

January 2023 Seattle Research Poll Tree Protection Findings

Northwest Progressive Institute
revolutionizing grassroots politics since 2003

Survey particulars

Polling was conducted online from January 26th – 30th, 2023.

Using its Bias Correct Engine to attain a representative sample, Change Research polled 651 likely special election voters in Seattle for the Northwest Progressive Institute.

Post-stratification was performed on age, gender, race/ethnicity, zip code, and 2020 presidential vote. The poll has a modeled margin of error of 4.2%.

Tree and canopy loss

QUESTION: How concerned are you about tree and canopy loss in your neighborhood and the city as housing density increases to meet Seattle's growing population?

40% Very concerned

29% Somewhat concerned

18% Not too concerned

12% Not concerned at all

1% Not sure

68% Total Concerned

31% Total Not Concerned

Tree and canopy loss follow-up

FOLLOW UP QUESTION (ASKED OF THOSE WHO SAID “CONCERNED”): You stated you are concerned about losing trees in your neighborhood and the city. How important is having trees and nature in determining where you live in Seattle?

77% Very important

20% Somewhat important

2% Not too important

0% Not important at all

98% Total Important

2% Total Not Important

How important are trees?

QUESTION: Please indicate how important you think trees are to each of the following:

	Important				Total Important	Total Not
	Very	Smwt	Not Too	At All		
Increasing climate resiliency	72	21	6	2	92%	8%
Reducing air pollution	71	22	6	1	93%	7%
Reducing stormwater runoff	65	28	6	1	93%	7%
Habitat for birds and wildlife	80	16	3	1	95%	5%
Reducing heat island impacts	72	20	7	1	92%	8%
Noise reduction	54	34	10	2	88%	12%
Mental and physical health	67	26	5	2	93%	7%
More pleasant to walk and bike	65	26	7	2	91%	9%
Visual beauty	69	27	3	1	96%	4%

Convincing reasons for tree friendly policies



QUESTION: Below are several statements that advocates have made about protecting Seattle’s urban tree canopy. For each statement, please rate whether each is a convincing reason to support stronger tree protection policies in Seattle.

	Convincing				Total Convincing	Total Not
	Very	Smwt	Not Too	At All		
Requiring all developers to plant street trees will make neighborhoods more walkable.	51	28	12	9	80%	20%

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	Convincing				Total Convincing	Total Not
	Very	Smwt	Not Too	At All		
Neighborhoods will lose trees if the Washington State Legislature allows developers to opt out of local tree protection ordinances by paying a fee into a tree bank. The Legislature should not allow developers to clearcut lots and avoid planting any trees on their building sites even if space is available.	55	23	11	10	79%	21%

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	Convincing				Total Convincing	Total Not
	Very	Smwt	Not Too	At All		
As multifamily housing increases, there will be less green space on lots. Creating more small neighborhood parks close to where people live will help meet the need for people to have access to nature and play areas for children.	45	32	15	8	77%	23%

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	Convincing				Total Convincing	Total Not
	Very	Smwt	Not Too	At All		
As Seattle’s population increases, so does the pressure for increased housing. Significant tree loss frequently occurs when lots are clearcut for development instead of trying to maximize the retention of existing trees. With better planning and flexibility, we can add more affordable housing and save more existing trees.	45	32	14	9	76%	24%

Convincing reasons for tree friendly policies

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	Convincing				Total Convincing	Total Not
	Very	Smwt	Not Too	At All		
Requiring registered Tree Service Providers to report to the City the number, size, and species of trees they remove from residential neighborhoods will help the city better track tree loss and replacement across all neighborhoods and better manage the urban forest.	42	30	16	12	72%	28%

End of Slide Deck

Questions? Please get in touch with us!
Visit nwprogressive.org/contact or
call/text 425-310-2785.