Vermont Water Cooler - February Poll

Updated 2/26/2020

<u>Quick facts</u>:

Survey date: 2/20/2020

Survey Population: 15,813

Sample size: 360

Method: IVR

Number of questions (nom): 7

Number of question (tot): 9

Weighted for: Age, Gender & Turnout Score

Web Version: Yes

Description of purpose:

The Vermont Water Cooler February survey is intended to gather Vermonter's thoughts towards the field of primary candidates in the upcoming town meeting day primaries. To this end, the Water Cooler team developed seven questions intended help understand Vermonter's thoughts about the candidates and issues they are running on.

Methodology:

The poll was conducted by IVR phone call to landline telephones on **February 20th, 2020** (see Appendix A for full list of questions). Questions were presented to respondents in a multi-choice format in order to standardize results. Instructions for entering the intended response were included with each question. For example, "Press 1 if you think that…."

The survey population of **15,813** households was randomly selected from Vermont's registered voter list. The phone list was limited to just 802 area code numbers and deduped so individual households were not called multiple times.

The final number of respondents to the survey totaled **360.** The survey responses were then weighed for age and gender using a raking method to compensate for oversampling in either of these demographics. They were then additionally weighted for turnout score identified in the first question of the survey.

An accompanying web survey was launched on vtwatercooler.com on **February 24th, 2020**. Data from that version of the survey is not included in these results.
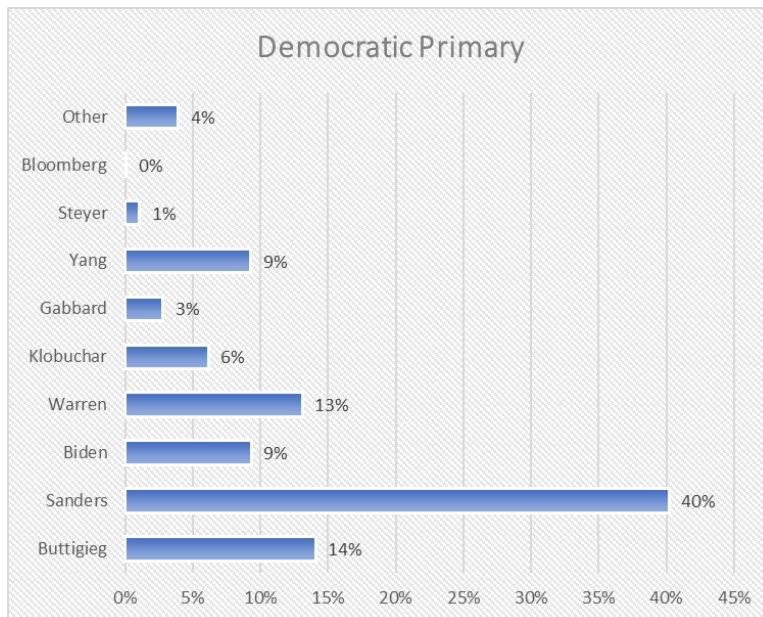
Survey Results:

Primary Party – Nearly twice as many respondents plan to vote in the Democratic primary over the Republican one. Only 11% were undecided.

Which Primary Are You Planning to Vote in?

