

***THE RILEY REPORT™***  
***Survey of Oregonians***

**Favorability of the 2009 Legislature**  
**August 4, 2009**

## INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

Riley Research Associates conducted an omnibus survey of Oregon households regarding their opinions on a variety of current issues. The scientific telephone poll was conducted among 406 randomly selected residents throughout Oregon. A sample of 406 provides accuracy to within +/-4.87 percent at a 95 percent level of confidence. Fielding took place between June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. These results are compared with those from a survey taken in May of this year.

Regional breakouts were defined for cross tabulations. The counties were classified into the following regions:

- Portland Metro: Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington
- Willamette Valley: Benton, Lane, Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill
- Southern: Douglas, Jackson, Josephine
- Central / Eastern: Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wasco, Wallowa, Wheeler
- Coast: Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Lincoln, Tillamook

## EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW


### Favorability of the Legislature

- 📊 Oregon residents were asked to rate their favorability with the legislature's the end of May and again after the session had concluded the in June. We observed a small drop in the percentage of unfavorable ratings, from the mid-session results.
- 📊 A little over one-fourth of those surveyed had a favorable view of the legislature's work (28 percent), while about one-third had an unfavorable view (34 percent), and the remainder was unsure or undecided (37 percent).

Rating	July '09	May '09
Favorable	28%	26%
Unfavorable	34	39
Don't Know/Not sure	37	35

- ✓ Favorability ratings were highest among:
  - Democrats (40% favorable)
  - Willamette Valley residents (35% favorable)
- ✓ Unfavorable ratings were highest among:
  - Ages 35-44 (48% unfavorable)
  - Republicans and independents had high unfavorable ratings (44% each)
  - Males (42 % unfavorable)
  - Southern Oregon residents (40% unfavorable)

## Reasons for the Ratings

 Respondents who had a favorable or unfavorable view of the legislature's work were asked why they felt that way. A majority of the comments were unfavorable (55 percent), while 40 percent were favorable, and 7 percent were neutral.

It's interesting to note that some Oregonians gave unfavorable ratings because they felt the legislature did not spend enough on their pet programs.

- ✓ The biggest reasons for unfavorable views included:
  - Taxes raised (21percent)
  - Not enough education funding (7 percent)
  - Taxes raised on corporations, higher-income individuals (5 percent)
  
- ✓ Top reasons for favorable views included:
  - Education funding (11 percent)
  - Healthcare was expanded (5 percent)

## RESULTS

As you may know, the 2009 Oregon Legislature has just concluded its session. Is your opinion of the work the legislature has done generally favorable or unfavorable?

	GENDER			AGE					REGION				PARTY AFFILIATION			
	Total	FE MALE	MALE	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	PDX	WILL VLLY	C/E OR	SO OR	CO AST	DEM	REP	IND/ MISC NONE
Total Participants	406	229	177	45	61	107	96	90	145	142	51	45	23	171	123	91
		56%	44%	11%	15%	26%	24%	22%	36%	35%	13%	11%	6%	42%	30%	22%
Favorable	28%	30%	26%	29%	23%	27%	31%	30%	29%	35%	22%	18%	22%	40%	19%	21%
Unfavorable	34	28	42	29	48	36	36	23	34	32	37	40	39	23	44	44
Don't know/unfamiliar	37	41	32	42	30	37	32	47	37	34	41	42	39	37	37	35
Chi Square		8.87		11.94					6.86				25.17			
		.012		.154					.552				.001			

### (If favorable or unfavorable) Why is that?

	GENDER			AGE					REGION				PARTY AFFILIATION			
	Total	FE MALE	MALE	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	PDX	WILL VLLY	C/E OR	SO OR	CO AST	DEM	REP	IND/ MISC NONE
Total Participants	215	113	102	22	37	56	55	40	74	80	26	24	11	89	63	52
		53%	47%	10%	17%	26%	26%	19%	34%	37%	12%	11%	5%	41%	29%	24%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>67%</b>
Taxes raised (General)	21	14	28	18	24	27	18	13	16	22	19	33	18	9	35	23
Miscellaneous unfavorable	13	12	14	18	5	16	13	15	18	9	15	17	-	12	13	15
General	9	10	9	-	19	5	11	8	7	6	12	8	45	4	10	17
Not enough education funding	7	8	6	9	11	5	7	3	12	5	-	8	-	11	2	6
Taxes raised on corporations, upper-income individuals	5	4	6	5	3	5	7	5	3	6	4	8	9	3	6	8
Higher education cuts	4	4	3	9	-	7	-	5	4	5	4	-	-	2	6	4
Gas tax raised	3	4	3	-	5	4	2	5	1	1	15	4	-	3	3	4
Delayed BM 57 (Prisons)	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>29%</b>
Education funding	11	12	10	18	8	16	7	10	14	10	8	13	9	17	10	6
General	11	13	9	9	11	4	13	22	7	14	23	-	18	10	13	12
Miscellaneous favorable	6	5	6	-	3	9	4	10	9	5	4	-	-	9	2	6
Healthcare expanded	5	8	2	-	5	4	9	-	11	3	-	4	-	8	3	-
Taxes raised (general)	3	-	7	5	3	5	4	-	-	8	4	-	-	3	3	4
Environmental regulations	2	3	2	-	3	2	5	-	3	4	-	-	-	6	-	-
More jobs	2	1	3	-	-	4	-	5	3	3	-	-	-	3	-	2
Ban on hand-held cell phones while driving	2	3	1	-	3	-	5	-	-	4	-	4	-	3	-	2
Gas tax raised	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Taxes on corporations, upper-income individuals	0	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Limit number of dogs at breeding facilities	0	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
<b>Refused</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Refused	7	9	6	23	5	2	11	5	5	9	4	13	9	9	6	4
Chi Square		26.88		87.87					96.57				57.70			
		.108		.166					.056				.021			