**INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY**

From December 19th- January 7th, 2023, the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center conducted a statewide survey of Oregonians’ values and beliefs on the topics of governance, election reform, AI, and education funding.

**Research Methodology**: The online survey consisted of 1,807 Oregon residents ages 18+ and took approximately 10 minutes to complete. This is a sufficient sample size to assess Oregonians’ opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

Respondents were contacted by using professionally maintained online panels. In gathering responses, a variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing, validation, and real time monitoring of responses. To ensure a representative sample, demographic quotas were set, and data weighted by area of the state, gender, age, race/ethnicity, and education.

**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. This survey’s margin of error for the full sample is ±2.30%.

[**Oregon Values and Beliefs Center:**](https://oregonvbc.org/)This research was completed as a community service by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center. OVBC is an independent and non-partisan organization and an Oregon charitable nonprofit corporation. Representative OVBC projects include opinion research about race-based crimes for the Asian Health and Service Center, as well as research about early childhood education and the cost of childcare for the Children’s Institute.

**OVBC November - December 2023 Survey**

Welcome to OVBC’s November – December 2023 survey, **[OVBC Panel:]** Name!

This month’s survey focuses on issues of governance, election reform, and education funding. We understand that these can be personal and sensitive topics, so we want to reiterate and reaffirm our commitment to protecting your privacy and confidentiality.

Please be assured your identity will be kept anonymous. This survey should take about 10 – 15 minutes. Random and robotic responders and those writing hate speech in the open response questions are subject to disqualification through validity analytics.

OVBC is an Oregon-based nonprofit, nonpartisan team that uses a representative sample of Oregonians to provide valid opinion research. We share our findings with elected officials, policymakers, the public, and other researchers. Again, be assured that your name will not be connected to any of your responses in our reporting. **[OVBC panel:]** You will be asked if you are willing to be contacted by a journalist about your answers to this survey and participation in OVBC. Thank you.

**Warm-Up**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** | |
| Right direction, strongly | 5% | 44% |
| Right direction, somewhat | 39% |
| Wrong track, somewhat | 26% | 49% |
| Wrong track, strongly | 22% |
| Don’t know/Not sure | 7% | |

1. Do you think your community in Oregon is socially and politically divided?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Yes | 74% |
| No | 16% |
| Don’t know | 11% |

1. (If yes to Q2) How worried are you about this division in your community?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***n =* 1,333** | |
| Very worried | 24% | 77% |
| Somewhat worried | 52% |
| Not very worried | 19% | 22% |
| Not at all worried | 3% |
| Don’t know/Not sure | 1% | |

1. (If yes to Q2) Do you feel your community can come together and bridge this divide?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***n =* 1,333** |
| Yes | 35% |
| No | 27% |
| Don’t know | 38% |

1. How optimistic are you feeling about 2024?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** | |
| Very optimistic | 13% | 52% |
| Somewhat optimistic | 39% |
| Not very optimistic | 33% | 45% |
| Not at all optimistic | 12% |
| Don’t know | 3% | |

1. Thinking ahead to 2024, briefly stated in 20 words or less, what is your *biggest hope* for your community? **[Open, required]** [*See separate verbatim file.*]
2. What is your *biggest fear* for our community thinking ahead to next year in 2024, again in 20 words or less? **[Open, required]** [*See separate verbatim file.*]

**Elections and Governance – General**

The following questions have to do with elections and governance in Oregon. Please finish the sentence with the view you most believe to be true. **[ROTATED Q6-Q12]**

1. Oregon’s current system for electing officials results in...

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| The candidate most qualified for the position winning. | 25% |
| The most politically popular candidate winning. | 75% |

1. Oregon’s current electoral system produces outcomes that...

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Reflect the views and beliefs of typical Oregonians from around the state. | 42% |
| Reflect the views and beliefs of a small group of particularly political Oregonians. | 58% |

1. Voters in Oregon...

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Need to receive more reliable information about the issues and candidates on the ballot. | 72% |
| Already have access to enough information to cast their vote. | 28% |

