

Atiyeh's lead narrows as election day nears

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State Sen. Victor Atiyeh remains the front-runner in Oregon's gubernatorial race, with a nine-point advantage over incumbent Gov. Bob Straub, with a little more than three weeks remaining until the election.

This is the identical margin held by the Republican challenger in September among all registered voters in the state. However, among those most likely to go to the polls Nov. 7, the Democratic incumbent has shaved Atiyeh's lead by four percentage points.

Here is the trend produced by a statewide poll sponsored by *The Oregonian* and conducted by Bardsley & Haslacher, an independent research organization.

The first set of results reflects the preference of all registered voters, while the second set of figures traces time period results among recently active voters, who are considered most likely to vote this election day.

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS		
	Oct. 12	Sept. 7
Atiyeh	49%	47%
Straub	40	38
Undecided	11	15
ACTIVE VOTERS		
Atiyeh	50	50
Straub	40	36
Undecided	10	14

Despite his gain among prospective voters, Straub has his work cut out for him, since Atiyeh has retained the majority mark, slender though it is.

Most of the undecided voters are Democrats and independents. How they vote Nov. 7 could well determine the outcome of the contest.

Another key consideration is party loyalty. Atiyeh, for example, attracts nearly one-third of the Democratic voters, while holding a solid 3-1 lead in his own party. To illustrate:

BY PARTY			
	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Atiyeh	32%	73%	56%
Straub	56	17	30
Undecided	12	10	14

Straub's support is concentrated in Multnomah County, which is predominantly Democratic (2-to-1), while Atiyeh leads in the other three congressional districts, as documented below.

BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4
Atiyeh	51%	53%	43%	49%
Straub	38	39	48	35
Undecided ...	11	8	9	16

These results are based on 606 in-person interviews with a scientifically selected cross-section of the state's electorate. The sample was 55 percent Democrat, 34 percent Republican and 11 percent independent or other.