INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

From November 15 – November 20, 2022, DHM Research conducted a survey of Washington voters about public policy issues and voting behaviors during the 2022 general election.

Research Methodology: The online survey consisted of 500 Washington residents (439 who voted in the 2022 general election). This is a sufficient sample size to assess opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

Respondents were contacted by using a professionally maintained online panel. A variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing and data validation. The sample was modeled to reflect the electorate from the November 2022 general election. To ensure a representative sample, demographic quotas were set, and data were weighted by area of state, age, gender, race, and education. Among voters, quotas were set, and data were weighted by the final vote count from the election for U.S. Senator (Patty Murray versus Tiffany Smiley).

The results presented below include responses to most of the questions asked by DHM Research during this survey. Thirteen questions, and data related to those questions have been omitted because the data belong to DHM Research clients.

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 +/- 4.4%.

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.

DHM Panel
November 2022
Washington voters
N=500; margin of error +/- 4.4%
DHM Research Project # 00835

S1. In what state do you live? **[Drop down of all states, TERMINATE if not Washington]**

Response category	n=500
Washington	100%
Other	0%

S2. Are you registered to vote at your current address?

Response category	n=500
Yes	100%
No	0%

DEMOGRAPHICS

1. I describe my gender as:

Response category	n=500
Male	49%
Female	49%
Non-binary or gender-nonconforming	2%
I prefer not to say	0%

2. What is your age **[Open]**

   [Autofill age as:]

Response category	n=500
18–29	17%
30–44	26%
45–64	31%
65+	25%
I prefer not to say	1%

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

Response category	n=500
African	2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	12%
Black/African American	7%
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	8%
Middle Eastern/North African	1%
Native American/American Indian	4%
White/Caucasian	76%
Other	4%

Response category	
Don't know	0%
I prefer not to say	1%

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

Response category	n=500
Less than high school	2%
High school diploma/GED	28%
Some college/2-year degree	33%
College degree/4-year degree	22%
Graduate/professional school	14%
I prefer not to say	n=2

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

Response category	n=500
Less than $25,000	15%
$25,000 to less than $50,000	22%
$50,000 to less than $75,000	21%
$75,000 to less than $100,000	15%
$100,000 to less than $150,000	14%
$150,000 or more	9%
I prefer not to say	3%

6. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself as a Democrat, Republican, or independent? **[If not labeled in sample]**

Response category	n=500
Democrat	37%
Republican	27%
Independent	28%
Another party	1%
I don't know	2%
I prefer not to say	4%

7. What county do you live in? **[Record exact]**

Response category	n=500
King	29%
Puget Sound (except King)	23%
Western	28%
Eastern	20%
I prefer not to say	0%

8. How long have you lived in Washington State?

Response category	n=500
Less than 1 year	2%
1 to 3 years	4%
3 to 10 years	11%
More than 10 years	82%

I prefer not to say	n=1

9. Do you have any school age children living at home?

Response category	n=500
Yes	27%
No	73%

DIRECTION OF THE STATE

10. All in all, would you say Washington is headed in the right direction or are things on the wrong track?

Response category	n=500
Right direction	40%
Wrong track	48%
Don't know	12%

11. **[If Q10=1]** Why do you think Washington is headed in the right direction? **[Open]**

Response category	n=200
Blue state/Democrats/Progressive	15%
Good governor/Strong leadership	13%
Heading the right direction/State is doing well	12%
Environment/Climate change	11%
Economy	8%
Policies/platforms are in favor for the people	7%
Women's rights	7%
Jobs	5%
It is improving/Development	4%
Positive mentions about Washington (e.g., love, good, etc.)	4%
Addressing the homelessness	4%
Green energy	4%
Protecting our freedom/people's rights	3%
Taking care of the people/More involved in the communities	3%
Abortion is not illegal	3%
Getting rid of Trump candidates/Republican	3%
Education/School	2%
Crime/Safety	2%
Good minimum wage	2%
Taxes	2%
Healthcare	2%
LGBT rights	2%
Issues/problems are being solved	2%
Equality/Less racist	1%
Living conditions are great/people are taking care of the city	1%
COVID/Pandemic issue	1%
Socially good	1%
None	2%
Other	6%
Don't know	6%

