



Oregon's Kitchen Table – Comments and Reactions to First Consultation Education Outcome Area and Justice System Findings

In response to results from the Education and Justice System sections of the first consultation, 20 members of the Kitchen Table sent us comments and reactions. We've collected those comments, and we've grouped them together under five general topic areas. A few members had some technical issues that we addressed individually, whether it was difficulties opening the link to the results or a request for larger font size. We'll continue to address those concerns on an individual basis to help make the results as accessible as possible. Below, though, please find a summary of the comments on the substance of the consultation. Please note that not all comments are included in their entirety (some have been trimmed for grammar), and our aim here is to share the substantive comments on the results with you all.

Thank you for continuing the discussion on both these important issues and what your fellow Oregonians are thinking!

1. Perceptions of government interest/responsiveness to public input.

- *"It is good to know that so many people in Oregon have the same values I have. And it is also (only slightly) gratifying to know that they, like me, don't expect much to come of your survey. That is, we expect the impact these results will have on our lawmakers, bureaucrats and politicians will be nil. But hey, maybe we will be pleasantly surprised!"*
- *"What is most interesting is the LACK of belief that these surveys will sway the government. People are very skeptical. I can't blame them! But I have Eternal Hope!"*
- *"Looks like the OKT folks are savvy and aware of public issues. A lot of skepticism about whether citizen views as expressed in a poll like this will have much influence. I hope that politicians do listen to these views."*

- *"Thank you for compiling and sharing the results. It is encouraging to me to see the common themes and know that most Oregonians share a passion for a revitalized economy, safe and educated children, and justice that serves all. Disheartening - though not surprising- is the overwhelming sense that government does not hear what the people have to say. Hopefully this administration has the wisdom to follow through with this outreach and show Oregonians that what they think/say REALLY matters."*
- *"It's not my belief that the governor should govern based on our opinion. It's my hope that he is smarter than the average Joe and dare I say it ... a leader. However, I do think it's important that he understands what the pulse is....and can learn from it as well."*
- *"Just a quick observation. All the statistics aside it comes down to the belief that any of this will even make a slight bit of difference. Clearly, there is no confidence. Before moving forward there will need to be some sort of assurance that the time, thought, and effort put into the questions will matter."*
- *"Thanks for summarizing and sharing the first round of feedback. The most surprising result was not that most respondents felt their input would be ignored, but the magnitude of the spread. I've been a legislative affairs rep for a decade and I know what goes on in Salem. What Governor Kitzhaber is currently doing behind closed doors with his task force on illegal immigrants' driver's licenses is despicable and a prime example of why so many of us hold government in such contempt."*

2. Vocational training and the education system.

- *"Industries in Oregon can't find the engineers and technical workers they need. Job openings remain unfilled according to an article in the Oregonian last week. This is sad when unemployment is so high. The survey results show an interest, especially in Eastern Oregon, for more vocational education."*
- *"Germany has a wonderful system of training every student for a job or profession. The business community participates...Whatever jobs are needed in the town it is offered to students who have an ability level to successfully perform the job."*
- *"On education, each of the investments strategies makes the assumption that one of these would be the right or good choice by policy makers. The problem, however, is more collective and deeper. Our society no longer values public education at the level they once did and do not want to pay for it. Rather than moving decks chairs on the Titanic someone need to start a conversation on re-valuing basic education."*

3. Managing incarceration rates by addressing social inequalities.

- *"I don't see cost containment or better results from the system occurring without recognition that we have a social/economic system which of its very nature fosters poverty and criminal intent. And when most reports indicate 70 to 80 of all inmates have suffered child abuse, it's time to look at other elements of the structure—not just the output (criminals)."*

4. Healthcare coverage/cost.

- *"Kitzhaber and Medicare only supports mainstream medicine 'Sickness' care; there's no provisions under Medicare, supplemental or Advantage coverage for 'Wellness Care' access to naturopaths, acupuncture and nutritionists. Average annual premiums for a retired couple is projected at close to \$10,000/annual and very few will be able to afford this, or be interested in just sickness care."*

5. General questions/comments about OKT.

- *"This is a great project, but aren't these questions supposed to be discussed in elections? Or is that the real agenda here? To find a way to get voters to actually ask these questions before they vote?"*
- *"It would be great to have a web site page to go to access all the data; and not just the summary. I am especially interested in looking at the demographic data and seeing what differences/likenesses are apparent depending on geography and race/ethnicity/gender and class."*