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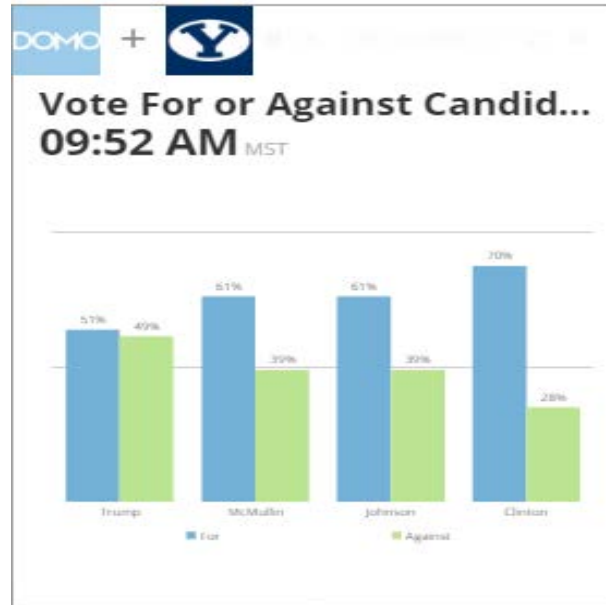
9, Nov. 2016

How Trump Failed to Get Majority of Utah Vote on Tuesday

Trump’s percentage of the Utah vote is slim compared to previous Republican candidates

Provo, UT— For the first time nearly half a century, Utah was a “tossup” state in the 2016 presidential race. Vote returns have him at 47 percent of the vote in Utah. This is down from Romney’s 73% in 2012 and McCain’s 63% in 2008.

Many have speculated that Trump has a Utah or “Mormon Problem,” in part because so many Utah voters are very active Mormons and Republicans. In 2016, very active Mormons were 50 percent of all Utah voters according to the Utah Colleges Exit Poll. In 2016, 61% of Republicans voted for Trump. This is significantly lower than was the case for Romney who got 96% of the Republican vote in 2012 and McCain who got 90 % in 2008,



Interestingly, most voters did not know how they were going to vote until election day or a few days of the election. Over 50% of those that voted for McMullin decided to do so within a few days of the election. This was likely a factor in the incredibly long lines counties saw on Election day. BYU Professor, David Magleby, observed that “most voters didn’t like either of the major party candidates.” Of those that voted for Trump, only half were voting for him while half were voting against his opponent. Voters for McMullin and Clinton were, in contrast, more likely to say their vote was a vote for the candidate they voted for.

The 2016 Utah Colleges Exit Poll had 2,160 students involved in conducting the survey and over 26,500 Utah voters complete the survey. The survey included samples of by-mail voters and other early voters as well as of Election Day voters statewide.

About the Utah College Exit Poll: Unlike pre-election polls, the Utah Colleges Exit Poll provides data on Utah voters’ attitudes and concerns as they cast their ballots. This project has been consistently accurate in predicting the results of elections and reflecting the values of Utah voters.

Full results and additional graphics are available at exitpoll.byu.edu.

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For more information on Utah Exit Polls please contact:
Dr. David Magleby
Phone: (801) 422-5462
Email: ucep.exit.poll@byu.edu OR david_magleby@byu.edu