Introduction and Methodology

From April 16 – 20, 2025, DHM Research conducted an online survey of Washington residents. The purpose of the survey was to assess and benchmark overall mood and economic outlook. Additionally, this survey also included impressions of prominent figures, trust in elections and science, various political issues, and trust in facets of Washington's election system.

Research Methodology

The online survey consisted of N=500 Washington residents and took approximately 15 minutes to complete. This is a sufficient sample size to assess Washingtonians' opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

Respondents were members of a professionally maintained online panel. A variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing and validation. To ensure a representative sample, demographic quotas were set and data were weighted by age, gender, region, political party, education, and income level.

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 the 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.

Hello. We have some questions about issues important to your community. The survey should only take a few minutes, and we think you will find the questions interesting. Your answers are strictly confidential.

DEMOGRAPHICS FOR QUOTAS

1. In which state do you live? **[Terminate if not Washington]**

Response category	n=500
Washington	100%
All others	0%

2. In which county do you live?
   [Autofill area as]:

Response category	n=500
King	29%
Puget Sound (except King)	23%
Western	28%
Eastern	20%

3. **(Split A: n=228)** How do you describe your gender?

Response category	n=228
Man	48%
Woman	50%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	1%
Another way (please specify): **[Open]**	n=0

4. **(Split B: n=272)** How do you describe your gender?

Response category	n=272
Man	48%
Woman	50%
Non-binary	n=0
Gender fluid	n=0
Gender neutral	n=0
Trans woman	n=0
Trans man	2%
Two-Spirit	n=0
Something else fits better (please specify): **(OPEN)**	n=0

5. In what year were you born? **[Open] [Autofill age as:]**

Response category	n=500
18–29	15%
30–44	26%
45–64	31%
65+	28%

6. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? *You may choose more than one.* **[Allow for multiple responses]**

Response category	n=500
African	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	13%
Black/African American	7%
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	7%
Middle Eastern/North African	n=0
Native American/American Indian	2%
White/Caucasian	75%
Other	2%
White alone	**68%**
POC	**32%**

7. 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	12%
$25,000 to less than $50,000	13%
$50,000 to less than $75,000	16%
$75,000 to less than $100,000	11%
$100,000 to less than $150,000	20%
$150,000 or more	28%

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

Response category	n=500
Less than high school	3%
High school diploma/GED	28%
Some college/2-year degree	32%
College degree/4-year degree	18%
Graduate/professional school	19%

9. How are you registered to vote?

Response category	n=500
Democrat	40%
Republican	29%
Some other party	4%
Not affiliated with a party	23%
Not registered to vote	5%

10. How you would you best describe your political views?

Response category	n=500
Total liberal	**34%**
Very liberal	11%
Liberal	23%
Moderate	**41%**
Total conservative	**25%**
Conservative	18%
Very conservative	8%

11. What best describes your housing situation?

Response category	n=500
Own my home	65%
Rent my home + other situation	35%

12. All things considered, would you say Washington is headed in the right direction or is it on the wrong track?

Response category	Apr. 2025, n=500	Jan. 2025 n=500	Nov. 2024 n=504	July 2024 n=500	Mar. 2024 n=500	Dec. 2023 n=500	Aug. 2023 n=500	Apr. 2023 n=500
Right direction	40%	38%	40%	41%	39%	33%	34%	39%
Wrong track	45%	43%	53%	48%	50%	54%	53%	48%
Don't know	15%	19%	8%	10%	11%	13%	13%	13%

13. What do you think is the most important issue facing Washington today? **[Open]**

Response category	n=500
Homelessness/Poverty	20%
Taxes/Tariffs	17%
Cost of living/Inflation (food, gas, etc.)	16%
Crime/Public safety	13%
Affordable housing	10%
Budget spending	9%
Trump/Federal policies	7%
Economy/Jobs	7%
Drug addiction	6%
Immigration/Border security	3%
Education/Schools	3%
Government/Politics	3%
Environment/Climate change	3%
Gun control/Gun rights	3%
Health/Mental issues	2%
Infrastructure / Roads / Highways	2%
State Leadership / Governor	2%
All other responses	1% or less
None	1%
Other	3%
Don't know	1%

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

[Rotate Q14-Q15]

The next two questions are about economic conditions in Washington.

