



July 22, 2024

Introduction & Methodology

From July 12-17, 2024, DHM Research conducted an online survey of Washington residents. The purpose of the survey was to gauge Washingtonian’s perceptions of the state and the economy, evaluate impressions of key leaders, and assess attitudes on different issues impacting Washington.

Research Methodology

The online survey consisted of N=500 Washington voters and took approximately 15 minutes to complete. This is a sufficient sample size to assess Washingtonian’s opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

Respondents were members of a professionally maintained online panel. A variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing and validation. To ensure a representative sample, demographic quotas were set and data were weighted by age, gender, region, political party, education, and income level.

Statement of Limitations

Any sampling of opinions or attitudes is subject to a margin of error. The margin of error is a standard statistical calculation that represents differences between the sample and total population at a confidence interval, or probability, calculated to be 95%. This means that there is a 95% probability that the sample taken for this study would fall within the stated margin of error if compared with the results achieved from surveying the entire population. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 4.4%.

DHM Research Background

DHM Research has been providing opinion research and consultation throughout the Pacific Northwest and other regions of the United States for over 40 years. The firm is nonpartisan and independent and specializes in research projects to support public policy making.

DHM Panel Washington
N=500, margin of error +/-4.4%
July 12-17, 2024; 15 minutes
Project #00835

Hello, my name is _____ from [name of fielding house]. I have some questions about your community (specify if possible).

As needed:

- We are not trying to sell you anything.
- The survey should only take a few minutes and I think you will find the questions interesting.
- Your answers are strictly confidential.

DEMOGRAPHICS FOR QUOTAS

1. State

Response category	n=500
Washington	100%
All others	TERM

2. In what county do you live? **[Dropdown box of all Washington counties] [Autofill as area]**

Response category	n=500
King	29%
Puget Sound (except King)	23%
Western	28%
Eastern	20%

3. How do you describe your gender?

Response category	n=500
Man	48%
Woman	50%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	2%
Another way [Open]	n=2

4. In what year were you born? **[Open] [Autofill age as:]**

Response category	n=500
18-29	15%
30-44	26%
45-64	31%
65+	28%

5. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? *You may choose more than one.*

Response category	n=500
African	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	11%
Black/African American	10%
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	9%
Middle Eastern/North African	n=2
Native American/American Indian	4%
White/Caucasian	76%
Other	1%
White Alone	68%
POC	32%

6. Which category best describes your gross household income, before taxes? Remember to include everyone living in your household. Your best estimate will do.

Response category	n=500
Less than \$25,000	13%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	16%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	16%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	10%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	28%
\$150,000 or more	17%

7. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

Response category	n=500
Less than high school	2%
High school diploma/GED	29%
Some college/2-year degree	32%
College degree/4-year degree	22%
Graduate/professional school	15%

8. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, or a member of some other political party?

Response category	n=500
Democrat	40%
Republican	29%
Some other party	7%
Non-affiliated with a party	20%
Not registered to vote	5%

MOOD

9. All things considered, would you say Washington is headed in the right direction or is it on the wrong track?

Response category	July 2024 n=500	Mar. 2024 n=500	Dec. 2023 n=500	Aug. 2023 n=500	Apr. 2023 n=500	Nov. 2022 n=500	Sept. 2022 n=500
Right direction	41%	39%	33%	34%	39%	40%	37%
Wrong track	48%	50%	54%	53%	48%	48%	50%
Don't know	10%	11%	13%	13%	13%	12%	13%

10. What is the most important issue you want your local government officials to do something about? **[Open]**

Response category	n=500
Homelessness/Poverty	25%
Crime/Public Safety	15%
Inflation/Cost of living	13%
Affordable housing/rents	9%
Environment/Climate change	7%
Drugs/Addiction	7%
Taxes/Property taxes	7%
Economy/Jobs	6%
Gun control/Gun violence	5%
Immigration/Border security	5%
Education/Schools	3%
Infrastructure/Roads	3%
Abortion/Women's rights	2%
Helping the people/For the state	2%
Health/Mental issues	2%
Public transportation	2%
Healthcare	2%
Budget spending	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%
Limit growth/development	1%
Racism/Equality	1%
Police issues/Law enforcement	1%
Government leadership/Politics	1%
Traffic	1%
Social security	1%
Minimum wage/Income inequality	1%
Voting rights	<1%
None	<1%
Other	5%
Don't know	1%