1. Once elected, an official should...

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Prioritize the interests of their supporters over those of their district. | 29% |
| Prioritize the interests of their district over those of their supporters. | 71% |

1. When considering how to allocate resources between generations...

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| The interests and needs of future generations should be prioritized | 19% |
| The interests and needs of current generations should be prioritized | 15% |
| All generations should be treated equally | 66% |

1. The interests of future generations...

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Are adequately represented by current government institutions | 27% |
| Deserve more formal representation and more consideration by current government institutions | 73% |

1. Effective governance requires...

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Continual experimentation with how best to get things done | 76% |
| Reliable adherence to tradition | 24% |

1. Feel free to comment here on any of the questions relating to elections and governance. [Open, optional] [*See separate verbatim file.*]
2. [09.2022] In general, how satisfied are you with the political party you affiliate with?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** | |
| Very unsatisfied | 9% | 26% |
| Somewhat unsatisfied | 17% |
| Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied | 21% | |
| Somewhat satisfied | 25% | 33% |
| Very satisfied | 9% |
| Unaffiliated | 16% | |
| Don’t know | 5% | |

1. [09.2022] Do you think that the Democratic and Republican parties have too much, the right amount, or too little say in selecting candidates to compete in our general election in Oregon?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Too much | 42% |
| The right amount | 25% |
| Too little | 9% |
| Don’t know | 24% |

1. **(Split A)** For general elections in Oregon, each party has a primary in May in which only registered members of that party can vote. Which of the following statements comes closest to your preference?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***n =* 892** |
| Let the two major parties continue the practice of limiting voting in their primaries to only members of their party and where the top vote-getter advances to the general election | 21% |
| Change the primary system in Oregon to a top-two primary open to all voters and where all candidates are listed on the same ballot | 41% |
| The top two vote-getters, regardless of their partisan affiliation, advance to the general election | 16% |
| Other **(Open)** | 6% |
| Don’t know | 15% |

1. **(Split B)** For general elections in Oregon, each party has a primary in May in which only registered members of that party can vote. Which of the following statements comes closest to your preference?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***n =* 915** |
| Let the two major parties continue the practice of limiting voting in their primaries to only members of their party and where the top vote-getter advances to the general election | 17% |
| Change the primary system in Oregon to a top-two primary open to all voters and where all candidates are listed on the same ballot | 28% |
| The top two vote-getters, regardless of their partisan affiliation, advance to the general election | 16% |
| Have the two major parties keep their primaries, but open them to all voters | 22% |
| Other **(Open)** | 5% |
| Don’t know | 12% |

1. [09.2022] In state elections for governor and the legislature, everyone gets one vote and the candidate who receives the most votes wins, even if that candidate gets less than 50% of the votes. Would you prefer to:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Keep it this way: the person with the most votes wins even if they get less than 50% of the votes | 24% |
| If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, have the top two finishers advance to a second election to determine a majority winner (runoff election) | 29% |
| Allow voters to rank candidates as their first, second, or third choices, and then tally these ranked choices to determine a winner who is supported by more than 50% of the voters (ranked choice voting) | 35% |
| Don’t know | 12% |

1. [09.2022] Which of these would you prefer for city council, county commission, and legislative seats? [**Rotated first and second**]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| One candidate elected for a particular region (single-member district) | 28% |
| Two or more candidates elected for a particular region to represent different perspectives (multi-member district) | 49% |
| Don’t know | 22% |

*One type of voting system combines both a multi-member district (more than one representative for an area) AND ranked-choice voting (voters rank their preferences as first, second, third, etc.). Under this system, candidates would not be required to secure a majority of votes cast in an election to win their seats. Instead, the system sets a minimum percentage for winning seats. For example,**in a district electing three members, the minimum percentage is 25%. Voters' first, second and third or more choices are combined as necessary until three candidates pass the threshold of 25%.*

1. [09.2022] Would you support or oppose this method of electing candidates in your…

