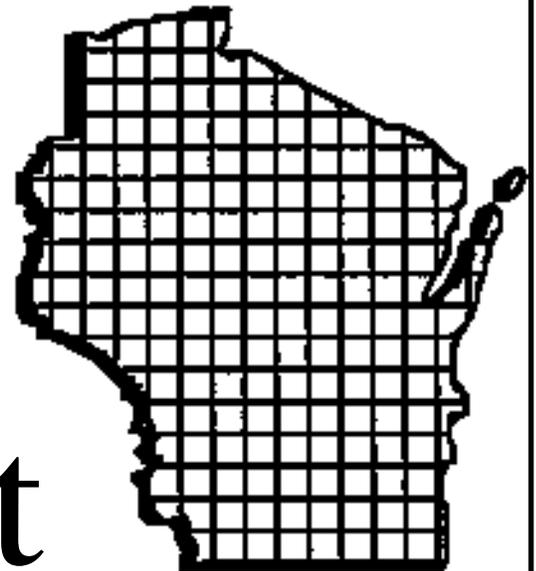


Wisconsin

Policy
Research
Institute

Report



October 2006

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**Wisconsin
Speaks**

September 2006

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.

For the fourth time 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 mind.

The results of this survey show that taxes and healthcare are the issues that most people are concerned with in Wisconsin. There does not seem to be the intensity about issues or the upcoming November election that we have seen in previous surveys. One reason for this may be the negative tone used by both gubernatorial candidates in the current campaign. Finally, last June there was enormous concern over rising gasoline prices in Wisconsin: that issue has been deflated as gas prices fall across the state. It has also changed the views of Wisconsin voters towards the state's economy. This will have a major impact on elections this November.

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

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WISCONSIN SPEAKS

SEPTEMBER 2006

A Survey of Public Opinion

MICHAEL LAVELLE, PH.D.

JAMES H. MILLER

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INTRODUCTION

We have been conducting public opinion surveys of Wisconsin residents since 1987. This survey was conducted on September 20 and September 21, 2006. 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 fourth 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 likely Wisconsin voters. Clearly, there is enormous concern in this state with taxes, jobs, unemployment, and health care. This data originates from approximately 95% 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 — 31 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. In November of this year Wisconsinites will elect a governor for the state. 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 likely Wisconsin voters 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: **Southeast** - Southeastern Wisconsin, **Grn Bay Area** - the Green Bay area, **Milwauk Sub** - Milwaukee Suburbs, **Waukesha Co** - Waukesha County, **Madison** - Madison, **La Crosse** - La Crosse/Eau Claire area, **City/Milwauk** - the City of Milwaukee, **Rest/State** - 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?**

INDEPENDENTS — 211 RESPONSES

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Southeast	Taking care of their people
M	Grn Bay Area	End the war in Iraq
M	La Crosse	Healthcare for everyone
M	Rest/State	Improving education
M	Rest/State	Jobs and healthcare
F	City/Milwauk	Economy
F	City/Milwauk	High taxes and no jobs
M	Madison	Outsourcing of jobs
M	La Crosse	Everything is fine
M	Rest/State	Healthcare - making it affordable
M	Milwauk Sub	Homeland security
M	Milwauk Sub	Education - to control it better
F	City/Milwauk	Making our school system work
M	Waukesha Co	Getting the state budget in order.
F	City/Milwauk	Taxes are killing us and there are no jobs
M	Madison	Education - lack thereof.
M	Rest/State	Taxes too many/too high
F	Rest/State	Illegal aliens - they should be made easier to be legal
F	Southeast	Lower taxes on property
M	Southeast	Illegal alien issues
F	Milwauk Sub	Lowering taxes
F	Rest/State	Drugs, crime
M	Waukesha Co	High taxes
M	Southeast	All taxes in the state are too high
M	Waukesha Co	Moral issues - everything else will fall in place
M	City/Milwauk	Farmers need help
M	Rest/State	Education - better teachers
M	Southeast	Jobs and change
M	Southeast	Fixing funding for public schools
M	Milwauk Sub	Education - funding
M	Waukesha Co	Improve economy and property taxes are too high
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes in general too high
F	City/Milwauk	Schools for younger grades
F	Milwauk Sub	High taxes on property
F	Rest/State	Improve education
M	Grn Bay Area	Improving education
M	Grn Bay Area	Protecting lives of unborn children

