

**October
2014**

Nebraska 2nd District Survey
Amtrak and 2014 Election Questions



DFM Research

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Survey Methodology:

The survey results presented are based on a stratified random sample of 450 Nebraska Congressional District 2 residents (365 which said very likely or certain to vote) contacted by landline and cell phone. The sample was stratified by region (three distinct regions) to ensure a representative sample of residents.

- 30% - Eastern Douglas County
- 53% - Western Douglas County
- 17% - Sarpy County

After the numbers were stratified into the appropriate region, telephone numbers were then selected by random using a skip pattern to guarantee that the interviews were distributed throughout the region. Each number in the stratified sample had the same non-zero chance of being selected for an interview.

Telephone interviews were conducted by trained staff of Stone Research Services of Indianapolis, Indiana, using a computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) system for landline phones. Cell phone interviews are dialed manually to comply with the Telemarketing Consumer Protection Act of 1991. To ensure everyone in the household would have an equal chance of being selected; callers would ask to interview the resident over the age of 18 who had the most recent birthday.

Final results are weighted based on gender, age, and education to conform to the approximate population (and voting population) based on the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau demographic data, as well as the 1996-2012 Voting Hot Report from the U.S. Census Bureau.

District Demographics / Full Sample

<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>		<u>Education</u>	
Male	49%	18-39	42%	High School/Less	31%
Female	51%	40-64	43%	Some College/AA	32%
		65+	15%	Bachelor/Graduate	37%

Voter Demographics / Likely Voter Sample

<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>		<u>Education</u>	
Male	48%	18-39	26%	High School/Less	24%
Female	52%	40-64	50%	Some College/AA	29%
		65+	24%	Bachelor/Graduate	47%

The final results are subject to sampling error, which is the difference between results obtained from the survey and those if everyone in the target population were interviewed. The survey margin of error, is ± 4.6 percentage points (± 5.1 for likely voters) with a 95 percent confidence level; meaning that in 19 out of 20 times, the individual answer choices presented would be within the margin of error (confidence interval). If final results of a question resulted in a tabulated answer of 50 percent, the confidence interval would be between 45.4 to 54.6 percent. When appropriate, question and answer choices are randomized to reduce order bias; due to rounding, numbers may not equal 100 percent.

Project management and final analysis of the data was completed by Dean Mitchell of DFM Research based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. In addition to his 23 years of political experience, Dean has completed course work in survey techniques and statistics as part of his Master in Public Policy (MPP) degree from the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Topline Results:

Interviews: 450 residents over the age 18 that reside in Nebraska’s Second Congressional District.
365 residents which state they were ‘very likely’ or ‘certain’ to vote in 2014

Margin of Error: ±4.6 percentage points / ±5.1 percentage points for political oriented questions

Interview Dates: October 21-25, 2014

Sample: Landline and cell phone sample. Random digit numbers provided by Survey Sample International (SSI) of Fairfield, CT. SSI provided Stone Research with 5,000 residential random phone numbers from a pool of listed and unlisted numbers in the boundary area, and 2,500 cell phone numbers; which then were stratified into five distinct geographical regions.

Survey Sponsor: SMART Transportation, Nebraska State Legislative Boards

Q1: Generally speaking, do you think the country is moving in the right direction, or is the country off on the wrong track?

Right direction.....	26%
Wrong track	61
(VOL) Unsure	13

Q2: And generally speaking, do you think Nebraska is moving in the right direction, or is Nebraska off on the wrong track?

Right direction.....	55%
Wrong track	33
(VOL) Unsure	13

Q3: I’m now going to read you names of some public figures and organizations, for each one, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion, and if you never heard of them before, just let me know. (Questions 3e through 3l, MoE ±5.7%pts)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Neutral (VOL)</u>	<u>Never Heard Of</u>
Q3a: Barack Obama	39	56	5	0
Q3b: Deb Fischer	36	37	14	13
Q3c: Lee Terry	34	54	9	3
Q3d: Brad Ashford	40	34	17	10
Q3e: Chuck Hassebrook	38	27	21	13
Q3f: Pete Ricketts	41	42	12	5
Q3g: David Domina	23	14	25	38
Q3h: Ben Sasse	43	26	17	14
Q3i: Tea Party	31	50	16	3
Q3j: Republican Party	46	46	8	0
Q3k: Democratic Party	44	47	9	0

Questions 5 through 7, “very likely” or “certain” to vote respondents. Answer choices rotated.
(N=365, MoE ±5.1%pts)

Q5: If the election was held today for Governor, would you vote for Chuck Hassebrook the Democrat, Pete Ricketts the Republican, or Mark Elworth the Libertarian?

