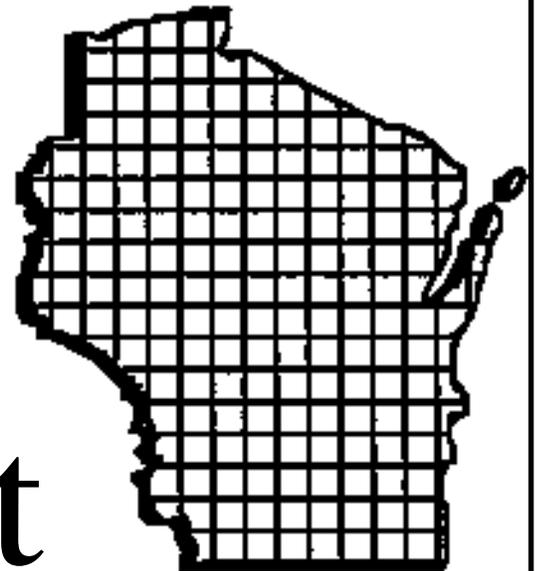


Wisconsin

Policy
Research
Institute

Report



November 2005

Volume 18, Number 7

Wisconsin Speaks 2005

A Survey of Public Opinion

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT:

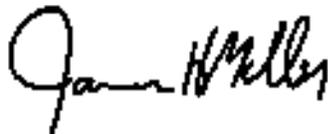
This Wisconsin Citizen Survey was conducted by Diversified Research, a nationally known survey research company. Dr. Michael LaVelle, who has had a relationship with us since 1987, directed this project. He has been President of Diversified Research since 1982, has thirty years of experience in survey research, and has taught statistics and social research methods at the university level. He replaced Dr. Gordon S. Black, former chairman of Harris Interactive, who has recently retired.

This is the second year we are presenting data in a format seldom seen in polling. We are including coded verbatim responses from respondents to our survey. What makes this unusual is that normal Wisconsin residents are telling us in a scientific survey what really is on their minds when it comes to issues in the state. The way this is structured is that respondents are asked a general question at the beginning of the survey. They tell the questioner, in their own words, the issue they are most concerned about. There is no other filtering data or questions. This is a technique that in the past was frequently used, but more commonly dropped now by almost all survey research firms. The reason is that it is very costly to enter these responses into data banks.

Over the years we have continued this practice because we feel it is one of the best barometers for what is known in the survey research business as "top of mind." What that means is that none of the people in the survey were coaxed or given a choice in their answers. They are simply telling us, in their own words, what is on their minds.

The results of this survey reveal that people sense an enormous disconnect from Wisconsin politicians and government. Part of it is definitely being driven by economic concerns, but it is also clear that the growth of lobbying and the decline in integrity are having an impact on the relationship between Wisconsin residents and their government. Some of the indicators from our poll show the lowest rating ever for people's optimism about the state's economy, their own personal financial circumstances, and their view of the overall direction of the state.

We hope that people take the time to read these responses, because it does paint a picture of how real people in Wisconsin feel and not what we are being told by our politicians or the media.



James H. Miller

WISCONSIN POLICY

RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.

P.O. Box 487 • Thiensville, WI 53092

(262) 242-6409 • Fax: (262) 242-6459

E-mail: wpri@wpri.org • Internet: www.wpri.org

WISCONSIN SPEAKS

2005

A Survey of Public Opinion

MICHAEL LAVELLE, PH.D.

JAMES H. MILLER

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1
DEMOCRATS	2
REPUBLICANS	6
INDEPENDENTS	11
OTHER PARTY	15
NO PARTY GIVEN	15

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Buchanan, *Chairman*

David Baumgarten

Catherine C. Dellin

Roger Hauck

James Klauser

Dennis Kuester

David J. Lubar

San Orr, Jr.

Robert O'Toole

Paul Schierl

Timothy Sheehy

Edward Zore

James Miller, *President*

INTRODUCTION

We have been conducting public opinion surveys of Wisconsin residents since 1987. This survey was conducted from October 2 to October 4, 2005. There has already been a release of some of the major issues covered in this survey.