12. **[If Q10=2]** Why do you think Washington is on the wrong track? **[Open]**

Response category	n=240
Too much crime/Not a safe place to live	23%
Homelessness	20%
Inflation/High cost of living	20%
High taxes	15%
Poor government leadership (Inslee and Biden)	13%
Too much control from the government/democrats are in control	10%
Economic crisis/Low job market	6%
Drugs	5%
High cost of housing	5%
Too liberal/progressive/socialist agenda	5%
Doesn't care for the people/state/Only cares for themselves	5%
Infrastructure/Roads/Traffic	5%
Every state is in the wrong track	4%
Poor law enforcement	4%
Too many policies and laws are being passed that don't work	3%
Too much debt/Budget deficit/No accountability of public funds	3%
Woke policies/CRT	3%
Poor education system	3%
Politically divided/disagreement on both sides	3%
Defunding the police	3%
Environmental issues	2%
Corruption	2%
Doesn't stand for the rights of individuals	2%
Open to illegal immigrants	2%
Abortion laws/Promotes abortion	2%
None	2%
Other	4%
Don't know/Refused	3%

EXIT POLLING – US Senate

13. Did you vote in the November 2022 general election?

Response category	n=500
Yes **[go to Q14]**	88%
No **[go to Q23]**	12%

14. Which candidate for US Senate did you vote for?

Response category	n=439
Patty Murray	54%
Tiffany Smiley	41%
Someone else	6%

15. When did you decide which candidate for US Senate you would vote for?

Response category	n=439
A few days before the election	14%
Within one week of the election	17%
Within one month of the election	20%
More than a month before the election	49%

16. What was the one issue that most impacted your vote for US Senator? **[Randomize 1 – 10]**

Response category	n=439
Economy/Inflation	25%
Crime	8%
Cost of housing	3%
Homelessness	5%
Reproductive rights/abortion	20%
Climate change	5%
Immigration	3%
Taxes	4%
Public education	3%
Threats to democracy	16%
Something else	8%

EXIT POLLING – Washington State Senate and House of Representatives

17. Thinking about your vote for Washington State Senator or Representative, how much did you know about the candidates running for these offices?

Response category	n=439
None at all	2%
Not very much	18%
A fair amount	56%
A great deal	24%

18. Where did you get most of the information about the candidates who you voted for? **[Randomize]**

Response category	n=439
Television news	14%
Television commercials	9%
Podcasts/radio shows	3%
Digital display ads	1%
Social media	6%
Conversations with friends and family	11%
The Washington voter's pamphlet	26%
Direct mail	5%
Organizations(s) I am a part of	3%
Online news	19%
Emails from candidates	3%

19. For the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives, who did you vote for?

Response category	n=439
All Democratic candidates **[skip to Q21]**	39%
Mostly Democratic candidates	15%
All Republican candidates **[skip to Q21]**	26%
Mostly Republican candidates	14%
Other **[skip to Q21]**	6%

20. If you split your votes between Democratic and Republican candidates, what is the biggest reason you voted for a candidate of another party?

Response category	n=130
Voted for the incumbent because they're doing a good job	34%
I felt they were less polarizing than my party's candidate	28%
I thought my party's candidate had personal character flaws	13%
Someone close to me convinced me to vote for another party's candidate	7%
Other	18%

21. What was the one policy issue that most impacted your vote for Washington State Senator and Representative? **[Randomize 1 – 9]**

Response category	n=439
Economy/Inflation	25%
Crime	11%
Cost of housing	5%
Homelessness	4%
Reproductive rights	16%
Climate change	4%
Taxes	5%
Public education	2%
Threats to democracy	19%
Something else	9%

[New page]

22. Are you confident that the election in Washington was conducted fairly and accurately?

Response category	n=439
Yes, very confident	52%
Yes, somewhat confident	24%
No, not very confident	11%
No, not confident at all	8%
Don't know	5%

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2023 Washington State legislative session starts in January. How important, if at all, are the following issues to you when thinking about policies the Legislature should consider during the session? **[If important/not important, ask very or somewhat] [Randomize]**

Response category n=500	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important at all	Don't know
23. Healthcare	57%	31%	8%	3%	1%
24. Economic inequality	39%	30%	17%	10%	3%
25. Racial justice	39%	27%	17%	15%	2%
26. Reproductive rights/Abortion	49%	22%	13%	14%	2%
27. Crime	65%	28%	5%	2%	1%
28. Homelessness	57%	31%	8%	2%	1%
29. Cost of living	73%	21%	5%	<1%	1%
30. Climate change	42%	26%	14%	17%	2%
31. Gun policy	46%	28%	12%	12%	2%
32. Taxes	52%	35%	9%	2%	2%
33. Public education	49%	33%	12%	4%	1%
34. Traffic congestion	23%	40%	26%	9%	2%

35. From the same list of issues, which is the most important issue you want the Washington State Legislature to do something about? **[Randomize]**