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	City/Milwauk	Education - more funding
F	Southeast	Good jobs for people
M	Milwauk Sub	Honest government
M	La Crosse	High taxes on property
M	Grn Bay Area	Pork barrel politics
F	Rest/State	Withholding taxes to be less
F	Rest/State	Natural resources, pollution environmental concerns
M	Waukesha Co	Education reform
F	Madison	Crime in neighborhoods and drugs
F	Grn Bay Area	Iraq war
M	Grn Bay Area	Jobs - don't know how
M	Rest/State	Cut taxes
F	Milwauk Sub	Property taxes too high
M	Madison	Welfare/fraud, or is it needed
M	Grn Bay Area	In my opinion nothing, I'm satisfied
M	Grn Bay Area	Lowering property taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Violence in street
M	La Crosse	The economy
M	City/Milwauk	Salaries we can live on
F	Grn Bay Area	The economy - job market
M	Milwauk Sub	Care of the poor
F	Southeast	Educational improvement
F	Milwauk Sub	There's a tax burden
M	City/Milwauk	Loss of jobs
F	La Crosse	Money - lack of jobs, good pay.
F	City/Milwauk	Local public education money
M	Milwauk Sub	Healthcare issues
F	Grn Bay Area	High property taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Property taxes are too high
F	Milwauk Sub	Unemployment - jobs
M	City/Milwauk	Jobs that are higher paying than \$8 per hour
M	Waukesha Co	Taxes property and funding for all aspects of education
F	Rest/State	Economy doing poorly
F	Grn Bay Area	Bad campaigns and phone calls turn me off from everybody
F	Grn Bay Area	Saving the jobs - here keep them here in Wisconsin
F	Waukesha Co	Jobs are needed
M	Rest/State	Stopping gay marriage - it is one man and one woman
F	Grn Bay Area	Gas prices too much
M	Grn Bay Area	Worry about plight of low-income families
M	Rest/State	George Bush is an idiot

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	Milwauk Sub	Getting more jobs for people
M	Rest/State	Cut gas prices
F	City/Milwauk	School system
M	Grn Bay Area	Healthcare - doctors don't spend enough time with patients
F	Grn Bay Area	Unemployment - keep jobs here
M	Milwauk Sub	Healthcare cost is too high
F	Southeast	Funding education.
M	Grn Bay Area	The budget - we are in a hole
M	Waukesha Co	Crime control
M	Grn Bay Area	Dirty politics
M	Madison	Legalize marijuana
M	City/Milwauk	Lower taxes
M	La Crosse	Taxes
M	Rest/State	Lower property taxes and gun control
F	La Crosse	Healthcare affordability
M	Waukesha Co	Jobs and economic development
M	Madison	9/11 taking away our rights
F	Rest/State	School budgets
F	Rest/State	Improve economy
M	Madison	State budget
M	Grn Bay Area	Education - too many students in one class, jobs and unemployment
M	Rest/State	Getting the drugs off the street
M	Rest/State	Healthcare affordable
M	Waukesha Co	State government, financial, taxes - property, school
F	Milwauk Sub	Cost of living
M	Rest/State	Politicians not knowing what constituents want
F	Rest/State	Healthcare affordable and fair for all
F	Milwauk Sub	Reduce all taxes
F	Southeast	Better resources for lower income and disabilities
F	Milwauk Sub	Healthcare for poor people
F	Madison	Lower property taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes need to be lowered
F	Milwauk Sub	Ethics of government
F	Grn Bay Area	Honesty and integrity - vote for honest people
M	Milwauk Sub	Employment issues
M	Madison	Public transportation
M	Grn Bay Area	Ban abortion
M	Milwauk Sub	They should take care of themselves (Wisconsinites)
M	Grn Bay Area	Jobs - unemployment - we need more high tech work here
F	Rest/State	People who care - losing jobs, factory workers

