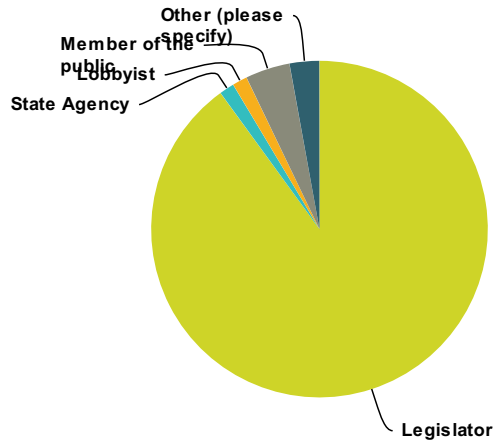


Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q2 Legislative Function

Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



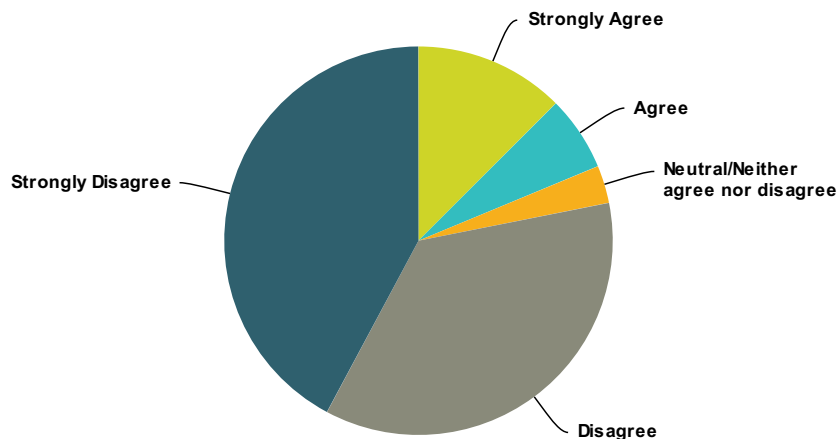
Answer Choices	Responses
Legislator	90.00% 63
State Agency	1.43% 1
Lobbyist	1.43% 1
Member of the public	4.29% 3
Other (please specify)	2.86% 2
Total	70

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Legislator	7/11/2014 6:55 AM
2	Member of the Public and Media Member	7/4/2014 11:17 PM

Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q3 Legislators should not be permitted to use any form of electronic communication device during committee meetings.

Answered: 64 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	12.50%	8
Agree	6.25%	4
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree	3.13%	2
Disagree	35.94%	23
Strongly Disagree	42.19%	27
Total		64

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	Using a laptop to look up background information or verify claims that are made during committee hearings is very important to the integrity and substance of the hearing and follow-up questions. Although I don't use social media that much, real time tweeting is an effective way to inform the public immediately on developments that take place in the committee. This strengthens our democratic process.	7/11/2014 7:13 AM
2	fact checking is important	7/6/2014 6:17 PM
3	I would say that using technology during executive action is very different than using technology during a hearing. The public should be the priority during a hearing and electronics use should be very limited to only things needed to immediately help a legislator have productive interaction related to the hearing (e.g. looking up a statute)	7/6/2014 1:32 PM
4	Electronic communication is the only form of communication for many Legislators to their home, family, constituents, business. Used properly it is a helpful for research and record keeping. Reading the newspaper is far more inconsiderate during public testimony.	7/6/2014 8:42 AM
5	Legislators need to be counicled on this subject, there should not be a rule!	7/5/2014 7:15 AM
6	The use of electronic devices has opened a world of opportunities for those like myself with hidden neurological disabilities that impact handwriting and memory. Considering the number of head injury impacted veterans, those who are aging, and those with neurological disorders who may now or in the future serve in the state legislature. It would be short-sighted of the committee to require those who require this now normalized behavior, the use of electronic equipment, to then require disclosure of one's disability and adaptive behavior. As a member of the public and as a member of the media I anticipate that those in elected office I am observing are using the most efficient and effective means to take in and apply the testimony before them. If you ban the use of electronic devices, would you also then ban use of a pen for notetaking and doodling?	7/4/2014 11:34 PM
7	Although public perception is important, reality is also important. Most of what is heard during testimony is being repeated over and over. This time could be used to both listen, and respond to the thousands of emails received per week, something that takes time and effort to do, especially without staff. If our time is dictated on what we can and cannot do, I will appreciate new staff hired to taken on roles we are no longer allowed to do.	7/3/2014 12:48 PM
8	We are often working on several issues at once. I am always respectful of the people who have come to testify and to my fellow committee members, but we also all understand that there are times when we need to excuse ourselves to address other matters.	7/3/2014 11:33 AM
9	Committee time is for hearing the bills and LISTENING, not using electronic devices.	7/3/2014 9:44 AM
10	Slippery slope. The real issue is that committee meetings aren't productive. Why address the symptom instead of the cause. No one likes to go to meetings where nothing gets done. The real question is how to make committee meetings more productive - all they are now is opportunities for special interests to grandstand.	7/3/2014 7:59 AM
11	This statement is totally ridiculous. There is no way to track our committee hearings and bills, as well as communicate with everyone from the caretaker for my newborn son to my constituents from home, without the use of electronic devices.	7/3/2014 6:00 AM

