

## **POLLING MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FR:** Fritz Wenzel, founder and pollster, Clout Research

**RE:** New surveys regarding political races in the state of Oregon

### *New Surveys Show Race for Governor a Toss-Up; Republicans Leading in Two Congressional Races*

A package of three new telephone surveys shows the race for governor of Oregon to be a dead heat between Democrat Tina Kotek and Republican Christine Drahan, with independent Betsy Johnson a distant third heading into the critical post-Labor Day stage of the November General Election.

The statewide survey of likely voters shows Kotek and Drahan each winning one-third of voters' support, while Johnson wins 21% support and another 15% of the electorate remains undecided. The survey data show, however, that Johnson's presence in the race is draining voters from both Kotek and Drahan, though it indicates Johnson's candidacy is costing Drahan much more than Kotek. Among likely voters who were not aligned with either the Democrat or Republican parties, 28% said they would vote for Drahan, while just 18% said they would support Kotek. The independent Johnson also wins 28% among these non-aligned voters, while 26% of those voters are yet undecided.

Voters are clearly unhappy with how things are going these days in Oregon. The survey showed 62% of all respondents believe things in the state are headed in the wrong direction, while just 30% said they think the state is on the right track. Four out of five likely voters in Oregon also said they are pessimistic about the future of the state and nation, compared to just 8% who said they were optimistic for the future.

A second survey conducted separately in Oregon's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District shows Republican Lori Chavez-DeRemer with a 10 percentage point lead over Democrat Jamie McLeod Skinner among likely voters. The survey shows Chavez-DeRemer winning 44% support, compared to 34% support for McLeod Skinner, with 21% undecided.

The poll shows McLeod Skinner winning 73% support from his political base of Democrats, while Chavez-DeRemer wins 84% support from her fellow Republicans. Among

independent voters in District 5, Chavez-DeRemer holds a substantial lead of 44% to 24% for McLeod Skinner, with 33% of non-aligned voters yet undecided in the race.

This survey shows both candidates with similar favorability ratings. Chavez-DeRemer wins favorable reviews from 22% of voters and McLeod Skinner wins a favorability rating of 21%. But while 13% said they hold an unfavorable opinion of Chavez-DeRemer, more than twice as many – 28% - said they hold an unfavorable view of McLeod Skinner. In short, McLeod Skinner is better known but less well liked.

A third survey conducted separately in Oregon’s 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District shows Republican Mike Erickson leading Democrat Andrea Salinas, 43% to 34%, with 24% undecided.

In the survey, Erickson wins 84% support among his fellow Republicans, while Salinas wins 76% support from her fellow Democrats. There is very little crossover vote either way in the race, but it is notable that while Erickson wins 8% support from Democrats, Salinas wins just 4% support from Republicans. Among non-aligned voters, Republican Erickson wins 43% support, compared to just 19% for Salinas. Nearly four out of 10 independent voters in the district – 38% - said they are unsure for whom to vote in this race to fill Oregon’s newest congressional district.

Favorability and familiarity appears to be a problem for both candidates in this race, as 63% of voters say they don’t know enough about Erickson to have formed an opinion about him, and 61% said the same thing about Salinas. Of those who did have an opinion about Erickson, they are split down the middle, with 19% holding a favorable opinion and 19% said they hold an unfavorable opinion of him. Salinas performs slightly better, as 23% said they have a favorable opinion of her, compared to 16% who hold an unfavorable view of her.

Favorability ratings in downticket races are important because many voters may not know enough specific information about a candidate’s stances on issues, and so can decide for whom to vote based on favorability and party identification.

Clout Research is a national public opinion research firm based in Dublin, Ohio. It conducted these three surveys in the state of Oregon during August, 2022. The statewide survey was conducted August 10-14, and included 397 respondents who completed interviews on landline phones and mobile phones. It carries a confidence interval of 95% and a margin of error of +/- 4.92 percentage points.

The survey in Oregon CD5 was conducted August 15-18, and included 410 respondents on landlines and mobile phones. It carries a confidence interval of 95% and a margin of error of +/- 4.84 percentage points.

The survey in Oregon CD6 was conducted August 14-19, and included 409 respondent on landlines and mobile phones. It carries a confidence interval of 95% and a margin of error of error of +/- 4.84 percentage points.