



503.220.0575

310 N State St, Suite 216
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
www.dhmresearch.com

Introduction and Methodology

From March 17 to 25, 2026, DHM Research conducted an online survey of Washington residents. The purpose of the survey was to assess the overall mood and economic outlook of Washingtonians, as well as their opinions on topics such as homelessness, healthcare, news and information, immigration, transportation, and sports. This document is condensed to show just the questions that are relevant to the blog post. For the full toplines, please visit the Insights page on our website.

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, ethnicity, political party, education, and income level.

This topline document includes statewide data and, where applicable, benchmarks to previous DHM Panel Survey data for comparison.

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 $\pm 4.4\%$.

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 Washington
March 2026
Washington Residents
15 minutes
N=500, margin of error +/-4.4%

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

Q1. In which state do you live?

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

Q2. In which county do you live? **[Dropdown box of all Washington counties]**
[Autofill area as]:

Response category	n=500
King County	29%
Puget Sound (except King)	22%
Western	28%
Eastern	21%

Q3. **[Split A: n=250]** How do you describe your gender?

Response category	n=250
Man	48%
Woman	50%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	1%
Another way [Open]	n=1

Q4. **[Split B: n=250]** How do you describe your gender?

Response category	n=250
Man	50%
Woman	48%
Non-binary	n=3
Gender fluid	n=1
Gender neutral	--
Trans woman	--
Trans man	n=2
Trans man	--
Something else fits better [Open]	--



[Combined: n=500] How do you describe your gender?

Response category	n=500
Man	49%
Woman	49%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	1%
Trans man	n=2
Another way [Open]	n=1

Q5. In what year were you born? **[Open]** **[Autofill age as:]**

Response category	n=500
18 - 29	20%
30 - 44	28%
45 - 64	31%
65+	21%

Q6. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? *You may choose more than one.*

Response category	n=500
African	2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	11%
Black/African American	8%
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	14%
Middle Eastern/North African	--
Native American/American Indian	3%
White/Caucasian	76%
Other	1%
White Alone	63%
POC	37%

Q7. 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	11%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	13%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	14%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	12%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	19%
\$150,000 or more	30%

Q8. What's the highest level of education that you have completed?

Response category	n=500
Less than high school	4%
High school diploma/ GED	27%
Some college/2-year degree	32%
College degree/4-year degree	23%
Graduate/Professional school	14%



Q9. What political party do you most closely align with?

Response category	n=500
Democrat	50%
Republican	26%
Some other party	4%
Non-affiliated with a party	16%
Not registered to vote	3%

Q10. How would you most closely describe your political views?

Response category	n=500
NET Liberal	43%
Very liberal	17%
Liberal	26%
Moderate	37%
NET Conservative	21%
Conservative	14%
Very conservative	6%

Q11. Are you currently employed?

Response category	Mar. 2026 n=500	Nov. 2025 n=500	Jul. 2025 n=700	Nov. 2022 n=500
Total Yes	54%	59%	56%	52%
Yes, full time (35 or more hours per week)	40%	47%	44%	37%
Yes, part time (less than 35 hours per week)	14%	12%	12%	15%
Total No	46%	41%	44%	48%
No, but looking for work	13%	12%	11%	10%
No, and not looking for work	10%	7%	8%	38%
No, I am retired	22%	23%	25%	N/A*

*This option was not included in the November 2022 Survey



TOP ISSUES

The next section focuses on the biggest issues facing the Nation and the state of Washington.

Q20. What do you think is the most important problem facing Washington today? **[Open]**

Response category	n=500
Homelessness/Poverty	21%
Cost of living/Inflation (food, gas, etc.)	20%
Taxes/Tariffs	18%
Affordable housing	10%
Economy/Jobs	9%
Drug addiction	7%
Trump/Federal Policies	7%
Budget spending	6%
State leadership/Governor	4%
Immigration/Border security/ICE	4%
Democrats	4%
Social disparity/Income inequality	4%
Environment/Climate change	3%
Government/Politics	3%
Crime/Public safety	3%
Putting the people's needs first	3%
War	3%
Education/Schools	3%
Corruption	2%
Healthcare	2%
Upholding the Constitution/Protecting human rights	2%
Racism/Racial profiling/Wokeness	1%
Infrastructure/Roads/Highways	1%
Transportation/Traffic/Congestion	1%
Health/Mental issues	1%
Lawlessness/Criminal Justice/Bail reform	1%
Moral integrity/Ethical issues	1%
More police presence/Law enforcement	1%
Gun control/rights	<1%
None	--
Other	4%
Don't know	1%



Q21. What issues are most important in determining who you vote for in **federal elections**, for example a Presidential election? Please rank order your top 3 issues for each with 1 being the most important issue.

