

POLL REPORT: REPUBLICAN PRIMARY FOR US SENATE IN OREGON

May 8, 2022

P: (929) 388-6585

E: info@victory-insights.com

W: victory-insights.com

🐦: [@VictoryPolling](https://twitter.com/VictoryPolling)

Conducted May 5-7, 2022 via IVR among more than 1100 likely Republican Primary voters throughout Oregon. Maximum margin of error of 3%.





(A) Executive Summary

Seven Oregon Republicans are vying for their party's nomination to challenge incumbent US Senator Ron Wyden in the 2022 midterms. These seven, listed alphabetically, are Jason Beebe, Christopher Christensen, Robert Fleming, Darin Harbick, Samuel Palmer, Jo Rae Perkins, and Ibrahim Taher. It is this race that this poll investigates.

Early voting is already underway, with approximately 50,000 ballots cast as of now. Of those who say they've already voted, Christensen, Harbick, and Beebe lead the pack (in that order), and each received between 18.6% and 20.2% of the vote. They're trailed by Palmer and Perkins, while Fleming and Taher take the final two spots. Among those who plan on voting and have already decided who they'll support, Harbick leads, trailed closely by Perkins. However, more than 80% of those who plan on voting (but have not done so yet) are still undecided about who they'll be voting for.

Putting all of these facts together, and adjusting for expected total turnout, we have determined that approximately two-thirds of the Oregon Republican Primary electorate remains undecided about who they'll be voting for. However, Harbick is the early favorite, garnering 7.8% of the vote. Perkins, who has been gaining momentum, trails Harbick with 6.6% of the vote. Christensen, Beebe, Palmer, Fleming, and Taher trail the two leaders, in that order. If the election were held today, simulations show that Harbick would have around a 4 in 5 chance of winning. However, the race still has time to develop, and with a high rate of undecided voters, it's clear that the race is far from over.

While it's impossible to say how undecided voters will end up voting, we developed two extrapolations that can be used to ascertain reasonable educated guesses. The exact specifics of these extrapolations are fully explained in Sections I and J. In both extrapolations, Harbick is predicted to come in first place. However, in the extrapolation that uses early voting data, it's a much closer race, with the top five candidates separated by less than 6% in total. On the other hand, in the extrapolation based on voters who still plan on voting, it's a two-horse race between Harbick and Perkins, who garner 26.5% and 24.8% of the vote respectively. In that model, no other candidate comes within 10% of the leading two candidates.

Complex and developing elections such as this one can be difficult to gauge. However, our experience in doing so, especially in Oregon specifically, makes us confident in the validity of our results. For instance, in 2020, we were the only pollsters to correctly predict Cliff Bentz's upset victory over his big-money opponents in the heated Republican Primary for Oregon's Second Congressional District. At this point in the race, we can't make quite as bold of a prediction – it will take time as the race comes to a close. However, the results we *do* have show that Harbick is in a strong spot, Christensen has done well with early voters, and Perkins could be peaking at just the right time.