11. What do you personally value most about living in Washington? **[Open]**

Response category	n=500
Good nature/Scenery/Beautiful spots	24%
Good weather/Climate	19%
Its natural beauty/Beautiful state/city	10%
Access to clean environment/Less natural disasters	10%
Good/friendly/caring people/neighborhood	7%
Being green/Greenery/Lots of trees	5%
Accessible to ocean/rivers/beaches	5%
It has outdoor/recreational activities	5%
Having democracy/freedom	5%
Being close to family/Family lives there/Children	3%
It is a progressive/liberal state	3%
Good economy/Provides good job opportunities	3%
Its culture/Cultural acceptance	2%
It has a good supply of food	2%
It is a safe place/Good security/Low crime rate	2%
No income tax	2%
Access to parks/recreational areas	2%
It provides a good quality of life	2%
Access to women's rights/abortion	2%
Government leadership	2%
It provides healthcare services	2%
Been living here/My home	1%
It provides high quality of education	1%
Good sense of community/Community oriented	1%
Diversity/Inclusiveness	1%
Has affordable cost of living	1%
It has more open space	1%
Good/nice place to live in	1%
Well maintained roads/infrastructure	1%
Geography	1%
It provides transportation services	1%
Everything	1%
Nothing	3%
Other	5%
Don't know	<1%

ECONOMY

The next two questions are about economic conditions in Washington.

12. How would you rate Washington's current economic conditions?

Response category	July 2024 n=500	Mar. 2024 n=500	Dec. 2023 n=500	Aug. 2023 n=500	Apr. 2023 n=500	Nov. 2022 n=500	Sept. 2022 n=500
Total Good	56%	53%	46%	45%	48%	42%	49%
Very good	9%	7%	6%	4%	5%	6%	8%
Good	47%	46%	41%	41%	43%	36%	41%
Total Poor	40%	44%	49%	50%	49%	55%	46%

Response category	July 2024 n=500	Mar. 2024 n=500	Dec. 2023 n=500	Aug. 2023 n=500	Apr. 2023 n=500	Nov. 2022 n=500	Sept. 2022 n=500
Poor	29%	33%	36%	37%	34%	38%	30%
Very poor	11%	10%	13%	13%	15%	17%	15%
Don't know	4%	4%	5%	4%	3%	3%	6%

13. Would you say economic conditions in Washington are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Response category	July 2024 n=500	Mar. 2024 n=500	Dec. 2023 n=500	Aug. 2023 n=500	Apr. 2023 n=500	Sept. 2022 n=500
Getting better	22%	20%	15%	12%	18%	20%
Getting worse	38%	45%	48%	49%	46%	33%
Staying about the same	36%	32%	33%	36%	33%	44%
Don't know	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%

The next two questions are about your personal financial situation.

14. How would you rate your current financial situation?

Response category	n=500
Total Good	63%
Very good	15%
Good	48%
Total Poor	36%
Poor	26%
Very poor	10%
Don't know	1%

15. Would you say your personal financial situation is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Response category	n=500
Getting better	28%
Getting worse	22%
Staying about the same	49%
Don't know	<1%

16. From this list, select the **three** that are most important to how you rate Washington's current economic conditions.

Response category	n=500
Cost of groceries	58%
Cost of housing	52%
Inflation rate	44%
Cost of gasoline	38%
Workers' ability to find quality jobs	20%
Interest rates	16%
Who the United States president is	14%

Response category	n=500
How Washington compares to other states	14%
How current conditions compare to the past	13%
Employers' ability to find qualified workers	10%
How current conditions compare to what you expected	8%
How the stock market is doing	6%
News from sources you trust	6%

IMPRESSIONS

Indicate if you have a positive or negative impression of the following people.

