

THE RILEY REPORT™

Oregon Voter Poll **Analysis & Cross Tabulations**

November 14, 2005

INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

Riley Research Associates surveyed Oregon voters regarding their opinions on a variety of current subjects. The scientific telephone poll was conducted among 476 registered voters throughout the state. In this recent voter survey, participants needed to have voted in at least one of the past two (primary and general) elections. A sample of 476 provides accuracy to within +/-4.49 percent at a 95 percent level of confidence.

Fielding took place between October 18th and 25th 2005. A slightly high proportion of women participated, resulting in the decision to weight the sample, to achieve a 53/47 split of women to men as reflective of the voter list. Results may slightly under-represent younger and cell phone-only households, who remain somewhat elusive in traditional phone surveys.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Oregon's 2006 Race for Governor – Primary Choices

Democrats

In our last poll (August 2005), incumbent Governor Ted Kulongoski had a decisive edge, well ahead of other Democrat challengers. However, while a large proportion of Democrats is undecided (36 percent), the possible entry of former governor John Kitzhaber has radically changed the Democrats' primary election landscape:

- Kitzhaber (29 percent) and Kulongoski (27 percent) are statistically tied
- No one else cracks double-digits
- Kitzhaber does especially well among voters under 40 (39 percent) and in the 3rd Congressional District (41 percent), while Kulongoski's support is spread evenly

Republicans

Former Party Chair Kevin Mannix continues to lead; yet most Republicans (53 percent) say they are keeping their options open:

- Mannix has the support of 29 percent of Republicans
- Jason Atkinson and Ron Saxton each have 6 percent

Oregon's 2006 Race for Governor – General Election - Straw Poll

In an “all candidates” question, regarding who should be Oregon’s next governor, many voters (non-Democrats in particular) remain undecided. Democratic candidates get 38 percent of the votes, versus the Republicans’ 18 percent.

- Perhaps due to the many choices, fewer Democrats are undecided (33 percent versus 48 percent of others)
- Statewide, Ted Kulongoski pulls 16 percent of the votes, with higher numbers from older voters
- Past governor John Kitzhaber gets 15 percent, drawing more support from younger voters
- Walker, Sorenson, Hill, and Metsger are currently drawing 2 percent or less
- Potential Independent candidate Ben Westlund has attracted just 2 percent
- While only 5 percent of Democrats plan to vote for a Republican, 14 percent of Republicans currently say they would vote for a Democrat

Right or Wrong Direction?

Nearly half of Oregon voters (48 percent) say the state is headed in the wrong direction. One in five isn’t sure, while one in three thinks the state is going in the right direction.

- Men are more likely to say “wrong direction” (52 percent)
- Republicans are much more likely to say “wrong direction” (61 percent)

Dump the Corporate Kicker

When asked about the idea of getting rid of the *corporate* side of the kicker, while keeping the part that would send refunds to private citizens, 61 percent of Oregonian voters say they would support such a change.

- Majorities of those from all political parties support this idea, although support is highest among Democrats (69 percent) and lowest among Republicans (52 percent)
- Those in the middle (40-59) age group are most supportive, with more than two-thirds supporting the idea

Judicial Overrides Breed Discontent

We asked whether voters supported or opposed recent judges' decisions to overturn ballot measures and results were mixed. The largest proportion of voters is opposed to such decisions (42 percent), while 28 percent support those decisions, and 30 percent have mixed feelings.

- Democrats were more likely to support the judges decisions (41 percent support and 30 percent oppose)
- Most Republicans oppose the judicial overrides (56 percent vs. 15 percent support)
- Independent voters (non-D and non-R) also tended to oppose the judges decisions (37 percent vs. 28 percent supported)
- Those from Congressman Greg Walden's district (CD2) most often opposed overturning ballot measures (53 percent); many of Darlene Hooley's constituents (CD5) also oppose the court's decisions (47 percent)
- CD5 includes Marion County, home of Mary Mertens James, the judge who recently overturned Measure 37

Questions

In next year's race for Oregon governor, the most talked about Democratic candidates include Governor Ted Kulongoski, State Senator Vicki Walker, Lane County Commissioner Peter Sorenson, former Governor John Kitzhaber, former State Treasurer Jim Hill, and State Senator Rick Metsger.

On the Republican side, potential candidates include former State Party Chair Kevin Mannix, businessman Ron Saxton, Southern Oregon Senator Jason Atkinson, David Beem of Salem, and William Spidal of Nehalem, and possibly Ben Westlund, a Republican State Representative from Bend, running as an Independent.

Q1A. (Democrats Only) In next Spring's primary election, which Democrat would be your first choice?