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	Southeast	Protecting the environment
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes on property too high
F	Madison	Property taxes need reduction
M	Grn Bay Area	Madison - too liberal
M	Rest/State	Property taxes keep going up and school funding going down - where is money going
F	Grn Bay Area	Putting a stop to abortions
F	Madison	Funding through the state is reduced for schools
F	Grn Bay Area	People can't afford healthcare
F	Grn Bay Area	Medicare - prescription drugs
F	Rest/State	All kind of taxes, especially property taxes
M	La Crosse	High taxes on property
F	Milwauk Sub	The high price of gas
M	City/Milwauk	School and property taxes
F	Southeast	Improve/readjust and school funding
M	Rest/State	Politicians not being decisive
F	Grn Bay Area	Education - not getting enough funding
F	Grn Bay Area	Terrorism - safety from it
F	Milwauk Sub	Keeping schools full of teachers
F	City/Milwauk	Affordable healthcare
F	Milwauk Sub	More education funding
M	Grn Bay Area	Lack of healthcare for the majority of people
F	Waukesha Co	Healthcare insurance, property taxes
F	Waukesha Co	More funding for education services
F	Waukesha Co	Education reform
F	Madison	Healthcare - number of under insured people
F	Waukesha Co	High taxes - property and schools
M	Milwauk Sub	Overtaxed on everything
F	Waukesha Co	Economy jobs
M	City/Milwauk	Reducing budget
M	Rest/State	Lower taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Lower medical costs
M	Milwauk Sub	Creating more jobs
F	Grn Bay Area	Improve healthcare and especially prescription drug costs
M	Grn Bay Area	Lowering all taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	The poor - uneducated poor
M	Madison	Education/tuition for state colleges
F	Grn Bay Area	Senior healthcare expenses
M	Southeast	Providing jobs
M	Grn Bay Area	Employment and wages

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	La Crosse	Better education system
F	Madison	Employment issues
M	Madison	War in Iraq
M	Southeast	Improve education
M	Grn Bay Area	Improve the ethics of certain politicians there
F	City/Milwauk	Too much taxation
M	Rest/State	We need affordable health plans
M	City/Milwauk	Budget crisis
F	Waukesha Co	Loss of money for education
F	Madison	Lower healthcare costs
M	Grn Bay Area	Money oriented sponsorships for candidates outside of our state
F	La Crosse	Healthcare issues
M	Milwauk Sub	Economy at state level
M	Rest/State	Improving education for minorities and low-income families
F	Rest/State	Illegal immigrants being granted too many privileges
M	Grn Bay Area	Reducing taxes - reforming them
M	Southeast	Property taxes are too high
F	Milwauk Sub	I suppose prescription drugs, hospitalization insurance
F	Milwauk Sub	Taxes, overall, too high
M	City/Milwauk	The very high school and property taxes
M	La Crosse	Services for youth
M	Southeast	Improve schools way of education
F	Madison	Economy - creating jobs
F	City/Milwauk	Taxes in general and also deadbeat dads
M	Waukesha Co	Politician hands in the till - crime
M	Madison	Integrity
M	Waukesha Co	Taxes all are too high
F	Milwauk Sub	Health insurance
M	Madison	We need better public transportation
F	Grn Bay Area	Education - more funding.
F	Milwauk Sub	Saving Social Security
M	Grn Bay Area	Make healthcare more affordable
M	Milwauk Sub	Taxes keep going up - don't see any progress for homeowners
F	Madison	Education funding
M	Madison	Healthcare issues
F	Milwauk Sub	Lower property taxes
F	Madison	Illegal immigration
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes should be lowered
F	Madison	Education reform
F	Grn Bay Area	Iraq, period

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Milwauk Sub	Education reform
M	Milwauk Sub	Medicine for senior citizens
M	Rest/State	Healthcare - a lot of people are uninsured
M	Rest/State	Education improving teaching there are no requirements, no agenda
F	Rest/State	Taxes - all taxes in the state
M	Waukesha Co	The war
M	Milwauk Sub	Taxes - all shapes and forms
F	Grn Bay Area	High gas prices
F	Rest/State	Taxes too high
F	Rest/State	Energy issue - we are being held captive by Middle Eastern countries and we need to do something
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes - downsize tax burden and encourage new industry
M	Southeast	Lower taxes
M	Milwauk Sub	Against abortion
F	La Crosse	Elderly prescription drugs
M	Rest/State	Gasoline prices

