Not sure	6%	2%	8%	36%

	Bas- e	2020 Vote		
		Donal- d Tru...	Joe Bid...	Someone els- e / Did not v...
Gianforte Approval				
Approve	52%	86%	6%	33%
Disapprove	35%	5%	78%	24%
Not sure	13%	9%	16%	43%

	Bas- e	2020 Vote		
		Donal- d Tru...	Joe Bid...	Someone els- e / Did not v...
Bill to Allow NorthWestern Energy to Purchase Additional Interest in Power Plant Support / Oppose				
Support this bill	14%	19%	6%	14%
Oppose this bill	61%	46%	82%	65%
Not sure	25%	34%	12%	20%





	Bas- e	2020 Vote		
		Donal- d Tru...	Joe Bid...	Someone els- e / Did not v...
Bill Would Raise Monthly Rates Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	59%	50%	73%	40%
Somewhat serious concerns	24%	27%	19%	38%
No real concerns	10%	14%	4%	12%
Not sure	7%	8%	4%	10%

	Bas- e	2020 Vote		
		Donal- d Tru...	Joe Bid...	Someone els- e / Did not v...
Bill Would Force PSC to Increase Utility Bills Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	69%	59%	83%	52%
Somewhat serious concerns	17%	22%	11%	25%
No real concerns	7%	11%	2%	9%
Not sure	7%	8%	4%	15%





	Bas- e	2020 Vote		
		Donal- d Tru...	Joe Bid...	Someone els- e / Did not v...
Bill Could Force Customers to Pay for Colstrip Cleanup Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	68%	59%	81%	48%
Somewhat serious concerns	16%	19%	12%	25%
No real concerns	8%	12%	4%	11%
Not sure	7%	11%	3%	16%

	Bas- e	2020 Vote		
		Donal- d Tru...	Joe Bid...	Someone els- e / Did not v...
NorthWestern Can Buy More Colstrip Without Bill Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	70%	60%	82%	61%
Somewhat serious concerns	14%	17%	10%	17%
No real concerns	8%	12%	3%	5%
Not sure	8%	11%	5%	17%





	Bas- e	2020 Vote		
		Donal- d Tru...	Joe Bid...	Someone els- e / Did not v...
Colstrip Plant Could Close if Bill Doesn't Pass Very / Somewhat / Not Strong Reason to Support				
Very strong reason to support the bill	18%	29%	5%	8%
Somewhat strong reason to support the bill	27%	29%	23%	35%
Not a strong reason to support the bill	41%	24%	62%	35%
Not sure	15%	18%	10%	23%

	Bas- e	2020 Vote		
		Donal- d Tru...	Joe Bid...	Someone els- e / Did not v...
Informed Bill to Allow NorthWestern Energy to Purchase Additional Interest in Power Plant Support / Oppose				
Support this bill	13%	19%	4%	9%
Oppose this bill	61%	46%	82%	62%
Not sure	27%	35%	14%	29%





	Bas- e	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Biden Approval			
Approve	38%	43%	32%
Disapprove	56%	52%	61%
Not sure	6%	5%	6%

	Bas- e	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Gianforte Approval			
Approve	52%	47%	58%
Disapprove	35%	38%	32%
Not sure	13%	15%	10%

	Bas- e	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Bill to Allow NorthWestern Energy to Purchase Additional Interest in Power Plant Support / Oppose			
Support this bill	14%	12%	16%
Oppose this bill	61%	61%	61%
Not sure	25%	27%	23%





	Bas- e	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Bill Would Raise Monthly Rates Level of Concern			
Very serious concerns	59%	61%	57%
Somewhat serious concerns	24%	25%	23%
No real concerns	10%	7%	13%
Not sure	7%	7%	7%

	Bas- e	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Bill Would Force PSC to Increase Utility Bills Level of Concern			
Very serious concerns	69%	71%	66%
Somewhat serious concerns	17%	18%	17%
No real concerns	7%	4%	10%
Not sure	7%	7%	7%





	Bas- e	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Bill Could Force Customers to Pay for Colstrip Cleanup Level of Concern			
Very serious concerns	68%	69%	67%
Somewhat serious concerns	16%	16%	16%
No real concerns	8%	7%	10%
Not sure	7%	8%	7%

