

# **Oregon Public Issues Survey–2004**

## ***Results for Respondents***

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## Introduction

Results for this study are based on a survey conducted between February and April, 2004 of a random sample of Oregon households. For the results presented here, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is approximately plus or minus 2.71 percentage points. As with all opinion and attitude survey efforts, the wording of questions, respondents' interpretation, and other difficulties associated with implementing survey research can result in some error or unintended bias beyond that attributable to the size of the samples employed. *Note:* Frequencies may range from 99% to 101% due to rounding.

<b>Sample Size:</b>	<b>Responses:</b>	<b>Response Rate:</b>
2,197	1,354	61.6%

## Self-Reported Respondent Characteristics

When comparing survey participants to 2000 U.S. Census data for Oregon, respondents are fairly representative of Oregon's population in general with respect to gender and level of education, although a higher percent of respondents reported to have college degrees than that of general population. The average age of respondents is also slightly higher than the average age of voting age Oregonians.

### *Respondent Age (years):*

Mean age = 51.23 s.d. = 15.84
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### *Respondent Gender:*

Female	51.6%
Male	48.4%

*Level of Education:*

Grade School	0.7%
Middle or junior high school	1.6%
High school	18.5%
Vocational school	4.9%
Some college	38.7%
College graduate	26.9%
Graduate school	7.3%
Other	1.4%

## **RESULTS**

**Q-1** In general, how well informed do you consider yourself to be concerning Oregon state politics?

8.3% Not informed  
60.1% Somewhat informed  
26.1% Informed  
5.5% Very well informed

**Q-2** In general, how well informed do you consider yourself to be concerning Oregon's natural resource and environmental policies?

12.6% Not informed  
53.9% Somewhat informed  
26.8% Informed  
6.8% Very well informed

**Q-3** In general, how well informed do you consider yourself to be concerning Oregon's policies on families and children?

19.6% Not informed  
49.4% Somewhat informed  
27.2% Informed  
3.9% Very well informed

**Q-4** How often do you talk about issues related to Oregon politics and government with your family, friends, or other acquaintances?

3.8% Never  
16.6% Hardly ever  
48.3% Sometimes  
31.3% Often

**Q-5** Overall, how much impact do you think people like you can have in Oregon's policymaking process?

17.9% No impact at all  
43.6% A small impact  
32.0% A moderate impact  
6.5% A big impact

**Q-6** We would like to know your levels of familiarity and confidence in the Oregon government departments and commissions listed below. On the left side of the page, circle the number that indicates your familiarity with the department or commission. On the right hand side, circle the number that indicates the amount of confidence you have in these departments and commissions. If you are uncertain about your response, please leave the item unmarked.

***How familiar are you with the following?***

Percent “familiar” and “very familiar”

***How much confidence do you have in the following?***

Percent “moderate” & “great deal” of confidence

35.5%	Department of Fish and Wildlife	62.8%
40.1%	Department of Environmental Quality	41.6%
33.9%	Department of Forestry	50.8%
27.6%	Department of Land Conservation and Development	30.7%
48.9%	Department of Parks & Recreation	63.6%
26.6%	Department of Water Resources	42.6%
27.8%	Department of Agriculture	46.3%
59.9%	Department of Education	28.2%
36.3%	Department of Human Resources	29.4%
21.3%	Department of Housing & Community Services	28.1%
9.8%	Commission for Women	23.9%
19.2%	Commission on Children & Families	25.5%
17.2%	Oregon Youth Authority	25.3%

## SECTION 2

This section of the survey concerns environmental policies and issues.

**Q-7** For the following Oregon environmental policies, please indicate whether you know what the policy is, have heard of the policy but don't know much about it, or have not heard of the policy at all.