Response category n=500	Total Positive	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Total Negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Don't know
17. Joe Biden							
July 2024, n=500	49%	20%	28%	50%	14%	36%	1%
March 2024, n=500	46%	21%	25%	51%	14%	37%	3%
Dec. 2023, n=500	41%	13%	28%	56%	19%	37%	2%
August 2023, n=500	43%	15%	28%	54%	18%	36%	3%
Apr. 2023, n=500	45%	14%	31%	54%	19%	35%	1%
Nov. 2022, n=500	45%	18%	27%	52%	16%	36%	2%
Sept. 2022, n=500	45%	19%	27%	51%	15%	36%	4%
18. Kamala Harris							
July 2024, n=500	50%	22%	28%	44%	12%	32%	6%
19. Donald Trump							
July 2024, n=500	42%	24%	18%	57%	8%	49%	2%
March 2024, n=500	36%	16%	19%	60%	13%	47%	5%
Dec. 2023, n=500	34%	15%	19%	64%	11%	53%	1%
August 2023, n=500	29%	12%	17%	67%	14%	53%	4%
Apr. 2023, n=500	33%	14%	20%	65%	11%	54%	2%
Nov. 2022, n=500	31%	13%	19%	67%	14%	54%	1%
Sept. 2022, n=500	36%	17%	19%	61%	11%	50%	3%
20. Jay Inslee							
July 2024, n=500	47%	18%	29%	44%	15%	29%	8%
March 2024, n=500	44%	16%	28%	47%	13%	35%	8%
Dec. 2023, n=500	39%	13%	27%	51%	22%	28%	10%
August 2023, n=500	41%	12%	28%	48%	16%	33%	11%
Apr. 2023, n=500	42%	16%	26%	48%	15%	33%	10%
Nov. 2022, n=500	43%	19%	23%	52%	19%	33%	6%
Sept. 2022, n=500	44%	15%	29%	48%	16%	33%	8%
21. Bob Ferguson							
July 2024, n=500	39%	15%	24%	25%	11%	14%	36%
March 2024, n=500	30%	12%	18%	25%	13%	12%	45%
22. David Reichert							
July 2024, n=500	32%	11%	21%	25%	15%	10%	43%
March 2024, n=500	30%	10%	21%	20%	12%	8%	50%

ELECTIONS

23. In a hypothetical 2024 Presidential matchup between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, if the election were today, who would you vote for?

Response category	n=500
Joe Biden, Democratic Party	45%
Donald Trump, Republican Party	38%
Someone else	13%
I'm not sure	4%

24. In a hypothetical 2024 Presidential matchup between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, if the election were today, who would you vote for?

Response category	n=500
Kamala Harris, Democratic Party	45%
Donald Trump, Republican Party	40%
Someone else	9%
I'm not sure	5%

25. In a hypothetical 2024 Presidential matchup between Gretchen Whitmer and Donald Trump, if the election were today, who would you vote for?

Response category	n=500
Gretchen Whitmer, Democratic Party	42%
Donald Trump, Republican Party	38%
Someone else	10%
I'm not sure	9%

26. In a hypothetical 2024 Presidential matchup between Josh Shapiro and Donald Trump, if the election were today, who would you vote for?

Response category	n=500
Josh Shapiro, Democratic Party	40%
Donald Trump, Republican Party	38%
Someone else	10%
I'm not sure	12%

27. In a hypothetical 2024 Presidential matchup between Raphael Warnock and Donald Trump, if the election were today, who would you vote for?

Response category	n=500
Raphael Warnock, Democratic Party	40%
Donald Trump, Republican Party	37%
Someone else	12%
I'm not sure	12%

28. There will be an election for Washington governor in November 2024. If the election were today who would you vote for?

Response category	n=500
Bob Ferguson, Democratic Party	45%
Dave Reichert, Republican Party	32%
Someone else	10%
I'm not sure	12%

29. There will also be elections for United States Congress members in November 2024. If the election were today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

Response category	n=500
Democratic candidate	50%
Republican candidate	35%
I'm not sure	15%

SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES

We'd like to get your feelings toward a number of groups in Washington on a "feeling thermometer." A rating of zero degrees means you feel as cold and negative as possible. A rating of 100 degrees means you feel as warm and positive as possible. You would rate the group at 50 degrees if you don't feel particularly positive or negative toward the group.

How do you feel toward the following groups?

Response category	0-20 degrees	20-40 degrees	40-60 degrees	60-80 degrees	80-100 degrees	Mean
30. Republicans	34%	14%	15%	21%	17%	44.6
31. Democrats	23%	11%	20%	25%	21%	52.9
32. Police officers	11%	10%	18%	27%	34%	64.2
33. Environmentalists	16%	10%	25%	27%	21%	57.2
34. Gun owners	28%	11%	21%	21%	20%	50.3
35. Immigrants	18%	11%	29%	23%	19%	53.7
36. Transgender people	25%	10%	21%	18%	26%	52.2
37. Seattleites	18%	9%	32%	24%	18%	54.2
38. Rural Washingtonians	8%	7%	26%	29%	29%	64.9
39. Religious people	19%	13%	27%	22%	19%	53.3
40. Atheists	21%	11%	34%	19%	15%	50.1

LOCAL ISSUES

Next, we have some questions about policies that have recently been discussed by lawmakers in Washington.

