**INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY**

From May 4-10, 2021, the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center conducted a statewide survey of Oregonians’ values and beliefs.

**Research Methodology**: The online survey consisted of 918 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 ±1.9% to ±3.2% 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, May 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. All things considered, would you say that your community is headed in the right direction or are things off on the wrong track?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Right direction strongly | 8% |
| Right direction somewhat | 41% |
| Wrong track somewhat | 21% |
| Wrong track strongly | 21% |
| Don’t know | 8% |

Below is a list of possible challenges facing your community. Which three are most important for your leaders to do something about? **[Randomize]**

*Note: Respondents were presented the full list of challenges on one page and ranked the top three.*

| **Response category, n=918** | **Most important** | **Combined 1st-3rd important** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Homelessness
 | 51% | 82% |
| 1. Unemployment
 | 7% | 45% |
| 1. Policing
 | 5% | 28% |
| 1. Underemployment
 | 2% | 13% |
| 1. Drought
 | 1% | 6% |
| 1. Vandalism and graffiti
 | 3% | 15% |
| 1. Traffic congestion
 | 3% | 13% |
| 1. Racial injustice
 | 7% | 22% |
| 1. Affordable housing
 | 16% | 49% |
| 1. Wildfires
 | 3% | 15% |
| 1. Litter
 | 1% | 10% |

1. Which is more important for promoting economic growth in Oregon?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Relaxing environmental protection regulations to make it easier for companies to do business | 23% |
| Maintaining a quality environment to attract people and companies to Oregon | 68% |
| Don’t know | 9% |

1. In a few sentences or a short paragraph, what comes to mind when you think of wildfires? **(Open)**

In general, how serious of a threat is “wildfire” to . . . **[Randomize]**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Response category, n=918** | **Very serious** | **Somewhat serious** | **Not too serious** | **Not at all serious** | **Don’t know** |
| 1. You and your family
 | 24% | 34% | 27% | 14% | 1% |
| 1. People living in your local community
 | 29% | 39% | 23% | 8% | 1% |
| 1. People living in Oregon
 | 59% | 34% | 5% | 1% | 1% |

In general, how well do you think . . .: **[Randomize]**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Response category, n=918** | **Very well** | **Somewhat well** | **Somewhat poorly** | **Very poorly** | **Don’t know** |
| 1. Private landowners are managing their lands to prevent wildfire
 | 10% | 39% | 25% | 7% | 19% |
| 1. The state is managing state owned lands to prevent wildfire
 | 8% | 25% | 30% | 23% | 14% |
| 1. The federal government is managing federally owned lands to prevent wildfire
 | 6% | 21% | 31% | 28% | 14% |

Thinking about the next ten years, how likely is it that Oregon will experience . . . **[Randomize]**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Response category, n=918** | **Very likely** | **Somewhat likely** | **Not too likely** | **Not likely at all** | **Don’t know** |
| 1. An increased number of wildfires
 | 55% | 33% | 7% | 0% | 5% |
| 1. Increased severity of wildfires
 | 53% | 35% | 5% | 1% | 6% |
| 1. Loss of significant forests from drought and heat
 | 45% | 35% | 12% | 3% | 6% |

1. \*If a human-caused or nature-caused wildfire started in Oregon in a wilderness area or on lands far from homes and development, what should be done?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Almost certainly fight the fire | 46% |
| Lean toward fighting the fire | 26% |
| Lean toward letting the fire burn | 21% |
| Almost certainly let the fire burn | 7% |
| Don’t know | 0% |

1. (If fight) Why do you feel that the fires should be fought? **(Open)**
2. (If burn) Why do you feel that the fire should be allowed to burn? **(Open)**

Do you support or oppose the following wildfire reduction alternatives? **[Randomize]**

| **Response category, n=918** | **Support** | **Oppose** | **Don’t know** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Harden and prepare homes to be more fire resistant
 | 81% | 5% | 14% |
| 1. Periodic controlled burning of built-up ground fuels
 | 76% | 6% | 18% |
| 1. Remove smaller, weaker, and poorer quality trees in dense or crowded forests
 | 72% | 12% | 17% |
| 1. More logging across the forested landscape
 | 38% | 37% | 25% |
| 1. Clearing space around homes of flame spread vegetation
 | 86% | 4% | 9% |
| 1. Limiting construction of new homes in fire prone areas
 | 65% | 16% | 19% |
| 1. More public purchase of firefighting equipment like air tankers, bulldozers, etc.
 | 72% | 7% | 21% |
| 1. Other (Specify)
 | 65% | 3% | 32% |

