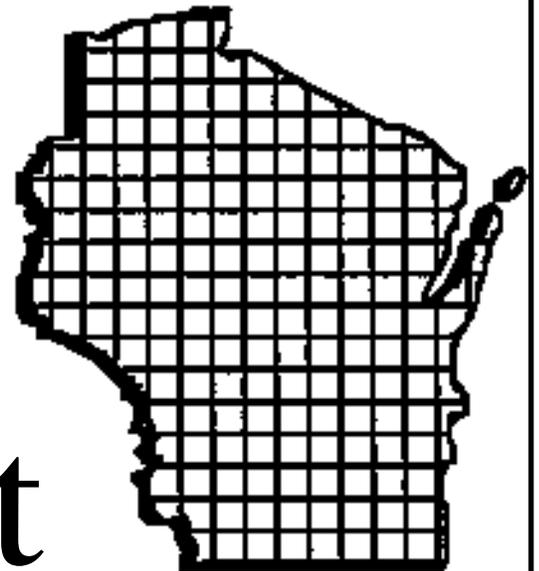


Wisconsin

Policy  
Research  
Institute

Report



December 2007

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# Wisconsin Speaks 2007

A Survey of Public Opinion

## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT:

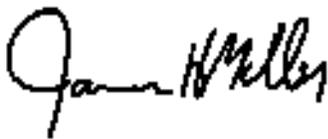
This Wisconsin Citizen Survey was conducted by Diversified Research, a nationally known survey research company. Dr. Michael LaVelle, who has had a relationship with us since 1987, directed this project. He has been President of Diversified Research since 1982, has over thirty years of experience in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

This is the fourth 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 mind.

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. The indicators from our poll show some of the lowest ratings 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

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# WISCONSIN SPEAKS

## 2007

### *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 December 2 and December 3, 2007. 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 Wisconsin residents. Clearly, there is enormous concern in this state with health care, illegal immigration, taxes, and jobs. This data originates from approximately 93% 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 — 45 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.

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: **Southeast** - Southeastern Wisconsin, **Grn Bay Area** - the Green Bay area, **Mil Sub** - Milwaukee Suburbs, **Waukesha** - 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 — 221 RESPONSES**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Area Of State</b>	<b>Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin</b>
M	Grn Bay Area	Making sure the current health care system doesn't change
F	Rest/State	Taxes
M	Rest/State	Taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Gas prices
F	Southeast	Economic - job situation
F	Southeast	Health care
F	City/Milwauk	Health care
M	Rest/State	Getting rid of gasoline taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Health insurance
F	Madison	Education
M	Madison	Schools need a lot of help
M	La Crosse	Education
M	Rest/State	Health care
M	Madison	Taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Social Security
M	Grn Bay Area	Education funding
M	Rest/State	Our governor
M	Madison	The corrupting government using of the money
F	City/Milwauk	Crime
M	La Crosse	Health care
F	City/Milwauk	High rate of unemployment
F	Mil Sub	Creating jobs
F	Rest/State	Taxes
F	Southeast	Taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Senior citizen's benefits
F	Rest/State	Truth in government
F	Waukesha	Foreclosures on homes
M	Waukesha	Immigration
M	Southeast	Health care
M	Mil Sub	High taxes
F	Madison	Taxes are too high and campaign finance reform
M	Rest/State	Quit raising gas prices
M	Southeast	Lowering taxes overall
F	Rest/State	Taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Our schools
F	City/Milwauk	High property taxes
M	La Crosse	Gas prices

