

# Done Montana Special Election.pdf

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**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Geoff Garin  
**DATE:** May 5, 2017  
**RE:** The Montana Special Election

Our recent poll in Montana for Senate Majority PAC, conducted April 25-27 among a representative statewide sample of 601 midterm election voters, included several questions related to the upcoming special election for Congress.

Ninety-five percent of respondents say they will be voting in the special election, and among them, Rob Quist is running within single digits of Greg Gianforte: 44% say they will vote for Gianforte and 38% say they will vote for Quist. When we push the undecided voters for a leaning, the trial heat stands at 49% for Gianforte and 43% for Quist.

Turnout will be a key factor in deciding this race, and the poll results clearly indicate that there is an enthusiasm gap in Montana that favors Rob Quist. Sixty-six percent of voters say they are enthusiastic and motivated about voting in the special election, and among these voters, the race is a dead heat: among the two-thirds of the electorate who are the most motivated to vote, 48% support Gianforte or lean to him, while 47% support Quist or lean to him.

	All Voters %	Enthusiastic Voters %
<b>Greg Gianforte</b>	44	44
<b>Gianforte (lean)</b>	5	4
<b>Rob Quist</b>	38	43
<b>Quist (lean)</b>	5	4
<b>Undecided</b>	8	5

The race is close notwithstanding the fact that the respondents in our total sample report having voted for Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton by 55% to 33%. The key factor here is that Montana voters, including many Trump voters, want to elect someone who will be an independent check and balance on Trump rather than someone who will work with Trump to help him pass his policies and programs. Overall, voters prefer the candidate who offers the independent check and balance by 57% to 38%. While nearly all (94%) of Hillary Clinton's voters opt for the candidate who will be an independent check and balance, Trump voters are more split in their responses: just 62% prefer the candidate who will help Trump pass his policies and programs, with 31% preferring the candidate who will be a check on Trump.

This dynamic is a key source of the enthusiasm gap. While 76% of Clinton's voters say that they are enthusiastic and motivated about voting in the special election, just 63% of Trump's voters feel that way.