1. In a few sentences or a short paragraph, what comes to mind when you think of tourism? **(Open)**

How much does tourism contribute to the following in your community? **[Randomize]**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Response category, n=918** | **A lot** | **Somewhat** | **Not very much** | **Not at all** | **Don’t know** |
| 1. Traffic congestion
 | 30% | 33% | 25% | 8% | 4% |
| 1. A strong economy
 | 28% | 40% | 19% | 6% | 7% |
| 1. Lack of affordable housing
 | 20% | 24% | 24% | 21% | 12% |
| 1. Well-paying jobs
 | 14% | 36% | 27% | 14% | 9% |
| 1. Homelessness
 | 13% | 17% | 27% | 26% | 16% |
| 1. High quality of life
 | 12% | 34% | 30% | 14% | 10% |
| 1. Funding for public services
 | 15% | 34% | 25% | 12% | 14% |

1. Do you think more Oregonians this coming year will stay within the state for their vacations resulting in more people visiting your community?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Yes | 41% |
| No | 27% |
| Don’t know | 32% |

1. **(If yes in Q44)** All things considered, how do you feel about more Oregonians visiting your community?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=380** |
| Very positive | 37% |
| Somewhat positive | 38% |
| Somewhat negative | 15% |
| Very negative | 5% |
| Don’t know | 5% |

1. **(If positive in Q45**) Why? **(Open)**
2. **(If negative in Q45)** Why? **(Open)**
3. There are billions of federal Covid-relief dollars, and soon possibly infrastructure dollars, flowing into local school districts. In a few sentences or short paragraph describe how you think those dollars could best be spent. **(Open)**
4. Should state and district leaders prioritize spending federal dollars on programs and services for low-income students and students of color?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Yes | 54% |
| No | 28% |
| Don’t know | 18% |

Not including health and safety (PPE, HVAC, vaccinations), which of the following education programs and services are the three most important to fund with the federal dollars. **[Randomize]**

*Note: Respondents were presented the full list of programs on one page and ranked the top three.*

| **Response category, n=918** | **Most important** | **Combined 1st-3rd important** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Mental health counseling
 | 40% | 62% |
| 1. Mentoring and tutoring
 | 5% | 40% |
| 1. Internet connectivity between school/teacher and home/student
 | 8% | 33% |
| 1. Teacher professional development
 | 3% | 13% |
| 1. Extended school day
 | 2% | 7% |
| 1. Civics learning
 | 5% | 16% |
| 1. Reduced class size
 | 9% | 24% |
| 1. Expanded partnerships with community organizations
 | 2% | 9% |
| 1. Extended school year
 | 2% | 8% |
| 1. Expanded vocational and job training
 | 10% | 34% |
| 1. Summer school
 | 1% | 3% |
| 1. Preschool for all students
 | 6% | 14% |
| 1. Economic literacy about borrowing, credit, buying, saving methods and consequences
 | 5% | 28% |
| 1. Project centered learning/experiential learning
 | 1% | 8% |

1. Please record any additional comments you have about how schools should spend federal dollars received as Covid relief aid or for infrastructure. **(Open)**

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

1. Age

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| 18-29 | 22% |
| 30-44 | 24% |
| 45-54 | 35% |
| 65+ | 19% |

1. I describe my gender as:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Male | 49% |
| Female | 49% |
| Non-binary or gender non-conforming | 3% |
| Trans | 1% |
| Other | n=5 |

1. **(Quota)** What is the highest level of education you have attained?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Less than high school | 5% |
| High school diploma/GED | 32% |
| Some college/2-year degree/trade | 36% |
| College degree/4-year degree | 14% |
| Graduate degree/professional school | 13% |

1. What is your party registration?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Democrat | 37% |
| Republican | 25% |
| Independent Party of Oregon | 13% |
| Some other party | 4% |
| Non-affiliated | 15% |
| Not registered to vote | 7% |

1. Do you rent or own your home?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Own | 53% |
| Rent | 34% |
| Other arrangement | 14% |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Yes | 25% |
| No | 75% |

1. What was your total household income in 2020?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Less than $25,000 | 23% |
| $25,000-49,999 | 25% |
| $50,000-74,999 | 18% |
| $75,000-99,999 | 13% |
| $100,000-149,999 | 12% |
| $150,000 or more | 8% |
| Refused | 1% |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Very liberal | 16% |
| Somewhat liberal | 20% |
| Middle of the road | 35% |
| Somewhat conservative | 17% |
| Very conservative | 12% |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Very liberal | 21% |
| Somewhat liberal | 21% |
| Middle of the road | 33% |
| Somewhat conservative | 13% |
| Very conservative | 11% |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| African | 1% |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 3% |
| Black or African American | 2% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 4% |
| Middle Eastern or North African | n=4 |
| Native American or American Indian | 3% |
| Slavic | n=3 |
| White or Caucasian | 91% |
| Other | 1% |
| Refused | 2% |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| Urban | 27% |
| Suburban | 41% |
| Rural changing to suburban | 11% |
| Rural | 21% |

1. County/Zip Code

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response category** | **n=918** |
| 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.