1%
11%
29%
60%

- Democratic
- Republican
- Not Sure
- Not Voting
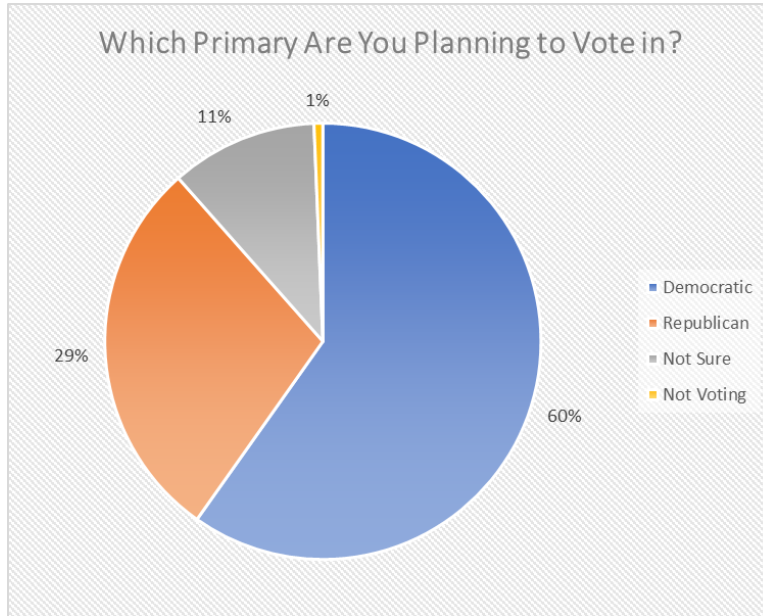
Total Responses: 302
Margin of Error: 6.30%
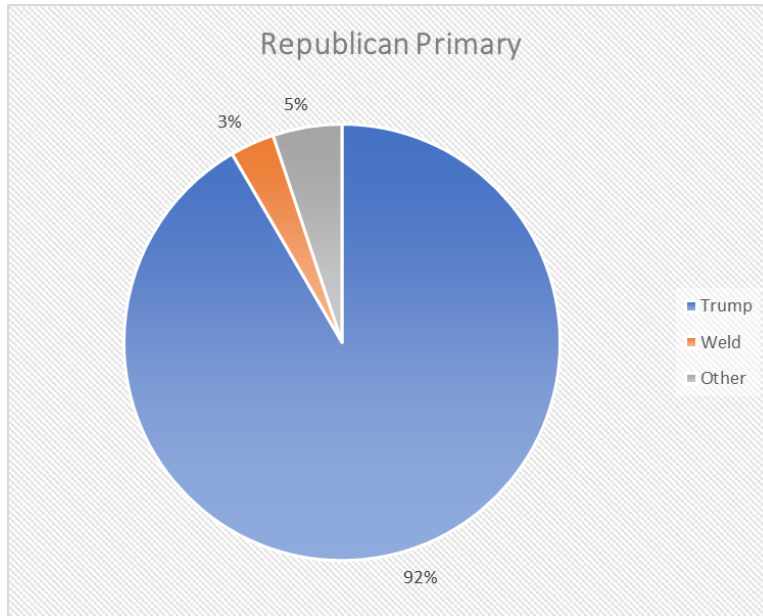*90% Confidence Interval*

Democratic Primary – When asked which candidate they were most likely to support, respondents chose Bernie Sanders by over 25 points. Buttigieg and Warren brought up the next tier of candidates with Biden and Yang following. (Respondents who indicated a preference for the Republican primary were not asked this question)

Democratic Primary

Candidate	Percentage
Other	4%
Bloomberg	0%
Steyer	1%
Yang	9%
Gabbard	3%
Klobuchar	6%
Warren	13%
Biden	9%
Sanders	40%
Buttigieg	14%

Total Responses: 163
Margin of Error: 11.9%
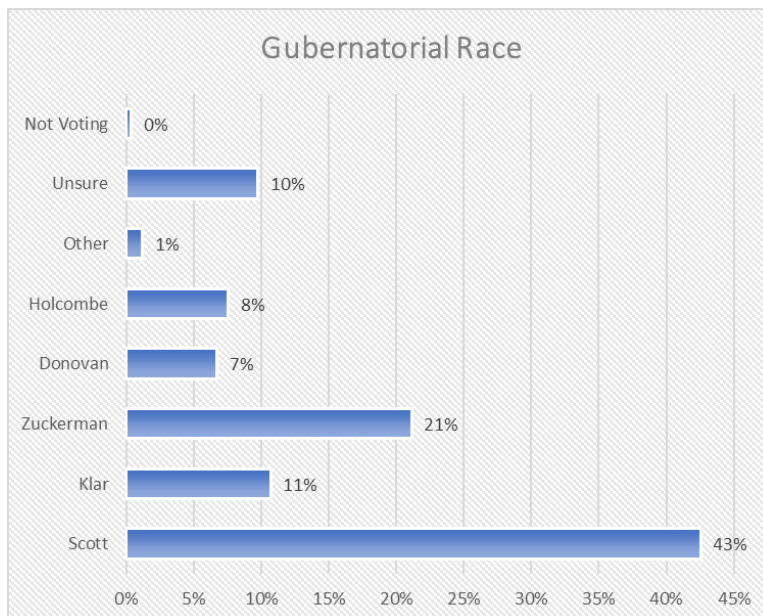*90% Confidence Interval*

