



UTAH POLITICAL TRENDS PANEL AUGUST 2019 TOPLINE REPORT

METHODOLOGY DETAILS

n=1,017
Online interviews fielded July 31-August 6, 2019
Margin of error +/- 3.1

In June and July of 2019, 103,131 Utah voters were sampled from the state's file of registered voters and invited to join in the Utah Political Trends Panel—a representative, statewide panel of Utah voters. From this sample, 2,608 voters completed this survey to join the Utah Political Trends Panel. Utah voters who opted-in to join this panel were contacted again in the first week of August, 2019 and invited to participate in the next wave of the Utah Political Trends Panel. 1,017 of our 2,608 panelists responded by completing this survey, resulting in an overall response rate of 1% of the original sample (AAPOR RR#2) and an eligible response rate of 39% of panelists (AAPOR Contact Rate #3). Survey invitations were sent via email and interviews were completed online.

Sampling error is only one possible source of error in survey research. Results can also be affected by measurement error (e.g. question wording and question order), coverage error (e.g. counting as “likely voters” survey respondents who will not vote), and non-response error (e.g. the people who responded to the survey are systematically different from people who refused or were not reachable).

To correct for non-response and minimize the likelihood of coverage error, the responses to this survey were weighted according to active voter status, county, registered party, gender, and age to reflect the registered voter population within each of Utah's U.S. congressional districts.

The Utah Political Trends Panel is a partnership between Y2 Analytics and UtahPolicy.com. We are committed to providing transparent public opinion data so that policy makers, social scientists, journalists, teachers, and students may better-understand Utah and its unique political landscape.

CONTACT

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Recently we invited you to participate in the Utah Political Trends Panel and you graciously agreed. As part of that Panel, we will send you regular surveys on politics and policy relevant to Utah and the nation.

Your participation in this survey has already made a difference. At the end of this survey, you will find a link that will take you to some of the stories that have been written about the results.

Please note that your participation is voluntary and that all your answers will remain strictly confidential.

Most people will complete this survey in just a few minutes. If you exit the survey before completion, you will be able to resume it at a later time.

To begin the survey, click on the “ → ” button below. During the survey you can use the navigation button on the bottom of the screen to advance questions. If during the survey you do not see the button, scroll down until you see it.

QHUNTSMAN. Former Republican Governor Jon Huntsman is reportedly considering resigning as ambassador to Russia so that he can return to Utah and run for governor in 2020. Would you like to see Jon Huntsman return to Utah to run for governor? (n = 1017)

Yes, I would like to see him run again for governor	47%
No, I would not like to see him run for governor	37
Do not know/not sure	17

Q2020VOTE. There are many individuals who have entered the 2020 presidential race or formed a presidential exploratory committee. Supposing the 2020 election for president of the United States were being held today and the candidates were Republican Donald Trump and Democrat [RANDOMLY PRESENTED Joe Biden/Kamala Harris/Elizabeth Warren/Pete Buttigieg/Bernie Sanders/Beto O'Rourke/Cory Booker], who would you vote for? (n = 1017)

The Republican, Donald Trump (AVERAGE)	40%
The Democrat, {RANDOMLY PRESENTED CANDIDATE AVERAGE}	35
<i>RANDOMLY PRESENTED CANDIDATES</i>	<i>%assigned, %total</i>
<i>The Democrat, Joe Biden (assigned n=149)</i>	<i>35, 6</i>
<i>The Democrat, Cory Booker (assigned n=153)</i>	<i>43, 6</i>
<i>The Democrat, Pete Buttigieg (assigned n=144)</i>	<i>28, 4</i>
<i>The Democrat, Kamala Harris (assigned n=144)</i>	<i>33, 4</i>
<i>The Democrat, Beto O'Rourke (assigned n=140)</i>	<i>27, 4</i>
<i>The Democrat, Bernie Sanders (assigned n=143)</i>	<i>44, 6</i>
<i>The Democrat, Elizabeth Warren (assigned n=144)</i>	<i>36, 5</i>
A third-party candidate (AVERAGE)	15
Other, please specify: (AVERAGE)	5
Do not know/not sure (AVERAGE)	6



