Debate: Gov. Brown holds strong lead over Pierce in polls

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Foster care crisis

A KGW Facebook user asked the candidates - via moderator Tracy Barry what their plans are to ensure all children in foster care are able to stay in an home environment, not a hotel or Department of Human Services

"We have to do a better job of recruiting families and taking foster children and giving these families support," Pierce said. "They deserve that. We can't accept failure."

"How in the world can this happen?" Barry asked, turning to Brown. "Governor, this is happening on your watch."

Brown responded that she has brought in new leadership to Human Services.

"We have done extensive work to change both the leadership at the agency and working very hard to make sure we have the right systems in place, but some of this is a resources issue."

Brown said that caseworkers have too many cases and there aren't enough resources to train foster parents.

Health care

KGW reporter Laural Porter noted that health care costs continue to increase, including insurance rates.

"Some companies are choosing to leave the market," Porter said. "What would you do to increase access to health care while also driving down the cost of health care for average Oregon families?"

Brown said her top priority for the next two years is to make sure every Oregonian has access to health care.

"In terms of reducing cost, we need to look at social determinants of health," Brown said. "We know for example that outcomes are better in terms of health care if everyone has a safe and stable house to live in."

Pierce said having more Oregonians working would increase people's access to health care. Competitive health care delivery, generic pharmaceuticals and promotion of health care innovation could help reduce costs.

Measure 97

Brown sidestepped a question concerning how much of a \$6 billion corporate sales tax measure on November's ballot she would dedicate specifically to education. Proponents of Measure 97 — the 2.5 percent tax on certain corporations' Oregon sales exceeding \$25 million — have said much of the revenue would support smaller class sizes and other education benefits.

Pierce said his state budget proposal would augment education funding with \$1.4 billion. If Measure 97 passed, he said, he would provide full funding to meeting the standard of the Quality Education Model of about \$2 billion.

Brown also declined to answer a question about whether if she wins election, she'll seek another term in

Her former campaign manager has said, however, that he was hired to run her campaigns through 2018.

Brown holds a strong lead over Pierce in polls so far and has raised about \$4.5 million for her campaign. Pierce has self-funded nearly half of his campaign, which has raised about \$3.2 million.

President Barack Obama endorsed Brown on Thursday, commending her for accomplishments such as increasing minimum wage, boosting career technical education and landmark renewable energy laws.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Divided: Elective politics remains predominantly male turf

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At the same time, deep and obvious gaps remain - not only in terms of economic inequality and continuing workplace discrimination, but in everyday actions and conversations.

Consider this year's reboot of "Ghostbusters," with women replacing the male leads of the original. Misogynistic comments circulated on social media demanding the film's stars appear nude or be "hot."

Or the way some sports commentators belittled women's accomplishments at the Rio Olympics.

Backlash in Seattle

Or the backlash in, of all places, progressive Seattle, after the five female councilors voted against the proposed sale of a street to help make way for a new arena that could host an NBA team.

One local attorney, in a signed email to all five women, said, "I can only hope that you each find ways to quickly and painfully end yourselves."

Council member Lorena Gonzalez, a lawyer who has represented victims of sexual abuse, said the controversy "hit a nerve" because it coincided with a presidential campaign that has exacerbated gender tensions.

Resentment

In many male-dominated domains, women's strides have been slow-paced and, even then, greeted with resentment.

Cultural change often comes with some backlash," said Emily Martin, the National Women's Law Center's general counsel. "Some people feel threatened by women's progress."

That culture clash has become striking in this election year. As feminists celebrated Clinton's glass-shattering nomination with the slogan "I'm With Her," Trump claimed the only thing Clinton had going



Genna Martin/seattlepi.com

City Councilwoman Sally Bashaw explains her "no" vote in May on the issue of whether to vacate a stretch of road where an investor hopes to eventually build an arena that could house NBA and NHL teams. For weeks after the vote, the abuse kept coming: Venomous, sexist phone calls and emails, venting rage at the five women on Seattle's City Council who outvoted four men to derail a sports arena project.

for her was "the woman's card." Some of his supporters wear "Trump that Bitch"

Polls show Clinton, a Democrat, benefiting from a gender gap that's been a fact of American politics since 1980, with women voting for her party more reliably than men in each presidential election. This year's gap could be the biggest ever; a New York Times poll in mid-September showed Trump, a Republican, leading among likely male voters by 11 percentage points, while Clinton led among likely female voters by 13 points.

