

Results

Oregon Public Policy Issues Survey-2007



July 2007

**Oregon Public Policy Issues Survey-2007
Master of Public Policy Program
Rural Studies Program
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The following are preliminary results for two random sample surveys of Oregon households conducted in May and June, 2007. One survey was administered to a statewide sample while the second survey was administered to rural counties only. The purpose of the survey was to examine attitudes and orientations toward K-12 and higher education in Oregon. Samples were purchased from *Survey Sampling Incorporated*. The response rate for the mail surveys is as follows (three waves of mailings):

	Sample Size:	Surveys Returned:	Response Rate:
Statewide	1,300	711	55%
Rural Counties	700	387	55%

Note: Results may total 99% to 101% because of rounding.

SECTION 1

In this first section of the survey we asked respondents some general questions about their interest, attitudes, and knowledge of education policy issues in Oregon.

Q-1 In general, how well informed would you consider yourself to be concerning K-12 public education issues in Oregon?

Statewide	Rural	
14%	10%	Not informed
51%	49%	Somewhat informed
24%	35%	Informed
11%	7%	Very well informed

Q-2 In general, how well informed would you consider yourself to be concerning public college and university education issues in Oregon?

Statewide	Rural	
24%	22%	Not informed
48%	56%	Somewhat informed
20%	19%	Informed
8%	3%	Very well informed

Q-3 How often do you talk about issues related to Oregon's public education system with your family, friends, or other acquaintances?

Statewide	Rural	
8%	8%	Never
19%	18%	Hardly ever
45%	46%	Sometimes
29%	29%	Often

Q-4 How much of a problem is the quality of education in Oregon's K-12 public schools today?

Statewide	Rural	
44%	39%	Big problem
38%	43%	Somewhat of a problem
7%	10%	Not much of a problem
12%	8%	Don't know

Q-5 In the past 5 years, do you think the quality of education in Oregon's K-12 public schools has improved, gotten worse, or stayed the same?

Statewide	Rural	
7%	9%	Improved
32%	34%	Stayed the same
43%	45%	Gotten worse
19%	12%	Don't know

Q-6 How much of a problem is the quality of education in Oregon's public colleges and universities today?

Statewide	Rural	
21%	15%	Big problem
36%	40%	Somewhat of a problem
15%	16%	Not much of a problem
28%	29%	Don't know

Q-7 In the past 5 years, do you think the quality of education in Oregon's public colleges and universities has improved, gotten worse, or stayed the same?

Statewide	Rural	
6%	8%	Improved
35%	34%	Stayed the same
24%	25%	Gotten worse
35%	33%	Don't know

Q-8 Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly Agree
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a. Additional state funding would lead to higher quality K-12 education in Oregon.

Statewide	12%	14%	23%	28%	23%
Rural	12%	26%	24%	21%	16%

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly Agree
b. Better use of state funds would lead to higher quality K-12 education in Oregon.	Statewide	3%	2%	18%	39%	37%
	Rural	3%	5%	14%	47%	32%
c. Additional state funding would lead to higher quality college and university education in Oregon.	Statewide	9%	12%	32%	25%	22%
	Rural	8%	23%	31%	24%	15%
d. Better use of state funds would lead to higher quality college and university education in Oregon.	Statewide	2%	4%	28%	36%	30%
	Rural	1%	7%	21%	42%	29%

Q-9 In your opinion, which of the following is the MOST IMPORTANT goal of Oregon's K-12 public education system? Please select only one.

Statewide	Rural	
14%	14%	Preparing students for college.
27%	27%	Teaching students the basics.
14%	21%	Teaching students life skills.
28%	23%	Preparing students for the workforce/careers.
5%	9%	Preparing students to be good citizens.
12%	7%	Other

Q-10 In your opinion, which of the following is the MOST IMPORTANT goal of Oregon's public college and university system regarding students? Please select only one.

Statewide	Rural	
3%	3%	Preparing students to be leaders.
31%	30%	Preparing students to think critically.
5%	4%	Teaching students life skills.
52%	57%	Preparing students for the workforce/careers.
2%	5%	Preparing students to be good citizens.
7%	2%	Other

Q-11 Where do you think Oregon currently ranks nationally in per student spending for public K-12 schools?

Statewide	Rural	
4%	4%	Near the top
12%	10%	Above average
24%	22%	Average
29%	33%	Below average
11%	7%	Near the bottom
20%	24%	Don't know

Q-12 Where do you think Oregon currently ranks nationally in per student spending for public college and universities?

Statewide	Rural	
2%	2%	Near the top
8%	5%	Above average
25%	31%	Average
25%	22%	Below average
15%	9%	Near the bottom
25%	30%	Don't know

Q-13 Overall, how would you rate the quality of public schools in your neighborhood today? If you had to give your local public schools a grade, would it be A, B, C, D, or F? If undecided, please leave the grade blank.

Average Grade Statewide: 2.72

Average Grade Rural: 2.65

Q-14 Overall, how would you rate the quality of Oregon's public colleges and universities today? If undecided, please leave the grade blank.