What makes this particular study so unusual is that for the second time we are publishing the unfiltered opinions of Wisconsin residents. Most surveys will ask people about issues. Few, if any, polls besides the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute's will actually ask the classic survey question on an open-end basis to have respondents describe the most important issue facing Wisconsin. This type of question is asked at the beginning of a poll and is totally unfiltered by any other information. It gives a much more accurate picture of the views and feelings of the respondents. The usual poll will have several potential issues that are filtered and force people to make a choice: open-ended survey questions do not. The reason this technique has been dropped by almost all polls in Wisconsin and across the country is that it is very expensive to administer.

We are presenting the results from 600 Wisconsin residents. Clearly, there is enormous concern in this state with gasoline prices, taxes, jobs, unemployment, and health care. This data originates from approximately 91% of our survey respondents who identified state problems. The results are their verbatim reply to the question: "In your opinion, what is the single most important problem facing Wisconsin that the government should be doing something about?" We have not included the answers of respondents who offered no opinion or could not make a choice — 51 responses. The rest of the opinions are presented in the following pages. It paints a very interesting picture of the real problems Wisconsinites see in their state and believe their state government should deal with over the next several years. The timing is simple. We are about to begin the next election cycle, which will culminate in November 2006 with the election of a governor for Wisconsin. We hope our state government officials learn something from this study.

We have arranged the results by political party. Respondents could identify themselves as Democrats, Republicans, Independents or some other party. Some respondents did not share their party affiliation. It is obvious from reading the replies that Wisconsin citizens see the same problems in their state regardless of their party affiliation.

The Methodology for the Study

The data in this report are based on a randomly selected sample of 600 Wisconsin residents who are 18 years of age and older. The sample was drawn from a list of telephone numbers generated by a computer. This method includes both unlisted numbers and new listings in proportion to their representation in the population. This process, and the sampling itself, is controlled by a Computer Aided Sampling (CAS) system, which monitors the entire process to insure that callbacks are made at appropriate times and that numbers are sampled correctly.

A survey of 600 randomly selected residents has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent for percentages based on the entire sample. For an underlying percentage of 50%, for example, this means that repeated samples would produce results between 46% and 54%, 95 times out of 100. The margin of error for sub-samples, such as women, blacks, or young people, will be significantly greater.

Diversified Research

Dr. Michael LaVelle, President of Diversified Research, a nationally known survey research company, supervised the project. Dr. LaVelle has a Ph.D. and has taught statistics and social research methods at the university level. He has been President of Diversified Research since 1982 and has over 30 years' experience in survey research.

Reading the results

The sex of the respondent is given. The areas of the state are as follows: SO EAST - Southeastern Wisconsin, GRN BAY - the Green Bay area, MILW-SUB - Milwaukee Suburbs, WAUKESHA - Waukesha County, MADISON - Madison, LACROSSE - La Crosse/Eau Claire area, CITY/MILW - the City of Milwaukee, REST - the rest of the state.

**In your opinion, what is the single most important problem facing Wisconsin
that the government should be doing something about?**

DEMOCRATS - 184 REPSONSES

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	REST	Fuel prices
F	LACROSSE	Economy
F	CITY/MILW	Education
F	MILW-SUB	Women not getting the same salary as a man
F	GRN BAY	Taxes, on all of the above, taxes in general
M	GRN BAY	Gas prices
F	LACROSSE	Gas
M	MILW-SUB	Health care
F	REST	Not enough money for education
M	REST	George Bush
F	SO EAST	Job rates — employment rates — unemployment
F	GRN BAY	Taxes
F	LACROSSE	Education
M	REST	The issue of taxes is high in Wisconsin
M	WAUKESHA	Lowering gas prices
F	CITY/MILW	Property taxes
F	GRN BAY	Jobs
M	GRN BAY	Education
M	GRN BAY	Unemployment
M	MILW-SUB	Job loss — industrial — and it's all China
F	SO EAST	Helping single moms get a degree
M	SO EAST	High property taxes
F	MILW-SUB	Jobs
M	CITY/MILW	Taxes are too much
M	LACROSSE	Gas prices
M	MADISON	Too much water pollution
F	GRN BAY	Jobs and health care for people who need it
F	SO EAST	Job security
M	SO EAST	Social security
F	MADISON	The high price of gas
M	REST	Finances and drug problems
M	LACROSSE	Medicare health plan
F	MADISON	Health care
M	MILW-SUB	Make health care more affordable
F	SO EAST	High taxes
F	LACROSSE	Affordable and accessible health care
M	SO EAST	To stop outsourcing jobs and technology to other countries

