

# **The Washington Poll October 2006 Survey**

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**Data not released on November 1<sup>st</sup>  
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## The Washington Poll – October 2006 Questionnaire

1. Many people are busy and don't get a chance to vote in every election. What would you say the chances are that you will vote in the general election for Congress and other offices in the November election -- are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or do you not think you will vote?

Almost certain ... 1  
Probably... 2  
50 – 50... 3  
Will not vote... 4  
Don't Know... 88  
Refused ... 99

2. Thinking about the November elections, what general issues are most important to you as you decide how you will vote? [ Open ended, Pre-code to list, RESPONDENT MAY SELECT TWO ]

Education ..... 1  
Jobs/Economy..... 2  
War in Iraq ..... 3  
Ethics in government ..... 4  
National security ..... 5  
Illegal immigration ..... 6  
The environment..... 7  
Health care ..... 8  
Gas/energy prices ..... 9  
Taxes ..... 10  
War on Terrorism ..... 11  
Something else..... 12  
Don't know ..... 88  
Refused ..... 99

3. In general, how closely would you say you followed news about the candidates in the election for United States Senate?

Very closely ..... 1  
Somewhat closely ..... 2  
Not too closely ..... 3  
Not at all..... 4  
Don't know ..... 88  
Refused ..... 99

4. In the election for U.S. Senate, will you vote for [ROTATE NAMES: Mike McGavick, the Republican or Maria Cantwell, the Democrat]? [If mention McGavick or Cantwell: "Are you fairly certain you will vote for CANDIDATE or is there a chance you could change your mind." If mention undecided or don't know: "If the election were being held today and you had to decide, would you probably vote for Mike McGavick or Maria Cantwell]

Mike McGavick – certain..... 1  
Mike McGavick – could change ..... 2  
Maria Cantwell – certain ..... 3  
Maria Cantwell – could change..... 4  
Undecided – lean McGavick ..... 5  
Undecided – lean Cantwell..... 6  
Aaron Dixon [VOL] ..... 7  
Someone else [VOL] ..... 8  
Undecided/Don't know ..... 9  
Refused ..... 99

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5. In general, how closely would you say you followed news about the candidates in the election for state Supreme Court Justice?

Very closely .....	1
Somewhat closely .....	2
Not too closely .....	3
Not at all.....	4
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

6. In the election for state Supreme Court, will you vote for [ROTATE NAMES: Susan Owens or Stephen Johnson]? [If mention Owens or Johnson: "Are you fairly certain you will vote for CANDIDATE or is there a chance you could change your mind." If mention undecided or don't know: "If the election were being held today and you had to decide, would you probably vote for Susan Owens or Stephen Johnson]

Stephen Johnson – certain.....	1
Stephen Johnson – could change .....	2
Susan Owens – certain .....	3
Susan Owens – could change.....	4
Undecided – lean Johnson .....	5
Undecided – lean Owens.....	6
Someone else [VOL] .....	7
Undecided/Don't know .....	8
Refused .....	99

7. Statewide ballot initiative 920 would repeal the estate tax, currently dedicated for the education legacy trust fund. Will you vote yes or no on I-920? [If mention Yes or No: "Are you fairly certain you will vote for YES/NO or is there a chance you could change your mind." If mention undecided or don't know: "If the election were being held today and you had to decide, would you probably vote or no on I-920?]

Yes I-920 – certain.....	1
Yes I-920 – could change .....	2
No I-920 – certain .....	3
No I-920 – could change.....	4
Undecided – lean Yes.....	5
Undecided – lean No.....	6
Undecided/Don't know .....	7
(DON'T READ) Will not vote on this issue .....	8
(DON'T READ) Refused .....	99

8. In general, how closely would you say you followed news about Initiative 920, regarding the estate tax?

Very closely .....	1
Somewhat closely .....	2
Not too closely .....	3
Not at all.....	4
DK/RF.....	9

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9. Statewide ballot initiative 933 would require the government to compensate property owners if their property is devalued. Will you vote yes or no on I-933? [If mention Yes or No: “Are you fairly certain you will vote for YES/NO or is there a chance you could change your mind.” If mention undecided/don’t know: “If the election were being held today and you had to decide, would you probably vote yes or no on I-933?]

