

INDEPENDENT CENTER VOICE

Survey Toplines — Washington — 1st Congressional District

District Benchmark Survey · 2026 Election Cycle

Methodology

Survey of 777 Likely 2026 General Voters in WA-01; ; margin of error ± 3.52 percentage points; field date: 07/13-16/2026.

All percentages are weighted to the study's demographic and partisan quota targets. Each figure is the Total % of the stated base, rounded to whole numbers, so responses may not sum to 100%. Multiple-response questions (e.g., top-three issue selection and racial identification) and per-candidate blocks may sum to more than 100. Aggregate rows (e.g., TOTAL DEMOCRAT) are sums of the categories that follow and are shaded for reference. Question codes in brackets match the analysis report and banner books. This study utilizes a multi-frame, probability-based sampling design combining live telephone calls and Short Message Service (SMS) outreach. To correct for non-response bias, the final sample was adjusted against U.S. Census Bureau and national voter databases to ensure accurate representation across core demographics, specifically gender, geographic region, age, race and ethnicity, political affiliation, educational attainment, household income, and population density, ensuring statistically valid generalizability.

Q1. How likely are you to vote in the November 2026 midterm elections? [Screener 3]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Very likely	89%
Somewhat likely	11%

Q2. Thinking about the upcoming election this November, which of the following best describes the MAIN reason you are motivated to turn out and vote? [Screener 4]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
There is a specific candidate running who I really like and want to support.	2%
I am primarily voting to oppose a specific candidate and make sure they do not win.	9%
I always vote because I see it as my civic duty, regardless of who is on the ballot.	71%
I am motivated to vote because of a specific issue or policy that is deeply important to me.	15%
I never usually vote, but I am thinking that I will this year	0%
Unsure	2%

Q3. In politics today, and regardless of how you are registered, do you consider yourself to be a...

[Party ID]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL DEMOCRAT	42%
Strong Democrat	32%
Not so strong Democrat	10%
TOTAL INDEPENDENT	32%
Independent leaning Democrat	12%
Independent	11%
Independent leaning Republican	9%
TOTAL REPUBLICAN	25%
Not so strong Republican	10%
Strong Republican	15%

Response	%
Other	0%
Unsure	1%

Q4. Your gender identification? [Gender]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Female	51%
Male	49%
Other	0%

Q5. In which county do you currently reside? [County]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
King	38%
Snohomish	62%

Q6. What is your race or ethnicity? [Race]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
White or Caucasian	66%
Black or African American	5%
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	12%
Asian or Pacific Islander	21%
Native American or American Indian	2%
Other	5%

Q7. Which of the following categories best describes your age? [AgeRange]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
18 to 24	5%
25 to 34	13%
35 to 44	19%
45 to 54	18%
55 to 64	17%
65 or older	28%

Q8. What is the highest level of formal education that you have completed? [Education]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
High School or Less	18%
Some college, Associate degree, or technical school	33%
4-year college graduate (Bachelor's degree) or higher	49%

Q9. We want to classify households into broad income groups only. Would you estimate your total annual household income to be...? [Income]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Less than \$30,000	3%
\$30,000 to \$54,999	8%
\$55,000 to \$100,000	19%
More than \$100,000	57%
Prefer not to answer	13%

Q10. At this time next year, do you think that you will personally be better or worse off than you are today? [GSPS]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL BETTER OFF	40%
Much better off	8%
Somewhat better off	33%
TOTAL WORSE OFF	31%
Somewhat worse off	24%
Much worse off	7%
Unsure	29%

Q11. At this time next year, do you think America will be better or worse off than it is today? [GSAS]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL BETTER OFF	29%
Much better off	8%
Somewhat better off	21%
TOTAL WORSE OFF	46%
Somewhat worse off	24%
Much worse off	21%
Unsure	25%

Q12. Please select and rank the top three most pressing issues in America today from the list below, where 1 is the most pressing, 2 is the second most pressing, and 3 is the third most pressing. [Most pressing issue]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Economy	31%
Government	27%
Immigration	11%
Health Care	10%
Social Issues	8%
International concerns	5%
Environment	5%

Response	%
Education	3%

Q13. Regarding the economy, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTEC]

Base: Most Pressing On Economy Issue

Response	%
Jobs	9%
Unemployment	3%
Taxes	26%
Food prices/inflation	58%
Other	4%

Q14. Regarding social issues, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTSI]

Base: Most Pressing On Social Issue

Response	%
Crime	21%
Equality	18%
Civil liberties	46%
Abortion	14%

Q15. Regarding education, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTED]

Base: Most Pressing On Education Issue

Response	%
School choice	20%
Student loans	22%
Testing standards	11%
Other	46%

Q16. Regarding the environment, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTEV]