Response category, n=500	1 st to 3 rd most important	Most important	Second most important	Third most important
Inflation / Cost of living	61%	43%	9%	9%
Taxes	23%	5%	13%	6%
The war in Iran/the Middle East	20%	7%	7%	6%
Healthcare costs	20%	3%	8%	9%
Immigration	19%	7%	7%	5%
Housing	17%	7%	6%	5%
Climate change	17%	6%	6%	6%
Homelessness	16%	2%	7%	7%
Government spending	16%	3%	5%	8%
Political polarization	14%	3%	3%	8%
Crime	13%	1%	4%	7%
Racial equality	11%	3%	6%	3%
Job opportunities	11%	3%	5%	4%
Reproductive rights	10%	2%	4%	4%
Voting rights	9%	2%	4%	3%
Gun safety issues	8%	2%	3%	3%
LGBTQ+ rights	6%	1%	2%	2%
Public drug use	4%	1%	1%	3%
Drug addiction	4%	<1%	1%	2%
Regulation of AI	1%	<1%	<1%	1%

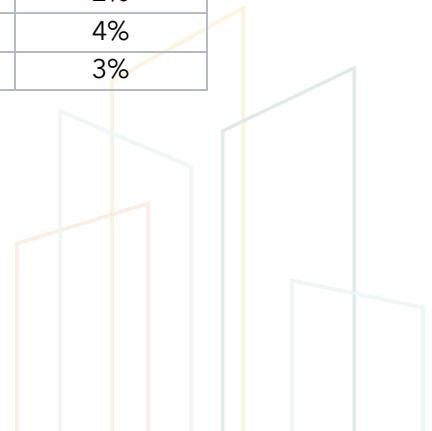


Q22. What issues are most important in determining who you vote for **in state or local elections**?
Please rank order your top 3 issues for each with 1 being the most important issue.

Response category	1 st to 3 rd most important	Most important	Second most important	Third most important
Inflation / Cost of living	59%	38%	11%	9%
Homelessness	31%	7%	10%	14%
Taxes	30%	10%	14%	6%
Housing	28%	11%	12%	5%
Crime	19%	2%	8%	9%
Government spending	17%	3%	5%	10%
Job opportunities	16%	4%	6%	6%
Healthcare costs	16%	2%	7%	7%
Climate change	14%	6%	5%	4%
Immigration	9%	4%	3%	1%
The war in Iran/the Middle East	8%	3%	1%	4%
Racial equality	7%	2%	3%	2%
Gun safety issues	7%	<1%	2%	4%
Public drug use	7%	1%	2%	4%
Voting rights	7%	2%	2%	3%
Drug addiction	6%	1%	2%	4%
LGBTQ+ rights	5%	2%	2%	2%
Political polarization	5%	1%	2%	2%
Reproductive rights	5%	1%	2%	3%
Regulation of AI	4%	2%	1%	1%

Q23. What do you believe are the biggest threats to public safety in your community? *Please select up to three responses.*

Response category	n=500
Homeless encampments in public spaces (parks, sidewalks)	49%
Mental health crises in public spaces	42%
Property crime (auto, retail, package, home)	40%
Drug use (illegal, open drug use)	39%
Violent crime / Gun violence	33%
Drug dealing and trafficking	30%
Traffic safety	18%
Littering	8%
Graffiti	2%
Other	4%
Don't know	3%



Q24. Would you say public safety in your area has improved, stayed the same or gotten worse over the past year?

Response category	n=500
Improved	11%
Stayed the same	52%
Gotten worse	33%
Don't know	4%

Q25. What are the main reasons you feel public safety has **[insert response from previous question]**? **[Open]**

[Improved: n=56]

Response category	n=56
No change in community/Initiatives/measures implemented	56%
Crime rate has decreased	35%
Policing/Police involvement	25%
Fair government leadership/management	10%
All other responses	13%
Don't know/Refused	--
None/No answer	--

[Stayed the same: n=259]

Response category	n=259
No changes	41%
Crime rate is stable	33%
Homelessness	13%
Policing/Police involvement (Positive)	8%
Drugs/Addiction/Mental health	6%
Policing/Police involvement (Negative)	5%
Government leadership/management (Negative)	4%
Government leadership/management (Positive)	2%
Republicans/Pres. Trump/Too conservative	<1%
All other responses	12%
Don't know/Refused	1%
None/No answer	--



[Worsened: n=164]

Response category	n=164
Crime rate has increased	37%
Drugs/Addiction/Mental health	29%
Homelessness	27%
Lack of policing/police involvement	18%
Poor government leadership/Government mismanagement	13%
Gun usage/violence	11%
Republicans/Pres. Trump/Too conservative	4%
Democrats/Gov. Ferguson/Too liberal	3%
ICE/Immigration enforcement	3%
All other responses	5%
Don't know/Refused	1%
None/No answer	--

Q26. Thinking about the issue of homelessness, how often do you come across people who are experiencing homelessness in your everyday life?

Response category	n=500
Daily	44%
Weekly	26%
A few times a month	19%
Rarely	10%
Never	1%
Don't know	<1%

Q27. When you encounter people who are experiencing homelessness, which of the following best describes how you feel? *Please select up to three.*

Response category	n=500
Sadness about homelessness as an issue	62%
Empathy or compassion for their situation	51%
Desire to do more / To help them	32%
Concern for my personal safety	28%
Discomfort or unease	25%
Desire to avoid them or keep my distance	16%
Interest or curiosity about their story	16%
Frustration or annoyance	14%
Indifference	5%
I don't generally think about it	5%
Disgust	4%
Other	3%
Don't know	<1%



Q28. In thinking about state and local area responses to people who are experiencing homelessness, what do you think is needed more?

Response category	n=500
NET More compassion	56%
Much more compassion	29%
Somewhat more compassion	27%
NET More enforcement	39%
Somewhat more enforcement for public safety	24%
Much more enforcement for public safety	15%
Don't know	5%

Q68. What best describes your housing situation?

Response category	n=500
Own my home	54%
Rent my home	36%
Some other housing situation	10%

Q69. Do any children under age 18 live in your home?

Response category	n=500
Yes	32%
No	68%

Q70. What is your marital status?

Response category	n=500
Single, never married	32%
Living with partner	9%
Married	48%
Widowed	4%
Divorced or separated	8%