	Bas- e	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
NorthWestern Can Buy More Colstrip Without Bill Level of Concern			
Very serious concerns	70%	70%	69%
Somewhat serious concerns	14%	15%	13%
No real concerns	8%	6%	10%
Not sure	8%	9%	8%





	Bas- e	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Colstrip Plant Could Close if Bill Doesn't Pass Very / Somewhat / Not Strong Reason to Support			
Very strong reason to support the bill	18%	16%	20%
Somewhat strong reason to support the bill	27%	25%	28%
Not a strong reason to support the bill	41%	42%	40%
Not sure	15%	17%	11%

	Bas- e	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Informed Bill to Allow NorthWestern Energy to Purchase Additional Interest in Power Plant Support / Oppose			
Support this bill	13%	10%	16%
Oppose this bill	61%	62%	60%
Not sure	27%	28%	25%





	Bas- e	Party		
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...
Biden Approval				
Approve	38%	85%	5%	40%
Disapprove	56%	11%	93%	48%
Not sure	6%	4%	2%	12%

	Bas- e	Party		
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...
Gianforte Approval				
Approve	52%	11%	85%	46%
Disapprove	35%	79%	6%	34%
Not sure	13%	10%	9%	20%

	Bas- e	Party		
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...
Bill to Allow NorthWestern Energy to Purchase Additional Interest in Power Plant Support / Oppose				
Support this bill	14%	8%	20%	11%
Oppose this bill	61%	77%	44%	69%
Not sure	25%	15%	36%	20%





	Bas- e	Party		
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...
Bill Would Raise Monthly Rates Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	59%	67%	51%	63%
Somewhat serious concerns	24%	20%	28%	23%
No real concerns	10%	6%	13%	9%
Not sure	7%	7%	8%	5%

	Bas- e	Party		
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...
Bill Would Force PSC to Increase Utility Bills Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	69%	74%	60%	74%
Somewhat serious concerns	17%	15%	22%	13%
No real concerns	7%	5%	9%	7%
Not sure	7%	6%	9%	6%





	Bas- e	Party		
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...
Bill Could Force Customers to Pay for Colstrip Cleanup Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	68%	74%	59%	72%
Somewhat serious concerns	16%	17%	20%	11%
No real concerns	8%	5%	9%	10%
Not sure	7%	4%	11%	6%

	Bas- e	Party		
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...
NorthWestern Can Buy More Colstrip Without Bill Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	70%	76%	61%	73%
Somewhat serious concerns	14%	13%	17%	12%
No real concerns	8%	5%	10%	8%
Not sure	8%	6%	11%	8%





	Bas- e	Party		
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...
Colstrip Plant Could Close if Bill Doesn't Pass Very / Somewhat / Not Strong Reason to Support				
Very strong reason to support the bill	18%	8%	31%	10%
Somewhat strong reason to support the bill	27%	22%	29%	28%
Not a strong reason to support the bill	41%	62%	21%	47%
Not sure	15%	8%	19%	15%

	Bas- e	Party		
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...
Informed Bill to Allow NorthWestern Energy to Purchase Additional Interest in Power Plant Support / Oppose				
Support this bill	13%	6%	20%	10%
Oppose this bill	61%	77%	44%	67%
Not sure	27%	17%	36%	23%





	Bas- e	Age		
		18 t- o 45	46 t- o 65	Older than ...
Biden Approval				
Approve	38%	37%	36%	42%
Disapprove	56%	53%	60%	55%
Not sure	6%	10%	4%	4%

	Bas- e	Age		
		18 t- o 45	46 t- o 65	Older than ...
Gianforte Approval				
Approve	52%	49%	55%	50%
Disapprove	35%	33%	33%	39%
Not sure	13%	18%	12%	10%

	Bas- e	Age		
		18 t- o 45	46 t- o 65	Older than ...
Bill to Allow NorthWestern Energy to Purchase Additional Interest in Power Plant Support / Oppose				
Support this bill	14%	9%	16%	16%
Oppose this bill	61%	63%	62%	57%
Not sure	25%	27%	22%	26%





