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Partisanship and Representation in Montana's 2018 Midterm Election

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Troyer, Caitlin, 'Partisanship and Representation in Montana's 2018 Midterm Election' (2019). Carroll College Student Undergraduate Research Festival. 75.
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Research questions: whether Montanans feel better represented by state than federal government, and whether there are big party divides on this matter.

Findings: Montanans feel better represented by state than the federal government, regardless of party affiliation. Partisanship is relevant for view of the federal but not for views of the state government.

2018 Carroll College Exit Poll Questions Utilized

5. How well does the state government in Helena represent the values of people in your community?
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not at all

6. How well does the federal government in Washington, D.C. represent the values of people in your community?
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not at all

State vs Federal Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State/ Not at all</th>
<th>State/ Somewhat Well</th>
<th>State/ Very Well</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal/ Not at All</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal/ Somewhat Well</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal/ Very Well</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

- Partisan Split
- Not State vs Federal, but Republican vs Democrat
- Significant differences for federal
- Results for state less split and more balanced
- Other Factors
  - Trump Administration
  - Federal House & Senate
  - State House & Senate
  - Big Government