

September 11, 2020

## INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

From September 3 to 8, 2020, DHM Research conducted a survey of Oregon voters. The purpose of the survey was to assess values and beliefs related to the presidential election, ongoing protests across the country and in Portland, and COVID-19.

This is the second of three planned data releases and focuses on Oregon voters' preferences in the presidential election, impressions of key political leaders, and an update to their attitudes about COVID-19.

**Research Methodology:** The online survey consisted of 502 Oregon voters and took approximately 15 minutes to complete. This is a sufficient sample size to assess Oregonians' opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

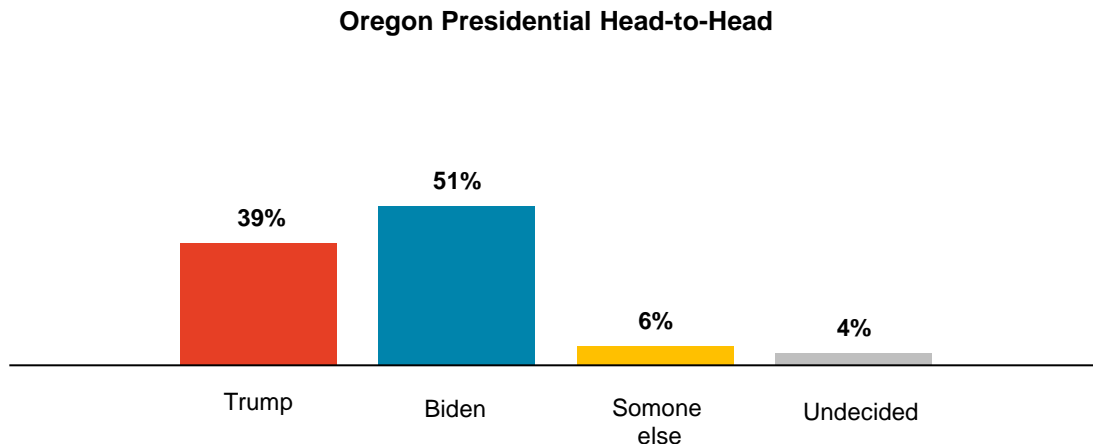
Respondents were contacted by using a professionally maintained online panel. In gathering responses, a variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing, validation, and real time monitoring of responses. To ensure a representative sample, demographic quotas were set, and data weighted by gender, age, area of the state, political party and education to reflect the profile of the November general election turnout.

**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  $\pm 4.4\%$ .

**DHM Research:** The research was conducted by DHM Research, an independent and nonpartisan public opinion research firm based in Portland, Oregon. DHM is a Certified B Corporation.

*For inquiries, please contact John Horvick, DHM Research Director of Client Relations and Political Research, at [jhorvick@dhmresearch.com](mailto:jhorvick@dhmresearch.com) or 503.757.3051.*

**Joe Biden leads Donald Trump by 12 points among Oregon voters.**



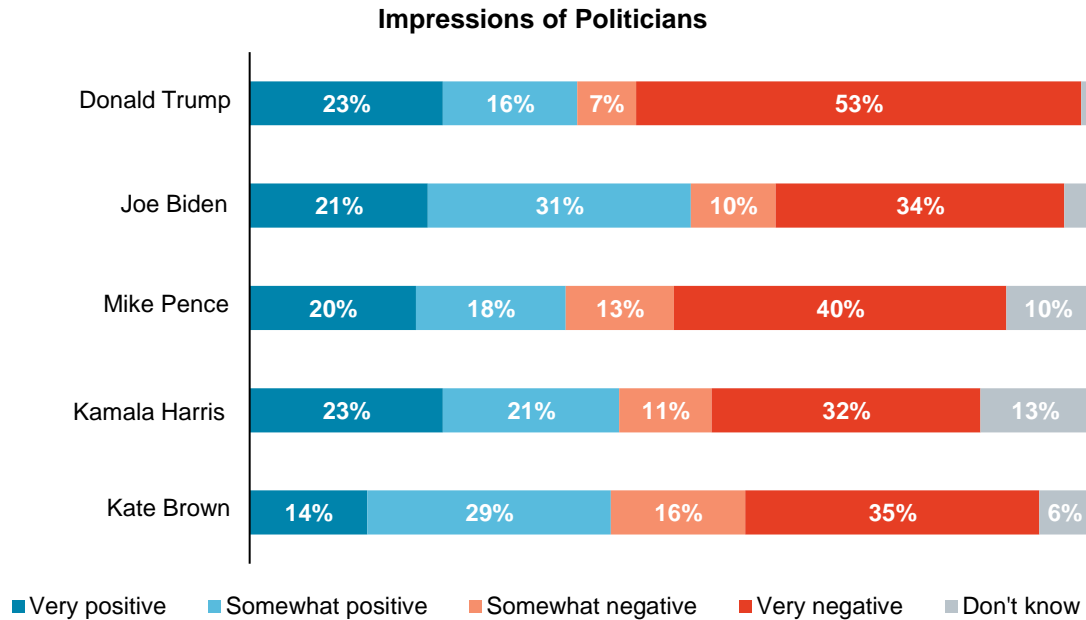
Biden leads Trump 51% to 39%, a 12-point margin. This is nearly the exact outcome of the 2016 election in Oregon, where Clinton defeated Trump 50% to 39%. As much has changed, Oregon voters' presidential preferences seem immovable.

