February 28, 2022

To:     Oregon Public Broadcasting
From:   DHM Research
Re:     2022 Primary Election Survey

## INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

From February 17 to 23, 2022, DHM Research conducted a survey of Oregon voters. The purpose of the survey was to assess voter priorities in the upcoming 2022 elections as well as their opinions on a range of topics including climate change, public safety and crime, homelessness, earthquakes, wildfires, and water.

**Research Methodology:** The survey consisted of 600 Oregon voters and took approximately 16 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 in Oregon. 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. Quotas were set by age, gender, race, educational attainment, area of the state, and political party registration to ensure a representative sample.

**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 this 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 is ±4.0%.

**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 Primary Election Survey**
**February 17–23, 2022**

**Oregon Voters**
**N=600; ±4.0% margin of error**
**16 minutes**

**DHM Research**
**Project #01086**

## WARM UP

1. All things considered, do you think that things in Oregon are headed in the right direction, or do you feel that they are off on the wrong track?

| Response category             n=600 | Right direction | Wrong track | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|
| February 2022 | 18% | 73% | 9% |
| October 2018 | 42% | 42% | 16% |
| January 2018 | 49% | 35% | 16% |
| October 2016 | 40% | 44% | 16% |
| February 2016 | 39% | 39% | 13% |
| April 2015 | 49% | 36% | 15% |
| September 2014 | 48% | 37% | 15% |
| May 2014 | 43% | 37% | 20% |
| January 2012 | 42% | 40% | 18% |
| September 2011 | 32% | 50% | 12% |

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

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Homelessness | 29% |
| Government, leadership | 22% |
| Public safety, crime, lack of law enforcement | 16% |
| Politics, partisanship | 15% |
| Jobs, economy | 6% |
| Affordable housing, rent, cost | 6% |
| Drugs, paraphernalia, addiction | 5% |
| Oppose COVID mandates and regulations | 5% |
| Environment | 4% |
| Climate Change | 4% |
| Healthcare, mental health | 3% |
| Education, schools | 3% |
| Individual rights, freedoms | 3% |
| Support COVID mandates and regulations | 3% |
| Inflation, cost of living | 2% |
| All other responses | <2% |
| Transportation infrastructure, traffic, roads | 1% |
| Don't know, refused | <1% |

3. How would you rate economic conditions in Oregon today?

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Very good | 3% |
| Good | 28% |
| Poor | 43% |
| Very poor | 22% |
| Don't know | 4% |

4. Would you say that economic conditions in Oregon are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Getting better | 10% |
| Getting worse | 62% |
| Staying about the same | 25% |
| Don't know | 4% |

5. How worried, or not, are you about your personal financial situation?

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Very worried | 18% |
| Somewhat worried | 37% |
| Not too worried | 26% |
| Not at all worried | 17% |
| Don't know | 2% |

Indicate if your overall impression of the following people and organizations is very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative. **[Randomize]**

| Response category n=600 | Very positive | Somewhat positive | Somewhat negative | Very negative | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. Governor Kate Brown | | | | | |
| February 2022 | 9% | 18% | 12% | 60% | 1% |
| October 2018 | 15% | 29% | 15% | 22% | 14% |
| January 2018 | 16% | 33% | 16% | 17% | 20% |
| October 2016 | 19% | 29% | 14% | 16% | 20% |
| February 2016 | 21% | 30% | 11% | 6% | 35% |
| April 2015 | 15% | 33% | 15% | 22% | 14% |
| 7. President Joe Biden | | | | | |
| February 2022 | 12% | 23% | 10% | 53% | 1% |
| 8. Former president Donald Trump | | | | | |
| February 2022 | 23% | 22% | 9% | 45% | 1% |
| October 2018 | 26% | 15% | 10% | 45% | 5% |
| January 2018 | 17% | 19% | 12% | 47% | 4% |
| October 2016 | 16% | 15% | 11% | 55% | 3% |
| 9. United States Senator Ron Wyden | | | | | |
| February 2022 | 21% | 18% | 15% | 34% | 11% |

| Response category        n=600 | Very positive | Somewhat positive | Somewhat negative | Very negative | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| October 2018 | 23% | 31% | 13% | 16% | 17% |
| February 2016 | 28% | 32% | 13% | 8% | 19% |
| April 2015 | 22% | 36% | 18% | 8% | 17% |
| **10. Public sector labor unions** | | | | | |
| February 2022 | 12% | 22% | 23% | 28% | 15% |
| **11. Timber Unity** | | | | | |
| February 2022 | 10% | 22% | 12% | 10% | 46% |
| **12. Your local police department** | | | | | |
| February 2022 | 29% | 41% | 19% | 8% | 4% |

## 2022 ELECTION

The next questions are about the 2022 election for Oregon governor.