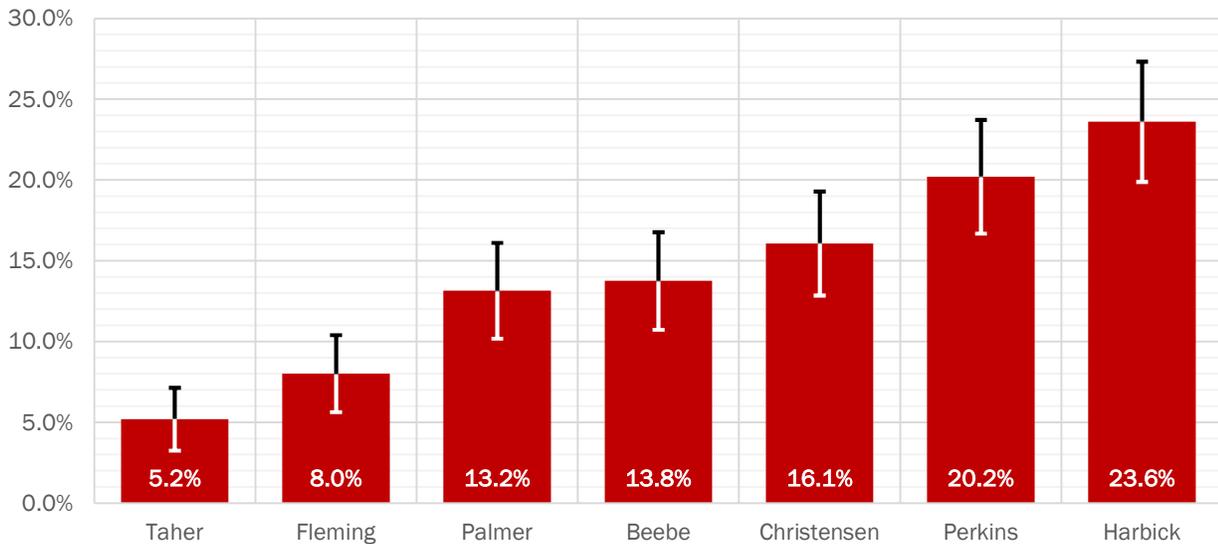
Ben Galbraith

Senior Pollster, Victory Insights
bgalbraith@victory-insights.com
(929) 388-6585



(B) Full Republican Primary Ballot: Decided Voters

Of all charts you'll see in this report, this one is perhaps the most important. Here, we investigate each candidate's support among voters who have already decided who they'll vote for. That includes both those who have already voted, and those who say they plan on voting and are not undecided. Harbick has a 3.4% lead over Perkins, but their margins of error overlap significantly, so we cannot confidently conclude that Harbick holds the lead. Taher and Fleming are quite clearly in the back of the pack, while Palmer, Beebe, and Christensen are just one tier below the leaders (Harbick and Perkins).