DEMOCRATS — 174 RESPONSES

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Milwauk Sub	Healthcare - elderly care
F	La Crosse	Farmers need more help from government
M	Madison	Preserving wilderness
M	Southeast	Recognize environmental problems
F	Rest/State	The war in Iraq - soldiers being killed
F	Grn Bay Area	Education is improving - keep it up
F	Milwauk Sub	Jobs and unemployment rate
M	Grn Bay Area	Healthcare costs, especially prescriptions
F	Grn Bay Area	Taxes - lower them all - property tax and income taxes
M	Madison	Environment - clean it up
F	Rest/State	Fund public education
F	Southeast	All taxes are too high
F	Waukesha Co	Stop using so much of the retiree's money for other things
F	Milwauk Sub	Prescription drugs - insurance will not cover
M	Grn Bay Area	Healthcare - controlling cost
M	City/Milwauk	There's too many to choose from
F	Rest/State	I don't know - so many problems, especially the economy
F	Milwauk Sub	All taxes are too high
F	Madison	Education funding
F	La Crosse	Affordable healthcare for everybody

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	La Crosse	Improving education
M	Rest/State	Something needs to be done about the cost of prescription drugs
M	Milwauk Sub	Lower income tax
F	Madison	Health insurance cost
F	Madison	Healthcare costs more affordable
M	Southeast	Lower the debt
F	City/Milwauk	Education funding
F	City/Milwauk	Eliminating crime
M	La Crosse	Healthcare and prescription drugs for the elderly
F	Grn Bay Area	No one can afford medical insurance
M	La Crosse	Taxes
M	Rest/State	Improved education in every way school teacher etc
F	Rest/State	Taxes too high on property
M	Rest/State	Environment - keeping it sustainable
F	La Crosse	Lowering property taxes
F	La Crosse	Taxes - property, commercial, and business
F	Milwauk Sub	Lack of healthcare - costly
F	La Crosse	Education (more money for schools)
F	Southeast	Insurance and jobs for low-income people
F	Madison	Older people having to make ends meet and enough money for prescriptions
M	Grn Bay Area	Education - more funding high school
F	Grn Bay Area	Employment issues
M	Rest/State	Job creation for lower income
F	Grn Bay Area	Healthcare insurance
F	Waukesha Co	Need to fix Social Security
M	Waukesha Co	School and property taxes are too high
M	Southeast	Corrupt politicians
F	Rest/State	Very high taxes - not getting enough for it
M	Milwauk Sub	People getting along with each other
M	City/Milwauk	Lack of jobs
M	Grn Bay Area	Improving the economy
F	Southeast	Improve healthcare
M	Milwauk Sub	Lowering taxes
F	Rest/State	Education and schools need improvement
M	Southeast	Dishonest politicians
M	Rest/State	Prescription drugs must be addressed on a state and national level
F	City/Milwauk	Healthcare costs
F	Grn Bay Area	Gas prices way too high
M	City/Milwauk	Affordable healthcare
F	Madison	Property taxes are too high

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Rest/State	The high property taxes
M	La Crosse	High taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Healthcare - make it affordable
F	Rest/State	Cut taxes
M	Madison	Keeping Republicans out of office
M	Rest/State	Outside money pouring into state for elections
F	City/Milwauk	The economy needs to improve
M	City/Milwauk	Educational funding
F	Madison	Health insurance available to everyone
F	Southeast	Lower taxes
F	Southeast	Schools students need more programs
F	Rest/State	Healthcare costs too much
F	Rest/State	Affordable healthcare
F	Madison	Economics - creating jobs
M	Madison	The war in Iraq
F	Rest/State	More funding for school programs
M	Grn Bay Area	Get the budget under control
F	Grn Bay Area	Less expensive healthcare
M	Rest/State	Controlling healthcare and prescription drugs
F	Milwauk Sub	High taxes - all kinds - sales, property, etc
F	Milwauk Sub	Economy
M	Rest/State	Economy to improve
F	Southeast	Improving education
M	Waukesha Co	High taxes - property, school
M	Madison	Internal security
M	Southeast	Protecting farmland
F	La Crosse	Reducing the state debt
M	Rest/State	Education - funding the schools
F	Rest/State	Senior healthcare
M	Rest/State	Taxes property
M	Milwauk Sub	Healthcare and economy
M	Milwauk Sub	Health insurance cost
M	La Crosse	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Local business structure
F	Milwauk Sub	Education - more money going toward it
M	Milwauk Sub	Lower property taxes
M	Rest/State	Lower cost of healthcare
F	La Crosse	Reduce property taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Balancing the budget
F	Southeast	Property taxes are too high

