

# ***The Washington Poll***

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## **Issues and Opinions** **May 2010**

### **Results by Party and Region**

# 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](mailto:mbarreto@uw.edu)

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# About the Poll

Overall sample size is 1,252 with margin of error of +/- 2.8 percent. However, for crosstabs presented here, the cell size for each row is smaller and carries a larger margin of error.

For example, the Puget sound sample is 54% of all, or 676 cases, margin of error of +/- 3.8 percent. Eastern WA is 21% of all, or 263 cases, +/- 6.0; and Other Western WA is 25% of all, or 313 cases, +/- 5.5.

For party identification, the sample of Democrats is 438, +/- 4.7 percent; Republicans is 351, +/- 5.2; and Independents/other sample is 463, +/- 4.6

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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?

	Right Direction	Wrong Track	Don't Know
Statewide total	41%	44%	15%
Democrat	64%	19%	16%
Republican	19%	69%	12%
Independent	34%	49%	17%
Puget Sound region	46%	39%	14%
Eastern Washington	31%	54%	16%
Other Western WA	37%	44%	19%

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## Job Approval: Federal

	<u>Percent who approve</u>		
	Obama	Murray	Congress
Statewide total	58%	51%	30%
Democrat	93%	77%	47%
Republican	20%	21%	14%
Independent	54%	40%	25%
Puget Sound region	69%	57%	36%
Eastern Washington	38%	48%	18%
Other Western WA	53%	43%	26%

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## Job Approval: State

	<u>Percent who approve</u>		
	Gregoire	McKenna	Legislature
Statewide total	44%	41%	36%
Democrat	74%	26%	54%
Republican	15%	52%	20%
Independent	36%	43%	32%
Puget Sound region	52%	43%	39%
Eastern Washington	27%	40%	33%
Other Western WA	41%	36%	35%

# *The Washington Poll*

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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	Republican
Statewide total	42%	39%
Democrat	85%	5%
Republican	6%	84%
Independent	31%	34%
Puget Sound region	52%	28%
Eastern Washington	25%	63%
Other Western WA	40%	35%

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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	Rossi
Statewide total	44%	40%
Democrat	79%	8%
Republican	2%	84%
Independent	35%	41%
Puget Sound region	48%	32%
Eastern Washington	40%	48%
Other Western WA	34%	49%



# *The Washington Poll*

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

	Democrat	Republican
Statewide total	39%	38%
Democrat	89%	2%
Republican	6%	88%
Independent	21%	31%
Puget Sound region	46%	30%
Eastern Washington	25%	58%
Other Western WA	45%	34%

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

	Democrat	GOP
Statewide total	42%	37%
Democrat	84%	4%
Republican	1%	86%
Independent	25%	36%
Puget Sound region	50%	25%
Eastern Washington	29%	59%
Other Western WA	30%	47%

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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 household earning more than \$400,000. Will you vote yes or no on initiative 1077?

	Yes	No
Statewide total	58%	30%
Democrat	72%	17%
Republican	41%	47%
Independent	57%	30%
Puget Sound region	59%	32%
Eastern Washington	56%	25%
Other Western WA	57%	32%

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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	No
Statewide total	52%	37%
Democrat	50%	40%
Republican	57%	36%
Independent	55%	35%
Puget Sound region	55%	34%
Eastern Washington	42%	47%
Other Western WA	59%	34%

# *The Washington Poll*

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The health care reform bill passed by Congress this past March

	Approve	Disapprove
Statewide total	45%	41%
Democrat	78%	8%
Republican	11%	80%
Independent	40%	46%
Puget Sound region	54%	34%
Eastern Washington	29%	56%
Other Western WA	43%	46%

Washington state Attorney General Rob McKenna's decision to sue the federal government to block some provisions of the health care bill from taking effect

	Approve	Disapprove
Statewide total	40%	40%
Democrat	9%	69%
Republican	77%	8%
Independent	45%	37%
Puget Sound region	36%	49%
Eastern Washington	53%	23%
Other Western WA	40%	39%

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The budget passed by the Washington state legislature that includes new taxes on candy, beer, cigarettes, and bottled water to raise more than \$800 million in revenues?

	Approve	Disapprove
Statewide total	49%	45%
Democrat	66%	28%
Republican	34%	60%
Independent	44%	51%
Puget Sound region	55%	40%
Eastern Washington	45%	48%
Other Western WA	40%	53%

Requiring tax increases by the state legislature to be approved by a two-thirds majority?

	Approve	Disapprove
Statewide total	60%	24%
Democrat	41%	37%
Republican	79%	10%
Independent	65%	23%
Puget Sound region	58%	24%
Eastern Washington	63%	24%
Other Western WA	63%	22%

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**Removing state civil and criminal penalties for possession or use of marijuana?**

	Approve	Disapprove
Statewide total	52%	35%
Democrat	64%	25%
Republican	34%	47%
Independent	54%	35%
Puget Sound region	56%	31%
Eastern Washington	44%	45%
Other Western WA	51%	34%

**The immigration law in Arizona which requires police to question people they suspect are illegal immigrants for proof of legal status**

	Approve	Disapprove
Statewide total	52%	42%
Democrat	26%	67%
Republican	80%	15%
Independent	55%	39%
Puget Sound region	45%	50%
Eastern Washington	61%	31%
Other Western WA	57%	35%

# 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.

## Research team

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