



Living with COVID-19¹

Reason for Optimism

Oregon Values and Beliefs Panel Survey

June 2020

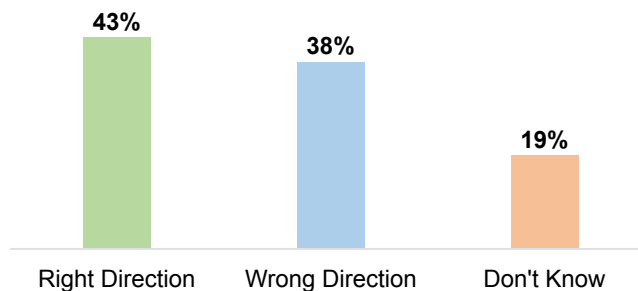
As a result of COVID-19, Oregonians have been forced to change how they live. COVID-19 has had a large influence on Oregonians' work and personal lives. We are curious to know how Oregonians view these changes that arose from COVID-19, as well as how they evaluate the performance of representatives and peers during the pandemic.

These findings come from the fielding of the monthly DHM-OVBC Oregon Values and Beliefs Panel Survey. The online survey was conducted from May 29-June 7, 2020. It surveyed 900 Oregonians. To ensure a representative statewide sample, demographic quotas were set, and the data was weighted by area of the state, gender, age, and education. The survey's margin of error is $\pm 2.0\%$ to $\pm 3.3\%$ depending on how the response category percentages split for any given question.

Are We Moving in the Right Direction?

Much of Oregon is divided. 43% of respondents believe Oregon is moving in the right direction compared to 38% who believe Oregon is moving in the wrong direction. This is a 13% drop in Oregonians who believe we are moving in the right direction from when we last asked Oregonians this question in April. It appears Oregonians are getting more pessimistic.

Chart 1
Is Oregon Moving in the Right Direction?



A majority of Democrats (62%) believe Oregon is moving in the right direction. Republicans (27%) and NAV/Other (not a member of one of the two major parties) (35%) are much less optimistic. A similar discrepancy exists around education. College educated respondents (56%) are more positive regarding the state's direction than non-college educated respondents (42%). We also can see lots of uncertainty

¹ The research was completed as a community service by DHM Research in partnership with the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center. Both organizations are independent and non-partisan. DHM is a Certified B Corporation and OVBC is an Oregon charitable nonprofit corporation.

amongst low-income Oregonians. Individuals making less than \$25,000 reported that they were unsure 35% of the time, far higher than the wealthiest Oregonians (8%).

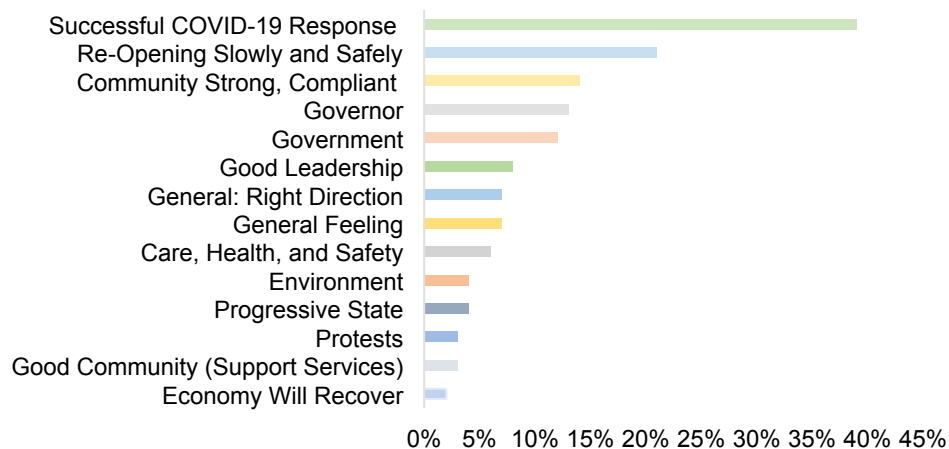
Why the Right Direction?