**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	Mil Sub	Immoral act of gay rights
F	Rest/State	Stopping abortion, getting high taxes, a lot of retired people could get more help
M	Southeast	Health care
F	Madison	Government should pass civil union law
F	Rest/State	The war in Iraq
M	Southeast	The increase in taxes
M	Madison	Jobs
F	Rest/State	Lower the taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Health care`
F	Grn Bay Area	Fixing welfare
M	Southeast	Educate students in nursing (nursing shortage)
M	Southeast	Crime
M	Grn Bay Area	I would say having the DNR secretary position not being a gubernatorial appointment.
M	Southeast	Taxes
M	Rest/State	Lower income taxes
M	Rest/State	Paying your teachers more money
F	La Crosse	Property taxes too high
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	City/Milwauk	Property taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
F	Southeast	A better economy
M	Grn Bay Area	Lowering taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	High taxes
M	Rest/State	Corruption - too much inefficiency and corruption in government
F	Mil Sub	That's a tough one - educational needs and cost
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care should be affordable
M	Mil Sub	Budget deficit
F	Grn Bay Area	Cost of living
F	Grn Bay Area	The war in Iraq
F	Waukesha	Taxes - they are way too high
M	Southeast	I am not sure the government should be doing about anything - too much government in this state
F	City/Milwauk	Health care
M	Rest/State	The economy
F	Mil Sub	Gas prices
M	Mil Sub	Lack of jobs
F	Madison	Abortion rights - we should be protecting women's rights (pro-choice)
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	Mil Sub	High taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Affording health care

**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	Waukesha	Our governor - not happy with him
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes - too many, too much
F	Madison	Taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	Rest/State	Lower the taxes on cigarettes, property
F	Madison	Health insurance
M	Southeast	Economy
F	Grn Bay Area	Improving the health care system
F	City/Milwauk	Education
F	Southeast	No jobs
M	Southeast	Preserve Wisconsin traditions
M	Southeast	Having all illegal immigrants and others getting health benefits
F	Mil Sub	Health care
F	Southeast	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Fuel prices
M	Madison	Government is corrupt
M	Grn Bay Area	Stabilizing taxes for elderly, especially when a home is reassessed after a sale
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	Madison	Jobs
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes increases - housing and all the fees - they campaign on not raising taxes - then they hike all the fees and taxes anyway
M	Madison	High tax rates
M	Mil Sub	High taxes - property taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Getting health care
F	Southeast	Education
F	Mil Sub	Tax issue
M	Southeast	Taxes
F	Southeast	Taxes
F	Mil Sub	Health care
F	La Crosse	Health insurance
M	Rest/State	The Federal Reserve is a private central banks and the government in 1913 passed the right to create the money out of thin air. Ron Paul is the only good candidate running for president
F	Rest/State	Health care and education
F	Waukesha	Taxes are out of control
M	Mil Sub	The oil prices
F	Southeast	Health care
M	Rest/State	Crime and drugs
M	Rest/State	Cost of gas
F	Rest/State	Health care

**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	City/Milwauk	Keeping property taxes low
M	Southeast	Need more jobs
F	Rest/State	Maybe our gas prices right now
F	Rest/State	Abortion
M	Rest/State	High taxes
F	Rest/State	Economy
M	Mil Sub	Property taxes
F	Southeast	Health care
M	Grn Bay Area	High taxes
M	Madison	Fuel costs
F	Southeast	All taxes are too high
F	La Crosse	Taxes
M	Madison	High taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Dishonest, inefficient government
M	Southeast	Taxes are too high
M	Southeast	Taxes going up
M	Grn Bay Area	Lack of jobs
F	Waukesha	High taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	City/Milwauk	Everything is good
M	Waukesha	Lower the taxes
M	Rest/State	Get rid of the Mexicans
F	Grn Bay Area	Health insurance
F	Rest/State	Health insurance
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	Southeast	Price of gasoline
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes - health care - all taxes including education
M	Mil Sub	Taxes too high
F	City/Milwauk	Taxes
M	Waukesha	Lower taxes
F	Madison	Health care
M	Mil Sub	High taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Teach the children to care about others
F	City/Milwauk	Education
M	Rest/State	Taxes
M	City/Milwauk	High taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	City/Milwauk	Too much unemployment
F	Rest/State	Speaking the English language

