



TO Interested Parties

FROM Dave Metz and Miranda Everitt
FM3 Research

RE: Oregon Voter Views of GOP Senate Walkouts

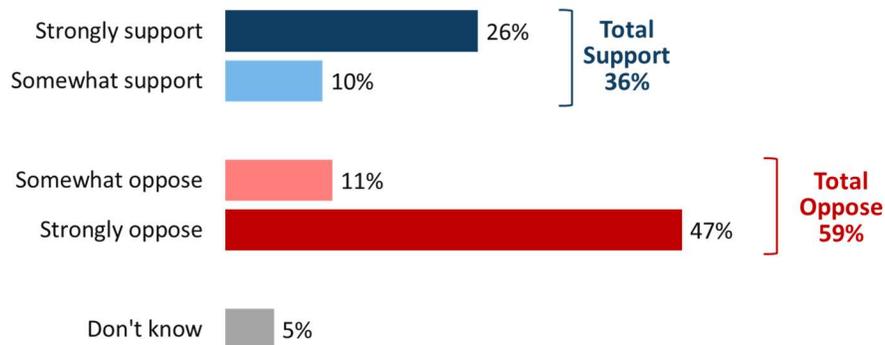
DATE January 23, 2020

FM3 recently completed a survey of Oregon voters to understand their views of last summer's State Senate walkouts.¹ **The study found broad opposition to the walkouts, especially among those most aware of the tactic.** Independent voters - a key swing voting bloc - say they are less likely to vote to re-elect an incumbent who participated. In addition, Oregon voters broadly support a ballot measure that would remove a legislator after a series unexcused absences. Specific findings of the survey include the following:

- **By a wide margin, Oregon voters oppose the walkouts.** Three in five (59%) Oregon voters oppose the walkouts, with nearly half (47%) "strongly opposed." This opposition cuts across major demographic groups, including:
 - 90% of Democrats and 60% of independents,
 - 64% of women and 54% of men, and
 - 66% of voters under 50 and 52% of voters over 50.

Figure 1: Voter Opinions of Walkouts

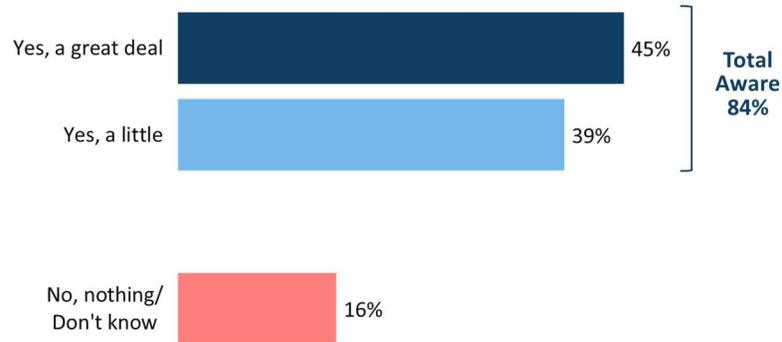
As you may know, last year, all 11 of Oregon's Republican state senators left the state twice during the legislative session in order to prevent a vote on a piece of state legislation they opposed. The result is that no legislation at all could be passed during their walkout, not just the one piece they opposed. Would you say that you support or oppose the repeated walkouts by the Republicans in the State Legislature?



- **There is broad and deep awareness of the walkouts.** More than four in five Oregon voters have seen, heard or read about the walkouts, and 45% say they heard "a great deal" about them. Those voters who have heard "a great deal" about the walkouts oppose them walkout by an eight-point margin.