QIMPEACHMENT. There has been some discussion about Congress holding hearings to consider impeaching and removing President Trump from office. Which of the following best describes what you think? (n = 1014)

There is enough evidence for Congress to begin impeachment proceedings now.	30%
Congress should continue investigating to see if there is enough evidence to hold impeachment hearings in the future.	19
Congress should not hold impeachment hearings and Donald Trump should finish his term as president.	49
Do not know/not sure	3

QTWITTER_ANY. Have you recently seen, read, or heard anything about President Donald Trump's Twitter account? (n = 1013)

Yes	83%
No	15
Do not know/not sure	2

(IF QTWITTER_ANY = YES SHOWN QTWITTER_SPECIFY, ELSE WENT TO QTWITTER_EO)

QTWITTER_SPECIFY. In just a few words, what have you recently seen, read, or heard about President Donald Trump's Twitter account?
(OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES VERBATIM IN APPENDIX)

(IF QTWITTER_ANY = YES SHOWN QTWITTER_FAVOR, ELSE WENT TO QTWITTER_EO)

QTWITTER_FAVOR. Is your impression of President Donald Trump's Twitter account favorable or unfavorable? (n = 853)

Very favorable	11%
Somewhat favorable	8
Neither favorable nor unfavorable	10
Somewhat unfavorable	12
Very unfavorable	59
Do not know/not sure	1

QTWITTER_EO. Do you think it is appropriate for elected officials to use Twitter? (n = 1010)

Yes	60%
No	29
Do not know/not sure	10



QTWITTER_TRUMP. Do you think the way President Donald Trump uses Twitter is appropriate or inappropriate? (n = 1009)

Appropriate	20%
Inappropriate	70
Do not know/not sure	11

(RESPONDENTS RANDOMLY SHOWN TWEET1 OR TWEET2)

QTWEET1. Below is an image of a few recent tweets from President Donald Trump's personal Twitter account. Please read the tweets and then answer the following questions.



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · Jul 27

Rep, Elijah Cummings has been a brutal bully, shouting and screaming at the great men & women of Border Patrol about conditions at the Southern Border, when actually his Baltimore district is FAR WORSE and more dangerous. His district is considered the Worst in the USA.....



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · Jul 27

...As proven last week during a Congressional tour, the Border is clean, efficient & well run, just very crowded. Cumming District is a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess. If he spent more time in Baltimore, maybe he could help clean up this very dangerous & filthy place



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · Jul 27

Why is so much money sent to the Elijah Cummings district when it is considered the worst run and most dangerous anywhere in the United States. No human being would want to live there. Where is all this money going? How much is stolen? Investigate this corrupt mess immediately!



QTWEET2.

Below is an image of a few recent tweets from President Donald Trump’s personal Twitter account. Please read the tweets and then answer the following questions.



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Jul 29

I have known Al for 25 years. Went to fights with him & Don King, always got along well. He “loved Trump!” He would ask me for favors often. Al is a con man, a troublemaker, always looking for a score. Just doing his thing. Must have intimidated Comcast/NBC. Hates Whites & Cops!



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Jul 29

Baltimore, under the leadership of Elijah Cummings, has the worst Crime Statistics in the Nation. 25 years of all talk, no action! So tired of listening to the same old Bull...Next, Reverend Al will show up to complain & protest. Nothing will get done for the people in need. Sad!



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Jul 29

Al Sharpton would always ask me to go to his events. He would say, “it’s a personal favor to me.” Seldom, but sometimes, I would go. It was fine. He came to my office in T.T. during the presidential campaign to apologize for the way he was talking about me. Just a conman at work!

QTWEET_OFFENSIVE.

Do you find these tweets offensive, or not?

	QTWEET1 (n=500)	QTWEET2 (n = 503)
Yes, they are offensive	56%	50%
No, they are not offensive	40	45
Don't know/not sure	4	5

QTWEET_RACIST.

Do you believe these tweets are racist, or not?

