

The Washington Poll

**A closer look at the
2010 U.S. Senate Race
in Washington state**

About the Poll

The Washington Poll is a non-partisan, academic survey research project sponsored by the Washington Institute for the Study of Ethnicity, Race & Sexuality (WISER), a research center at the University of Washington in the School of Social Sciences. Dr. Matt Barreto, an Associate Professor of Political Science is the Director of WISER and principal investigator on this survey. Dr. Christopher Parker, an Associate Professor of Political Science is the co-principal investigator of the Washington Poll.

The survey was administered by telephone, by the Washington Survey Research Center at the UW, based on a randomly selected list of phone numbers using a publicly available list of registered voters. The survey was in the field from May 3 – May 28, 2010. A total of 1,695 registered voters throughout the state of Washington were interviewed, yielding a 2.3% margin of error. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Previously we released the results of the first 1,252 completed surveys, as of May 23, 2010. However we continued to conduct our poll the week of May 24-28, and collected and additional 443 interviews in the final week. The results here draw upon the entire overall sample of 1,695, and are broken out by date.

Questions/Comments: mbarreto@uw.edu

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2010 Senate Election

In this release of the data we look at vote intention in the 2010 U.S. Senate election by vote history and date of interview.

For vote history we focus just on those respondents who cast a ballot in the Nov 2006 midterm elections. One really good predictor of participation in the Nov 2010 election is whether you also voted in the Nov 2006 midterm election, as many people only vote in presidential years, but then drop off in midterm years.

Second, we focus on whether or not the respondent was interviewed before or after May 24th. On Monday May 24th most major news outlets in Washington state and also nationally, reported widely that Dino Rossi would in fact run for U.S. Senate, which elevated him to the position of official candidate. We may expect to see a bump in Rossi numbers if we focus just on the interviews conducted May 24 – 28 when he received high news attention. However, readers should keep in mind that because we also split sample the Rossi and generic Republican question, the effective sample in the final week is just 222/221 for each question of the 443 interviews conducted, raising the margin of error.

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Thinking ahead to the November election for U.S. Senate, are you planning to vote for, **Patty Murray the Democrat**, or the **Republican candidate**?

	Full sample All RVs	Those who Voted 06	Interviewed May3-23	Interviewed May24-28
Murray	44%	41%	42%	46%
Undecided	12%	13%	14%	10%
Republican	39%	40%	39%	41%
Other	4%	4%	4%	2%
Sample size	848	470	626	222
MoE	3.3%	4.5%	3.9%	6.6%

Overall statewide sample = 1695 registered voters, +/- 2.3% (only ½ sample got this question though)

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Thinking ahead to the November election for U.S. Senate, are you planning to vote for, **Patty Murray** the Democrat, or **Dino Rossi** the GOP candidate?

	Full sample All RVs	Those who Voted 06	Interviewed May3-23	Interviewed May24-28
Murray	42%	46%	44%	39%
Undecided	12%	9%	12%	13%
Rossi	40%	40%	40%	42%
Other	4%	3%	3%	5%
Sample size	847	469	626	221
MoE	3.3%	4.5%	3.9%	6.6%

Overall statewide sample = 1695 registered voters, +/- 2.3% (only ½ sample got this question though)

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A note on rounding....

The percentages shown in previous slides were all rounded to the nearest whole number. In some cases the percent may have been 39.5 or 40.4 yet we report 40% in the previous slides. Below are the exact number for the Rossi/Murray match-up by time of interview

	Full sample All RVs	Interviewed May3-23	Interviewed May24-28
Murray	42.4%	43.7%	38.7%
Undecided	12.3%	11.9%	13.4%
Rossi	40.1%	39.6%	41.8%
Other	3.8%	3.4%	5.1%
Sample size	847	626	221
MoE	3.3%	3.9%	6.6%

Approximately 1% of the sample provided no answer at all (refuse to ans) and those are not reported here

Overall statewide sample = 1695 registered voters, +/- 2.3% (only ½ sample got this question though)

Additional Results

If you have additional questions and would like to see any additional - or more specific - results, please send us an email; and we will try to accommodate your request.

Research team

Dr. Matt Barreto:

mbarreto@uw.edu

Dr. Christopher Parker:

csparker@uw.edu

Research Assistants:

Chris Towler, Betsy Cooper, Francisco Pedraza, Loren Collingwood, Ben Gonzalez, Daniel Byrd, Justin Reedy, Marcela Garcia-Castañon, Melinda Straub