

**City of Olympia**

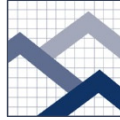
**RESIDENT OPINION SURVEY:  
HOUSING & PUBLIC SAFETY  
PROPOSALS**

**DRAFT**

**JUNE 2017**



**ELWAY RESEARCH, INC.**



City of Olympia

# RESIDENT OPINION SURVEY: HOUSING & PUBLIC SAFETY PROPOSALS

JUNE 2017

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City of Olympia

## **RESIDENT OPINION SURVEY: HOUSING & PUBLIC SAFETY PROPOSALS**

JUNE 2017

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report summarizes the results of a survey to explore Olympia residents' opinions about two packages of proposals being considered by the City Council:

1. A set of proposals to improve policing and public safety in the city; and
2. A set of proposals to address the issue of homelessness.

A total of 636 Olympia adults, selected at random, were interviewed by telephone and online between May 16 and June 2, 2017 for this survey.

The primary purpose of this survey was to explore assess residents':

1. Opinion about significant challenges facing the city;
2. Response to component proposals contained in each of the two packages;
3. Level of support or opposition to the packages and their component proposals;
4. Underlying reasoning for their support or opposition;
5. Level of support for addressing both the public safety and housing issues at the same time;
6. Preferred means of funding the proposals.

Demographic information was collected about respondents to enable comparison of answers across categories of the population.

The survey was designed, conducted and analyzed by Elway Research, Inc. The questionnaire was designed in collaboration with city staff.

This report includes Key Findings, followed by annotated graphs summarizing the results to each question, and a discussion of the results. The full questionnaire, verbatim responses to open-ended questions and demographic cross-tabulation tables are presented in the appendix.



## METHODS

<b>SAMPLE:</b>	636 Adult residents of Olympia (age 18+).
<b>MARGIN OF ERROR:</b>	$\pm 4\%$ at the 95% level of confidence. That is, in theory, had all Olympia adults been interviewed, there is a 95% chance the results would be within $\pm 4\%$ of the results in this survey.
<b>SAMPLE FRAME:</b>	Households with at least one registered voter. Interviews were done with a household member over the age of 18, although not necessarily a registered voter.
<b>TECHNIQUE:</b>	Mixed mode: 307 Telephone interviews with live interviewers; 149 via land line (49%); 158 via cell phone (51%); 329 questionnaires completed online.
<b>FIELD DATES:</b>	May 16 – June 2, 2017.
<b>DATA COLLECTION:</b>	<p>TELEPHONE: Calls for the telephone survey were made during weekday evenings and weekend days by trained, professional interviewers under supervision. Up to six attempts were made to contact each number in the sample before a substitute number was called. Questionnaires were edited for completeness, and a percentage of each interviewer's calls were re-called for verification.</p> <p>ONLINE: Households for which no telephone number was available were invited via letter signed by the mayor to take the survey online. To randomize within-household response, the person in the household over the age of 18 with the most recent birthday was asked to complete the survey. They were mailed a reminder postcard a week after the initial letter.</p>

It must be kept in mind that survey research cannot predict the future. Although great care and the rigorous methods were employed in the design, execution and analysis of this survey, these results should be interpreted only as representing the answers given by these respondents to these questions at the time they were interviewed.



## RESPONDENT PROFILE

In interpreting these findings, it is important to keep in mind the characteristics of the people interviewed. This table presents a profile of the respondents in this survey.

NOTE: Here and throughout this report, percentages may not add to 100%, due to rounding, or the omission of “no answer” in the chart.

<b>AREA OF RESIDENCE</b>	20%	Northwest
	25%	Northeast
	17%	Southwest
	33%	Southeast
	5%	No answer
<b>AGE:</b>	14%	18-35
	25%	36-50
	32%	51-64
	27%	65+
	2%	No Answer
<b>GENDER:</b>	52%	Female
	44%	Male
	1%	Other
	2%	No Answer
<b>OWN/RENT HOME</b>	76%	Own
	22%	Rent
	2%	No Answer
<b>HOUSEHOLD</b>	28%	Couple/ Children at Home
	40%	Couple/ No children Home
	6%	Single/ Children at Home
	24%	Single/ No children Home
	3%	No Answer
<b>OCCUPATION:</b>	14%	Self-Employed / Owner
	22%	Private Sector
	30%	Public Sector
	3%	Not employed
	2%	Student
	27%	Retired
<b>LOCATION OF JOB:</b>	59%	Olympia
	22%	Thurston County
	18%	Outside County
<b>INCOME:</b>	8%	\$25,000 or less
	17%	\$25 to \$49,000
	20%	\$50 to \$74,000
	17%	\$75-99,000
	26%	Over \$100,000
	12%	No Answer

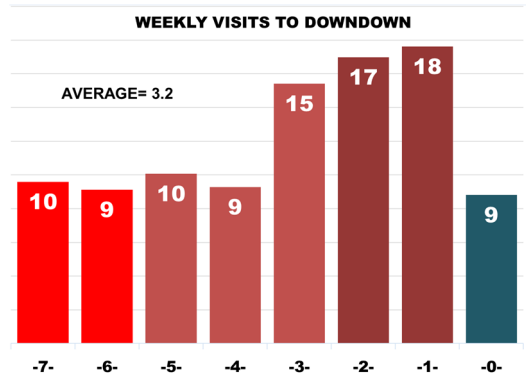


## RESPONDENT PROFILE

### Visits to Downtown

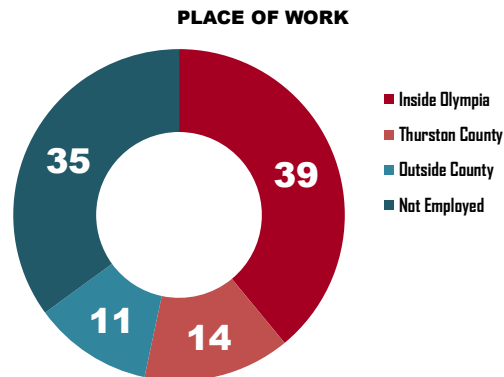
#### 91% were in downtown at least once a week.

- 29% were there at least 5 days in a typical week.
- The average number of weekly visits to downtown was 3.2.



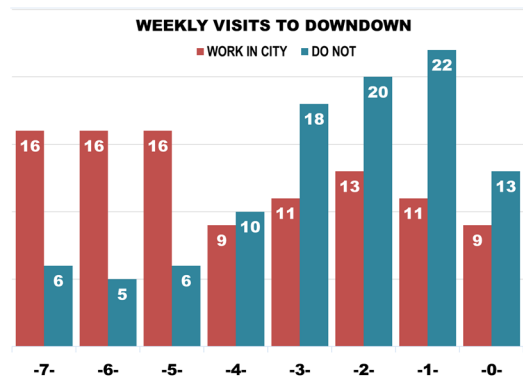
#### 39% of all respondents worked downtown.

- That comprises 59% of all respondents who were employed.



#### 60% of those who did not work in Olympia were downtown 1-3 days per week.

- 17% were downtown 5+ days per week.
- 48% of those who work in the city were downtown 5+ days per week.





# KEY FINDINGS

## ◆ Homelessness was seen as the “most significant issue” facing the City of Olympia.

- In an open-ended question at the outset of the interview, half of all respondents (51%) volunteered an issue related to homelessness or low-income housing as Olympia’s “most significant issue.”
- This finding aligns with a citizen survey in 2014, in which the top reasons for respondents who gave Olympia’s livability a rating lower than “Good” named downtown or homelessness as the top reasons for their low rating.

## Public Safety Proposals

### ◆ There was broad support for the package of programs in the public safety proposal:

- Each of the 5 of the component programs in the package was supported by at least 8 in 10 respondents.
- 54% supported all 5 proposals and 98% supported at least 1.
- Ranked as the highest priorities were:
  - > Partnering to provide mobile mental health services - 32% said that should be the highest priority); and
  - > More officers for downtown walking patrols - 29% said that should be the highest priority.

### ◆ 78% said they would “definitely” (34%) or “probably” support (44%) a package that included all 5 proposals.

### ◆ Reinforcing the idea that these proposals are inter-related:

- 29% of supporters specifically volunteered as their reason, “helping the homeless” – nearly the same number as cited public safety reasons (30%);
- 12% supported it because it is a comprehensive package of proposals;
- Opponents cited the cost, higher taxes, the ambitious nature of the package and a belief that this was the wrong approach to solve the problem.

### ◆ 66% said that the fact that the package consisted of “non-traditional” policing methods made them more likely to support it.

### ◆ 69% did not think it was too soon after the 2012 vote to ask voters to approve another public safety package.



## Housing Proposal

◆ **There was also broad support for the package of housing proposals under consideration.**

- Each of the 4 component proposals was supported by at least 76% of respondents.
- 66% supported all 4 proposals and 91% supported at least one.

◆ **78% said they would “definitely” (43%) or “probably” (35%) support a package than contained all 4 proposals.**

- 52% of supporters said that helping the homeless was the main reason they would support the package.
- Opponents cited a variety of reasons for their opposition, headed by the cost or taxes (29%); the belief that the program would attract more homeless people to Olympia (24%); lack of confidence that the program would work (23%); and a belief that such a package would enable people who do not want to help themselves (22%).