Oregonians who report that the state is moving in the right direction largely do so because of Oregon’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The top three responses include: community compliance, re-opening the state, and successful COVID-19 response. These three responses account for 74% of respondents that believe we are moving in the right direction.

“I feel we have good leadership, especially through this virus. They are making good decisions on all levels.”

“Compared to other states, Oregon has done a good job of managing the virus and I've seen lots of people taking the proper precautions. It feels like the majority of people have adapted their lives to be smart about things.”

**Chart 2
Reasons for Right Direction**



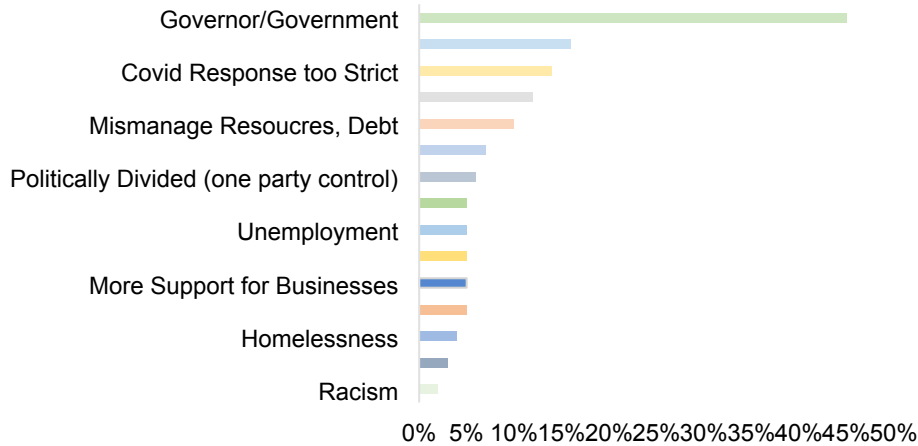
Why the Wrong Direction?

The most popular reason reported for why Oregon is moving in the wrong direction were Governor Kate Brown and the government in general with 48% of responses. This likely relates to the partisan divide in Oregon’s direction. Oregonians are concerned from opposite views regarding COVID-19. 17% of respondents felt we are moving in the wrong direction because Oregon is opening too soon and fear that the infection rate of COVID-19 will increase. On the opposite end, 14% of respondents believe we are re-opening too slowly and need to move faster. Oregonians were also concerned about the economy (11%) and unemployment rate (6%).

“We’re overwhelmed with significant problems which our elected representatives have been unable to solve. They’ve become intractable.”

“The shutdown has been too prolonged. It has damaged the economy. Oregon is a small business state. Many will close and unemployment will rise. It will take a while for the economy to recover.”

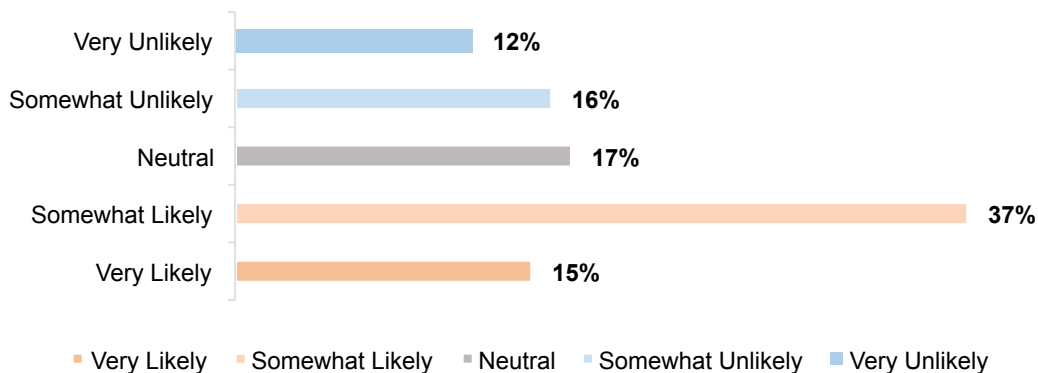
**Chart 3
Reasons for Wrong Direction**



Optimism for the Future

Although a majority of Oregonians are uncertain or pessimistic regarding whether Oregon is moving in the right direction, a small majority (52%) believe that Oregonians will be able to work together to make progress. This is much larger than those who believe that achieving this goal is unlikely (27%). This follows political affiliations, with 65% of Democrats being optimistic, 52% of NAV/Other, and just 37% of Republicans.

