

Survey: Most Oregonians plan to vote for more gun control

54% of Oregonians say they are more likely to vote for candidate who supports more gun control

By **JOE SIESS**
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — The majority of Oregonians plan to vote for a candidate that supports more gun control in the November general election, according to a new survey published by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

The survey found that 54% of Oregonians indicated they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports more gun control, compared to 19% of Oregonians who said they are more likely to vote for a candidate who is in favor of less gun control. Two and 10 Oregonians were either undecided or did not care, the survey showed.

Women were found to be more likely than men to seek candidates who support more gun control, the survey found.

The values and belief center, an independent, nonpartisan research group, released the survey Thursday. The center surveyed 1,572 Oregon residents ages 18 and older between July 8 and July 16. A previous gun control survey was released in June and showed the majority of Oregonians support stricter gun laws.

The new survey was done to provide more comprehensive and nuanced results than the previous survey, which was meant to create more of a baseline, said Amaury Vogel, the associate executive director of the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

“In June we asked people just a couple of questions that were surface level questions because everybody had just gone through the shooting in Buffalo and the shooting in Uvalde,” Vogel said. “In July we wanted to ask about it particularly because we had several mass shootings and a rise in gun violence and it is something that is a big factor in the November election.”

The more recent survey



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File
Clay Winton, owner of Crosshair Customs in Baker City, chats with customers March 11, 2018, at the Pendleton Gun Show. The majority of Oregonians plan to vote for a candidate that supports more gun control in the November 2022 general election, according to a new survey published by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

showed that about half of Oregonians indicated the recent mass shootings do not affect the likelihood they will vote in the November election. More than a third of Oregonians, or 36%, said they are more likely to vote in November as a result of the recent mass shootings.

The survey found the vast majority of Oregonians, or four in five residents, believe there should be some level of gun control, and that gun control laws in Oregon should be stricter than they are today.

The results showed men in Oregon are more likely to own guns than women, and women are united in wanting at least some level of gun control, with 88%

of women compared to 79% of men indicating they believe there should be some gun control.

Deschutes County gun owner Slater Kellstrom said he believes the current gun laws in Oregon should be enforced instead of passing new laws.

“The amount of people, both private citizens and public officials, who don’t know laws regarding guns and concealed carrying of guns in this state boggles my mind,” Kellstrom said. “Officials make laws or regulations or pronouncements that directly contradict established state laws and suffer no repercussions. Enforce the laws as written, treat infractions as serious matters not slaps on wrists.”

The survey also found that a strong majority, or 88% of Oregonians, support background checks for all gun purchases, preventing the sale of firearms to those with certain mental health conditions, as well as the expansion of screening and treatment for people with mental illnesses.

Sienna Fitzpatrick, of Deschutes County, believes people should have access to guns for recreation and self-defense, but feels more safeguards should be in place to prevent them from getting into the wrong hands.

“There needs to be more done to limit who can access them, especially young men with mental health issues and people with histories of violence.

But that’s just a symptom of the problem,” Fitzpatrick said. “More resources need to be available for improving community wellbeing, like mental and physical health-care, economic development, community building projects like recreation areas, afterschool programs, and skill-building opportunities.”

The statewide survey took each participant about 15 minutes to complete. To ensure diversity in the survey results, the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center set demographic quotas and recorded data based on the area of the state participants were from, their genders, ages, and education levels. Participants from a wide variety of backgrounds were included.

‘Damn straight’: Betsy Johnson reacts to news she made Oregon ballot

By **GARY A. WARNER**
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Former state Sen. Betsy Johnson has qualified for the Nov. 8 general election as an unaffiliated candidate for governor. “Damn straight,”

Johnson said in a statement. “This is a momentous day for Oregon.”

Ben Morris, spokesperson for Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan, confirmed Thursday, Aug. 25, that Johnson would be on the ballot alongside Democrat Tina Kotek and Republican Christine Drazan.

Johnson, the former Democrat from Columbia County, needed 23,744 valid signatures to qualify for the general election slate that will go before all 2.9 million registered voters in Oregon. Campaign workers with Johnson wheeled what she said were petitions with 48,214 signatures into Fagan’s office in Salem Aug. 16.

The secretary’s Elections Division had until Aug. 30 to announce whether Johnson’s petitions had passed a random verification sampling. Fagan said a review

showed the petitions had 37,679 valid signatures — well above the threshold required.

The final statewide ballot will be set Aug. 30. County and local ballots must be finalized no later than Sept. 8.

The trio of women will ensure a historic election in November.

Johnson is seeking to become the second governor in state history to be elected without major party support. Julius Meier won one term in 1930 during a major rift in the Oregon Republican Party.

Drazan is running to be the first Republican to win the office in 40 years. Gov. Vic Atiyeh won a second term in 1982.

Kotek is seeking to extend the Democratic win streak dating back to the election of Neil Goldschmidt in 1986.

Adding to the mix is that Oregon voters have not seen a general election ballot without the name of an incumbent or former governor on it since 2002. Gov. Kate Brown was barred from running again by term limits.



Johnson

Idaho Power to pay \$1.5 million related to 2014 and 2015 fires in Baker County

Baker City Herald

PORTLAND — The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Oregon announced Thursday, Aug. 25, that Idaho Power Company, a Boise utility that provides electricity to several states, including Oregon, has agreed to pay \$1.5 million to settle allegations by the United States relating to the May 2014 Powerline and August 2015 Lime Hill fires in Baker County.

The Powerline Fire ignited on May 31, 2014, and burned approximately 5 acres of federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Lime



Bureau of Land Management/Contributed Photo, File
Aerial view of the Lime Hill fire burning near Huntington in August 2015.

Hill Fire ignited on Aug. 5, 2015, and burned approximately 2,592 acres of federal land managed by BLM and 9,337 acres of privately

owned land.

Idaho Power Company has a utility right-of-way on BLM land in Baker County on which it owns and oper-

ates its 138kV Ontario-to-Quartz transmission line. The United States contended in the civil action that the Powerline and Lime Hill fires were caused by the failure of structures on the Ontario-to-Quartz transmission line. The settlement reached is not an admission of liability by Idaho Power Company and the company denies the United States’ contentions.

This case was investigated by BLM with assistance from the U.S. Forest Service. The United States was represented in this matter by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Carla McClurg and Alexis Lien for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the District of Oregon.

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