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	CITY/MILW	Death crisis
F	CITY/MILW	Gas prices
M	GRN BAY	Don't like the way the United States is going
M	WAUKESHA	High property and school taxes
M	SO EAST	Taxes to aid education
F	GRN BAY	Taxes
F	WAUKESHA	Property tax
F	GRN BAY	Problems with schools
M	REST	I think homelessness is a huge problem that the government needs to solve.
F	SO EAST	Education for single mothers
F	REST	Health insurance for everyone
F	MILW-SUB	Education funding
M	SO EAST	Health care
F	REST	Universal health care
M	CITY/MILW	Public work project
F	CITY/MILW	Price of gas
F	GRN BAY	Worried about the budget
F	GRN BAY	Taxes
F	GRN BAY	High taxes
F	REST	Unemployment
M	CITY/MILW	Predators
F	MILW-SUB	I think it should be education because a lot of kids are not graduating from high school.
F	GRN BAY	The lack of payment for education
F	MADISON	Property tax
M	CITY/MILW	High taxes
F	REST	They need to stop sending troops to Iraq.
F	REST	I think insurance is a big concern. Out of pocket expenses are getting out of hand.
F	GRN BAY	Lowering gas prices
F	CITY/MILW	Death crisis
M	REST	Fuel prices are too high
F	GRN BAY	They need to address the gas prices.
F	LACROSSE	Budget and economics
M	REST	The war
F	MADISON	Health benefits and the cost
M	SO EAST	Fuel crisis — home heating oil too expensive
F	MILW-SUB	More jobs, we are losing jobs
M	SO EAST	Welfare improvement
F	SO EAST	Education or schools — its lack of funding
F	GRN BAY	Education
F	SO EAST	High taxes
F	SO EAST	Gas prices

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	CITY/MILW	High property taxes
M	SO EAST	Education
M	WAUKESHA	Working to get more jobs
M	MADISON	Campaign finance reform
M	GRN BAY	Too many jobs leaving
F	CITY/MILW	Education
M	WAUKESHA	The war
F	WAUKESHA	Protecting the population against avian flu
M	GRN BAY	Medicare
F	SO EAST	Allocate more money to health and education
M	GRN BAY	The governor should abolish the gun law
F	SO EAST	The water, the lakes
F	REST	Taxes
F	MILW-SUB	To keep senior's insurance through the state
F	SO EAST	Funding for public education
M	MADISON	Health care is the most important issue facing our country
M	LACROSSE	Jobs
F	CITY/MILW	Growth development
F	MADISON	Social security, making sure we have it
M	MADISON	Health care — insurance that poor people can afford
F	GRN BAY	Improving the economy and job climate
M	SO EAST	The environment
F	MILW-SUB	Job openings
F	LACROSSE	Education
F	MILW-SUB	Health insurance because the coverage is getting worse
M	MILW-SUB	Jobs
F	MADISON	The issue of unemployment and the issue of the government trying to dictate where and how we should smoke
F	REST	Lack of funding for education
M	GRN BAY	Economize in government like uncovering cars and things that could be cut back
F	MILW-SUB	The issue of gasoline
F	MILW-SUB	Making health care more accessible
F	CITY/MILW	Race issues
F	WAUKESHA	We are not getting enough businesses or people moving into the state because of the taxes. No jobs because of taxes
M	CITY/MILW	Get out of Iraq.
F	CITY/MILW	Health care
M	GRN BAY	Doyle hasn't taken care of the QEO that he promised.
F	REST	Economy
F	GRN BAY	Economy
M	CITY/MILW	The state government should focus on social issues.