In recent years, the Washington State Legislature has explored new revenue options to help fund transportation projects as gas tax collections not been enough to cover rising maintenance costs. One policy discussed by legislators is a retail delivery fee. Generally, a retail delivery fee is a fee imposed on the delivery of retail items delivered by motor vehicles in the state. At least two other states have implemented a retail delivery fee to help pay for road maintenance.

41. Would you support or oppose the implementation of a retail delivery fee in Washington?

Response category	n=500
Total Support	37%
Strongly support	8%
Somewhat support	29%
Total Oppose	51%
Somewhat oppose	23%
Strongly oppose	29%
Don't know	11%

Washington's current plan of government limits regular sessions of the Legislature to 105 days in odd-numbered years and 60 days in even-numbered years. This means state lawmakers can only consider bills from January until either March or April.

42. Would you support or oppose an amendment to the state Constitution to allow the Legislature to be in session year-round?

Response category	n=500
Total Support	63%
Strongly support	27%
Somewhat support	35%
Total Oppose	22%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	9%
Don't know	15%

Currently, local governments in Washington are limited to a 1% annual property tax increase unless voters approve a larger increase. Some lawmakers have proposed increasing the limit to 3%.

43. Would you support or oppose increasing the annual property tax cap in Washington from 1% to 3%?

Response category	n=500
Total Support	26%
Strongly support	9%
Somewhat support	17%
Total Oppose	68%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	52%
Don't know	6%

Here is some more information:

Those who **oppose** the increase say that voters should get to choose whether or not their local city or county increases property taxes by more than 1%.

Those who **support** the increase say it is necessary for cities and counties to provide services like public safety, road maintenance, and utility maintenance.

44. Now that you've learned more, would you support or oppose increasing the annual property tax cap in Washington from 1% to 3%?

Response category	n=500
Total Support	34%
Strongly support	11%
Somewhat support	23%
Total Oppose	62%
Somewhat oppose	20%
Strongly oppose	42%
Don't know	4%

HOUSING

Now moving to a new topic - housing.

Washington currently faces an affordable housing crisis. A recent report from the Washington State Department of Commerce indicates that Washington must add over a million new homes within the next 20 years to meet current need and accommodate population growth.

45. Which do you think is more likely to happen if new housing is built in your community?

Response category	n=500
It will make housing more affordable for people to live in	33%
It will drive up the cost of housing and push residents out	38%
Neither	13%
Not sure	16%

Here are different types of rental housing that could be developed in your community. For each, please indicate whether you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose building this type of rental housing in your community.

Response category	Total Support	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Total Oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
46. Social housing	53%	17%	35%	23%	14%	10%	24%
47. Publicly owned housing that is kept permanently affordable	75%	39%	36%	18%	10%	7%	7%
48. Housing for veterans	92%	58%	34%	5%	3%	2%	3%
49. Housing for low-income families with children	87%	48%	39%	11%	7%	4%	2%
50. Middle housing	67%	22%	46%	12%	9%	3%	20%
51. Housing for low- to moderate-income households	86%	44%	42%	12%	8%	5%	2%
52. Long-term housing for homeless people	70%	34%	36%	26%	15%	11%	4%
53. Free market housing	53%	24%	29%	22%	15%	7%	25%

Q54-Q58 redacted

The following are questions on a variety of topics.

Economy

54. Below are two statements about Washington's economy. Please select the statement that comes closer to your view.

Response category	n=500
Washington can have a strong economy based primarily on small, locally-owned businesses. We should focus on supporting these small businesses because they ensure dollars spent by Washingtonians stay in Washington.	65%
Washington cannot have a strong economy based primarily on small, locally-owned businesses. We should focus on attracting and supporting larger businesses that offer more jobs with higher pay.	24%
Don't know	11%

55. Who do you think has more power in Washington's job market today?

Response category	n=500
Workers	22%
Employers	66%
Don't know	12%

Climate Change

56. From what you've read or heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on Earth has been getting warmer for a few decades or not?

Response category	n=500
Total Yes	78%
Yes, solid evidence. Mostly because of human activity, such as burning fossil fuels.	50%
Yes, solid evidence. Mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment.	28%
Total No	16%
No solid evidence. We just don't know enough yet.	11%
No solid evidence. It's just not happening.	4%
Don't know	6%

Immigration & Trade

57. In Washington specifically, would you say that illegal immigration is a problem or is not a problem?

Response category	n=500
Total Problem	53%
Very serious problem	23%
Somewhat of a problem	30%
Total Not a problem	43%
Only a small problem	23%
Not a problem	20%
Don't know	4%

58. Which statement is closer to your opinion?

Response category	n=500
Foreign trade is more of an opportunity for economic growth through increased U.S. exports	54%
Foreign trade is more of a threat to the economy through increased imports	31%
Don't know	16%

59. Do you think the overall impact on the American economy would be positive or negative if foreign countries increased tariffs—that is, taxes or fees—on products that the United States exports?

