



## SUMMARY: RELIGION 2013 OREGON VALUES & BELIEFS STUDY

*Project Background: This memo presents summary points related to religion from the 2013 Oregon Values & Beliefs study. The summary draws from three surveys conducted in April and May 2013. Final sample sizes were 3971 respondents for Survey #1, 1958 for Survey #2, and 1865 for Survey #3. The questionnaires and findings are available at [www.oregonvaluesproject.org](http://www.oregonvaluesproject.org).*

*DHM Research and PolicyInteractive Research designed and conducted the surveys using telephone and online formats to aid accessibility and help obtain a representative sample. Enough interviews were completed in five geographic regions (Central, Eastern, Portland Metro, Southern, and Willamette) to permit statistically reliable analysis at the regional level. The research design used quotas and statistical weighting based on the U.S. Census to ensure representativeness within regions by age, gender, and income. The regions were then weighted proportionally by population per the U.S. Census to yield statewide results.*

*This study stands out from others in that, when asking questions about policy priorities with cost implications, we informed respondents that rating an item as "important" or "desirable" meant willingness to support some increase in taxes or reallocation of funds from other public services. The visual surveys used \$ symbols to emphasize the real-world implications of policy preferences.*

*Another distinctive feature of the study is that focal topics recur across the three surveys in a variety of question forms and contexts. High-quality research uses this "test-retest" or "triangulation" method to improve confidence in response validity.*

*This summary of key findings, observations and conclusions reflects the judgment of the research partners and not necessarily the views of the sponsoring organizations.*

### Findings

1. Nearly three in ten (28%) Oregonians say they have **no religious identity**. Christian (25%), Catholic (12%), and Protestant (7%) were the most common religious identities, and many others earned 3% or fewer mentions (S1.D18).
2. Four in ten (39%) Oregonians identify themselves as **moderately religious**, while the same number (39%) identify themselves as **not religious**. Two in ten (18%) Oregonians identify themselves as **very religious**, while four percent (4%) identify themselves as **spiritual** (S1.D19).
3. Nearly half (49%) of Oregonians feel religion is **important in their daily lives**, while a similar number (46%) say religion is **not important in their daily lives** (S1.D20).
4. More than six in 10 (62%) Oregonians say they **seldom or never attend religious services**, while three in ten (35%) say they **attend religious services monthly or more often** (S1.D21).



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5. Asked whether **religion and spirituality will become more important over the next 10 years**, only 18% of Oregonians feel such a trend is somewhat or very likely. Half (50%) feel it is unlikely and 27% are neutral. At the same time, four in 10 (40%) feel it would be desirable or somewhat desirable that religion becomes more important, compared to 28% who feel it would be undesirable (S3.20).

### **Observations and Conclusions**

About an equal number of Oregonians do and don't find religion important in their daily lives.

Half (50%) of Oregonians feel that religion is not likely to grow in importance over the next ten years, but 40% feel it would be desirable if it did, and 28% are neutral.