It is no surprise at this point that Trump has Republican voters solidly behind him. 91% of Republicans plan to vote for Trump while 5% plan to vote for Biden. Likewise, Biden has locked down the Democratic vote. 87% of Democrats plan to vote for Biden while 8% expect to vote for Trump. Non-affiliated/other (NAV/other) voters lean towards Biden, with 47% planning to vote for the Democratic candidate and 31% for Trump.

The geographic and demographic support for the two candidates is also not surprising. Biden is winning the Portland metro area (59%) and Willamette Valley (52%), and Trump is winning the rest of the state (55%). By age, Biden has a solid majority among voters ages 18-29 (57%) and 30-44 (61%), while Trump is narrowly ahead among voters ages 45-64 (48%) and 65+ (49%). Men are split, with Biden getting 48% to Trump's 46%, while women lean more heavily toward Biden (53% vs. 32%), though more women are open to voting for a third party or remain undecided (15%).

Education has become an increasing divide in politics and the presidential election, with Democrats and Biden performing better among voters who have completed more education while Republicans and Trump are favored by those with less education. Among college graduates, Biden is leading by 29 points (62% vs. 33%), while Trump is leading by 7 points with those with a high school degree or less (46% vs. 39%).

**Oregon voters view Biden more positively than Trump.**



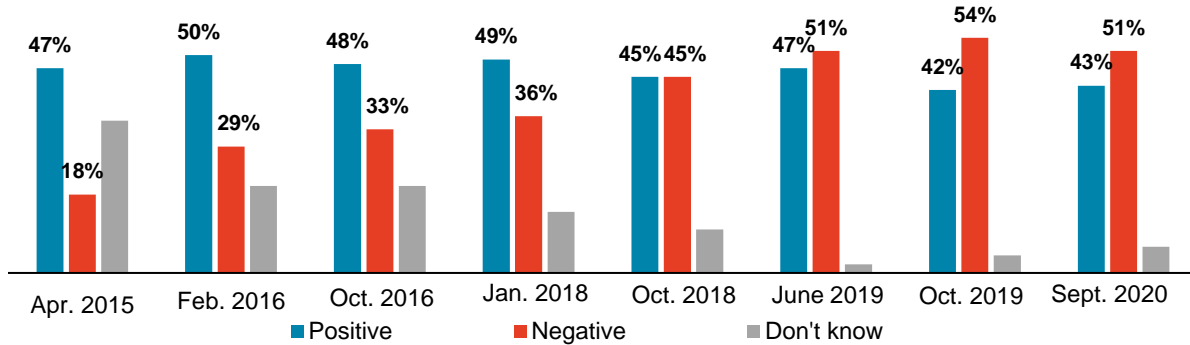
52% of Oregon voters have a positive impression of Biden compared to 45% who view him negatively, a positive lean of 7 points. Among Biden voters, 93% view him positively and 7% negatively. 6% of Biden voters view Trump positively.

On the other hand, 39% of Oregon voters have a positive impression of Trump compared to 60% who view him negatively (53% “very” negative), a negative lean of 21 points. Among Trump voters, 93% also view him positively and 7% negatively. Just 2% of Biden voters view Trump positively.

DHM Research has tracked impressions of Trump since October 2016. Negative impressions have ranged from 55% (October 2018) to 68% (October 2019). His current 60% negative rating is about average for his first term.