◆ **61% disagreed with the argument that Olympia should wait for a regional solution to the homelessness problem.**

◆ **55% agreed that Olympia should “focus on an immediate response” rather than build permanent housing, which will take years.**

## Simultaneous Proposals

◆ **51% would support both the housing and public safety proposals if they were presented at the same time.**

- 30% would support one but not the other; and
- 8% would oppose both.

## Funding Source

◆ **When asked what would be the best source of money to pay for these proposals:**

- 76% chose at least one tax, but no one source was close to majority support. 64% named a tax that they would have to pay:
  - 24% said the sales tax;
  - 23% said the property tax;
  - 8% said the utilities tax.
- 12% preferred a tax on businesses.





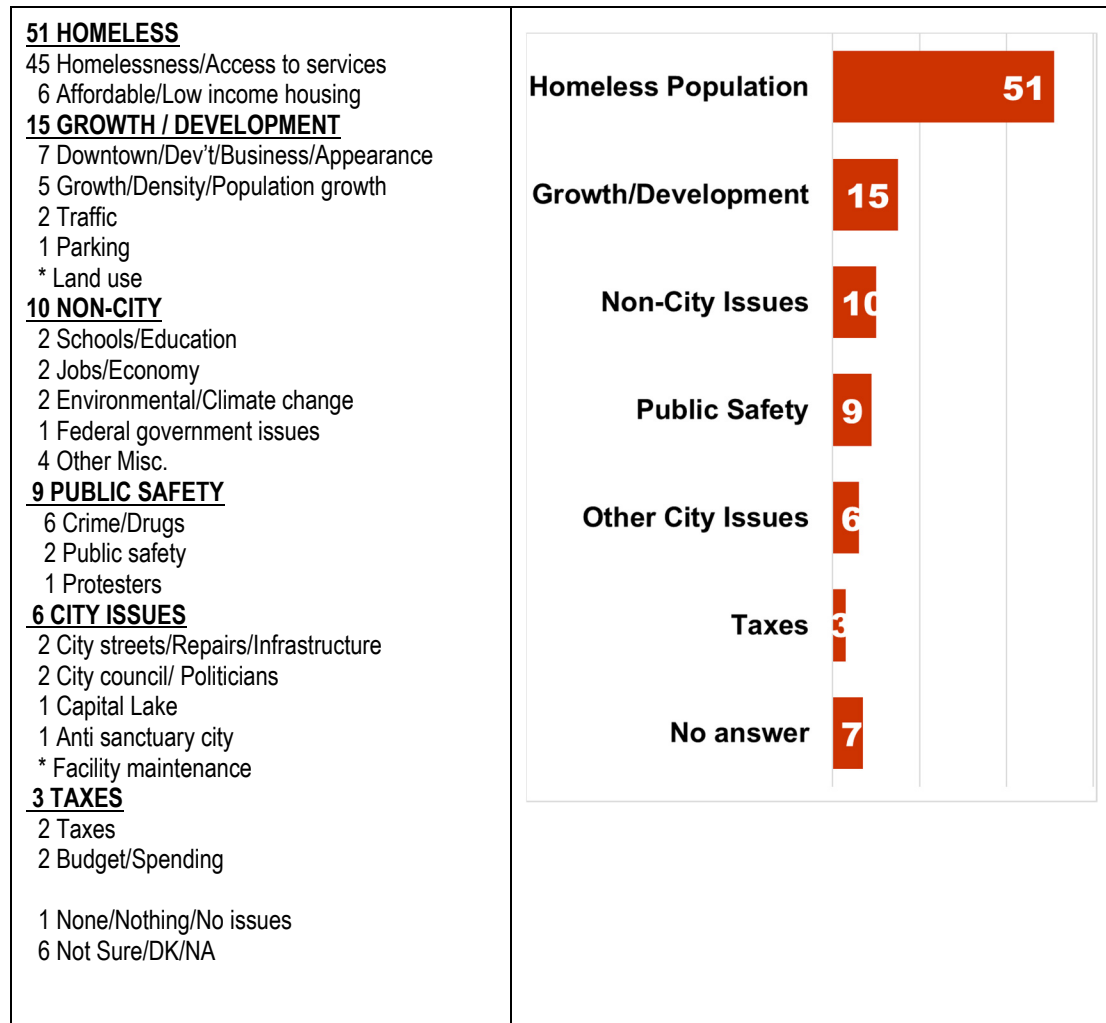
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# FINDINGS

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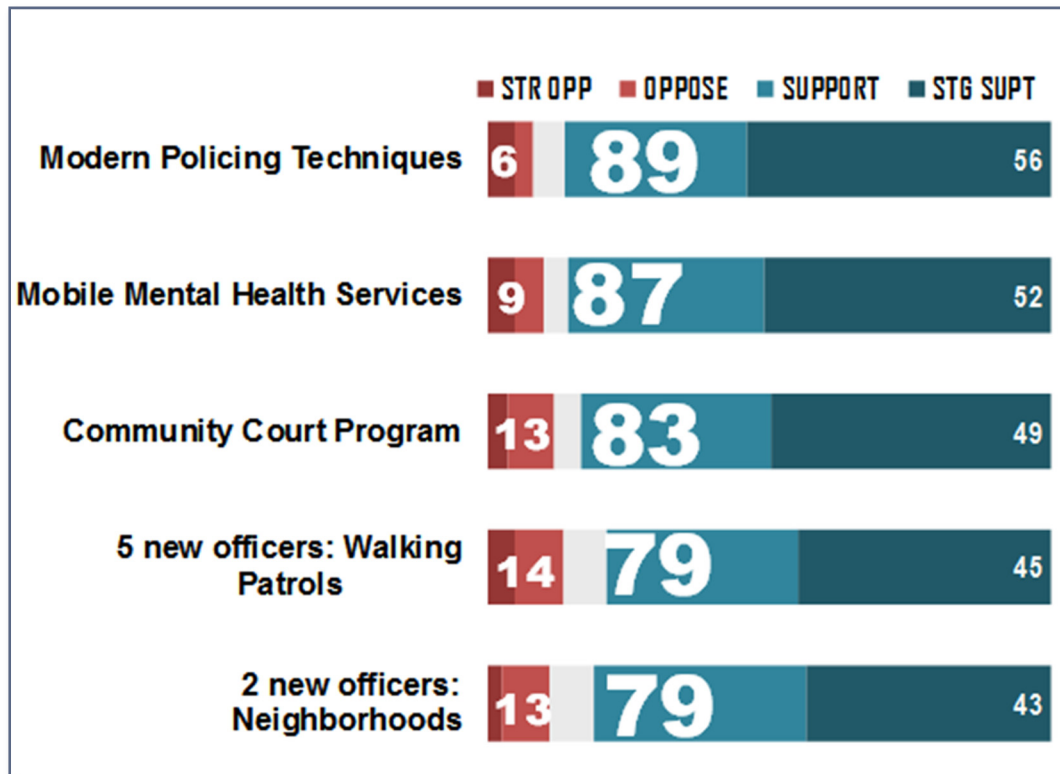
- This section presents the survey findings in the form of annotated graphs.
- Bullet points indicate significant or noteworthy differences among population subgroups.

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*Issues Facing Olympia***Homelessness Tops City Issues**

Q2 First, in your opinion, what is the most significant issue facing the City of Olympia at this time?  
 [Open Ended: numbers are percentage volunteering an answer coded into that category.]

- When asked what they thought was the “most significant issue facing the City of Olympia,” half of all respondents (51%) volunteered homelessness or low-income housing.
  - The question was open-ended, meaning that respondents were not given a list of options from which to choose, but answered in their own words.
  - The assessment of homelessness as the top issue was widespread. There were no significant differences between categories of respondent in answer to this question.
- Growth and development issues (downtown development, density, traffic, etc.) comprised the second most-mentioned category – far behind at 15%.