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	GRN BAY	Roads need to be fixed
F	SO EAST	The way the money is being spent on the war
F	MADISON	Health care
F	LACROSSE	The price of drugs for seniors
F	SO EAST	More help for seniors and health coverage
M	MILW-SUB	More health programs for the elderly
F	WAUKESHA	Taxes
M	REST	Education
F	CITY/MILW	Schools and education
M	WAUKESHA	Get gas prices down
M	MADISON	Health care is of primary importance
F	GRN BAY	Helping poor, education and domestic
F	GRN BAY	Gas prices
M	LACROSSE	Taxes
F	MADISON	Health care
M	CITY/MILW	The poverty level
M	SO EAST	Creating jobs much needed
M	MILW-SUB	Economy
F	SO EAST	I think our budget management is a problem
M	SO EAST	Education, funding for education should be more
F	GRN BAY	Education
F	LACROSSE	We need prescription drug coverage
F	CITY/MILW	It's more funding about social services — specifically, I'd say medical care
F	GRN BAY	Health care cost
F	GRN BAY	Jobs
F	SO EAST	Taxes
M	MILW-SUB	High taxes on pretty much everything
M	LACROSSE	Jobs
M	MADISON	Public schools
F	REST	Gas prices
M	MADISON	Gas prices
F	LACROSSE	Food prices are too high
F	REST	Health care
M	REST	Taking care of crime
M	REST	Property tax
F	CITY/MILW	Property taxes
F	REST	Poverty
F	MILW-SUB	Eminent domain
M	REST	Fuel prices are out of control
F	REST	They have cut spending on education too much
F	MILW-SUB	Please do something about mandatory rises in gasoline taxes
F	GRN BAY	Domestic abuse

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	SO EAST	Fixing social security
M	CITY/MILW	Poverty
F	MILW-SUB	Gas prices are high
M	SO EAST	Taxes
M	CITY/MILW	Health care and the social security system
M	GRN BAY	Budget
F	MILW-SUB	Unemployment
F	REST	Health care and prescription costs
F	WAUKESHA	Property taxes
F	GRN BAY	Gas prices and everything
F	CITY/MILW	Our employment issues
M	CITY/MILW	Keeping felons in prison
M	CITY/MILW	Taxes It's right underneath health care, but I feel taxes are getting out of control.
F	CITY/MILW	Jobs (the need for more)
F	CITY/MILW	Gas
F	REST	Education
M	SO EAST	Medical insurance
F	REST	Care for seniors
F	REST	The high gasoline prices
F	LACROSSE	Unemployment
F	LACROSSE	More funding for the tornado victims
M	CITY/MILW	Bring the boys home
F	GRN BAY	Employment, health care for the unemployed
F	REST	Better/more learning institutions
M	GRN BAY	Taxes are the most important issue

REPUBLICANS - 152 RESPONSES

M	REST	Getting rid of the governor, Doyle, who is corrupt
F	GRN BAY	To create new businesses and new jobs to promote better business environment to attract more business for more jobs
M	GRN BAY	Lowering property taxes
M	GRN BAY	Taxes
M	MILW-SUB	Property taxes are too high
F	MILW-SUB	State funding
F	WAUKESHA	Property taxes
M	MADISON	High taxes I just think someone has to stick their finger in the dike, slowdown tax growth
M	LACROSSE	They should look into the welfare program. Some people have been on it for years.
F	GRN BAY	Gas prices
M	MILW-SUB	Taxes

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	SO EAST	Taxes
F	MILW-SUB	Aid to schools
M	REST	Taxes
M	REST	Funding for public school
M	CITY/MILW	Kill the gas tax
M	GRN BAY	State tax
F	REST	Health care
F	LACROSSE	Taxes are too high
M	LACROSSE	The gasoline tax
M	REST	The gasoline price
M	REST	Lower the taxes
F	WAUKESHA	Transportation
M	LACROSSE	Gasoline prices
F	WAUKESHA	The budget
M	MADISON	Taxes
F	LACROSSE	Health care
F	MADISON	I'm sure it's reduction of expenditures. Government tends to overspend because constituents want things. Some of these things aren't necessary.
F	MILW-SUB	Taxes
M	REST	Northern Wisconsin has no news — no TV, no radio — it comes out of Duluth Minnesota, the FCC won't do anything. Has written Congress and to no avail
F	MADISON	Schools
F	LACROSSE	To do away with the inheritance tax
F	MILW-SUB	Education
F	LACROSSE	High taxes
F	REST	It's drugs They should stop underage kids from using them.
F	CITY/MILW	The teachers union
F	REST	The school funding formula
M	REST	Watching country's borders and illegal immigrants entering country
F	GRN BAY	Health care premiums are way too high, and I feel there should be universal health care.
M	SO EAST	The condition of the roads
F	REST	Gas taxes and gas prices
M	MADISON	Continue to be accountable to the people, meaning quality leadership
M	MILW-SUB	Governor Doyle, concealed carry, pact made with army is very poor
M	CITY/MILW	School choice
M	MILW-SUB	The issue of property taxes
F	CITY/MILW	Cutting spending is the most important on wasteful programs. We pay too much taxes. Voter ID — there should be a voter ID when you go to vote.
F	REST	Medication
M	WAUKESHA	They should put a freeze on property tax, there's one in place but there should be a better one.
F	GRN BAY	Gas prices
M	MILW-SUB	Making things too easy for people and things are too loose today (immoral)