**A majority of Oregon voters have a negative impression of Kate Brown.**

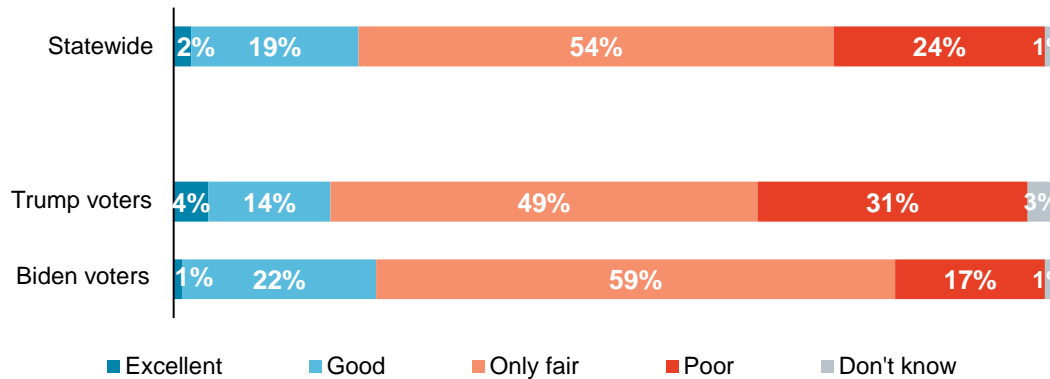
**Impressions of Governor Brown**



51% of Oregon voters have a negative impression of Brown compared to 43% who view her positively. Impressions of her have been stable the last few years, but they are much more negative than when she first came into office. DHM Research first started tracking her in April 2015 when just 15% of voters viewed her negatively. Negative impressions of her increased the following years, with little change to her positive ratings, and she has had negative ratings since June 2019.

**Oregon voters give poor marks to the state’s economic conditions but are relatively positive about their personal financial situations.**

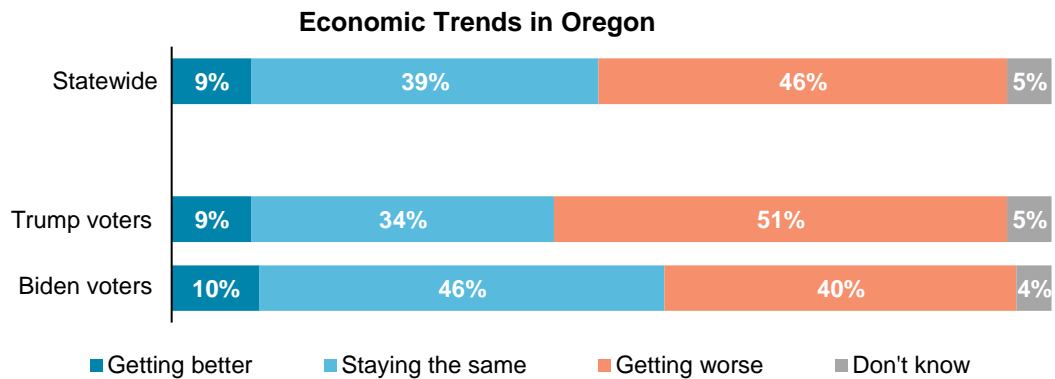
**Current Economic Conditions in Oregon**



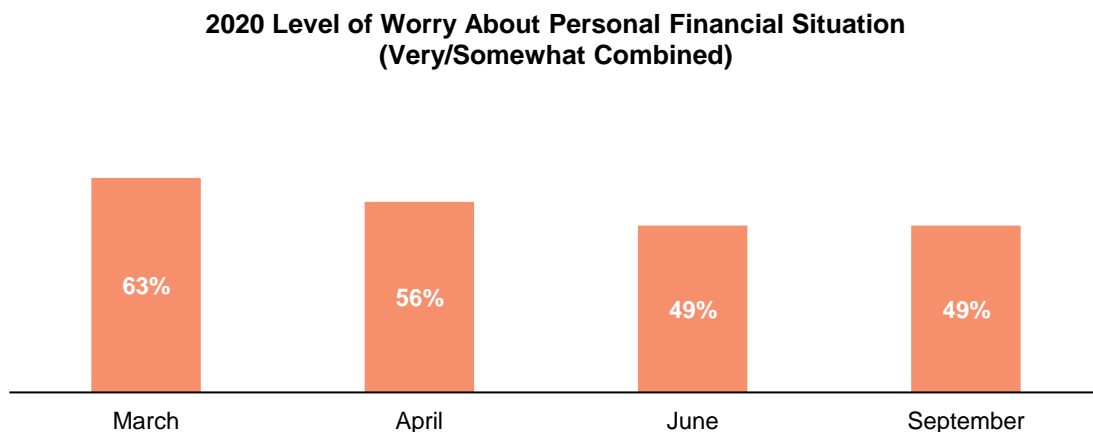
77% of voters rate Oregon’s current economic conditions as only fair (54%) or poor (24%), while just 21% feel that economic conditions are good (19%) or excellent (2%). Moreover, voters are five times more