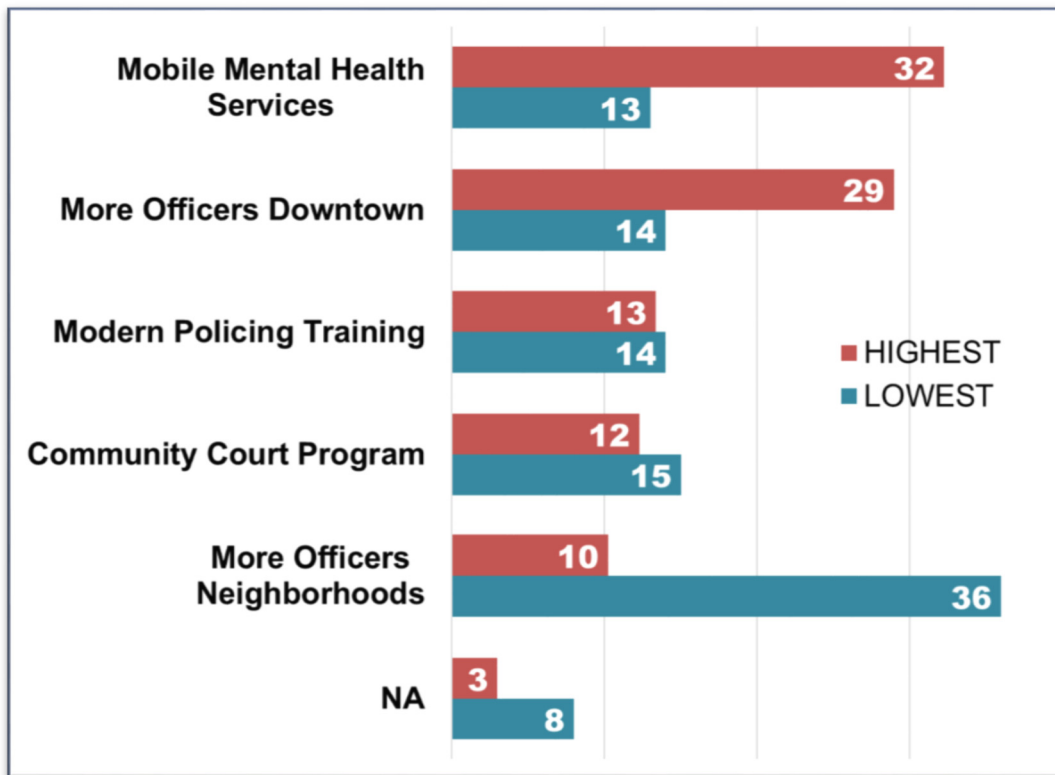
*Public Safety Proposals***Broad Support for Public Safety Proposals**

Q3 I am going to read you the proposals for public safety. As I read each one, tell me whether you would be inclined to Oppose that proposal, Strongly Oppose it, Favor it or Strongly Favor it.

- Continue funding training and policy for modern policing techniques, such as interacting with the mentally ill and training to ensure fair and impartial policing by making officers aware of underlying bias.
- Partner with a mental health provider to deliver mobile mental health outreach and services in downtown and elsewhere in the city
- Provide the funding for the Community Court Program, which diverts low-level offenders from jail and steers them toward education, jobs, and other alternatives. Federal funding for that program runs out next year.
- Hire five new police officers for the downtown walking patrol, bringing the total to seven officers - increasing both day time and night time walking patrols
- Hire two new police officers - plus one new code enforcement officer assigned to neighborhoods -to deal with drug houses, speeding, trash and other nuisances

- **Five proposals that make up the public safety package were tested individually.**
  - Each of the five were supported by at least 8 in 10 respondents.
  - 54% supported all 5 of the proposals; with 98% supporting at least 1.
- **Two of the proposals were “strongly supported” by majorities:**
  - Training in modern policing techniques (89% support; 56% “strongly”);
  - Provide mobile mental health services (87% support; 52% “strongly”).
- **There was strong support for each proposal in every category of respondent.**
  - Even the lowest level of support for *any* of the five proposals was high: 57% of those with incomes under \$25,000 for increased walking patrols.

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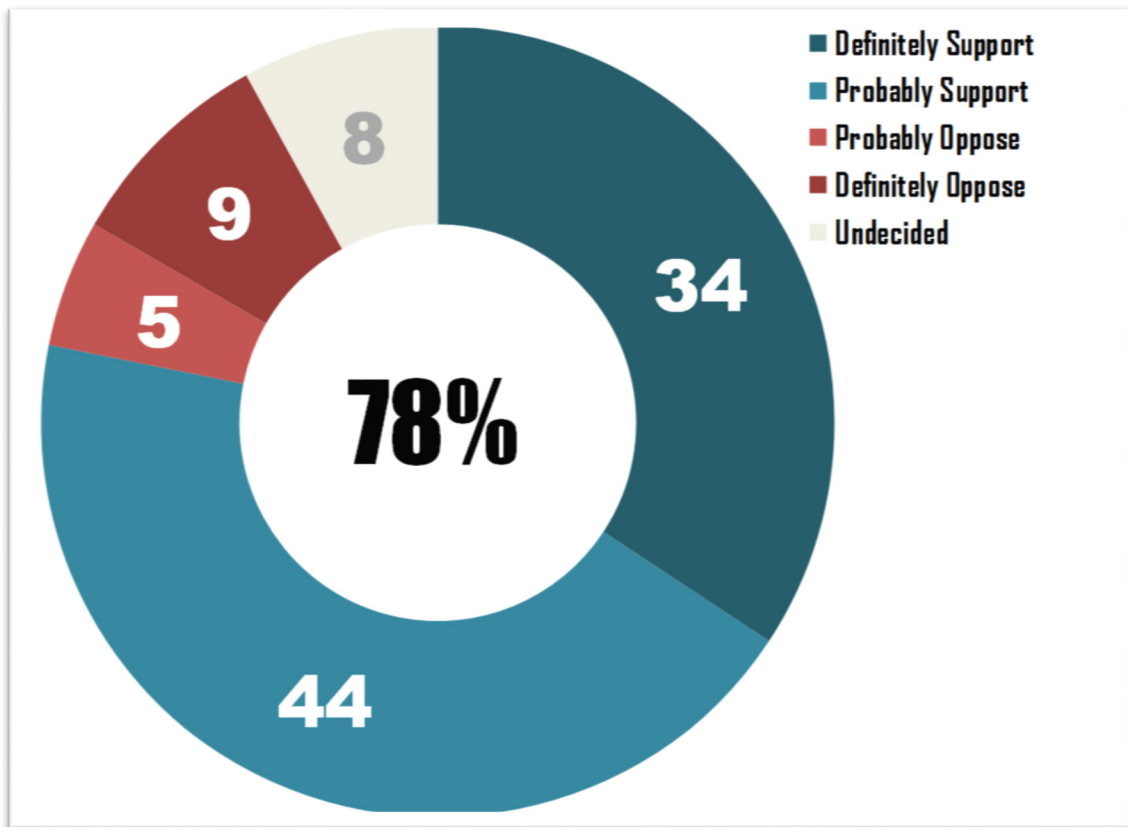
*Public Safety Proposals***Priorities for Public Safety Proposals**

Q4-5 Of the public safety programs we have just talked about, which one do you think should be the highest priority for the City of Olympia? Which should be the lowest priority for the City of Olympia?

- When asked to choose what should be the highest and lowest priority among the 5 proposals, more than half said the highest priority was either:
  - Mobile mental health services - 32% said that should be the highest, while only 13% said that should be the lowest priority; or
  - More walking patrols downtown - 29% said “highest”; 14% said lowest.
- Most likely to rank mobile mental health services #1 were:
  - Self-employed or business owners (41%);
  - Those age 51-50 (39%);
  - Women (37%);
  - People who work in Olympia (36%).
- Most likely to rank more walking patrols #1 were:
  - Private sector employees (41%);
  - People with incomes over \$100,000 (39%);
  - Senior citizens (35%).
- Hiring 2 officers assigned to neighborhoods was ranked lowest, with 36% saying that should be the lowest priority of the 5 proposals.



## Public Safety Proposals

**Broad Support for Public Safety Package**

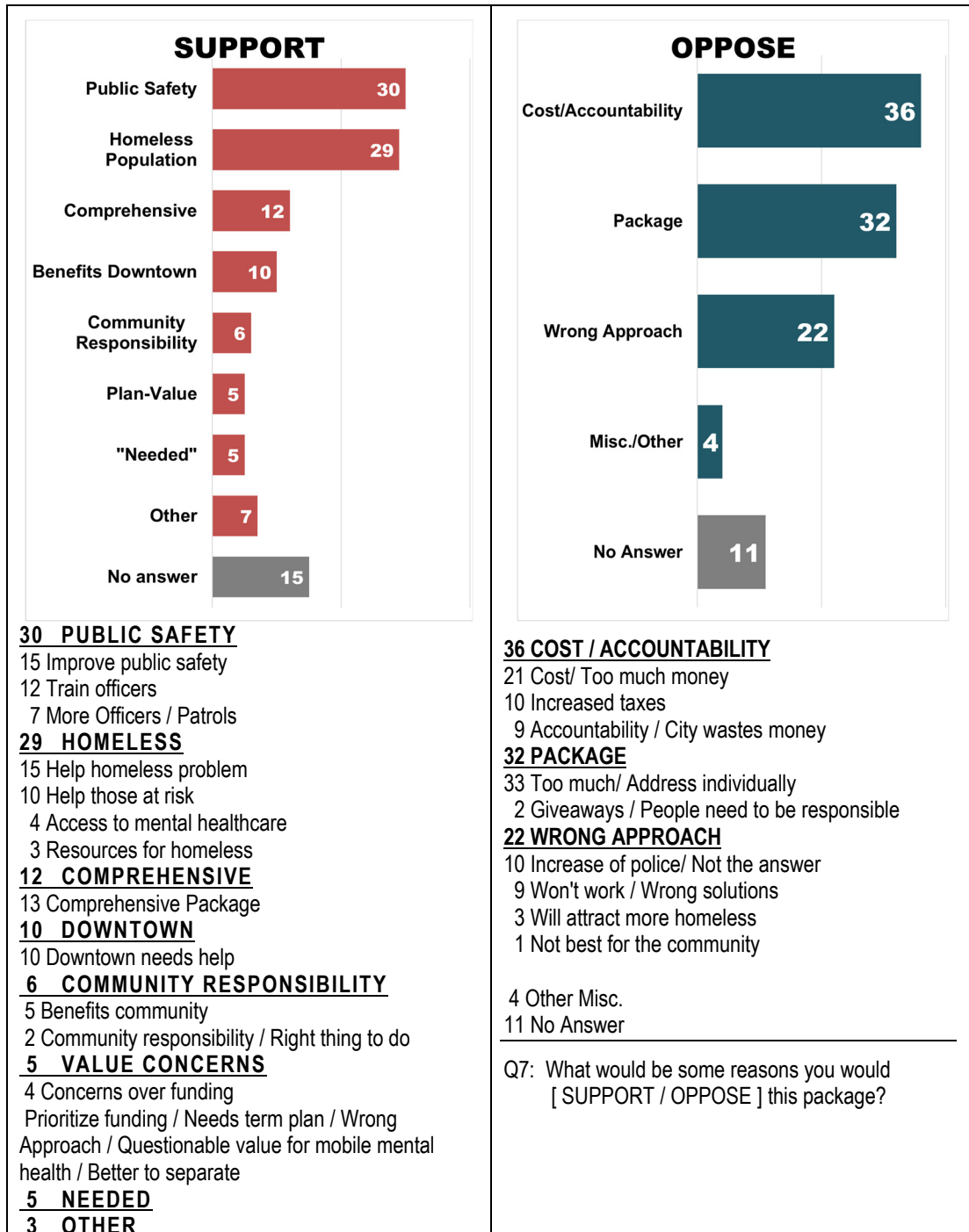
Q6 If all of these public safety programs were presented to the voters in a single package, would you be inclined to [ \* ] the package?