Base: Most Pressing On Environment Issue

Response	%
Climate change	76%
EPA	11%
Energy regulations	6%
Other	8%

Q17. Regarding international issues, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTIN]

Base: Most Pressing On International Issue

Response	%
Trade	6%
Foreign policy	19%

Response	%
Global affairs conflicts	73%

Q18. Regarding health care, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTHC]

Base: Most Pressing On Health Care Issue

Response	%
Medicare	15%
Medicaid	3%
Affordable Care Act	7%
Cost of health care	69%
Other	7%

Q19. Regarding the government, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTGA]

Base: Most Pressing On Government Issue

Response	%
Political extremism	54%
Polarization	21%
The role of elected officials	21%
Other	5%

Q20. Regarding immigration, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTIM]

Base: Most Pressing On Immigration Issue

Response	%
Legalization & citizenship	36%
Border security	57%
Refugee resettlement	3%
Other	5%

Q21. Do you approve or disapprove of the job President Donald Trump is doing? [STA]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL APPROVE	31%
Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	15%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	69%
Somewhat disapprove	4%
Strongly disapprove	64%
Unsure	1%

Q22. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing? [GSCA]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL APPROVE	17%
Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	15%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	78%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	55%
Unsure	5%

Q23. When it comes to your political philosophy, where would you place yourself on the following scale? [PSY]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
0 - Very liberal / Progressive	14%
1	6%
2	11%
3	10%
4	8%
5 - Moderate / Centrist	20%
6	6%
7	8%
8	7%
9	3%
10 - Staunch / Strong conservative	7%

Q24. In the perfect world, where on the following scale, would you like to see America's elected officials stand politically? [PSEO]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
0 - Strongly along Democratic lines	12%
1	3%
2	7%
3	12%
4	9%
5 - Centrist / Independent	28%
6	6%
7	7%
8	6%
9	1%
10 - Strongly along Republican lines	8%

Q25. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — Donald Trump]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	29%
Very favorable	15%
Somewhat favorable	14%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	69%
Somewhat unfavorable	4%
Very unfavorable	65%
Never heard of	0%
Unsure	1%

Q26. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — The Republican party]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	31%
Very favorable	12%
Somewhat favorable	19%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	65%
Somewhat unfavorable	17%
Very unfavorable	48%
Never heard of	0%
Unsure	3%

Q27. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — The Democratic party]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	48%
Very favorable	17%
Somewhat favorable	31%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	48%
Somewhat unfavorable	20%
Very unfavorable	28%
Never heard of	0%
Unsure	4%

Q28. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A politician willing to work with both sides of the aisle]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	83%
Very favorable	49%
Somewhat favorable	33%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	11%
Somewhat unfavorable	7%
Very unfavorable	4%
Never heard of	3%
Unsure	4%

Q29. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A bipartisan candidate]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	60%
Very favorable	18%
Somewhat favorable	43%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	16%
Somewhat unfavorable	12%
Very unfavorable	4%
Never heard of	6%
Unsure	18%

Q30. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A non-partisan candidate]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	47%
Very favorable	10%
Somewhat favorable	37%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	20%
Somewhat unfavorable	15%
Very unfavorable	6%
Never heard of	8%
Unsure	25%

Q31. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A politically Independent candidate]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	61%
Very favorable	12%
Somewhat favorable	49%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	17%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Very unfavorable	4%
Never heard of	5%
Unsure	17%

Q32. Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person. [Favorability — James Etzkorn (Independent)]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	9%
Very favorable	2%
Somewhat favorable	8%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	7%
Somewhat unfavorable	6%
Very unfavorable	2%
Never heard of	55%
Unsure	28%

Q33. Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person. [Favorability — Susan DelBene (Democrat)]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	46%
Very favorable	16%
Somewhat favorable	30%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	26%
Somewhat unfavorable	10%
Very unfavorable	16%
Never heard of	11%
Unsure	16%

Q34. Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person. [Favorability — Mary Silva (Republican)]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	20%
Very favorable	6%

Response	%
Somewhat favorable	14%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	11%
Somewhat unfavorable	6%
Very unfavorable	5%
Never heard of	41%
Unsure	28%

Q35. Overall, how would you rate the current health of American democracy? [MSOH]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL HEALTHY	18%
Very healthy	5%
Somewhat healthy	13%
TOTAL UNHEALTHY	81%
Somewhat unhealthy	27%
Very unhealthy	54%
Unsure	1%

Q36. How do you think federally elected officials in Washington, DC are doing at their job? [MSEO]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
They're doing fine	4%
We can do better	94%
Unsure	2%

