



2018 Legislative Session Survey of Wyoming Citizens

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The Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC), University of Wyoming, fielded this web survey from February 16th – 19th, 2018, yielding 694 completions from members of WYSAC's WyoSpeaks panel of Wyoming citizens. WyoSpeaks is a probability-based panel of Wyoming citizens, allowing researchers to draw statistically valid inferences about the state as a whole. The margin of error for the distribution of responses on any individual survey question in this survey is +/- four percentage points. Men and women from all age groups are represented, and all counties in Wyoming are proportionally represented in the survey sample. The final survey data has been weighted to reflect the actual population distribution in Wyoming on these key demographic characteristics.

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Executive Summary

The Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC), University of Wyoming, fielded the survey from February 16th – 19th, 2018, yielding 694 completions from Wyoming citizens. The margin of error for the distribution of responses on any individual survey question is +/- four percentage points. Men and women from all age groups are represented, and all counties in Wyoming are proportionally represented in the survey sample. The final survey data has been weighted to reflect the actual population distribution in Wyoming on these key demographic characteristics.

Land Transfer Issues

- Wyoming citizens are divided in their support of the transfer of federal public lands to the states, with 43% saying they support this and 41% saying they oppose.
- A plurality of citizens (47%) say they support a public lands amendment that dictates how the state would handle a potential transfer of federal public land to Wyoming.
- A majority of citizens (76%) say they oppose states selling significant holdings of public lands to reduce budget deficits.
- A majority of citizens (71%) say they oppose states selling significant holdings of public lands to raise revenue for the management of remaining public lands.
- Over half of citizens (55%) agree that the state of Wyoming could do a better job of managing the lands in our borders than the federal government does.
- Citizens are divided in their agreement that the state could financially handle the management of lands transferred from the federal government, with 40% saying they agree and 43% saying they disagree.

Marijuana Issues

- A plurality of citizens (49%) say they oppose allowing adults in Wyoming to legally possess marijuana for personal use, while 43% say they support this.
- A majority of citizens (70%) say they support allowing adults in Wyoming to legally use marijuana for medical purposes if their doctor prescribes it, while 20% say they oppose this.
- Citizens are divided in their support for a bill that would set felony amounts for drinkable pot and for edible marijuana products, with 33% saying they support this and 37% saying they oppose this.
- A majority (70%) of citizens say they oppose jail time for people convicted of possessing small amounts of marijuana.

Tobacco Taxes

- A majority of Wyoming citizens (71%) say they support an increase of the cigarette tax from \$0.60 per pack to \$1.60 per pack.
- A majority of Wyoming citizens (70%) say they support an increase of the excise tax on moist snuff from \$0.60 per ounce to \$1.60 per ounce.

Alcohol Taxes

- A majority of Wyoming citizens (64%) say they support increasing the maximum profit to the State from alcohol liquor sales from the Wyoming liquor division from 17.6% to 20.6%.

Lodging Taxes

- A majority of Wyoming citizens (53%) say they support the imposition of a 4% statewide lodging tax.

Stalking Laws

- A majority of citizens (83%) say they support a bill seeking to strengthen stalking laws in Wyoming by broadening the definition of the act and increasing prison time for those convicted of the crime.

Cryptocurrency

- Citizens are largely divided on the issue of cryptocurrencies in Wyoming. When asked if they support or oppose a bill seeking to enable trading in Wyoming, 18% say they support this, 28% say they neither support nor oppose this, 29% say they oppose this, and 25% say they don't know or are not sure about this.

“In God We Trust”

- A majority of Wyoming citizens (54%) say they support a bill that would require “In God We Trust” to be displayed in all public school classrooms across the state, as well as in the lobby of state government buildings, while 30% say they oppose this.

Oil and Gas Taxes

- A majority of Wyoming citizens (51%) say they oppose a tax cut for the oil and gas industry where a well would enter a two-year tax lull 25 months after it's drilled (Wyoming's 6 percent severance tax would be cut in half), and where the tax rate would return to normal after year four.