likely to say that the state’s economic conditions are getting worse (46%) than say they are getting better (9%).

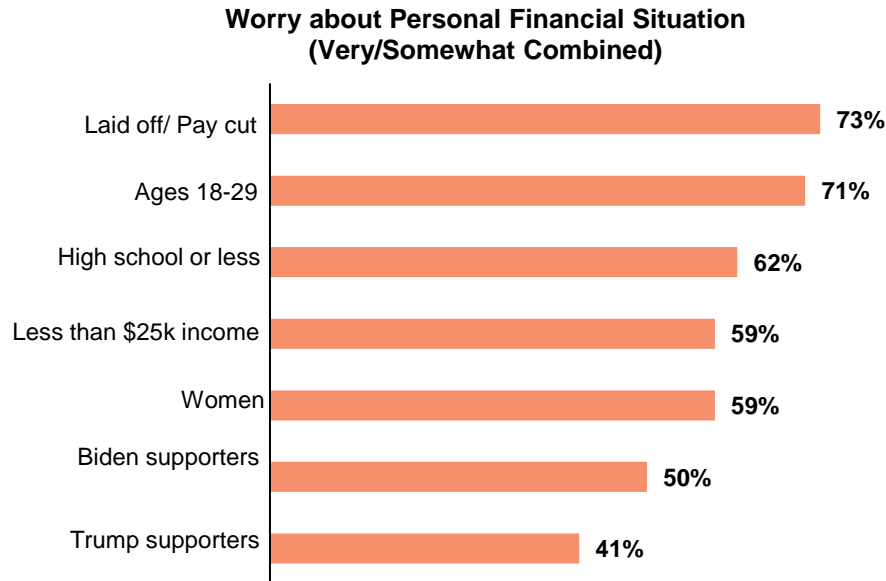
Surprisingly, there is little to no difference in how voters rate the state’s current economic conditions by income or education levels, Biden or Trump supporters, or political party.



Despite these poor ratings of the state’s economy, Oregonians are feeling better about their personal finances than just about any time in the last decade. Since 2011, DHM Research has asked Oregonians how worried they are about their personal financial situation. The percentage of people saying that they are very or somewhat worried peaked in 2012 at 69%. Worry fell to 50% in late 2019. Worry spiked again at the start of the COVID-19 lockdowns, jumping to 63% in March. Since then, worry has ebbed and now for the second time since June “only” 49% of Oregonians say that they are very or somewhat worried.

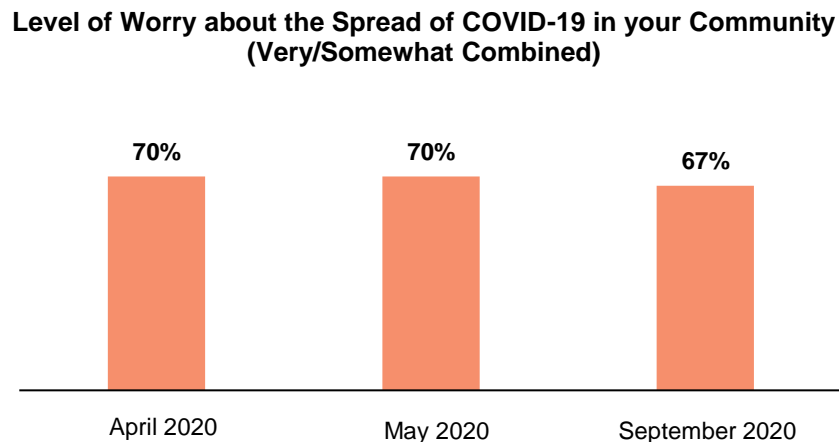


Likely reasons for the decline in worry is a combination of enhanced federal unemployment benefits and a lack of ways to spend money during the pandemic. It has now been over a month since the \$600 per week UI payments stopped but we are yet to see an uptick in Oregonians' financial worries.