(C) Simulation Results: Decided Voters

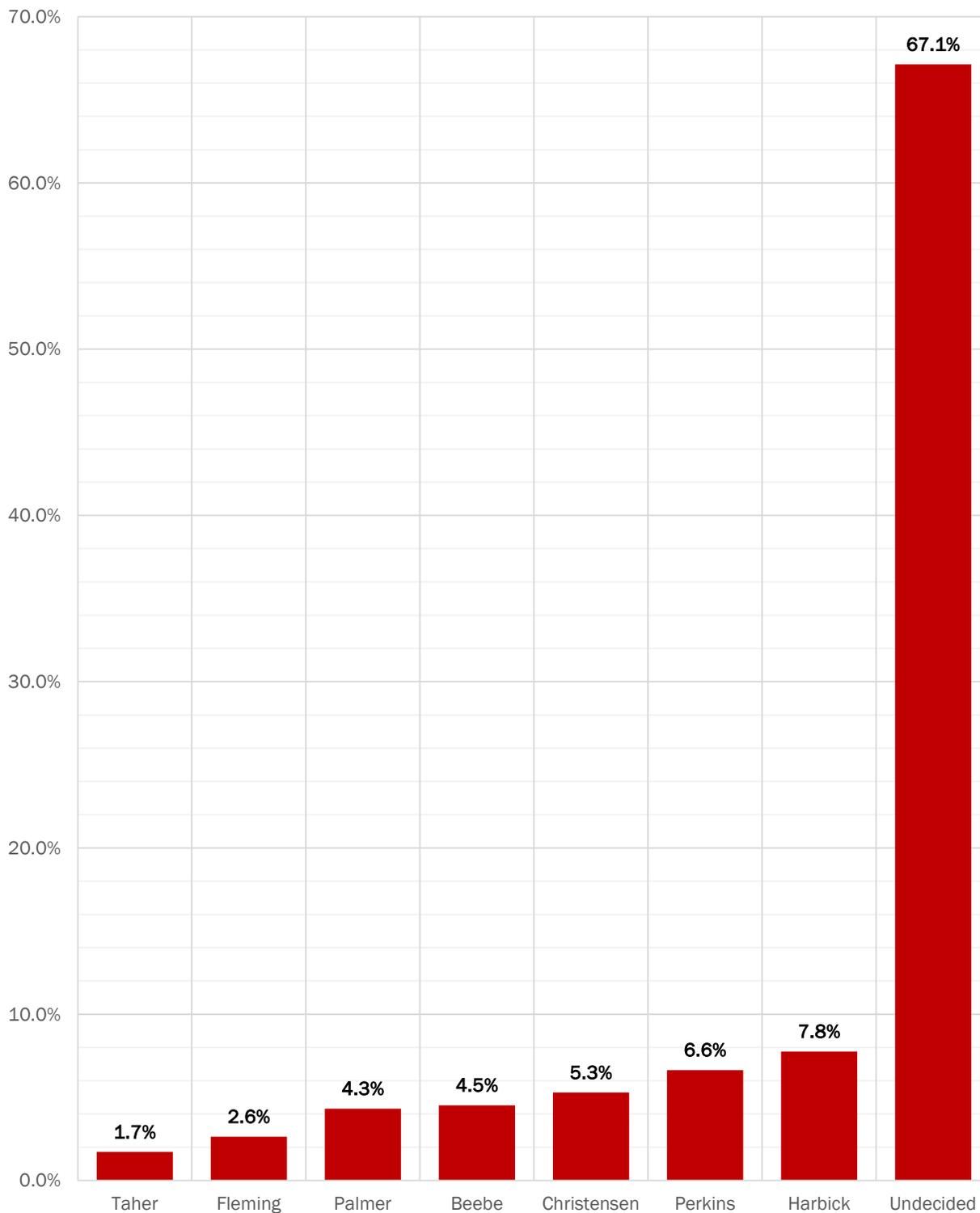
Using Victory Insights 10KSim, our proprietary election simulation software, we conducted 10,000 simulations of the Republican Primary for US Senate in Oregon. The chart below displays how often each candidate was simulated to finish in each place. One key takeaway is that, if the election were held today, Harbick would have a 79% chance of victory, while Perkins would have a 20% chance, and Christensen a 1% chance, according to our poll results. Perkins finishes in 2nd place in 65% of simulations, and Christensen finishes in 3rd just over 50% of the time.

	Finishing Position						
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Taher	-	-	-	-	-	11%	89%
Fleming	-	-	-	-	6%	83%	11%
Palmer	-	1%	13%	34%	48%	4%	-
Beebe	-	2%	20%	40%	35%	2%	-
Christensen	1%	12%	53%	23%	11%	-	-
Perkins	20%	65%	12%	3%	1%	-	-
Harbick	79%	19%	2%	-	-	-	-



(D) Full Republican Primary Ballot: All Voters

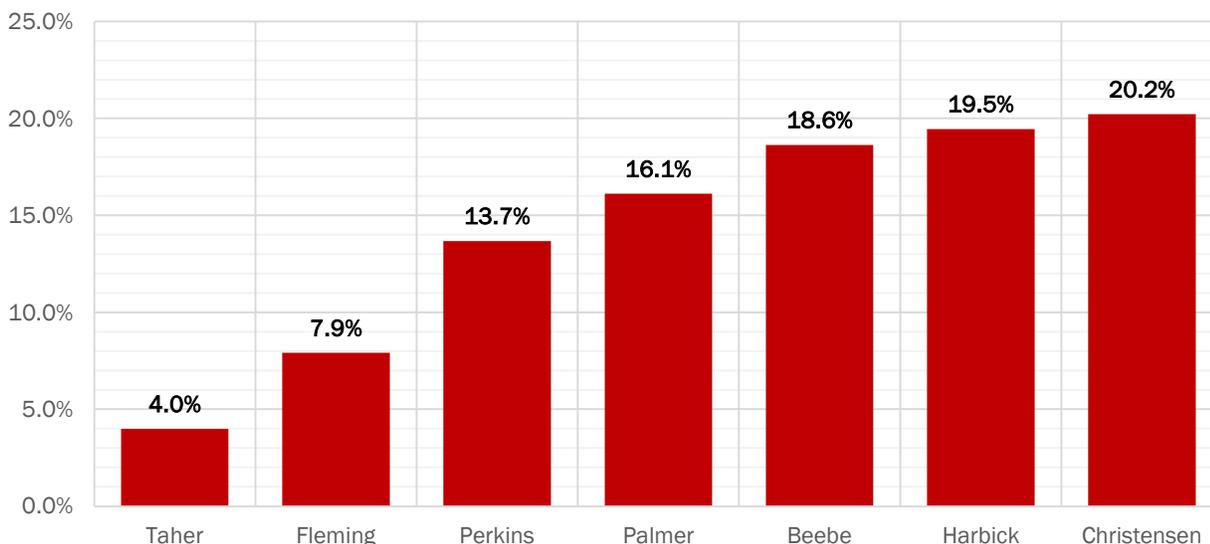
What the chart from Section B, *Full Republican Primary Ballot: Decided Voters*, doesn't show is that most voters are still undecided. In fact, a full two thirds of the electorate still have not made up their minds about who they'll be voting for. Harbick, currently the leader, still only garners less than 8% of the vote. Clearly, this race is far from over.