Response category	n=500
Total Positive	20%
Very positive	6%
Somewhat positive	13%
Equally positive and negative	22%
Total Negative	46%
Somewhat negative	29%
Very negative	16%
Don't know	13%

60. Do you think the overall impact on the American economy would be positive or negative if the United States increased tariffs—that is, taxes or fees—on products imported into the country?

Response category	n=500
Total Positive	35%
Very positive	10%
Somewhat positive	25%
Equally positive and negative	21%
Total Negative	32%
Somewhat negative	20%
Very negative	12%
Don't know	12%

61. Which of the following do you think is most likely to happen if the United States enacted policies to make it more difficult and costly for foreign countries to sell their products to Americans?

Response category	n=500
Foreign countries would agree to negotiate trade deals that are more favorable to the United States.	37%
Foreign countries would retaliate by enacting their own policies that would make it more difficult and costly for the United States to sell products abroad.	51%
Don't know	11%

Schools

What grade would you give the following aspects of the K-12 public education system in Washington?

Response category	A	B	C	D	F	Don't know	GPA
62. Your local public schools	15%	24%	29%	14%	9%	9%	2.3
63. Washington's public schools	11%	24%	27%	16%	10%	11%	2.1

64. Which of the following statements most closely matches your view of Washington's public education system, even if neither matches your opinion exactly?

Response category	n=500
Our K-12 schools do not have a funding problem; if they spent what they have more efficiently they could meet the needs of all students.	35%
Our K-12 schools have a serious funding problem; there's simply not enough money to meet the needs of all students.	54%
Don't know	11%

65. What do you think should be the policy for smartphones in **high schools**?

Response category	n=500
Students should not be allowed to bring smartphones into school buildings at all	13%
Students should be required to turn smartphones in while they are in school	17%

Response category	n=500
Students should be allowed to bring smartphones to school, but not use them	23%
Students should be allowed to use smartphones in school, but not during class	39%
Students should be allowed to use smartphones at all times	5%
Don't know	3%

66. What do you think should be the policy for smartphones in **middle schools**?

Response category	n=500
Students should not be allowed to bring smartphones into school buildings at all	17%
Students should be required to turn smartphones in while they are in school	20%
Students should be allowed to bring smartphones to school, but not use them	25%
Students should be allowed to use smartphones in school, but not during class	32%
Students should be allowed to use smartphones at all times	3%
Don't know	3%

Children

67. Washingtonians are having fewer children now than in the past. All things considered, do you think this is good or bad?

Response category	n=500
Good	30%
Neither good nor bad	48%
Bad	18%
Don't know	5%

68. Should the Washington state government do more to encourage people to have children?

Response category	n=500
Yes	21%
No	69%
Don't know	11%

Travel

69. What is the best time of year to travel to places outside of Washington?

Response category	n=500
Summer	34%
A different time of year	58%
I never travel outside of Washington	7%

70. Which better describes the sort of person you are when traveling on airplanes?

Response category	n=500
Someone who prefers only carry-on luggage	62%
Someone who prefers to check my luggage	38%

Campaign

This November, a general election will include elections for the U.S. president and Washington State governor.

71. What is your preferred method of receiving election-related communication?

Response category	n=500
Special mailings	34%
Local print or online news organizations	13%
Social media	23%
Television	18%
Live radio	1%
Friends and family	6%
Other (please specify): [OPEN]	3%

72. Some businesses and individuals choose to display signs indicating support for their preferred candidate or policy. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Seeing political signs in my neighborhood influences my voting decisions."

Response category	n=500
Total Agree	25%
Strongly agree	6%
Somewhat agree	20%
Total Disagree	70%
Somewhat disagree	21%
Strongly disagree	49%
Don't know	5%

ADDITIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

73. Do any children under age 18 live in your home?

Response category	n=500
Yes	33%
No	64%
I prefer not to say	3%

74. Do you rent, own your home, or have a different arrangement?

Response category	n=500
Rent	32%
Own	59%
I have a different arrangement	8%
I prefer not to say	1%

75. What is your employment status?

Response category	n=500
Employed, full time	42%
Employed, part time	12%
Unemployed, looking for work	9%
Unemployed, not looking for work	8%
Retired	27%
I prefer not to say	1%

Thank you for your participation.