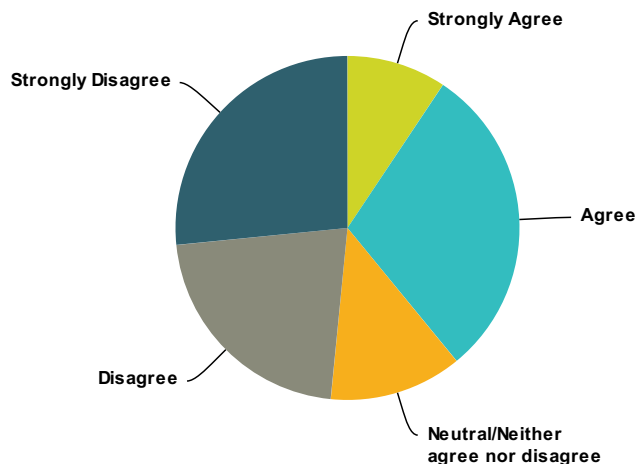
Electronic Device Use for Legislators

12	I would allow texting on a limited basis	7/2/2014 7:27 PM
13	It depends on what you are using the electronic communication device for. It is helpful to do quick research on topics at hand or to receive information from constituents that is timely and valuable. I have used my lap top to look at past budgets and bills. We would adjust and be more focused.	7/2/2014 7:12 PM
14	I receive all my information at legislature on my iPad. No paper.	7/2/2014 5:22 PM
15	We are using less and less paper now, even for taking notes, and it is just not realistic in this age to totally eliminate electronic devices.	7/2/2014 5:03 PM
16	I have taken all my committee hearing notes for the past four sessions on my laptop. I can refer back to any bill at any time and know exactly what was being said. When I read bills prior to a hearing I can insert the corresponding MCA into my notes for easy reference. The boneheads who spend committee time on facebook or twitter will remain boneheads regardless the decision of the legislative council.	7/2/2014 4:10 PM
17	I often use my phone and or iPad to research or crosscheck data during committee meetings.	7/2/2014 3:34 PM
18	I use my laptop to take notes of committee proceedings, but I do not email or access social media during committee hearings. I think limiting use of devices to note-taking, research or fact-checking during committee hearings, or referencing testimony is reasonable.	7/2/2014 3:12 PM
19	Often I look things up, an MCA, a bill, a report previously reviewed. This ability enables me and others to find "facts" and, I believe, facilitates discussions.	7/2/2014 2:34 PM
20	Electronic devices are a part of our world now and should be allowed, but some etiquette should be developed to discourage usage at important times.	7/2/2014 1:14 PM

Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q4 Legislators should be permitted to use forms of electronic communication device during committee meetings for reference and research purposes only.

Answered: 64 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	9.38%	6
Agree	29.69%	19
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree	12.50%	8
Disagree	21.88%	14
Strongly Disagree	26.56%	17
Total		64

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	see £3 above	7/11/2014 12:28 PM
2	A rule like this cannot be policed and people should be trusted to use electronic devices appropriately and on tasks related to their work in the committee. If they don't, someone else can tweet that out and help get them defeated in the next election. Let the voters decide what to do about a legislator who doesn't use time wisely or appropriately for any reason, any where, any time.	7/11/2014 7:13 AM
3	All uses of electronic devices should be permitted.	7/7/2014 2:06 PM
4	fact checking and alternatives help with the legislative process	7/6/2014 6:17 PM
5	See above comments	7/6/2014 8:42 AM
6	While serving in committee, we often have bills to introduce in other rooms. We can spend more time getting actual work done if we can get a text from the other committee letting us know that they are ready for us.	7/3/2014 11:33 AM
7	Notes and research after LISTENING!	7/3/2014 9:44 AM
8	I agree but it would be impossible to monitor and therefore I see no way to restrict it's use other than to restrict during different orders of business.	7/3/2014 9:20 AM
9	They should be able to use them for anything.	7/3/2014 7:59 AM
10	The content of my communication will not be monitored. Notes are passed to legislators during meetings for a variety of reasons, including personal reasons, and these notes are no different than using electronic communication. If the Legislative Council proposes to monitor the content of electronic communication then all notes passed to legislators should be monitored for content too.	7/3/2014 6:00 AM
11	This would be the only exception to my answer to 3, and only for those legislators who pull up an electronic version of the bill instead of the paper copy.	7/2/2014 7:50 PM
12	I would like to see a limited use.... the problem is how to monitor. Last session I had some people in each committee that would spend the majority of their time on some kind of tablet. That should not be allowed.	7/2/2014 7:27 PM
13	I think that legislators should not be on social media or checking email etc. and it would be best if we would self regulate. Is there a way to enforce the reference and research purpose only restriction? I agree with it.	7/2/2014 7:12 PM
14	Sometimes in a Committe Meeting you have a rare chance to have a key person testify, and in order to make the most of that chance, so you might have to check with some other expert to be sure that you are asking the right question.	7/2/2014 5:03 PM
15	I have two small children at home. If I get a text from my wife I need to be able to receive it. I understand this issue, but the general public also needs to understand that I am also a citizen with family responsibilities.	7/2/2014 3:34 PM

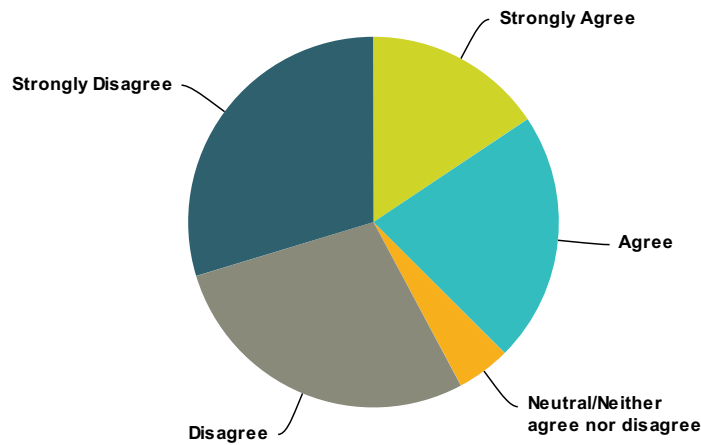
Electronic Device Use for Legislators

16	During discussion of the raw milk bill in Senate Ag last session, I was seeing hundreds of emails come in during committee. I probably opened a few. I don't believe I have ever corresponded with folks during committee, but I did note I was getting lots of communication on the issue.	7/2/2014 2:34 PM
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Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q5 Legislators should be prohibited or discouraged to use forms of electronic communication for any incoming or outgoing communication during committee hearings.

