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Introduction and Methodology

From September 17 to 27, 2026, DHM Research conducted a survey of Oregon voters. The purpose of the survey was to gauge voter mood, identify top issues and concerns, and assess preference in the gubernatorial race.

Research Methodology

The mixed-mode survey consisted of 1,000 Oregon voters and took approximately 15 minutes to complete. This is a sufficient sample size to assess voter opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

Respondents were contacted from a list of registered voters. Telephone respondents were contacted by a live interviewer, and text-to-online respondents received a text invitation directing them to an online survey. In gathering responses, a variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing and validation.

The results are reported for all registered voters (N=1,000) and likely voters in the November 2026 election (N=915). Quotas for all registered voters were set by age, gender, party, area of state, race, income and education. Likely voters included respondents who reported that they are “absolutely certain to vote” and modeled for the expected turnout in the general election by party, age, and vote history.

Statement of Limitations

Any sampling of opinions or attitudes is subject to a margin of error. The margin of error is a standard statistical calculation that represents differences between the sample and total population at a confidence interval, or probability, calculated to be 95%. This means that there is a 95% probability that the sample taken for the study would fall within the stated margin of error if compared with the results achieved from surveying the entire population. The margin of error for this survey using the full registered voter sample is $\pm 3.1\%$. For the full likely voter sample the margin of error is $\pm 3.24\%$.

DHM Research Background

DHM Research has been providing opinion research and consultation throughout the Pacific Northwest and other regions of the United States for over 40 years. The firm is nonpartisan and independent and specializes in research projects to support public policy making.

OPB Fall Election Survey
September 17 - 27, 2026
Oregon voters
N=1000 all voters: MoE = +/- 3.1%
N=915 likely voters: MoE = +/- 3.24%
15 minutes
DHM Research Project #76316

INTRODUCTION

[PHONE:] Hello, my name is _____ from **[name of fielding house]**. I have some questions about issues important to your community. May I speak with **[name in sample file]**? **[Must speak to name on list. If unavailable schedule callback.]**

As needed:

- We are not trying to sell you anything.
- The survey should only take a few minutes, and I think you will find the questions interesting.
- Your answers are strictly confidential.

[ONLINE:] Hello. We have some questions about issues important to your community.

The survey should only take a few minutes, and we think you will find the questions interesting. Your answers are strictly confidential.

DEMOGRAPHICS FOR SCREENER

S1. In which state do you live?

Response category	n=1000
Oregon	100%
All others	--

S2. In what language would you prefer to take this survey?

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
English	97%	98%
Spanish / Español	3%	2%



VOTER MOOD

1. All things considered, do you think Oregon is headed in the right direction or on the wrong track?

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Right direction	27%	29%
Wrong track	58%	58%
Don't know	15%	13%

2. What do you think is the most important problem facing Oregon today? **[Open]**

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Cost of living / Affordability / Inflation	18%	18%
High taxes	16%	16%
Homelessness	15%	13%
Poor leadership / Unresponsive government	10%	11%
Economy / Jobs	9%	8%
Democrats / Liberals / One-party rule	9%	9%
Housing affordability	8%	10%
Education / Schools	8%	7%
Addiction / Mental health	6%	5%
Government spending/mismanagement	6%	7%
Environment / Climate / Wildfires	5%	5%
Trump / Federal government / ICE	5%	5%
Business climate / Over-regulation	4%	4%
Poverty/inequality/safety net	4%	4%
Health care	3%	4%
Gov. Tina Kotek / Other Oregon officials	3%	2%
Crime / Public safety	2%	2%
Data centers / AI	2%	2%
Immigration	2%	2%
Elections / Political division / Threats to democracy	2%	2%
Republicans / Conservatives / MAGA	1%	2%
Other	4%	4%
Don't know / No answer	1%	1%



3. How would you rate the current economic conditions in Oregon?

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
NET Good	22%	24%
Very good	1%	1%
Good	21%	23%
NET Poor	74%	73%
Poor	46%	45%
Very poor	28%	28%
Don't know	4%	3%

4. How would you rate your current personal financial situation?

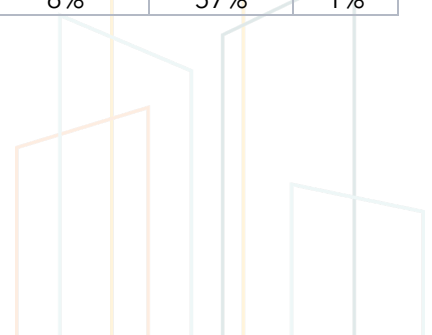
Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
NET Good	63%	69%
Very good	10%	12%
Good	53%	57%
NET Poor	35%	29%
Poor	26%	23%
Very poor	9%	6%
Don't know	2%	2%

IMPRESSIONS

Q8, Q9, and Q11 omitted; asked only in Washington CD3 portion of survey.

