



From: Justin Mayhew, Associate

To: Interested parties

Subject: Portlanders very pleased with Strimling, direction of city; but looking for more progressive reform on education, housing, and taxes

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A new survey from Public Policy Polling finds that a majority of Portland voters are satisfied with the direction the city is heading with Mayor Ethan Strimling at the helm, but they are also eager to see changes made to education funding, housing regulations, and corporate welfare.

Strimling is exceedingly popular in the city with a 60% approval rating, and a similar 66% of voters say things are heading in the right direction in the city. Just 34% disapprove of the job Strimling is doing in his first year in office, and an even smaller 32% say the city is heading in the wrong direction.

That doesn't mean that voters are complacent about major issues facing the city, however. A whole host of progressive reforms on the agenda in Portland receive majority support from voters, including borrowing money to renovate local schools, tightening regulations on landlords, reforming corporate tax breaks, protecting public health, and expanding voting rights.

Voters are most unified around education funding improvements. More than two-in-three voters (68%) back the school board's plan to borrow \$70 million to renovate Reiche, Presumscot, Lyseth, and Longfellow elementary schools. Just 23% oppose the plan.

Also receiving strong support is a litany of proposals to limit landlords when it comes to evicting residents and raising rents. A 56% majority of voters supports limiting how much a Portland landlord can raise rent annually, while 54% support requiring landlords to provide a 90-days notice before evicting a tenant.

Majority support is also seen for limiting the scope of the city's corporate tax breaks. 74% of voters believe that Portland should not give tax breaks to individual businesses or should only do so if the business hires people from Portland and pays a living wage. Just 19% think that the city should give tax breaks to all businesses, regardless of their employment policies.

When it comes to the India Street Health Clinic, residents are strongly opposed to the proposal to close the clinic and transfer its services to a privately run health center. By a two-to-one margin (55/27), voters say that the clinic should stay open, and it should continue to provide services through the public sector.





Expanding civic participation is highly important to voters. 58% agree that legal immigrants who are residents of Portland and 18 years of age or older should be allowed to vote in municipal elections. Less than one-third (32%) disagree with this proposal.

PPP surveyed 489 Portland voters from October 11-14. The margin of error is +/-4.4%. This poll was conducted by automated telephone interviews.





Portland, ME Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Ethan Strimling is doing as Mayor of Portland?

Approve 60%
Disapprove..... 34%
Not Sure..... 5%

Q2 Generally speaking, would you say things in Portland are heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

Right Direction 66%
Wrong Direction..... 32%
Not Sure..... 2%

Q3 Do you support or oppose closing the city-run India Street Health Clinic and transferring their HIV, Needle Exchange and STD testing services to a private run health center?

Support closing the city run India Street Health Clinic and transferring their services to a private run health center 27%
Oppose closing the city run India Street Health Clinic and transferring their services to a private run health center 55%
Not sure 19%

Q4 Do you support or oppose limiting how much a Portland landlord can raise the rent annually?

Support limiting how much a Portland landlord can raise the rent each year 56%
Oppose limiting how much a Portland landlord can raise the rent each year 33%
Not sure 11%

Q5 I'm going to read you three statements, and then ask you which one you agree with most. Here's the first statement: "Portland should not give tax breaks to individual businesses." Here's the second statement: "Portland should give tax breaks to individual businesses" Here's the third statement: "Portland should only give tax breaks to individual businesses if the business hires people from Portland and pays a livable wage."

Agree most that Portland should not give tax breaks to individual businesses 23%
Agree most that Portland should give tax breaks to individual businesses 19%
Agree most that Portland should only give tax breaks to individual businesses if the business hires people from Portland and pays a livable wage 51%
Not sure 7%

Q6 Currently, landlords in Portland are turning apartments into short term rentals like AirBnB. Do you agree or disagree that landlords should be allowed to do this?

Agree that landlords should be allowed to turn apartments into short term rentals..... 45%
Disagree that landlords should be allowed to turn apartments into short term rentals..... 38%
Not sure 17%

Q7 Do you support or oppose the city borrowing up to \$70M to renovate Reiche, Presumpscot, Lyseth and Longfellow elementary schools?

Support borrowing \$70M to renovate these elementary schools..... 68%
Oppose borrowing \$70M to renovate these elementary schools..... 23%
Not sure 9%





Q8 Would you support requiring landlords to provide 90-days' notice before evicting a tenant without cause or do you think the current 30-days notice without cause is adequate?

- Support requiring landlords to provide 90-days notice before evicting a tenant* 54%
- Think the current 30-days notice without cause is adequate* 40%
- Not sure* 6%

Q9 Do you think homeless shelters in Portland should only be available to Portland residents or should our shelters be open to anyone who needs them?

- They should be open only to those who are residents of Portland* 32%
- Homeless shelters in Portland should be open to anyone who needs them* 58%
- Not sure* 10%

Q10 Do you think that legal immigrants who are residents of Portland and 18 years or older should be allowed to vote in municipal elections, or not?

