

Comments About Government Results From A Focus Group With Oregonians, Age 18-34 In Central Oregon

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Focus Group Participants

- Barista—Starbucks
- Café Manager—Adjusted Youth Business
- Wireless customer service employee
- Stock employee—PetSmart
- Sells glass to Glass Blowers
- Food Service manager
- Cook
- Lottery sales/server—Sassy's Cafe

Free Association—“State Government”

- Inefficient, better than federal. // Our state government can't balance a checkbook.
- Salem, governor's office, state senate, representatives. // Dominated by Portland.
- Thieves, disorganized, self-serving. // I don't feel they are truly representing their state. They are failing. We need to start over.
- Fire some of them. State is controlled by government and people don't have a say.

Free Association—“State Government”

- Health insurance. // Low income, lack of available coverage.
- Political assholes. // One minded people who don't really listen to other people's opinions or they pretend to and still do whatever they want.
- Health care, health insurance.

Feelings About State Government

- ***Negative, strongly.*** Our state government runs out our corporate entities and creates a retirement program which makes our state a poor place to do business. That is bad practice.
- ***Positive, somewhat.*** From what I've see, Oregon has a strong state government. My knowledge on the matter isn't too great.
- ***Negative, somewhat.*** Mishandled budget, programs, wasted money. They create hostile environment for business.

Feelings About State Government

- ***Positive, somewhat.*** We have a very laid back government compared to other places, but some places can use some work.
- ***Positive, somewhat.*** Many people without jobs, many have a hard time from month to month.
- ***Negative, somewhat.*** Not a familiar as I'd like to be but all experiences point to negative. Would like more younger people to be heard.

Visited Government Website Within Last 3 Months

- ODOT to check roads from Portland to Bend.
- Oregon.gov to look up telephone numbers for probation officers and correctional facilities.
- State employment (help friends apply for unemployment); housing (foreclosure information, FHA, HUD); IRS (information for pay arrangements and tax filing); Deschutes County (information on marriage license).
- Air Force, for information

Visited Government Website Within Last 3 Months

- State Bar Association, Legal Aid, Deschutes Circuit Courts, all for information regarding legal matters.
- Deschutes police, a friend was thinking of becoming a cop trying to get information.
- Central Oregon Community College (COCC) for information about schooling.
- Oregon Lottery for information, results, and to play.

Website Comments

- ODOT TripCheck—It was easy but TripCheck doesn't allow for a chance to “follow a road.” You can only select square grids rather than moving in a direction like MapQuest and Google maps. I did appreciate the quasi live cameras.
- Financial Aid Application—Relatively easy in the beginning, however, the corrections that need to be made after I fill out the information get confusing. I believe that there should be more tools on the website itself to aid in filling out the forms.

Website Comments

- The websites I used were pretty easy to follow, user friendly, and well mapped.
- Not very helpful in my personal situation, but overall informative.
- Could have used more information and categories to choose from.
- Some are real easy. I could only access the information I needed from certain computers.

Thank You!

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