Is your overall impression of the following people or groups positive or negative?

Response category n=	NET Positive	Very positive	Somewhat positive	NET Negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Don't know
5. Tina Kotek							
Registered voters, n=1000	34%	8%	26%	62%	16%	46%	3%
Likely voters, n=915	38%	8%	29%	60%	14%	46%	2%
6. Christine Drazan							
Registered voters, n=1000	42%	19%	24%	43%	14%	29%	15%
Likely voters, n=915	45%	22%	24%	45%	14%	31%	10%
7. Brett Smith							
Registered voters, n=1000	6%	<1%	6%	10%	6%	3%	84%
Likely voters, n=915	6%	1%	5%	10%	6%	3%	85%
10. Donald Trump							
Registered voters, n=1000	34%	16%	18%	64%	7%	57%	2%
Likely voters, n=915	37%	18%	18%	63%	6%	57%	1%



12. As you may know, there will be an election in November 2026. How likely are you to vote in the election? Are you absolutely certain you will vote, probably will vote, have a 50-50 likelihood to vote, or not likely to vote?

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Absolutely certain to vote	91%	100%
Probably will vote	5%	--
50-50 likelihood to vote	3%	--
Not likely to vote	1%	--

[If not likely to vote] Even though you say you are not likely to vote, please do your best to answer the following questions.

NOVEMBER 2026 ELECTION OREGON

This next series of questions is about the November 2026 election.

13. If the election for Oregon governor was today, who would you be more likely to vote for?

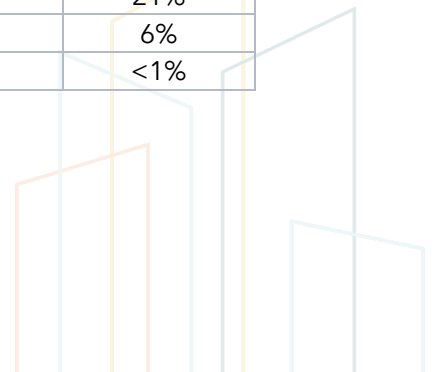
Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Brett Smith, Pacific Green Party	4%	3%
Tina Kotek, Democrat, Working Families Party	41%	44%
Christine Drazan, Republican, Libertarian Party	44%	46%
Don't know	11%	8%

14. **[If likely to vote for Smith]** How likely are you to vote for Brett Smith?

Response category	Registered voters n=38	Likely voters n=24
Will definitely vote for Smith	13%	22%
Will probably vote for Smith	37%	33%
Only leaning toward voting for Smith	41%	40%
Don't know	8%	6%

15. **[If likely to vote for Kotek]** How likely are you to vote for Tina Kotek?

Response category	Registered voters n=408	Likely voters n=399
Will definitely vote for Kotek	66%	72%
Will probably vote for Kotek	25%	21%
Only leaning toward voting for Kotek	8%	6%
Don't know	1%	<1%



16. **[If likely to vote for Drazan]** How likely are you to vote for Christine Drazan?

Response category	Registered voters n=440	Likely voters n=419
Will definitely vote for Drazan	78%	85%
Will probably vote for Drazan	17%	12%
Only leaning toward voting for Drazan	4%	2%
Don't know	1%	1%

17. **[If unsure of who most likely to vote for]** Which way do you lean as of today?

Response category	Registered voters n=113	Likely voters n=73
Brett Smith, Pacific Green Party	8%	7%
Tina Kotek, Democrat, Working Families Party	29%	32%
Christine Drazan, Republican, Libertarian Party	16%	16%
Don't know	47%	45%

13-17. Combined Governor Vote

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
NET Brett Smith	5%	3%
Definitely Brett Smith	1%	1%
Probably Smith	1%	1%
Lean Smith	2%	2%
Don't know	<1%	<1%
NET Tina Kotek	44%	46%
Definitely Tina Kotek	27%	31%
Probably Kotek	10%	9%
Lean Kotek	6%	5%
Don't know	<1%	<1%
NET Christine Drazan	46%	47%
Definitely Christine Drazan	34%	39%
Probably Drazan	8%	5%
Lean Drazan	4%	2%
Don't know	<1%	<1%
Don't know	5%	4%



18. **[If likely / leaning to vote for Smith]** Is your choice for Brett Smith more a vote...

