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December 8, 2023

To: Portland Police Association

From: DHM Research

Re: Survey on public safety and the Portland Police Accountability Commission, #01249

Introduction & Methodology

From December 2 to 7, 2023, DHM Research conducted a hybrid survey of Portland voters. The purpose of the survey was to assess Portland voters' perceptions of public safety in the city and to evaluate whether voters would support changes to the proposed Police Accountability Commission.

Research Methodology

The phone and text-to-online survey consisted of 500 Portland voters and took approximately 12 minutes to complete. This is a sufficient sample size to assess voter opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

Respondents were contacted from a list of registered voters. Telephone respondents were contacted by a live interviewer and text-to-online respondents received a text invitation directing them to an online survey. In gathering responses, a variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing and validation. Quotas were set by age, gender, race, educational attainment, income, political party, and area of the city to match the profile of registered voters in Portland.

Statement of Limitations

Any sampling of opinions or attitudes is subject to a margin of error. The margin of error is a standard statistical calculation that represents differences between the sample and total population at a confidence interval, or probability, calculated to be 95%. This means that there is a 95% probability that the sample taken for this study would fall within the stated margin of error if compared with the results achieved from surveying the entire population. The margin of error for this survey is $\pm 4.4\%$.

DHM Research Background

DHM Research has been providing opinion research and consultation throughout the Pacific Northwest and other regions of the United States for over 40 years. The firm is nonpartisan and independent and specializes in research projects to support public policy making.

**Portland Police Association Survey
December 2-7, 2023**

**Portland Voters
N=500; margin of error ±4.4%
12 minutes**

DHM Research Project #01249

VOTER MOOD

1. All things considered, do you think Portland is headed in the right direction or is it on the wrong track?

Response category	n=500
Right direction	21%
Wrong track	60%
Don't know	19%

2. What do you think is the most important problem facing Portland today? **[Open]**

Response category	n=500
Homelessness	43%
Crime/Public safety	22%
Drugs	20%
Affordable housing	12%
Politicians/Government	10%
Mental health	4%
Environment/Blight/Litter	4%
Education/Schools/Teachers	3%
Political division/Partisanship	3%
Jobs/Economy	3%
Taxes	3%
Cost of living	2%
Infrastructure	1%
Poverty	1%
Healthcare cost/access	1%
Traffic/Congestion	1%
Roads/Transportation	<1%
Other	7%
Nothing	<1%
Don't know	1%
Refused	<1%

3. If you could afford it professionally and personally, would you consider leaving Portland to live elsewhere?

Response category	n=500
Yes	56%
No	32%
Don't know	12%

4. Which is closer to your opinion about Portland?

Response category	n=500
Portland is losing what made it special	68%
Portland is good and its best days are ahead of us	21%
Don't know	11%

PUBLIC SAFETY

The next questions are about crime and public safety in Portland.

5. Over the last few years, would you say that the amount of crime in Portland has increased, stayed about the same, or decreased?

Response category	n=500
Increased	78%
Stayed about the same	16%
Decreased	2%
Don't know	3%

6. How concerned, or not, are you that you or members of your family are at-risk to become victims of crime in Portland?

Response category	n=500
NET concerned	74%
Very concerned	43%
Somewhat concerned	31%
NET not concerned	24%
Not too concerned	19%
Not at all concerned	5%
Don't know	1%

7.
8. At this time, would you say that you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the state of public safety in Portland?

Response category	n=500
NET satisfied	11%
Very satisfied	1%
Somewhat satisfied	9%
NET dissatisfied	87%
Not too dissatisfied	32%
Not at all dissatisfied	55%

Don't know	3%
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9. Do you think Portland should have more police officers, currently has about the right number of police officers, or should have fewer police officers?

Response category	n=500
Should have more police officers	71%
Currently has about the right amount of police officers	12%
Should have fewer police officers	8%
Don't know	10%

10. Which do you think is the better way to improve public safety in Portland?

Response category	n=500
Add more officers on the street, strengthen police training, and incentivize officers to live in Portland.	72%
Reduce the number of police on the street, cut the police bureau budget, and get serious about stopping abuse of power and harassment by police officers.	13%
Don't know	15%

PORTLAND POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

11. Prior to this survey, were you aware that Portland is creating a new Portland Police Accountability Commission to independently review police conduct and investigate complaints from citizens about police officers?