Republican Primary – Trump loyalists are holding strong in Vermont with over 90% of respondents indicating they would vote in the Republican Primary support the current president. (Respondents who indicated a preference for the Democratic primary were not asked this question)

Republican Primary

3% 5%

- Trump
- Weld
- Other

92%

Total Responses: 88
Margin of Error: 4.9%
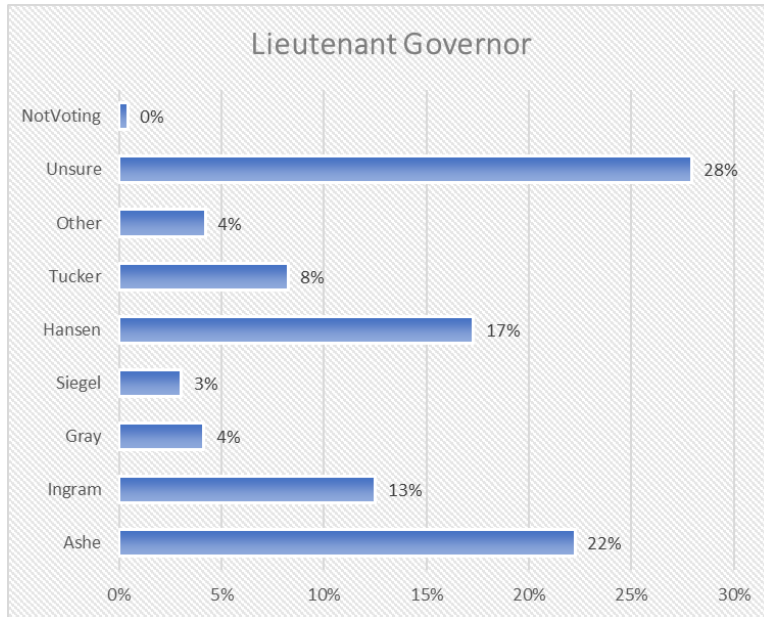*90% Confidence Interval*

Gubernatorial Race – Governor Scott is the clear front-runner with a 20 point lead over his closest opponent. However, Zuckerman is gaining ground after officially announcing in January; more than doubling in support since our September Poll. Holcombe and Donovan haven't moved much, but the newcomer, Klar, has eaten into Scott's base some.

Gubernatorial Race

Category	Percent
Not Voting	0%
Unsure	10%
Other	1%
Holcombe	8%
Donovan	7%
Zuckerman	21%
Klar	11%
Scott	43%

Total Responses: 261
Margin of Error: 7.6%
90% Confidence Interval

Lieutenant Governor – Tim Ashe and Meg Hansen are the clear frontrunners, however, 28% of respondents are still undecided. Debbie Ingram and Dwayne Tucker are a distant third and fourth.