Wind Taxes

- Wyoming citizens are divided in their support for a bill increasing the state’s wind tax from \$1 to \$3, with 40% saying they support this, and 34% saying they oppose this. A large portion (15%) say they don’t know or are not sure.

“Stand your ground”

- A majority of Wyoming citizens (62%) say they support a bill that changes the definition of when a person is considered to act in self-defense from “held a reasonable fear” of death or serious injury to “good faith belief” of death or serious injury.

Complete Survey Results

Land Transfer Issues

There has been a lot of talk recently about the potential transfer of federal public lands to state ownership. States would then be responsible for the management of these lands.

How strongly do you support or oppose: The transfer of federal public lands to states?

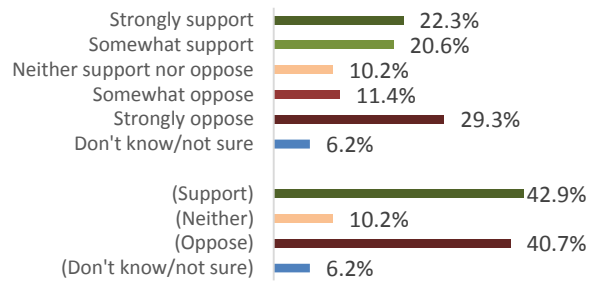
	Valid Percent
Strongly support	22.3%
Somewhat support	20.6%
Neither support nor oppose	10.2%
Somewhat oppose	11.4%
Strongly oppose	29.3%
Don't know/not sure	6.2%
(Support)	42.9%
(Neither)	10.2%
(Oppose)	40.7%
(Don't know/not sure)	6.2%

How strongly do you support or oppose: A Wyoming public lands amendment that dictates how the state would handle a potential transfer of federal public land to Wyoming?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	21.5%
Somewhat support	25.4%
Neither support nor oppose	15.0%
Somewhat oppose	5.4%
Strongly oppose	19.0%
Don't know/not sure	13.7%
(Support)	46.8%
(Neither)	15.0%
(Oppose)	24.4%
(Don't know/not sure)	13.7%

Figure 1

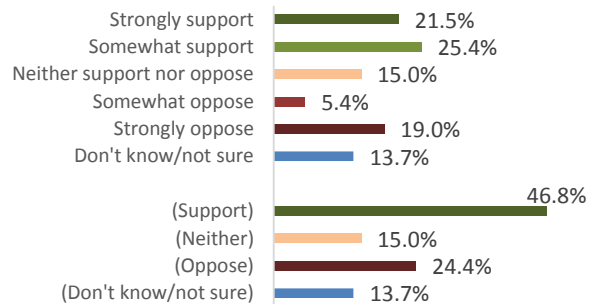
How strongly do you support or oppose: The transfer of federal public lands to states?



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Figure 2

How strongly do you support or oppose: A Wyoming public lands amendment that dictates how the state would handle a potential transfer of federal public land to Wyoming?



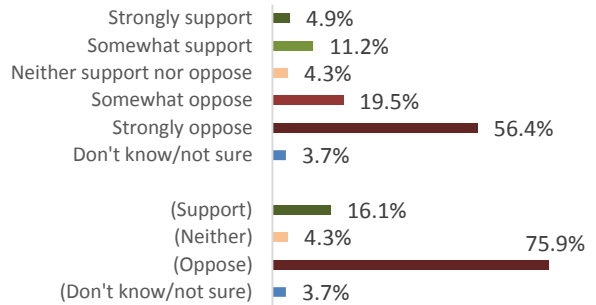
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How strongly do you support or oppose:
States selling significant holdings of public lands to reduce budget deficits?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	4.9%
Somewhat support	11.2%
Neither support nor oppose	4.3%
Somewhat oppose	19.5%
Strongly oppose	56.4%
Don't know/not sure	3.7%
<hr/>	
(Support)	16.1%
(Neither)	4.3%
(Oppose)	75.9%
(Don't know/not sure)	3.7%