Response category	n=500
Yes, I was aware	67%
No, I was not aware	31%
Don't know	2%

The following is more information about the Portland Police Accountability Commission. For each, there are two statements. The first statement describes how the Portland Police Accountability Commission has been proposed to operate. The second statement is an alternative approach. For each, indicate which approach you think is better.

12. Which do you think is the better approach?

Response category	n=500
A. The initial proposal: hold hearings on police complaints to allow complaint filers and accused officers to confront each other in a public setting.	24%
B. Conduct investigations and hearings that protect the constitutional and privacy rights of both the accuser and accused.	63%
Don't know	13%

13. Which do you think is the better approach?

Response category	n=500
A. The initial proposal: Prohibit anyone who has had a relative work in any type of law enforcement from serving on the Portland Police Accountability Commission.	33%
B. Allow anyone who is deemed qualified and fair-minded to serve on the Portland Police Accountability Commission, regardless of whether they have a relative who ever worked in law enforcement.	58%
Don't know	9%

14. Which do you think is the better approach?

Response category	n=500
A. The initial proposal: Require that the Portland Police Accountability Commission be funded with at least 5% of the annual police bureau budget. The current police budget is \$256 million.	31%
B. Require the Portland Police Accountability Commission funding be based on the need and function of their operations.	53%
Don't know	16%

15. Which do you think is the better approach?

Response category	n=500
A. The initial proposal: Allow members of the Portland Police Accountability Commission to determine improper officer behavior and punishment without reviewing training materials or receiving legal background information.	14%
B. Require members of the Portland Police Accountability Commission to be briefed on police legal issues, and attend trainings or ride-alongs with police so they better understand the constraints and challenges police officers face every day.	73%
Don't know	13%

16. Which do you think is the better approach?

Response category	n=500
A. The initial proposal: Pay members of the Portland Police Accountability Commission financial stipends equal to tens of thousands of dollars a year for their preparation and service time, health and mental health insurance, and personal reimbursements including travel and security.	26%
B. Reimburse members of the Portland Police Accountability Commission on a more limited basis, the same as other city volunteer boards, such as members of the Portland Planning Commission.	53%
Don't know	22%

17. Which do you think is the better approach?

Response category	n=500
A. The initial proposal: Allow the Portland Police Accountability Commission to operate completely without city oversight of its legal structure, hiring, firing, and treatment of employees, pay for members, or financial processes.	17%
B. Treat the Portland Police Accountability Commission like every other city structure with normal legal oversight and administrative review to protect the city from lawsuits and other financial liabilities.	69%
Don't know	14%

18. Which do you think is the better approach?

Response category	n=500
A. The initial proposal: Give the Portland Police Accountability Commission full authority to separately investigate all complaints of police misconduct, even when their investigations overlap with official investigations by the police bureau and other governmental authorities.	43%
B. Focus the Portland Police Accountability Commission on independently reviewing the process and the results of the official investigations done by the police bureau and other government authorities so not to duplicate or disrupt those findings.	44%
Don't know	13%

19. Which do you think is the better approach?

Response category	n=500
A. The initial proposal: Give the Portland Police Accountability Commission full authority to issue any punishments or dismiss Portland police officers based on its own findings.	37%
B. Allow the Portland Police Accountability Commission to make independent public recommendations based on its findings, but reserve police chain of command and the legal rights of officers by preserving the police bureau's sole legal authority to discipline or dismiss its officers.	47%
Don't know	15%

Now that you've learned more about the Portland Police Accountability Commission, consider these additional questions.

20. As initially proposed, do you think that the Portland Police Accountability Commission would likely improve public safety in Portland, have no effect, or make public safety worse?

Response category	n=500
Improve public safety	42%
Have no effect	23%
Make public safety worse	18%
Don't know	17%

21. Do you think that the Portland Police Accountability Commission should be moved forward as initially proposed or do you think city council should make changes and then submit a new version for voter approval?