Response category	Registered voters n=47	Likely voters n=28
For Smith	24%	26%
Against Kotek and Drazan	71%	69%
Don't know	5%	5%

19. **[If likely / leaning to vote for Kotek]** Is your choice for Tina Kotek more a vote...

Response category	Registered voters n=441	Likely voters n=423
For Kotek	42%	42%
Against Drazan	54%	54%
[Don't read] Don't know	4%	4%

20. **[If likely / leaning to vote for Drazan]** Is your choice for Christine Drazan more a vote...

Response category	Registered voters n=459	Likely voters n=430
For Drazan	45%	48%
Against Kotek	53%	51%
Don't know	2%	1%

Q21-Q25 and Q37; omitted; asked only in Washington CD3 portion of survey.

ISSUES

The following are issues that may matter to your vote for Oregon governor. For each, indicate how important the candidates' positions on that issue will be in influencing your vote for governor:

Response category n=	NET Important	Very important	Somewhat important	NET Not important	Not too important	Not at all important	Don't know
26. Cost of living							
Registered voters, n=1000	98%	81%	17%	2%	2%	<1%	<1%
Likely voters, n=915	98%	80%	18%	2%	1%	<1%	<1%
27. The economy							
Registered voters, n=1000	98%	82%	16%	2%	1%	<1%	<1%
Likely voters, n=915	98%	82%	16%	2%	2%	--	<1%
28. Immigration							
Registered voters, n=1000	77%	54%	23%	22%	13%	9%	1%
Likely voters, n=915	77%	57%	20%	22%	12%	10%	<1%

Response category n=	NET Important	Very important	Somewhat important	NET Not important	Not too important	Not at all important	Don't know
29. Healthcare							
Registered voters, n=1000	92%	68%	24%	7%	6%	2%	<1%
Likely voters, n=915	92%	67%	25%	8%	6%	2%	<1%
30. K-12 public education							
Registered voters, n=1000	94%	70%	23%	6%	4%	2%	1%
Likely voters, n=915	94%	70%	24%	5%	3%	2%	1%
31. Climate change							
Registered voters, n=1000	60%	40%	20%	40%	17%	23%	<1%
Likely voters, n=915	58%	40%	18%	42%	18%	24%	<1%
32. Abortion							
Registered voters, n=1000	68%	48%	21%	29%	14%	15%	3%
Likely voters, n=915	69%	49%	20%	30%	14%	16%	2%
33. Crime							
Registered voters, n=1000	86%	58%	29%	14%	11%	3%	<1%
Likely voters, n=915	85%	55%	30%	14%	11%	3%	<1%
34. Homelessness							
Registered voters, n=1000	93%	65%	28%	6%	5%	1%	1%
Likely voters, n=915	93%	62%	31%	6%	5%	1%	<1%
35. Guns							
Registered voters, n=1000	70%	45%	25%	29%	19%	10%	1%
Likely voters, n=915	71%	47%	25%	28%	18%	10%	<1%
36. Data centers							
Registered voters, n=1000	70%	41%	30%	27%	18%	9%	3%
Likely voters, n=915	72%	40%	31%	26%	17%	10%	2%



38. On social issues, would you prefer Oregon's next governor to be ...

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
NET Liberal	40%	42%
Very liberal	21%	22%
Somewhat liberal	19%	20%
Moderate	22%	19%
NET Conservative	36%	37%
Somewhat conservative	17%	16%
Very conservative	18%	21%
Don't know	3%	2%

39. On economic issues, would you prefer Oregon's next governor to be ...

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
NET Liberal	30%	32%
Very liberal	14%	15%
Somewhat liberal	16%	17%
Moderate	25%	22%
NET Conservative	42%	44%
Somewhat conservative	19%	18%
Very conservative	23%	26%
Don't know	3%	2%

*Q40-Q46 omitted; asked only in Washington CD3 portion of survey;
Q47-87 withheld for future release.*



DEMOGRAPHICS

These last questions are to ensure that we hear from a representative group of voters.

