

VOTE  2012

KCTS 9 Washington Poll

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The KCTS9 Washington Poll is a non-partisan, academic survey research project implemented by the Center for Survey Research at the University of Washington, a research center in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Matt Barreto, Associate Professor of Political Science director of *The Washington Poll*, 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 1st – 16th, 2012, and averaged 28 minutes in length. A total of 782 registered voters and 644 likely voters throughout the state of Washington were interviewed, yielding a 3.5% and 3.9% margin of error respectively. 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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President

If the election for President were held today, would you vote for **(ROTATE NAMES)** Democrat Barack Obama, Republican Mitt Romney, Libertarian Gary Johnson, Green Party candidate Jill Stein, or someone else?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Obama – certain	47.5%	46.4%
Obama – could change	4.1%	4.1%
Undecided – lean Obama	0.2%	1.4%
Undecided	3.9%	3.3%
Undecided – lean Romney	0.6%	0.7%
Romney – could change	5.6%	6.2%
Romney – certain	35.1%	36.0%
Gary Johnson	1.3%	1.4%
Jill Stein	0.3%	0.4%
Vote for Other Candidate	1.5%	1.3%
Total – Obama	51.8%	51.9%
Total – Romney	41.3%	42.9%

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<u>President</u>	Obama	Undecided	Romney	Other
Puget Sound	60.3%	3.8%	32.4%	3.5%
Eastern	34.3%	4.5%	59.6%	1.6%
Other/West	45.6%	5.3%	45.5%	3.6%
Male	48.2%	3.73%	44.4%	3.7%
Female	54.6%	4.8%	37.9%	2.7%
Democrat	95.6%	2.3%	1.6%	0.5%
Republican	1.4%	1.3%	97.4%	0.0%
Independent	44.2%	8.3%	39.6%	8.0%
Tea Party	8.5%	1.0%	89.8%	0.9%
Age 18-29	57.3%	2.7%	34.1%	6.0%
Age 30-44	45.5%	3.7%	44.7%	6.2%
Age 44-65	53.7%	4.3%	40.3%	1.7%
Age 66+	50.4%	4.7%	44.2%	0.8%

782 registered voters: +/- 3.5%; Oct 1-16, 2012

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Governor

If the election for Governor of Washington were held today, would you vote for **(ROTATE NAMES) Jay Inslee (INS-LEE)**, who prefers the Democratic Party, or **Rob McKenna**, who prefers the Republican Party?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Inslee – certain	38.5%	37.4%
Inslee – could change	6.8%	6.8%
Undecided – lean Inslee	2.6%	2.9%
Undecided	7.5%	6.6%
Undecided – lean McKenna	2.2%	2.3%
McKenna – could change	6.9%	6.1%
McKenna – certain	35.6%	37.9%
Total – Inslee	47.9%	47.1%
Total – McKenna	44.7%	46.3%

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<u>Governor</u>	Inslee	Undecided	McKenna
Puget Sound	54.7%	7.6%	37.7%
Eastern	34.4%	8.4%	57.3%
Other/West	43.1%	6.5%	50.4%
Male	45.7%	7.2%	47.0%
Female	49.7%	7.8%	42.6%
Democrat	89.5%	5.3%	5.2%
Republican	2.1%	2.4%	95.5%
Independent	39.3%	13.3%	47.4%
Tea Party	6.4%	3.3%	90.3%
Age 18-29	55.6%	8.0%	36.4%
Age 30-44	45.7%	7.0%	47.3%
Age 44-65	46.8%	8.6%	44.6%
Age 66+	45.5%	6.0%	48.5%