Figure 3

*How strongly do you support or oppose:
States selling significant holdings of public lands
to reduce budget deficits?*



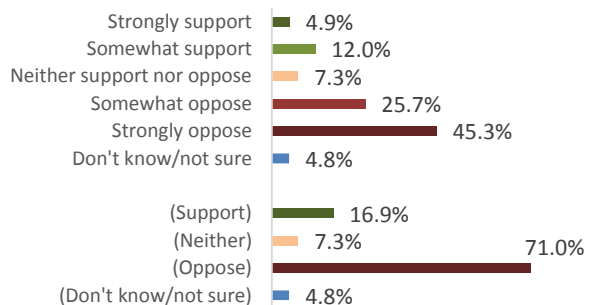
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How strongly do you support or oppose:
States selling significant holdings of public lands to raise revenue for the management of
remaining public lands?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	4.9%
Somewhat support	12.0%
Neither support nor oppose	7.3%
Somewhat oppose	25.7%
Strongly oppose	45.3%
Don't know/not sure	4.8%
<hr/>	
(Support)	16.9%
(Neither)	7.3%
(Oppose)	71.0%
(Don't know/not sure)	4.8%

Figure 4

*How strongly do you support or oppose:
States selling significant holdings of public lands
to raise revenue for the management of remaining
public lands?*



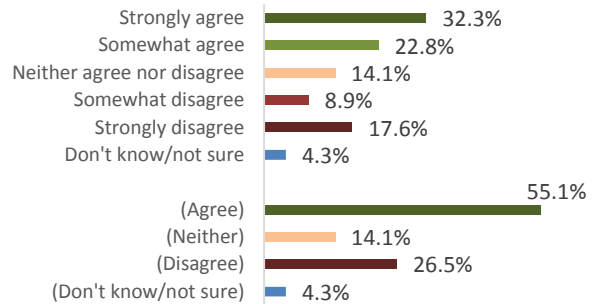
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How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
The state of Wyoming could do a better job managing the land in our borders than the federal government does.

	Valid Percent
Strongly agree	32.3%
Somewhat agree	22.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	14.1%
Somewhat disagree	8.9%
Strongly disagree	17.6%
Don't know/not sure	4.3%
<hr/>	
(Agree)	55.1%
(Neither)	14.1%
(Disagree)	26.5%
(Don't know/not sure)	4.3%

Figure 5

The state of Wyoming could do a better job managing the land in our borders than the federal government does.



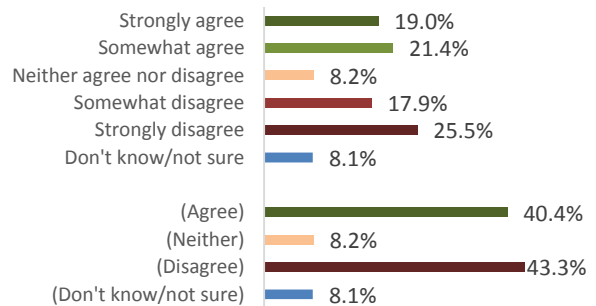
WYOMING SURVEY & ANALYSIS CENTER

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
The state of Wyoming could financially handle the management of lands transferred from the federal government.

	Valid Percent
Strongly agree	19.0%
Somewhat agree	21.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	8.2%
Somewhat disagree	17.9%
Strongly disagree	25.5%
Don't know/not sure	8.1%
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(Agree)	40.4%
(Neither)	8.2%
(Disagree)	43.3%
(Don't know/not sure)	8.1%

Figure 6

The state of Wyoming could financially handle the management of lands transferred from the federal government.