14. How would you rate Washington's current economic conditions?

Response category	Apr. 2025, n=500	Jan. 2025 n=500	Nov. 2024 n=504	July 2024 n=500	Mar. 2024 n=500	Dec. 2023 n=500	Aug. 2023 n=500	Apr. 2023 n=500
NET Good	**54%**	59%	53%	56%	53%	46%	45%	48%
Very good	6%	10%	6%	9%	7%	6%	4%	5%
Good	48%	49%	47%	47%	46%	41%	41%	43%
NET Poor	**46%**	41%	45%	40%	44%	49%	50%	49%
Poor	41%	35%	31%	29%	33%	36%	37%	34%
Very poor	5%	7%	14%	11%	10%	13%	13%	15%
Don't know	--	--	2%	4%	4%	5%	4%	3%

15. Would you say economic conditions in Washington are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Response category	Apr. 2025, n=500	Jan. 2025 n=500	Nov. 2024 n=504	July 2024 n=500	Mar. 2024 n=500	Dec. 2023 n=500	Aug. 2023 n=500	Apr. 2023 n=500
Getting better	12%	16%	20%	22%	20%	15%	12%	18%
Getting worse	56%	35%	42%	38%	45%	48%	49%	46%
Staying about the same	28%	44%	35%	36%	32%	33%	36%	33%
Don't know	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%

The next two questions are about tariffs.

16. How familiar are you with the recent U.S. tariffs imposed on foreign goods?

Response category	n=500
NET Familiar	**83%**
Very familiar	31%
Familiar	52%
NET Not familiar	**17%**
Not too familiar	15%
Not at all familiar	2%
Don't know	1%

17. Do you support or oppose the recent U.S. tariffs imposed on foreign goods?

Response category	n=500
NET Support	**30%**
Strongly support	10%
Somewhat support	20%
Neither support nor oppose	12%
NET Oppose	**58%**
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	42%
Don't know	--

The next two questions are about your personal financial situation. **[Rotate Q18-Q19]**

18. How would you rate your current financial situation?

Response category	Apr. 2025, n=500	Jan. 2025 n=500	Nov. 2024 n=504	July 2024 n=500
NET Good	**68%**	70%	63%	63%
Very good	12%	18%	13%	15%
Good	56%	52%	51%	48%
NET Poor	**32%**	30%	36%	36%
Poor	25%	24%	24%	26%
Very poor	7%	6%	12%	10%
Don't know	--	--	1%	1%

19. Would you say your personal financial situation is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Response category	Apr. 2025, n=500	Jan. 2025 n=500	Nov. 2024 n=504	July 2024 n=500
Getting better	19%	23%	29%	28%
Getting worse	33%	20%	28%	22%
Staying about the same	46%	57%	44%	49%
Don't know	1%	1%	<1%	<1%

IMPRESSIONS

Indicate if you have a positive or negative impression of the following people. **[Randomize Q20-Q23]**

Response category	NET Positive	Very positive	Somewhat positive	NET Negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Don't know
20. Donald Trump							
Apr. 2025, n=500	**37%**	19%	18%	**61%**	9%	51%	2%
Jan. 2025, n=500	**41%**	23%	19%	**56%**	7%	49%	2%
Nov. 2024 n=504	**36%**	20%	16%	**63%**	8%	55%	1%
July 2024, n=500	**42%**	24%	18%	**57%**	8%	49%	2%
Mar. 2024, n=500	**36%**	16%	19%	**60%**	13%	47%	5%
Dec. 2023, n=500	**34%**	15%	19%	**64%**	11%	53%	1%
Aug. 2023, n=500	**29%**	12%	17%	**67%**	14%	53%	4%
Apr. 2023, n=500	**33%**	14%	20%	**65%**	11%	54%	2%
Nov. 2022, n=500	**31%**	13%	19%	**67%**	14%	54%	1%
21. JD Vance							
Apr. 2025, n=500	**30%**	12%	18%	**57%**	13%	44%	14%
22. Bob Ferguson							
Apr. 2025, n=500	**38%**	10%	28%	**33%**	18%	15%	29%
Jan. 2025, n=500	**42%**	16%	26%	**32%**	15%	16%	26%
Nov. 2024 n=504	**56%**	27%	29%	**36%**	14%	21%	8%
July 2024, n=500	**39%**	15%	24%	**25%**	11%	14%	36%
Mar. 2024, n=500	**30%**	12%	18%	**25%**	13%	12%	45%
23. Elon Musk							
Apr. 2025, n=500	**36%**	19%	18%	**59%**	10%	50%	4%
Jan. 2025, n=500	**38%**	15%	24%	**56%**	13%	44%	5%

TRUST IN ELECTIONS

Next, we have some questions about elections in Washington.

