**INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY**

From April 1-6, 2021, the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center conducted a statewide survey of Oregonians’ values and beliefs.

**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 ±2.4% to ±4.0% depending on how the response category percentages split for any given question.

**Oregon Values and Beliefs Center:** The research was completed as a community service by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center. OVBC is an independent and non-partisan organization and an Oregon charitable nonprofit corporation.

**OVBC Monthly Survey, April 2021**

This survey covers some current issues in Oregon. Your thoughtful answers are very much appreciated!

IMPORTANT: Your name will not be associated with you answers--you can be assured of anonymity. So, please share your honest opinion on every question, including thoughtful responses to open-ended questions, understanding that not everyone feels the same way about the issues. All survey records will be reviewed for completeness and sensible responses. Panelists who fail this review will have their records removed from the study and are subject to compensation removal. Thank you for your participation.

1. How would you rate the economic conditions in Oregon today?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Excellent | 3% |
| Good | 27% |
| Only fair | 46% |
| Poor | 22% |
| Don’t know | 2% |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Getting better | 22% |
| About the same | 39% |
| Getting worse | 34% |
| Don’t know | 4% |

1. How would you rate the economic conditions in your community today?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Excellent | 3% |
| Good | 29% |
| Only fair | 44% |
| Poor | 21% |
| Don’t know | 3% |

1. Would you say the economic conditions in your community are getting better, staying about the same, or getting worse?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Getting better | 19% |
| About the same | 47% |
| Getting worse | 29% |
| Don’t know | 5% |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Very worried | 16% |
| Somewhat worried | 32% |
| Not too worried | 34% |
| Not at all worried | 17% |
| Don’t know | 1% |

1. How confident are you that you will be able to pay all your bills on time and in full this month?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Very confident | 49% |
| Somewhat confident | 30% |
| Not too confident | 9% |
| Not at all confident | 11% |
| Don’t know | 1% |

The U.S. “Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines “affordable housing” as housing that accounts for no more than 30% (or about one-third) of a household’s income. This suggestion includes basic utilities like water, heat and electricity.

1. Using this calculation, is your housing situation “affordable?” Your best guess is okay.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Yes | 49% |
| No | 34% |
| I don’t pay rent or a mortgage | 11% |
| Don’t know | 6% |

1. If an emergency arose that would cost you and your household $1,000, would you be able to pay for the emergency and pay your rent or mortgage on time?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Yes | 55% |
| No | 32% |
| I don’t pay rent or a mortgage | 9% |
| Don’t know | 4% |

1. If you were asked to use one of these commonly used names for the social classes, which would you say you belong in?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Upper class | 1% |
| Upper middle class | 11% |
| Middle class | 38% |
| Lower middle class | 31% |
| Lower class | 17% |
| Don’t know | 2% |

1. Consider a family of four, with two adults and two children. What is the minimum annual income you think they would need to be considered middle class? $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Less than $25,000 | 13% |
| $25,000 but less than $50,000 | 14% |
| $50,000 but less than $75,000 | 35% |
| $75,000 but less than $100,000 | 20% |
| $100,000 but less than $150,000 | 13% |
| $150,000 or more | 5% |
| Mean | $64,156 |
| Median | $60,000 |

1. Compared to your parents when they were the age you are now, do you think your own standard of living now is better or worse than theirs was then?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Much better | 14% |
| Somewhat better | 26% |
| About the same | 19% |
| Somewhat worse | 24% |
| Much worse | 15% |
| Don’t know | 2% |

1. Which of the following statements is closer to your opinion? **[Randomize]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| The economic system in the United States unfairly favors powerful interests. | 72% |
| The economic system in the United States is generally fair to most Americans. | 19% |
| Don’t know | 8% |

1. Thinking specifically about jobs related to international trade and exports, would you say that portion of the economy is…

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Vital/Important | 77% |
| Vital to Oregon’s economy  | 34% |
| Important, but not vital to Oregon’s economy | 42% |
| Not that/Not at all Vital/Important | 10% |
| Not that important to Oregon’s economy | 7% |
| Not important at all to Oregon’s economy | 3% |
| Don’t know | 14% |

Below is a list of actions that the Oregon state government could take that some say might make the state more competitive economically. Using a scale of 1 to 9, where a 1 means that particular action would not do anything to help the state economy, and a 9 means that particular action would do a great deal to help the state economy, please rate each of the following. While all of these may be important to at least some degree, please try to be discerning in your ratings. **[Randomize]**

| **Response category, n=** | **Top Box (8+9)** | **Mean** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Increase the number of college graduates and skilled workers in the state
 | 28% | 6.2 |
| 1. Focus on creating jobs in clean and emerging energy technology
 | 39% | 6.3 |
| 1. Limit the growth of state government spending
 | 38% | 6.3 |
| 1. Improve access to overseas markets for Oregon products
 | 29% | 6.1 |
| 1. Hold down taxes on businesses and corporations
 | 26% | 5.5 |
| 1. Improve the state’s transportation system
 | 29% | 6.1 |
| 1. Limit or reduce the number of state regulations that companies have to follow
 | 23% | 5.3 |
| 1. Increase taxes and put the additional money into the public education system
 | 14% | 4.3 |

