

2006 Critical Issues Survey Results: Mail Survey (Opinion Leaders)

Total completed surveys returned: 435

Sample sizes (n) in individual tables reflect number of responses for each question.

Percentages total to 100 horizontally, but may be slightly off due to rounding.

1: First, here are a few statements about conditions in the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan region.				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The region's economy is doing well. (n 428)	7 1.6%	109 25.5%	290 67.8%	22 5.1%
My family and I are financially better off now than we were two years ago. (n 426)	18 4.2%	129 30.3%	234 54.9%	45 10.6%
The taxes I pay to the state, city, and county are reasonable considering the benefits I receive. (n 428)	24 5.6%	75 17.5%	247 57.7%	82 19.2%
Population growth has become a serious issue in this region. (n 432)	22 5.1%	85 19.7%	182 42.1%	143 33.1%

2: Here is a list of a few policy goals that some people believe are important for improving the economy. How important do you think each goal is for improving our economy?				
	Not important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Creating new jobs. (n 433)	11 2.5%	93 21.5%	192 44.3%	137 31.6%
Improving worker wages. (n 433)	13 3.0%	123 28.4%	189 43.6%	108 24.9%
Reducing costs for businesses. (n 433)	60 13.9%	225 52.0%	102 23.6%	46 10.6%
Reducing the cost of housing. (n 432)	26 6.0%	121 28.0%	166 38.4%	119 27.5%

3: The following are a few policy goals that some people believe are important for improving the quality of public K-12 education. Please indicate how important you think each goal is for improving education.

	Not important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Improving teacher quality. (n 427)	21 4.9%	151 35.4%	166 38.9%	89 20.8%
Raising student achievement in the lower grades. (n 427)	6 1.4%	101 23.7%	201 47.1%	119 27.7%
Improving public-school financial accountability. (n 429)	26 6.1%	189 44.1%	95 22.1%	119 27.7%
Stabilizing funding for public schools. (n 431)	8 1.9%	26 6.0%	98 22.7%	299 69.4%
Improving the high school graduation rate. (n 429)	5 1.2%	64 14.9%	188 43.8%	172 40.1%
Reducing the achievement gap between white and minority public school students. (n 429)	13 3.0%	106 24.7%	159 37.1%	151 35.2%

4: This is a list of policy goals that some people believe are important for improving health care. How important do you think each goal is for improving health care?

	Not important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Controlling the cost of health care. (n 432)	3 .7%	36 8.3%	132 30.6%	261 60.4%
Improving health services & education programs, such as vaccinations and prenatal care. (n 432)	2 .5%	114 26.4%	179 41.4%	137 31.7%
Providing health care coverage for everyone. (n 431)	17 3.9%	67 15.5%	132 30.6%	215 49.9%
Controlling the cost of prescription drugs. (n 432)	7 1.6%	57 13.2%	170 39.4%	198 45.8%
Accelerating medical & health research. (n 431)	25 5.8%	167 38.7%	156 36.2%	83 19.3%

5: The following is a list of public services provided in part by local government. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with each service.				
	Completely dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Completely satisfied
Police, fire and other public safety services. (n 430)	15 3.5%	55 12.8%	235 54.7%	125 29.1%
Parks and recreation. (n 433)	7 1.6%	45 10.4%	247 57.0%	134 30.9%
Roads and traffic. (n 431)	62 14.4%	203 47.1%	155 36.0%	11 2.6%
Public transportation. (n 431)	31 7.2%	106 24.6%	219 50.8%	75 17.4%
Water and sewer services. (n 429)	13 3.0%	47 11.0%	205 47.8%	164 38.2%
Services for people with mental illnesses. (n 413)	169 40.9%	168 40.7%	67 16.2%	9 2.2%

6: Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of public education students receive in kindergarten through grade twelve in your community today?				
	Completely dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Completely satisfied
n 419	30 7.2%	137 32.7%	219 52.3%	33 7.9%

7. Of the issues we've covered, which is most important to you? Please rank them from 1-6, with "1" being the most important and "6" being the least important.

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5	Rank 6
Economy (n 429)	101 23.5%	95 22.1%	100 23.3%	63 14.7%	48 11.2%	22 5.1%
Education (n 428)	181 42.3%	118 27.6%	75 17.5%	35 8.2%	11 2.6%	8 1.9%
Health Care (n 429)	81 18.9%	121 28.2%	98 22.8%	75 17.5%	42 9.8%	12 2.8%
Population Growth (n 426)	39 9.2%	28 6.6%	52 12.2%	57 13.4%	118 27.7%	132 31.0%
Public Services (n 426)	9 2.1%	34 8.0%	75 17.6%	147 34.5%	120 28.2%	41 9.6%
Taxes (n 426)	19 4.5%	38 8.9%	31 7.3%	47 11.0%	87 20.4%	204 47.9%