Answered: 64 Skipped: 7



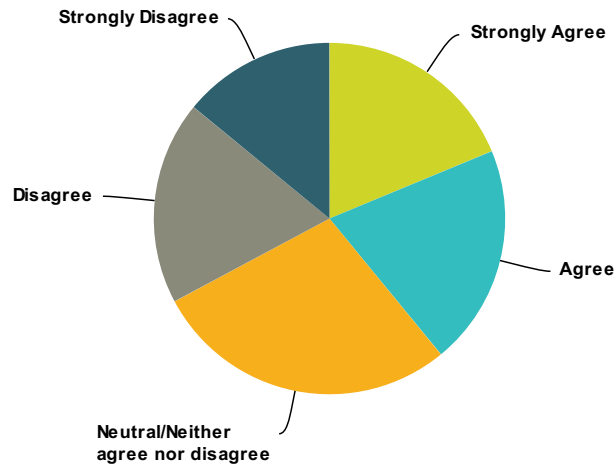
Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	15.63%	10
Agree	21.88%	14
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree	4.69%	3
Disagree	28.13%	18
Strongly Disagree	29.69%	19
Total		64

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	Absolutely not. Again, they need to be trusted, can't be policed, and if someone objects, let the voters know. I once used an email correspondence to ask an expert on a topic a question about material being presented in a committee hearing. It was invaluable and relevant and enhanced the quality of my public service.	7/11/2014 7:13 AM
2	Legislature should be encourage to use it wisely, in a non-disruptive and open manner. I was in a position so that on the rare occasion that I did open my laptop. I would try and turn it to the seating area so anyone could see I was researching what was just presented.	7/6/2014 8:42 AM
3	Again, we can be respectful, but we are often juggling a few different issues/bills at once. Cell phones are great for maximizing our limited time.	7/3/2014 11:33 AM
4	Electronic communication provides a useful, important tool for legislators to do their jobs more efficiently and with the technology of the 21st Century. The idea that somehow the use of technology should be discouraged is totally ridiculous.	7/3/2014 6:00 AM
5	See above comments.....	7/2/2014 7:27 PM
6	Sometimes during committee meetings I receive important, timely information from constituents specific to the subject the committee is discussing. That has been valuable to me. I don't think we should be socializing or conducting "other" business during committee hearings. I would like to see legislators self-regulate because I appreciate that connection. However, I am not sure that legislators are able to self-regulate without rules.	7/2/2014 7:12 PM
7	I agree that during hearings Legislators should be encouraged to keep all extraneous communication to a minimum, whether it be electronic, or verbal whispers, or any other communication that detracts from the presentation at hand. The courtesy of being a good listener is important in this job, but hard to mandate.	7/2/2014 5:03 PM
8	I have a family at home. I also have rights and I exercise responsibility to not use those rights frivolously. Perhaps not all legislators are living up to the same standard.	7/2/2014 3:34 PM
9	See comments under #4.	7/2/2014 2:34 PM

Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q6 The use of social media in committee meetings benefits legislators, allowing them to get their message out realtime before others add their commentary.

Answered: 64 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	18.75%	12
Agree	20.31%	13
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree	28.13%	18
Disagree	18.75%	12
Strongly Disagree	14.06%	9
Total		64

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	I don't think the phrase "get their message out" is adequately defined. But my points above stand. You can't and shouldn't police legislators' use of electronic and social media. Again, if someone thinks it is inappropriate, take it to the public, to the voters.	7/11/2014 7:13 AM
2	Not as much true in committee as on the House Senate/floor.	7/6/2014 1:32 PM
3	Social Media can be a benefit or a distraction to a Legislators depending on their use. Getting a legislators message out real-time before while the facts and opinions of the public are still being gathered are IMHO foolish but perfectly acceptable.	7/6/2014 8:42 AM
4	As a member of the media I do not nor do I allow our staff at our multiple stations to utilize social media or other reactive mechanisms as a source. Our stations rely strictly upon minutes or live/recorded podcasts of what is actually said on the record.	7/4/2014 11:34 PM
5	Not a big user of twitter or facebook. I haven't had a message that I thought needed to get out before then end of a meeting.	7/3/2014 11:33 AM
6	Again, doing your homework - social media???	7/3/2014 9:44 AM
7	there is not any kind of "is this a good thing" aspect to this question.	7/3/2014 8:16 AM
8	Maybe its the only time. Maybe its convenient. Maybe there is no motive at all.	7/3/2014 7:59 AM
9	Legislators have a first amendment right to share with their constituents any views or commentary they choose. Committee hearings happen in real time and so do the legislators as they work. The press communicates with legislators in the hallways. The media is able to follow testimony and votes through the use of Twitter and other social media. I will vigorously fight any attempt to curtail my ability to communicate with my constituents and the press in real time. I have a first amendment right to do so.	7/3/2014 6:00 AM
10	They should be focusing on their job to develop good public policy, not being the first on the block to spin everything.	7/2/2014 7:50 PM
11	Not a need that I view as important. There isn't much that can not wait until the end of the day... or the meeting.	7/2/2014 7:27 PM
12	We are there to govern not to "get our message out" that is called campaigning and socializing. We should not be engaging in social media during committee meetings. It is rude to be on social media during committee meetings, especially when people are testifying.	7/2/2014 7:12 PM
13	There is no question that the power of the Legislative Branch has been reduced in recent years. While I am not a big user of social media myself, I think that ANYTHING that helps citizen Legislators get their message out is extremely valuable. We have no staff to do our messaging for us, so we need every tool we can use.	7/2/2014 5:03 PM
14	I do not use social media during committee meetings. I do not use Twitter. I think that the time for legislators to get their message out is after the meeting.	7/2/2014 3:34 PM
15	I have never posted anything on Facebook or tweeted something during a committee meeting, but no doubt these communication devices can be useful, for instance, in alerting media representatives that a controversial issue will be discussed in a committee.	7/2/2014 2:34 PM