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Response Category:**  ***N =* 1,807** | **Strongly Support** | **Somewhat Support** | **Somewhat Oppose** | **Strongly Oppose** | **Don’t know** |
| City | 16% | 34% | 16% | 15% | 20% |
| County | 15% | 34% | 17% | 16% | 18% |
| State | 17% | 30% | 15% | 18% | 19% |

1. When it comes to the best possible representation in state and local government, which of the following comes closest to your view? **[Rotated first two]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| A candidate who wins a single-winner election with the most votes is better able to achieve consensus on an elected body and get things done for all voters. | 35% |
| Multiple candidates in an election that allows for more than one winner, with the top two or top three representing the area, would do a better job of getting things done for all voters. | 46% |
| Don’t know | 20% |

1. Feel free to share your thoughts here about possible changes to our governance and current election systems in Oregon. [Open, optional] [*See separate verbatim file.*]

**Demographics**

These last questions ensure our sample is representative of the population. This information is used for no other purpose.

1. What year were you born? **[4 digits, numerical frame limit age 18-105]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| 18-29 | 19% |
| 30-44 | 27% |
| 45-54 | 15% |
| 55-64 | 15% |
| 65-74 | 14% |
| 75+ | 10% |

1. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Less than high school | 3% |
| High school diploma/GED | 30% |
| 2-yr degree/some college/trade | 33% |
| 4-yr degree/college degree | 17% |
| Graduate degree/professional school | 17% |

1. I describe my gender as (feel free to choose all that apply):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Man | 49% |
| Woman | 49% |
| Non-binary, non-conforming | 3% |
| Trans | 1% |
| Other | *n*=5 |

1. How would you describe your race and/or ethnicity? **[open, optional]**
2. Knowing there may not be a perfect fit, which of these descriptions used by the United States Census would you say best describes your race and/or ethnicity? Please select all that apply.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Asian | 4% |
| Black or African American | 5% |
| Hispanic or Latino/a/x | 9% |
| Native American, Native American or Alaska Native | 6% |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 2% |
| White | 85% |
| Another race or ethnicity not listed above | 2% |

1. (Split into 8 OCF Regions) In which county do you live? **[Drop-down list of all counties shown]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Central Oregon | 8% |
| Eastern Oregon | 4% |
| Metro Portland | 43% |
| North Coast | 4% |
| Northern Willamette Valley | 11% |
| South Coast | 2% |
| Southern Oregon | 9% |
| Southern Willamette Valley | 19% |

1. What is your political party registration?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Democrat | 33% |
| Republican | 24% |
| Independent Party of Oregon | 13% |
| Some other party | 3% |
| Non-affiliated | 21% |
| Not registered to vote | 6% |

1. Do you rent or own your home?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Own | 51% |
| Rent | 38% |
| Some other arrangement | 11% |

1. What was your total household income in 2022? Remember to include everyone, and your best guess is ok.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***n =* 1,792** |
| Less than $25,000 | 24% |
| $25,000-49,999 | 23% |
| $50,000-74,999 | 20% |
| $75,000-99,999 | 12% |
| $100,000-149,999 | 12% |
| $150,000 or more | 9% |
| Refused | 1% |

1. What is your 5-digit zip code? **[open 5-digit requirement with digital range finder]**
2. Do you consider the area you live in to be:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Urban | 30% |
| Suburban | 35% |
| Rural changing to suburban | 12% |
| Rural | 23% |

1. Do you have children in your home who attend public school? (Choose all that apply):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Yes | 21% |
| No, my children attend private school | 2% |
| No, my children are homeschooled | 2% |
| No, my children have completed their schooling | 30% |
| I don’t have children | 41% |
| Other | 5% |

1. Are you or a member of your household a public-school teacher?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | ***N =* 1,807** |
| Yes, I am a public school teacher | 2% |
| Yes, a member of my household is a public school teacher | 3% |
| Yes, both a member of my household and I teach at a public school | 1% |
| No. | 94% |

We anticipate the news media to be very interested in these results. If you are willing to be contacted by a journalist about your answers to this survey and participation in OVBC, please share your name, phone number and email. This is completely voluntary.

First name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_