



Opinion Research
Strategic Communication

National Low Income Housing Coalition Oregon Voter Survey

Conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research; telephone interviewing May 26 to May 28, 2015; n=625 registered Oregon voters; margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points for a probability sample of this size; percents may add to 99% or 101% due to rounding; * indicates less than 1%.

As you may know, homeowners can claim a deduction on their federal income taxes for interest payments on mortgages up to one million dollars for their primary or second homes. This is called the mortgage interest deduction, which lowers income taxes for some homeowners. The amount that the mortgage interest deduction lowers a homeowner's income tax depends on how much interest the homeowner paid over the year and the homeowner's tax bracket.

Q1. Overall, do you think the mortgage interest deduction, as it is now, is a very good idea, somewhat good, not very good, or a poor idea?	Very good	36%
	Somewhat good	35
	Not very good	13
	Poor idea	8
	Not sure	7

Q2. Do you think the mortgage interest deduction, as it is now, helps you, hurts you, or has no effect on you?	Helps	43%
	Hurts	6
	No effect	49
	Not sure	2

Now I am going to read you some proposals people have made for changing the mortgage interest deduction. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal. (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Q3. Cap the maximum mortgage for which someone can claim a deduction at 500,000 dollars, meaning a taxpayer could claim the deduction for the first 500,000 dollars he or she borrows.	30%	27	18	16	9

(continued)	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Q4. Replace the deduction that now depends on a person's tax bracket with a flat 15 percent tax credit that is the same for all homeowners with a mortgage.	21%	24	22	21	12

Making these two changes to the mortgage interest deduction would save the federal government an average of 30 billion dollars a year over ten years. There are a number of things the government could do with this money. Please tell me how high a priority each of the following would be for you personally as a way to use the money saved: top priority, high priority, middle priority, low priority, or not a priority at all.

	Top priority	High priority	Middle priority	Low priority	Not a priority	Not sure
Q5. Reduce the federal deficit.	13%	36	30	8	11	2
Q6. End homelessness in Oregon and the United States.	16%	24	29	22	8	1
Q7. Lower federal income tax rates.	10%	25	27	16	19	3
Q8. Build more affordable housing for low income people in Oregon.	12%	30	34	15	9	*

Q9. Would you favor or oppose increasing federal funding for affordable housing to help end homelessness in Oregon and the United States? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)	Strongly favor	27%
	Somewhat favor	32
	Somewhat oppose	22
	Strongly oppose	17
	Not sure	1

Q10. In response to the shortage of housing and increasing homelessness among children in Oregon, Governor Kate Brown has proposed a \$100 million state bond issue that would be used to build homes for homeless and low-income families. Would you be inclined to support or oppose this bond issue? (Is that strongly support/oppose or somewhat support/oppose?)	Strongly support	25%
	Somewhat support	32
	Somewhat oppose	19
	Strongly oppose	20
	Not sure	4

D1. PARTY REGISTRATION	Democrat	39%
	Republican	30
	Independent or Other	31
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D2. AGE	18-34	20%
	35-49	25
	50-64	29
	65+	26
	Refused	*
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D3. RACE/ETHNICITY	White/Caucasian	89%
	Black/African American	2
	Hispanic/Latino(a)	6
	Asian or Other	2
	Refused	1
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D4. HOME	Own	70%
	Rent	21
	Other	8
	Refused	1
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D5. INCOME	<\$25,000	10%
	\$25,000-\$49,999	26
	\$50,000-\$74,999	16
	\$75,000-\$99,000	15
	\$100,000-\$199,999	13
	\$200,000+	5
	Refused	15
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D6. SEX	Male	49%
	Female	51
	No answer	--
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D7. REGION	Portland Metro	44%
	Willamette Valley	26
	Rural Oregon	30

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