

Strange Bedfellows

<http://blog.seattlepi.nwsourc.com/seattlepolitics/archives/145212.asp>

Gregoire Up in Elway Poll

In contrast to other surveys showing a neck-and-neck race, Gov. Chris Gregoire has moved to a 16-point lead over Dino Rossi in the latest statewide Elway Poll of Washington voters.

Gregoire and Rossi are engaged in a rematch of what was in 2004 the closest major election in the nation, a race ultimately decided by 133 votes.

According to Elway, Gregoire has risen from 47 percent to 52 percent, crossing the 50 percent threshold for the first time. Rossi has slipped from 39 percent to 36 percent: 12 percent were undecided.

Gregoire garnered support from 87 percent of Democrats surveyed, and led 43-37 percent among Independents. Rossi had the support of 76 percent of Republicans who were polled.

The poll of 405 registered voters was taken July 27-31, with a margin of sampling error at 5 percentage points.

Its findings vary sharply from the findings of Portland pollster Bob Moore, widely used by Republican candidates, who found the race tied at 45-45 in a poll taken earlier in July. A private poll, taken at the same time for a major Democratic consulting firm, showed Gregoire with a tiny 46-45 lead.

A national poll, released last week, put Gregoire ahead, 49 percent to 46 percent.

The Elway Poll showed Gregoire ahead nearly every place in the state, trailing only in Pierce and Kitsap counties.

She had a slightly smaller lead of 50-38 among voters most likely to vote in the August primary.

The poll showed a tight statewide race shaping up for the post of Commissioner of Public Lands.

Incumbent Republican Doug Sutherland polled only 30 percent. Democratic challenger Peter Goldmark is ahead by a hair at 31 percent, with nearly 40 percent of the electorate undecided.

In the hotly fought contest for Attorney General, incumbent Republican Rob McKenna gets support from 41 percent of those surveyed. Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg, his Democratic challenger, comes in at 30 percent, with just under 30 percent undecided. Ladenburg has yet to score heavily among Democrats surveyed.

The lowest re-election figure for any statewide incumbent is Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson.

She is supported by just 12 percent of those polled. A whopping 67 percent are undecided.

By contrast, the assisted suicide initiative, I-1000, evokes strong feelings: 39 percent of those surveyed said they would definitely vote for it, 26 percent will definitely oppose the measure. It is strongly supported by Democrats, opposed by Republicans.

The latest Tim Eyman initiative, which sharply restricts imposition of tolls on state highways, will definitely get votes from 28 percent, with 30 percent saying they will probably vote for it. I-985 was supported by identical majorities of Democrats, Republicans and Independents.

Sen. Barack Obama hasn't been in Washington since February, but the Democrats' presidential candidate-in-waiting enjoys a strongly lead in the Elway Poll.

Obama was preferred by 47 percent of those surveyed, compared with 35 percent for the Republicans' Sen. John McCain. Eighteen percent of those surveyed remained undecided.

Posted by [Joel Connelly](#) at August 4, 2008 4:15 p.m.

· [Return to Gregoire Up in Elway Poll](#)