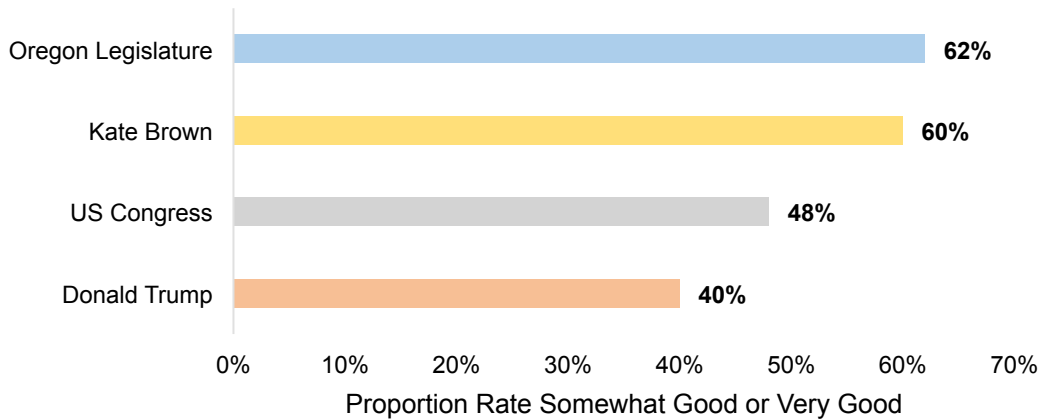
**Chart 4
Over Next 10 Years Oregonians Work Together to Make Progress**



Performance Review

Oregonians rate the job performance of the Governor Brown and state Legislature better than the President and US Congress. A majority of respondents had favorable ratings for the Governor and state Legislature, but fewer than half of Oregonians gave positive job approval ratings to the US Congress or President Trump.

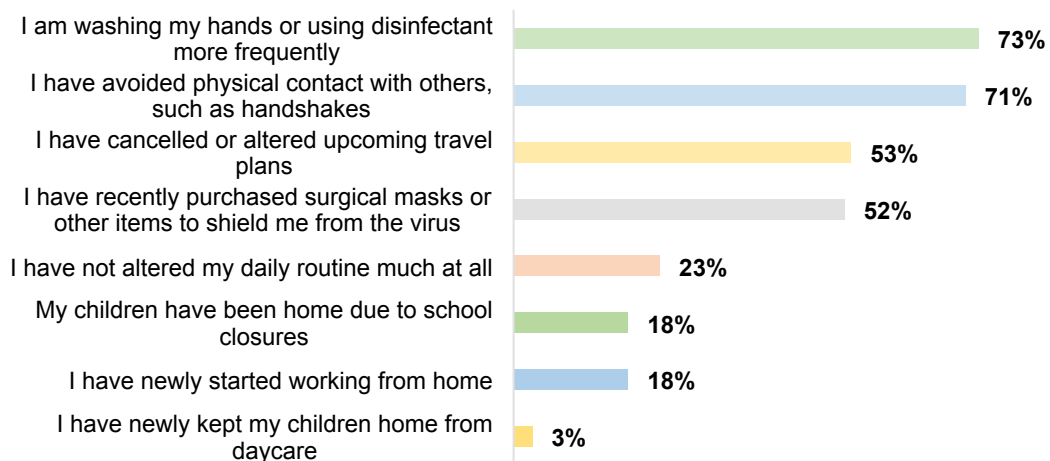
**Chart 5
Job Performance**



How Has COVID-19 Affected Oregonians?