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	REST	Taxes
M	MADISON	Property taxes are too high and keep rising
F	MILW-SUB	Taxes. They are too high.
M	REST	Getting R&D funds available for new businesses
M	MILW-SUB	Lower taxes — fuel prices
M	GRN BAY	Liberal governor
F	MILW-SUB	Health care
F	CITY/MILW	High gas prices! Everyone else is not as high as we are, I don't see why it has to be so high here
F	SO EAST	Budget balancing
F	REST	Election fraud
M	GRN BAY	Energy issues
M	GRN BAY	Better funding for public schools
F	LACROSSE	Lowering property taxes
M	MILW-SUB	The governor
M	CITY/MILW	Health care
M	SO EAST	Gas prices
F	WAUKESHA	Regulating voting with picture ID
F	MILW-SUB	Taxes, property taxes are high, and they tax everyone
M	REST	Fuel prices
M	SO EAST	Proper health care and access to it
M	GRN BAY	Education
M	MILW-SUB	Reducing education budget cuts
M	REST	Health care
M	MILW-SUB	The number of people on SSI and government aid
M	REST	Taxes
F	REST	The fact that most college graduates exit Wisconsin upon graduation
F	WAUKESHA	Jobs
M	MILW-SUB	Providing jobs
M	WAUKESHA	The issue and the state of welfare in Wisconsin
F	MADISON	Real estate taxes
M	SO EAST	Taxes increase
M	REST	The state patrol and the sheriff's department are out of control, and have to be reined in. They have too much power, and they think nothing of harassing and intimidating our citizens
M	GRN BAY	Taxes
F	CITY/MILW	Everything Taxes is high, and gasoline prices
F	WAUKESHA	We cant afford the government today
F	REST	Replace gas — for cars and natural gas
M	CITY/MILW	Don't raise the taxes
F	SO EAST	Underpaid and homeless people
M	GRN BAY	Cut spending
M	MILW-SUB	Urban poverty

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	WAUKESHA	The taxes — they need to be lowered
M	GRN BAY	The gas tax — its a little too high The money could be taken from somewhere else.
M	WAUKESHA	Jobs
M	REST	Health care
M	SO EAST	Taxes —we have high-end taxes
M	GRN BAY	Religion/need to continue with school prayers
F	MILW-SUB	I think that they should require ID to vote.
F	SO EAST	Saudi Arabia
F	MILW-SUB	High taxes, state and income tax
M	REST	Property taxes
M	REST	Taxes
M	CITY/MILW	To lower taxes
M	MILW-SUB	Taxes: overall, we're the highest taxed state in the nation
F	REST	Make it affordable for us to pay and receive care
F	GRN BAY	Must have an ID to vote
M	WAUKESHA	Lowering my taxes
M	REST	Economy expansion
M	MILW-SUB	Bringing down the price of gas
F	GRN BAY	Taxes
F	GRN BAY	It's lowering taxes
F	GRN BAY	Taxes
M	MADISON	Outsourcing to China
F	WAUKESHA	Getting government spending under control
M	CITY/MILW	High property taxes
M	WAUKESHA	Taxes
F	MILW-SUB	Gas prices, taking the Wisconsin tax off temporarily
M	MILW-SUB	Education
M	MILW-SUB	Getting rid of the governor
M	GRN BAY	The gas prices
M	WAUKESHA	Tax prices
M	WAUKESHA	Taxes
F	REST	Social security
F	GRN BAY	Economy
M	REST	The income, sales and property taxes
F	REST	Lower taxes
M	REST	Limit the red tape and let us be
M	SO EAST	No problems except, education
M	LACROSSE	The high cost of taxes
M	LACROSSE	Lower taxes
F	WAUKESHA	High taxes
M	GRN BAY	Gas taxes
F	SO EAST	Taxes are too high and they need to lower them