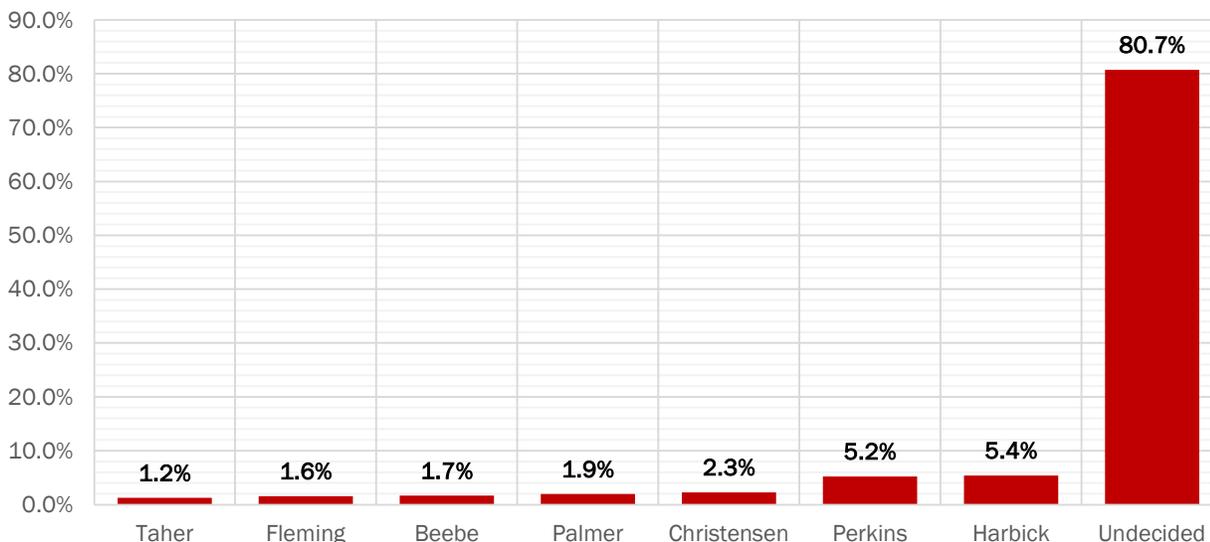
(E) Republican Primary Ballot: Early Voters

Poll respondents who answered that they had already voted early in the primary were asked which candidate they voted for. Christensen received the most votes, but by an exceedingly narrow margin. Harbick trailed him by only 0.7%, followed by Beebe another 0.9% behind. Palmer was next with just over 16% of the vote, while Perkins garnered just under 14%. Once again, Taher and Fleming received the lowest vote share.