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Milwauk Sub	Gay marriages - they shouldn't be
F	Milwauk Sub	Lack of jobs - unemployment
M	Grn Bay Area	Balancing the budget
M	Rest/State	Clean environment
F	Madison	All state taxes need to be reduced
M	Grn Bay Area	Health insurance
M	Southeast	Lack of jobs
F	Rest/State	Health insurance rates
M	La Crosse	Taxes lowered
F	La Crosse	Taxes are too high
F	Southeast	Healthcare more affordable
M	Madison	Healthcare being universal to all
M	Milwauk Sub	Economy - retirement funds - Social Security
F	Waukesha Co	Get all the corrupt politicians out of office
F	Madison	Medicare - don't cut it
F	City/Milwauk	Healthcare
M	Grn Bay Area	Education - low expectations/healthcare - too expensive
M	Milwauk Sub	Lack of jobs
F	Milwauk Sub	Reduce crime
F	Rest/State	Lower all taxes
F	Rest/State	Cut taxes
M	Southeast	Healthcare more affordable
F	City/Milwauk	Healthcare issues/affordable
M	Milwauk Sub	Honesty in government
F	Madison	Healthcare cost
M	City/Milwauk	Education - improving it
M	Madison	War in Iraq
M	City/Milwauk	Gun violence
F	Grn Bay Area	Higher wages
M	La Crosse	Prescription drug costs
M	La Crosse	The government has money for an ATV park but no help for elderly prescription drugs
F	Madison	Healthcare - equal coverage for the poor
M	Grn Bay Area	They need to lower property taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Getting guns off our streets
M	Grn Bay Area	Lack of jobs
F	Rest/State	Senior healthcare
F	Madison	Support education
F	La Crosse	Affordable healthcare for everyone
F	La Crosse	Insurance health

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Madison	Cost of living
F	Madison	Keeping taxes down
F	Grn Bay Area	More money for education, including college
F	City/Milwauk	Gas prices are too high
M	Milwauk Sub	Honesty in government
M	Rest/State	Improving environmental conditions
F	City/Milwauk	Eliminating crime
F	Grn Bay Area	Healthcare costs too high
F	Grn Bay Area	The economy - help seniors more
F	Grn Bay Area	Higher salaries
F	City/Milwauk	Death penalty
F	Southeast	Medical care and pension funds
F	Southeast	Lower taxes on property
F	Madison	High taxes on property
F	Madison	Unemployment
M	Madison	Unemployment/no jobs
M	Rest/State	I live in Superior and feel out of the loop from the rest of the state
F	Rest/State	Less budget cuts for local government
F	Rest/State	Property taxes are too high
F	City/Milwauk	Lack of jobs
F	Rest/State	Healthcare lack and cost
F	Grn Bay Area	Education is improving - keep it up
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes - property, road taxes, and all taxes
M	Southeast	Education
F	Southeast	Lower property taxes
M	Southeast	Dirty politicians
F	La Crosse	Healthcare
M	Grn Bay Area	The cost of healthcare and prescription drugs
M	Rest/State	Education/better teachers
F	Milwauk Sub	Family issues - the healthy child act
F	Rest/State	Real estate taxes are too high
F	City/Milwauk	More police and less crime
M	Milwauk Sub	Greedy conservatives
F	City/Milwauk	Getting factories back to the state
F	City/Milwauk	Health insurance

REPUBLICANS — 151 RESPONSES

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	La Crosse	Taxes too high and getting higher