Average Grade Statewide: 2.54

Average Grade Rural: 2.52

Q-15 For the following policies, terms and organizations, please indicate your level of familiarity.

		Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar
a. Oregon Department of Education	Statewide	27%	43%	23%	8%
	Rural	30%	44%	21%	5%
b. Oregon Quality Education Commission	Statewide	78%	16%	4%	2%
	Rural	72%	22%	5%	1%

		Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar
c.	Oregon Quality Education Model				
	Statewide	85%	10%	2%	3%
	Rural	85%	8%	7%	1%
d.	Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM)				
	Statewide	41%	28%	22%	10%
	Rural	39%	34%	20%	6%
e.	Certificate of Advanced Mastery (CAM)				
	Statewide	49%	24%	20%	7%
	Rural	46%	33%	16%	5%
f.	Superintendent of Public Instruction				
	Statewide	39%	35%	18%	8%
	Rural	42%	34%	21%	4%
g.	Ballot Measure 5 of 1990				
	Statewide	53%	15%	18%	14%
	Rural	57%	17%	18%	7%
h.	Oregon Benchmarks				
	Statewide	44%	27%	15%	14%
	Rural	46%	32%	18%	5%
i.	State Board of Higher Education				
	Statewide	33%	36%	24%	8%
	Rural	39%	37%	19%	5%
j.	Oregon Educational Act for the 21 st Century				
	Statewide	69%	20%	6%	5%
	Rural	70%	19%	9%	2%

SECTION 2

This second section of the survey inquires about your experience with educational institutions. Once again, please circle the number that most closely represents your view.

Q-16 Do you have any children?

Statewide	79% Yes	21% No (go to Q-20)
Rural	81% Yes	19% No (go to Q-20)

Q-17	Have any of your children ever attended a public K-12 school or college/university in Oregon?			
		Statewide	80% Yes	20% No
		Rural	81% Yes	19% No
Q-18	a During the current school year, did you have any children in K-12?			
		Statewide	35% Yes	65% No (go to Q-19a)
		Rural	31% Yes	69% No (go to Q-19a)
	b Are any of your children currently enrolled in a public K-12 school?			
		Statewide	67% Yes	33% No
		Rural	84% Yes	16% No
	c Are any of your children currently enrolled in a religious or parochial K-12 school?			
		Statewide	12% Yes	88% No
		Rural	18% Yes	82% No
	d Are any of your children currently enrolled in a non-religious private K-12 school?			
		Statewide	8% Yes	92% No
		Rural	4% Yes	96% No
	e During the current school year, do you have any children who are schooled at home rather than at a school?			
		Statewide	7% Yes	93% No
		Rural	7% Yes	93% No
Q-19	a During the current school year, did you have any children in a college or university?			
		Statewide	25% Yes	75% No (go to Q-20)
		Rural	18% Yes	82% No (go to Q-20)
	b Are any of your children currently enrolled in a public college or university in Oregon?			
		Statewide	47% Yes	53% No
		Rural	53% Yes	47% No

c Are any of your children currently enrolled in a public college or university in another state or country?

Statewide	12% Yes	88% No
Rural	54% Yes	46% No

d Are any of your children currently enrolled in a private college or university?

Statewide	26% Yes	74% No
Rural	19% Yes	81% No

SECTION 3

Respondents were asked a few concluding questions to check to see if the survey is representative of all types of people. We also included a couple of questions concerning politics.

Q-20 What is your current age in years ?

Statewide average = 51.4

Rural average = 54.8

Q-21 Please indicate your gender?

Statewide	Rural	
52%	49%	Female
48%	51%	Male

Q-22 What level of education have you completed?

Statewide	Rural	
1%	0%	Grade School
1%	1 %	Middle or junior high school
12%	13%	High school
5%	6%	Vocational school
32%	38%	Some college
34%	29%	College graduate
15%	12%	Graduate school
1%	2%	Other

Q-23 How long have you lived in Oregon (years)?

Statewide average = 31.4
Rural average = 32.2

Q-24 Which of the following best describes your current work situation?

Statewide	Rural	
49%	50%	Employed full time
12%	14%	Employed part time
3%	3%	Not employed outside the home
1%	1%	Unemployed [go to Q-26]
32%	33%	Retired [go to Q-26]
2%	0%	Other

Q-25 If you are currently employed, what type of organization do you work for?

Statewide	Rural	
43%	33%	Private company
22%	23%	Government
8%	5%	Non-profit organization
15%	30%	Self-employed
13%	9%	Other

Q-26 On domestic policy issues, would you consider yourself to be?

Statewide	Rural	
9%	6%	Very Liberal
21%	10%	Liberal
42%	37%	Moderate
21%	40%	Conservative
7%	7%	Very Conservative

Q-27 Which of the following best describes your political affiliation?

Statewide	Rural	
14%	18%	Strong Republican
15%	20%	Weak Republican
25%	27%	Independent
17%	18%	Weak Democrat
24%	12%	Strong Democrat
5%	4%	Other