Yes I-933 – certain.....	1
Yes I-933 – could change .....	2
No I-933 – certain .....	3
No I-933 – could change.....	4
Undecided – lean Yes.....	5
Undecided – lean No.....	6
Undecided/Don’t know .....	7
(DON’T READ) Will not vote on this issue .....	8
(DON’T READ) Refused .....	99

10. In general, how closely would you say you followed news about Initiative 933, regarding the regulation of private property?

Very closely .....	1
Somewhat closely .....	2
Not too closely .....	3
Not at all.....	4
DK/RF.....	9

11. Statewide ballot initiative 937 would require large electric utilities to meet energy conservation targets and to use renewable resources. Will you vote yes or no on I-937? [If mention Yes or No: “Are you fairly certain you will vote for YES/NO or is there a chance you could change your mind.” If mention undecided or don’t know: “If the election were being held today and you had to decide, would you probably vote yes or no on I-937?]

Yes I-937 – certain.....	1
Yes I-937 – could change .....	2
No I-937 – certain .....	3
No I-937 – could change.....	4
Undecided – lean Yes.....	5
Undecided – lean No.....	6
Undecided/Don’t know .....	7
(DON’T READ) Will not vote on this issue .....	8
(DON’T READ) Refused .....	99

12. In general, how closely would you say you followed news about Initiative 937, regarding energy conservation?

Very closely .....	1
Somewhat closely .....	2
Not too closely .....	3
Not at all.....	4
DK/RF.....	9

13. As you may know, voters in Washington state often have the opportunity to vote on statewide initiatives. Generally speaking, do you vote on all initiatives in an election, most, some, a few, or none at all?

All .....	1
Most .....	2
Some.....	3
A few.....	4
None .....	5
(DON’T READ) Don’t know .....	88
(DON’T READ) Refused .....	99

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14. Overall, do you think that statewide initiative elections are a good thing for the state, a bad thing for the state, or that they don't make much difference?

Good thing.....	1
Bad thing .....	2
No difference.....	3
DK.....	88
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

15. Who do you think are better at making public policy here in Washington, elected representatives, the voting public, or would you say that both are equally good?

Elected representatives.....	1
Voting public .....	2
Both are equal.....	3
Neither [VOL] .....	4
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

Now I'm going to read you a list of names of public officials, and for each one, I want you to tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the way they are handling their job:

16. How about President George W. Bush? [FOLLOW UP: "Is that strongly approve or somewhat approve..."]

Strongly approve .....	1
Somewhat approve .....	2
Somewhat disapprove .....	3
Strongly disapprove .....	4
Neither [VOL] .....	5
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

17. How about Washington Governor Christine Gregoire?

Strongly approve .....	1
Somewhat approve .....	2
Somewhat disapprove .....	3
Strongly disapprove .....	4
Neither [VOL] .....	5
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

18. How about the state legislature in Olympia?

Strongly approve .....	1
Somewhat approve .....	2
Somewhat disapprove .....	3
Strongly disapprove .....	4
Neither [VOL] .....	5
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

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19. How about the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C.?

Strongly approve .....	1
Somewhat approve .....	2
Somewhat disapprove .....	3
Strongly disapprove .....	4
Neither [VOL] .....	5
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

20. Do you think things here in Washington state are generally going in the right direction, or seriously on the wrong track?

Going in the right direction.....	1
Seriously on the wrong track.....	2
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

21. Would you describe the state of your own personal finances these days as very secure, fairly secure, fairly shaky, or very shaky?

Very secure.....	1
Fairly secure .....	2
Fairly shaky .....	3
Very shaky.....	4
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

22. The Secretary of State sends out an official Voters Pamphlet to every household in Washington before each election. Have you received a copy of this Pamphlet for the upcoming November election?