	QTWEET1 (n=501)	QTWEET2 (n = 503)
Yes, they are racist	39%	32%
No, they are not racist	56	58
Don't know/not sure	5	10



QTWEET_FIT. Do you think these tweets are the type of thing the president of the United States ought to say, or not?

	QTWEET1 (n=501)	QTWEET2 (n = 502)
Yes, this is the type of thing the president ought to say	26%	19%
No, this is not the type of thing the president ought to say	68	71
Don't know/not sure	6	10

QTWITTER_USAGE. As president, do you think Donald Trump should continue tweeting from his personal Twitter account, or not?
(n = 1001)

Yes, he should continue tweeting	27%
No, he should stop tweeting	62
Do not know/not sure	11

QBORDER. What would you prefer to happen to families accused of crossing the border illegally until their immigration case is resolved--hold families together in a detention facility or temporarily release families until a deportation court hearing?
(n = 1002)

Separate families and hold them in a detention facility	8%
Hold families together in a detention facility	50
Temporarily release families until a deportation court hearing	34
Don't know	7

QCENSUS. As you may know, the US Census attempts to count all people living in the United States, whether they are citizens or not and whether they are in the U.S. legally or not. Right now, the federal government is interested in adding a question to the 2020 Census asking whether or not the person participating in the census is a citizen of the United States. Do you think adding a citizenship question to the census is a good idea or a bad idea, or have you not heard enough about it?
(n = 999)

A good idea	51%
A bad idea	39
I have not heard enough about it	10



QROE.

In 1973, the Roe versus Wade decision by the US Supreme Court established the constitutional right for women to legally obtain an abortion, at least in the first three months of pregnancy. Over time, other laws have expanded or restricted this ruling. Do you think the US Supreme Court today, should decide to overturn Roe v. Wade, keep Roe v. Wade but add more restrictions, keep Roe v. Wade but reduce some of the restrictions, or expand Roe v. Wade establishing the right to abortion under any circumstance? (n = 989)

Decide to overturn Roe v. Wade	21%
Decide to overturn Row v. Wade but add more restrictions	21
Keep Roe v. Wade as is with no additional restrictions	35
Keep Roe v. Wade but reduce some of the other restrictions	11
Expand Roe v. Wade establishing the right to abortion under any circumstances	12

QSALESTAX1.

As you may have heard, hearings are being held around the state by a special legislative committee over what to do with Utah's tax structure. Many Utah political leaders have suggested making changes to modernize the sales tax. How much do you favor or oppose the following proposal?

Expand the sales tax base by taxing some services on which people currently do not pay taxes, and making up for these increased taxes by lowering the overall sales tax rate. (n = 995)

Strongly favor	5%
Somewhat favor	28
Neither favor nor oppose	27
Somewhat oppose	17
Strongly oppose	22

QSALESTAX2.

As you may have heard, hearings are being held around the state by a special legislative committee over what to do with Utah's tax structure. Many Utah political leaders have suggested making changes to modernize the sales tax. How much do you favor or oppose the following proposal?

Put a sales tax back on unprepared food, while giving some form of income tax credit to low-income Utahns to make up for the increased sales tax they would pay when buying unprepared food. (n = 994)

Strongly favor	3%
Somewhat favor	12
Neither favor nor oppose	19
Somewhat oppose	28
Strongly oppose	38



QEARMAKRS. The Utah State Constitution designates all personal income and corporate taxes to higher and public education. Do you favor or oppose amending the Constitution to take away that designation, so income tax revenue can be spent on state programs other than just higher and public education? (n = 993)

Strongly favor taking away the designation	11%
Somewhat favor taking away the designation	19
Neither favor nor oppose taking away the designation	20
Somewhat oppose taking away the designation	21
Strongly oppose taking away the designation	29

QTRANSPORTATION1. The state gasoline tax is supposed to fund state road construction and maintenance. But there is a large gap between the amount of money collected from the tax and the money needed to fund state road construction and maintenance. To help make up the gap, Utah shifts state sales tax revenue into the Transportation Fund. Do you favor or oppose the following proposal to close the gap between funds raised by the gasoline tax and the funds needed for road construction and maintenance?