Chuck Hasssebrook	41%
Pete Ricketts	47
Mark Elworth	4
(VOL) Unsure	8

Q6: If the election was held today for U.S. Senate, would you vote for David Domina the Democrat, or Ben Sasse the Republican?

David Domina	38%
Ben Sasse	53
(VOL) Unsure	10

Q7: And if the election was held today for U.S. House of Representative, for whom would you vote, Brad Ashford the Democrat, Lee Terry the Republican, or Steven Laird the Libertarian?

Brad Ashford	46%
Lee Terry	41
Steven Laird	6
(VOL) Unsure	7

AMTRAK Oriented Questions

(Douglas County Only, N=374, MoE +5.1%pts)

Q11: I now want to ask a few questions about Amtrak. Thinking back the past two years or so, how often would you say you been a passenger on Amtrak?

Never	87%
One to Two Times	11
Three to Five Times.....	2
More than Five Times	1

Q12: Currently Amtrak has one daily passenger train in Omaha, with service to Chicago and California. When it comes to passenger rail service, which best fits your view?

Passenger rail service should increase	53%
Passenger rail service should remain the same	34
Passenger rail service should be eliminated	5
(VOL) Unsure	8

Q13: Right now train service in your area is not always convenient. If there was an additional train or trains as a daytime option with service from Omaha to cities like Denver or Chicago, do you find this an idea you could support?

Yes	83%
No	14
(VOL) Unsure	3

Q14: Critics of Amtrak point out that the federal government spends over \$1 billion dollars per year to subsidize passenger rail service -- mostly in capital improvements -- and that as a

nation we can no longer afford Amtrak and its national rail network. Some suggest that the rail lines be privatized to the highest bidder. Such action would likely mean rail service only in the Northeast Corridor, with a loss of rail service here in Omaha and most of America. Knowing this, which best fits your view?

Provide more funding for additional Amtrak service	31%
Provide funding to keep current levels of Amtrak service	35
Provide less funding, which will cut Amtrak service	7
Privatize or cut Amtrak, eliminating most Amtrak service	20
(VOL) Unsure	6

Q15: Over the summer the U.S. House voted on a new transportation bill. One amendment proposed was to cut Amtrak’s operational budget by ten percent. Suppose you could vote on the amendment, would you vote YES to cut Amtrak’s budget, or would you vote NO, and keep Amtrak’s budget where it is?

Yes, cut budget	22%
No, keep where it is	72
(VOL) Unsure	6

Demographics:

QD3: When it comes to political parties, do you consider yourself a:

	<u>All</u>	<u>Voters</u>
Democrat	31%	35
Republican	33	42
Independent/Other/Unsure	36	23

QD4: When it comes to your political philosophy, which do you consider yourself:

	<u>All</u>	<u>Voters</u>
Liberal	20%	20
Moderate	40	39
Conservative	37	37
Tea Party	4	5

U.S. House 2nd District Crosstabs:

(Question asked to ‘likely’ and ‘certain’ voters)

Q7: And if the election was held today for U.S. House, for whom would you vote, Brad Ashford the Democrat, Lee Terry the Republican, or Steven Laird the Libertarian?

Brad Ashford	46%
Lee Terry	41
Steven Laird	6
(VOL) Unsure	7

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Ashford</u>	<u>Terry</u>	<u>Laird</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	40%	45	7	8
Women	51	37	6	6

<u>Age</u>	<u>Ashford</u>	<u>Terry</u>	<u>Laird</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	52	34	11	3
40-64	44	42	5	9
65 plus	42	47	5	7

<u>Education</u>	<u>Ashford</u>	<u>Terry</u>	<u>Laird</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
High School/Less	48	36	8	8
Some College/AA Degree	46	39	9	6
Bachelor/Graduate Degree	45	44	4	7

<u>Region</u>	<u>Ashford</u>	<u>Terry</u>	<u>Laird</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Eastern Douglas County	60	26	4	9
Western Douglas County	40	48	6	4
Sarpy County	38	41	12	9

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Ashford</u>	<u>Terry</u>	<u>Laird</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	89	6	1	4
Independent	38	29	19	14
Republican	15	76	4	6

Highlighted AMTRAK Crosstabs:

(Questions asked to Douglas County residents)

Q12: Currently Amtrak has one daily passenger train in Omaha, with service to Chicago and California. When it comes to passenger rail service, which best fits your view?