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Senate

If the election for U.S. Senate were held today, would you vote for **(ROTATE NAMES)** Democrat **Maria Cantwell** or Republican **Michael Baumgartner**?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Cantwell – certain	50.9%	49.8%
Cantwell – could change	5.3%	5.9%
Undecided – lean Cantwell	2.1%	2.0%
Undecided	6.9%	6.4%
Undecided – lean Baumgartner	2.4%	1.9%
Baumgartner – could change	5.1%	5.0%
Baumgartner – certain	27.3%	28.5%
Total – Cantwell	58.3%	57.7%
Total – Baumgartner	34.8%	35.4%

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Senate

	Cantwell	Undecided	Baumgartner
Puget Sound	65.9%	5.1%	29.1%
Eastern	45.1%	8.0%	46.8%
Other/West	52.0%	10.2%	37.8%
Male	55.7%	7.4%	36.9%
Female	60.7%	6.5%	36.9%
Democrat	96.7%	1.5%	1.8%
Republican	13.0%	4.8%	82.2%
Independent	53.0%	13.6%	33.4%
Tea Party	13.5%	2.7%	83.8%
Age 18-29	65.7%	8.2%	26.1%
Age 30-44	55.5%	7.7%	36.7%
Age 44-65	56.7%	6.4%	36.9%
Age 66+	59.6%	6.3%	34.1%

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I – 1185: Tax Increases

Statewide ballot Initiative eleven eighty-five (1185) concerns tax and fee increases imposed by the state government. This measure would restate existing statutory requirements that legislative actions raising taxes must be approved by two-thirds of the legislature or receive voter approval, and that new or increased fees require majority legislative approval.

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Yes – certain	37.8%	38.1%
Yes – could change	13.3%	13.5%
Undecided – lean Yes	2.5%	2.5%
Undecided	14.6%	14.5%
Undecided – lean No	1.7%	1.6%
No – could change	5.7%	5.6%
No – certain	23.8%	23.7%
Will not vote on this issue	0.7%	0.5%
Total – Yes on 1185	53.6%	54.1%
Total – No on 1185	31.2%	30.9%

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I - 1185

	Yes	No	Undecided
Puget Sound	50.2%	34.6%	15.2%
Eastern	62.6%	27.0%	10.4%
Other/West	53.3%	26.3%	20.4%
Male	55.9%	33.3%	10.9%
Female	51.2%	29.1%	19.7%
Democrat	39.7%	41.6%	18.7%
Republican	69.4%	14.2%	16.5%
Independent	55.5%	32.8%	11.6%
Tea Party	71.5%	15.6%	12.9%
Age 18-29	48.4%	36.0%	15.6%
Age 30-44	54.8%	27.8%	17.4%
Age 44-65	56.5%	31.2%	12.3%
Age 66+	51.8%	30.4%	17.7%

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I – 1240: Public Charter Schools

Statewide ballot Initiative twelve forty (1240) concerns the creation of a public charter school system. This measure would authorize up to forty publicly-funded charter schools open to all students and operated through approved, nonreligious, non-profit organizations and have government oversight.

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Yes – certain	34.1%	34.6%
Yes – could change	10.6%	11.1%
Undecided – lean Yes	2.8%	2.7%
Undecided	12.6%	11.7%
Undecided – lean No	1.9%	2.2%
No – could change	7.3%	6.1%
No – certain	30.0%	31.8%
<i>Will not vote on this issue</i>	0.8%	0.5%
Total – Yes on 1240	47.5%	48.8%
Total – No on 1240	39.2%	40.1%

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I - 1240

	Yes	No	Undecided
Puget Sound	43.5%	42.8%	13.8%
Eastern	53.2%	36.6%	10.3%
Other/West	52.0%	32.9%	15.0%
Male	49.1%	37.8%	13.2%
Female	46.0%	40.5%	13.5%
Democrat	33.9%	54.6%	11.5%
Republican	64.3%	24.9%	10.8%
Independent	48.8%	34.3%	16.9%
Tea Party	65.0%	18.2%	16.8%
Age 18-29	51.9%	25.5%	22.6%
Age 30-44	48.8%	41.8%	9.4%
Age 44-65	46.1%	41.7%	12.2%
Age 66+	45.8%	40.8%	13.5%

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I – 502: Marijuana

Statewide ballot initiative five – oh – two (502) concerns marijuana. This measure would license and regulate marijuana production, distribution, and possession for persons over twenty-one; remove state-law criminal and civil penalties for activities that it authorizes; tax marijuana sales; and earmarks marijuana-related revenues.