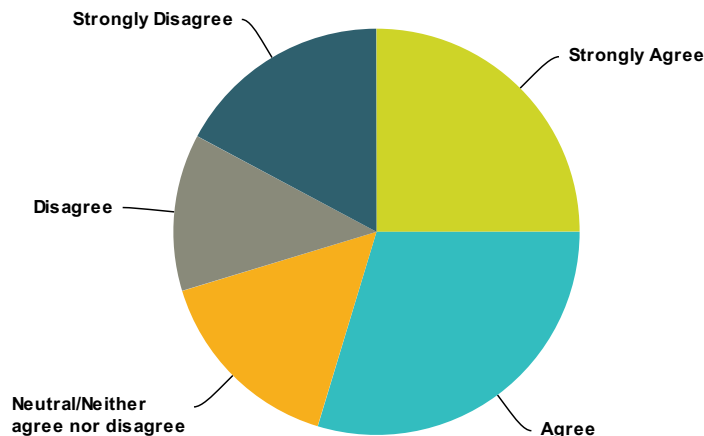
Electronic Device Use for Legislators

16	They have plenty of time later to get the message out in a thoughtful way. Trying to "beat the crowd" to the message is not the best way for them to communicate in many ways.	7/2/2014 1:14 PM
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Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q7 The use of social media in committee meetings distracts from the focus of business at hand.

Answered: 64 Skipped: 7



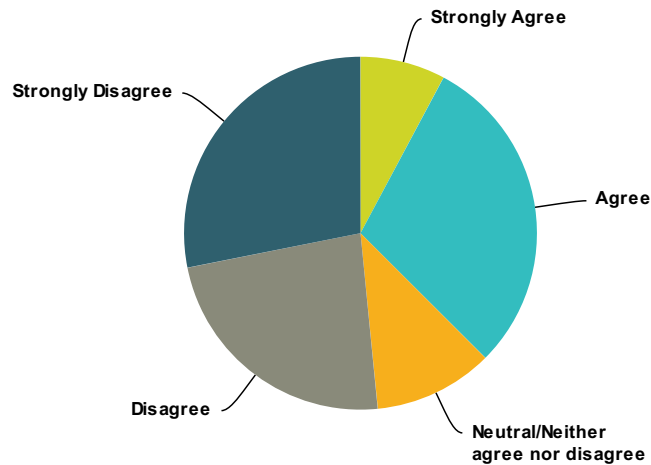
Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	25.00%	16
Agree	29.69%	19
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree	15.63%	10
Disagree	12.50%	8
Strongly Disagree	17.19%	11
Total		64

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	Talking with your seat mate is distracting to others. Using social media is not unless someone has ADD or really cannot stand not knowing what someone else is saying on social media.	7/11/2014 7:13 AM
2	The 'business at hand' affects many more citizens than just those present for the hearing. Social media serves as a successful counterweight to the highly mobilized minorities that actually show up for the hearing. Further, instant communication with large blocks of voters simply forces a legislator to own their vote in real time. Isn't this what Essman espouses?	7/7/2014 2:06 PM
3	Legislators must take personal responsibility for their attentiveness and effectiveness in all legislative activities whether in formal meetings or any time during their term.	7/6/2014 9:11 AM
4	Social media can distract some from the business at hand. This is of course dependent on the Legislator and how serious they take their job and duties to the public.	7/6/2014 8:42 AM
5	Again, I can't think of an example when this would help me do my job. I could be wrong, but I'm struggling to come up with an example to support it.	7/3/2014 11:33 AM
6	All these rules will do is stop legislators from attending at all.	7/3/2014 7:59 AM
7	The contact of what any legislator is doing during a committee meeting is only the business of the legislator and the individuals who vote for that legislator. Legislative Council and its Rules Subcommittee has no right to monitor the use of my laptop or anything I am working on while doing my job as a legislator. NO RIGHT WHATSOEVER. If they propose to monitor the content of a legislators laptop then they also need to monitor the note pads that are used during each hearing or-- better yet-- the tablets of stone on which they are carving. The very idea that somehow social media distracts from the business at hand anymore than the varying newspaper articles, emails, or blog posts that every legislators reads during committee meetings is laughable. (I suppose those will be characterized as "research". By the way, I use social media for "research".) Should Legislative Council want to turn themselves into the "virtual" Big Brother and begin having partisan colleagues begin to peek over each others shoulders to monitor what each member is reading or "doing", then they are opening the floodgates of nanny-state ugliness. There should be no content control of a legislators work and, as a legislator, I will vigorously defend my own 1st Amendment right to do my work and communicate in way that work best for me, my family, and my constituents.	7/3/2014 6:00 AM
8	I would add also during the floor session.	7/2/2014 7:27 PM
9	I agree that use of social media detracts from the FOCUS of business at hand, but if that business can be performed more efficiently and with more information and knowledge, then I think we offer end up with BETTER DECISIONS in the business at hand. It is a little bit of a trade-off that demands personal discretion.	7/2/2014 5:03 PM
10	There's plenty of time to use social media during the other part of the day. The focus of legislators during a meeting should be the matter at hand.	7/2/2014 3:34 PM
11	It does distract, but everyone in the audience is doing the same, so etiquette should be encouraged for BOTH the legislators and attendees to keep distractions down.	7/2/2014 1:14 PM

Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q8 There should be different rules on the chamber floor than in committee meetings.

Answered: 64 Skipped: 7



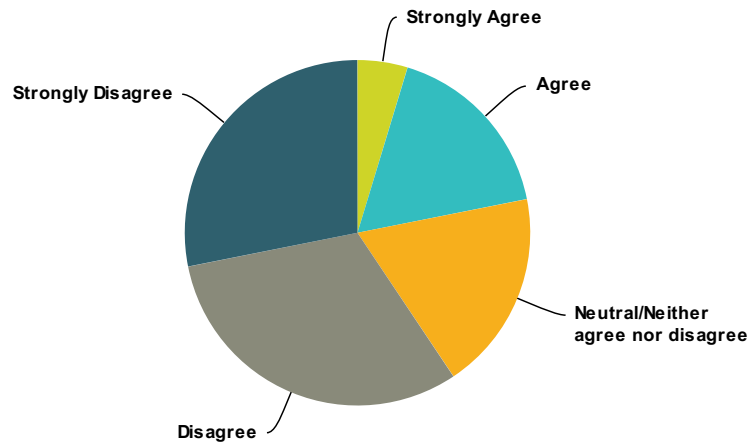
Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	7.81%	5
Agree	29.69%	19
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree	10.94%	7
Disagree	23.44%	15
Strongly Disagree	28.13%	18
Total		64

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	We use e-versions of bills and related materials on the floor all the time. But again, you cannot police these rules. You can offer guidelines and let the public as well as legislators know the guidelines and if someone is goofing off, tattle on them and let the voters do as they will.	7/11/2014 7:13 AM
2	Committee meetings are our chance to talk with the public face to face. On the floor we have to use other methods to reach out to the people back home.	7/6/2014 1:35 PM
3	See comment on question #7	7/6/2014 9:14 AM
4	I have seen legislators not paying any attention on the house floor—what did they say? Freshmen	7/3/2014 9:33 AM
5	Don't regulate this.	7/3/2014 8:00 AM
6	I see this as an area that leadership can and should monitor. Last session there was a lot of abuse by quite a few. My whip last session reminded us every week... and he monitored this some.	7/2/2014 7:33 PM
7	I think it is ok to use electronic devices to track bills and votes.	7/2/2014 6:06 PM
8	Rules in committee are up to chairman	7/2/2014 5:26 PM
9	The rules on electronic device use on the floor might be a little less critical from a courtesy standpoint, because we are not being addressed directly by citizens...but we still need the best tools at our disposal in both locations, and we need to practice courtesy and respect toward others.	7/2/2014 5:08 PM

Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q9 There should be different rules for different orders of business, e.g. second reading & third reading.

Answered: 64 Skipped: 7



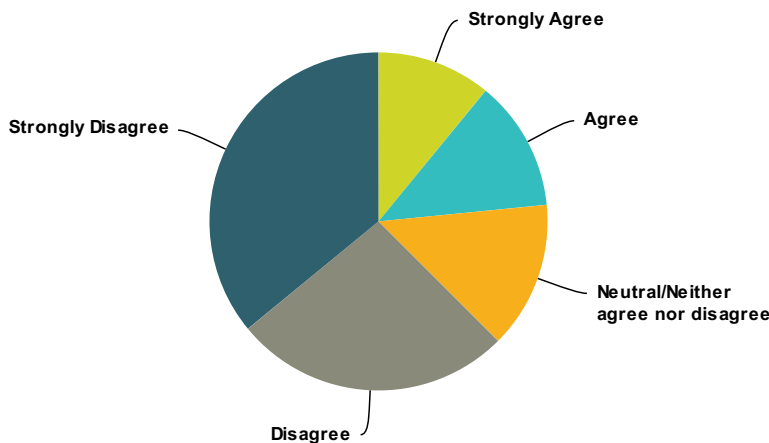
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Strongly Agree	4.69%	3
Agree	17.19%	11
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree	18.75%	12
Disagree	31.25%	20
Strongly Disagree	28.13%	18
Total		64

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	People have to learn to live with the freedom to use social media and the internet and use it responsibly. If they don't, again, the consequences fall to them - or should.	7/11/2014 7:13 AM
2	See comment on question #7	7/6/2014 9:14 AM
3	I have seen people reading questions from their computers and have the answers show up on their computers. Floor sessions questions by people not in the house chamber	7/3/2014 9:33 AM
4	I agree media use especially during third reading is not a good idea. Caucuses may want to address the issue with their members rather than establishing a legislative rule.	7/2/2014 2:49 PM

Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q10 Receiving information on the floor via electronic communication provides unequal access to legislators by the public.