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	GRN BAY	School funding
F	SO EAST	Taxes
F	MILW-SUB	Taxes
F	GRN BAY	Judiciary system
M	GRN BAY	Dealing with the economy
F	WAUKESHA	Funding for education
M	WAUKESHA	Reducing taxes
F	REST	Taxes: are far too high such as property taxes
F	CITY/MILW	High taxes
F	MADISON	The cost of property taxes in Wisconsin
F	GRN BAY	Lower taxes
F	CITY/MILW	Funding for Wisconsin schools
F	MADISON	Economics
F	REST	The health care issues
F	REST	Limit Wisconsin government spending
F	MADISON	Economy
F	WAUKESHA	Taxes — real estate taxes are too high
M	REST	Terrorism
F	MILW-SUB	The educational issues
F	LACROSSE	Taxes

INDEPENDENTS - 176 RESPONSES

M	MADISON	Education
F	REST	Unemployment
M	WAUKESHA	Crime
F	REST	Improving the welfare system
F	REST	To stop our state from losing our dairy farmers
M	LACROSSE	Jobs — get the unhealthy tax systems fixed
M	CITY/MILW	Creating jobs
F	GRN BAY	Reduction in the budget of social services
F	MADISON	Taxes
M	REST	Health care
M	REST	Moral standards
M	SO EAST	Gas prices
M	REST	Medicare
F	GRN BAY	Education
F	LACROSSE	Health insurance and social security
M	GRN BAY	Taxes are too high
F	REST	Public education — I don't think kids are coming out with skills they need to get a job
F	MADISON	Health care
F	CITY/MILW	They need to do something about the high taxes here

F	MADISON	Jobs
F	SO EAST	Taxes
M	GRN BAY	High taxes
M	MILW-SUB	Gas — gas prices and taxes too high
F	MADISON	Corrupted politics and the environment
F	REST	School funding/a better formula for education
M	REST	Employment, more jobs are needed
M	GRN BAY	Environmental issues
F	MADISON	Taxes
F	MADISON	System of health care and health insurance
F	MADISON	To control nuclear war
M	GRN BAY	Taxes
F	WAUKESHA	I think ending the war
F	MADISON	Health care
F	REST	Helping the poverty and disabled
F	MILW-SUB	The governor
M	WAUKESHA	Prices
M	SO EAST	Drunk drivers — they kill and get out in a couple years
F	MADISON	High cost of fuel
F	GRN BAY	Gas prices
F	REST	Funding for public schools
M	LACROSSE	More jobs as there is no factory work
F	MADISON	Keeping weapons of mass destruction under control
M	REST	Medicaid
M	GRN BAY	New job generation, encouraging bringing more employment to Wisconsin
M	GRN BAY	Have more prescription drug benefits
M	GRN BAY	Taxes are too high
M	GRN BAY	The decline of morality
M	CITY/MILW	Poverty
F	MILW-SUB	Tax increase
M	MADISON	Gas
F	SO EAST	Medical costs
F	MILW-SUB	Taxes, property and sales taxes — they are thinking of raising them
M	LACROSSE	Medical coverage for everyone
F	MADISON	Iraq
M	GRN BAY	The quality of education
M	CITY/MILW	Taxes
F	SO EAST	When the city condemns people's houses and drives them to bankruptcy,
F	REST	Unemployment
F	SO EAST	Education — the spending caps on education cause the cuts that make some districts have to close
F	GRN BAY	Gas
M	LACROSSE	More money for schools