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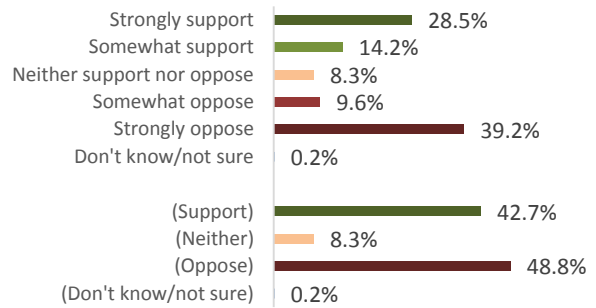
Marijuana Issues

How strongly do you support or oppose allowing adults in Wyoming to legally possess marijuana for personal use?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	28.5%
Somewhat support	14.2%
Neither support nor oppose	8.3%
Somewhat oppose	9.6%
Strongly oppose	39.2%
Don't know/not sure	0.2%
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(Support)	42.7%
(Neither)	8.3%
(Oppose)	48.8%
(Don't know/not sure)	0.2%

Figure 7

How strongly do you support or oppose allowing adults in Wyoming to legally possess marijuana for personal use?

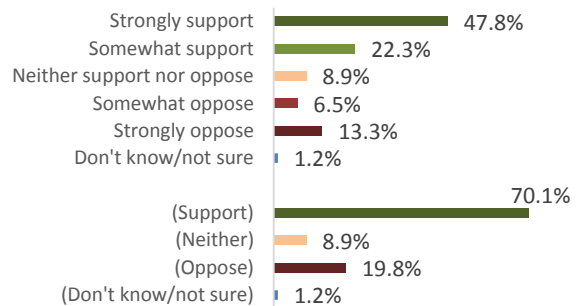


How strongly do you support or oppose allowing adults in Wyoming to legally use marijuana for medical purposes if their doctor prescribes it?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	47.8%
Somewhat support	22.3%
Neither support nor oppose	8.9%
Somewhat oppose	6.5%
Strongly oppose	13.3%
Don't know/not sure	1.2%
<hr/>	
(Support)	70.1%
(Neither)	8.9%
(Oppose)	19.8%
(Don't know/not sure)	1.2%

Figure 8

How strongly do you support or oppose allowing adults in Wyoming to legally use marijuana for medical purposes if their doctor prescribes it?



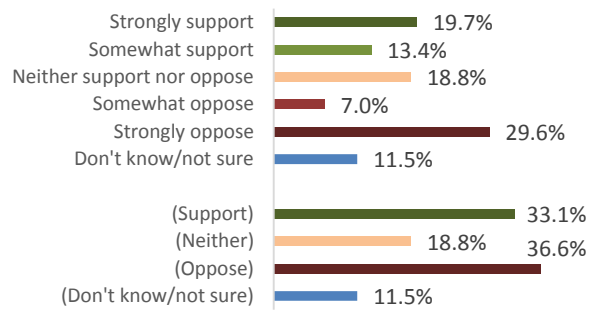
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How strongly do you support or oppose a bill that would set a felony amount of drinkable pot products at 36 fluid ounces, and the felony amount of edible marijuana products to be set at 3 ounces?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	19.7%
Somewhat support	13.4%
Neither support nor oppose	18.8%
Somewhat oppose	7.0%
Strongly oppose	29.6%
Don't know/not sure	11.5%
<hr/>	
(Support)	33.1%
(Neither)	18.8%
(Oppose)	36.6%
(Don't know/not sure)	11.5%

Figure 9

How strongly do you support or oppose a bill that would set a felony amount of drinkable pot products at 36 fluid ounces, and the felony amount of edible marijuana products to be set at 3 ounces?



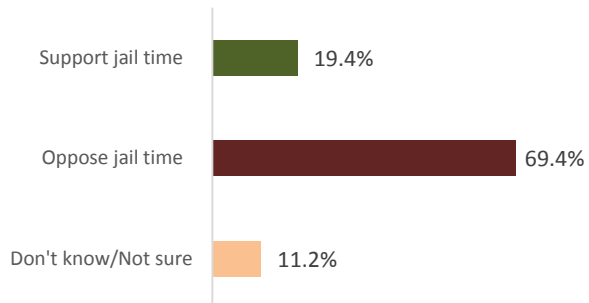
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Do you think people convicted of possessing small amounts of marijuana should serve time in jail, or not?