Response category	n=500
Healthcare	4%
Economic inequality	6%
Racial justice	2%
Reproductive rights/Abortion	8%
Crime	16%
Homelessness	11%
Cost of living	30%
Climate change	7%
Gun policy	5%
Taxes	8%
Public education	2%
Traffic congestion	1%

[New page]

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

Response category	n=500
The United States Congress should pass a federal law to codify Roe v. Wade to ensure a woman's right to choose	55%
The United States Congress should pass a federal abortion ban	10%

Response category	n=500
We should defer to states to set their own state abortion laws	26%
Don't know	9%

[New page]

Recent research suggests that the number of people who fly to western-Washington will double by 2050. A state commission was tasked with finding a suitable location for a second western-Washington airport to supplement Seattle-Tacoma International Airport; the new airport will be about half as large as Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The commission identified 3 locations suitable for a new airport: 2 in rural Pierce County—about one hour south of Seattle—and 1 in Thurston County just outside of Olympia.

37. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the construction of a new airport in Thurston County?

Response category	n=500
Strongly support	16%
Somewhat support	35%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	7%
Neither support nor oppose	29%

38. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the construction of a new airport in rural Pierce County?

Response category	n=500
Strongly support	12%
Somewhat support	34%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	8%
Neither support nor oppose	29%

IMPRESSIONS OF PEOPLE

Indicate if you have a positive or negative impression of the following people. **[Randomize]**

Response category n=500	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Don't know
39. Jay Inslee	19%	23%	19%	33%	6%
40. Joe Biden	18%	27%	16%	36%	2%
41. Donald Trump	13%	19%	14%	54%	1%
42. Ron DeSantis	16%	15%	17%	26%	26%

ECONOMY & WORK

43. Are you currently employed?

Response category	n=500
Yes, full time (35+ hours per week)	37%
Yes, part time (less than 35 hours per week)	15%
No, but looking for work	10%
No, and not looking for work	38%

44. How would you rate economic conditions in Washington today?

Response category	n=500
Very good	6%
Good	36%
Poor	38%
Very poor	17%
Don't know	3%

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

Response category	n=500
Very worried	24%
Somewhat worried	40%
Not too worried	26%
Not at all worried	9%
Don't know	2%

46. How much has inflation impacted your day-to-day spending?

Response category	n=500
Very much	41%
Somewhat	39%
Not too much	15%
Not at all	5%
Don't know	1%

47. Thinking about the job situation in Washington today, would you say that now is a good or bad time to find a quality job?

Response category	n=500
Very good	13%
Good	46%
Bad	23%
Very bad	5%
Don't know	13%

HOUSING

48. Do you rent or own your current home?

Response category	n=500
Rent	36%
Own	56%
I have a different arrangement	8%

49. Which is closer to your opinion:

Response category	n=500
Building more units of housing will decrease the price of housing where I live	20%
The price of housing will remain the same where I live regardless of how many units are built	62%
Don't know	18%

50. Which is closer to your opinion:

Response category	n=500
Housing vouchers are an efficient tool for helping people with lower incomes find housing	52%
Housing vouchers incentivize people to work less hard	28%
Don't know	20%

51. Which is closer to your opinion:

Response category	n=500
In my neighborhood, properties purchased as investments increase the price of housing without providing more units of housing	52%
In my neighborhood, investment properties increase the quality of the neighborhood	18%
Don't know	30%

HOMELESSNESS

52. How important is it for leaders in your community to make doing something about homelessness their number one priority?

Response category	n=500
Not important	5%
Somewhat important	36%
Very important	29%
Urgent	27%
Don't know	4%

53. Why do you think people become homeless? Select and rank your top three reasons among the following. **[Randomize]**

Response category n=500	1st	2nd	3rd	Combined 1st – 3rd
Mental illness	24%	19%	15%	58%
Substance abuse	24%	23%	11%	59%
Lack of affordable housing	17%	15%	15%	47%
Unemployment	9%	8%	10%	26%
Personal choice	5%	7%	9%	20%
Low paying jobs	6%	8%	8%	22%
Medical or health costs	3%	4%	7%	14%
Criminal record	3%	4%	10%	17%
Eviction	4%	5%	7%	16%
Loss of home to fire or other disaster	1%	1%	2%	3%
Domestic violence	3%	2%	3%	8%
Foreclosure	1%	2%	2%	5%
Family disputes	1%	2%	2%	6%

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

Response category	n=500
With the right policies and resources, homelessness is a problem that can be solved in my community	58%
No matter how hard we try, homelessness will always be a problem in my community	35%
Don't know	7%