

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** Ed Goeas  
Brian Nienaber

**Re:** Notable findings from a statewide survey of voters in Washington

---

The Tarrance Group is pleased to present these findings from a statewide survey of voters in Washington. This survey was conducted June 14-16 & 18-19, 2022 among N=600 voters in Washington.

**Smiley is in a strong position at this stage of the campaign.** On the initial general election ballot, she trails Murray by just 5-points (43%-48%). She already has majority support from key voting blocs like voters in Congressional Districts with competitive primaries (52%), rural voters (57%), Republicans (88%), conservatives (75%), voters with just a high school education (67%), fathers (51%), pro-life voters (78%), and gun owner households (54%). This is a remarkably strong and diverse coalition of support for a challenger candidate at this stage.

**The political environment favors challengers and favors Republicans.** A majority of voters disapprove of the job performance of President Biden (53% disapprove/46% strongly disapprove). In an off-year election, strong dissatisfaction with the President's job performance leads voters to support candidates from the opposition party.

When voters are asked their most important and next most important issue, fully forty-four percent (44%) of voters select inflation/rising cost of living as their most important or next most important issue. On a separate question, seventy-one percent (71%) of voters indicate they are extremely or very concerned about inflation. Inflation and cost of living is an issue for which there is no easy legislative solution. Senator Murray is unlikely to have satisfactory answers about how her and the U.S. Senate are dealing with this issue.

Indeed, Senator Murray already has a middling job approval rating (48% approve/40% disapprove) with the total electorate. Among Independents, her job approval rating is upside down (36% approve/44% disapprove).

On energy, Murray will face a base versus overall electorate dilemma. A majority of voters support national energy independence as a way to lower gas prices (65%), but two-in-five Democrats (40%) oppose this concept.

**This political environment and the power of informing voters about Tiffany Smiley turns this election into a toss-up.** Following messaging on some Smiley policy positions, the ballot closes to a 1-point race (46%-47%) with six percent (6%) of voters undecided. A toss-up race in June in a pro-GOP and pro-challenger political environment is an excellent place for a Republican challenger candidate like Tiffany Smiley to be.