- **Nearly 8 in 10 respondents were inclined to support the public safety package, including 34% who said they would “definitely support” it.**
  - A 44% plurality said they would “probably” support it, indicating strong latent support. These residents would support the proposal unless convinced of a reason to oppose it.
  - “Definite” supporters outnumbered opponents by 20 percentage points. This is significant because “definite” supporters and opponents are likely to be most vocal in the public discussion of the issue.
- **Overall support topped 75% in 29 of the 34 categories of respondent;**
  - The most support came from residents of Southwest (91%);
  - The lowest level of support - which is still high - came from those who never visit downtown (67%).
- **Support for the package increased with the frequency of downtown visits, from:**
  - 67% of those who never go downtown; to
  - 81% of those who are there at least 3 days a week.

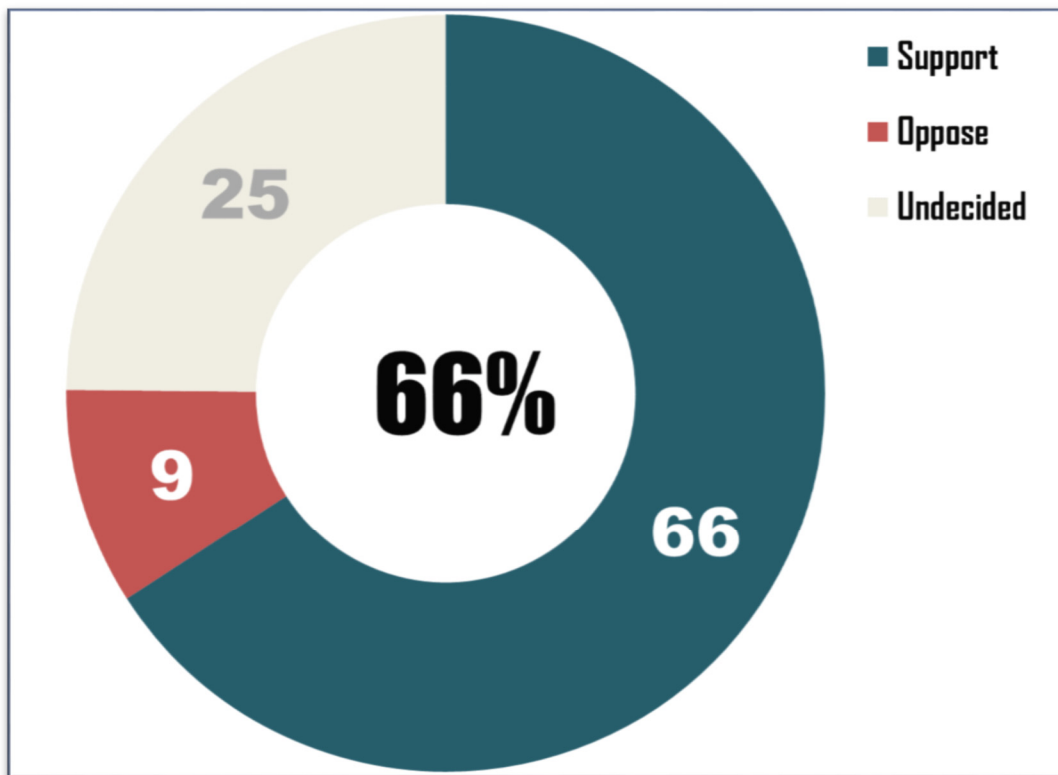


## Public Safety Proposals

## Reasons for Support, Opposition



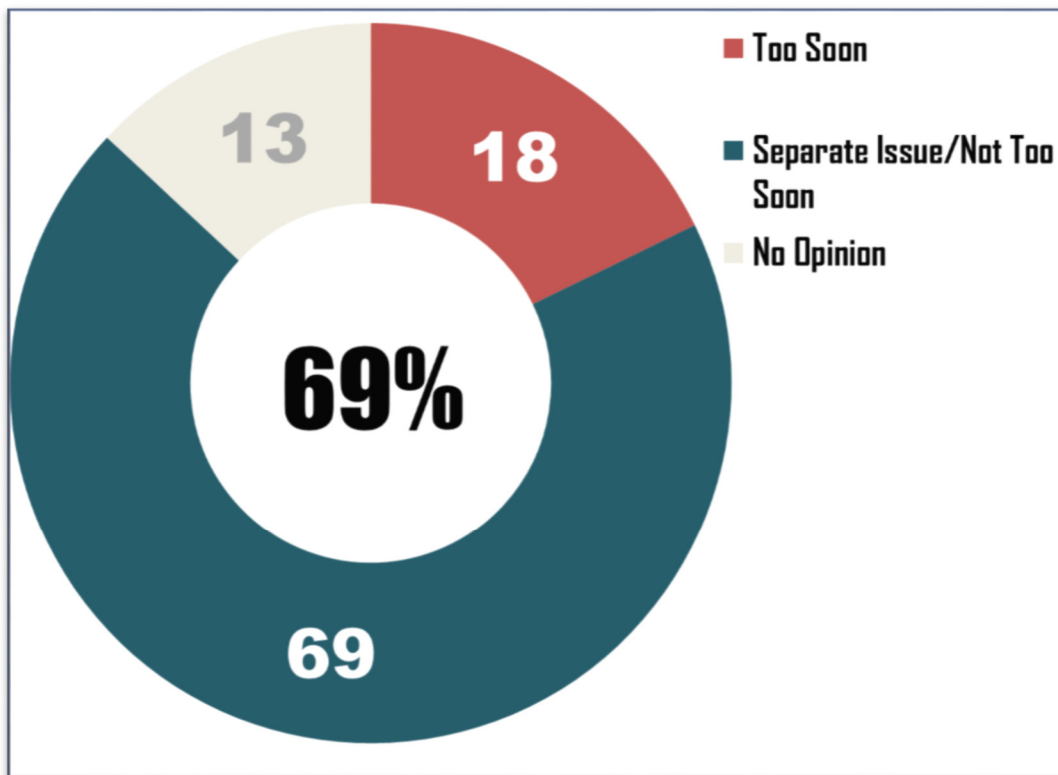
- When asked why they supported or opposed the public safety proposal:
  - Supporters most spoke about more and better trained officers, and addressing the homelessness problem; while
  - Opponents spoke mostly about the cost and the size of the package.

*Public Safety Proposals***Non-Traditional Policing Methods Adds to Support**

Q8 The proposals in this package are somewhat non-traditional for a police department. Does that fact make you more likely to support or oppose the package?

**The fact that the proposal consisted of “somewhat non-traditional” policing methods strengthened support for the package.**

- **66% of all respondents said that fact made them more likely to support the measure, vs. only 9% who said it made them less likely to support it.**
- **Of those who said initially they would “probably support” the proposal:**  
67% said the non-traditional methods made them more likely to support; vs. 5% who said that made them more likely to oppose the proposal.
- **Of those initially undecided:**  
41% said the non-traditional methods made them more likely to support; vs. 6% who said that made them more likely to oppose the proposal.
- **Of those initially opposed:**  
24% said the non-traditional methods made them more likely to support; vs. 43% who said that made them even more opposed.