Answered: 64 Skipped: 7



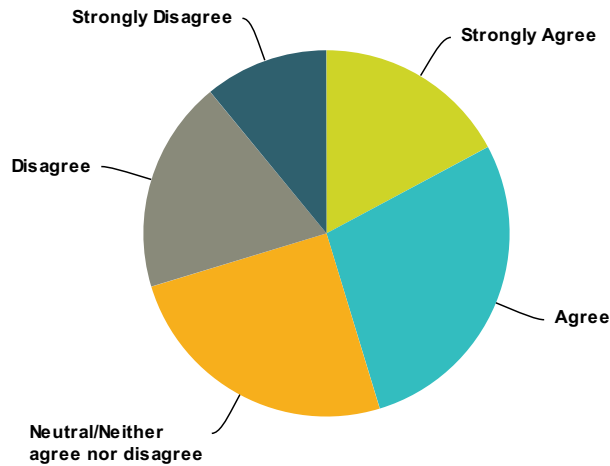
Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	10.94%	7
Agree	12.50%	8
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree	14.06%	9
Disagree	26.56%	17
Strongly Disagree	35.94%	23
Total		64

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	No everyone has a phone either. Computers are generally available in public libraries for use without a fee. Phones aren't.	7/11/2014 7:13 AM
2	Every legislator has the equal opportunity to be contacted by the member of the public.	7/6/2014 1:35 PM
3	This should be researched by Legislative Counsel for constitutionality	7/6/2014 9:14 AM
4	This allows equal access to Montanans across the state not just those in the Helena area.	7/6/2014 8:48 AM
5	It provides more access to legislators by the public. Legislators in the far eastern part of the state frequently ask the public on our broadcasts to access them via social media.	7/4/2014 11:35 PM
6	I've used text messaging to get clarification on issues from people I represent who are better versed on certain topics while in session. I don't recall getting any incoming texts that I did not solicit.	7/3/2014 11:35 AM
7	stated above	7/3/2014 9:33 AM
8	answer assumes all legislators have made their e-mail address public	7/3/2014 8:20 AM
9	Who cares?	7/3/2014 8:00 AM
10	Receiving information on the floor via electronic communication provides the MOST EQUAL access to legislators by the public. Technology has made the public's access to legislators more accessible than ever before.	7/3/2014 6:05 AM
11	I have experienced that.... emails coming in just before voting.	7/2/2014 7:33 PM
12	Why would it? Legislators publish their email addresses and cell phone numbers (for texting) and anyone can use them.	7/2/2014 7:18 PM
13	People without internet access are at a disadvantage in all areas of life, including access to legislators.	7/2/2014 7:16 PM
14	My phone is a matter of public record. Anyone can text me at any time. To me, this provides equal access for all	7/2/2014 3:36 PM
15	It's important to remember that many constituents (members of the public) communicate with their legislators via email. I do not consider electronic communication to be unequal access; rather, it is another form of access.	7/2/2014 3:16 PM
16	In my view, (1) it is important that citizens are paying attention to what we are doing and (2) It's their government and they have every right to let us know what they think. People can call as well as email. Both ways, a message can get to us rather quickly. Because traveling to Helena from the far reaches of our districts is hard and because we sometimes rush through bills with very limited public hearing time, it is important that we broaden opportunities for public comment, not limit it.	7/2/2014 2:49 PM

Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q11 The use of social media on the floor benefits legislators, allowing them to get their message out realtime before others add their commentary.

Answered: 64 Skipped: 7



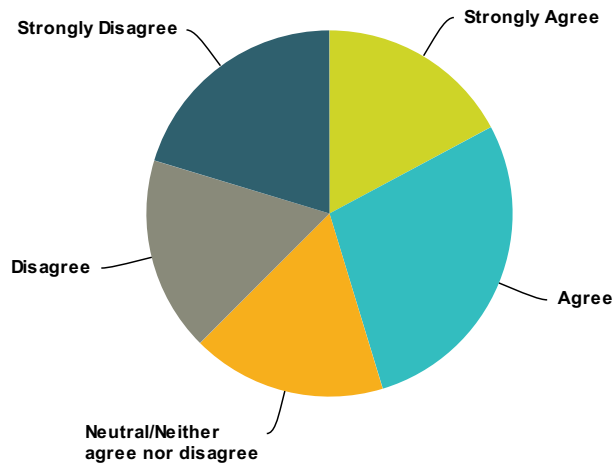
Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	17.19%	11
Agree	28.13%	18
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree	25.00%	16
Disagree	18.75%	12
Strongly Disagree	10.94%	7
Total		64

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	Same as before. I am not sure "get their message out" is clearly defined, but social media is part of the public discourse space and should not be restricted.	7/11/2014 7:13 AM
2	Social Media should NOT be allowed on the floor!	7/10/2014 8:39 AM
3	Social media is a tool that can be used for good or evil as any tool.	7/6/2014 8:48 AM
4	See comments regarding social media in committee.	7/4/2014 11:35 PM
5	people can watch the floor sessions live--have them get involved	7/3/2014 9:33 AM
6	again, this is not asking whether this is a good idea. It's true, so I agreed.	7/3/2014 8:20 AM
7	Who cares?	7/3/2014 8:00 AM
8	A legislator has a first amendment right to speak at anytime, via notes passed, emails sent, speeches given, or Tweets entered. There is no difference.	7/3/2014 6:05 AM
9	I guess this is true but we are there to govern not to be social media participants getting "our message" out. This focus is political.	7/2/2014 7:16 PM
10	I think there is adequate time after floor session to use social media to get the message out.	7/2/2014 3:36 PM
11	It's important to make a distinction here: legislators post testimony as it is spoken, but that same testimony can be seen and heard on live proceedings on TVMT or the internet. To say that legislators' comments go out "before others add their commentary" implies that the comments pre-empt others' commentary, which is not true.	7/2/2014 3:16 PM
12	It is also very important to get critical, timely information to interested folks as quickly as possible.	7/2/2014 2:49 PM

Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q12 The use of social media on the floor distracts from the focus of business at hand.

