

INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

From October 1-6, 2020, DHM Research and the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center conducted a survey of Oregonians to assess values and beliefs about a variety of issues including COVID-19, public finance and taxation, climate change, and homelessness.

The research was completed as a community service by DHM Research in partnership with the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

Research Methodology: The online survey consisted of 600 Oregon residents ages 18+ 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 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, 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, ranges from $\pm 2.4\%$ to $\pm 4.0\%$ depending on how the response category percentages split for any given question.

DHM Research & Oregon Values and Beliefs Center: 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.

Key Findings

- Eighty percent of Oregonians are worried about Oregon's future — most notably, the impact that Covid-19 will have on our economy and public health infrastructure, the protests and riots in downtown Portland, and our effect on the environment in the wake of September's devastating wildfires.
- While most Oregonians are worried about their personal financial situation, thirteen percent aren't worried at all.
- Oregonians are split on the topic of taxation to improve public services. We saw an equal distribution of respondents feeling that Oregon spends too much, the right amount, and not enough on public services.
- Only a third of Oregonians said they feel we can find common ground and come together next year to address our state's challenges. The rest said we won't be able to or were unsure.

DHM/OVBC Statewide Values and Beliefs Survey
October 1-6, 2020
Oregonians 18+; N=600; margin of error ±2.4 to ±4.0%

WELCOME

Let us start with a few general questions.

GENERAL

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

Response category	n=600
Right direction	44%
Wrong track	56%
Don't know	--

2. What is the most important issue you would like Oregon's elected leaders to do something about? (Open)

Response category	n=600
Law and order enforcement: rioters, destruction of property	19%
Environment: climate change, fires, forest management	14%
COVID-19 (health): spread, controlling it, community compliance	11%
Homelessness/homeless	9%
Economy: unemployment, jobs, support/improve	9%
Racial injustice: police brutality, defund/reform police, systemic, BLM	9%
Irresponsible government: remove from office, spending, walking out of sessions	6%
Affordable housing: for low-income, fair, high rent prices	6%
COVID-19 (policy): open up, back to school/work, freedom, less control	5%
Taxes: impact to small business, reform, too high, need sales tax	5%
Education: higher quality, funding for	4%
Healthcare/Mental health	4%
Kate Brown: remove, negative	3%
Safety: general, need for, effective policing	3%
Increase financial and social supports: food, services, \$	3%
Public health guidelines for schools, businesses	2%
Transportation/infrastructure: highways, roads, congestion	2%
Drugs: usage, change Measure 11	1%
Inequality-economic: disparity, wages not rising, poverty	1%
Other	> 1%
Don't know	3%

3. How worried are you about Oregon's future?

Response category	n=600
Very/Somewhat Worried	80%
Very	31%
Somewhat	49%
Not too/Not at all Worried	19%
Not too	18%
Not at all	1%
Don't know	1%

4. (If Q2=Very/Somewhat Worried) In 10 words or less, what worries you about Oregon's future?
(Open)

Response category	n=71
COVID-19: health-related, economic impact/too many regulations	55%
Fires: destruction, increasing threat, forest mismanagement	36%
Portland riots, handling of protests	17%
Unemployment	10%
Environment: climate change, fire disasters	9%
Lack of law and order: crime, violence, safety, drugs	8%
Poor leadership: deep division, one-sided majority, social unrest	6%
Economic: taxes, lack of drivers/tourists, PERS impact, need business support	6%
Out-of-state influencers	5%
Healthcare: Mental health	4%
Law enforcement: violence, racism, reform	4%
Education: quality of, lack of support for	3%
Inequality: racial, gender, income-financial security, greed	3%
Homelessness: extent of problem, ignored	2%
Democratic leadership: idiots, Socialists, Kate Brown, too liberal	2%
Republican leadership: while supremacists, Fascism	1%
All other responses	>1%
Don't know	--

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

Response category	n=600
Very/Somewhat Worried	53%
Very	19%
Somewhat	33%
Not too/Not at all Worried	46%
Not too	32%
Not at all	13%
Don't know	2%

ELECTION

6. How closely are you following the news about the 2020 presidential election campaign?

Response category	n=600
Very/Somewhat Closely	79%
Very	47%
Somewhat	32%
Not too/Not at all Closely	20%
Not too	12%
Not at all	8%
Don't know	1%

(Rotate Q7-Q8)

7. If Donald Trump is elected president, do you think the country would get through his presidency okay, or do you think he would do real damage to the country?

