Most WA Voters Disapprove of Trump’s Style; Plurality Disapprove of His Policy Direction

Washington is certainly not Trump country. But so far, Washington voters’ objections appear to be more about style than substance. More voters disapprove of Donald Trump’s “style of leadership,” than with the “changes he is bringing to the country.”

A 56% majority of Washington voters interviewed for The Elway Poll disapproved of Donald Trump’s “style of leadership,” including 40% who “strongly disapproved.” Just 46% said Trump is bringing the “wrong kind of change” to the country.

On the other side, 40% approved of Trump’s style and 34% said he was bringing the “right kind of change.” Some 20% said he is “not really bringing much change” to the country or had no opinion.

These findings are slightly lower than Trump’s 38% of the Washington vote and lower than national Quinnipiac poll taken 6 weeks ago (45% “wrong”; 38% “right”).

Taken together:
43% disapproved of both his style and direction;
30% approved of both.

Opinions about Trump’s presidency break predictably along party lines, with greater intensity among Democrats:
• Among Democrats, 89% disapproved of this style and 81% disapproved of his policy directions; 77% disapproved of both.
• Among Republicans, 79% approved of his style and 75% approved of his policy directions; 68% approved of both.
• Among Independents, 54% disapproved of his style (39% approved); 44% disapproved of his policy directions (33% approved); 40% disapproved of both his style and policy directions; 29% approved of both.

TRUMP COUNTRY
One of the election surprises was the Washington counties carried by Trump that had not voted for a Republican in 4 or 5 generations. How do voters in the Trump counties size up the new President? The electorate in Trump counties still lean his way, but is somewhat more divided than the electorate in counties carried by Hillary Clinton.

Of all voters living in Trump counties (not just Trump voters): 43% said he is making the “right kind of changes”; 37% disagreed.
51% approved of his leadership style;
45% disapproved.

Among voters in Clinton counties:
50% said Trump is making the “wrong kind” of changes; and 60% disagreed with his style of leadership (42% “strongly”).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRUMP’S CHANGES TO COUNTRY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RIGHT KIND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRUMP’S LEADERSHIP STYLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Approve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROVAL OF TRUMP LEADERSHIP STYLE &amp; DIRECTION OF POLICY CHANGES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STYLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>APPRV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISPRV</td>
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<tr>
<td>NO OPN</td>
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</table>
Sample Profile

503 registered voters, selected at random from registered voter lists in Washington state, were interviewed Mar 30–Apr 3, 2017 by live, professional interviewers. 32% of the interviews were conducted on cell phones. The margin of sampling error is ±4.5% at the 95% level of confidence. This means, in theory, had this same survey been conducted 100 times, the results would be within ±4.5% of the results reported here at least 95 times.

REGION
Seattle ................................................................. 7%
King County .......................................................... 23%
Pierce/Kitsap ...................................................... 17%
No. Puget Sound ................................................... 16%
Far West ............................................................... 17%
Eastern WA .......................................................... 20%

GENDER
Male ..................................................................... 48%
Female ................................................................... 52%

VOTE HISTORY
0-1 Votes cast in previous 4 elections ...................... 34%
2-3 Votes cast in previous 4 elections ...................... 39%
4 Votes cast in previous 4 elections ...................... 27%

PARTY ID
Democrat ................................................................ 32%
Republican ............................................................ 24%
Independent .......................................................... 44%

AGE
18-35 ...................................................................... 10%
36-50 ...................................................................... 20%
51-64 ...................................................................... 38%
65+ .......................................................................... 30%

EDUCATION
High School ............................................................ 15%
Some College / Voc-Tech ....................................... 24%
College Degree ....................................................... 36%
Graduate Degree ...................................................... 23%

INCOME
$50,000 or less .......................................................... 25%
$50 to 74,000 ........................................................... 14%
$75 to 99,000 ........................................................... 15%
$100,000+ ............................................................... 26%
No Answer ............................................................... 21%

Trump Presidency Stimulates Civic Engagement (especially among Democrats)

One thing about the Trump Presidency: people are talking about it. Nearly half of these respondents (45%) reported having been in an argument about politics since the election. This included:

- 50% of Democrats;
- 44% of Independents; and
- 39% of Republicans.

Democrats, especially, have been active in other ways as well. They are twice as likely as Republicans to have taken action since the election: 49% of Democrats said they have either donated money or attended a political event; vs. 24% of Republicans; and 28% of Independents.

Infrequent voters were more argumentative than consistent voters, possibly indicating a political awakening, which has been the subject of speculation by national commentators.

51% of those who vote less than half the time had been in an argument, compared to 35% of those who vote in every election.

Overall, 21% of respondents had attended a political event since the election. Most likely to have done so were:
- Seattle voters (39%);
- Democrats (37%);
- Voters with graduate degrees (34%);
- Earning more than $100,000 a year (30%).

This profile may not be surprising, but it does indicate energy among the Trump opposition.

Political Activity Since the Election by Party Identification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Had Argument</th>
<th>Donated Money</th>
<th>Participated In Rally/Mtg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REP</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEM</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>IND</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>34</td>
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</table>

The Elway Poll

The Elway Poll is an independent, non-partisan analysis of public opinion in Washington and the Northwest, published since 1992.

Proprietary Questions: Each quarter, space is reserved in the questionnaire for organizations to insert their own, proprietary questions. Sponsors are thus able to ask their own questions for a fraction of the cost of a full survey. Results, with demographic crosstabulations, are provided within three days after the interviews are completed.