1. Do you agree or disagree that there are Oregonians who have experienced economic disparities based on race and ethnicity?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Agree strongly | 37% |
| Agree somewhat | 31% |
| Disagree somewhat | 14% |
| Disagree strongly | 11% |
| Don’t know | 6% |

1. **(If Agree in Q22)** Do you believe the disparities grew worse during the pandemic, improved, or stayed about the same?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=412** |
| Worsened | 66% |
| Improved | 6% |
| Stayed about the same | 25% |
| Don’t know | 4% |

1. Generally speaking, do you feel most Oregonians learned things from the pandemic that will help them through economic hard times in the future?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Yes | 48% |
| No | 30% |
| Don’t know | 22% |

1. **(If Yes to Q24)** In a few sentences or a short paragraph, what lessons were learned? **(Open)**

(Qualitatively Assessed – See Blog Post)

### Which of these statements do you agree with more, even if neither represents your view exactly? **[Randomize items]**

| **Response category, n=600** | **Feel strongly** | **Lean towards** | **DK** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. State government should provide services and programs to help small businesses succeed
 | 23% | 32% | 15% |
| 1. State government should just stay out of the way so that small businesses may succeed
 | 18% | 12% | -- |

1. Compared to the level you had before the pandemic, has your feeling of connectedness to other people in your community increased, decreased, or remained the same?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Increased | 13% |
| Decreased | 43% |
| Remained the same | 40% |
| Don’t know | 4% |

1. How often do you have conversations with people who hold different opinions about politics than you do?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| At least once a week | 17% |
| Almost every week | 20% |
| About once a month | 17% |
| A few times a year | 13% |
| Seldom | 23% |
| Never **(Skip to Q31)** | 5% |
| Don’t know **(Skip to 31)** | 5% |

1. When you have conversations with people who hold widely different opinions about politics than you do, what actions are most helpful for resolving the differences? **(Open.)**

(Qualitatively Assessed – See Blog Post)

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

1. In what year were you born?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| 18-29 | 21% |
| 30-44 | 25% |
| 45-54 | 35% |
| 65+ | 19% |

1. I describe my gender as?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Male | 50% |
| Female | 50% |
| Non-binary or gender non-conforming | 1% |
| Trans | n=3 |
| Other | -- |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Less than high school | 4% |
| High school diploma/GED | 33% |
| Some college/2-year degree/trade | 36% |
| College degree/4-year degree | 17% |
| Graduate degree/professional school | 10% |

1. What is your party registration?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Democrat | 37% |
| Republican | 26% |
| Independent Party of Oregon | 14% |
| Some other party | 2% |
| Non-affiliated | 13% |
| Not registered to vote | 8% |

1. Do you rent or own your home?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Own | 51% |
| Rent | 40% |
| Other arrangement | 9% |

1. Do you have school age children in your household?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Yes | 23% |
| No | 77% |

1. What was your total household income in 2020?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Less than $25,000 | 22% |
| $25,000-49,999 | 29% |
| $50,000-74,999 | 18% |
| $75,000-99,999 | 14% |
| $100,000-149,999 | 12% |
| $150,000 or more | 5% |
| Refused | n=2 |

1. When it comes to most economic issues, do you consider yourself. . .

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Very liberal | 15% |
| Somewhat liberal | 17% |
| Middle of the road | 37% |
| Somewhat conservative | 19% |
| Very conservative | 12% |

1. When it comes to most social issues, do you consider yourself. . .

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Very liberal | 20% |
| Somewhat liberal | 21% |
| Middle of the road | 33% |
| Somewhat conservative | 15% |
| Very conservative | 11% |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| African | n=2 |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 4% |
| Black or African American | 2% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 4% |
| Middle Eastern or North African | n=3 |
| Native American or American Indian | 3% |
| Slavic | n=1 |
| White or Caucasian | 92% |
| Other | 1% |
| Refused | 1% |

1. Do you consider the area you live in to be. . . .

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Urban | 27% |
| Suburban | 39% |
| Rural changing to suburban | 10% |
| Rural | 23% |

1. County/Zip Code

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=600** |
| Tri-county | 44% |
| Willamette Valley | 28% |
| Rest of State | 28% |

We anticipate news media to be very interested in these results. If you are willing to be contacted by a journalist about your answers to this survey and participation in OVBC, please share your name, phone number and email. This is completely voluntary.