**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	We need leaders, not politicians
F	Mil Sub	Lower taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
M	Rest/State	Health care
M	Rest/State	Gas price
F	Southeast	Medical coverage, I would say
F	Grn Bay Area	Affordable health insurance, a little reforming of the welfare system
M	Grn Bay Area	Their inability of spending
M	Rest/State	School funding - it's a problem - getting it more fair
M	Grn Bay Area	Family justice bill
F	Madison	Protecting a woman's right to choice
F	City/Milwauk	Health care
F	Southeast	Unemployment
F	City/Milwauk	Education
M	Mil Sub	Illegal immigrants
M	Madison	Health care
F	Mil Sub	Drunk drivers
F	City/Milwauk	I can't keep up with property taxes
M	Mil Sub	Energy
F	Mil Sub	Health insurance
F	Southeast	Health care
F	Grn Bay Area	Illegal immigration - seal the border.
F	Rest/State	Too many poor and homeless people
F	City/Milwauk	Property taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Property taxes go up no matter who you put in office
M	La Crosse	Health care
M	City/Milwauk	Education
F	Rest/State	Taxes
M	Southeast	Provide jobs
F	Waukesha	I think our universal health care
F	Rest/State	Gas price
M	Rest/State	The economy
M	Madison	Our schools
F	City/Milwauk	The road- very bumpy all over the state
M	Southeast	Gas situation
F	Mil Sub	Health care
M	Rest/State	Taxes
M	City/Milwauk	High taxes
F	Waukesha	Foreclosures

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

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Area Of State</b>	<b>Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin</b>
M	La Crosse	Getting health care coverage
F	Southeast	Unemployment
M	Grn Bay Area	Lowering taxes - particularly property taxes
M	Rest/State	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Lower the taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	Grn Bay Area	Retention of manufacturing
F	Rest/State	Health insurance
M	Grn Bay Area	State too controlled court issues
M	Mil Sub	Taxes too high
M	Mil Sub	Taxes are too high, especially property taxes
M	Madison	Taxes
M	Madison	Getting rid of Doyle
M	Southeast	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Taxes too high
F	Rest/State	Control the spending
M	La Crosse	Health care coverage
F	Madison	Health
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	Mil Sub	Taxes
F	Southeast	Medicare
M	Waukesha	Healthcare
M	Madison	Lower taxes - Better budgeting
M	Grn Bay Area	Infrastructure
F	La Crosse	Prescription drugs and medication
F	Madison	Pollution
F	Mil Sub	The politicians are not representing the public
M	Mil Sub	Inflation

**DEMOCRATS — 161 RESPONSES**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Area Of State</b>	<b>Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin</b>
M	Rest/State	Price of gas
M	Southeast	Health care
F	Southeast	Taxes
M	Waukesha	I would say taxes, especially for seniors
F	Southeast	Health care and prescription drugs
M	Rest/State	Property tax is way too high
F	City/Milwauk	Health care

**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	La Crosse	Health care
F	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
F	Rest/State	The control of water in the Great Lakes
M	Southeast	Health care
M	Southeast	War - very happy with Wisconsin
F	La Crosse	Credit card interest
F	Rest/State	Health
F	Waukesha	Gasoline prices
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	Rest/State	Health care
F	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Health care
F	City/Milwauk	Crime
F	Mil Sub	Too many of our factories and workplaces are leaving the state. It seems like the middleman is not there anymore. You are either rich or poor.
M	Grn Bay Area	Legislature wastes money
F	Mil Sub	Health care
F	Grn Bay Area	Government spending lots of money on the wrong things
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	Waukesha	Health care
M	Rest/State	Inflation
F	Mil Sub	Taxes
M	La Crosse	Universal health care
F	Southeast	Education for the children - making sure the kids can have funding for college - the taxes are too high
F	Rest/State	Health care
F	La Crosse	Health care
F	Mil Sub	Taxes too high
F	City/Milwauk	Taxes are always a big problem and crime is also
M	La Crosse	Taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Farmers get fair share of what they do
F	Mil Sub	High taxes
F	Mil Sub	Health care
M	Madison	Fuel costs
F	Mil Sub	Taxes too high
M	Grn Bay Area	Education
F	Southeast	Holding down taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Rising taxes
F	Rest/State	Lower school taxes for senior citizens
F	Madison	The war