- Legal immigrants should be allowed to vote in municipal elections* 58%
- Legal immigrants should not be allowed to vote in municipal elections* 32%
- Not sure* 10%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

- Woman* 53%
- Man* 47%

Q12 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If a Green, press 3. If an independent or unenrolled, press 4. If you are not registered to vote, press 5.

- Democrat* 62%
- Republican* 16%
- Green* 1%
- Independent/Unenrolled* 21%
- Not registered to vote* 0%

Q13 If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.

- 18 to 45* 32%
- 46 to 65* 45%
- Older than 65* 24%

Q14 What is your household's annual income: is it less than \$20,000, \$20,000 - \$50,000, \$50,000 - \$75,000, \$75,000 - \$100,000, or more than \$100,000?

- Less than \$20,000* 13%
- \$20,000 to \$50,000* 21%
- \$50,000 to \$75,000* 17%
- \$75,000 to \$100,000* 15%
- More than \$100,000* 18%
- Don't care to say* 16%

Q15 City Council District

- 1* 15%
- 2* 15%
- 3* 25%
- 4* 22%
- 5* 22%



	Base	City Council District				
		1	2	3	4	5
Strimling Approval						
Approve	60%	62%	60%	54%	64%	63%
Disapprove	34%	24%	38%	42%	32%	34%
Not Sure	5%	15%	2%	4%	4%	3%

	Base	City Council District				
		1	2	3	4	5
Portland Right/Wrong Direction						
Right Direction	66%	68%	65%	65%	72%	62%
Wrong Direction	32%	32%	33%	33%	26%	35%
Not Sure	2%	-	2%	3%	2%	3%

	Base	City Council District				
		1	2	3	4	5
Closing Health Clinic Support/Oppose						
Support closing the city run India Street Health Clinic and transferring their services to a private run health center	27%	19%	21%	26%	31%	32%
Oppose closing the city run India Street Health Clinic and transferring their services to a private run health center	55%	63%	51%	62%	49%	49%
Not sure	19%	17%	28%	12%	21%	18%

	Base	City Council District				
		1	2	3	4	5
Limit Landlord Rent Increase Support/Oppose						
Support limiting how much a Portland landlord can raise the rent each year	56%	53%	58%	58%	60%	51%
Oppose limiting how much a Portland landlord can raise the rent each year	33%	33%	27%	33%	26%	42%
Not sure	11%	14%	15%	9%	14%	7%



	Base	City Council District				
		1	2	3	4	5
Tax Break Statements Agree Most						
Agree most that Portland should not give tax breaks to individual businesses	23%	17%	17%	29%	23%	25%
Agree most that Portland should give tax breaks to individual businesses	19%	24%	16%	19%	20%	17%
Agree most that Portland should only give tax breaks to individual businesses if the business hires people from Portland and pays a ...	51%	54%	54%	47%	52%	49%
Not sure	7%	4%	13%	5%	5%	9%

	Base	City Council District				
		1	2	3	4	5
Landlords Short Term Rentals Agree/Disagree						
Agree that landlords should be allowed to turn apartments into short term rentals	45%	46%	51%	42%	39%	48%
Disagree that landlords should be allowed to turn apartments into short term rentals	38%	45%	31%	45%	40%	30%
Not sure	17%	9%	18%	13%	21%	22%

	Base	City Council District				
		1	2	3	4	5
Borrow to Renovate Schools Support/Oppose						
Support borrowing \$70M to renovate these elementary schools	68%	69%	62%	71%	70%	66%
Oppose borrowing \$70M to renovate these elementary schools	23%	14%	25%	21%	23%	29%
Not sure	9%	18%	14%	8%	8%	5%

	Base	City Council District				
		1	2	3	4	5
90 Days Eviction Notice Support/Oppose						
Support requiring landlords to provide 90-days notice before evicting a tenant	54%	61%	55%	56%	58%	44%
Think the current 30-days notice without cause is adequate	40%	35%	36%	38%	38%	51%
Not sure	6%	4%	9%	6%	4%	5%



	Base	City Council District				
		1	2	3	4	5
Shelters Open to Residents or Anyone						
They should be open only to those who are residents of Portland	32%	16%	31%	36%	27%	43%
Homeless shelters in Portland should be open to anyone who needs them	58%	68%	63%	56%	62%	48%
Not sure	10%	16%	6%	8%	10%	8%

	Base	City Council District				
		1	2	3	4	5
Legal Immigrants Allowed to Vote Yes/No						
Legal immigrants should be allowed to vote in municipal elections	58%	68%	70%	62%	52%	46%
Legal immigrants should not be allowed to vote in municipal elections	32%	25%	26%	29%	41%	35%
Not sure	10%	7%	4%	9%	7%	19%