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Rest/State	Democratic leadership - we need more republicans - get rid of Doyle
F	Rest/State	Cut gas prices
F	Grn Bay Area	Reducing taxes
F	Southeast	National security
M	Rest/State	Crime/drugs
M	City/Milwauk	High crime rates
F	Rest/State	Funding public schools
F	Waukesha Co	Gas issues - cost
F	Grn Bay Area	More healthcare for needy people
F	Southeast	Education issues
F	Milwauk Sub	Taxes, in general
M	Southeast	Keeping jobs
F	City/Milwauk	Taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes in general need to be lowered
F	Grn Bay Area	Taxes - property, school, income, gas, toll
M	Grn Bay Area	The governor himself
M	Milwauk Sub	Taxes on property too high
F	Grn Bay Area	Taxes, in general - state taxes
F	Southeast	Taxes too high
F	City/Milwauk	Controlling the crime
F	Grn Bay Area	Medications for elderly
M	Southeast	The economy - loss of manufacturing jobs
M	Southeast	High taxes and spending
F	Southeast	Improve healthcare costs
F	Milwauk Sub	Healthcare cost
F	Grn Bay Area	Unhappy with Doyle
M	Rest/State	Economy poor
F	Southeast	Lower all taxes
F	Rest/State	Health insurance - high cost
F	Grn Bay Area	Education - more and better teachers and small classes for individual attention
M	City/Milwauk	High taxes and education improvement
F	City/Milwauk	Lower taxes
M	La Crosse	Property taxes are too high
M	Waukesha Co	Just about everything - education, property taxes, etc
M	Southeast	Medical assistance
F	Waukesha Co	Reducing taxes - property
M	Rest/State	Cutting taxes
M	Madison	Property taxes
F	Rest/State	Abortion issues - anti-pro-life
M	La Crosse	Healthcare costs

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Rest/State	Healthcare for seniors, and taxes are too high
M	Milwauk Sub	Disgusted with medical costs
M	Milwauk Sub	Taxes, in general
F	Rest/State	Healthcare issues - find a better way of providing healthcare for people
F	Milwauk Sub	Taxes (property, income) - senior care (healthcare)
F	Rest/State	Against gay marriage issue
M	Madison	Damn liberals
M	Rest/State	Future of employment
M	Rest/State	At my age it is Social Security, Medicare, elder care
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes - property tax is too high
F	Rest/State	Concerned about traditional marriage amendment
F	Grn Bay Area	I don't see any problems. I think the government is doing okay.
F	City/Milwauk	Crime
M	Milwauk Sub	Taxes too high
M	Rest/State	School and better education
F	City/Milwauk	Education - pay teachers more, more funding for classrooms
F	Grn Bay Area	Should be helping to keep jobs here for Wisconsin workers
M	Grn Bay Area	Tax on property, and all taxes are too high
M	La Crosse	A better economy
M	Milwauk Sub	Health insurance cost
F	Grn Bay Area	Taxes - don't know how
M	Waukesha Co	Better job opportunities
F	La Crosse	Taxes - property, income tax
M	Madison	Property tax
F	Rest/State	Improve the economy
F	Rest/State	Education more money can be put into tutorial program
F	Rest/State	Taxes - state taxes very high
M	Grn Bay Area	Improve economic conditions
F	Waukesha Co	Taxes property
F	Madison	Education - improving math and science
F	Milwauk Sub	Home taxes are too high
F	Rest/State	Taxes - property taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Lower taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Help improve healthcare and prescription drug costs
F	City/Milwauk	Property taxes
F	Waukesha Co	Health insurance
M	Madison	Freeze the income taxes at the present level
M	La Crosse	Health insurance
M	Grn Bay Area	Healthcare - costs are too high
F	Southeast	Education - for children - more help is needed - we need good teachers