**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	Madison	The housing problem
M	Rest/State	Need of jobs
F	Mil Sub	Health care
F	City/Milwauk	Health care
F	City/Milwauk	Medicare
F	La Crosse	Work on the pay day loan places
M	Rest/State	Coal is the problem
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	Grn Bay Area	Too much spending on issues not important
M	La Crosse	Improving the education system
F	Madison	Funding for education
F	Rest/State	Health care
M	Waukesha	Crime
F	Madison	Taxes
M	Mil Sub	Outsourcing
M	Rest/State	Gas prices
F	Rest/State	Insurance
M	Rest/State	Improving education
F	Mil Sub	High taxes and medical help for the poor
F	Madison	Health care - insurance for everybody
M	Grn Bay Area	Lowering taxes
F	La Crosse	Health care coverage for everyone
F	Grn Bay Area	Stop the war
M	Rest/State	Stop taxing Social Security
M	Grn Bay Area	Wasteful government spending
F	Madison	Global warming
F	Rest/State	School system
M	Grn Bay Area	Education
M	Rest/State	Helping the elderly and low income people
F	Rest/State	Getting the people out of Iraq
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	The economy
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	La Crosse	Making our schools better
M	City/Milwauk	Iraq
M	Mil Sub	High property taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	The economy here
F	Southeast	Health care
F	Waukesha	Oil price taxes - health care
F	Madison	Children's' health insurance 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	Health care
F	Madison	High taxes - property taxes
M	Rest/State	Jobs and high taxes
F	Mil Sub	Health care
F	Grn Bay Area	Education
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	Rest/State	Property taxes are too high
M	Rest/State	The health care - make it affordable
M	City/Milwauk	Law and order
F	La Crosse	Education
F	Mil Sub	Health care/insurance
F	Rest/State	Health care
F	Rest/State	Improve education
F	Madison	Property taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	Rest/State	Health care - we need better insurance and lower the costs
F	Southeast	Education
F	Rest/State	Keep senior care - continue to pay for prescriptions
F	Grn Bay Area	Health insurance
F	La Crosse	Health care
M	Grn Bay Area	Health insurance
F	Waukesha	Price of gas
F	Rest/State	Health care
M	Mil Sub	High property taxes
M	Rest/State	Property taxes are too high
F	Grn Bay Area	The economy
M	Waukesha	Taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	Rest/State	Health insurance
M	Southeast	Health care
F	La Crosse	Medical insurance. People like myself and my husband who are on disability cannot possibly make it.
F	Madison	Taxes
M	Mil Sub	Health insurance and the war
F	Grn Bay Area	Our economy - well I think we should have more American jobs centered in America rather than sending it overseas
M	Rest/State	Taxes
F	Mil Sub	Affordable health care, fuel prices, energy prices
F	Grn Bay Area	I would say education