	Have not heard of the policy at all.	Have heard of the policy but don't know much about it.	Know what the policy is.
a. Oregon Beach Law, 1967	40.8%	34.2%	25.0%
b. Oregon Bottle Law, 1971	15.8%	24.0%	60.2%
c. Oregon Forest Practices Act, 1972	39.3%	45.0%	15.8%
d. Oregon Statewide Planning Program, 1973	57.4%	35.3%	7.3%
e. Land Conservation & Development Commission, 1973	38.2%	47.6%	14.2%
f. Northwest Power Planning Commission, 1980	45.5%	47.1%	7.5%
g. Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds, 1997	19.7%	58.1%	22.2%
h. Oregon Environmental Cleanup Assistance Act, 1999	33.0%	52.7%	14.3%

**Q-8** Listed below are statements about the relationship between humans and the environment. For each one, please indicate whether you strongly disagree, mildly disagree, are unsure, mildly agree or strongly agree with it.

	Strongly Disagree	Mildly Disagree	Unsure	Mildly Agree	Strongly Agree
a. The balance of nature is very delicate and easily upset by human activities.	7.0%	17.7%	4.3%	35.4%	35.6%
b. Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs.	24.4%	30.1%	9.1%	28.4%	8.0%
c. We are approaching the limit of people the earth can support.	16.6%	16.8%	22.1%	21.7%	22.8%

**Q-8 Continued:**

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Mildly Disagree</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	<b>Mildly Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
d. The so-called "ecological crisis" facing humankind has been greatly exaggerated.	22.5%	20.5%	21.0%	22.5%	13.6%
e. Plants and animals have as much right as humans to exist.	12.1%	22.7%	5.4%	27.9%	32.0%
f. Humans were meant to rule over the rest of nature	30.1%	19.1%	11.1%	19.7%	19.9%

**SECTION 3**

This section of the survey concerns gender and family policies and issues. Please circle or check the number that most closely represents your view.

**Q-9** In recent years there has been much discussion concerning **gender equity** policies in business and government. Listed below are some of these policies. For each policy, please indicate whether you strongly oppose, mildly oppose, are unsure, mildly support, or strongly support it.

	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>Mildly Oppose</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	<b>Mildly Support</b>	<b>Strongly Support</b>
a. <b>Pay equity</b> —equal pay for equal work.	0.7%	0.7%	2.7%	16.4%	79.5%
b. <b>Comparable worth</b> —equal pay for comparable work.	2.7%	2.4%	12.2%	27.5%	55.2%
c. <b>Affirmative action</b> —for employment in business or government.	16.0%	17.9%	21.2%	22.8%	22.1%
d. <b>Affirmative action</b> —for access to higher education.	16.1%	17.3%	13.2%	25.0%	28.4%
e. <b>Title IX (9)</b> —prohibits sex discrimination in education (in academics and athletics).	5.3%	7.3%	10.2%	26.4%	50.8%
f. <b>Parental leave</b> —government legislation providing for parental leave from work.	4.9%	10.2%	11.8%	33.1%	40.0%
g. <b>Day care</b> —government subsidized day care for working parents.	17.4%	16.6%	15.4%	23.7%	26.9%
h. <b>Women in combat</b> —allowing women in the military to participate in combat.	19.1%	12.2%	14.7%	26.6%	27.4%

**Q-10** Listed below are statements concerning the roles of women and men in society. For each one, please indicate whether you strongly disagree, mildly disagree, are unsure, mildly agree or strongly agree with it.

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Mildly Disagree</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	<b>Mildly Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
<b>a.</b> A woman can maintain a full-time job and still be a good mother.	6.5%	16.7%	4.4%	29.1%	43.3%
<b>b.</b> If a wife earns more than her husband, the marriage is headed for trouble.	51.9%	27.0%	11.0%	8.2%	1.9%
<b>c.</b> It is much better for everyone involved if the man is the achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and family.	40.6%	23.9%	6.8%	16.1%	12.6%
<b>d.</b> Women have the right to compete with men in every sphere of society.	5.8%	12.8%	4.6%	23.3%	53.5%
<b>e.</b> Most men are better suited emotionally for politics than are most women.	46.5%	21.2%	12.1%	14.0%	6.2%
<b>f.</b> Women are under-represented among political leaders.	7.7%	18.0%	17.5%	28.8%	28.0%
<b>g.</b> It is more important for a wife to help her husband's career than to have one herself.	52.7%	23.9%	9.3%	9.4%	4.7%
<b>h.</b> It is desirable that women be appointed to police forces with the same duties as men.	11.2%	18.2%	16.0%	25.7%	28.9%
<b>i.</b> I would vote for a qualified woman for President of the U.S.	9.1%	4.4%	12.0%	16.6%	57.8%

