

The Elway Poll

PROPRIETARY REPORT

State Auditor's Office

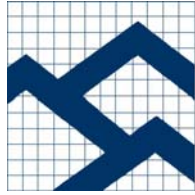
OBJECTIVE OF PERFORMANCE AUDITS "ACCOUNTABILITY" DEFINITIONS

JANUARY 2008

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1. The findings are not those of "The Elway Poll" but are results of questions that were written and paid for by the sponsor and inserted as a proprietary question in "The Elway Poll";
2. The name of the organization that paid for the questions;
3. The size and composition of the sample (provided on "Sample Profile" page)
4. The margin of sampling error;
5. The dates of the interviewing.

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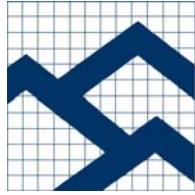
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KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ **Voters divided on “most important” goal of performance audits.**
 - 36% said “improve government service to the public
 - 30% said “save taxpayers money
 - 28% said provide public with information about what government is doing

- ▶ **6 in 10 agreed “strongly” with each of four definitions of “accountability. The definitions covered:**
 - Access to specific information about agency spending
 - Access to information about who makes decisions
 - Access to information about agency goals and performance
 - Consequences to government employees for their actions

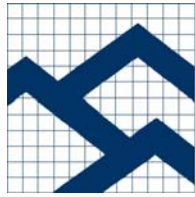
- ▶ **2/3 said the public does not have enough information to hold government agencies accountable**
 - 61% plurality said the information is available, but either:
 - citizens do not know how to find it (41%) or
 - citizens are not looking for it (20%)



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QUESTION WORDING With Response Data

- **The data are presented here in the same order the questions were asked in the interview.**
- **The figures in bold type are percentages of respondents who gave each answer.**
- **Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.**



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A1. As you may recall voters passed Initiative 900 two years ago, which authorized the State Auditor to conduct performance audits of public agencies. A typical audit looks only at budget and spending. A performance audit examines the operation, management and results of government programs.

The following are closely-related goals of performance audits. In your opinion, which one is the most important goal of these performance audits? Is it to...

Save the taxpayers money...**30**

Improve government service to the public...**36**

Provide the public with information about what government is doing...**28**

DO NOT READ [OTHER]...2 [DK/NA...4]

A2. One way people measure government performance is *Accountability*. The term accountability means different things to different people. I am going to read you some definitions of accountability. For each one, tell me whether you Agree, Agree Strongly, Disagree or Disagree Strongly. The first one is...

ROTATE

AGSTRONG AGREE DISAGR STRONG DK

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| 1. The public should be able to find out, in detail, exactly how any public agency spends money on any particular project or program | 62 | 32 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 2. The public should be able to find out who makes what decisions for any particular project or program | 60 | 34 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| 3. There should be consequences to individual government employees for their actions | 59 | 35 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 4. The public should have access to specific information about any public agency's performance in meeting its goals | 59 | 36 | 4 | 0 | 1 |

A3. In your opinion, does the public have enough information to hold state and local government agencies accountable?

SKIP TO Q10 ← YES...25

ASK A4 ← NO...63

ASK A4 ← DK/NA...12

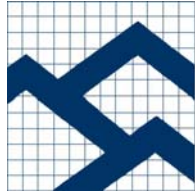
A4. IF NO: Which of these three statements comes closest to your view:

The information is available, but citizens do not know how to find it...**41**

Government agencies are not making information available about their performance...**32**

The information is available, but citizens are not looking for it...**20**

[DK/NA...7]



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CROSSTABULATION TABLES

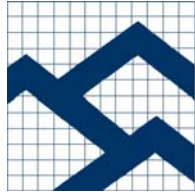
READING THE CROSSTABULATION TABLES

The crosstabulations are presented in a "banner table" format. Categories of respondents (e.g., "Age," "Gender") are listed across the top of each page (the "banner"). There are several "banners".

The questions asked in the survey are listed down the left margin. They are presented in questionnaire order. The key in the upper left corner of the table indicates which questions are found on each page.

The figures in each cell are raw numbers and percentages based on the number of respondents in the category at the head of the column.

By reading across the rows, one can compare answers to a question given by the different categories of respondents.

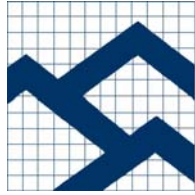


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METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE:	405 Registered voters in Washington state
TECHNIQUE:	Telephone Survey
FIELD DATES:	January 3-6, 2008
MARGIN OF ERROR:	The overall margin of sampling error is $\pm 5\%$ at the 95% confidence interval. That is, in theory, had this same survey been conducted 100 times, in 95 of those times the results would be within $\pm 5\%$ of the results reported here.
DATA COLLECTION:	Calls were made during weekday evenings and weekend days. All interviews were conducted from a central location by trained, professional interviewers under supervision. Questionnaires were edited for completeness, and a percentage of each interviewer's call was re-called for verification.

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



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SAMPLE PROFILE

In interpreting these findings, it is important to keep in mind the characteristics of the people actually interviewed. This table presents a profile of the 405 respondents in the survey.

Note: Here and throughout this report, percentages may not add to 100%, because of rounding.

REGION	Seattle	11%
	King County.....	20%
	Pierce/Kitsap.....	15%
	North Sound (Snohomish-Whatcom).....	15%
	West Wash (Clallam-Clark)	19%
	Eastern Washington	20%
GENDER	Male.....	49%
	Female	51%
AGE	18-35	9%
	36-50	24%
	51-64	34%
	65+	30%
PARTY ID	Democrat	40%
	Republican	27%
	Independent	33%
EMPLOYMENT STATUS		
	Self Employed	16%
	Private Sector	21%
	Public Sector	17%
	Not Working	6%
	Retired.....	37%
INCOME	\$25,000 or less.....	12%
	\$25 to \$50,000.....	18%
	\$50 to 75,000	21%
	Over \$75,000	23%
	NO ANSWER.....	26%
