2026 Oregon Republican Governor's Race:
Primary Standings, Vote Flow & General Election Competitiveness

Independent Analysis · March 2026 · Predict Oregon

METHODOLOGY NOTE

n=1,022 self-selected respondents recruited via Oregon-focused political social media communities, and organic spread, March 3–8, 2026. Non-probability sample; traditional margin of error calculations do not apply and are not reported. Results are directional indicators.

Republicans: n=921 completed. Non-Republicans (NAV, Democrat, Other): n=101. Primary ballot and scenario questions asked of Republican respondents only. General election questions asked of all respondents.

Raw data available upon request, personal contact information excluded. Visit PredictOregon.com.

Section 1: Poll Overview & Respondent Profile

This poll was conducted March 3–8, 2026 via Predict Oregon, an independent polling project. Respondents were recruited through Oregon-focused political social media communities and organic spread through email and cross-posting. The poll received 1,208 responses and collected 1,022 completed responses (84.6% completion rate) across eight sections covering primary preferences, candidate favorability, hypothetical scenarios, general election competitiveness, and U.S. Senate questions.

The sample skews toward older, conservative, Republican-registered voters — consistent with a self-selected pool drawn from Oregon Republican political communities. This makes the primary ballot and scenario data particularly directionally reliable for understanding Republican primary dynamics.

Respondent Demographics

Category	Breakdown	Note
Party Registration	Republican 90.4% | NAV 5.8% | Dem 1.8% | Other 1.9%	Confirmed at Q14
Gender	Female 56.4% | Male 40.3% | Prefer not to say 3.3%	
Age	65+ (37.2%) | 55–64 (27.6%) | 45–54 (20.0%) | 35–44 (9.9%) | 25–34 (3.7%) | 18–24 (1.7%)	64.8% aged 55 or older

Education	Some college (33.8%) | Bachelor's (24.6%) | Associate (17.7%) | Graduate (13.7%) | HS (10.3%)	89.7% attended college
Ideology	Conservative (54.2%) | Very Conservative (30.0%) | Moderate (14.8%) | Liberal/Very Liberal (1.0%)	84.2% conservative or very conservative
Primary Likelihood	**Mean: 9.86 / 10 | Scored 8–10: 98.3% | Score of 10: 95.1%**	Extremely high-intent voter sample

Respondent profile — all completed responses (n=1,022)

Geographic Distribution

759 of 1,022 respondents (74.3%) provided zip codes. Responses came from 230 unique Oregon zip codes spanning every major region of the state — confirming a genuinely statewide sample, rather than a single-city echo chamber.

Region	Share of Respondents	Key Areas
Salem / Mid-Valley (973xx)	**31.2%**	Salem, Albany, Corvallis
Portland Metro West (970xx)	18.0%	Beaverton, Hillsboro, Tigard
Eugene / Springfield (974xx)	16.3%	Eugene, Cottage Grove, Roseburg
Portland Metro East/NE (971xx)	9.2%	Gresham, Troutdale, NE Portland
Portland Suburbs / Clackamas (972xx)	6.9%	Lake Oswego, Oregon City, Canby
Bend / Central Oregon (977xx)	6.8%	Bend, Redmond, Prineville
Medford / Southern Oregon (975xx)	5.2%	Medford, Ashland, Grants Pass
Eastern Oregon (978xx)	3.7%	Pendleton, La Grande, Baker City
Klamath Falls area (976xx)	2.5%	Klamath Falls, Lakeview

Geographic distribution — respondents providing Oregon zip codes (n=754, 230 unique)

A NOTE ON METHODOLOGY: ADDRESSING THE "INTERNET POLL" QUESTION

Self-selected online polls are a legitimate object of skepticism, and we address that directly. This poll does not claim to be a probability sample, and traditional margin of error calculations are not reported.

What makes the findings worth serious attention is convergence. Seven completely independent questions — asked in separate sections, measuring different things — all point in the same direction. Second-choice preferences, scenario voting, favorability ratings, and electability perceptions were not connected in the survey flow.