Answered: 64 Skipped: 7



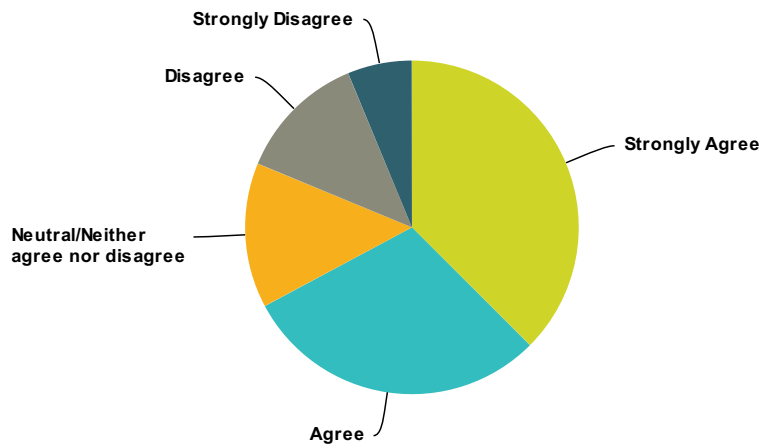
Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	17.19%	11
Agree	28.13%	18
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree	17.19%	11
Disagree	17.19%	11
Strongly Disagree	20.31%	13
Total		64

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	People are distracted by daydreaming and talking to their neighbors too. Let the voters decide if their legislator is doing a good job or not.	7/11/2014 7:13 AM
2	See comment on question #7	7/6/2014 9:14 AM
3	Social media provides little research value, but is an excellent tool to communicate to your supporters and detractors. If a Legislator is not using it appropriately their seat mates or whips should let them know.	7/6/2014 8:48 AM
4	100% all the time	7/3/2014 9:33 AM
5	Again, this is misleading. Anything besides focusing on the discussion distracts from the business at hand. There is some advantage to the use of social media to alert others that something important is happening on the Floor.	7/3/2014 8:20 AM
6	So what?	7/3/2014 8:00 AM
7	The use of social media is no different than any other use of technology and it is used for a myriad of reasons from communicating with constituents to researching bills. It enhances the legislative experience.	7/3/2014 6:05 AM
8	Perhaps I'm biased against social media, but I think it can wait until after session	7/2/2014 3:36 PM
9	It CAN be a distraction, depending on the person posting. Some legislators are attentive to floor action while on their computers, and others are inattentive with hardly any distractions at all.	7/2/2014 3:16 PM

Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q13 Limiting electronic access infringes on the right of a legislator to manage their affairs and free speech.

Answered: 64 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	37.50%	24
Agree	29.69%	19
Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree	14.06%	9
Disagree	12.50%	8
Strongly Disagree	6.25%	4
Total		64

#	Additional Comments	Date
1	How and when I elect to speak to my constituents and/or fellow legislators is solely at my discretion. The free and instantaneous flow of information serves to inform the mass of our citizenry and this, in turn, prevents a highly mobilized minority from exerting undo leverage on our legislative processes.	7/7/2014 2:22 PM
2	See comment on question #7	7/6/2014 9:14 AM
3	It makes a better legislator if he is prepared and can answer a question from his knowledge not the computer	7/3/2014 9:39 AM
4	It's the timing of the management that is the issue.	7/3/2014 8:21 AM
5	When we are in session	7/3/2014 7:12 AM
6	I 100% agree with the statement and I will use every means necessary to defend my right to utilize technology in my work as a legislator. It makes me a more accessible and responsive legislator. I stand in solidarity with both young Republicans and young Democrats in my stance on defending these rights.	7/3/2014 6:11 AM
7	I don't really think it's much of a free speech issue, but limiting electronic access would infringe on both the right and responsibility of legislators to manage their own affairs.	7/2/2014 7:34 PM
8	I am only mildly concerned about infringing rights of Legislators. I am much more concerned about limiting their effectiveness and their power to accomplish the people's work.	7/2/2014 5:17 PM
9	I think I've been pretty clear on this issue	7/2/2014 3:37 PM
10	I would have a very hard time with rules limiting legislators' right to free speech in the way I think rules like this would do.	7/2/2014 2:50 PM
11	It limits their ability to manage affairs given the busy time of the legislature, but does not limit their free speech.	7/2/2014 1:16 PM

Electronic Device Use for Legislators

Q14 Any other comments or suggestions?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 44