**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	Mil Sub	High taxes
F	Madison	Property taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Medicare
M	Rest/State	Inflation
F	Madison	Finances - economic
M	Southeast	Schools are the most important thing. - making sure we have the best schools
M	Madison	Gas prices, taxes, and higher wages
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	La Crosse	The economy
F	Waukesha	Keep taxes lower
F	Madison	Environment
F	Grn Bay Area	Self care
F	Rest/State	Education
M	La Crosse	There's too many to choose
M	Rest/State	The stupid war in Iraq. - war based on lies and Bush's personal agenda. - there are so many people still swallowing the Iraq connection to 9/11 it sickens me. - too many kids are dying.
F	Madison	Universal health care
F	Madison	Gasoline prices
F	City/Milwauk	Violence
F	Madison	High taxes
M	Rest/State	Global climate change
F	City/Milwauk	Medicare
F	Madison	Education improvement
M	Madison	Senior - 62 to 65 health care
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	City/Milwauk	Crime
M	Mil Sub	Sending our jobs out of the country
M	La Crosse	Distribute taxes more equally
F	Grn Bay Area	Provide more employment for the unemployed. - give people a living wage.
M	Southeast	Lower gasoline and taxes
F	Madison	Money for schools
F	City/Milwauk	High taxes, high cost of living, utilities. - lot of bad eggs in politics. As a consumer, I have to bust my ass to make ends meet. I am over 65 and I work. My husband is retiring soon and I am worried about our utilities continue to rise. - my property taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	City/Milwauk	The war in Iraq
F	Rest/State	Taxes reduced
F	Madison	Taxes - taxes is probably the biggest thing - property taxes are too high
F	Grn Bay Area	The economy

**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	Madison	Public education
F	Grn Bay Area	Take taxes away from senior citizens

**REPUBLICANS — 134 RESPONSES**

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Waukesha	Health care
F	Mil Sub	Fatal accidents due to teen driving in the area
F	Madison	Health care with the elderly
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	Grn Bay Area	Aids funding
M	Southeast	Abortion
M	Madison	Physical condition of state
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	City/Milwauk	Reducing taxes
M	Rest/State	Taxes
F	La Crosse	Moral issues
M	Mil Sub	Taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Budget
M	Waukesha	Governor Doyle
F	Grn Bay Area	High taxes - just for the state income tax
M	Mil Sub	Need lower taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Legislative disagreement
M	Madison	High taxes
M	Waukesha	Taxes
F	Waukesha	Health insurance
M	Southeast	Rising real estate taxes
M	La Crosse	I think we should straighten up the budget
M	Rest/State	The fuel prices
F	Southeast	Taking care of sick and elderly
F	Grn Bay Area	Health insurance
F	Southeast	High taxes
F	Rest/State	Cost of health care
M	Rest/State	Taxes
F	Mil Sub	Gas prices
M	Mil Sub	Taxes too high
F	Mil Sub	The health care crisis
F	La Crosse	Budget
F	Grn Bay Area	Health insurance

**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	Health care
F	Rest/State	Health care cost
M	Mil Sub	Taxes too high
M	La Crosse	Taxes
M	La Crosse	Illegal immigration
M	Rest/State	Democrats
M	Waukesha	Taxes
M	Madison	Do something about lousy education
M	Grn Bay Area	Too much government at all levels
M	Mil Sub	Lower taxes
F	La Crosse	Budget
F	City/Milwauk	Immigration
M	City/Milwauk	Crime and jobs
M	Southeast	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Health care
M	Madison	Energy
F	Madison	High taxes
M	Southeast	Rising property taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Illegal immigration
F	Rest/State	Education
M	Waukesha	Health care
F	Waukesha	The economy
F	Southeast	Taxes
F	Mil Sub	High taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Employment
F	Grn Bay Area	Property and state taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Get the troops out of Iraq
F	Madison	The Iraq war - they should support it more vigorously
M	Rest/State	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Hard to keep up with property taxes
F	La Crosse	Taxes
F	Mil Sub	Education
F	Rest/State	Education - don't agree with what the governor wants to do with it
F	La Crosse	Taxes
F	Southeast	Better repair on roads
M	Mil Sub	Taxes
M	Mil Sub	Young people
M	Mil Sub	Taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
M	Mil Sub	High taxes