	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Bill Would Raise Monthly Rates Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	59%	54%	61%	63%
Somewhat serious concerns	24%	29%	25%	18%
No real concerns	10%	9%	9%	11%
Not sure	7%	8%	5%	7%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Bill Would Force PSC to Increase Utility Bills Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	69%	65%	69%	73%
Somewhat serious concerns	17%	22%	16%	14%
No real concerns	7%	4%	9%	7%
Not sure	7%	9%	6%	6%





	Bas- e	Age		
		18 t- o 45	46 t- o 65	Older than ...
Bill Could Force Customers to Pay for Colstrip Cleanup				
Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	68%	55%	74%	75%
Somewhat serious concerns	16%	26%	11%	12%
No real concerns	8%	11%	7%	7%
Not sure	7%	9%	7%	6%

	Bas- e	Age		
		18 t- o 45	46 t- o 65	Older than ...
NorthWestern Can Buy More Colstrip Without Bill				
Level of Concern				
Very serious concerns	70%	62%	72%	75%
Somewhat serious concerns	14%	16%	13%	14%
No real concerns	8%	9%	8%	6%
Not sure	8%	12%	7%	5%





	Bas- e	Age		
		18 t- o 45	46 t- o 65	Older than ...
Colstrip Plant Could Close if Bill Doesn't Pass Very / Somewhat / Not Strong Reason to Support				
Very strong reason to support the bill	18%	15%	17%	21%
Somewhat strong reason to support the bill	27%	35%	24%	21%
Not a strong reason to support the bill	41%	34%	45%	44%
Not sure	15%	17%	13%	14%

	Bas- e	Age		
		18 t- o 45	46 t- o 65	Older than ...
Informed Bill to Allow NorthWestern Energy to Purchase Additional Interest in Power Plant Support / Oppose				
Support this bill	13%	10%	12%	17%
Oppose this bill	61%	59%	62%	61%
Not sure	27%	31%	26%	23%





	Bas- e	Mode	
		Landli...	Text
Biden Approval			
Approve	38%	36%	40%
Disapprove	56%	61%	52%
Not sure	6%	3%	8%

	Bas- e	Mode	
		Landli...	Text
Gianforte Approval			
Approve	52%	58%	46%
Disapprove	35%	32%	37%
Not sure	13%	10%	17%

	Bas- e	Mode	
		Landli...	Text
Bill to Allow NorthWestern Energy to Purchase Additional Interest in Power Plant Support / Oppose			
Support this bill	14%	21%	7%
Oppose this bill	61%	53%	69%
Not sure	25%	26%	24%





	Bas- e	Mode	
		Landli...	Text
Bill Would Raise Monthly Rates Level of Concern			
Very serious concerns	59%	58%	60%
Somewhat serious concerns	24%	23%	25%
No real concerns	10%	14%	6%
Not sure	7%	5%	9%

	Bas- e	Mode	
		Landli...	Text
Bill Would Force PSC to Increase Utility Bills Level of Concern			
Very serious concerns	69%	68%	70%
Somewhat serious concerns	17%	17%	17%
No real concerns	7%	9%	5%
Not sure	7%	5%	8%





	Bas- e	Mode	
		Landli...	Text
Bill Could Force Customers to Pay for Colstrip Cleanup Level of Concern			
Very serious concerns	68%	66%	69%
Somewhat serious concerns	16%	17%	15%
No real concerns	8%	9%	8%
Not sure	7%	7%	8%

	Bas- e	Mode	
		Landli...	Text
NorthWestern Can Buy More Colstrip Without Bill Level of Concern			
Very serious concerns	70%	67%	72%
Somewhat serious concerns	14%	19%	10%
No real concerns	8%	9%	7%
Not sure	8%	6%	11%





	Bas- e	Mode	
		Landli...	Text
Colstrip Plant Could Close if Bill Doesn't Pass Very / Somewhat / Not Strong Reason to Support			
Very strong reason to support the bill	18%	26%	11%
Somewhat strong reason to support the bill	27%	23%	30%
Not a strong reason to support the bill	41%	38%	43%
Not sure	15%	13%	15%

	Bas- e	Mode	
		Landli...	Text
Informed Bill to Allow NorthWestern Energy to Purchase Additional Interest in Power Plant Support / Oppose			
Support this bill	13%	18%	8%
Oppose this bill	61%	55%	66%
Not sure	27%	27%	27%