(F) Republican Primary Ballot: Planned Voters

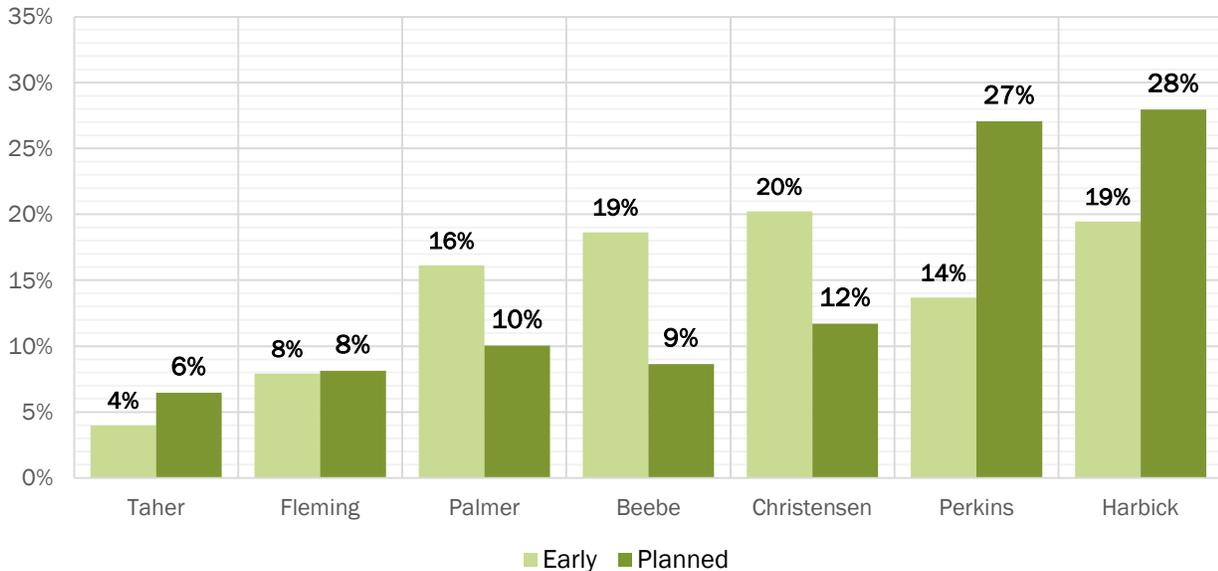
Among poll respondents who said they had not yet voted, but were planning on doing so, Harbick and Perkins are in a tier of their own above the rest of the candidates, with each capturing more than 5% of the vote. However, both candidates' results pale in comparison to the more than 80% of voters who remain undecided. The remaining five candidates garner vote shares ranging from 1.2% to 2.3%.





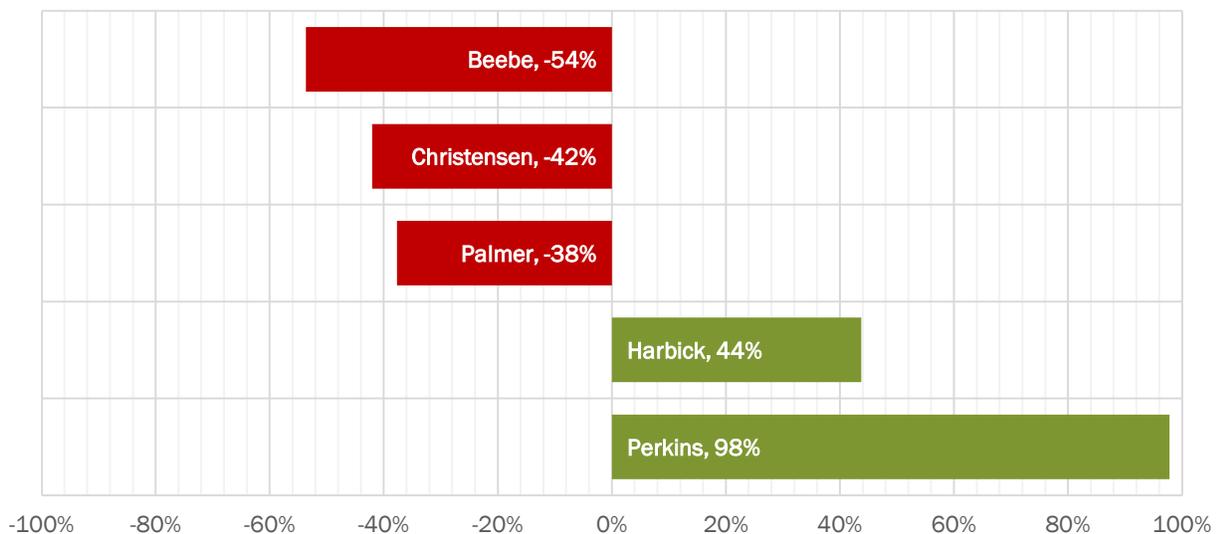
(G) Republican Primary Ballot: Early vs. Planned Voters