**Public Safety Package****Timing of Proposal Not Seen as Obstacle**

Q9 There has been some discussion about the timing of this proposal. In 2012, Olympia voters approved a public safety funding package to avoid cuts in programs and services. Which of these two statements come closest to your opinion about the timing of this new proposal?

There has been some question as to whether the timing of the public safety package would be a problem, since the city approved a public safety measure in 2012.

- 7 in 10 respondents (69%) said that this was a separate issue and it is not too soon to ask the public to approve another public safety measure.
- 72% of those would said they would “probably” support the proposal did not think it was too soon, so the timing was not an obstacle for them.
- Among opponents:
  - 56% said it was too soon, but
  - 36% disagreed. (19% had no opinion).



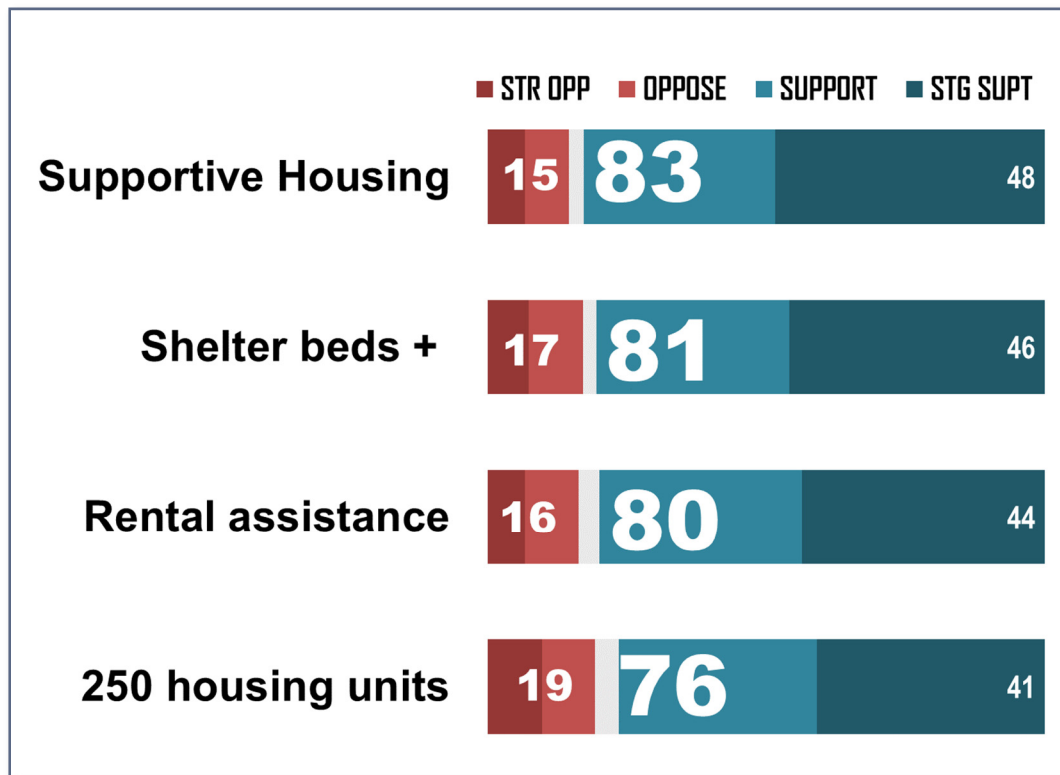


# HOUSING

**The housing section of the interview was introduced with this statement:**

Another proposal concerns housing for Olympia's most vulnerable citizens. "Most vulnerable" means people not able to meet basic needs of shelter and safety. Like many cities, Olympia has increasing rental rates and decreasing housing vacancy. These circumstances, coupled with a lack of shelter space, has contributed to a concentration downtown of people who are homeless.

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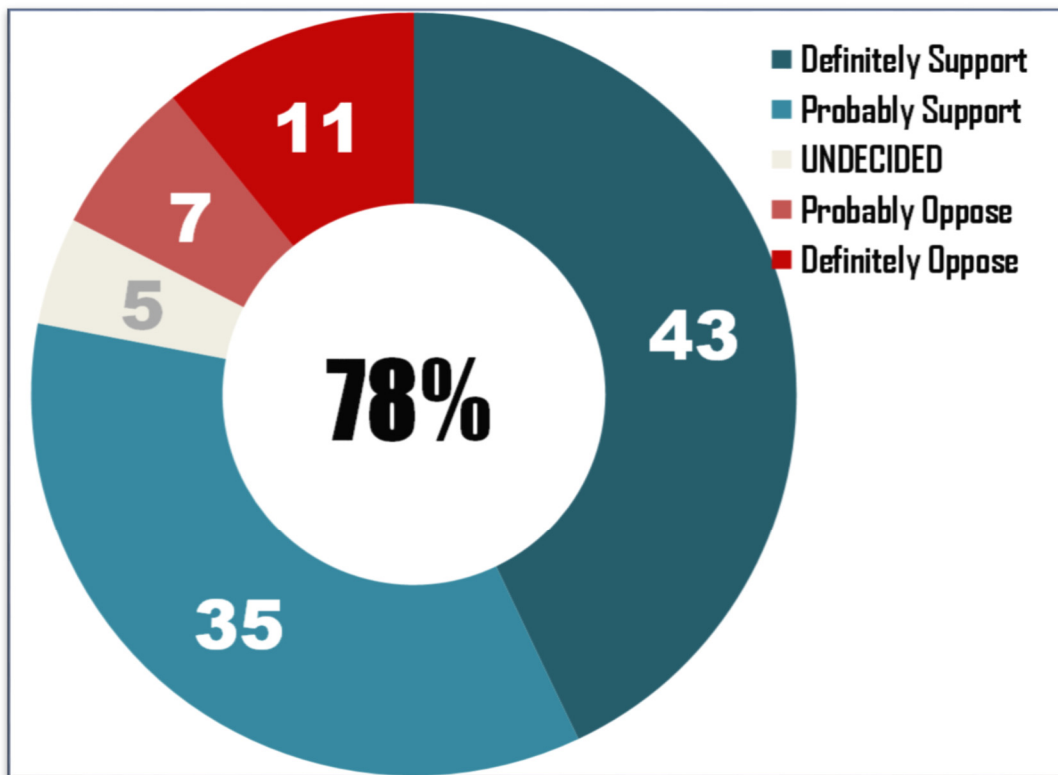
*Housing Proposal***Broad Support for Housing Proposals**

Q10 The city council is considering a package of services to help vulnerable youth, adults and families in Olympia, such as low-income, developmentally disabled, chronically homeless, mentally ill, and others. The package has several parts. As I read each one, tell me if you would be likely to Oppose that proposal, Strongly Oppose, Support or Strongly Support having the city do that. The first one is...

- The City would fund the construction or renovation of 250 housing units over the next seven years for this vulnerable, chronically homeless population
- Make this what is called Supportive Housing, which includes services such as mental health services as well as drug and alcohol treatment
- Include rental assistance and other programs to prevent homelessness.
- Include more shelter beds, a day center or day shelter and other services for people who are homeless

- **As with the public safety package, the components of the housing package enjoyed broad support:**
  - For each of the 4 proposals, more than 3 in 4 respondents said they were likely to support it;
  - All 4 proposals had more than 4 in 10 who said they “strongly” supported it.
- **66% of all respondents supported all 4 of the proposals in the package.**
  - 91% supported at least 1 of the proposals.
- **The lowest level of support for any of the proposals among any category of respondent was above 75%.**