When unrelated questions reach consistent conclusions across 921 Republican respondents, that is not noise. That is signal.

Additionally, 98.3% of Republican respondents scored 8 or higher (out of 10) on primary vote likelihood. This is an extremely high-intent sample — engaged, motivated Republican primary voters, not casual browsers.

Section 2: Full-Field Primary Results

Question Asked: *"If the Republican primary for governor were held today, who would you vote for?"*
(All candidates listed in randomized order. Select one.)

Candidate	%
Ed Diehl	**66.4%**
David Medina	**8.7%**
Christine Drazan	**7.7%**
Chris Dudley	**7.6%**
Undecided	6.3%
Danielle Bethell	**2.9%**
Other candidates	0.3%

Q1: Full-field Republican primary vote intent — n=917 Republican respondents

Ed Diehl commands 66.4% of the full-field primary vote among Republican respondents — a dominant position in any multi-candidate field. The remaining four significant candidates — Medina (8.7%), Drazan (7.7%), Dudley (7.6%), and Bethell (2.9%) — collectively account for 26.9% of the vote.

Perceived Top Four Finishers (Q2A)

Question Asked: *"Regardless of your own preference, which four candidates do you believe will finish in the top four in the primary?"*

Candidate	% Who Expect Top-4 Finish	Note
Ed Diehl	**97.7%**	Near-universal expectation
Christine Drazan	93.8%	Strong consensus
Chris Dudley	75.7%	Majority expectation
David Medina	59.5%	Slight majority
Danielle Bethell	56.5%	Slight majority

Q2A: Perceived top-four finishers — Republican respondents (n=917)

Diehl and Drazan are seen as near-certain top-four finishers, while Dudley, Medina, and Bethell occupy a competitive middle tier where voter perception of viability could shift rapidly with events, endorsements, or momentum changes.

Section 3: Candidate Favorability

Question Asked: *"We'd like your overall impression of the five candidates receiving the most attention in the Republican primary."* (Scale: 1=Very Unfavorable, 3=Neutral/No Opinion, 5=Very Favorable)

Candidate	Mean	Favorable (4–5)	Neutral (3)	Unfavorable (1–2)
Ed Diehl	**4.42**	**87.4%**	6.3%	6.3%
David Medina	3.37	45.4%	38.0%	16.6%
Danielle Bethell	3.32	39.1%	49.9%	11.0%
Chris Dudley	3.31	40.1%	44.5%	15.4%
Christine Drazan	3.08	46.5%	14.9%	**38.6%**

Q3: Candidate favorability — Republican respondents (n=918). Scale: 1=Very Unfavorable, 5=Very Favorable.

Three findings stand out. First, Diehl's favorability is in a different league entirely — 87.4% of Republican primary voters view him favorably, with virtually no unfavorable floor. Second, Drazan's 38.6% unfavorable rating is the highest in the field by a significant margin. Third, Bethell's 49.9% neutral/no opinion — the highest in the field — reflects the challenge of a candidate who declared early but has not yet achieved broad name recognition statewide.

Section 4: The Vote-Splitting Problem — Scenario Analysis

Four hypothetical scenarios were presented to Republican respondents, each narrowing the primary field in a different way. The instructions read: "The following questions ask you to imagine the primary field has been narrowed. Please answer based on how you would actually vote in each scenario."

Scenario A: Three-Way Race — Diehl, Drazan, Dudley

Question Asked: *"If the Republican primary were limited to these three candidates, who would you vote for?"*

Candidate	Votes	Share	vs. Full Field
Ed Diehl	685	**74.6%**	**+8.2 pts**
Chris Dudley	96	10.5%	+2.9 pts
Christine Drazan	94	10.2%	+2.5 pts
Undecided	43	4.7%	—

Scenario A: Three-way race (n=918)

Even in a narrowed three-way race, Diehl consolidates at 74.6% while Drazan and Dudley split the remainder nearly evenly at 10.2% and 10.5% respectively.

