



MOORE INFORMATION

OPINION RESEARCH • STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

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TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Bob Moore & Hans Kaiser
RE: Are Congressional Incumbents in Jeopardy?

With 14 months left until the 2008 general election, not all of Oregon's incumbent members of Congress should be resting easy in their bids for reelection. In fact, fewer than half of voters statewide are confident enough in the job their member of Congress has done to send them back for another term.

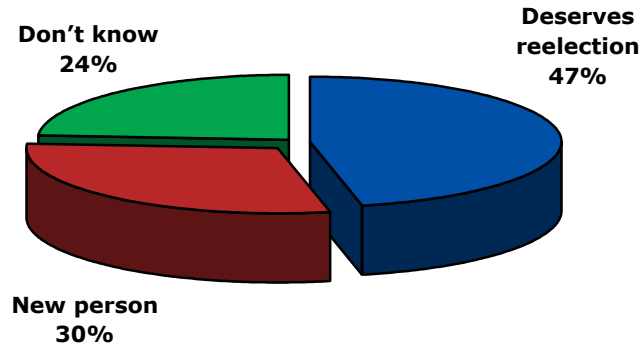
In our most recent survey of Oregon voters we asked voters in each of the five congressional districts whether they would send their member of Congress back for another term, or if it is time to give a new person a chance to do better. Overall, 47% would send their member of Congress back for another term, while 30% would prefer a new person in Congress, and 24% are unsure. There are significant differences in sentiment by age and party. Seniors appear to be more likely to favor reelection of their member of Congress (56% do), while younger voters are less likely (just 32% of voters age 18-34 say their member deserves reelection). At the same time, almost six-in-ten Democrats (59%) favor reelection of their member of Congress, while 46% of Independents and only 34% of Republicans feel this way.

The most vulnerable of the five-seat delegation appears to be Darlene Hooley, four-term Representative from the Fifth District: only 41% would reelect Hooley today, while 37% prefer a new person in Congress, and 22% are unsure. Generally speaking, incumbents who fail to generate at least 50% support on the vote to reelect question are considered vulnerable.

The Fifth District, which stretches from the central coast through the state capital, into the southern suburbs of Portland and East toward Mount Hood is relatively evenly divided when it comes to party registration (39% Republican, 37% Democrat, 24% non-affiliated), but George W. Bush won the district in 2000 and 2004.

Incumbent Reelection in Oregon

"As you may know, (INSERT NAME FOR DISTRICT) is the representative in Congress from your district. Do you think (INSERT NAME FOR DISTRICT) has performed (HIS/HER) job in Congress well enough to deserve reelection, or do you think it's time to give a new person a chance to do better?"



The survey was conducted August 22-23, 2007 among a representative sample of 500 registered voters, statewide, which included 103 interviews in Congressional District Five. Potential sampling error is plus or minus 4% at the 95% confidence level.

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