13. How closely, if at all, are you paying attention to Oregon governor election?

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Very closely | 29% |
| Somewhat closely | 39% |
| Not too closely | 24% |
| Not at all closely | 8% |
| Don't know | <1% |

14. If the election for governor was between a Democratic and Republican candidate only, who would you vote for?

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Democrat | 29% |
| Republican | 47% |
| Don't know | 23% |

15. **[If Q14=Democrat]** How important is it to you that the Democrat win the election for governor?

| Response category | n=176 |
|---|---|
| Very important | 71% |
| Somewhat important | 24% |
| Not too important | 2% |
| Not at all important | 1% |
| Don't know | 2% |

16. **[If Q14=Republican]** How important is it to you that the Republican win the election for governor?

| Response category | n=284 |
|---|---|
| Very important | 72% |
| Somewhat important | 19% |
| Not too important | 5% |
| Not at all important | 1% |

| Response category | n=284 |
|---|---|
| Don't know | 2% |

17. If the election for governor was between a Democratic, Republican and an independent candidate, who would you vote for?

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Democrat | 16% |
| Republican | 26% |
| Independent | 21% |
| Don't know | 37% |

**[Rotate Q18-Q19]**

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

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Very liberal | 12% |
| Somewhat liberal | 15% |
| Moderate | 26% |
| Somewhat conservative | 25% |
| Very conservative | 21% |
| Don't know | 1% |

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

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Very liberal | 7% |
| Somewhat liberal | 15% |
| Moderate | 25% |
| Somewhat conservative | 27% |
| Very conservative | 24% |
| Don't know | 2% |

20. All things considered, which will be more important to you when voting for Oregon's governor:
**[Rotate]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Their positions on social issues | 43% |
| Their positions on economic issues | 48% |
| Don't know | 10% |

The following are contrasting statements about protentional candidates for Oregon governor. For each, indicate which you would most prefer. **[Randomize Q21-Q23; Rotate options]**

21. Someone with experience in high elected office or who is a political outsider

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Someone with experience in high elected office | 27% |
| Someone who is a political outsider | 47% |
| Don't know | 26% |

22. Someone who focused on fixing all that has gone wrong in Oregon's past or who is focused on preparing for Oregon's future

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Someone who focused on fixing all that has gone wrong in Oregon's past | 29% |
| Someone who is focused on preparing for Oregon's future | 67% |
| Don't know | 4% |

23. Someone who will fight for what they believe is right or who will compromise to get things done

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Someone who will fight for what they believe is right | 44% |
| Someone who will compromise to get things done | 47% |
| Don't know | 9% |

Next are some questions about current issues.

For each of the following, indicate if you think it is a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious problem in Oregon. **[Randomize]**

| Response category                n=600 | Very Serious | Somewhat serious | Not too serious | Not at all serious | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24. Cost of living | 61% | 32% | 6% | 1% | <1% |
| 25. Homelessness | 82% | 12% | 3% | 2% | 1% |
| 26. Violent crime | 68% | 22% | 8% | 2% | 1% |
| 27. Drug addiction | 66% | 26% | 6% | 2% | 1% |
| 28. Climate change | 39% | 18% | 19% | 22% | 1% |
| 29. Income inequality | 30% | 30% | 20% | 18% | 2% |
| 30. Racial inequality | 27% | 25% | 22% | 23% | 2% |
| 31. Voter fraud | 41% | 11% | 12% | 34% | 2% |
| 32. Illegal immigration | 45% | 16% | 20% | 18% | 1% |
| 33. Political leadership | 61% | 28% | 5% | 2% | 4% |
| 34. Right wing political extremism | 38% | 18% | 19% | 21% | 4% |
| 35. Left wing political extremism | 51% | 18% | 14% | 13% | 5% |
| 36. Oregon's high school graduation rate | 46% | 36% | 8% | 3% | 7% |
| 37. Forest fires | 61% | 32% | 5% | 2% | <1% |
| 38. Water shortages | 40% | 34% | 17% | 6% | 3% |

**[Randomize topic sections]**

## CLIMATE CHANGE

39. From what you have read or heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer for a few decades, or not?

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Yes, solid evidence. Mostly because of human activity, such as burning fossil fuels | 45% |
| Yes, solid evidence. Mostly because of natural patterns in earth's environment | 28% |
| No solid evidence, we just don't know enough yet | 14% |
| No solid evidence, it's just not happening | 9% |
| Don't know | 3% |

40. Do you think Oregon should take additional steps to address climate change?

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Yes | 47% |
| No | 44% |
| I'm not sure | 9% |

## TAXES

There has been some discussion in Oregon state recently about the level of public services and the cost to taxpayers.