Response category	2020 n=600	2016 n=728
Get through okay	35%	28%
Do real damage	56%	66%
Don't know	8%	6%

8. If Joe Biden (2016 Hillary Clinton) is elected president, do you think the country would get through his presidency okay, or do you think he would do real damage to the country? (Benchmark October 2016)

Response category	2020 n=600	2016 n=728
Get through okay	55%	51%
Do real damage	33%	46%
Don't know	12%	4%

9. Next year, do you think we can come together as Oregonians —urban and rural, Republican and Democrat, White and communities of color—and make progress addressing our state's challenges?

Response category	n=600
Yes	33%
No	32%
I'm not sure	35%

COVID-19 – APRIL 2020 BENCHMARK

How worried are you that the following people will become infected by COVID-19?

Response category	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Not too worried	Not at all worried	Don't know
10. You personally					
October 2020, n=600	12%	35%	33%	19%	1%
April 2020, n=900	15%	30%	40%	13%	2%
11. A member of your household					
October 2020, n=600	23%	32%	26%	16%	2%
April 2020, n=900	24%	31%	28%	8%	9%
12. Anyone else who does not live in your household but who would rely on your support for medical care					
October t2020 n=600	16%	27%	26%	23%	8%
April 2020, n=900	20%	28%	21%	8%	23%

13. When do you think the FDA will approve a vaccine for COVID-19?

Response category	n=600
Before the November election	3%
Between election day and the end of the year	15%
Sometime next year	54%
Sometime after next year	9%
Don't know	19%

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION

14. Which of the following statements is closest to how you feel about taxes and public services in Oregon?

Response category	Oct 2020 n=600	June 2020 n=900	2013 OVBC	2002 OVBC
Oregon spends too much on public services and taxes should be reduced.	31%	32%	30%	28%
Oregon spends about the right amount on public services and taxes should remain the same.	32%	33%	31%	44%
Oregon doesn't spend enough on public services and taxes should be increased.	23%	22%	28%	22%
Don't know	15%	13%	10%	6%

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.

Response Category	Too much strongly	Too much somewhat	Right amount	Too little somewhat	Too little strongly	Don't know
15. Large businesses	6%	7%	13%	24%	37%	12%
16. Small businesses	14%	32%	30%	7%	3%	14%
17. Individuals	19%	29%	31%	10%	3%	8%

Below is a list of services about which people have differing ideas of importance. For each, indicate how important it is for you.

• Very or somewhat important means you would support some increase in your taxes to increase the service or some reallocation of tax dollars away from other existing services;

• Neutral means you don't want more tax dollars to go to that service even if that means a diminished level of the service over time;

• Somewhat or very unimportant means you want fewer or no taxes to go to that service now and that it should be reduced or discontinued entirely.

Note: Sorry for the long list. We appreciate you taking the time to separately consider each item carefully. **(Randomize)**

Response category	Very Important \$\$	Somewhat Important \$	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Very unimportant	Don't know
18. Emergency disaster & preparedness						
Oct 2020, n=600	31%	42%	21%	3%	2%	1%
2013 OVBC	29%	37%	26%	5%	3%	--
19. Public safety like police (in 2013 included fire)						
Oct 2020, n=600	33%	22%	23%	11%	9%	2%
2013 OVBC	48%	31%	16%	2%	2%	--
20. K-12 education						
Oct 2020, n=600	47%	23%	19%	6%	3%	2%
2013 OVBC	58%	23%	12%	3%	3%	1%
21. Vocational & technical training/retraining						
Oct 2020, n=600	23%	37%	28%	6%	4%	3%
2013 OVBC	22%	39%	27%	7%	4%	1%
22. Fire protection (Fire protection included with Police protection in 2013)						
2020, n=600	43%	34%	18%	2%	1%	2%
23. Community colleges						
Oct 2020, n=600	24%	32%	29%	8%	5%	2%
2013 OVBC	30%	38%	24%	5%	4%	--
24. The justice system, courts & jails						
Oct 2020, n=600	21%	34%	26%	11%	6%	3%
2013 OVBC	27%	36%	27%	5%	4%	1%
25. Road & highway maintenance						
Oct 2020, n=600	25%	44%	24%	4%	2%	1%
2013 OVBC	29%	43%	22%	3%	2%	1%
26. Public transportation like buses and trains						
Oct 2020, n=600	20%	30%	28%	13%	7%	2%
2013 OVBC	22%	23%	27%	10%	8%	1%
27. Economic development like subsidies and tax breaks for business attraction or expansion						
Oct 2020, n=600	10%	20%	35%	18%	14%	4%
2013 OVBC	15%	28%	31%	15%	10%	2%
28. Protection of water and air quality						
Oct 2020, n=600	48%	27%	17%	4%	3%	2%
2013 OVBC	44%	30%	18%	5%	3%	1%
29. Low-income support services						
Oct 2020, n=600	32%	29%	24%	7%	5%	2%
2013 OVBC	22%	30%	28%	10%	9%	1%