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Yes – certain	38.4%	37.2%
Yes – could change	7.8%	7.2%
Undecided – lean Yes	4.7%	2.7%
Undecided	7.6%	11.7%
Undecided – lean No	2.0%	2.2%
No – could change	3.8%	6.1%
No – certain	35.0%	31.8%
<i>Will not vote on this issue</i>	0.7%	0.5%
Total – Yes on 502	50.9%	47.1%
Total – No on 502	40.8%	40.1%

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I - 502

	Yes	No	Undecided
Puget Sound	56.0%	34.9%	9.1%
Eastern	41.1%	53.0%	6.0%
Other/West	47.3%	44.3%	8.4%
Male	52.4%	41.8%	5.8%
Female	49.5%	39.9%	10.6%
Democrat	68.2%	22.7%	9.1%
Republican	25.6%	68.0%	6.4%
Independent	52.0%	39.2%	8.8%
Tea Party	16.0%	75.2%	8.9%
Age 18-29	61.8%	29.9%	8.3%
Age 30-44	47.5%	44.2%	8.4%
Age 44-65	53.1%	41.1%	5.9%
Age 66+	44.7%	43.8%	11.5%

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R-74: Same Sex Marriage

Statewide ballot referendum seventy-four (74) concerns marriage for same-sex couples. This referendum would allow same-sex couples to marry, preserve domestic partnerships only for seniors, and preserve the right of clergy or religious organizations to refuse to perform, recognize, or accommodate any marriage ceremony.

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Yes – certain	50.4%	48.0%
Yes – could change	3.9%	4.0%
Undecided – lean Yes	2.0%	2.1%
Undecided	6.1%	5.7%
Undecided – lean No	1.3%	1.3%
No – could change	3.3%	2.8%
No – certain	31.0%	34.3%
<i>Will not vote on this issue</i>	2.0%	1.8%
Total – Yes on R74	56.3%	54.1%
Total – No on R74	35.6%	38.4%

R-74: Same Sex Marriage

Adjusted vote estimate to account for social desirability bias

In 2009, our poll estimated R-71 would win by +17 and it actually won by +6.3

This year, we have attempted to disentangle any possible social desirability bias that may lead to higher support levels for same sex marriage in the polls, using a series of question about what poll topics made respondents uncomfortable, as well as a logistic regression model predicting response inconsistency. More detail on this model can be found in an appendix on the very last slide.

	Likely Voters – adjusted model
Total – Yes on R74	52.9%
Total – No on R74	46.6%

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R-74

	Yes	No	Undecided
Puget Sound	63.1%	30.0%	6.9%
Eastern	39.4%	46.4%	14.3%
Other/West	54.3%	39.5%	6.2%
Male	51.9%	40.0%	9.1%
Female	60.1%	32.5%	7.4%
Democrat	80.5%	14.9%	4.6%
Republican	22.0%	66.8%	11.2%
Independent	56.7%	33.6%	9.7%
Tea Party	13.7%	77.9%	8.4%
Age 18-29	68.2%	26.1%	5.7%
Age 30-44	50.2%	39.1%	10.7%
Age 44-65	59.1%	34.3%	6.6%
Age 66+	48.6%	41.5%	9.9%

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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, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable view of that person or organization.