	Valid Percent
Support jail time	19.4%
Oppose jail time	69.4%
Don't know/Not sure	11.2%

Figure 10

Do you think people convicted of possessing small amounts of marijuana should serve time in jail, or not?



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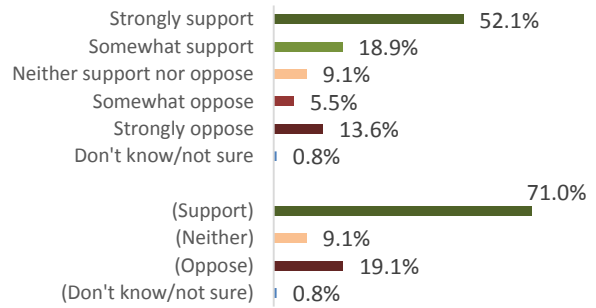
Tobacco Taxes

How strongly do you support or oppose an increase of the cigarette tax \$0.60 per pack to \$1.60 per pack?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	52.1%
Somewhat support	18.9%
Neither support nor oppose	9.1%
Somewhat oppose	5.5%
Strongly oppose	13.6%
Don't know/not sure	0.8%
<hr/>	
(Support)	71.0%
(Neither)	9.1%
(Oppose)	19.1%
(Don't know/not sure)	0.8%

Figure 11

How strongly do you support or oppose an increase of the cigarette tax \$0.60 per pack to \$1.60 per pack?



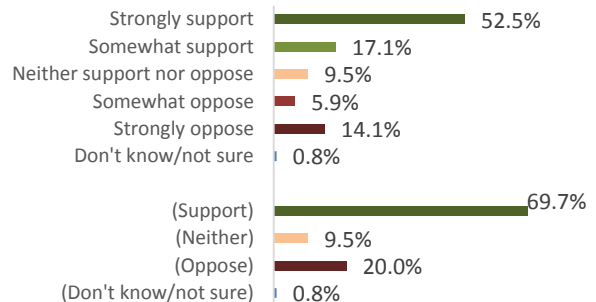
WYOMING SURVEY & ANALYSIS CENTER

How strongly do you support or oppose an increase of the excise tax on moist snuff from \$0.60 per ounce to \$1.60 per ounce?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	52.5%
Somewhat support	17.1%
Neither support nor oppose	9.5%
Somewhat oppose	5.9%
Strongly oppose	14.1%
Don't know/not sure	0.8%
<hr/>	
(Support)	69.7%
(Neither)	9.5%
(Oppose)	20.0%
(Don't know/not sure)	0.8%

Figure 12

How strongly do you support or oppose an increase of the excise tax on moist snuff from \$0.60 per ounce to \$1.60 per ounce?



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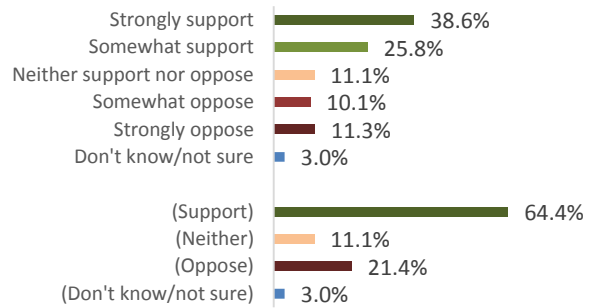
Alcohol Taxes

How strongly do you support or oppose increasing the maximum profit to the State from alcoholic liquor sales from the Wyoming liquor division, from 17.6% to 20.6%?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	38.6%
Somewhat support	25.8%
Neither support nor oppose	11.1%
Somewhat oppose	10.1%
Strongly oppose	11.3%
Don't know/not sure	3.0%
<hr/>	
(Support)	64.4%
(Neither)	11.1%
(Oppose)	21.4%
(Don't know/not sure)	3.0%

Figure 13

How strongly do you support or oppose increasing the maximum profit to the State from alcoholic liquor sales from the Wyoming liquor division, from 17.6% to 20.6%?