Voters who live in households where someone has lost a job or income due to COVID-19 are the most worried about their financial situations (73%). Other voter groups worried about their financial situations include those ages 18-29 (71%), have a high school degree or less (62%), incomes less than \$25,000 (59%), and women (59%).

**Oregonians continue to be worried about the spread of COVID-19 in their communities.**

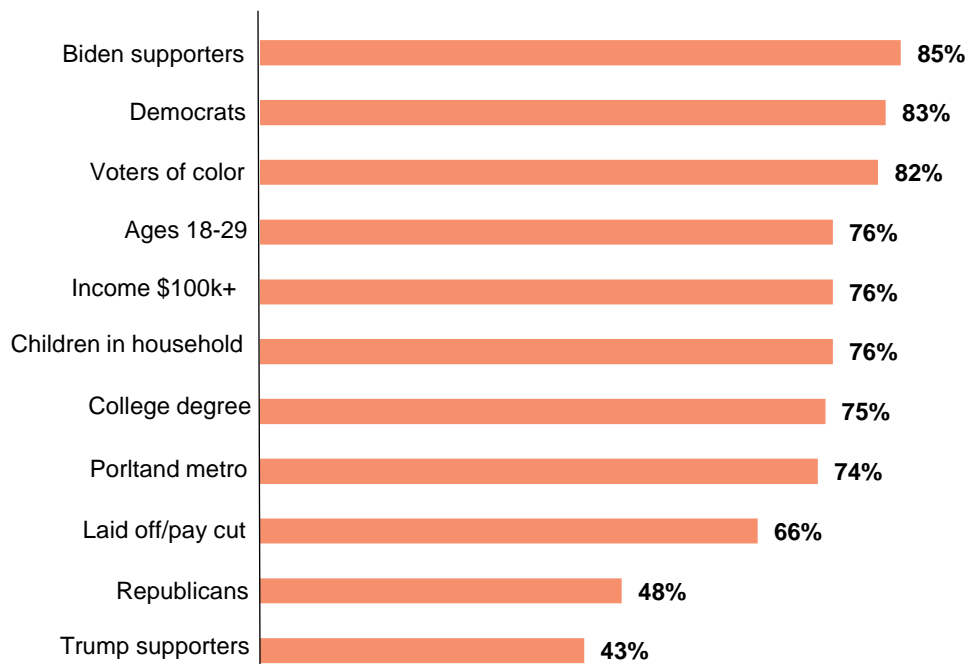


This survey is the third time that DHM Research has asked Oregonians how worried they are about the spread of COVID-19 in their communities. Very/somewhat worried responses have gone from 70% in April and May to 67% now, basically unchanged.

Worry is higher in the Portland metro area (74%) and Willamette Valley (67%) than in the rest of the state, but a majority of rural voters (57%) are also worried. Voters with college degrees (75%), incomes above \$100k (76%), tend to be somewhat more worried than people in households where someone has lost a job or income due to COVID-19 (66%).

The largest divide in worry is by partisanship and presidential vote preference. 83% of Democrats and 85% of Biden supporters are worried compared to 48% of Republicans and 43% of Trump supporters.

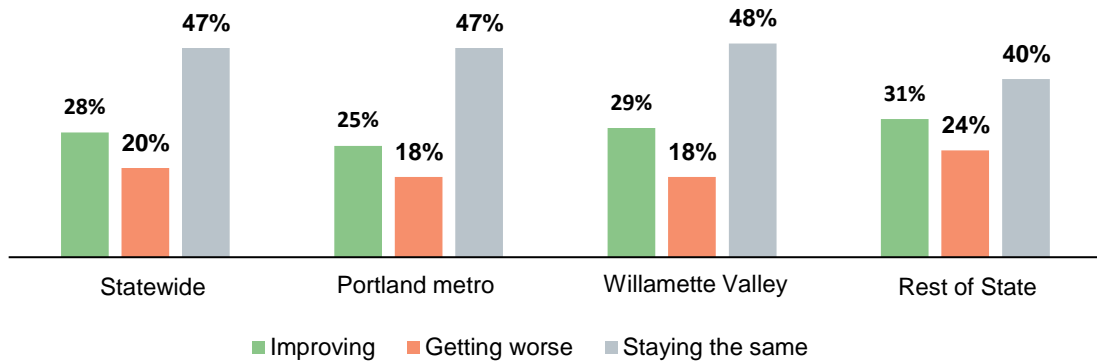
### Worry About Spread of COVID-19 in Your Community (Very/Somewhat Combined)



Other groups that are generally more worried are voters of color (82%), those ages 18-29 (76%), college graduates (75%), and women (71%). Groups somewhat less worried are those ages 45-64 (61%) and those with a high school degree or less (61%).