Total Responses: 245
Margin of Error: 9.3%
90% Confidence Interval

Statewide Issue – When asked about the most important issue in the statewide races, taxes were the clear priority. Climate change was a distant second followed a three-way split between Marijuana, Minimum Wage, and other issues.
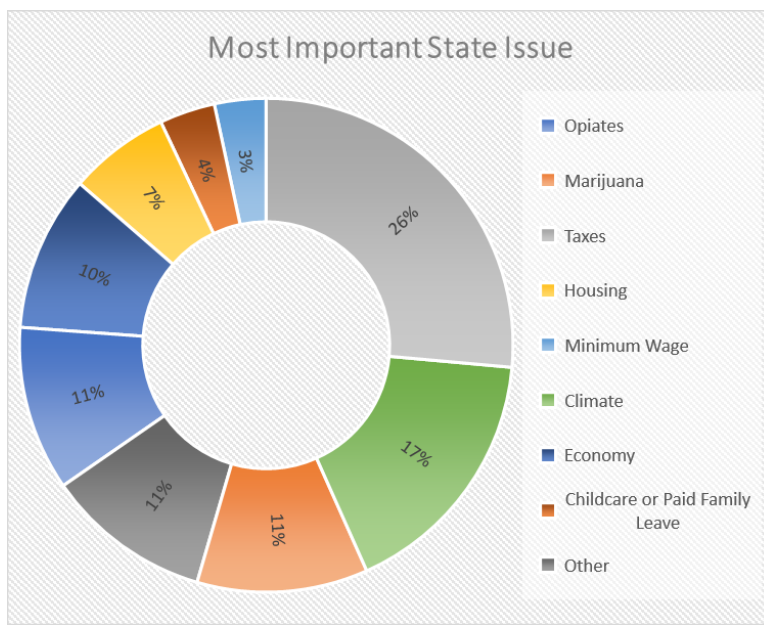
Total Responses: 241
Margin of Error: 9.9%
90% Confidence Interval

Appendix A

Survey questions and allowed responses.

1. **On a scale of 1 to 5, how likely are you to vote in the presidential primary on Tuesday, March 3ʳᵈ?**
   a. Probably not voting
   b. Not sure
   c. Might vote
   d. Probably voting
   e. Definitely voting
2. **If you do vote on March 3ʳᵈ, would you vote in the Democratic or Republican primary?**
   a. Democratic Primary (continue to question 3)
   b. Republican Primary (skip to question 4)
   c. Not Sure (skip to question 5)
   d. Not planning to vote (skip to question 5)
3. **If the primary election were today, which Democratic Presidential Candidate are you most likely to support? (skip to question 5)**
   a. South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg
   b. Senator Bernie Sanders
   c. Former Vice President Joe Biden
   d. Senator Elizabeth Warren
   e. Senator Amy Klobuchar
   f. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard
   g. Entrepreneur Andrew Yang
   h. Businessman Tom Steyer
   i. Businessman Michael Bloomberg
   j. Other
4. **If the primary election were today, which Republican Presidential Candidate are you most likely to support?**
   a. Current President Donald Trump
   b. Former Massachusetts Governor Bill Weld
   c. Other
5. **Which potential candidate are you most likely to support in the 2020 Vermont Governor's race?**
   a. Current Governor Phil Scott (Republican)
   b. Lawyer John Klar (Republican)
   c. Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman (Democrat/Progressive)
   d. Attorney General TJ Donovan (Democrat)
   e. Former Education Secretary Rebecca Holcombe (Democrat)
   f. Other
   g. Unsure
   h. Not Voting
6. **Which potential candidate are you most likely to support in the 2020 Vermont Lieutenant Governor's race?**
   a. Senate President Pro Temp Tim Ashe (Democrat/Progressive)
   b. State Senator Debbie Ingram (Democrat)
   c. Assistant Attorney General Molly Gray (Democrat)
   d. Activist Brenda Siegel (Democrat)

    e.   Health Care Policy Advisor Meg Hansen (Republican)
    f.   Engineer Dwayne Tucker (Republican)
    g.   Other
    h.   Unsure
    i.   Not Voting

7. What statewide issue is most important to you in the race for Governor and Lieutenant Governor?
    a.   Opiate Epidemic
    b.   Legalization of Retail Marijuana
    c.   Taxes
    d.   Cost of Housing
    e.   Minimum Wage
    f.   Climate Change
    g.   Economic Development/job creation
    h.   Child Care or Paid Family Leave
    i.   Other