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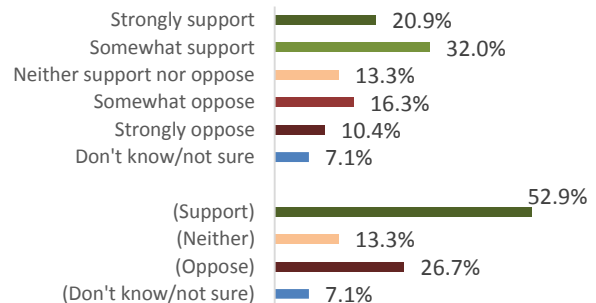
Lodging Taxes

How strongly do you support or oppose the imposition of a 4% statewide lodging tax? Of that 4 percent, half would go to the state's general fund. The remainder would go to local governments, which already have the ability to impose up to 4 percent. But under the bill, that local authority would be reduced to 2 percent, meaning lodgings could pay up to 6 percent.

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	20.9%
Somewhat support	32.0%
Neither support nor oppose	13.3%
Somewhat oppose	16.3%
Strongly oppose	10.4%
Don't know/not sure	7.1%
<hr/>	
(Support)	52.9%
(Neither)	13.3%
(Oppose)	26.7%
(Don't know/not sure)	7.1%

Figure 14

How strongly do you support or oppose the imposition of a 4% statewide lodging tax?



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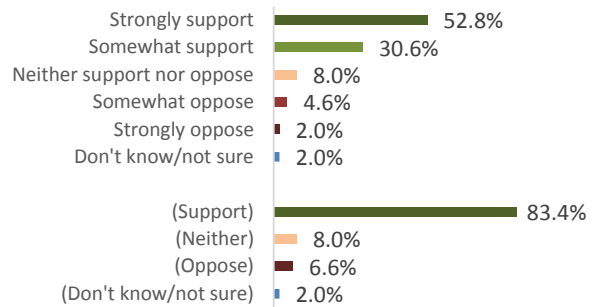
Stalking Laws

How strongly do you support or oppose a bill seeking to strengthen stalking laws by broadening the definition of the act and increase prison time for those convicted of the crime? The maximum punishment for misdemeanor stalking would increase from six months to one year, and the penalty for felony stalking from five years to 10. It would also change the definition of harassment to include actions that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety, that of another person, or for the safety of their property.

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	52.8%
Somewhat support	30.6%
Neither support nor oppose	8.0%
Somewhat oppose	4.6%
Strongly oppose	2.0%
Don't know/not sure	2.0%
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(Support)	83.4%
(Neither)	8.0%
(Oppose)	6.6%
(Don't know/not sure)	2.0%

Figure 15

How strongly do you support or oppose a bill seeking to strengthen stalking laws by broadening the definition of the act and increase prison time for those convicted of the crime?



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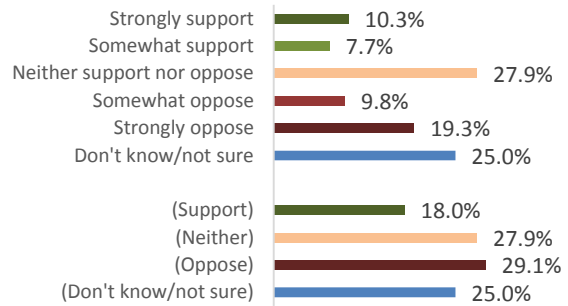
Cryptocurrency

How strongly do you support or oppose a bill seeking to enable cryptocurrency trading in Wyoming?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	10.3%
Somewhat support	7.7%
Neither support nor oppose	27.9%
Somewhat oppose	9.8%
Strongly oppose	19.3%
Don't know/not sure	25.0%
<hr/>	
(Support)	18.0%
(Neither)	27.9%
(Oppose)	29.1%
(Don't know/not sure)	25.0%

Figure 16

How strongly do you support or oppose a bill seeking to enable cryptocurrency trading in Wyoming?



