

Northwest Progressive Institute

revolutionizing grassroots politics

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PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, May 24th, 2018

Democratic United States Senator Maria Cantwell currently has a sixteen point lead in her reelection bid over likely Republican opponent Susan Hutchison, according to a new statewide survey of likely Washington voters commissioned by the Northwest Progressive Institute.

52% of respondents said they would vote for Cantwell (who is seeking a fourth term), and 36% said they would vote for Hutchison if the election were being held now.

12% said they were not sure.

Cantwell is facing a field of twenty-nine challengers, a dozen of whom identify as Republicans. Of the twelve Republicans, only Hutchison is well known. A former newscaster for KIRO 7, Hutchison ran against Dow Constantine for King County Executive in 2009 and lost. She later served as Chair of the Washington State Republican Party for several years.

Conducted by [Public Policy Polling](#), the survey of six hundred and seventy-five likely 2018 Washington State voters was in the field from May 22nd-23rd, 2018, using a blended methodology with automated phone calls to landlines and online interviews of cell phone only respondents. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.8% at the 95% confidence level.

[Last year, in a June 2017 survey of likely 2018 voters, NPI pitted Cantwell against former Attorney General Rob McKenna in a hypothetical matchup](#), finding that 53% would support Cantwell, while 40% would support McKenna. 6% were not sure.

"Senator Cantwell appears well positioned to earn another term representing Washingtonians in the U.S. Senate this year," said Northwest Progressive Institute founder and Executive Director Andrew Villeneuve. "In her last two campaigns, she dispatched her Republican opponents with ease. At this juncture, we have no reason to believe that Susan Hutchison will be a stronger challenger than either Mike McGavick or Michael Baumgartner."

[A survey in June 2012 by Public Policy Polling](#) and [one in July of 2012 by SurveyUSA](#) each found Cantwell at 51%. Both of those surveys were in the field prior to the Top Two election. For his part, Baumgartner garnered 35% in the PPP survey and 40% in the SurveyUSA poll. Cantwell subsequently went on to win by a double-digit margin, securing 60.45% of the vote statewide, while Baumgartner failed to break forty percent, getting just 39.55%.

“Susan Hutchison's deficit now, according to our research, is identical to Michael Baumgartner's deficit at about this time in 2012 – it's a sixteen point gap,” Villeneuve said. “We know Senator Cantwell went on to secure her biggest victory ever just a few months later. With 2018 shaping up to be a wave year for Democrats, we'll be curious to see if Senator Cantwell can top her showing from 2012, and attain a new personal best in a federal contest.”

[These findings are also available in a post on NPI's Cascadia Advocate.](#)

About NPI

The [Northwest Progressive Institute](#) is a netroots powered strategy center working to raise America's quality of life through insightful research and imaginative advocacy. NPI was founded in 2003 and is based in Redmond, Washington.

Washington State Survey for the Northwest Progressive Institute

Q1 If the election for U.S. Senate were held today and the candidates were Democrat Maria Cantwell and Republican Susan Hutchison, who would you vote for?

Maria Cantwell..... 52%
Susan Hutchison 36%
Not sure 12%

Q2 In the election for President, did you vote for Republican Donald Trump, Democrat Hillary Clinton, someone else, or did you not vote in the election?

Donald Trump..... 33%
Hillary Clinton..... 48%
Someone else / Did not vote 19%

Q3 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2. If you have a nonbinary gender identity, press 3.

Woman 53%
Man..... 46%
Nonbinary Gender Identity 1%

Q4 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If an independent or a member of another party, press 3.

Democrat 39%
Republican 23%
Independent / Other 38%

Q5 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If Asian or Pacific Islander, press 3. If black, press 4. If Native American, press 5. If other, press 6.

Hispanic 6%
White 81%
Asian or Pacific Islander..... 3%
Black..... 4%
Native American 1%
Other..... 5%

Q6 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 9%
30 to 45..... 22%
46 to 65..... 40%
Older than 65 29%

Q7 If you live in King County, press 1. If you live in North Puget Sound, press 2. If you live in the South Sound, press 3. If you live on the Olympic Peninsula or in southwest Washington, press 4. If you live in Eastern Washington, press 5.

King County..... 30%
North Puget Sound..... 19%
South Sound 14%
Olympic Peninsula/Southwest Washington 17%
Eastern Washington 20%

Q8 Mode

Phone 72%
Internet..... 28%