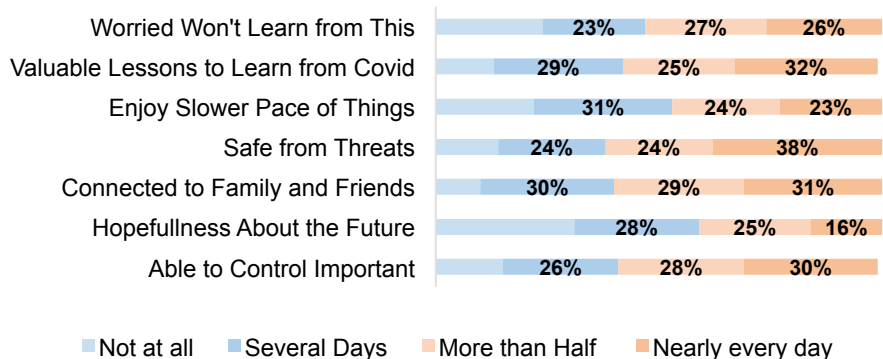
COVID-19 has changed how we live. 77% of Oregonians reported that their daily routines have changed from the pandemic. All of the changes relate to limiting the exposure and transmission of COVID-19. Respondents are purchasing masks (52%), washing their hands more frequently (73%), and avoiding physical contact with others (71%). For some, the pandemic has meant working from home (18%) and having children stay at home (18%).

**Chart 6
Changes to Daily Routines Due to COVID-19**



To get a better understanding of how COVID-19 is influencing Oregonians day-to-day lives, we asked respondents over the last two weeks, how frequently they a range of emotional states. A majority of Oregonians feel safe from threats (61%), a positive sign in the state's effort to combat the pandemic. Older individuals and individuals with high-income are predominately higher than their counterparts. Seniors (65 and older) report feeling safe in 73% of responses, compared to just 51% for younger individuals (18-34 years old). COVID-19 presents a greater threat to older individuals, so the security felt by seniors in Oregon is a sign of a successful response. COVID-19 has also been much more prevalent among low-income individuals. This is consistent with Oregon; 55% of respondents in the lowest income group (less than \$25,000) report feeling safe compared to 74% of the highest income group (over \$100,000).

Chart 7
Frequency Felt Over Last Two Weeks



We asked Oregonians similar questions in March. We found that Oregonians appear to be feeling better now than they did in March. In March, 53% of respondents reported feeling safe from threat, this number has risen to 61%. Feeling connected rose 6-points, hopefulness rose 3-points, and able to control what is important rose 8-points from March to June.

There is still concern regarding what this pandemic may mean for the future. 57% of respondents believe there are valuable lessons to be learned from the pandemic, but 53% report being worried that we won't learn from the COVID-19 experience.

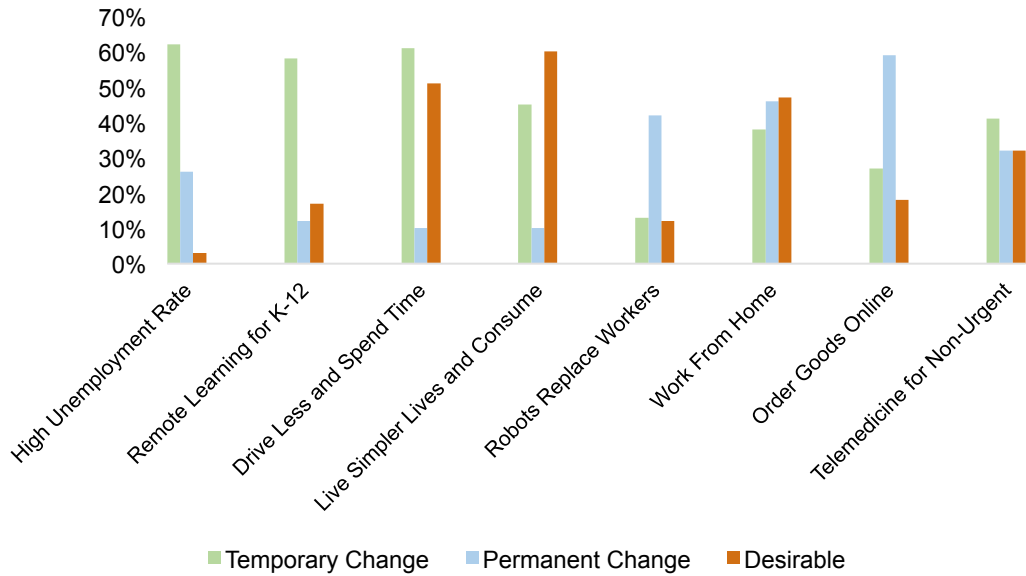
Not all Oregonians feel there are lessons to be learned or are worried whether we will learn from this pandemic. Democrats tend to both feel there are valuable lessons to learn (69%) and are worried that we won't learn from the COVID-19 experience (66%), far higher than Republicans (48% and 35%) and NAV/ Other (52% and 55%). The results are interestingly split by race. 65% of people of color felt there were valuable lessons to learn compared to 56% of white respondents. Yet, white respondents (54%) reported a higher rate of worrying that we won't learn from this experience than people of color (47%).