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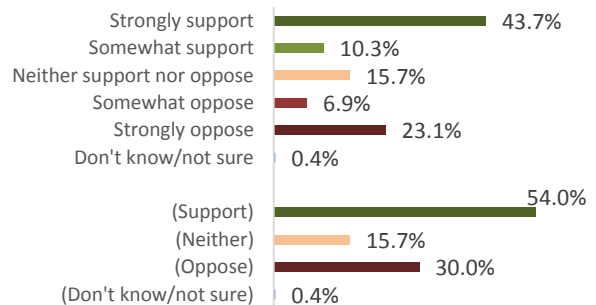
“In God We Trust”

How strongly do you support or oppose a bill that would require “In God We Trust” to be displayed in all public school classrooms across the state, as well as in the lobby of state government buildings?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	43.7%
Somewhat support	10.3%
Neither support nor oppose	15.7%
Somewhat oppose	6.9%
Strongly oppose	23.1%
Don't know/not sure	0.4%
<hr/>	
(Support)	54.0%
(Neither)	15.7%
(Oppose)	30.0%
(Don't know/not sure)	0.4%

Figure 17

How strongly do you support or oppose a bill that would require “In God We Trust” to be displayed in all public school classrooms across the state, as well as in the lobby of state government buildings?



WYOMING SURVEY & ANALYSIS CENTER

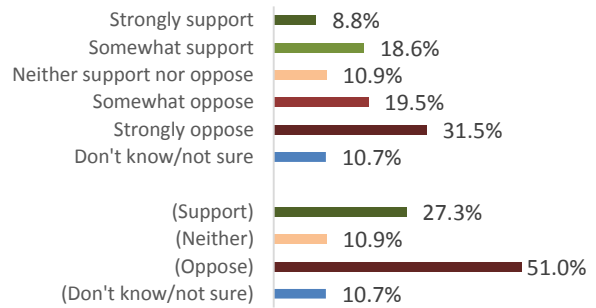
Oil and Gas Taxes

How strongly do you support or oppose a tax cut for the oil and gas industry, where a well would enter a two-year tax lull 25 months after it is drilled (Wyoming’s 6 percent severance tax would be cut in half). The tax rate would return to normal after year four.

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	8.8%
Somewhat support	18.6%
Neither support nor oppose	10.9%
Somewhat oppose	19.5%
Strongly oppose	31.5%
Don't know/not sure	10.7%
<hr/>	
(Support)	27.3%
(Neither)	10.9%
(Oppose)	51.0%
(Don't know/not sure)	10.7%

Figure 18

How strongly do you support or oppose a tax cut for the oil and gas industry, where a well would enter a two-year tax lull 25 months after it is drilled (Wyoming’s 6 percent severance tax would be cut in half). The tax rate would return to normal after year four.



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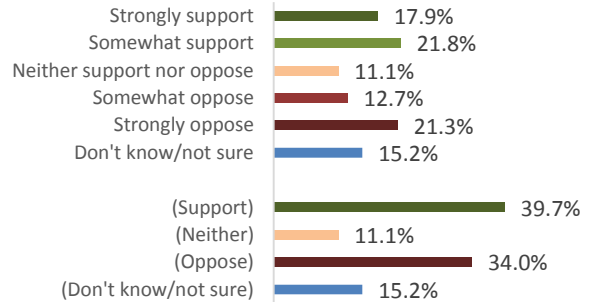
Wind Tax

How strongly do you support or oppose a bill increasing the state’s wind tax from \$1 to \$3?
Based on what you know, how strongly do you support or oppose this bill?

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	17.9%
Somewhat support	21.8%
Neither support nor oppose	11.1%
Somewhat oppose	12.7%
Strongly oppose	21.3%
Don't know/not sure	15.2%
<hr/>	
(Support)	39.7%
(Neither)	11.1%
(Oppose)	34.0%
(Don't know/not sure)	15.2%

Figure 19

How strongly do you support or oppose a bill increasing the state’s wind tax from \$1 to \$3?