41. Which of the following statements is closest to how you feel? **[Rotate: A, B, C; C, B, A]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| a. We spend too much on public services and taxes should be reduced | 43% |
| b. We spend about the right amount on public services and taxes should remain the same | 34% |
| c. We don't spend enough on public services and taxes should be increased | 16% |
| Don't know | 8% |

For each of the following, indicate if you think that group is paying too much, too little, or about the right amount of Oregon state taxes. **[Randomize 42-44 For "too much" and "too little" wait and ask strongly/somewhat]**

| Response category | Too much-strongly | Too much-somewhat | About right | Too little-somewhat | Too little-strongly | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **42. Large businesses** | | | | | | |
| February 2022, n=600 | 7% | 10% | 20% | 22% | 33% | 8% |
| February 2016 | 5% | 12% | 16% | 26% | 31% | 10% |
| **43. Small businesses** | | | | | | |
| February 2022, n=600 | 34% | 29% | 25% | 2% | 1% | 10% |
| February 2016 | 22% | 23% | 34% | 6% | 3% | 12% |
| **44. Wealthy individuals** | | | | | | |
| February 2022, n=600 | 10% | 8% | 21% | 20% | 35% | 7% |
| **45. You personally** | | | | | | |
| February 2022, n=600 | 34% | 26% | 34% | 3% | <1% | 2% |

46. **[Split A]** Would you support or oppose implementing a statewide sales tax? **[Wait and ask strongly/somewhat]**

| Response category | n=300 |
|---|---|
| Strongly support | 15% |
| Somewhat support | 15% |
| Somewhat oppose | 13% |
| Strongly oppose | 53% |
| Don't know | 5% |

47. **[Split B]** Would you support or oppose the implementation of a statewide sales tax, if it included a reduction in personal income taxes? **[Wait and ask strongly/somewhat]**

| Response category | n=300 |
|---|---|
| Strongly support | 14% |
| Somewhat support | 23% |
| Somewhat oppose | 9% |
| Strongly oppose | 47% |
| Don't know | 7% |

## PUBLIC SAFETY & CRIME

48. Thinking about police officers in your community, do you support or oppose the use of body cameras by police that would record their interactions? **[Wait and ask strongly/somewhat]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Strongly support | 77% |
| Somewhat support | 18% |
| Somewhat oppose | 2% |
| Strongly oppose | 1% |
| Don't know | 2% |

**[Rotate Q49-Q50]**

49. Is there more crime in your community than there was one year ago, or less? **[Wait and ask much/somewhat]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Much more | 38% |
| Somewhat more | 39% |
| Somewhat less | 5% |
| Much less | <1% |
| Don't know | 17% |

50. Is there more crime in Oregon than there was one year ago, or less? **[Wait and ask much/somewhat]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Much more | 62% |
| Somewhat more | 22% |
| Somewhat less | 3% |
| Much less | <1% |
| Don't know | 12% |

51. Do you think funding for police in your community should increase, decrease, or stay at about current levels?

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Increase | 58% |
| Decrease | 7% |
| Stay at about current levels | 30% |
| Don't know | 6% |

## HOMELESSNESS

**[Rotate Q52-Q53]**

52. Is there more homelessness in your community than there was one year ago, or less? **[Wait and ask much/somewhat]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Much more | 59% |
| Somewhat more | 30% |
| Somewhat less | 2% |
| Much less | <1% |
| Don't know | 9% |

53. Is there more homelessness in Oregon than there was one year ago, or less? **[Wait and ask much/somewhat]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Much more | 76% |
| Somewhat more | 17% |
| Somewhat less | 1% |
| Much less | <1% |
| Don't know | 6% |

54. Which is closer to your opinion: **[Rotate]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| With the right policies and resources, homelessness is a problem that can be solved in my community | 70% |
| No matter how hard we try, homelessness will always be a problem in my community | 23% |
| Don't know | 7% |

55. Which is closer to your opinion **[Rotate]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Homeless is mostly a result of a lack of affordable places to live | 24% |
| Homeless is mostly a result of mental illness and drug addiction | 67% |
| Don't know | 10% |

56. **[Split A]** Would you support or oppose building a homeless shelter near where you live? **[Wait and ask much/somewhat]**

| Response category | n=300 |
|---|---|
| Strongly support | 16% |
| Somewhat support | 30% |
| Somewhat oppose | 15% |
| Strongly oppose | 31% |
| Don't know | 8% |

57. **[Split B]** Would you support or oppose building affordable housing near where you live? **(Wait and ask much/somewhat)**

| Response category | n=300 |
|---|---|
| Strongly support | 30% |
| Somewhat support | 30% |
| Somewhat oppose | 12% |
| Strongly oppose | 25% |
| Don't know | 3% |