Figure 2: Awareness of Senate Walkouts

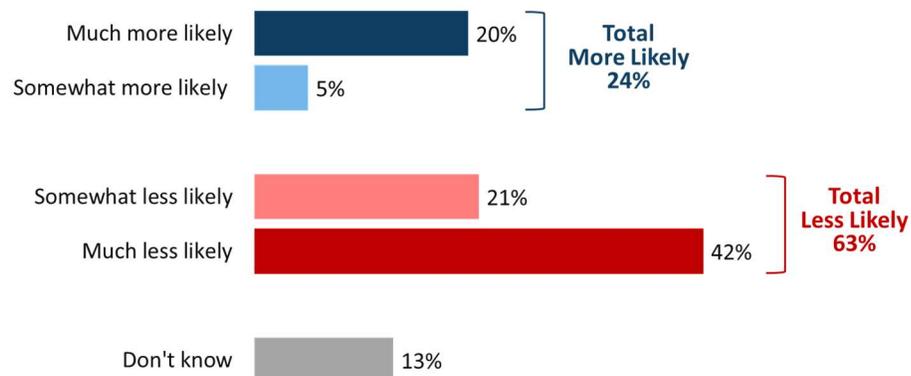
Have you seen, heard or read anything about lawmakers leaving the state legislature before the session was done to block votes on certain bills last year, which some people referred to as the Senate Walkout?



- **Non-affiliated voters see support for the walkouts as a major disincentive to back a Senate candidate.** Fully 63% of these voters say they are less likely to vote for an incumbent senator who participated in the walkouts -- and more than two in five (42%) say they are "much less likely" to do so.

Figure 3: Likelihood of Voting for a Legislator Who Walked Out

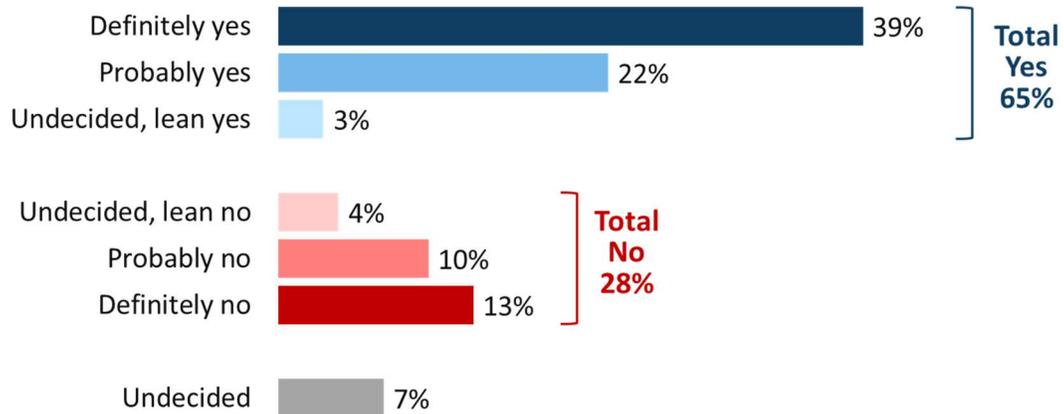
If a candidate for State Senate running for re-election had participated in this walkout, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for them? (Asked of Non-Affiliated Voters Only)



- **Oregon voters support action to prevent future walkouts.** Two-thirds (65%) support a ballot measure to remove a legislator with ten unexcused absences in a year -- two in five (39%) say they would "definitely" vote yes on such a measure.

Figure 4: Support for a Ballot Measure to Remove Legislators with Ten Unexcused Absences

This measure would remove a state legislator from office if they didn't show up for the job and had 10 unexcused absences within a year. Do you think you would vote "yes" in favor of such a measure or "no" to oppose it?



In sum, the survey results show that **Oregon voters broadly oppose the State Senate walkouts, and favor consequences for legislators who do not show up for work.** Non-affiliated voters see participation in the walkouts as a major disincentive to vote for incumbent state senators, which could be a factor in 2020 races.

ⁱ **Methodology:** From Jan. 11-19, 2020, FM3 completed 750 interviews with likely November 2020 voters in Oregon, conducted via landline, cell phones and online. The margin of sampling error for the study is +/-4.0% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups within the sample will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.