Passenger rail service should increase	53%
Passenger rail service should remain the same	34
Passenger rail service should be eliminated	5
(VOL) Unsure	8

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Cut/Elmnte</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	58%	30	7	6
Women	47	38	4	11

<u>Age</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Cut/Elmnte</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	49	36	5	10
40-64	55	32	6	7
65 plus	56	32	4	9

<u>Education</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Cut/Elmnte</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
High School/Less	48	40	2	10
Some College/AA Degree	46	38	6	10
Bachelor/Graduate Degree	62	24	8	5

<u>Region</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Cut/Elmnte</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Eastern Douglas County	56	33	5	6
Western Douglas County	50	34	6	10

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Cut/Elmnte</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	53	36	2	9
Independent	54	30	6	10
Republican	50	35	8	7

Q13: Right now train service in your area is not always convenient. If there was an additional train or trains as a daytime option with service from Omaha to cities like Denver or Chicago, do you find this an idea you could support?

Yes **83%**
 No **14**
 (VOL) Unsure **3**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	82%	15	3
Women	84	12	4

<u>Age</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	83	15	2
40-64	86	13	2
65 plus	78	15	8

<u>Education</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
High School/Less	82	16	3
Some College/AA Degree	86	12	2
Bachelor/Graduate Degree	82	13	5

<u>Region</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Eastern Douglas County	90	9	1
Western Douglas County	79	16	5

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	87	10	3
Independent	88	9	3
Republican	75	21	4

Q14: Critics of Amtrak point out that the federal government spends over \$1 billion dollars per year to subsidize passenger rail service -- mostly in capital improvements -- and that as a nation we can no longer afford Amtrak and its national rail network. Some suggest that the rail lines be privatized to the highest bidder. Such action would likely mean rail service only in the Northeast Corridor, with a loss of rail service here in Omaha and most of America. Knowing this, which best fits your view?

Provide more funding for additional Amtrak service **31%**
 Provide funding to keep current levels of Amtrak service **35**
 Provide less funding, which will cut Amtrak service **7**
 Privatize or cut Amtrak, eliminating most Amtrak service **20**
 (VOL) Unsure **6**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>More</u>	<u>Keep</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>Cut</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	31%	35	5	24	4
Women	31	36	8	17	9

<u>Age</u>	<u>More</u>	<u>Keep</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>Cut</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	32	35	5	22	7
40-64	31	35	7	21	6
65 plus	29	36	11	16	7

<u>Education</u>	<u>More</u>	<u>Keep</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>Cut</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
High School/Less	33	40	10	10	8
Some College/AA Degree	28	29	8	27	8
Bachelor/Graduate Degree	31	37	3	24	4

<u>Region</u>	<u>More</u>	<u>Keep</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>Cut</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Eastern Douglas County	36	43	7	10	5
Western Douglas County	28	31	7	27	7

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>More</u>	<u>Keep</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>Cut</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	47	34	6	6	7
Independent	29	36	7	20	8
Republican	19	35	8	34	4

Q15: Over the summer the U.S. House voted on a new transportation bill. One amendment proposed was to cut Amtrak’s operational budget by ten percent. Suppose you could vote on the amendment, would you vote YES to cut Amtrak’s budget, or would you vote NO, and keep Amtrak’s budget where it is?

Yes, cut budget **22%**
 No, keep where it is **72**
 (VOL) Unsure **6**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	23%	72	5
Women	21	71	8

<u>Age</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
18-39	24	70	5
40-64	22	71	7
65 plus	18	76	6

<u>Education</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
High School/Less	18	78	4
Some College/AA Degree	24	66	9
Bachelor/Graduate Degree	24	71	5

<u>Region</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Eastern Douglas County	12	84	4
Western Douglas County	28	64	8

<u>Party Identification</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Democrat	4	88	8
Independent	21	72	7
Republican	39	56	4