## SECTION 4

We now have a few concluding questions to check to see if our survey is representative of all types of people. We also have included a couple of questions concerning politics. Please remember that all answers are completely confidential.

**Q-14** How long have you lived in Oregon? Average = 30.85 years (standard deviation = 20.38)

**Q-15** Which of the following best describes your current work situation?

47.9% Employed full time	4.0% Unemployed [go to Q-19]
11.2% Employed part time	26.9% Retired [go to Q-19]
5.6% Not employed outside the home	4.4% Other

**Q-16** If you are currently employed, what type of organization do you work for?

50.5% Private company	21.6% Self-employed
15.9% Government	3.5% Other
8.5% Non-profit organization	

**Q-17** Which of the following best describes your primary occupation?

13.8% Executive, administration, management	10.8% Other service
31.5% Professional specialty	3.6% Precision production, craft and repair
6.6% Technician	1.8% Machine operator, assembler, inspector
7.6% Sales	3.3% Transportation and material moving
8.7% Administrative support, clerical	0.2% Handler, equipment cleaner, etc.
3.8% Private household	3.3% Farming, forestry, fishing
0.4% Protective service	0.9% Armed Forces
3.7% Other	

**Q-18** What is the business or industry of your primary job?

3.1% Agriculture	12.2% Education
3.5% Farming, forestry, fishing	5.0% Government (not education)
0.2% Mining	6.6% Finance, insurance, real estate
6.1% Construction	3.9% Services – entertainment, recreation
9.6% Manufacturing	3.4% Services – personal (hotel, beauty, etc.)
5.1% Transportation, communication, utilities	11.8% Services – business (advertising, consulting, repair, computer, etc.)
9.7% Retail/wholesale trade	
0.7% Armed Forces	15.1% Services – private health, social (doctor, dentist, law, child care, church, museum, voluntary organization)
4.0% Other	

**Q-19** Are you presently married, widowed, divorced, separated, cohabitating, or never married?

53.7% Married	11.9% Divorced or annulled
12.5% Cohabitating	1.5% Separated
8.6% Widowed	11.8% Never Married

**Q-20** Do you have any children?

27.5% No	72.5% Yes
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**Q-21** Do you belong to a particular (organized) religious denomination?

38.2% No	61.8% Yes—If yes, could you please indicate your denomination?								
	<table> <tr> <td>a. Protestant denomination</td> <td>68.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Catholic</td> <td>20.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. Jewish</td> <td>3.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. Other</td> <td>7.9%</td> </tr> </table>	a. Protestant denomination	68.2%	b. Catholic	20.4%	c. Jewish	3.5%	d. Other	7.9%
a. Protestant denomination	68.2%								
b. Catholic	20.4%								
c. Jewish	3.5%								
d. Other	7.9%								

**Q-22** Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements?

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Mildly Disagree</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	<b>Mildly Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
a. I believe the report of miracles in the Bible; that is, they occurred through a setting aside of the natural by a higher power.	11.7%	6.8%	15.2%	17.5%	48.8%
b. Religious truth is higher than any other form of truth.	20.0%	13.2%	13.3%	16.1%	37.4%
c. God acts and continues to act in the history of humankind.	9.5%	3.7%	13.0%	16.4%	57.4%
d. The story of creation as recorded in Genesis is literally true.	22.4%	8.1%	18.5%	12.5%	38.5%

**Q-23** On domestic policy issues, would you consider yourself to be?

4.8%	20.3%	38.0%	28.0%	8.9%
Very Liberal	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very Conservative