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	REST	Gas prices
M	CITY/MILW	Violence — one hundred people got murdered in Milwaukee Unmarried women having kids is the root of it
M	REST	Health care issues
M	MADISON	Gas prices
M	REST	Property taxes and funding education
F	GRN BAY	Jobs are the single most important problem
M	REST	I feel the cost of living for the average person is getting too much that they have some type of limitations. School system should be addressed, they lose state funding
F	REST	The issue of income taxes and property taxes in the state of Wisconsin
M	REST	Federal deficit
F	SO EAST	Honesty
F	GRN BAY	Get the Democrats back in control of the legislature
M	CITY/MILW	High property taxes
M	SO EAST	Doyle's education policies
M	LACROSSE	I'd say jobs. They don't exist. 40% of the workforce is gone from here. The wages are now 30 years behind the times. Fuel costs are the highest in the state here.
M	GRN BAY	Taxes
F	REST	Our state has become a dump site for neighboring state sites
M	MILW-SUB	Health care
F	REST	More funding for schools
F	CITY/MILW	Lobbying and special interest groups have too much power
M	REST	Taxes, gas prices,
F	LACROSSE	Keep small high schools open
M	MILW-SUB	I would say taxes. We're probably the second highest state in the country that taxes
F	LACROSSE	Poverty
F	LACROSSE	Gas prices
M	CITY/MILW	State budget, getting out of debt
M	GRN BAY	Taxes
M	LACROSSE	I'm concerned about our state representatives involvement in money laundering
M	REST	I'm pro-life supporter, and I'm upset with stem cell research.
M	MILW-SUB	No resources for grandparents raising their grandchildren
F	REST	Gas prices are too high
M	MADISON	Farmers cannot sow the government is taking over
F	SO EAST	More funding for, and improving education
M	SO EAST	The economy
M	SO EAST	Health care
M	MILW-SUB	Everything is fine at the moment
F	REST	Health insurance
M	MADISON	Education
F	GRN BAY	Taxes — property and gas
F	CITY/MILW	Reduce taxes

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	SO EAST	There is no excuse for the gas prices. Why are they so high?
F	GRN BAY	Energy sources
M	LACROSSE	Probably taking the automatic gas tax off
M	GRN BAY	It's medical insurance. My two doctor cousins are building bigger houses while some people have no medical coverage and little income. It affects the entire society. Most labor contracts are not being settled because of the medical coverage issue. The medical community cannot increase prices by 15-20% per year without regard to economic reality.
F	REST	Gas prices are too high
M	MADISON	The government should not be involved in trying to ban therapeutic cloning research, reproductive OK, but not therapeutic
M	LACROSSE	Health care
F	GRN BAY	Helping the poor
M	GRN BAY	Getting the budget in order
M	WAUKESHA	Income taxes are just too high
M	REST	Health care cost
M	MILW-SUB	High price of energy
M	SO EAST	Funding education from pre-school to high schools and university/keeping teachers and professors in America because of cutbacks and leaving for other countries
M	GRN BAY	Balance the budget
M	CITY/MILW	Job creation
M	GRN BAY	Jim Doyle and his politics
M	GRN BAY	The high taxes
F	MADISON	Property taxes — they are too high
F	GRN BAY	Health care
F	REST	Getting out the illegal aliens
F	MILW-SUB	I would say health care
F	CITY/MILW	The educational issues
F	GRN BAY	Minimum wage
F	REST	Medical costs — what the elderly have to pay is too high
M	REST	State debt
F	CITY/MILW	Employment
M	CITY/MILW	Taxes — jobs
F	CITY/MILW	Jobs moving away
F	REST	More affordable health care
F	GRN BAY	Taxes, medical insurance, teachers, safety
M	WAUKESHA	Environmental issues-energy conservation
M	MADISON	Gas prices
F	MADISON	Housing for the poor
F	MILW-SUB	Jobs
M	GRN BAY	Taxes are too high
F	CITY/MILW	Education in the city of Milwaukee, if it were better the kids would have something to do and it would reduce crime