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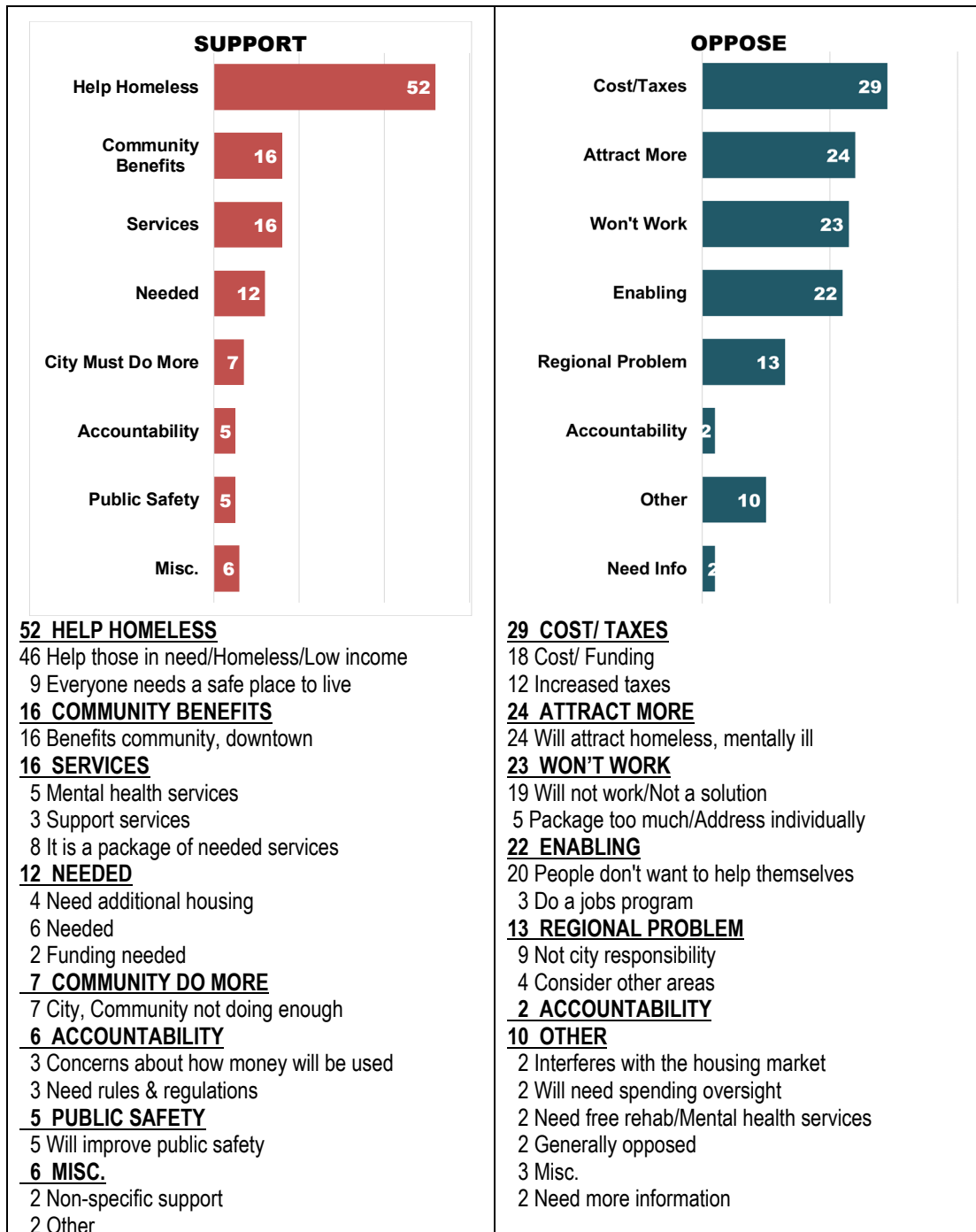
*Housing Proposal***Broad Support for Housing Package**

Q11 If a proposal including all these features were put before the voters, would you be inclined to [ \* ] this proposal

- **As with the public safety package, there was broad support for the housing package. In fact, the overall support was almost identical:**
  - 78% were inclined to support the package, including 43% who would “definitely” support it.
  - The comparable numbers for the public safety package were: 78% support with 34% “definitely.”
- **There were no significant differences in level of support across categories of residents. The support ranged from**
  - 91% among resident under age 35; to 71% among men.
- **Support did rise with number of visits to downtown, from**
  - 73% among those who go downtown less than twice a week, to 83% among those who go downtown 3+ days a week.

*Housing Proposal*

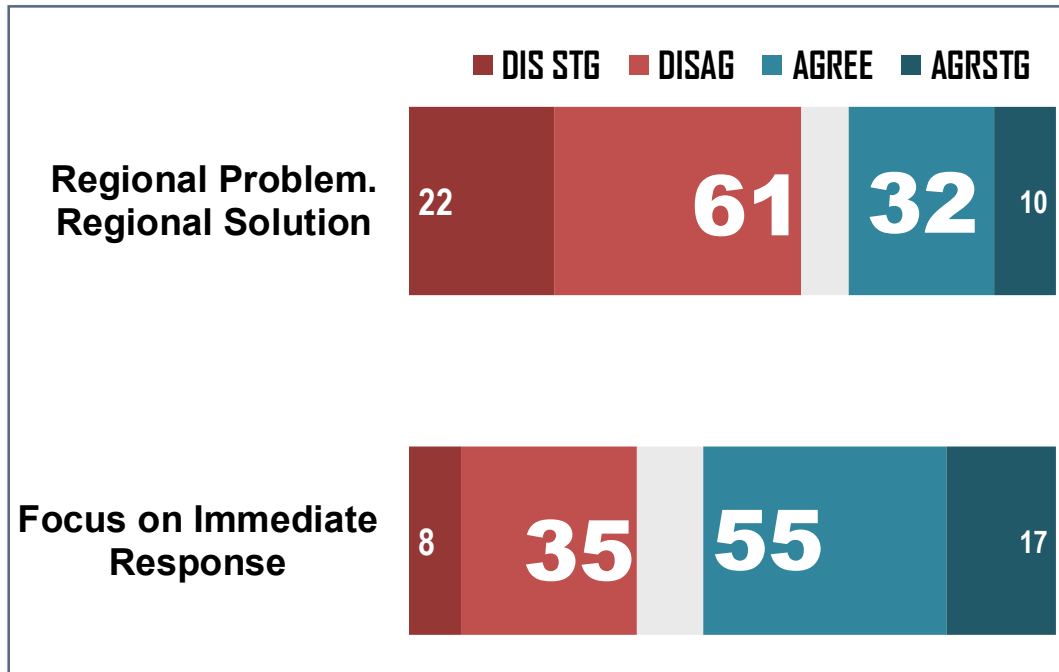
## Supporters Focused on Need, Opponents Cited Cost, Anticipated Effects



- Opponents cited a variety of reasons for their position, from taxes to efficacy, to their belief that the package would be enabling and would attract more homeless people to the city.
- Supporters for primarily focused on the to help homeless people.

*Housing Proposal*

## Most Disagreed with Potential Objections to Housing Proposal



Q13 Next, I am going to read a few statements about this housing proposal. As I do, tell me whether you Disagree, Disagree Strongly, Agree or Agree Strongly with each one.

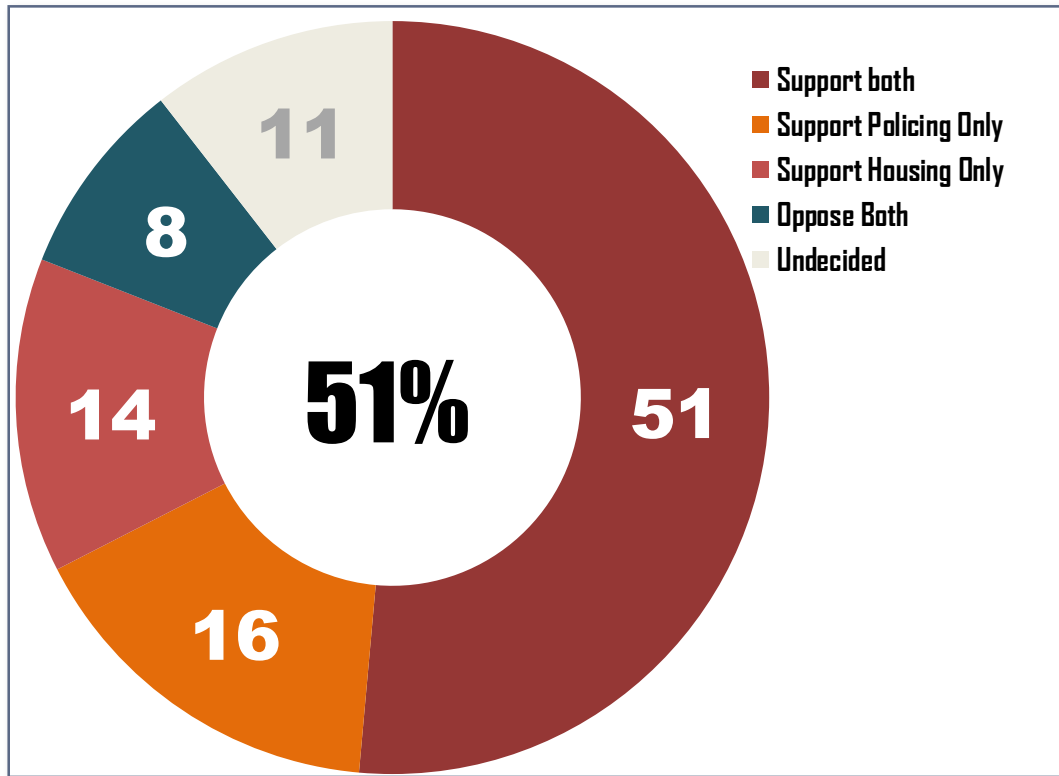
- Housing is a regional problem. Olympia should wait & be part of a regional solution with other cities in the county
- Building permanent housing will take several years. The city should focus instead on an immediate response to homelessness in the city

**To test response to familiar objections to the housing package, respondents were asked to agree or disagree with a pair of statements about it. The results indicate that Olympia residents favor moving ahead to address the problem:**

- 61% disagreed that Olympia should wait to be part of a regional solution;
- 55% agreed that Olympia should focus on an immediate response to homelessness in the city;
- 30% both agreed that Olympia should focus on an immediate solution and disagreed that Olympia should wait for a regional solution.
- **There is some ambiguity in these results, owing to the wording of the statement that Olympia should wait AND be part of a regional solution. Those are not the same thing. Thus,**
  - 21% seemed to agree that Olympia should wait for a regional solution, but they also agreed that Olympia should focus on an immediate solution.
  - Most likely, given the other findings, most respondents meant to say that homelessness is a regional problem, but that Olympia should proceed with an immediate solution. But the data are not crystal clear on that point.