**3 in 4 voters believe that the spread of COVID-19 in their communities is either staying about the same or getting better. Just 20% think that it is getting worse.**

### Spread of COVID-19 in Your Community

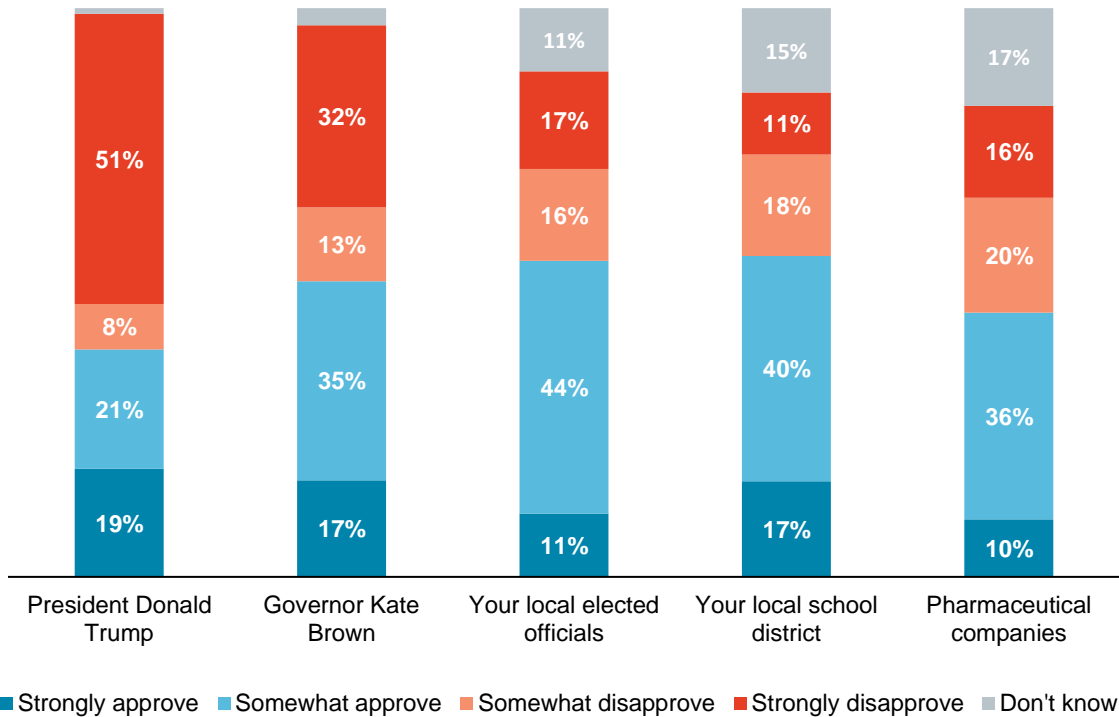


Despite little change in Oregonians' worry about COVID-19, the vast majority do not think the spread of the virus is getting worse. And there is little difference by area of the state, with just 18% of voters in the Portland metro area and Willamette Valley, and 24% in the rest of the state, believing that the spread is getting worse.



**A majority of Oregon voters approve of how Governor Brown, local elected officials, and local school districts are responding to COVID-19, while most disapprove of President Trump’s response.**

**Approval of Response to COVID-19 Outbreak**



Voters’ assessments of how elected leaders are responding to COVID-19 have become increasingly partisan. Oregon Democrats, for example, largely approve of Brown’s response (79%) and disapprove of Trump’s (89%), while Republican’s approve of the president’s response (86%) but disapprove of the governor’s (78%).

With the recent start of the school year, and nearly all students attending remotely, perhaps the more interesting finding is that 57% of Oregon voters approve of the way that their local school district has responded to COVID-19. The difference between parents and those without children is small (and not statistically significant) but voters with kids at home are somewhat more likely to approve (63%) than those without children (54%).

Pharmaceutical companies are one of Americans most disliked institutions. Yet, there is also great hope that an effective and widely available COVID-19 vaccine can put an end to the ongoing pandemic and allow us to return to normal life.

