

Voters support Equal Rights Amendment to Oregon Constitution

Raleigh, N.C. – Oregon voters would overwhelmingly support an Equal Rights Amendment to the state’s constitution if it is placed on the 2014 ballot, according to a recent poll conducted by Public Policy Polling.

75% of Oregon voters said they would support the ERA to just 16% who would vote against the initiative. The amendment would have majority support across party lines, with 85% of Democrats, 73% of independents and 63% of Republicans in favor if it’s placed on the 2014 ballot. This indicates that an ERA ballot question could pass by a whopping 59-point margin.

Oregon voters also strongly supported this specific constitutional amendment language: “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the State of Oregon on account of sex.” 75% of voters said they support this language to just 13% who said they oppose it. There is majority support across party lines, with 85% of Democrats, 67% of Republicans and 67% of independents supporting this proposal.

72% of voters still think it’s a good idea to include gender equality in the state’s constitution despite the fact that the Supreme Court has already ruled that men and women are equal. And 67% agree the ERA should be written into the state constitution to protect the equality of women since justices have the power to overturn a legal case. Once again, there is strong majority support on these questions across the board regardless of partisan affiliation, although Democrats are the most supportive group.

The ERA could also encourage more voter participation in Oregon in the 2014 election. 53% of voters said they would be more likely to vote in the 2014 election if the ERA is on the ballot—38% much more likely and 15% somewhat more likely. Just 6% said it would make them less likely to vote while 40% said it would make no difference.

On a broader point, 80% of voters believe men and women should be equal and that this right should be included in the Oregon Constitution. Just 12% of respondents did not support this idea. Interestingly, 82% of men support this concept compared to 78% of women. Each of the ERA questions had slightly more male support than female support.

PPP surveyed 650 Oregon voters from February 22nd to 24th. The margin of error for the overall sample is +/-3.8%. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.