Is This the New Normal?

COVID-19 has forced Oregonians to adapt. We wanted to measure which of these changes were desirable and whether respondents felt that these COVID-19 induced changes were temporary or permanent. Oregonians perceived many of these new behaviors as temporary changes. Although, most respondents anticipate that ordering goods online (59%), working from home (46%), and robots replacing

workers (42%) as permanent changes. Of these three, only working from home was seen as desirable (47%).

Chart 8
Expected Length and Desirability of Behavior Change



Oregonians believe living simpler lives and consuming less (60%) and driving less and spending more time locally (51%) were both desirable changes, but neither were seen as being permanent changes.

Summary

COVID-19 changed our lives. Oregonians are beginning to recover and have shown significant improvement in feelings and optimism since March. As we move beyond COVID-19, we expect this gradual improvement to continue. It is unclear what outcomes from COVID-19 will be lasting and what will be the new normal.

Oregon Values and Belief Panel Survey

June 2020

N=900, ±2.0% to ±3.3%

In the last two weeks how often have you felt the following ways?

Response category	Not at all	Several days	More than half the days	Nearly every day
1. Able to control what is important	15%	26%	28%	30%
2. Sense of hopefulness about the future	31%	28%	25%	16%
3. Connected to family and friends	10%	30%	29%	31%
4. Safe from threats	14%	24%	24%	38%
5. More relaxed, enjoying the slower pace of things	22%	31%	24%	23%
6. Thinking there are valuable lessons to be learned from Covid-19	13%	29%	25%	32%
7. Worried that we won't learn from all that's going on and adopt new behaviors	24%	23%	27%	26%

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

Response category	n=900
Right direction	43%
Wrong track	38%
Don't know	19%

9. (If right direction) Why do you think Oregon is headed in the right direction? **[Open]**

Response category	n=371
COVID response: science-based, low case numbers	39%
Re-opening slowly/safely	21%
Community: strong, complying with order, masking	14%
Governor	14%
Government	12%
Good leadership (general)	8%
General: moving in the right direction, trying to fix	7%
General feeling	7%
Cares for people and health/safety	6%
Environment: care about, protection	4%
Progressive state/leadership	4%
Protests, good response to, support of racial equity, peaceful	3%
Other	4%
Don't know	<1%

10. (If wrong direction) Why do you think Oregon is off on the wrong track? **[Open]**

Response category	n=318
Governor/government	48%
Fear greater COVID spread/ re-opening too soon	17%
COVID response too restrictive, need for re-opening	15%
Economy is weak; wages not keeping up (business)	13%
Mismanagement of resources/money, overspending	11%
Concerns over protests, response too weak, no social distance, property damage	8%
Unemployment	6%
Lack of representation for rural Oregon	5%
Housing/homelessness	4%
Racism/injustice	3%
Other	9%
Don't know	<1%

11. Please rate the probability that over the next 10 years Oregonians from diverse backgrounds will find common ground and work together to make progress addressing the critical issues we face as a state.

Response category	n=772
Very likely	15%
Somewhat likely	37%
Neutral	17%
Somewhat unlikely	16%
Very unlikely	11%
Don't know	4%

How do you rate the job performance of these institutions and individuals?