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No Opinion	Never Heard
Barack Obama	53.7%	43.3%	2.9%	0.0%
Mitt Romney	41.6%	53%	5.2%	0.2%
Christine Gregoire	52.1%	41.3%	6.3	0.3%
WA State Legislature	37.6%	38.4%	22.7%	1.7%
U.S. Congress	22.3%	67.6%	9.9%	0.2%
Rob McKenna	47%	33.4%	15.2%	4.3%
Jay Inslee	42.6%	30.8%	20.1%	6.6%
Maria Cantwell	56.1%	31.3%	11.1%	1.5%
Tea Party	29.0%	54.8%	13.5%	2.7%

Budget Deficit

The state of Washington is facing a budget deficit of over \$1.4 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	19.7%
Mostly with spending cuts	21.0%
Equally with spending cuts and tax increases	37.2%
Mostly with tax increases	10.5%
Only with tax increases	3.1%
Don't know	8.6%

Budget Deficit

The state of Washington is currently facing a budget deficit of over \$1.4 billion dollars. In an effort to reduce the deficit some people have suggested that we create a state income tax only on households making more than 500 hundred thousand dollars per year. Do you agree or disagree with the creation of a state income tax on wealthy households?

Strongly agree	20.5%
Somewhat agree	15.0%
Somewhat disagree	14.1%
Strongly disagree	43.7%
Neither	3.0%
Don't know	3.4%

Enthusiasm

Thinking ahead to the November 2012 presidential election, how enthusiastic are you about voting in the election this year?

Very enthusiastic	61.7%
Somewhat enthusiastic	21.4%
Not too enthusiastic	9.9%
Not at all enthusiastic	5.5%
Don't know	1.1%

Would you say you are more enthusiastic about voting in 2012, or that you were more enthusiastic about voting back in 2008?

More enthusiastic in 2012	39.5%
More enthusiastic in 2008	28.7%
No difference / same level	31.6%

Enthusiasm by candidate preference

Thinking ahead to the November 2012 presidential election, how enthusiastic are you about voting in the election this year?

	Inslee voters	McKenna voters
Very enthusiastic	63.9%	66.4%
Somewhat enthusiastic	21.4%	15.6%
Not too enthusiastic	10.8%	9.0%
Not at all enthusiastic	2.5%	8.1%
Don't know	1.2%	0.5%

Would you say you are more enthusiastic about voting in 2012, or that you were more enthusiastic about voting back in 2008?

	Inslee voters	McKenna voters
More enthusiastic in 2012	26.5%	56.6%
More enthusiastic in 2008	38.8%	15.2%
No difference / same level	34.8%	27.9%

Social Desirability Model on R74

Ballot initiatives on marriage equality tend to over-report the margin of victory for those campaigns. The Washington Poll's estimate of yes votes on Referendum 71 was within the margin of error, but we underestimated the percent of no votes. To rectify this, we included two items on this year's poll designed to measure social desirability bias. The first question asked individuals if they lied on the survey; the second asked if any topics made them uncomfortable. Both groups of people in the Yes on 74 and the No on 74 camp reported lying at rates that did not differ from the sample average. Those who reported that they would not vote on the issue and those who were undecided reported lying at rates higher than the sample average. This relationship remained statistically significant for those who were undecided even after running a logit model to control for religiosity, age, ideology and partisanship. Additionally, those who reported that they weren't voting on the issue reported being more uncomfortable with the questions about lesbians and gay men. A higher percentage of people in this group were more uncomfortable with these questions than those who voted reported voting no. 2.15% of those who said that they were voting for Referendum 74 said that they were uncomfortable with the questions about gay men and lesbians.

In light of these results, we adjusted the point estimate. The result is a conservative estimate of social desirability bias. We kept the Yes on 74 and No on 74 columns stable except for the yeses who reported discomfort on the sexual orientation question. We then moved the undecideds and those who reported that they would not vote on the issue into the No on 74 column because they reported lying more than those who were decided. This resulted in a point estimate of 52.9 to 46.6, a 6.3 point difference.

Research conducted by Betsy Cooper, Ph.D. student, Dept. Political Science