Brooke Ackerly, a political science professor at Vanderbilt, said the sexist sentiments on display during the campaign aren't new to American politics, but are louder and more visible.

"It suggests to me there's some latent anger that's being given permission to express itself," said Ackerly, depicting Trump as the catalyst for this. "What's new is that we're seeing it in public."

Clinton, of course, has been targeted by sexist taunts for many years, and says she takes them in stride.

Still, said Debbie Walsh,

director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, "I'm concerned about what it means for younger women who see this as what you might confront if you dare to tread on what is seen as male turf."

Still male turf

Indeed, elective politics remains predominantly male turf. Women comprise more than half the U.S. population, yet account for just a fifth of all members of Congress and one-fourth of state lawmakers, according to a recent Associated Press survey. And that's a better showing than for women in such fields as construction and video-game design.

For two years, software engineer Brianna Wu of Boston has been a target of the online harassment campaign known as Gamergate, which subjected several women in the video-game industry to misogynistic threats. It surfaced in the summer of 2014, and hasn't vanished.

"It's still a constant drumbeat," said Wu, who became a target after ridiculing those who decried women's advances in the male-dominated industry.

Unsurprisingly, Clinton is

backed by the National Organi-

zation for Women and Planned

Parenthood. Trump's support-

ers include leaders of national anti-abortion groups. Some prospective voters

don't fit easily into the obvious boxes. There are conservative women who disdain Clinton, yet find Trump's rhetoric and behavior repugnant. There are men planning to vote for Clinton who wish she would be more outspoken about challenges facing boys

and fathers. One of those men is author Warren Farrell of Mill Valley, California, a figure in what's loosely known as "the men's movement."

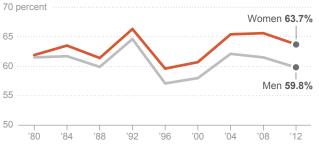
"I'm supporting Hillary Clinton despite the people in her campaign who are less compassionate toward men, less underfathers," said Farrell.

As for Trump, "he represents everything that women fear about men — blustery,

Gender in politics

The gender gap in the presidential election, featuring the first woman to top a major party's ballot, could be the biggest in modern times. A recent New York Times poll shows Donald Trump leading among likely male voters by 11 percentage points, and Hillary Clinton ahead among likely female voters

Percentage of eligible adults who reported voting



The gender gap in past elections

YEAR	WINNER	MEN	WOMEN	GENDER GAP		
2012	B. Obama (D) M. Romney (R)	45% 52	55% 44		8) pts
2008	B. Obama (D) J. McCain (R)	49 48	56 43	5	7	
2004	G. W. Bush (R) J. Kerry (D)	55 41	48 51	7	7)
2000	G. W. Bush (R) Al Gore (D)	53 42	43 54		10) 12
1996	B. Clinton (D) B. Dole (R)	43 44	54 38	6		11
1992	B. Clinton (D) G. H. W. Bush (R)	41 38	45 37	4		
1988	G. H. W. Bush (R) M. Dukakis (D)	57 41	50 49		7 8	
1984	R. Reagan (R) W. Mondale (D)	62 37	56 44	6	7	
1980	R. Reagan (R) J. Carter (D)	54 37	46 45		8 8	
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SOURCE: Center for the American Woman and Politics

Trump has many enthusiastic female supporters, includstanding of the importance of ing Amber Smith, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan as an Army helicopter pilot.

Smith says Trump "has a backbone" and perceives

grandiose, narcissistic," Farrell Clinton as seeking to portray

women as victims. "We live in a country that provides equal opportunities for men and woman," Smith said. "I wanted to be an air mission commander based on my own merits and skill level, not

because of my gender."



I have represented the citizens of House District 32 in the Oregon House of Representatives since 2004. During that time I have consistently supported job growth, business opportunities and workforce training, while protecting the resources that make Oregon and our coastal communities a place we're proud to call home.

As your state representative, I will continue to support emergency preparedness programs in the event of natural disasters, as well as pursue business, job and educational opportunities in renewable energy fields.

I have been a tireless advocate for seniors, veterans, children and families. Working for quality education, health care accessibility for Oregonians, and programs that protect our most vulnerable citizens are my top priorities.

It is an honor to represent you. I ask for your vote so we can continue the important work of advancing legislation that benefits all Oregonians today and in the years ahead. Rep. Deborah Boone

BooneforStateRep.org Paid for by: Boone for State Representative P.O. Box 637, Cannon Beach, OR 97110

