

September 21, 2007

Orange County Voters Want Action Taken Against Chriss Street

To: Interested Parties

From: Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

The recent investigations against Treasurer-Tax Collector Chriss Street create major reservations among the Orange County community. A recent survey of 512 registered Orange County voters reveals a disconcerted public that wants Street to be held accountable for any wrongdoing¹.

The most striking results of the survey reveal an electorate that does not approve of Street. Knowing of the alleged investigations, they want decisive action taken against him in the form of stripping his investment and/or financial responsibilities. Should punishment not be rendered, the Board of Supervisors is positioned to suffer in standing among Orange County voters.

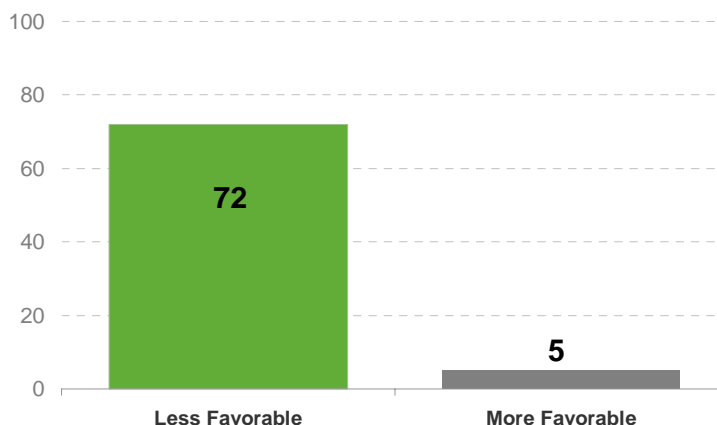
Strong Disapproval of Street's Actions

A treasurer's alleged involvement in financial impropriety is enough to raise questions with taxpayers. This scandal raises more than just questions—it creates serious doubts about Street and his ability to do his job as Treasurer. After hearing a description of Street's investigations, nearly three out of four voters (72%) hold a **less** favorable opinion of the treasurer-tax collector. This is *not* a partisan issue as registered Democrats (73%), Republicans (71%) and independents (74%) express their disapproval with Street at comparable levels. That negativity is consistent across Supervisor district as overwhelming majorities of voters in each district strongly disapprove of the Treasurer's actions.

Orange County Voters Dislike Street's Actions

As you may have heard, Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector Chriss Street is under four separate investigations including the federal government and District Attorney for alleged financial wrongdoing. The federal government is investigating allegations of Street's mismanagement of a company's bankruptcy funds while he controlled the company before being elected Treasurer. As treasurer, he is under investigation by the District Attorney for alleged wrongdoing related to awarding government contracts.

Does this give you a more or less favorable opinion of Treasurer Chriss Street?



¹ **Survey Methodology:** Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research conducted a survey among 512 registered voters from September 13- 18, 2007 in Orange County. The survey has a margin of error +/- 4.4 percent.

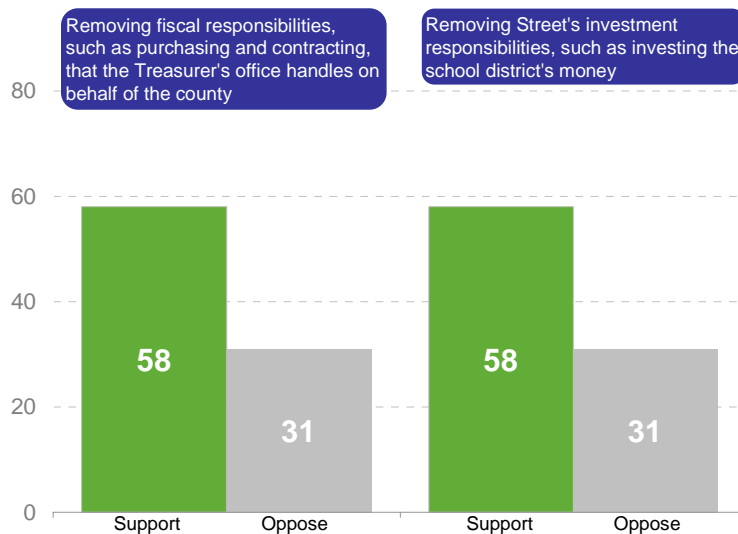
Voters Want Action Taken Against Street

Given the public's unfavorable opinion of Street's actions, voters want recourse taken for his wrongdoings. Nearly three in five voters (58%) support removing Street's fiscal responsibilities, such as purchasing and contracting, that the Treasurer's office handles on behalf of the county. Among the people who support rescinding Street's duties, three out of four (72%) *strongly* support that course of action. Similarly, three in five voters (58%) approve of removing Street's investment responsibilities, such as investing the school district's money. In both the case of removing fiscal and investment responsibilities, voters support the action by a two-to-one margin with only three out of ten (31%) opposed to such measures.

This call for action is consistent across partisan and geographic lines, and particularly pronounced among Republican and independent voters where two-thirds support stripping fiduciary duties. Furthermore, voters in all five supervisor districts support each of these proposed disciplinary actions against Street.

Voters Support Taking Specific Actions Against Street

Now, I am going to read you some actions people have mentioned that could be taken against Treasurer Chriss Street. After each, please tell me whether you support or oppose that action.

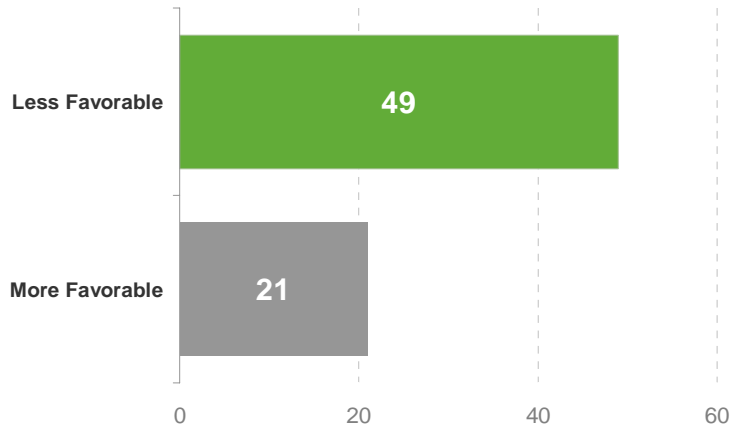


Implications for the Board of Supervisors

With disapproval of Chriss Street's actions and a desire for holding him accountable, voters look to the Board of Supervisors for administering punishment. Voters disapprove of the fact that the Board of Supervisors has refused to take concrete action against Street. The survey found that more than twice as many voters have a less favorable opinion of the Board of Supervisors than more favorable once they hear the Board decided to take no action for a month and after hearing more about Street's wrongdoings. Specifically, half (49%) of voters hold a less favorable opinion to only one out of five (21%) who hold a more favorable opinion.

Board of Supervisors Favorability Drops Due to Lack of Action

Now let me ask you again about the Board of Supervisors voting to take no action for 1 month on Treasurer Chriss Street. After hearing more about Chriss Street, do you have a MORE or LESS favorable opinion of the Board of Supervisors?



The Board of Supervisors risks angering voters by not taking action. This is true across the ideological spectrum as Democrats (52%), Republicans (48%) and independents (49%) share this unfavorable opinion. Voters are clearly ready for the Board of Supervisors to take the lead in providing a course of action against Chriss Street.