Q37. Thinking about your role as a voter in the upcoming 2026 elections, which of the following best describes how you intend to use your vote to ensure the continued health of our democracy? [MSRV]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
I will vote for candidates who will go to Washington to work and vote with Republicans to advance a conservative agenda and ensure that Democratic policies do not pass.	16%
I will vote for candidates who will go to Washington to work and vote with Democrats to advance a progressive agenda and ensure that Republican policies do not pass.	27%
I will look past party labels to vote for candidates who prioritize bipartisan cooperation and seek to modernize the system to make it more accountable and stable for the people.	43%
I do not believe that my choice of candidate has a significant impact on the long-term health of our democracy.	10%
Unsure / Other	4%

Q38. Regardless of your past voting history or political affiliation, which of the following do you find to be the most compelling reason to support an independent candidate? [GST1]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
The "Problem Solver" Argument: Independent-minded leaders are free to look at problems from many angles and find the best solution, rather than being forced to view every issue through a single partisan lens.	26%

Response	%
The "Competition" Argument: In every other aspect of American life, choice and competition yield better results, ending the two-party duopoly would force politicians to work harder to earn our support.	7%
The "Gridlock" Argument: Because they don't answer to party leadership, Independents are uniquely positioned to bridge the divide, de-escalate anger, and force the two sides to work together.	8%
The "People over Party" Argument: Political parties have become too focused on special interests and self-preservation, an Independent is beholden only to their constituents, not a national party agenda.	27%
The "Revolution" Argument: The two-party establishment is fundamentally corrupt and beyond repair, electing Independents is a revolution that will strip power from party elites and completely overhaul the system.	13%
None of these / Other	11%
Unsure	9%

Q39. Which of the following statements or priorities would you most need to hear from an independent candidate running for office to seriously consider supporting their candidacy? [GSTL]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
A clear commitment to work across the aisle with both parties to bring the best ideas to the forefront and get things done.	15%
A promise to listen to regular people and be beholden strictly to local voters and constituents, not national political parties or special interests.	14%
A focus on lowering the toxic political rhetoric, reducing partisan division, and restoring common sense and sanity to government.	26%
A concrete plan to immediately lower the daily cost of living, combat inflation, and rein in wasteful government spending.	23%
A common-sense commitment to strictly enforce border security and fix the immigration system without playing political games.	7%
None of these / Other	11%
Unsure	4%

Q40. Which of the following statements comes closer to your own opinion about independent candidates running for elected office, even if neither is exactly right? [GSSA]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Independent candidates offer a new, fresh perspective to move the country forward, free from partisan gridlock and beholden only to the voters	41%
Independent candidates just pull votes away from a major-party candidate, ultimately helping the side that the voter least wanted to win.	44%
Unsure	16%

Q41. Which of the following statements comes closer to your own view about the role independent candidates could play in our political system, even if neither is exactly right? [GSSI]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Electing a few independent candidates could provide a necessary, stabilizing voice, acting as the adult in the room to lower the temperature and bring both sides together to get things done.	70%
The current system is not broken, and the two major parties remain the most effective and stable way to pass laws and represent the country.	8%
Unsure	22%

Q42. Which of the following candidates would you prefer to represent your district in the U.S. House of Representatives, even if neither is exactly perfect? [GSSZ]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
A candidate who goes to Washington to caucus, vote, and work on legislative committees exclusively within one political party, giving them more institutional power to pass legislation.	34%
A candidate who does not caucus with either major political party, so that they can independently evaluate every single bill that crosses their desk based entirely on what is best for the people of their district.	52%
Unsure	15%

Q43. Thinking for a moment about your social, economic, and political views...Do you consider yourself to be... [Ideology]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL LIBERAL	47%
Very Liberal	24%
Somewhat Liberal	23%
Moderate	19%
TOTAL CONSERVATIVE	30%
Somewhat Conservative	19%
Very Conservative	11%
Libertarian	2%
Unsure	2%

Q44. Do you consider yourself to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning?

[LGBTQ+]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Yes	10%
No	84%
Unsure	1%
Prefer not to answer	6%

Q45. What would best describe your marital status? [Marital Status]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Single or never married	22%
Married	59%
Separated	1%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	4%
Other	2%

Q46. Do you have children currently living in your household? [Children]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Yes	38%
No	59%
Refused	3%

Q47. Would you best describe the neighborhood or area you live in as... [Neighborhood]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Urban	14%
Suburban	77%
Rural	7%
Unsure	2%

Q48. Do you invest into an IRA or 401k? [401K]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Yes	83%
No	17%

Q49. Please describe your current occupational status. [Occupation]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Employed (Government)	8%
Employed (Private Sector)	43%
Small Business Owner	9%
Student	2%
Homemaker	4%
Retired	25%
Unemployed	3%
Other	4%
Unsure	0%

Q50. Do you currently own (outright/pay mortgage) your residence? [Homeowner]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Own (outright/pay mortgage)	71%
I do not own my residence (rent/other)	29%

Q51. Method [InterviewMethod]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Phone	4%
Text	96%