*Simultaneous Proposals*

## Half Would Support Both Measures if Presented Simultaneously



Q14 Both the policing programs and the housing proposal will require more taxes. If both were on the ballot, what you would most likely do? Would you...

- Support both proposals
- Support the policing measure, but not the housing proposal
- Support the housing proposal, but not the policing proposal
- Oppose both proposals

**A critical question before the council is whether to submit these two proposals to voters separately or simultaneously. The findings are not conclusive.**

- **Half of these respondents (51%) said they would support both if they were on the ballot at the same time.**
  - 30% would support one proposal, but not the other;
  - Only 8% would oppose both.
- **Inclination to support both proposals:**
  - Went up with age, from 47% of those under 35 to 56% of those over 65;
  - Was higher among women (61%) than men (43%);
  - Was highest among upper middle income (64% among those earning \$75-100,000)
  - but lowest among the highest and lowest income households (49% among those over \$100,000; 51% among those under \$25,000).

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## *Simultaneous Proposals*

### **Support for Simultaneous Proposals**

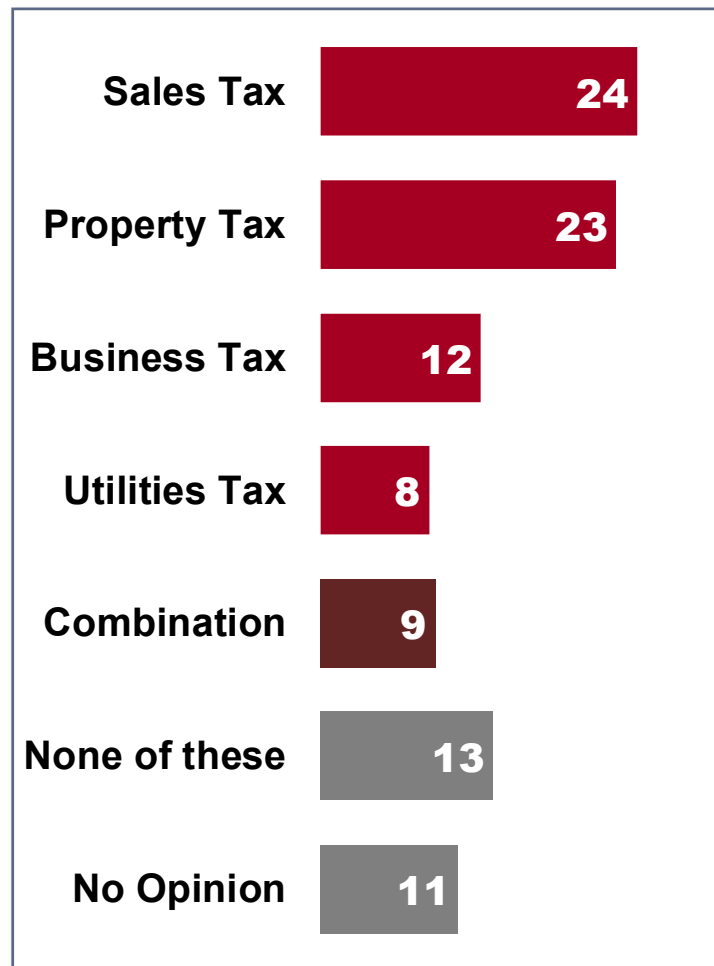
Although each proposal had a high level of support, that support appeared to diminish if they were considered at the same time.

- Each proposal had 78% support when they had been presented separately.
- 69% of respondents expressed support for both proposals individually.
- If the proposals were presented together, however, just 51% said they would support both.
- Of those who favored both proposals individually:
  - 70% said they would support both if presented simultaneously;
  - 12% would support only the housing proposal;
  - 7% would support only the public safety proposal;
  - 9% were undecided if presented with both; and
  - 1% decided they were opposed to both.

There is no clear pattern in these findings to breakdown the equilibrium of support.

- In both cases, “definite” supporters of each proposal were far more likely to support both simultaneously. The patterns were identical:
  - Among those who initially supported the public safety package 80% of “definite” supporters would support both; while only 49% of “probable” supporters would support both.
  - Similarly, among those who initially supported the housing package 80% of “definite” supporters would support both; while only 48% of “probable” supporters would support both.
- Exclusive support for the two proposals was equivalent:
  - Of those who had initially supported the public safety package 15% said they would support only that proposal if they were presented together;
  - Of those who initially supported the housing package, 17% said they would support only the housing proposal if they were presented together.

With high support for each of the proposals individually, the obvious challenge for proponents – were the proposals submitted at the same time - would be to maintain the original strong support for each while overcoming reluctance to say “yes” twice.

**Revenue Sources****Preferred Revenue Source**

Q15 The city has four potential sources of money to pay for these proposals. Which of the following – if any – do you think would be the best way to pay for these programs?

- Increase the property tax; Increase the sales tax; Increase taxes on city utilities; Increase the tax on businesses in the city

- **The equilibrium of support for the two proposals extended to the means of paying for them:**
  - Taken together, 64% named some tax that they themselves would pay (sales, property, utilities, and combination);
  - But none of the taxes was close to majority support.
  - As with other finding in this survey, there were not significant differences between categories of respondents;
  - Nor were there differences according to support for the two proposals.

CONTINUED ►





- Unsurprisingly, those opposed to both measures mostly favored “none” of these taxes (69%).
- Only 20% of respondents undecided on their support for the simultaneous proposals said “none” to the tax question, indicating that the tax was not the determining factor in their decision.
- Similarly, among those who supported one proposal but not the other, only 13% said “none” of these taxes should be used. – indicating that the tax was not the determining obstacle for them.

DRAFT



# DISCUSSION

Olympia residents are clearly concerned about the issue of homelessness and they are just as clearly ready to do something about it.

Homelessness was volunteered by a majority of respondents as the “most significant” issue facing Olympia. Respondents recognized that homelessness is a regional, complex and long-term problem, but most want their city to get started on solutions without waiting for others or for better timing.

Both the housing and public safety proposals under consideration have components that address homelessness. Recognition of the complexity of the issue was found in the fact that 8 in 10 respondents favored each of eight proposals that focused directly on helping people who are homeless. A top reason given for supporting the public safety package was to address homelessness.

Attention was focused especially, but not exclusively, on downtown. There was strong support for increased walking patrols downtown, and even stronger support for police partnering with mobile mental health services and more training in modern policing techniques for interacting with people who are mentally ill.

For each package, the key constituency is those who said they would “probably” support it. The “definite” supporters and the opponents will be most vocal in the public debate over these issues. The “probable” supporters will decide the issue. They are likely to support each proposal unless given a reason to oppose it.

That reason could be the cost. The caveat in this expression of support is that the costs of these proposals were not explicitly discussed in this survey. The high levels of support and recognition of the issue – together with the finding that 2/3 suggested a tax source that they would pay - suggests that support will be there for a reasonable tax increase to fund these proposals. But since no specific dollar amount was attached to any of these proposals, that remains a consideration.

A second, related issue is one of timing. There was broad support for the two separate but inter-related packages. However, the proportion of respondents willing to support *both* packages simultaneously drops to a bare majority (51%), compared to a super majority (78%) for each package considered separately.

A key to the timing question may also be cost. Since Olympians are ready to address the problem and they favor the solutions being proposed, they could decide that it is worth a somewhat larger investment to implement a comprehensive approach, rather than wait for one or the other of the packages.



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# APPENDIX

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## TOPLINE DATA

<b>SAMPLE:</b>	636 Olympia residents
<b>SAMPLE FRAME:</b>	Registered Voter List
<b>MARGIN OF SAMPLING ERROR:</b>	±4% at the 95% level of confidence
<b>DATA COLLECTION:</b>	Mixed Mode: 307 Telephone survey with live interviewers 149 via cell phone 158 via landline 329 online
<b>FIELD DATES:</b>	May 16 - June 2, 2017
<b>REGION:</b>	NW=20% NE=25% SW=17% SE=33%
<b>GENDER:</b>	MALE=44% FEMALE=52% OTHER=1% NO ANS 2%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The questions are presented here as they were asked in the interview</li> <li>• The figures in bold type are percentages of respondents who gave each answer.</li> <li>• Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.</li> </ul>	

1. First, in your opinion, what is the most significant issue facing the City of Olympia at this time? [OPEN]

Homeless (51%)  
Growth/Development (15%)  
Non-city issues (10%)  
Public Safety (9%)  
Taxes (3%)  
Other City Issues (6%)

2. In a typical week, how many days are you in Downtown Olympia?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	AV
9%	18%	17%	15%	9%	10%	9%	10%	3.2

- The City Council is considering some new or expanded services in the areas of public safety and affordable housing. These next questions are about these proposals.