With these conflicting feelings, 46% of Oregon voters approve of pharmaceutical companies’ COVID-19 response, 36% disapprove, and 17% are unsure. Unlike views of political leaders, there is little difference by political party or presidential candidate support. The largest differences are by age with an 18-point

gap in approval between younger and older voters. Specifically, 39% of voters ages 18-29 approve of pharmaceutical companies' response versus 57% of voters ages 65+.

DHM Research Survey – Presidential Race and COVID-19

September 3-8, 2020

Oregon 2020 Voters; Modeled for November General Election Turnout  
N=502; ±4.4% Margin of Error

Screeners

1. Are you registered to vote at your current address?

Response category	n=
Yes	1
No	TERM
Don't know	TERM

2. How likely are you to vote in the November 2020 election for President, Senate, Congress, and other offices?

Response category	n=502
Almost certain	87%
Probably	8%
50/50	6%
Probably not	TERM
Definitely not	TERM
Don't know	TERM

Q3-Q9 withheld for future release

General Direction

The next questions are about how you're feeling about the United States and Oregon.

10. All things considered, would you say that United States is headed in the right direction or are things off on the wrong track?

Response category	n=502
Right direction	22%
Wrong track	71%
Don't know	7%

11. All things considered, would you say that Oregon is headed in the right direction or are things off on the wrong track?

Response category	n=502
Right direction	31%
Wrong track	56%
Don't know	13%

12. What is the one most important issue in Oregon right now that you would like state leaders to address? **(Open)**

Response category	n=501
Racial Justice protests/riots in Portland/violent faction of protests	30%
COVID-19 virus—public safety: enforce masks, limit travel, testing	16%
Economy: re-opening for business, need jobs, school re-opening	13%
Homelessness: mental health, drug addiction	8%
Poor local leadership; Gov. Brown, Ted Wheeler	7%
Racism: systemic, racial equality, BLM	7%
Police: training, reform, accountability, brutality	5%
Unemployment: general, outdated system, pay benefits	5%
Affordable housing: high price, evictions	3%
Fiscal policy: Tax reform, spending reform	3%
Health care: universal, access to	3%
All other responses	2% or less
Don't know	3%

### Economy

**(Rotate Q13-Q14, Q15-Q16)**

13. How would you rate the economic conditions of Oregon today?

Response category	n=502
Excellent	2%
Good	19%
Only fair	54%
Poor	24%
Don't know	2%

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

Response category	n=502
Getting better	9%
Staying the same	39%
Getting worse	46%
Don't know	5%

15. How worried are you about your personal financial situation?

Response category	n=502
Very worried	18%
Somewhat worried	31%
Not too worried	32%
Not at all worried	19%
Don't know	<1%

16. How confident are you that you will be able to pay all your bills on time and in full this month?

Response category	n=502
Very confident	48%
Somewhat confident	33%
Not too confident	11%
Not at all confident	8%
Don't know	1%

### Presidential Race

The following questions are about the 2020 presidential election.

17. If the election for president were today and the Democratic candidate is Joe Biden and the Republican candidate is Donald Trump, would you vote for?

Response category	n=502
Joe Biden	51%
Donald Trump	39%
Someone else	6%
Don't know	4%

### Impressions

Please indicate if your overall impression of the following people is positive or negative. **(randomize)**

Response category	n=502	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Don't know
18. Donald Trump		23%	16%	7%	53%	1%
19. Kate Brown		14%	29%	16%	35%	6%
20. Joe Biden		21%	31%	10%	34%	3%
21. Mike Pence		20%	18%	13%	40%	10%
22. Kamala Harris		23%	21%	11%	32%	13%

Q23-Q28 withheld for future release

Turning to a new topic, the next section is about the COVID-19 outbreak.

## COVID-19

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the following people and organizations are responding to the COVID-19 outbreak? **(randomize)**

Response category n=502	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know
29. President Donald Trump	19%	21%	8%	51%	1%
30. Governor Kate Brown	17%	35%	13%	32%	3%
31. Your local elected officials	11%	44%	16%	17%	11%
32. Your local school district	17%	40%	18%	11%	15%
33. Pharmaceutical companies	10%	36%	20%	16%	17%

34. How worried are you about the spread of COVID-19 in your community?

Response category	n=502
Very worried	25%
Somewhat worried	42%
Not too worried	22%
Not at all worried	11%
Don't know	--

35. Do you think that spread of COVID-19 in your community is generally improving or getting worse?

Response category	n=502
Improving	28%
Staying about the same	47%
Getting worse	20%
Don't know	5%

Because of the COVID-19 outbreak have you or a family member in your household...

