

## SUMMARY

480 Independent Party members participated in a preference survey, which asked members to select all choices from lists of priorities that included balancing the state budget, jobs and the economy, and good government and consumer protection issues.

Participants strongly supported reforms to increase government accountability: campaign contribution limits, opening major party primaries, and closing the revolving door between state agencies/officeholders and industries they regulate. Members also favored legislation to protect consumers.

Although members had identified balancing the state budget and jobs and the economy as top priorities (along with good government issues), there were only two policy alternatives “Provid[e] tax credits to companies that hire Oregon workers” and “Sell the state hard liquor retail operations to private business and tax hard liquor sales” that received greater than 50 percent support. By contrast, significant consensus was found on good government reform and consumer protection issues.

## 2010 INDEPENDENT PARTY SURVEY

**PARTICIPANTS: 480**

### QUESTION 1 – When it comes to balancing the state budget, which of the following ideas should the Independent Party and its candidates prioritize?

CATEGORY	RESPONSES	PERCENT
Sell the State hard liquor retail operations to private business; tax hard liquor sales.	248	51.7%
Reform PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) contribution and benefit programs to reduce budget problems at all levels of government.	219	45.6%
Require State to budget to 97 percent of receipts and put remainder into a strategic reserve.	211	44.0%
Establish medical marijuana dispensaries, similar to State-run liquor stores, and tax the sale of marijuana.	177	36.9%
Cut state support for administrative salaries K-12.	174	36.3%
Increase community based policing and "drug court" programs to reduce prison populations.	167	34.8%
Institute a statewide hiring freeze of state government employees	160	33.3%
Increase taxes on tobacco products.	151	31.5%
Centralize certain school districts costs at the state level, such as statewide collective bargaining for teachers, purchases for supplies and instructional materials.	150	31.3%
Reduce the commissions to bars and restaurants from video gambling commissions (currently about 20% of every dollar gambled or \$187 million in video gambling commissions in 2008).	145	30.2%
Cut spending on prisons.	131	27.3%
Repeal Oregon's "kicker law" [which refunds some taxes that are collected and owed, if the state economist errs in revenue projection].	126	26.3%
Institute a general sales tax (exempting food).	96	20.0%
Institute a tax on the emission of gases that contribute to global warming, such as carbon dioxide.	82	17.1%
I'd personally be willing to pay about 1% more in State income tax.	65	13.5%
Reduce or eliminate health care for uninsured children.	52	10.8%
Increase class size K-12.	46	9.6%
Cut school days K-12.	26	5.4%

**QUESTION 2 - When it comes to strengthening Oregon's economy and creating jobs, which of the following ideas do you support?**

CATEGORY	RESPONSES PERCENT	
Provide tax credits to employers that hire Oregon workers.	271	56.5%
Protect farmland and increase diversity of agricultural products.	218	45.4%
Cut Oregon taxes on capital gains.	202	42.1%
Increase investment in public infrastructure (ports, roads, schools, rail, etc.).	186	38.8%
Invest in research at state universities and private enterprise to develop new technologies to harness Oregon's natural resources (wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, wave, hydroelectric, etc.).	184	38.3%
Provide tax credits for home remodeling.	115	24.0%

**QUESTION 3 – Other issues you would like state government to prioritize**

CATEGORY	RESPONSES PERCENT	
Ban political contributions by any person or corporation which has or is bidding on government contracts in excess of \$1 million.	301	62.7%
Prohibit any high-ranking state employee or appointed officer of the Oregon Public Utility Commission, the Office of the State Treasurer, or the Insurance Division from taking paid employment with any person or firm which they regulated for 5 years after leaving the State position.	301	62.7%
Prohibit retired elected officials from being paid to lobby any state or local government for 5 years after leaving office.	300	62.5%
Open major party primary elections to allow independents to participate.	280	58.3%
Amend Oregon Constitution to ban political campaign contributions by labor unions.	262	54.6%
Strengthen regulations on rate increases by insurance companies to better protect consumers	254	52.9%
Amend Oregon Constitution to limit political campaign contributions by any individual to \$10,000 per year.	251	52.3%
Amend Oregon Constitution to ban political campaign contributions by corporations.	242	50.4%
Increase the independence of the Oregon Public Utility Commission by electing the commissioners instead of having the Governor appoint them.	230	47.9%
Allow businesses and individuals to buy insurance from the Oregon Health Plan.	223	46.5%
Reduce harmful chemicals in consumer products.	206	42.9%
Reduce the number of uninsured by enrolling more people into the Oregon Health Plan.	152	31.7%
Create a state bank to partner with local and regional banks or credit unions to help loosen credit for individuals and small businesses.	134	27.9%
Set aside more land for state parks and increase investment to make Oregon parks more accessible to the public.	118	24.6%