

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group
DATE: August 31, 2017
RE: **NEW MONTANA POLL RESULTS – Voters Against Ryan Zinke’s Proposal on National Monuments**

Likely 2018 voters across Montana are strongly opposed to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s proposal to shrink national monuments and potentially reopen them for mining and drilling. As Montana voters have learned more about Zinke’s potential move, the Interior Secretary’s favorability dropped by a net 5-points, his job approval has taken a net 7-point hit, and voters are less likely to describe him as “honest” and someone who “understands Montana”.

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **Montanans are strongly opposed to Zinke’s proposal to shrink national monuments:** The majority of likely voters (58%) are against Zinke’s plan—including 46% who strongly oppose it. Independent voters are even more against the proposal (66% oppose) including half (50%) who strongly oppose the plan. Even a large number of Republican voters (30%) and those who have favorable opinions of President Trump (31%) are against the proposal.
- **Once voters link Zinke to the proposal, his ratings suffer.** After voters learn about Zinke’s proposal, 55% have a less favorable view of him—including 40% who are much less favorable. Independent voters react even more strongly with 67% having a less favorable view of Zinke, including 43% who would be much less favorable.
- **Since July, Zinke’s ratings have fallen sharply:** Zinke’s favorability has taken a net 5 point hit since July (47% favorable/37% unfavorable now; down from 49% favorable/34% unfavorable in July). Zinke’s job approval has also dropped by a net 7 points since the announcement was made, with nearly half of voters rating his job performance negatively (38% positive/48% negative today; 38% positive/41% negative in July).
- **Voters are less likely to view Zinke as honest and as someone who “understands Montana” since his announcement on national monuments.** The announcement has also taken a toll on Zinke’s personal attributes. Since July, voters are less likely to view Zinke as honest, with just 30% saying this describes Zinke very well now, compared to 35% who believed it described him very well in July. Voters are also less likely to believe the Interior Secretary “understands Montana”, with fewer than three in ten (29%) believing this describes Zinke very well today, compared to 37% who said it described him very well just a month ago.

ABOUT THIS POLL

Global Strategy Group conducted a state-wide survey of 502 likely 2018 general election voters in Montana between August 25-29, 2017. The results of this survey have a margin of error of +/-4.4%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the expected electorate are properly represented based on historical turnout. Global Strategy Group previously conducted a state-wide survey of 505 likely 2018 general election voters in Montana between July 25-30, 2017. The results of that survey have a margin of error of +/-4.4%.