Response category	Very Important \$	Somewhat Important \$	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Very unimportant	Don't know
30. Publicly funded health insurance for all citizens						
Oct 2020, n=600	42%	20%	15%	7%	13%	2%
2013 OVBC	31%	22%	18%	9%	18%	2%
31. Energy efficiency programs to promote conservation and use of energy efficient products						
Oct 2020, n=600	26%	29%	26%	9%	8%	2%
2013 OVBC	25%	35%	23%	8%	8%	1%
32. Government cost controls for essential health care services						
Oct 2020, n=600	29%	26%	29%	6%	5%	5%
2013 OVBC	28%	32%	23%	7%	8%	3%
33. Public health including disease prevention (Not asked in 2013)						
Oct 2020, n=600	35%	34%	21%	5%	3%	1%
34. Public facility infrastructure like water and sewer						
Oct 2020, n=600	31%	36%	27%	2%	2%	2%
2013 OVBC	30%	38%	25%	4%	2%	1%
35. Renewable energy incentives and investments						
Oct 2020, n=600	30%	26%	23%	10%	9%	2%
2013 OVBC	24%	33%	23%	10%	9%	1%
36. New roads and highways						
Oct 2020, n=600	15%	35%	32%	11%	6%	1%
2013 OVBC	16%	33%	33%	11%	6%	1%
37. 4-year colleges and universities						
Oct 2020, n=600	17%	27%	30%	14%	11%	3%
2013 OVBC	29%	34%	25%	7%	5%	1%
38. Protection of productive farm and forest land from development						
Oct 2020, n=600	32%	36%	22%	5%	4%	2%
2013 OVBC	33%	33%	21%	7%	5%	1%

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.	59%
Yes, solid evidence. Mostly because of natural patterns in earth's environment.	18%
No solid evidence, we just don't know enough yet	12%
No solid evidence, it's just not happening	5%
Don't know	6%

40. How concerned are you, if at all, that global climate change will harm you personally at some point in your lifetime?

Response category	n=600
Very/Somewhat Concerned	64%
Very	37%
Somewhat	26%
Not too/Not at all Concerned	34%
Not too	17%
Not at all	17%
Don't know	2%

41. Do you think Oregon should take additional steps to combat climate change?

Response category	n=600
Yes	62%
No	26%
Don't know	12%

42. Are you prepared to pay something in higher taxes for what you pay for goods and services to combat climate change?

Response category	n=600
Yes	46%
No	40%
Don't know	14%

HOMELESSNESS

43. How important is it for leaders in your community to make doing something about homelessness their number one priority? (not important, somewhat important, very important, urgent)

Response category	n=600
Not important	8%
Somewhat important	41%
Very important	28%
Urgent	22%
Don't know	--

44. Why do you think people become homeless? Select and rank your top three reasons among the following. **(Randomize)**

Response Category	Ranked #1	#1- #3 combined
Mental illness	23%	59%
Substance abuse	22%	59%
Lack of affordable housing	19%	44%
Unemployment	11%	32%
Personal choice	7%	23%
Low paying jobs	5%	25%
Medical or health costs	3%	12%
Criminal record	3%	14%
Eviction	2%	10%
Loss of home to fire or other disaster	1%	7%
Domestic violence	1%	7%
Foreclosure	1%	4%
Family disputes	1%	4%

In your opinion, how much responsibility do each of the following have in creating a solution to the problem of homelessness?