Yes .....	1
No.....	0
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

23. Do you typically look at the Voters Pamphlet before you decide how you're going to vote on a statewide initiative?

Yes .....	1
No .....	0
(DON'T READ) Don't know .....	88
(DON'T READ) Refused .....	99

24. Switching gears slightly and thinking about things here in Washington state. Over the past 4 years, do you think that race relations in Washington have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

Gotten better .....	1
Gotten worse .....	2
Stayed about the same.....	3
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

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25. Which of the following statements best describes your views on the issue of same-sex marriage? [READ AND ROTATE:]

- Gay and lesbian couples should have the same legal right to marry ..... 1
- Gay and lesbian couples should be able to have the same legal rights but it should not be called marriage..... 2
- There should be domestic partnerships that give gay and lesbian couples only some of the benefits and protections of marriage ..... 3
- There should be no legal recognition of a gay and lesbian couples..... 4
- Don't Know..... 88
- Refused ..... 99

26. Generally speaking, if marriage for gay and lesbian couples were legal, which of the following most closely represents how you would feel about this? [READ LIST]

- I would approve of this..... 1
- I would not like it, but it would be acceptable ..... 2
- I would not like it and it would be unacceptable..... 3
- Don't Know..... 88
- Refused ..... 99

27. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: People's personal discomfort with gay people and same-sex marriage is not an acceptable justification for denying gay and lesbian couples the right to marry. [FOLLOW-UP: Is that strongly or somewhat...]

- Strongly agree ..... 1
- Somewhat agree..... 2
- Somewhat disagree..... 3
- Strongly disagree ..... 4
- Neither [VOL] ..... 5
- Don't know ..... 88
- Refused ..... 99

28. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: It was once illegal in many states for people of different races to marry. Just as we ended legal discrimination based on race, we should also end discrimination against gays and lesbians by allowing them to marry.

- Strongly agree ..... 1
- Somewhat agree..... 2
- Somewhat disagree..... 3
- Strongly disagree ..... 4
- Neither [VOL] ..... 5
- Don't know ..... 88
- Refused ..... 99

29. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples may have made sense when women were not legally equal to men. But now that the two people in a marriage are legally equal, it makes no sense exclude same-sex couples from being able to legally marry.

- Strongly agree ..... 1
- Somewhat agree..... 2
- Somewhat disagree..... 3
- Strongly disagree ..... 4
- Neither [VOL] ..... 5
- Don't know ..... 88
- Refused ..... 99

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30. It's hard to vote in every single election. When you have missed voting in a past election, what would you say was the main reason you did not vote? Was it because [ROTATE: you weren't interested in that election, disliked the major candidates, could not make it to the polls, forgot it was election day, misplaced your absentee ballot] or some other reason?

Was not interested .....	1
Disliked the candidates .....	2
Could not get to the polls .....	3
Forgot it was election day .....	4
Misplaced absentee ballot .....	5
Some other reason .....	6
I always vote [VOL].....	7
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

31. How confident are you that each ballot is delivered safely to the County, during the vote by mail process?

Very confident.....	1
Somewhat confident.....	2
Only a little confident.....	3
Not at all confident.....	4
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

32. How confident are you that the integrity of each vote is maintained once received and processed by the County, during the vote by mail process?

Very confident.....	1
Somewhat confident.....	2
Only a little confident.....	3
Not at all confident.....	4
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

33. Over the past few months, has anyone contacted you and asked you to register or vote in the upcoming November 7 election?

Yes.....	1
No.....	2
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

34. If you can recall, were you contacted by people from the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, or a non-partisan civic group? [ Select all that apply ]

Democrat.....	1
Republican.....	2
Civic Group .....	3
Other.....	4
DK/RF.....	99



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35. In view of the developments since we first sent our troops to Iraq, do you think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq or did we make the right decision?

Made a mistake .....	1
Right decision .....	2
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

36. Do you think the war with Iraq has been worth the loss of American lives and other costs or not worth the cost?

Worth the costs .....	1
Not worth the costs .....	2
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

37. Given what you have read in the paper or seen on TV, about how many US soldiers would you say have been killed in our efforts in Iraq? [IF NECESSARY: "We're just looking for your best guess"]

RECORD NUMBER [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ]

38. The stated mission of US forces in Iraq today is to establish a stable democracy friendly to the United States. In general, how likely do you think it is that we will achieve this goal?