88. How do you describe your gender?

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Man	49%	48%
Woman	51%	52%
Non-binary	n=3	n=3
Gender fluid	--	--
Trans woman	n=1	n=1
Trans man	n=1	--
Two-Spirit	n=2	n=1
Another way	n=1	n=1
I prefer not to say	--	--

89. In what year were you born?

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
18-29	17%	11%
30-44	25%	22%
45-64	29%	34%
65+	28%	33%
I prefer not to say	--	--

90. Area

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Portland metro (Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties)	42%	42%
Willamette Valley (Benton, Lane, Linn, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties)	27%	27%
Rest of state (All other counties)	31%	31%



91. Party

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Democratic Party	32%	39%
Republican Party	24%	29%
NAV	37%	25%
Other	7%	7%
I prefer not to say	--	--

92. How do you consider your views when it comes to politics and elections?

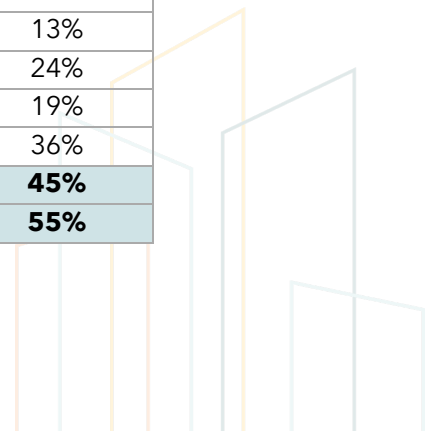
Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
NET Liberal	33%	36%
Very liberal	12%	13%
Liberal	21%	23%
Moderate	33%	30%
NET Conservative	30%	31%
Conservative	19%	20%
Very conservative	11%	12%
I prefer not to say	4%	3%

93. Which candidate did you vote for in the 2024 presidential election?

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Kamala Harris	39%	50%
Donald Trump	30%	38%
Someone else	3%	3%
Did not vote	28%	8%
Don't know	1%	1%

94. Voting history

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
0 of 4	24%	8%
1 of 4	13%	13%
2 of 4	21%	24%
3 of 4	17%	19%
4 of 4	25%	36%
0 - 2 of 4	58%	45%
3 - 4 of 4	42%	55%



95. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? *You may choose more than one.*

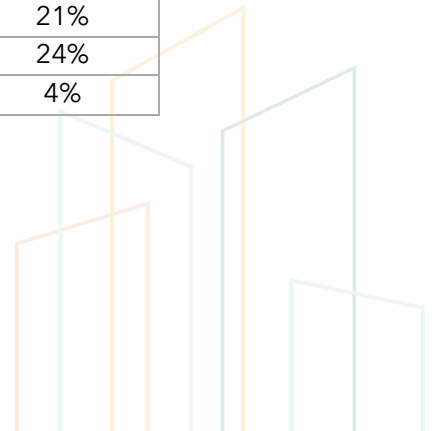
Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
African	1%	n=4
Asian/Pacific Islander	5%	2%
Black/African American	2%	1%
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	13%	7%
Middle Eastern/North African	1%	1%
Native American/American Indian	6%	4%
White/Caucasian	74%	82%
Other	1%	1%
Don't know	1%	1%
I prefer not to say	8%	8%
White only	66%	77%
POC	25%	15%

96. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Less than high school	2%	1%
High school diploma/ GED	30%	21%
Some college/ 2-year degree	33%	31%
College degree/ 4-year degree	18%	24%
Graduate/ professional school	15%	21%
I prefer not to say	2%	2%

97. Which category best describes your gross household income, before taxes? Remember to include everyone living in your household. Your best estimate will do.

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Less than \$25,000	8%	7%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	22%	19%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	13%	12%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	16%	13%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	17%	21%
\$150,000 or more	20%	24%
I prefer not to say	4%	4%



98. Do any children under age 18 live in your home?

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Yes	23%	24%
No	72%	72%
I prefer not to say	5%	4%

99. What is your primary mode of transportation?

Response category	Registered voters n=1000	Likely voters n=915
Vehicle that uses gasoline or diesel	85%	85%
Walking or cycling	4%	4%
All-electric vehicle	4%	5%
Public transportation	1%	1%
Other	3%	3%
I prefer not to say	2%	2%