*[The Housing questions and Public Safety sections were rotated. The housing questions were asked first in the telephone version; the policng questions were asked first in the online versiion.]*

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

3. First, I am going to read you the proposals for public safety. As I read each one, tell me whether you would be inclined to Oppose that proposal, Strongly Oppose it, Favor it or Strongly Favor it. The first one is...

**ROTATE**

STG OP    OPP    NoOpin    FAV    STG FAV

- 1: Hire five new police officers for the downtown walking patrol, bringing the total to seven officers - increasing both day time and night time walking patrols ..... 5 ..... 9 ..... 8 ..... **34.....45**
- 2: Hire two new police officers - plus one new code enforcement officer assigned to neighborhoods - to deal with drug houses, speeding, trash and other nuisances ..... 5 ..... 8 ..... 8 ..... **37.....43**
- 3: Partner with a mental health provider to deliver mobile mental health outreach and services in downtown and elsewhere in the city..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 5 ..... **35.....52**
- 4: Provide the funding for the Community Court Program, which diverts low-level offenders from jail and steers them toward education, jobs, and other alternatives. Federal funding for that program runs out next year. .... 5 ..... 8 ..... 5 ..... **34.....49**
- 5: Continue funding training and policy for modern policing techniques, such as interacting with the mentally ill and training to ensure fair and impartial policing by making officers aware of underlying bias ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 6 ..... **33.....56**

4. Of the public safety programs we have just talked about, which one do you think should be the highest priority for the City of Olympia?

- 32 Providing mobile mental health services  
 29 Additional officers for the walking patrol downtown  
 13 Training in modern techniques  
 12 Continuing the community court program  
 10 Additional officers for neighborhood nuisance issues  
 3 [NA]

5. Which of the public safety programs we have just talked about do you think should be the lowest priority for the City of Olympia?

- 36 Additional officers for neighborhood nuisance issues  
 15 Continuing the community court program  
 14 Additional officers for the walking patrol downtown  
 14 Training in modern policing techniques  
 13 Providing mobile mental health services  
 8 [NA]

DRAFT

6. If all of these public safety programs were presented to the voters in a single package, would you be inclined to [ READ & ROTATE ] the package?

9 Definitely Oppose  
 5 Probably Oppose  
 44 Probably Support  
 34 Definitely Support  
 8 Undecided

7. What would be some reasons you would [ SUPPORT / OPPOSE ] this package? [ OPEN ]

SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Public Safety (30%)	Cost/Accountability (36%)
Help Homeless (29%)	Too many Items in package (32%)
Comprehensive (12%)	Won't work/ Wrong approach (22%)
Downtown Improvement (10%)	Other (4%)
Community Responsibility (6%)	

8. The proposals in this package are somewhat non-traditional for a police department. Does that fact make you more likely to support or oppose the package?

66 SUPPORT  
 9 OPPOSE  
 25 UNDEC

9. There has been some discussion about the timing of this proposal. In 2012, Olympia voters approved a public safety funding package to avoid cuts in programs and services. Which of these two statements come closest to you opinion about the timing of this new proposal?

18 It is too soon to ask voters to increase taxes again for public safety  
 69 This is a separate issue and five years is not too soon to ask voters  
 13 [NO OPINION]

## HOUSING

- 10.** Another proposal concerns housing for Olympia's most vulnerable citizens. "Most vulnerable" means people not able to meet basic needs of shelter and safety. Like many cities, Olympia has increasing rental rates and decreasing housing vacancy. These circumstances, coupled with a lack of shelter space, has contributed to a concentration downtown of people who are homeless.

The city council is considering a package of services to help vulnerable youth, adults and families in Olympia, such as low-income, developmentally disabled, chronically homeless, mentally ill, and others. The package has several parts. As I read each one, tell me if you would be likely to Oppose that proposal, Strongly Oppose, Support or Strongly Support having the city do that. The first one is...

	STG OPPOSE	OPP	NO OPIN	SUPPORT	STG SUPT
1: The City would fund the construction or renovation of 250 housing units over the next seven years for this vulnerable, chronically homeless population.....	10	10	4	36	41
2: Make this what is called Supportive Housing, which includes services such as mental health services as well as drug and alcohol treatment .....	7	8	3	34	48
3: Include rental assistance and other programs to prevent homelessness.....	7	10	4	36	44
4: Include more shelter beds, a day center or day shelter and other services for people who are homeless .....	7	10	2	35	46

- 11.** If a proposal including all these features were put before the voters, would you be inclined to [READ & ROTATE] this proposal?

11 Definitely Oppose  
 7 Probably Oppose  
 35 Probably Support  
 43 Definitely Support  
 5 Undecided

- 12.** What would be some reasons you would [SUPPORT / OPPOSE] this proposal? [OPEN]

SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Help Homeless (52%)	Cost/Taxes (29%)
Benefits community (16%)	Will attract more people (24%)
Mention services (16%)	Won't work/ Wrong approach (23%)
Needed (12%)	Enabling (22%)
City needs to do more (7%)	Regional Problem (13%)

- 13.** Next I am going to read a few statements about this housing proposal. As I do, tell me whether you Disagree, Disagree Strongly, Agree or Agree Strongly with each one. The first one is...

DIS STG   DISAGR   NO OP   AGREE   AGR STG

- 1: Housing is a regional problem. Olympia should wait and be part of a regional solution with other cities in the county ..... **22.....38** ..... 7..... **22..... 10**
- 2: Building permanent housing will take several years. The city should focus instead on an immediate response to homelessness in the city..... **8.....27..... 10.....** **38.....17**

- 14.** Both the policing programs and the housing proposal will require more taxes. If both were on the ballot, what you would most likely do? Would you...

- 51** Support both proposals  
**16** Support the policing measure, but not the housing proposal  
**14** Support the housing proposal, but not the policing proposal  
**8** Oppose both proposals  
**11** [ UNDEC ]

- 15.** The city has four potential sources of money to pay for these proposals. Which of the following – if any – do you think would be the best way to pay for these programs?

- 23** Increase the property tax  
**24** Increase the sales tax  
**8** Increase taxes on city utilities  
**12** Increase the tax on businesses in the city  
**13** [NONE]  
**9** [COMBINATION] (Unread option, not available online)  
**10** [NO OPIN]

- 16.** I have just a few last questions for our statistical analysis. How old are you?

- 14** 18-35  
**25** 36-50  
**32** 51-64  
**27** 65+  
**2** No Answer

- 17.** Which of these best describes your household at this time:

- 28** Couple with Children at Home  
**40** Couple with No Children at Home  
**6** Single with Children at Home  
**24** Single with No Children at Home  
**3** No answer]

- 18.** In which area of the city do you live?

- 20** Northwest (NW)  
**25** Northeast (NE)  
**17** Southwest (SW)  
**33** Southeast (SE)  
**5** No answer



**19.** Do you own or rent the place in which you live?

- 76** OWN
- 22** RENT
- 2** No answer

**20.** Which of these the following best describes you at this time? Are you. . .

- 14** Self-Employed or Business Owner
- 22** Employed in Private Business
- 30** Employed in the Public Sector, Like a Govt Agency or Educational Institution
- 3** Not employed outside the home
- 2** Student
- 27** Retired
- 2** No answer

**20.1. IF WORKING [1,2,3]:** Is your place of work...

- 59** Inside the city of Olympia
- 22** Elsewhere in Thurston County
- 18** Outside Thurston County
- 2** No answer

**21.** Finally, I am going to list five broad categories. Just stop me when I get to the category that best describes your approximate household income - before taxes - for this year.**ROTATE TOP/BOTTOM**

- 8** \$25,000 or less
- 17** 25 to 50,000
- 20** \$50 to 75,000
- 17** \$75 to 100,000
- 26** Over \$100,000
- 12** No Answer

**22. GENDER**

- 44** Male
- 52** Female
- 1** Other
- 2** No Answer



May 2017

Dear Olympia Resident:

I am writing to ask for your help. Your household was chosen at random to participate in a survey being conducted by the City of Olympia to learn about residents' opinions on issues facing our city.

It is important that we hear from you so we hope you will let us know what you think.

The survey results will be used to inform City Council decisions about important issues facing Olympia. The survey is online. To take the survey, just type the address at the bottom of this page into your internet browser. You will be asked for a password, which is provided below.

For this survey to be representative of all citizens, we ask that the survey be completed by the person in your household with the most recent birthday who is age 18 or older.

Your answers will be anonymous and confidential. No one from city government will see the individual responses. The survey is being conducted by Elway Research, Inc., a highly respected independent research firm. Elway will compile the results and publish a summary analysis, which will be available in a few weeks.

I know you are busy, and greatly appreciate you taking a few minutes to help shape the future of our city.

If you have any questions, please contact Kellie Purce Braseth at 360-753-8361 or [kbraseth@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:kbraseth@ci.olympia.wa.us).

Thank you,

*Cheryl Selby*

Cheryl Selby  
Mayor

### **TO TAKE THE SURVEY**

GO TO [www.elwaypoll.com/oly17](http://www.elwaypoll.com/oly17)

YOUR PASSWORD: **EDCBA**

NOTE: Be sure to enter the website address into you browser, not your search engine.