Response category	Incompetent	Somewhat good	Very good	Don't know
12. Donald Trump	58%	18%	22%	3%
13. United States Congress	44%	41%	7%	8%
14. Oregon legislature	27%	51%	11%	10%
15. Governor Kate Brown	36%	33%	27%	4%
16. Citizens of Oregon	10%	52%	30%	7%

26. Have you changed your daily routine in any way specifically because of the coronavirus (COVID-19)?
Select all that apply.

Response category	n=900
My children have been home due to school closures	18%
I have newly started working from home	18%
I have cancelled or altered upcoming travel plans	53%
I have newly kept my children home from daycare	3%
I have recently purchased surgical masks or other items to shield me from the virus	52%
I have avoided physical contact with others, such as handshakes	71%
I am washing my hands or using disinfectant more frequently	73%
I have not altered my daily routine much at all	23%
Don't know	2%

As a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19), which of the following changes will happen in Oregon over the next few years and will they be temporary or permanent changes, and become the new normal?

Response category	Will not happen	Will be temporary	Will be permanent	Don't know
27. There will be high unemployment rates	2%	62%	26%	9%
28. Remote learning will be the major form of K-12 public education	15%	58%	12%	15%
29. People will drive less and spend more time locally, close to where they live	18%	61%	10%	11%
30. People will live simpler lives and consume less	33%	45%	10%	12%
31. Automation and robotics will increase in the workplace and replace workers	18%	13%	42%	26%
32. People will work more from home, decreasing the demand for office space	5%	38%	46%	11%
33. People will order more consumer goods online, decreasing the number of brick and mortar retail stores	4%	27%	59%	10%
34. Telemedicine will be the major form of non-urgent health care, replacing office visits to the doctor	11%	41%	32%	16%

Here is the list again of possible changes that may happen in Oregon because of the coronavirus (COVID-19). For each, indicate your opinion about the desirability of the potential change.

Response category	Desirable	Neutral	Undesirable	Don't know
35. There will be high unemployment rates	3%	13%	79%	5%
36. Remote learning will be the major form of K-12 public education	17%	25%	51%	7%
37. People will drive less and spend more time locally close wo there they live	51%	30%	13%	5%

Response category	Desirable	Neutral	Undesirable	Don't know
38. People will live simpler lives and consume less	60%	26%	8%	6%
39. Automation and robotics will increase in the workplace and replace workers	12%	30%	47%	11%
40. People will work more from home decreasing the demand for office space	47%	37%	10%	6%
41. People will order more consumer goods online decreasing the number of brick and mortar retail stores	18%	42%	34%	6%
42. Telemedicine will be the major form of non-urgent health care replacing office visits to the doctor	31%	31%	32%	6%

77. In what year were you born?

Response category	n=900
18-34	29%
35-44	17%
45-54	17%
55-64	17%
65+	19%

78. I describe my gender as:

Response category	n=900
Male	50%
Female	50%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	7 responses
Trans	5 responses
Other	1 response

79. In what county do you live?

Response category	n=900
Tri-county	44%
Willamette Valley	28%
Rest of state	28%

80. What is your party registration?

Response category	n=900
Democrat	38%
Republican	27%
Another party	9%
Not affiliated with a political party	21%
Not registered to vote	5%

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

Response category	n=900
Less than high school	3%
High school diploma/GED	34%
Some college/2-year degree	36%

College degree/4-year degree	15%
Graduate/professional school	13%

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

Response category	n=900
Less than \$25,000	22%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	25%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	19%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	13%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	14%
\$150,000 or more	8%

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

Response category	n=900
African	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3%
Black/African American	1%
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	5%
Middle Eastern/North African	4 responses
Native American/American Indian	4%
Slavic	2%
White or Caucasian	92%
Other	1%

83. Do you have any medical conditions that make you more vulnerable to COVID-19?

Response category	n=900
Yes	34%
No	59%
Don't know	6%

-Coronavirus is an urgent challenge for Oregon and the world. We thank you for taking time to share your experiences and opinions.

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

84. Name **[Open]**

85. Phone number **[Open]**

86. Email address **[Open]**