
2011 Washington Poll

About the Poll

The Washington Poll is a non-partisan, academic survey research project implemented by the Center for Survey Research at the UW, a research center in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Matt Barreto, Associate Professor of Political Science is the principal investigator of this survey, and Dr. Christopher Parker, Associate Professor of Political Science is the director of the Center for Survey Research.

The survey was administered by telephone, using live callers, based on a randomly selected list of phone numbers using a publicly available list of registered voters. Voter registration status is confirmed by all respondents. Telephone numbers are merged in and verified by a third party vendor, and include both landlines and cell phones. The survey was in the field from October 10 – 30, 2011, and averaged 28 minutes in length. A total of 938 registered voters throughout the state of Washington were interviewed, yielding a 3.2% margin of error. Margin of error is larger for subsamples, or split sample components. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Full questionnaire can be found on the Washington Poll website.

Questions/Comments: mbarreto@uw.edu

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1. Initiative vote

I-1125

I-1183

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I - 1183

Statewide ballot Initiative eleven eighty-three (1183) concerns liquor, beer, wine, and spirits. It would close state liquor stores and auction off all their assets, and license private parties to sell and distribute liquor, set license fees based on sales, regulate licenses, and change regulation of wine distribution. Will you vote yes or no on Initiative 1183?

Yes – certain	41.1%	} 50.3%
Yes – could change	6.7%	
Undecided – lean Yes	2.5%	
Undecided	6.9%	
Undecided – lean No	2.2%	} 42.8%
No – could change	4.9%	
No – certain	35.6%	

Overall statewide sample = 938 registered voters, +/- 3.2%, Oct 10-30, 2011

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Initiative – 1183 – Alcohol Privatization

	Yes	No	Undec
Full sample	50	43	7
Puget Sound	52	42	6
Eastern WA	47	43	10
Other/West	50	44	6
Democrat	43	51	6
Republican	60	33	7
Independent	49	43	8
Male	54	40	6
Female	46	45	8
18 – 40	51	43	6
41 – 65	50	44	6
65 +	51	42	7
Liberal	43	51	6
Conservative	60	34	6
Moderate	47	45	8
Oct 10 – 20 interview	50	43	7
Oct 21 – 30 interview	50	43	7

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I - 1125

Initiative eleven twenty-five (1125) concerns state expenditures on transportation. It would prohibit the use of motor vehicle fund revenues and vehicle toll revenues for non-transportation purposes, and require that road and bridge tolls be set by the legislature and be project-specific. Will you vote yes or no on Initiative 1125?

Yes – certain	25.1%	} 41.4%
Yes – could change	12.5%	
Undecided – lean Yes	3.8%	
Undecided	18.7%	
Undecided – lean No	2.5%	} 40.0%
No – could change	7.3%	
No – certain	30.2%	

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Initiative – 1125 – Project specific tolls

	Yes	No	Undec
Full sample	41	40	19
Puget Sound	42	43	15
Eastern WA	38	34	28
Other/West	43	39	18
Democrat	31	52	17
Republican	52	25	24
Independent	44	40	16
Male	43	42	15
Female	40	38	22
18 – 40	46	36	18
41 – 65	42	41	17
65 +	36	43	21
Liberal	33	50	17
Conservative	56	25	19
Moderate	34	46	20
Oct 10 – 20 interview	42	37	21
Oct 21 – 30 interview	41	43	16

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2. 2012 Election

Governor

President

The Washington Poll

2012 Governor

Thinking ahead to the 2012 election for Washington State Governor, are you planning to vote for, (ROTATE NAMES: Jay Inslee, who prefers the Democratic Party, or Rob McKenna, who prefers the Republican Party?)

Inslee - certain	25.8%	} 38.4%
Inslee – could change	9.3%	
Undecided – lean Inslee	3.3%	

Undecided	17.6%
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Undecided – lean McKenna	1.9%	} 43.9%
McKenna – could change	8.6%	
McKenna – certain	33.4%	

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2012 Governor's Race

	Inslee	McKenna	Undec
Full sample	38	44	18
Puget Sound	45	40	15
Eastern WA	26	51	23
Other/West	35	47	19
Democrat	77	7	15
Republican	4	88	7
Independent	28	44	28
Male	37	46	17
Female	40	42	18
18 – 40	39	40	20
41 – 65	39	44	18
65 +	38	46	16
Liberal	74	8	18
Conservative	7	84	10
Moderate	39	37	25
College degree	39	43	18
No college degree	37	45	17

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2012 President: Split Sample A

If the election for President were held today, and the candidates were (ROTATE NAMES: Democrat Barack Obama or Republican Rick Perry, for whom would you vote for?)