24. Are you confident that elections in Washington are conducted fairly and accurately?

Response category	Apr. 2025, n=500	Nov. 2024, n=504	Nov. 2022, n=439
NET Confident	**70%**	**78%**	**76%**
Yes, very confident	40%	N/A	52%
Yes, somewhat confident	30%	N/A	24%
NET Not confident	**25%**	**10%**	**19%**
No, not very confident	17%	N/A	11%
No, not at all confident	8%	N/A	8%
Don't know	5%	12%	5%

Washington is one of eight states allowing all elections to be conducted by mail.

25. Do you believe that the vote-by-mail system is secure?

Response category	n=500
NET Secure	**69%**
Yes, very secure	45%
Yes, somewhat secure	25%
NET Not secure	**29%**
No, not very secure	19%
No, not at all secure	10%
Don't know	2%

26. **[If not secure]** What is the primary reason why you believe the vote-by-mail system is not secure? **[Randomize response categories; keep *something else* last]**

Response category	n=145
You can't guarantee who actually filled out the ballot	46%
I don't trust state or local officials to handle mail-in ballots appropriately	30%
I simply prefer voting in person	12%
Groups or organizations can collect ballots in bulk creating undue influence	7%
Something else **[Open]**	5%

ELECTIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

On a scale from one to ten, with one meaning you have no trust and ten meaning you have complete trust, rate how much you trust the following sources regarding information about elections.
[Randomize Q27-Q33]

Response category	1: No trust	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10: Complete trust	Mean
27. Local newspaper											
n=500	8%	6%	8%	8%	11%	11%	17%	16%	10%	5%	**5.9**
28. Local television											
n=500	6%	6%	9%	12%	14%	14%	12%	16%	6%	6%	**5.7**
29. Friends and family											
n=500	1%	3%	3%	5%	10%	11%	15%	20%	13%	19%	**7.3**
30. Local elected officials											
n=500	7%	9%	8%	10%	13%	16%	15%	10%	6%	6%	**5.5**
31. My county's election office											
n=500	4%	6%	5%	7%	14%	11%	11%	12%	13%	16%	**6.5**
32. My social media feed											
n=500	17%	16%	14%	11%	10%	9%	9%	6%	4%	4%	**4.3**
33. Content creators I subscribe to (people I choose to follow but don't know personally)											
n=500	14%	9%	14%	11%	14%	11%	14%	9%	4%	3%	**4.7**

TRUST IN SCIENCE

Now we have some questions related to science.

34. How often do you engage with information that you consider scientific?

Response category	n=500
Daily	27%
Weekly	40%
Monthly	16%
A few times per year	13%
Never	4%

35. In general, what is your level of trust in scientific information and research?

Response category	n=500
NET High trust	**83%**
Very high trust	29%
Somewhat high trust	54%
NET Low trust	**14%**
Somewhat low trust	13%
Very low trust	1%
Don't know	3%

36. **[If low trust]** What is the top reason you have low trust in scientific information and research? **[Randomize response categories; keep *something else* last]**

Response category	n=71
I think researchers let their personal beliefs or agendas influence their results	37%
Scientific findings keep changing, so I find it hard to trust them	26%
Science has been misused in the past to harm people in my community	18%
I've had personal experiences where scientific or medical advice was wrong or harmful to me or someone close to me	10%
Someone I trust told me that science can't be trusted	1%
Something else (please specify): **[Open]**	8%

37. How much, if at all, do you agree with the following statement:

    Scientific research helps solve societal challenges.

Response category	n=500
NET Agree	**82%**
Strongly agree	29%
Somewhat agree	53%
NET Disagree	**13%**
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	3%
Don't know	5%

38. How much, if at all, has scientific research directly impacted your life in the past 5 years?

Response category	n=500
NET Great deal/ Somewhat	**70%**
A great deal	31%
Somewhat	39%
NET Not too much/ Not at all	**24%**
Not too much	20%
Not at all	4%
Don't know	6%

Over the past month, significant budget cuts have been made to scientific research across multiple federal agencies and programs, such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

39. Before today, have you seen, read, or heard about budget cuts to scientific research?

Response category	n=500
Yes	62%
No	30%
Don't know	8%

40. **[Split A]** In your opinion, what impact will federal budget cuts to scientific research agencies and programs have on the United States in the long run?