Appendix B – Results Tables

Unweighted Results

Question	Resposne	Count	%	Responses	MOE 90%
Voting Likelihood	1	52	14%	**360**	**0.080**
	2	27	8%		
	3	19	5%		
	4	28	8%		
	5	234	65%		
Which Primary	Democratic	170	56%	**302**	**0.063**
	Republican	89	29%		
	NotSure	39	13%		
	NotVoting	4	1%		
Democratic Primary	Buttigieg	24	15%	**163**	**0.119**
	Sanders	63	39%		
	Biden	17	10%		
	Warren	21	13%		
	Klobuchar	12	7%		
	Gabbard	3	2%		
	Yang	13	8%		
	Steyer	2	1%		
	Bloomberg	1	1%		
	Other	7	4%		
Republican Primary	Trump	81	92%	**88**	**0.049**
	Weld	3	3%		
	Other	4	5%		
Governor	Scott	115	44%	**261**	**0.076**
	Klar	26	10%		
	Zuckerman	52	20%		
	Donovan	18	7%		
	Holcombe	15	6%		
	Other	4	2%		
	Unsure	29	11%		
	NotVoting	2	1%		
Lieutenant Governor	Ashe	54	22%	**245**	**0.093**
	Ingram	24	10%		
	Gray	12	5%		
	Siegel	4	2%		
	Hansen	42	17%		
	Tucker	19	8%		
	Other	15	6%		
	Unsure	72	29%		
	NotVoting	3	1%		
State Issue	Opiates	31	13%	**241**	**0.099**
	Marijuana	13	5%		
	Taxes	72	30%		
	Housing	15	6%		
	MinWage	10	4%		
	Climate	41	17%		
	Economy	26	11%		
	ChildcarePFL	6	2%		
	Other	27	11%		
Age Group	1830	7	3%	**240**	
	3145	20	8%		
	4660	50	21%		
	6175	102	43%		
	76plus	61	25%		
Gender	Male	111	46%	**236**	
	Female	115	48%		
	Other	10	4%		

Weighted Results

Question	Response	Weighted	Percentage	Total
Voting Likelihood	1	105.16869	15%	**678.832**
	2	56.088721	8%	
	3	33.747592	5%	
	4	55.516698	8%	
	5	428.3103	63%	
Which Primary	Democratic	1406.5989	60%	**2352.11**
	Republican	674.1486	29%	
	NotSure	255.96747	11%	
	NotVoting	15.397735	1%	
Democratic Primary	Buttigieg	190.31617	14%	**1350.42**
	Sanders	542.84267	40%	
	Biden	125.87237	9%	
	Warren	176.88314	13%	
	Klobuchar	83.217413	6%	
	Gabbard	37.529903	3%	
	Yang	125.56322	9%	
	Steyer	14	1%	
	Bloomberg	1.324191	0%	
	Other	52.873491	4%	
Republican Primary	Trump	611.60196	92%	**667.707**
	Weld	21.941365	3%	
	Other	34.163514	5%	
Presidential Issue	Immigration	333.3641	15%	**2181.04**
	Climate	629.18884	29%	
	TradeWar	153.07722	7%	
	Racism	78.887972	4%	
	Debt	225.54951	10%	
	Recession	128.50233	6%	
	MinWage	77.337296	4%	
	Coronavirus	90.689205	4%	
	Other	464.44641	21%	
Governor	Scott	870.86591	43%	**2046.26**
	Klar	218.81819	11%	
	Zuckerman	433.00558	21%	
	Donovan	137.56967	7%	
	Holcombe	154.27943	8%	
	Other	24.568727	1%	
	Unsure	199.56298	10%	
	NotVoting	7.5934426	0%	
Lieutenant Governor	Ashe	422.71111	22%	**1899.19**
	Ingram	237.41504	13%	
	Gray	78.674658	4%	
	Siegel	57.212541	3%	
	Hansen	328.37138	17%	
	Tucker	156.53359	8%	
	Other	79.691043	4%	
	Unsure	530.64531	28%	
	NotVoting	7.9401538	0%	
State Issue	Opiates	201.47335	11%	**1868.35**
	Marijuana	209.17393	11%	
	Taxes	493.71437	26%	
	Housing	123.57294	7%	
	MinWage	63.195302	3%	
	Climate	315.7299	17%	
	Economy	190.64165	10%	
	ChildcarePFL	68.046427	4%	
	Other	202.80122	11%	