	GENDER			AGE						REGION					PARTY		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18- -29	30- -39	40- -49	50- -59	60- -69	70 +	CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4	CD5	Dem	Rep	Othr
Weighted for Gender	190	85 45%	105 55%	4 2%	16 8%	19 10%	51 27%	43 23%	57 30%	38 20%	32 17%	47 24%	39 20%	35 18%	190 100%	0 0%	0 0%
Undecided	36%	35%	36%	24%	27%	35%	28%	31%	49%	28%	49%	33%	45%	24%	36%	0%	0%
John Kitzhaber (D)	29	26	31	0	48	39	34	27	18	21	18	41	31	28	29	0	0
Ted Kulongoski (D)	27	31	25	52	19	10	28	28	33	35	27	26	15	34	27	0	0
Vicki Walker (D)	3	3	4	0	0	0	4	9	0	8	0	0	5	3	3	0	0
Peter Sorenson (D)	3	3	3	24	6	0	2	5	0	2	3	0	3	6	3	0	0
Jim Hill (D)	2	4	0	0	0	6	4	0	0	6	0	0	0	3	2	0	0
Refused	1	0	2	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	0	0
Chi Square		6.80 .339		56.57 .002						30.71 .162					0.00 .999		

Q1B. (Republicans Only) In next Spring's Republican primary election, which candidate would be your first choice?

	GENDER			AGE						REGION					PARTY		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18- -29	30- -39	40- -49	50- -59	60- -69	70 +	CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4	CD5	Dem	Rep	Othr
Weighted for Gender	193	87 45%	105 55%	6 3%	20 10%	31 16%	47 24%	38 20%	49 26%	26 13%	54 28%	21 11%	46 24%	46 24%	0 0%	193 100%	0 0%
Undecided	53%	49%	57%	50%	59%	54%	50%	48%	58%	58%	55%	61%	55%	43%	0%	53%	0%
Kevin Mannix (R)	29	29	28	32	30	26	34	23	28	23	27	24	26	39	0	29	0
Jason Atkinson (R)	6	10	4	18	0	7	9	8	4	4	4	0	9	11	0	6	0
Ron Saxton (R)	6	5	6	0	5	6	2	8	6	4	7	5	9	2	0	6	0
Ben Westlund(I)	3	4	3	0	0	3	0	11	2	11	4	0	0	2	0	3	0
William Spidal (R)	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Refused	3	3	3	0	5	3	2	2	2	0	4	10	2	0	0	3	0
Chi Square		5.25 .513		20.62 .900						26.62 .322					0.00 .999		

Q2. Among the candidates mentioned for governor, in next November's general election, which candidate would be your most likely choice? (Aided)

	GENDER		AGE							REGION					PARTY		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18- -29	30- -39	40- -49	50- -59	60- -69	70 +	CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4	CD5	Dem	Rep	Othr
Weighted for Gender	476	224	252	19	54	72	125	93	113	83	102	94	98	98	193	193	90
		47%	53%	4%	11%	15%	26%	20%	24%	17%	21%	20%	21%	21%	41%	40%	19%
Undecided / Other	42%	38%	46%	52%	49%	48%	34%	38%	46%	44%	51%	39%	49%	28%	33%	48%	49%
Undecided / Not sure	41	38	44	52	47	45	33	38	44	44	47	37	48	28	32	46	47
Refused	1	0	2	0	2	3	1	0	2	0	4	2	1	0	1	2	2
Democrats	38%	39%	37%	42%	34%	29%	44%	43%	34%	46%	24%	51%	33%	37%	60%	14%	41%
Ted Kulongoski (D)	16	18	14	32	10	10	15	16	21	22	11	22	7	20	24	6	18
John Kitzhaber (D)	15	14	16	5	23	14	18	15	9	15	6	26	16	13	25	5	14
Whatever Democrat wins the primary / Other Democrat	3	2	4	5	0	4	4	5	1	2	4	2	6	1	5	0	4
Vicki Walker (D)	2	2	1	0	0	0	3	3	1	4	2	0	2	1	3	0	2
Peter Sorenson (D)	1	2	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	1	1
Jim Hill (D)	1	1	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	3	2	0	0	1	2	1	0
Republicans	18%	20%	16%	6%	17%	20%	20%	15%	18%	9%	21%	9%	17%	32%	5%	36%	7%
Kevin Mannix (R)	12	12	11	6	13	13	12	11	11	6	16	5	10	19	2	24	5
Jason Atkinson (R)	3	3	2	0	2	6	3	1	3	0	2	1	4	5	2	4	0
Ron Saxton (R)	2	2	1	0	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	3	2
Whatever Republican wins the primary / Other Republican	2	2	1	0	0	0	3	1	3	1	1	1	2	3	0	4	0
William Spidal (R)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Independents	2%	3%	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%	5%	2%	1%	4%	1%	0%	4%	1%	3%	4%
Ben Westlund (I)	2	2	1	0	0	3	1	3	2	1	4	0	0	3	1	2	2
Other Party Candidate (Non Republican / Non Democrat)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Chi Square		13.86				57.89					91.51			134.89			
		.461				.849					.002			.001			

Q3. In terms of Oregon's overall direction, would you say the state is generally going in the right direction or wrong direction?