Scenario B: If Dudley Were Not Running

Question Asked: *"If Chris Dudley were not running for governor, who would you vote for?"*

Candidate	Votes	Share	vs. Q1 Baseline
Ed Diehl	660	**71.9%**	**+5.5 pts**
David Medina	92	10.0%	+1.3 pts
Christine Drazan	85	9.3%	+1.6 pts
Danielle Bethell	44	4.8%	+1.9 pts
Undecided	37	4.0%	—

Scenario B: Primary without Dudley (n=918)

DUDLEY VOTER FLOW IN SCENARIO B

Among the 70 Republicans who chose Dudley as their Q1 first choice:

50% → Ed Diehl   13% → David Medina   13% → Christine Drazan   13% → Danielle Bethell
11% → Undecided

Half of Dudley's primary support flows directly to Diehl if Dudley exits. The remaining half disperses equally across the field — not consolidating around any single alternative.

Scenario C: If Diehl Were Not Running

Question Asked: *"If Ed Diehl were not running for governor, who would you vote for?"*

Candidate	Votes	Share	Note
Christine Drazan	237	25.8%	Leads — no majority
David Medina	215	23.4%	Close 2nd
Chris Dudley	182	19.8%	3rd of 4
Danielle Bethell	176	19.2%	Close 4th
Undecided	108	11.8%	—

Scenario C: Primary without Diehl (n=918)

THE SCENARIO C FINDING: WHERE DIEHL'S VOTERS GO

Among the 609 Republicans who chose Diehl as their Q1 first choice, in a world without Diehl:

24.8% → Drazan   22.5% → Bethell   20.9% → Medina   18.7% → Dudley   13.1% → Undecided

---

> **Critical finding:** Diehl's 609 voters do not consolidate around any single alternative. They disperse nearly equally across all four remaining candidates. This produces the least decisive Republican primary outcome of any scenario tested. Notably, Dudley — who many might have expected to absorb a large share of Diehl's voters — finishes last among the four remaining candidates in capturing Diehl support.

Scenario D: Diehl vs. Drazan Head-to-Head

Question Asked: *"If the primary came down to just these two candidates, who would you vote for?"*

Candidate	Votes	Share	
Ed Diehl	748	**81.5%**	**Decisive winner**
Christine Drazan	112	12.2%	
Undecided	58	6.3%	—

Scenario D: Diehl vs. Drazan head-to-head (n=918)

In a direct two-candidate matchup, Diehl defeats Drazan 81.5% to 12.2% — the baseline that establishes the Republican electorate's clear and decisive preference when the choice is simplified to its most direct form.

Section 5: Second-Choice Vote Flow

Question Asked: *"If your first choice were not in the race, who would be your next choice?"* (First-choice candidate removed from list.)

Second-choice data reveals where support moves when candidates exit — the essential question in any consolidating primary field.

If this candidate exits...	Diehl gets	Drazan gets	Dudley gets	Medina gets	Bethell gets
Diehl voters (n=609)	—	25.5%	15.9%	20.7%	20.2%
Dudley voters (n=70)	**52.9%**	12.9%	—	12.9%	10.0%
Drazan voters (n=71)	**54.9%**	—	14.1%	8.5%	1.4%
Medina voters (n=80)	**43.8%**	15.0%	15.0%	—	8.8%
Bethell voters (n=27)	**59.3%**	14.8%	11.1%	3.7%	—

Q2: Second-choice vote flow by first-choice candidate. Highlighted cells show Diehl's plurality or majority in every row.

The second-choice data tells a consistent story: Ed Diehl is the second-choice destination for a plurality or majority of every other candidate's supporters. Whether Dudley exits (52.9% go to Diehl), Drazan exits (54.9%),

Medina exits (43.8%), or Bethell exits (59.3%), Diehl is the consolidation point for the Republican primary electorate regardless of which candidate withdraws.

Section 6: General Election Competitiveness vs. Kotek

General election questions were asked of all respondents — Republicans, Non-Affiliated Voters (NAV), Democrats, and others — providing a cross-partisan view of each candidate's perceived electability against Democratic incumbent Governor Tina Kotek.