Response Category	No responsibility	Some responsibility	Full responsibility	Don't know
45. State elected officials	6%	47%	43%	4%
46. Housing developers	22%	55%	17%	6%
47. Social service providers	6%	64%	25%	5%
48. Landlords	29%	53%	11%	7%
49. Local elected officials	5%	50%	42%	4%
50. Neighborhood and community associations	23%	59%	10%	7%
51. Police	39%	43%	10%	8%
52. Faith based organizations	25%	55%	11%	9%
53. State government	4%	49%	44%	3%
54. Big business and corporations	27%	47%	19%	8%
55. Foundation and charitable trusts	19%	60%	14%	7%
56. Local government	3%	51%	43%	3%
57. Medical community	27%	56%	10%	8%
58. Small businesses	51%	38%	3%	8%
59. You personally	38%	47%	5%	9%

60. Neither may fit your thinking exactly, but which of the following statements is closer to your opinion:

Response category	2020 n=600	2019 n=535	2015 n=464
With the right policies and resources, homelessness is a problem that can be solved in my community	57%	53%	59%
No matter how hard we try, homelessness will always be a problem in my community	37%	39%	37%
Don't know	7%	8%	4%

61. Among the following issues and trends, which two are the most significant causes of unemployment and under employment? Select and rank your top two causes among the following. **(Randomize)**

Response Category	#1	#1 - #2 combined
COVID-19	26%	37%
Jobs being moved out of the country	13%	22%
Economic recession	11%	24%
Mental and emotional illness	11%	20%
Government assistance pays more than working	9%	17%
Not having in-demand job skills	7%	20%
Computerization, automation, robotics, etc.	7%	16%
Not having childcare and/or elder care	4%	14%
Discrimination (age, gender, race, ethnicity)	4%	9%
Undocumented workers	3%	9%
Criminal record	3%	9%
Employer commitment to diversity, inclusion, equity	1%	2%
Legal immigrants taking jobs	--	2%

62. Are there any thoughts you would like to share with us about homelessness in your community?

(Open)

Response category	n=437
They need more help: provide space/housing, resources	20%
General: big/complex problem, getting worse, needs fixing	12%
Substance abuse related: need treatment	10%
Housing: lack of, needs to be priority one	9%
State too amenable: teach them to work, take care of themselves	9%
Mental illness-related: need mental more/better health services	8%
Not OK with criminal aspect: drugs, enforce the law	7%
Local government not doing anything/enough, needs to work on it	7%
Emotional: sad, hates seeing it, ignored	5%
Not a problem in my community	5%
Not a crime: housing is a right, treat them with respect/compassion	5%
Public health issue: sanitation, safety	5%
Increase funding: taxes, wealth tax, redirect from other programs, efficient spending	4%
Wage gap: lack of living wages	3%
Can't fix it: homeless don't want help, they need to want it	3%
Jobs: training, losses, provide	3%
Better health care: get those on street better access to	2%
Federal problem: need Fed solution	2%
Mirror programs that have worked before/other places	1%
All other comments	<1%
Don't know	1%
No/None/No comment	16%

DEMOGRAPHICS

63. In what year were you born?

Response category	n=600
18-29	20%
30-44	26%
45-64	35%
65+	19%

64. I describe my gender as:

Response category	n=600
Male	50%
Female	49%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	1%
Trans	n=1
Other	--

65. In what county do you live?

Response category	n=600
Tri-county	44%
Willamette Valley	28%
Rest of state	28%

66. What is your party registration?

Response category	n=600
Democrat	42%
Republican	25%
Independent Party of Oregon	12%
Some other party	2%
Non-affiliated	14%
Not registered to vote	5%

67. Do you rent or own your home?

Response category	n=600
Own	59%
Rent	30%
Other arrangement	11%

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

Response category	n=600
Less than high school	5%
High school diploma/GED	32%
Some college/2-year degree/trade	36%
College degree/4-year degree	14%
Graduate degree/professional school	13%

69. What was your total household income in 2019?

Response category	n=600
Less than \$25,000	22%
\$25,000-49,999	23%
\$50,000-74,999	21%
\$75,000-99,999	13%
\$100,000-149,999	14%
\$150,000 or more	7%

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

Response category	n=600
African	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3%
Black/African American	1%
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	5%
Middle Eastern/North African	--
Native American/American Indian	4%
Slavic	1%
White or Caucasian	92%
Other	1%
Refused	1%

Thank you for participating.