“Stand Your Ground”

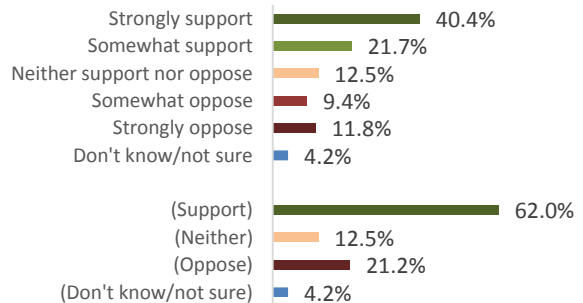
A so-called “stand your ground” bill moved forward in the Wyoming Legislature. According to the Casper Star Tribune, Wyoming currently considers a person to have acted in self-defense if he or she “held a reasonable fear” of death or serious injury. This bill changes that definition to a “good faith belief” of danger.

	Valid Percent
Strongly support	40.4%
Somewhat support	21.7%
Neither support nor oppose	12.5%
Somewhat oppose	9.4%
Strongly oppose	11.8%
Don't know/not sure	4.2%
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(Support)	62.0%
(Neither)	12.5%
(Oppose)	21.2%
(Don't know/not sure)	4.2%

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Figure 20

How strongly do you support or oppose this “stand your ground” bill?



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Demographics

	Unweighted Percent	Valid Percent (Weighted)	Census Estimates ¹
Age			
18-24	1.7%	4.1%	12.9%
25-34	10.4%	19.0%	18.4%
35-44	13.6%	17.5%	15.9%
45-54	17.5%	18.6%	16.5%
55-64	28.7%	20.5%	18.2%
65-74	22.8%	12.4%	10.8%
75+	5.3%	7.9%	7.4%
Gender			
Male	47.3%	49.5%	50.8%
Female	52.7%	50.5%	49.2%
County			
Albany	5.2%	4.9%	6.53%
Big Horn	4.5%	2.1%	2.05%
Campbell	4.5%	8.0%	8.34%
Carbon	2.4%	3.0%	2.67%
Converse	2.0%	2.7%	2.42%
Crook	2.0%	1.5%	1.27%
Fremont	5.3%	7.5%	6.87%
Goshen	3.0%	2.5%	2.29%
Hot Springs	1.0%	0.9%	0.80%
Johnson	2.6%	1.7%	1.45%
Laramie	13.4%	15.1%	16.76%
Lincoln	4.0%	3.1%	3.26%
Natrona	12.1%	13.1%	13.84%
Niobrara	1.7%	0.5%	0.42%
Park	7.6%	4.9%	5.01%
Platte	1.4%	1.6%	1.48%
Sheridan	6.1%	5.8%	5.16%
Sublette	3.9%	1.9%	1.67%
Sweetwater	4.9%	7.7%	7.54%
Teton	4.5%	4.5%	3.96%
Uinta	3.3%	4.0%	3.55%
Washakie	2.6%	1.6%	1.41%
Weston	1.9%	1.4%	1.24%

¹ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

About WyoSpeaks

The mission of WyoSpeaks is to give voice to Wyoming citizens on important issues facing our state and make public policy more responsive to the opinions of our citizens.

WYSAC's WyoSpeaks survey panel uses probability-based sampling methods to monitor the perspectives of Wyoming citizens through online surveys. WyoSpeaks surveys allow researchers to draw statistically valid inferences about the state as a whole. Over the course of a year, the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center conducts a number of state-wide telephone surveys where all Wyoming residents have an equal probability of selection. During these surveys, respondents are given the opportunity to join the WyoSpeaks panel of Wyoming citizens. The only way to be added to the WyoSpeaks panel is through this random selection process. WyoSpeaks offers researchers, agencies, and organizations a cost-effective alternative to focus groups and robust telephone and mail surveys with a quick turnaround of statistically valid and reliable results.

For more information about pricing and getting your questions answered by the WyoSpeaks panel members, please email us at wysac.src@uwyo.edu.