58. **[Split A]** Would you support or oppose paying more in taxes to build homeless shelters in your community?

| Response category | n=300 |
|---|---|
| Strongly support | 14% |
| Somewhat support | 27% |
| Somewhat oppose | 14% |
| Strongly oppose | 41% |
| Don't know | 4% |

59. **[Split B]** Would you support or oppose paying more in taxes to build affordable housing in your community?

| Response category | n=300 |
|---|---|
| Strongly support | 14% |
| Somewhat support | 25% |
| Somewhat oppose | 12% |
| Strongly oppose | 47% |
| Don't know | 2% |

## EARTHQUAKE

**[Rotate Q60-Q61]**

60. Which of the following is closer to your opinion: **[Rotate]**

| Response category | Feb. 2022 n=600 | October 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| There is a real likelihood that Oregon will experience a major earthquake in my lifetime and I feel that the state should be making major taxpayer investments to upgrade infrastructure like schools and bridges and educating the public about the risk. | 41% | 60% |
| The risk of a major earthquake in Oregon happening in my lifetime is low. There are many more pressing challenges for the state that should be the immediate focus of taxpayer investments. We should address the risk of earthquakes later. | 45% | 32% |
| Don't know | 14% | 8% |

61. If there were a major earthquake in Oregon today, would you say that you are very prepared, somewhat prepared, not too prepared, or not at all prepared?

| Response category | Feb. 2022 n=600 | October 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| Very prepared | 14% | 12% |
| Somewhat prepared | 48% | 51% |
| Not too prepared | 25% | 21% |
| Not at all prepared | 11% | 16% |
| Don't know | 2% | 1% |

## WILDFIRES

Oregon has experienced a high number of severe wildfires in recent years. How much, if at all, do you think the following have contributed to this? **[Randomize]**

| Response category n=600 | A great deal | A fair amount | Only a little | Not at all | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 62. Climate change | 33% | 21% | 22% | 21% | 2% |
| 63. Forest management practices | 52% | 25% | 13% | 4% | 5% |
| 64. Natural variations in the environment | 17% | 38% | 28% | 11% | 7% |

## WATER

65. How confident, or not, are you that in ten years there will be enough water to meet the needs of the community where you live?

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Very confident | 28% |
| Somewhat confident | 35% |
| Not too confident | 21% |
| Not at all confident | 12% |
| Don't know | 4% |

66. **[Split A]** If there were a shortage of water in your community, which do you think should be a higher priority:

| Response category | n=300 |
|---|---|
| Ensuring there is enough water for fish and wildlife habitat | 26% |
| Ensuring there is enough to grow crops and raise livestock | 52% |
| Don't know | 23% |

67. **[Split B]** If there were a shortage of water in your community, which do you think should be a higher priority:

| Response category | n=300 |
|---|---|
| Protecting the habitat of endangered species | 61% |
| Protecting family farms and ranchers | 20% |
| Don't know | 18% |

## DEMOGRAPHICS

68. I describe my gender as:

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Male | 50% |
| Female | 50% |
| Non-binary or gender non-conforming | n=2 |

69. Age **[From sample: Autofill age as:]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| 18–29 | 18% |
| 30–44 | 27% |
| 45–64 | 30% |
| 65+ | 25% |

70. Party **[From sample]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Democrat | 35% |
| Republican | 25% |
| NAV/other | 40% |

71. Area of state: **[Don't ask, record from sample]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Tri-county | 42% |
| Willamette Valley | 26% |
| Rest of state | 32% |

72. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? **[Allow for multiple responses]**

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| African | 3% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 3% |
| Black/African American | 2% |
| Hispanic/Latino/a/x | 6% |
| Middle Eastern/North African | n=1 |
| Native American/American Indian | 4% |
| White/Caucasian | 73% |
| Other | 5% |
| Don't know | 1% |
| Prefer not to answer | 9% |

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

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Less than high school | 8% |
| High school diploma/GED | 24% |
| Some college/2-year degree | 34% |
| College degree/4-year degree | 16% |
| Graduate/professional school | 15% |
| Prefer not to answer | 3% |

74. Which category best describes your 2021 gross household income, before taxes? Remember to include everyone living in your household. Your best estimate will do.

| Response category | n=600 |
|---|---|
| Less than $25,000 | 7% |
| $25,000 to less than $50,000 | 14% |
| $50,000 to less than $75,000 | 16% |
| $75,000 to less than $100,000 | 15% |
| $100,000 to less than $150,000 | 18% |
| $150,000 or more | 16% |
| Prefer not to answer | 14% |