

The Washington Poll

Issues and Opinions May 2010

About the Poll

The Washington Poll is a non-partisan, academic survey research project sponsored by the Washington Institute for the Study of Ethnicity, Race & Sexuality (WISER), a research center at the University of Washington in the School of Social Sciences. Dr. Matt Barreto, an Associate Professor of Political Science is the Director of WISER and principal investigator on this survey. Dr. Christopher Parker, an Associate Professor of Political Science is the co-principal investigator of the Washington Poll.

The survey was administered by telephone, by the Washington Survey Research Center at the UW, based on a randomly selected list of phone numbers using a publicly available list of registered voters. The survey was in the field from May 3 – May 23, 2010. A total of 1,252 registered voters throughout the state of Washington were interviewed, yielding a 2.8% margin of error. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Questions/Comments: mbarreto@uw.edu

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Most important issue in 2010 elections:

	<u>May 2010</u>	<u>Oct 2009</u>
Jobs / Economy	62%	31%
Health care reform	27%	25%
Taxes	6%	21%
Gay rights related issues	3%	15%
Education	6%	11%
Iraq/Afghanistan/War	11%	7%
Transportation related	2%	6%
Environment related	6%	4%

Respondents may select up to 2 options, totals do not add up to 100%

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Do you think things here in Washington state are generally going in the right direction, or seriously on the wrong track?

	<u>May 2010</u>	<u>Oct 2009</u>
Going in the right direction	41%	44%
Seriously on the wrong track	44%	38%
Don't know	15%	16%

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Job Approval: Federal

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Murray</u>	<u>Congress</u>
Strongly Approve	34%	26%	6%
Somewhat Approve	24%	25%	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	12%	13%	26%
Strongly Disapprove	27%	21%	34%
No opinion / never heard	3%	15%	10%
Total Approve	58%	51%	30%
Total Disapprove	39%	34%	60%

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Job Approval: State

	<u>Gregoire</u>	<u>McKenna</u>	<u>Legislature</u>
Strongly Approve	17%	12%	4%
Somewhat Approve	27%	29%	32%
Somewhat Disapprove	17%	11%	23%
Strongly Disapprove	30%	12%	20%
No opinion / never heard	9%	37%	20%
Total Approve	44%	41%	36%
Total Disapprove	47%	23%	43%

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Note: 1/2 the sample was asked Murray vs. Republican; the other 1/2 sample was asked Murray vs. Rossi

Thinking ahead to the November election for U.S. Senate, are you planning to vote for, Patty Murray the Democrat, or the Republican candidate?

Murray – certain	33%	
Murray – could change	7%	Murray: 42%
Undecided – lean Murray	2%	
Undecided	14%	
Republican – certain	25%	
Republican – could change	11%	Republican: 39%
Undecided – lean Republican	3%	
Someone else	4%	

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Note: 1/2 the sample was asked Murray vs. Republican; the other 1/2 sample was asked Murray vs. Rossi

Thinking ahead to the November election for U.S. Senate, are you planning to vote for, Patty Murray the Democrat, or Dino Rossi, the GOP candidate?

Murray – certain	36%	
Murray – could change	7%	Murray: 44%
Undecided – lean Murray	1%	
Undecided	12%	
Rossi – certain	28%	
Rossi – could change	7%	Rossi: 40%
Undecided – lean Rossi	5%	
Someone else	3%	

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Note: ½ the sample was asked Democrat vs. Republican; the other ½ sample was asked Dem vs. GOP

Thinking ahead to the November election for Washington state legislature, are you planning to vote for the Republican candidate, or the Democratic candidate?

Democrat – certain	30%	
Democrat – could change	5%	Democrat: 39%
Undecided – lean Democrat	4%	
Undecided	19%	
Republican – certain	27%	
Republican – could change	6%	Republican: 38%
Undecided – lean Republican	5%	
Someone else	2%	

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Note: ½ the sample was asked Democrat vs. Republican; the other ½ sample was asked Dem vs. GOP

Thinking ahead to the November election for Washington state legislature, are you planning to vote for the **GOP** candidate, or the **Democratic** candidate?