The chart below shows side-by-side comparisons of each candidate's vote share among early voters and decided voters who are planning on voting.



(H) Momentum (For All Candidates Polling Above 10%)

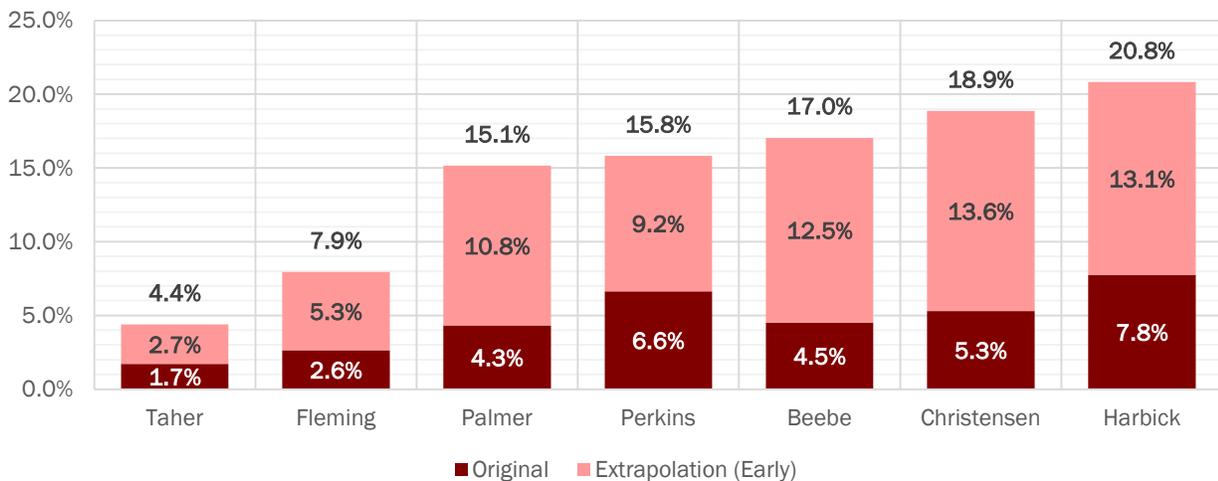
To quantify the relative differences between a candidate's early vote share and planned vote share, we defined a metric called momentum. This refers to the relative percentage increase (or decrease) between the two vote shares. Positive momentum means a candidate is trending up, while negative momentum means a candidate is trending down. Beebe, Christensen, and Palmer all have negative momentum, while Harbick and Perkins have positive momentum. Perkins has the strongest momentum, which is no surprise, since her vote share jumped significantly from 14% to 27%.