Increasing the state gasoline tax to maintain funding for road construction and maintenance. (n = 991)

Strongly favor	11%
Somewhat favor	25
Neither favor nor oppose	14
Somewhat oppose	19
Strongly oppose	30

QTRANSPORTATION2. The state gasoline tax is supposed to fund state road construction and maintenance. But there is a large gap between the amount of money collected from the tax and the money needed to fund state road construction and maintenance. To help make up the gap, Utah shifts state sales tax revenue into the Transportation Fund. Do you favor or oppose the following proposal to close the gap between funds raised by the gasoline tax and the funds needed for road construction and maintenance?

Implementing tolls on major state highways to help cover the cost of road construction and maintenance (n = 991)

Strongly favor	5%
Somewhat favor	18
Neither favor nor oppose	9
Somewhat oppose	17
Strongly oppose	51



QREFORMTIME. State legislative leaders argue that reforming the state's taxation system needs to be done this year. The state has established a special tax reform task force to recommend changes to the state's tax code. Do you think reforming the state's taxation system should be a high priority or a low priority? (n = 990)

It should be a high priority	38%
It should be a low priority	36
Do not know/not sure	26

QREDISTRICTING. As you may know, last November voters adopted Proposition 4, which sets up an independent commission to redraw U.S. House and legislative district lines instead of the state legislature drawing the lines for these districts. State legislative leaders have argued that Proposition 4 is flawed and they want to fix it. Others argue that the independent commission is fine and should be left alone. Which of the following actions about Proposition 4 do you favor? (n = 975)

The legislature allows Proposition 4 to go into effect as written and passed by voters.	66%
The legislature makes minor changes to Proposition 4 but preserves the independent redistricting commission.	20
The legislature changes Proposition 4 so that the legislature still controls the redistricting process.	4
The legislature completely does away with Proposition 4.	9

QTERMLIMITS. Voters in a number of states have enacted term limits, which restrict the number of years state legislators and governors can serve in office before they must step down. Some people think term limits are a good idea that keep public officials from staying in office too long and losing touch with the concerns of average voters. Others think term limits are a bad idea that put inexperienced people in office and prevent voters from re-electing capable legislators. Who do you agree with more--those who think term limits are a good idea, or those who think they are a bad idea? (n = 987)

Term limits are a good idea	75%
Term limits are a bad idea	7
Depends	16
Do not know/not sure	3



PROPRIETARY; NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

QYEARBORN. What year were you born? (RECODED INTO AGE CATEGORIES FROM PANEL; n=1017)

18-34	27%
35-44	20
45-54	15
55-64	16
65+	22

QIDEOLOGY. On most political matters do you consider yourself: (FROM PANEL; n = 1017)

Strongly conservative	22%
Moderately conservative	29
Neither, middle of the road	18
Moderately liberal	20
Strongly liberal	9
Do not know/not sure	2

QSEX. Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself? (FROM PANEL; n = 969)

Male	50%
Female	49
In another way, please specify if you wish:	1



PARTY7. Political leanings of respondents (RECODED FROM PANEL; n=1017)

Strong Republican	23%
Not very strong Republican	10
Independent leaning Republican	12
Independent/ Other/ No preference	25
Independent leaning Democrat	14
Not very strong Democrat	5
Strong Democrat	13

REL_ACTIVE. Relative activity of religion of respondents. (RECODED FROM PANEL; n=1017)

Very active LDS	37%
Less active LDS	12
Not active LDS	2
Very active Christian (non-LDS)	4
Less active Christian (non-LDS)	6
Not active Christian (non-LDS)	2
Very active non-Christian	1
Less active non-Christian	2
Not active non-Christian	0
Agnostic/Atheist/None	33

COUNTYCONDENSED. County make-up of respondents (RECODED FROM PANEL; n=1017)

Cache County	4%
Davis Country	16
Salt Lake County	41
Utah County	18
Washington County	9
Weber County	9
Other	3