**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	Keeping balanced budget
M	City/Milwauk	Cutting taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Jobs
M	Waukesha	Health care
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
F	Mil Sub	Gas prices
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
M	La Crosse	The budget is a big problem
M	La Crosse	Unemployment
M	Grn Bay Area	The economy
M	Mil Sub	Taxes
M	Southeast	Political agenda improving
M	Grn Bay Area	Abortion
M	Grn Bay Area	Housing foreclosures
M	Madison	Deficit
F	Grn Bay Area	Need health care system revised so adults can get coverage
F	Rest/State	Health care - they need to look more into the people that don't have it
M	Rest/State	Too high of taxes
M	Mil Sub	Lower taxes
M	La Crosse	The budget - I think taxes are too high & money is not being spent right
F	Grn Bay Area	Income taxes
M	Rest/State	Cutting taxes
F	Mil Sub	High taxes
F	La Crosse	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Health care
F	Madison	The budget
F	Rest/State	The job market is very bad and a lot of homeless people need help
M	Rest/State	Taxes
F	Southeast	Abortion - that is to say banning it
M	City/Milwauk	Crime and jobs
M	Grn Bay Area	Reducing our local taxes
M	Mil Sub	Budget
M	Southeast	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Property taxes are too high
F	Waukesha	Economy
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
M	Rest/State	Cutting taxes
M	La Crosse	Corruption in government
F	Grn Bay Area	Losing business in the state because of taxes

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

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Area Of State</b>	<b>Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin</b>
M	La Crosse	Health care - equal shares - fighting in both houses and blaming both political parties for that - pushing people into becoming Independents
M	Grn Bay Area	The Department of Resources - the government's in control now
M	Mil Sub	Government spending too much
F	La Crosse	Taxes
M	Rest/State	The Democrats
M	Rest/State	Property taxes are too high
M	Grn Bay Area	High taxes
F	Southeast	Unemployment
F	Mil Sub	The job situation
F	Rest/State	Health care
F	Waukesha	Health care
M	Rest/State	Balancing the budget
M	Rest/State	Taxes
M	Waukesha	Gay marriage
F	Mil Sub	High taxes
F	Mil Sub	Health insurance
F	Mil Sub	Health insurance in general
M	Grn Bay Area	Increase in property taxes. - the spending levels are way too high - this new budget is crazy. - there is too much spending
M	Grn Bay Area	Illegal immigration
M	Grn Bay Area	Foreclosures and defaults
F	Southeast	Nursing homes

**OTHER PARTY — 26 RESPONSES**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Area Of State</b>	<b>Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin</b>
F	La Crosse	Health care
M	Waukesha	Abortion
F	Rest/State	Educational process, money not available
F	Grn Bay Area	Budget
F	Rest/State	Education
F	Mil Sub	Drunk driving laws
F	Madison	Health care
M	Rest/State	Bringing the boys home
M	La Crosse	Lack of jobs
F	Madison	Health care
F	Mil Sub	Our governor
F	City/Milwauk	High taxes

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

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Area Of State</b>	<b>Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin</b>
F	Waukesha	Taxes too high
F	La Crosse	Dental care for low income and poor
M	Grn Bay Area	High gas prices
F	Waukesha	The great lakes/concerned about the St. Lawrence Seaway and the sand pollution
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Senior care
F	Waukesha	High taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Budget
F	Southeast	The economy
M	Mil Sub	The economy
F	La Crosse	Health care and insurance
M	Rest/State	Health care
M	Madison	Taxes
F	City/Milwauk	High taxes

**NO PARTY GIVEN — 13 RESPONSES**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Area Of State</b>	<b>Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin</b>
F	Grn Bay Area	Lower taxes
M	Madison	Taxes too high
F	Mil Sub	Get out of debt
M	Waukesha	I'd say taxes are the biggest thing
M	Southeast	Protection of the environment
F	Mil Sub	Health care
M	City/Milwauk	Looking after our soldiers in Iraq
M	Waukesha	High taxes/gas prices
F	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Taxes - lower them
M	City/Milwauk	Taking care of the war - health care
F	Southeast	They need to improve the wages in Wisconsin - they make less money than our neighboring state
M	Mil Sub	Taxes

## 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.