	GENDER		AGE							REGION					PARTY		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18- -29	30- -39	40- -49	50- -59	60- -69	70 +	CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4	CD5	Dem	Rep	Othr
Weighted for Gender	476	224 47%	252 53%	19 4%	54 11%	72 15%	125 26%	93 20%	113 24%	83 17%	102 21%	94 20%	98 21%	98 21%	193 41%	193 40%	90 19%
Right direction	34%	36%	32%	52%	41%	27%	31%	32%	37%	34%	28%	35%	39%	35%	42%	27%	32%
Wrong direction	48	52	44	42	45	52	52	51	39	49	57	42	39	51	37	61	41
Not sure / Undecided	18	12	23	6	13	21	15	17	23	17	14	22	22	13	21	11	25
Refused	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	2
Chi Square		11.03 .012		18.02 .262					10.33 .587					31.13 .001			

Q4. As you may know, under Oregon's so-called "kicker" law, when revenue projections exceed the current budget, Oregon is required to return the excess to taxpayers. Currently, corporations are first in line for refunds, followed by private citizens. Would you favor or oppose an initiative that would eliminate the corporate kicker, while keeping the kicker for individual Oregonians? Strongly or somewhat?

	GENDER		AGE							REGION					PARTY		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18- -29	30- -39	40- -49	50- -59	60- -69	70 +	CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4	CD5	Dem	Rep	Othr
Weighted for Gender	476	224 47%	252 53%	19 4%	54 11%	72 15%	125 26%	93 20%	113 24%	83 17%	102 21%	94 20%	98 21%	98 21%	193 41%	193 40%	90 19%
Support	61%	61%	62%	62%	51%	71%	67%	59%	55%	65%	59%	63%	60%	60%	69%	52%	64%
Strongly support	45	44	45	32	29	52	54	47	38	51	44	45	43	42	53	33	52
Somewhat support	17	17	16	30	22	18	14	13	17	14	16	18	16	19	16	19	12
Undecided	18%	14%	21%	11%	17%	11%	16%	18%	26%	13%	23%	14%	27%	11%	15%	21%	18%
Not sure / Don't know	16	13	19	11	17	11	12	17	25	13	19	14	25	10	14	19	16
Refused	1	1	2	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	4	0	2	1	1	1	2
Oppose	21%	25%	17%	27%	32%	19%	16%	23%	19%	22%	18%	23%	13%	29%	16%	27%	18%
Somewhat oppose	10	11	8	16	19	10	8	7	7	6	8	15	5	14	6	12	10
Strongly oppose	11	14	9	11	13	8	8	16	12	16	10	8	8	15	10	15	8
Chi Square		6.91 .227		40.08 .029					29.31 .082					20.79 .023			

Q5. Several times in the past few years, Oregonians have passed ballot measures, which have been overturned in the courts. Which of the following five positions best characterizes your thought about the courts' decisions on overturning ballot initiatives? Do you (A...B...)?

	GENDER		AGE							REGION					PARTY		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18- -29	30- -39	40- -49	50- -59	60- -69	70 +	CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4	CD5	Dem	Rep	Othr
Weighted for Gender	476	224 47%	252 53%	19 4%	54 11%	72 15%	125 26%	93 20%	113 24%	83 17%	102 21%	94 20%	98 21%	98 21%	193 41%	193 40%	90 19%
<u>Support decisions</u>	28%	32%	25%	20%	32%	22%	39%	25%	22%	38%	19%	35%	25%	26%	41%	15%	28%
A. Strongly support he courts' decisions	15	19	12	6	15	12	23	15	10	19	10	22	14	11	24	8	11
B. Support the courts somewhat	13	13	13	15	17	10	16	10	12	19	9	13	11	14	17	7	17
<u>Mixed / Undecided</u>	30%	25%	34%	47%	32%	40%	22%	21%	35%	26%	28%	37%	31%	27%	29%	29%	34%
C. Have mixed feelings (Refused)	28 2	25 0	31 3	47 0	32 0	40 0	19 3	19 2	33 2	26 0	25 3	35 2	29 2	26 1	27 2	28 1	32 2
<u>Oppose decisions</u>	42%	43%	41%	33%	36%	38%	39%	54%	43%	36%	53%	28%	43%	47%	30%	56%	37%
D. Oppose the courts' decisions somewhat	14	11	17	16	12	12	14	17	14	9	15	11	15	19	13	17	11
E. Strongly oppose the courts' decisions?	28	32	24	16	24	25	25	37	29	26	38	17	28	29	17	39	26
Chi Square		15.28 .009		33.46 .120					26.93 .137					47.33 .001			