Democrat – certain	31%	
Democrat – could change	8%	Democrat: 42%
Undecided – lean Democrat	3%	
Undecided	17%	
GOP – certain	24%	
GOP – could change	6%	GOP: 37%
Undecided – lean GOP	7%	
Someone else	4%	

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State Income Tax

Now I'm going to read an initiative that may appear on the November ballot: Initiative 1077 would reduce property taxes by 20% and reduce the business and occupation tax and also institute a new income tax on individuals earning more than \$200,000 or households earning more than \$400,000. Will you vote yes or no on initiative 1077?

Yes – certain	35%	
Yes – could change	17%	Yes: 58%
Undecided – lean Yes	6%	
Undecided	10%	
No – certain	23%	
No – could change	5%	No: 30%
Undecided – lean No	2%	

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Liquor Privatization

Another initiative that could be on the ballot in November would privatize alcohol sales. Currently hard alcohol can only be sold by the Washington State Liquor Control Board, but this initiative would allow alcohol to be sold at grocery stores and other places where beer and wine are already sold. Will you vote yes or no on the alcohol privatization initiative?

Yes – certain	43%	
Yes – could change	7%	Yes: 52%
Undecided – lean Yes	2%	
Undecided	8%	
No – certain	31%	
No – could change	5%	No: 37%
Undecided – lean No	1%	

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Approval of Policy Issues

	Approve	Disapprove
Health care reform passed by Congress this past March	45%	41%
Rob McKenna's decision to sue the federal govt to block some provisions of the health care bill from taking effect	40%	40%
Budget passed by WA state legislature that includes new taxes on candy, beer, cigarettes, and bottled water	49%	45%
Requiring tax increases by the state legislature to be approved by a 2/3 majority	60%	24%
Removing state civil and criminal penalties for possession or use of marijuana	52%	35%

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Approval of Policy Issues

	Approve	Disapprove
The immigration law in Arizona which requires police to question people they suspect are illegal immigrants	52%	42%
State and local police should have the right to profile or stop someone on account of race or ethnicity	15%	82%
State and local police should have the right to profile or stop someone on account of race or ethnicity		
- Among people who <u>approve</u> of AZ immig law:	21%	74%
- Among people who <u>disapprove</u> of AZ immig law:	7%	91%

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Which comes closest to your view about what government policy should be toward illegal immigrants currently residing in the United States?

	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)
Make all illegal immigrants felons and send them back to their home country.	15	14	10	16	12
Have a guest worker program that allows immigrants to remain in the United States in order to work, but only for a limited amount of time.	35	33	31	26	29
Allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States and become U.S. citizens, but only if they meet certain requirements like working and paying back taxes over a period of time.	43	40	46	48	51
Grant amnesty to all illegal immigrants in the country, giving them residence and the right to work without the fear of being deported.	6	9	10	6	5

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Which comes closest to your view about what government policy should be toward illegal immigrants currently residing in the United States?

	Approve of AZ Immig Law	Disapprove of AZ Immig Law
Make all illegal immigrants felons and send them back to their home country.	20	4
Have a guest worker program that allows immigrants to remain in the United States in order to work, but only for a limited amount of time.	33	23
Allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States and become U.S. citizens, but only if they meet certain requirements like working and paying back taxes over a period of time.	43	61
Grant amnesty to all illegal immigrants in the country, giving them residence and the right to work without the fear of being deported.	2	8

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Same Sex Marriage Policy Options

	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)
Gay and lesbian couples should have the same legal right to marry as straight couples.	30	35	37	36	41
Gay and lesbian couples should be able to have the same legal rights as straight couples but it should not be called marriage.	29	24	29	25	23
There should be domestic partnerships that give gay and lesbian couples only some of the benefits and protections of marriage.	12	14	11	14	14
There should be no legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples.	26	22	21	23	19

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Voter Demographics

Male	48%	Less than college	52%
Female	52%	College degree +	48%
Democrat	35%	18-29	13%
Republican	28%	30-49	34%
Independent	32%	50-59	19%
Other	5%	60 +	34%
Puget Sound	54%	< \$40,000	23%
East of Cascades	21%	\$40 - \$80K	28%
Other Western	25%	\$80 - \$150K	20%
		> \$150,000	8%
White	82%	Refused to say	19%

Additional Results

If you have additional 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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