#	Responses	Date
1	Social media greatly increased access to our political process for Montana citizens. The people that would want to limit access to social media are the same people that know their ideas are utterly unpopular and would rather legislate their ideology in secret.	7/8/2014 12:33 PM
2	Limiting electronic communication is a banal attempt by a limited number of legislators to exert their control and influence on the rest of us. Their suggestion to prohibit and/or limit communication mirrors that of Lenin, Stalin and a certain Chairman Mao. Heck, if their message was so worthy and righteous, wouldn't we all ready be following them?	7/7/2014 2:22 PM
3	In the chambers, a "scrambling" signal of sorts could be utilized at specific points, preventing all from receiving and or sending	7/6/2014 6:20 PM
4	I think there are common sense measures we can take to address what are seen as issues by some. However, I think that efforts to inhibit the use of social media to communicate with out constituents is the wrong direction. Social media is the way that we communicate in the 21st century. More and more, we see that people are more likely to check their Facebook notifications than pick up a call or even read their e-mail. Posting on social media is a benefit for our constituents and I wish more people would take part in.	7/6/2014 1:40 PM
5	Judicious, non-distracting use of electronic devices has helped many Legislature keep track of thier schedules, notes, votes, research, and other information to be effective in their legislative duties, home lives, and personal business or work. Based on the fact that newspaper reading during public testimony is frowned upon and discourage; disrespectful persons still do it. There is no difference is disrespect to the public if a Legislature is reading a best selling book or perusing social media sites. Judicial use, respect for the public and others, and perhaps turn your screen so the public and others see you are researching or note taking and not playing solitaire.	7/6/2014 9:00 AM
6	I witnessed members tweeting during floor sessions. It acted like a caucus.	7/6/2014 7:43 AM
7	The honor system is the only way to do this. Making rules is too restrictive. Using the net for reference was essential, espeically during committee hearing. Restricting use during 2nd and 3rd reading would be a good idea.	7/3/2014 10:23 PM
8	I highly suggest not implementing any new rules. Thanks.	7/3/2014 12:50 PM
9	Not sure we need a rule, but perhaps some guidelines to remind us proper decorum and that we're there to make policy not work on our imaging.	7/3/2014 11:37 AM
10	When I am chair of a committee I will not stand for it and we make the committee stop until everyone put the devises away or take it outside. My pet peeve	7/3/2014 9:39 AM
11	Thanks for asking.	7/3/2014 8:21 AM
12	I can't believe this is how interim committees are spent: figuring out ways to limit speech.	7/3/2014 8:00 AM
13	It seems to me that a few members of legislative council need to read this: http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/04/03/older-adults-and-technology-use/	7/3/2014 6:11 AM
14	Legislators should indeed be respectful of the public and attentive to business, both in committee and on the floor, and should not allow their electronics to get in the way of doing so. But electronics are no worse a problem in that regard than leaving meetings to confer with lobbyists or constituents, dozing, reading unrelated material, chatting with colleagues, etc. Most legislators do not abuse these opportunities; some do, some of the time. When that happens, it should be handles by leadership reminding the offender of the importance of decorum. Specific rules about some specific abusive practices but not others are not needed.	7/2/2014 7:34 PM
15	It's a shame, however their needs to be changes and sad as it is... some kind of monitoring.	7/2/2014 7:34 PM
16	too much time paid to non business,very rude and insulting.	7/2/2014 6:00 PM
17	Rules are made to follow. Abuse of rules should result in consequences. Monitoring of legislators may be difficult and false accusations could result. Communication with the public is very important and should be protected. No easy answers for this issue.	7/2/2014 5:31 PM
18	Just because we might occasionally have an impolite individual who appears to be disinterested or distracted, is not a good reason to limit the effectiveness of the rest of the body who use modern tools appropriately and effectively. It is impossible to legislate good manners.	7/2/2014 5:17 PM
19	The electronic age is here - - - it is 24 x 7 and the world along with its expectations does not pause simply because the Legislature is in session. The day and age of paper (most notably) message slips should be in the rear-view mirror and Legislators challenged to adapt to an increasingly paperless work environment. Accept the fact that the public expects and deserves responses to its inquiries in a timely manner. Most Legislators are capable of multi-tasking, that is, listening to testimony and debate and still taking care of the business before the legislature. Access to information and date during hearings and debate are an essential way to ensure that policy is driven as much as possible by accurate information. Personal use of electronic devices during testimony and debate should be discouraged but not prohibited. As a citizen legislature, there are countless members who must stay dialed into business and family matters. Electronic devices are tools in the same way pencils and quill pens were in the early years of statehood. We've been a state now for 125 years - - - the Legislature needs to embrace and stay abreast of technological innovation, not create obstacles to its integration in the legislative process.	7/2/2014 4:50 PM
20	I think my first response set my position very clearly.	7/2/2014 4:12 PM
21	Boards and other departments should follow the same rules.	7/2/2014 4:12 PM
22	We live in an electronic world. I use my computer for both research and communication. I also take notes on committee hearings, and record floor votes. I am concerned that there is consideration being given to a discussion that limits my right to manage my affairs and to exercise free speech. I have little doubt that such a limit would be challenged in court.	7/2/2014 4:09 PM
23	Electronic communication is an important tool. Like many tools it can be abused. I think making legislators aware of the issue will probably allow it to take care of itself without further implementation of additional regulations.	7/2/2014 3:37 PM

Electronic Device Use for Legislators

24	There are reasonable uses of electronics during committee and floor sessions. I believe we can set some guidelines that enable legislators to use devices while honoring the public's access and testimony.	7/2/2014 3:18 PM
25	I think we need to look at Legislators NOT attending committee meeting the majority of the time but still get to vote by proxy.	7/2/2014 2:43 PM
26	I as a legislator am capable of doing 2 things at once. Additionally, I have a business that requires my attention, often while in session, and use of electronic devices allows me to remotely manage those affairs.	7/2/2014 2:31 PM
27	It is just as big of a distraction to have legislators coming and going during committee hearings. It feels rude and like they have more important things to do, so if changes are made, this could be addressed as well.	7/2/2014 1:16 PM