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	MILW-SUB	High taxes
F	MADISON	It's property taxes. The school taxes should be removed from the property taxes. Also, some programs, such as the W-2, don't need to be funded by taxpayers.
M	WAUKESHA	Taxes
F	WAUKESHA	The cost of health care and prescription drugs
M	SO EAST	The fuel costs, not only gas, but home heating as well
F	CITY/MILW	The economy
F	CITY/MILW	High gas taxes
M	MADISON	Health insurance
M	MILW-SUB	Education should be improved, needs more money
M	GRN BAY	Need better overall leadership
M	SO EAST	Depleting natural resources faster than they are replenishing them
F	MILW-SUB	Taxes
F	MILW-SUB	Taxes
M	CITY/MILW	Overdevelopment
F	GRN BAY	The rising taxes
M	MILW-SUB	The issue of property taxes in Wisconsin
F	REST	The price of gas is way too high
M	MADISON	Education
M	MADISON	Stem cell research
F	REST	Saving traditional family unit
M	GRN BAY	Health care
M	GRN BAY	The crime, too much killing in Wisconsin
F	GRN BAY	Education
M	MILW-SUB	Rising gasoline prices
F	MILW-SUB	Increasing tax revenues for the community and community services
F	CITY/MILW	Health care, it must be provided for people who don't have health care
F	CITY/MILW	Rising cost of fuel & looking for alternative methods
M	SO EAST	Education
M	REST	Fuel prices
F	MILW-SUB	High taxes
M	MILW-SUB	Gas taxes
M	MADISON	Our tax bill
F	MILW-SUB	The taxes
M	GRN BAY	Jobs
M	REST	The federal deficit
M	REST	To cut property taxes as much as they can. We will have to sell our home unless something is done; we can't afford the taxes on the money we make.
M	MADISON	Help the tornado victims
M	CITY/MILW	Unemployment
M	WAUKESHA	Taxes
F	GRN BAY	Economy issues

OTHER PARTY - 21 RESPONSES

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	SO EAST	Lack of work
F	LACROSSE	High gas costs
M	CITY/MILW	Taxes
M	MILW-SUB	Taxes — gas prices
F	GRN BAY	Gasoline prices
M	REST	Taxes
M	GRN BAY	Employment
M	GRN BAY	Fuel prices
M	MILW-SUB	Education
F	GRN BAY	The gas prices are way too high.
F	SO EAST	The war
F	WAUKESHA	Seniors and health care, better care, prescriptions, there are not enough funds
F	GRN BAY	Taxes
F	MADISON	The mistreatment of middle class by government
M	REST	Health care
M	GRN BAY	Taxes are out of hand and need to be regulated
F	SO EAST	Education
M	REST	High gas prices
F	WAUKESHA	Taxes
M	GRN BAY	Lack of support of the poor
M	MADISON	Integrity of officials

NO PARTY GIVEN - 16 RESPONSES

F	GRN BAY	Dentist costs
F	GRN BAY	Public schools
M	GRN BAY	Getting after large companies
M	CITY/MILW	Getting rid of the governor
F	MADISON	To provide for the homeless people
F	MILW-SUB	To present ID at the voting booths
F	REST	Helping the family farm and the farmers from the government that wants to raise taxes
M	MADISON	Property taxes
F	GRN BAY	Gas prices
F	LACROSSE	Heating and gas prices
M	MADISON	The rising gasoline prices
F	MADISON	Higher taxes (reduce)
M	SO EAST	The gas prices are too high
F	REST	Helping the elderly and the middle class financially
M	REST	Gas prices: lower all
M	MADISON	Health care

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The **Wisconsin Policy Research Institute** is a not-for-profit institute established to study public-policy issues affecting the state of Wisconsin.

Under the new federalism, government policy increasingly is made at the state and local levels. These public-policy decisions affect the life of every citizen in the state. Our goal is to provide nonpartisan research on key issues affecting Wisconsinites, so that their elected representatives can make informed decisions to improve the quality of life and future of the state.

Our major priority is to increase the accountability of Wisconsin's government. State and local governments must be responsive to the citizenry, both in terms of the programs they devise and the tax money they spend. Accountability should apply in every area to which the state devotes the public's funds.

The Institute's agenda encompasses the following issues: education, welfare and social services, criminal justice, taxes and spending, and economic development.

We believe that the views of the citizens of Wisconsin should guide the decisions of government officials. To help accomplish this, we also conduct regular public-opinion polls that are designed to inform public officials about how the citizenry views major statewide issues. These polls are disseminated through the media and are made available to the general public and the legislative and executive branches of state government. It is essential that elected officials remember that all of the programs they create and all of the money they spend comes from the citizens of Wisconsin and is made available through their taxes. Public policy should reflect the real needs and concerns of all of the citizens of the state and not those of specific special-interest groups.