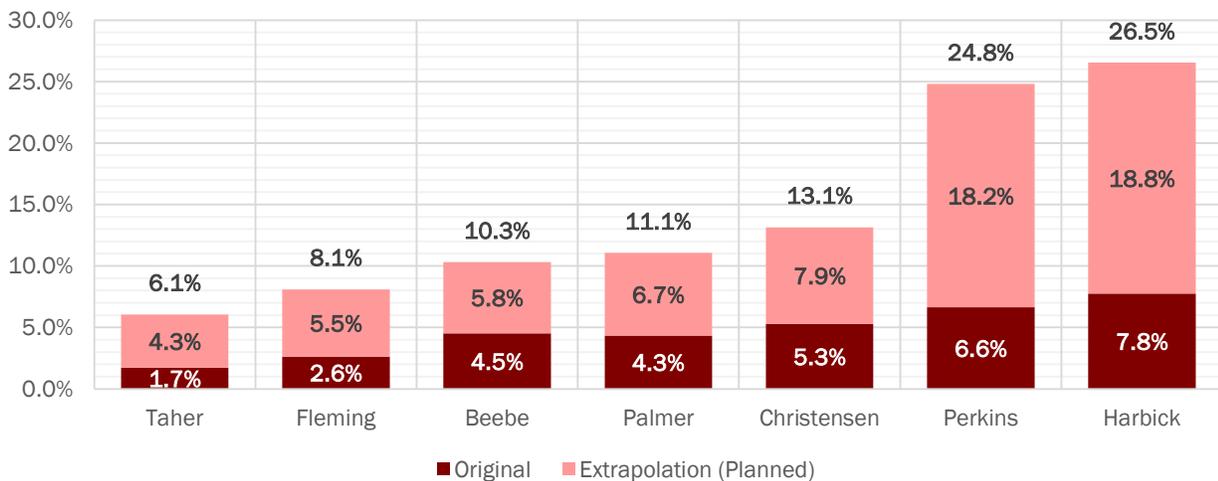
(I) Extrapolation 1: Based on Early Voters

In Section D, *Full Republican Primary Ballot: All Voters*, approximately two-thirds of the electorate remains undecided. This section (as well as Section J, *Extrapolation 2: Based on Planned Voters*) explores what would happen if we could predict who those who are undecided would vote for. In this section, we make those predictions by extrapolating the results from early voters and applying them to the remaining undecided voters. In this scenario, Harbick would lead by a narrow 1.9%, followed closely by Christensen, Beebe, Perkins, and Palmer, in that order.



(J) Extrapolation 2: Based on Planned Voters

The other way to predict who undecided voters will vote for is by extrapolating the results from voters who plan on voting and have already made up their minds. In this case, the results change significantly, but Harbick still leads. However, this time, Perkins is in second place rather than fourth, and she and Harbick lead the third place candidate (Christensen) by more than 10%.





(K) Demographic Verification

The purpose of displaying the information below is to validate that our poll accurately reflects the makeup of the electorate. Across four important metrics – media market, age group, congressional district, and early voting turnout, this poll’s average A.A.D. was only 1.8%, meaning that the average demographic proportion in our poll was less than 2% off from that of the electorate. Thus, this poll accurately represents the electorate being studied, and the results can be trusted.

Media Market	Electorate	Poll	Margin
Bend	6.0%	7.2%	1.2%
Boise/Spokane/Yakima	3.9%	4.3%	0.4%
Eugene	16.6%	23.6%	7.0%
Medford/Klamath	14.7%	13.7%	-1.0%
Portland	58.8%	51.2%	-7.6%
<i>Avg. Absolute Difference</i>			3.4%

Age Group	Electorate	Poll	Margin
18-49	23.8%	23.9%	0.1%
50-64	28.8%	27.6%	-1.2%
65+	47.4%	48.5%	1.1%
<i>Avg. Absolute Difference</i>			0.8%

2020 Congressional District	Electorate	Poll	Margin
1	17.1%	15.1%	-2.0%
2	29.1%	29.5%	0.5%
3	9.9%	8.8%	-1.1%
4	22.6%	28.9%	6.3%
5	21.4%	17.7%	-3.6%
<i>Avg. Absolute Difference</i>			2.7%

Has Voted Early (of Pred. Turnout)	Electorate	Poll	Margin
No	83.3%	83.2%	-0.2%
Yes	16.7%	16.8%	0.2%
<i>Avg. Absolute Difference</i>			0.2%

Category	A.A.D.
Media Market	3.4%
Age Group	0.8%
2020 Congressional District	2.7%
Has Voted Early (of Pred. Turnout)	0.2%
<i>Average A.A.D.</i>	1.8%



 @VictoryPolling

info@victory-insights.com

victory-insights.com

(929) 388-6585