Obama - certain	46.4%	} 54.0%
Obama – could change	6.1%	
Undecided – lean Obama	1.5%	
Undecided	5.3%	
Undecided – lean Perry	2.1%	} 40.7%
Perry – could change	7.9%	
Perry – certain	30.7%	

Split sample = 469 registered voters, +/- 4.5%, Oct 10-30, 2011

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2012 Presidential Race: Obama v Perry

	Obama	Perry	Undec
Full sample	54	41	5
Puget Sound	64	31	5
Eastern WA	36	57	7
Other/West	49	46	5
Democrat	98	1	1
Republican	7	90	3
Independent	53	37	10
Male	49	44	6
Female	58	37	4
18 – 40	63	31	5
41 – 65	53	41	6
65 +	51	45	4
Liberal	96	3	1
Conservative	11	86	4
Moderate	62	26	12
College degree	57	37	5
No college degree	50	44	5

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The Washington Poll

2012 President: Split Sample B

If the election for President were held today, and the candidates were (ROTATE NAMES: Democrat Barack Obama or Republican Mitt Romney, for whom would you vote for?)

Obama - certain	42.4%	} 50.2%
Obama – could change	5.8%	
Undecided – lean Obama	2.0%	
Undecided	9.1%	
Undecided – lean Romney	3.3%	} 40.7%
Romney – could change	5.5%	
Romney – certain	31.9%	

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The Washington Poll

2012 Presidential Race: Obama v Romney

	Obama	Romney	Undec
Full sample	50	41	9
Puget Sound	55	37	8
Eastern WA	31	57	12
Other/West	55	34	11
Democrat	89	4	7
Republican	3	96	1
Independent	48	35	17
Male	52	38	10
Female	49	43	8
18 – 40	48	40	13
41 – 65	54	39	7
65 +	48	43	9
Liberal	94	2	3
Conservative	6	90	4
Moderate	53	30	17
College degree	56	38	6
No college degree	44	43	13

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3. Issues and Approval

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Now I'm going to read you a list of names of public officials and public organizations, and for each one, I want you to tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable view of that person or organization.

	Fav	Unfav	Don't know
Barack Obama	52	43	5
Christine Gregoire	44	50	6
WA State Legislature	32	46	22
U.S. Congress	14	76	10
Rob McKenna	47	20	33
Maria Cantwell	53	34	14
Jay Inslee	33	17	50
Mitt Romney	36	42	22
Rick Perry	21	51	28

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The Washington Poll

Thinking ahead to the November 2011 elections, what general issues are most important to you as you decide how you will vote?

Economy/Recession	26%
Jobs/Unemployment	16%
Alcohol initiative	16%
Education	14%
Budget deficit	13%
Taxes	12%
Health care	6%
Transportation	6%
Foreign policy	2%
Something else	8%

(2 answers permitted, open-ended, no list read)

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The Washington Poll

Same Sex Marriage

Next year the legislature could pass a law allowing gay and lesbian couples to get married. If that happens, there could be a referendum in which voters would be asked to approve or reject the law. If such a referendum were held today:

Would you vote YES -- that is, to keep a law in place allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry OR would you vote NO, against the law -- to make it so that gay and lesbian couples could not marry?

Yes – keep law in place – strongly	47%
Yes – keep the law in place – not strong	8%
No – against the law – not strong	7%
No – against the law – strongly	31%
Undecided	7%

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The Washington Poll

Same Sex Marriage

Which of the following statements best describes your views on the issue of same-sex marriage? (Rotate list front/back)

Gay and lesbian couples should have the same legal right to marry as straight couples	43%
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Gay and lesbian couples should be able to have the same legal rights as straight couples but it should not be called marriage	22%
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There should be domestic partnerships that give gay and lesbian couples only some of the benefits and protections of marriage	15%
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There should be no legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples	17%
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Don't know	3%
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Now I'm going to read you a list of different public policies, and for each one, I want you to tell me whether you approve or disapprove of each policy or issue.

	Approve	Disapprove
Health care reform bill passed in 2010	37%	47%
The repeal of Don't ask, Don't tell, which allows gays to serve openly in the U.S. Military	64%	24%
Legalization and regulation of marijuana in WA	48%	42%

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The state of Washington is facing a budget deficit of over \$1.5 billion. As you may know, the legislature can reduce this budget deficit by cutting spending, raising taxes, or a combination of the two. Ideally, how would you prefer to see the legislature attempt to reduce the state of Washington's budget deficit?

Only with spending cuts	24%
Mostly with spending cuts	20%
Equally with spending cuts and tax increases	39%
Mostly with tax increases	9%
Only with tax increases	3%
Don't know	5%

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Thinking about the future of our economy, which party do you trust more to make the right decisions and improve our economic conditions? Would you say you have more confidence in President Obama and the Democrats, or the Republicans?

Obama and Democrats	41%
Republicans	37%
Both	2%
Neither	17%
Don't know	4%

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Additional Results

Additional results will be posted Tuesday Nov 1. If you have further questions and would like to see any additional - or more specific - results, please send us an email; and we will try to accommodate your request.

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