Very likely .....	1
Somewhat likely .....	2
Somewhat unlikely .....	3
Very unlikely .....	4
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

39. Did the immigration rallies last Spring give you a positive or negative image of Mexican immigrants in the US?

Positive .....	1
Negative .....	2
Neither .....	3
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

40. Which comes closest to your view about what government policy should be toward illegal immigrants currently residing in the United States? Should the government

Make all illegal immigrants felons and send them back to their home country

Have a guest worker program that allows immigrants to remain in the United States in order to work, but only for a limited amount of time, or

Allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States and become U.S. citizens, but only if they meet certain requirements like working and paying back taxes over a period of time

Grant amnesty to all illegal immigrants in the country, giving them residence and the right to work without the fear of being deported

All illegal immigrants felons .....	1
Guest worker program .....	2
Earned citizenship .....	3
Amnesty .....	4
Don't know .....	88
Refused .....	99

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41. Now I'm going to read a list of a few general public policy topics. For each issue, I'd like you to think about the present conditions and the quality of life in Washington and give it a letter grade--like a school report card. Using a traditional academic grading scale, with an A, B, C, D, or F, how would you rate \_\_\_\_\_ in the state of Washington?

- |                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. Jobs and the economy          | A.....1           |
| b. Public safety and security    | B.....2           |
| c. Housing cost and availability | C.....3           |
| d. Transportation                | D.....4           |
| e. Education                     | F.....5           |
|                                  | Don't know.....88 |
|                                  | RF.....99         |

42. During the past year, have you taken part in any of the following political activities:

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| a. Contributed money to a candidate or political group or cause          |                    |
| b. Written a letter to a public official to support or oppose some issue |                    |
| c. Signed a petition   |                    |
| d. Participated in a rally or protest                                    |                    |
|  | Yes..... 1         |
|  | No..... 2          |
|  | Don't know..... 88 |
|  | Refused..... 99    |

The following are multiple-choice questions about the political process. Please answer each question to the best of your knowledge.

43. Which political party currently has the most seats in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington D.C.?

- |                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Republican.....               | 1  |
| Democratic.....               | 2  |
| Both.....                     | 3  |
| Neither.....                  | 4  |
| (DON'T READ) Don't know ..... | 88 |
| (DON'T READ) Refused .....    | 99 |

44. Which political party currently has the most seats in the Washington State Senate in Olympia?

- |                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Republican.....               | 1  |
| Democratic.....               | 2  |
| Both.....                     | 3  |
| Neither.....                  | 4  |
| (DON'T READ) Don't know ..... | 88 |
| (DON'T READ) Refused .....    | 99 |

45. Do you happen to know what state-level office is now held by Sam Reed? [READ LIST]

- |                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Attorney General .....        | 1  |
| Insurance Commissioner .....  | 2  |
| Secretary of State .....      | 3  |
| State Auditor.....            | 4  |
| (DON'T READ) Don't know ..... | 88 |
| (DON'T READ) Refused .....    | 99 |

## The Washington Poll – October 2006 Questionnaire

46. Do you happen to know what federal office is now held by Alberto Gonzales? [READ LIST]

Attorney General .....	1
U.S. Trade Representative .....	2
Secretary of State .....	3
Treasury Secretary.....	4
(DON'T READ) Don't know .....	88
(DON'T READ) Refused .....	99

47. Whose responsibility is it to determine if a federal law is constitutional or not? Is it the president, the U.S. Senate, the House of Representatives, or the Supreme Court?

President.....	1
U.S. Senate .....	2
House of Representatives .....	3
Supreme Court .....	4
(DON'T READ) Don't know .....	88
(DON'T READ) Refused .....	99

### **DEMOGRAPHICS AVAILABLE FOR CROSS-TABULATIONS**

- Region of state
- Gender
- Age
- Race/Ethnicity
- Income
- Education
- Union member
- Religion / Born-again status
- Party affiliation
- Ideology / liberal, conservative
- Armed forces status / veteran
- Homeowner
- Number of years in WA