Response category	n=228
NET Positive Impact	**17%**
Very positive impact	5%
Somewhat positive impact	12%
No impacts	5%
NET Negative impact	**72%**
Somewhat negative impact	23%
Very negative impact	49%
Don't know	5%

41. **[Split B]** In your opinion, what impact will federal budget cuts to scientific research agencies and programs have on the United States in the short run?

Response category	n=272
NET Positive Impact	**18%**
Very positive impact	5%
Somewhat positive impact	13%
No impacts	12%
NET Negative impact	**66%**
Somewhat negative impact	28%
Very negative impact	37%
Don't know	4%

42. Do you personally know anyone who has been impacted by the budget cuts that were just described?

Response category	n=500
Yes	25%
No	64%
Don't know	11%

ISSUE IMPORTANCE AND PARTY TRUST

Next, we have some questions about important issues and voting.

Imagine there were elections in Washington today for governor and the state legislature.

How important, if at all, are each of the following issues in making your decision about who to vote for? **[Randomize]**

Response category n=500	NET Important	Very important	Somewhat important	NET Not important	Not too important	Not at all important	Don't know
43. Healthcare	**94%**	66%	28%	**5%**	3%	2%	1%
44. Housing	**90%**	62%	28%	**9%**	9%	1%	<1%
45. K-12 education	**84%**	56%	28%	**14%**	11%	3%	1%
46. Taxes	**90%**	57%	33%	**9%**	8%	1%	1%
47. Government spending	**86%**	58%	28%	**13%**	12%	1%	1%
48. Managing the state budget	**91%**	59%	32%	**7%**	7%	1%	1%
49. Environment	**82%**	50%	32%	**17%**	11%	6%	1%
50. Jobs	**93%**	59%	34%	**7%**	7%	<1%	<1%
51. Climate change	**72%**	47%	25%	**27%**	14%	12%	1%
52. Homelessness	**91%**	60%	31%	**8%**	6%	2%	1%
53. Crime	**92%**	64%	27%	**7%**	7%	<1%	1%
54. Gun policy	**79%**	48%	31%	**18%**	13%	5%	3%
55. Drug addiction & mental health	**88%**	57%	31%	**11%**	9%	2%	1%
56. Immigration	**78%**	46%	32%	**20%**	13%	6%	2%
57. Abortion	**70%**	43%	27%	**28%**	17%	11%	2%
58. Election security	**77%**	44%	33%	**21%**	16%	4%	3%
59. Transgender issues	**47%**	23%	24%	**50%**	21%	29%	3%
60. Diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI)	**66%**	39%	27%	**32%**	15%	16%	2%
61. Free speech	**91%**	65%	26%	**8%**	7%	1%	1%

Indicate which political party in Washington you trust more to handle the following issues.
[Randomize]

Response category	NET Democratic Party	Democratic Party much more	Democratic Party somewhat more	NET Republican Party	Republican Party somewhat more	Republican Party much more	Don't know
62. Healthcare	**55%**	36%	19%	**31%**	17%	14%	15%
63. Housing	**53%**	27%	26%	**29%**	17%	11%	19%
64. K-12 education	**55%**	33%	22%	**30%**	15%	15%	15%
65. Taxes	**42%**	23%	19%	**42%**	21%	21%	16%
66. Government spending	**38%**	20%	19%	**42%**	22%	20%	20%
67. Managing the state budget	**40%**	18%	22%	**38%**	17%	21%	22%
68. Environment	**62%**	40%	23%	**24%**	12%	12%	14%
69. Jobs	**47%**	23%	24%	**35%**	16%	19%	18%
70. Climate change	**59%**	39%	20%	**25%**	12%	12%	16%
71. Homelessness	**51%**	23%	28%	**31%**	16%	16%	17%
72. Crime	**37%**	19%	18%	**44%**	23%	21%	19%
73. Gun policy	**49%**	34%	15%	**39%**	16%	23%	12%
74. Drug addiction and mental health	**54%**	31%	23%	**28%**	14%	13%	18%
75. Immigration	**45%**	24%	21%	**40%**	16%	25%	15%
76. Abortion	**57%**	40%	16%	**28%**	13%	15%	16%
77. Election security	**45%**	30%	15%	**34%**	15%	19%	21%
78. Transgender issues	**56%**	36%	20%	**23%**	9%	14%	21%
79. Diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI)	**57%**	37%	20%	**26%**	12%	14%	17%
80. Free speech	**54%**	34%	20%	**30%**	11%	19%	16%