Response category	n=500
Kept as is	23%
Go back to voters with proposed changes	57%
Don't know	19%

22. There will be elections for Portland city council and mayor in 2024. Generally speaking, if a candidate supported making changes to the Portland Police Accountability Commission proposal and then refer it back to voters, would you be more or less likely to vote for that candidate, or would it make no difference in your decision?

Response category	n=500
More likely to vote for	34%
Make no difference	33%
Less likely to vote for	12%
Don't know	21%

BALLOT MEASURES

Looking ahead to November 2024, some have proposed ballot measures to improve public safety in Portland. For each, indicate if you would be more likely to support or oppose the measure.

23. **[Split A]** An initiative to direct Portland's portion of existing marijuana tax revenues to be spent on increasing the number of sworn officers on the street, creating a 24-hr detoxification drop-off and treatment center for drug addicts, and increasing street response that includes trained social workers working with police to reduce violent interactions.

Response category	n=250
NET support	86%
Strongly support	56%
Somewhat support	30%
NET oppose	10%
Somewhat oppose	3%
Strongly oppose	7%
Don't know	4%

24. **[Split B]** An initiative to direct Portland’s portion of existing marijuana tax revenues to be spent on increasing the number of sworn officers on the street, creating a 24-hr detoxification drop-off and treatment center for drug addicts, and strengthening non-violent street response.

Response category	n=250
NET support	81%
Strongly support	51%
Somewhat support	30%
NET oppose	11%
Somewhat oppose	3%
Strongly oppose	8%
Don't know	8%

25. An initiative to require Portland to create enough safe shelters for the homeless with mental health and drug treatment to allow existing city laws against street camping to finally be effectively enforced.

Response category	n=500
NET support	83%
Strongly support	62%
Somewhat support	22%
NET oppose	13%
Somewhat oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	7%
Don't know	4%

26. An initiative to repeal the Portland Police Accountability Commission plan and instead use its allocated 5% of Police Bureau budget to hire and train more officers on our streets.

Response category	n=500
NET support	44%
Strongly support	30%
Somewhat support	13%
NET oppose	45%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	28%
Don't know	11%

27. An initiative to force the city to strengthen recruitment and training of police, hire more officers, and provide incentives for officers to live in Portland.

Response category	n=500
NET support	82%
Strongly support	53%
Somewhat support	29%
NET oppose	12%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	6%
Don't know	6%

DEMOGRAPHICS

The following questions are for demographic purposes only.

28. How do you describe your gender?

Response category	n=500
Man	48%
Woman	49%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	2%
Another way [Open]	n=1
I prefer not to say	1%

29. In what year were you born? ____ **[Collect open end]**

[Autofill age as:]

Response category	n=500
18-29	15%
30-44	33%
45-64	31%
65+	21%
I prefer not to say	--

30. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? *You may choose more than one.*

[Allow for multiple responses]

Response category	n=500
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%
Black/African/African American	7%
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	8%
Native American/American Indian	2%
White/Caucasian	69%
Other	9%
Don't know	1%
I prefer not to say	5%

31. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

Response category	n=500
Less than high school	4%
High school diploma/GED	19%
Some college/2-year degree	27%
College degree/4-year degree	25%
Graduate/professional school	25%
I prefer not to say	1%

32. Which category best describes your gross household income, before taxes? Remember to include everyone living in your household. Your best estimate will do.

Response category	n=500
Less than \$25,000	7%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	18%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	19%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	12%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	16%
\$150,000 or more	25%
I prefer not to say	3%

33. District **[from sample]**

Response category	n=500
District 1 (east)	22%
District 2 (north/northeast)	26%
District 3 (southeast)	27%
District 4 (west)	25%

34. In the last year, have you or anyone in your immediate family been a victim of crime in Portland?

Response category	n=500
Yes	39%
No	57%
I prefer not to say	4%

35. Party registration **[from sample]**

Response category	n=500
Democrat	55%
Republican	8%
Non-affiliated	27%
Other party	10%