Response category	n=502	Yes	No	Don't know
36. Been laid off from a job		23%	76%	1%
37. Had to take a pay cut		24%	74%	2%
38. Received state unemployment benefits		21%	78%	2%

Response category	n=502
Laid off or pay cut (Q36 + Q37 combined)	34%%

## Protests

The next questions are about protests that have happened in across the United States and in Oregon since the death of George Floyd in May.

Do you approve or disapprove how the following people are responding to the protests? **(randomize)**

Response category n=502	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know
39. President Donald Trump	25%	14%	8%	51%	2%
40. Governor Kate Brown	10%	27%	17%	39%	7%
41. Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler	8%	22%	14%	44%	12%
42. Portland Police Officers	19%	27%	27%	18%	9%

Now focusing specifically on the ongoing protests in Portland ...

43. Do you approve or disapprove the protests that are now happening in Portland?

Response category	n=502
Strongly approve	12%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	52%
Don't know	3%

Indicate if you think the ongoing protests in Portland have generally been more helpful or harmful to the following. **(randomize)**

Response category n=502	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Neither helpful or harmful	Somewhat harmful	Very harmful	Don't know
44. Black Portlanders	7%	22%	16%	17%	31%	7%
45. Race relations	6%	17%	18%	15%	38%	5%
46. Efforts to make police reforms	8%	19%	17%	17%	32%	7%

47. Do you think that the protests that are now happening in Portland are mostly violent or peaceful?

Response category	n=502
Mostly violent	56%
Mostly peaceful	36%
Don't know	7%

48. Do you think that police in Portland are using too much force when dealing with protesters, are they not using enough force, or are they handling it about right?

Response category	n=502
Too much force	29%
Not enough force	42%
Handling about right	18%
Don't know	11%

49. The previous questions used the word “protest” to describe recent events in Portland. Some people refer to these same events as “riots.” Which of these words do you think is most accurate?

Response category	n=502
Protest	37%
Riot	55%
Don't know	8%

50. What one recommendation do you have for elected leaders about how to manage the recent protests? (Open)

Response category	n=501
Stop destruction and violence: enforce the law, make arrests	30%
Listen: Talks with protest leaders, coordinate party discussions, have empathy	16%
Act: policy change, new reforms, laws, address racism, accountability	10%
Bring in support: nation guard, federal troops	10%
Support peaceful protests: have right to protest	9%
Separate rioters from protesters: isolate people inciting violence	7%
Police de-escalate: use less force on protesters, stop tear gassing, shooting	7%
Leadership: more decisive/action, remove them	4%
Curfew: nighttime arrests	4%
Stop protests: general, remove protesters	4%
All other responses	3% or less
Don't know	9%

## Demographics

51. In what year were you born?

Response category	n=502
18-34	15%
35-49	23%
50-64	33%
65+	29%

52. I describe my gender as: (Check all that apply)

Response category	n=502
Male	49%
Female	51%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	1%
I prefer not to respond	n=2



53. In what county do you live?

Area of the state:

Response category	n=502
Tri county	43%
Willamette Valley	26%
Rest of state	31%

54. What is your party registration?

Response category	n=502
Democrat	39%
Republican	28%
Non-affiliated/other party	33%

55. Do you have any children under age 18 in the household?

Response category	n=444
Yes	26%
No	74%

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

Response category	n=502
Less than high school diploma	3%
High school diploma	24%
2-year degree/some college/trade	36%
4-year degree	22%
Graduate degree	15%

57. What was your total household income in 2019? Remember to include everyone and your best guess is OK.

Response category	n=477
Less than \$25,000	23%
\$25,000-\$49,999	29%
\$50,000-\$74,999	20%
\$75,000-\$99,999	11%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	11%
\$150,000 or more	7%

58. With which of the following races and ethnicities do you identify? Check all that apply

<b>Response category</b>	<b>n=502</b>
African	n=3
Asian or Pacific Islander	5%
Black or African American	2%
Hispanic or Latino	6%
Middle Eastern or North African	n=1
Native American or American Indian	3%
Slavic	n=1
White or Caucasian	89%
Other	n=1
Refused	n=2