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	Grn Bay Area	Lack of good paying jobs
F	Southeast	High taxing of citizens
F	Waukesha Co	Honesty of politicians
F	Rest/State	Taxes are too high
M	Rest/State	Lower gas prices
M	Rest/State	Stop president Bush and gay marriage
M	Madison	Cost of education - funding
M	Madison	Taxes - entire tax climate
M	Southeast	High taxes
F	Southeast	Honesty in government
F	City/Milwauk	Property taxes
M	Waukesha Co	Governor
M	City/Milwauk	Crime harder on the criminals
F	Waukesha Co	Making sure of votes eligibility
M	City/Milwauk	Get rid of Democrats
M	Grn Bay Area	They should be Republican
F	Southeast	Lower taxes
F	Milwauk Sub	Jobs needed
F	City/Milwauk	Healthcare
M	Southeast	Property taxes
M	Waukesha Co	Lower state taxes and gas taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Property taxes too high
F	Grn Bay Area	Lower taxes (state tax, property, and income)
M	Rest/State	High taxes
M	Madison	Taxes high
F	Grn Bay Area	The economy in general
F	Rest/State	Lowering taxes on everything
M	Southeast	Property taxes
F	La Crosse	People abusing social services
F	Rest/State	Welfare
M	Rest/State	Create new tax system
F	Southeast	Stronger economy
M	Madison	Terror security
M	City/Milwauk	Reducing crime
F	Milwauk Sub	Social Security benefits
M	Milwauk Sub	Property taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Who will be elected into office
F	Grn Bay Area	Property taxes need to be lowered - we're losing too many people
M	Grn Bay Area	Healthcare - too damned expensive to use or buy medicines
F	Grn Bay Area	Healthcare is not affordable

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Waukesha Co	Taxes are too high
M	Waukesha Co	Property taxes are too high
M	Rest/State	Taxes - all of them
M	Milwauk Sub	Lower all taxes in the state (property, income, school)
F	Southeast	Electing a new governor
F	Southeast	Lower healthcare cost
F	Waukesha Co	Getting rid of the governor and cohorts in crime
F	Rest/State	More funding for education - schools, classrooms, etc
M	Southeast	Loss of businesses
M	Waukesha Co	In state tuition
M	Rest/State	More independent or private schools to teach our children to learn to read, write - too much stressing athletics
M	Milwauk Sub	Property taxes
M	Rest/State	Taxes - property
F	City/Milwauk	Jobs are taxes too high for companies to come into the state
F	Waukesha Co	Ethics of politicians
M	Rest/State	Be a little more friendly to business, like the environment
F	Milwauk Sub	Economy - jobs and manufacturing - no new business
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes - too many, too high
F	City/Milwauk	Property taxes
F	Waukesha Co	High property taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Gas taxes way too high
M	City/Milwauk	High crime rate in urban areas, especially in Milwaukee
F	Grn Bay Area	Education - make sure evolution theory is not taught as science
F	Milwauk Sub	Milk prices down - does not cover expense
F	Rest/State	State taxes
F	Madison	Lowering property taxes
F	La Crosse	Healthcare/more affordable
M	Milwauk Sub	Concealed carry law passed
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes on property, taxes on gasoline
M	Rest/State	War in Iraq

NO PARTY GIVEN—17 RESPONSES

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Rest/State	Change of political and administration of corrupt people
M	La Crosse	The wetlands, environmental issues
M	Milwauk Sub	State economy
F	Milwauk Sub	Smaller class sizes for lower education
F	Rest/State	Freedom from terrorism

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

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	Rest/State	The budget
F	Milwauk Sub	Taxes will kill us
F	La Crosse	Reduced real estate property
F	Milwauk Sub	Stem cell research
M	Rest/State	Shipping jobs out of country
F	Waukesha Co	Lower taxes for businesses and people
F	Grn Bay Area	Improving education
M	City/Milwauk	Drugs all over
F	Grn Bay Area	War on terrorism
F	Southeast	Illegal immigration
F	Grn Bay Area	Health insurance - making it more affordable
M	Southeast	Cut property taxes

OTHER PARTY — 16 RESPONSES

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Rest/State	School budget
M	Rest/State	Honest problems
M	Milwauk Sub	Taxes are too high
M	Grn Bay Area	Governor - vote against him
M	Madison	Education - lack of government support
M	Madison	Employment - fair wages
M	Grn Bay Area	The United States is trying to be policeman of the world, it's not our job
F	La Crosse	Healthcare, education system
F	Southeast	Lowering taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Healthcare - they need to control the insurance rates
M	Rest/State	Education needs to improve
M	Madison	Homosexuals/gay marriage issues
F	Rest/State	Attainable healthcare for all
F	Madison	Environment water pollution
F	Milwauk Sub	Medical eligibility
M	Grn Bay Area	Try to get out from under - no child left behind

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.