Q5A: Perceived Electability Against Kotek

Question Asked: *"How likely would each Republican candidate be to defeat Tina Kotek in a head-to-head general election matchup?"* (Scale: 1=Kotek definitely wins, 3=Too close to call, 5=Republican definitely wins)

Candidate	Mean (All)	Competitive+ All	Competitive+ Rep.	Competitive+ NAV	Competitive+ Dem.
Ed Diehl	**3.84**	**88.1%**	**90.2%**	**73.3%**	50.0%
Christine Drazan	2.97	66.9%	68.0%	65.0%	43.8%
Chris Dudley	2.95	66.5%	67.8%	58.3%	43.8%
Danielle Bethell	2.61	50.0%	51.9%	30.0%	31.2%
David Medina	2.52	46.9%	48.5%	30.0%	18.8%

Q5A: Perceived electability vs. Governor Kotek. 'Competitive+' = rated 3, 4, or 5 (at or above 'too close to call'). All respondents n=1,019.

Diehl leads in perceived general election competitiveness by a wide margin across all voter groups — including among NAV voters, where 73.3% see him as at least competitive against Kotek. Drazan and Dudley are essentially tied for second. Bethell and Medina show significantly lower cross-partisan appeal, particularly among the NAV voters who decide Oregon general elections.

Q5B: Actual General Election Vote Intent

Question Asked: *"In the following hypothetical November 2026 general election matchups, who would you personally vote for?"*

Matchup	Rep. vote (All)	Kotek (All)	Rep. vote (Rep.)	Rep. vote (NAV)	Won't vote (Rep.)
Diehl vs. Kotek	**95.1%**	2.1%	**96.8%**	**86.7%**	1.7%
Dudley vs. Kotek	90.6%	2.3%	92.6%	83.3%	2.0%
Medina vs. Kotek	87.6%	3.7%	89.7%	76.7%	3.2%

Bethell vs. Kotek	87.5%	2.3%	90.5%	66.7%	2.7%
Drazan vs. Kotek	87.0%	2.9%	89.3%	76.7%	**5.8%**

Q5B: General election vote intent vs. Governor Kotek — all respondents (n=1,019).

Diehl produces the strongest Republican coalition in November — 96.8% of Republicans would vote for him, and 86.7% of NAV voters would back him against Kotek. Drazan produces the highest 'won't vote' rate among Republicans at 5.8% — the highest in the field — indicating she would be likely to lose the most voters from her own party in a November matchup.

Section 7: What the Data Says

Across six independent data types — primary vote intent, favorability, perceived top-four expectations, four scenario tests, second-choice flow, and general election competitiveness — the findings are consistent and directional.

Data Point	Finding
Full-field primary	Diehl leads at 66.4% in a ten-candidate field. This position holds and strengthens in every scenario tested.
Favorability	Diehl's 87.4% favorable is the highest in the field. Drazan's 38.6% unfavorable is the highest negative. Bethell's 49.9% neutral reflects a name-recognition challenge and opportunity.
Scenario testing	A crowded field benefits Diehl in every scenario. The only scenario that challenges his dominance is a race without him — which produces a fragmented four-way split with no clear winner and Dudley finishing last among alternatives.
Second-choice flow	Diehl is the top second-choice destination for supporters of every other candidate in the field, by a significant margin in every case.
General election	Diehl leads all candidates in perceived competitiveness vs. Kotek across all voter groups including NAV voters. He produces the highest Republican coalition intent and the lowest won't-vote rate in the field.

Strategic summary across all data types

This analysis does not make recommendations to any campaign. The data herein is presented as directional evidence for each campaign's own strategic consideration and to improve each campaign's competitiveness.. Predict Oregon conducted this poll independently and without compensation from any campaign or political organization.

Predict Oregon will conduct additional polls in the months ahead as the 2026 primary season intensifies. We welcome feedback, questions, and inquiries from campaigns interested in exploring the issues, policies, and voter insights that matter most to their race.

RAW DATA AVAILABLE

The complete anonymized dataset (individual email addresses excluded) is available to any campaign upon request for independent verification and further analysis.