

**Wisconsin Study  
WPRI  
February 2011**

**N = 603  
MoE = ± 4%**

**Q1.** Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you registered to vote in the precinct or election district where you now live, or aren't you?

Yes, registered to vote .....	84
No, not registered to vote.....	15
Don't Know/Refused .....	1

**Q2.** Some people seem to follow what's going on in politics most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in politics most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?

Most of the time .....	62
Some of the time .....	24
Only now and then .....	10
Hardly at all.....	4

**Q3.** I know it's a long way off, but what are the chances that you will vote in the November 2012 general election for President, Congress, and other offices -- are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or don't you think you will vote?

Almost certain .....	79
Probably .....	8
50-50 Chance .....	6
Will not vote .....	7

**Q4.** Thinking about things in the United States, do you think things in the country are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction .....	24
Wrong track .....	67
Don't know/Refused .....	9

**Q5.** Thinking about things in the state of Wisconsin, do you think things in Wisconsin are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction .....	33
Wrong track .....	62
Don't know/Refused .....	5

**Q6.** What do you think should be the top priority of the Governor and the State Legislature?

Making health care affordable .....	3
Holding the line on taxes and spending .....	10
Improving the economy and protecting jobs .....	26
Balancing the state budget .....	27
Protecting collective bargaining rights .....	12
Improving education .....	3
Other .....	8
Don't know/Refused .....	11

**Q7.** Over the next year, do you expect the economy in Wisconsin to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

Get better .....	29
Get Worse .....	36
Stay the Same .....	31
Don't know/Refused .....	4

**Q8.** Overall, do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

Strongly approve .....	21
Somewhat approve .....	32
Somewhat disapprove .....	16
Strongly disapprove .....	26
Don't know / Refused .....	5

**Q9.** Overall, do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the way Scott Walker is handling his job as Governor of Wisconsin?

Strongly approve .....	29
Somewhat approve .....	14
Somewhat disapprove .....	8
Strongly disapprove .....	45
Don't know / Refused .....	4

I'm now going to read you a list of people and organizations that have been in the news recently, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of them.

**Q10. Scott Walker**

Strongly favorable .....	28
Somewhat favorable .....	15
Somewhat unfavorable .....	12
Strongly unfavorable .....	41
Don't know / Refused .....	4

**Q11a. Public Employees [SPLIT A]**

Strongly favorable .....	39
Somewhat favorable .....	28
Somewhat unfavorable .....	15
Strongly unfavorable .....	10
Don't know / Refused .....	7

**Q11b. Public Employee Unions [SPLIT B]**

Strongly favorable.....	35
Somewhat favorable.....	24
Somewhat unfavorable.....	13
Strongly unfavorable.....	21
Don't know / Refused.....	7

**Q12a. Teachers [SPLIT A]**

Strongly favorable.....	45
Somewhat favorable.....	25
Somewhat unfavorable.....	16
Strongly unfavorable.....	9
Don't know / Refused.....	5

**Q12b. Teachers' Unions [SPLIT B]**

Strongly favorable.....	37
Somewhat favorable.....	22
Somewhat unfavorable.....	12
Strongly unfavorable.....	24
Don't know / Refused.....	4

**Q13. Tea Party Members**

Strongly favorable.....	18
Somewhat favorable.....	20
Somewhat unfavorable.....	15
Strongly unfavorable.....	29
Don't know / Refused.....	17

**Q14. Democrats in the State Legislature**

Strongly favorable.....	27
Somewhat favorable.....	23
Somewhat unfavorable.....	10
Strongly unfavorable.....	32
Don't know / Refused.....	8

**Q15. Republicans in the State Legislature**

Strongly favorable.....	24
Somewhat favorable.....	22
Somewhat unfavorable.....	15
Strongly unfavorable.....	31
Don't know / Refused.....	8

**Q16. Changing topics, how much of the time do you think you can trust the state government to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or never?**

Just about always .....	3
Most of the time.....	22
Only some of the time.....	60
Never.....	14
Don't know / Refused .....	1

**Q17. Do you think the state budget situation in Wisconsin—that is, the balance between government spending and revenues—is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem for the people of Wisconsin today?**

A big problem .....	59
Somewhat of a problem .....	36
Not a problem .....	3
Don't know / Refused.....	2

**Q18.** In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more? I'd rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, OR I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services. [OPTIONS ROTATED]

Higher taxes and more services .....	42
Lower taxes and fewer services .....	52
Don't know / Refused.....	6

**Q19.** I'm going to name some of the largest areas for overall state spending. Please tell me the one that represents the largest portion the Wisconsin state budget.

K-12 public education.....	27
Medicaid insurance for lower income households.	27
Higher education.....	6
Transportation.....	5
Aid to local government.....	19
Don't know/Refused .....	15

**Q20.** As you may know, Governor Scott Walker recently announced a plan that would require public employees to contribute to their own pensions and pay greater amounts for their health insurance, which would, in effect, be a pay reduction. The plan would permit most public employees to negotiate only their wages, and future wage increases above the rate of inflation would have to be approved by a voter referendum. Contracts would be limited to one year. In addition, Walker's plan also changes rules to require public employee unions to take annual votes to maintain certification as a union, stops state or local government from collecting union dues, and allows individual members to decide if they wish to pay union dues. Unions for law enforcement and firefighters would be exempt from the changes

Do you favor or oppose Governor Walker's plan?

Strongly favor .....	32
Somewhat favor .....	14
Somewhat oppose .....	9
Strongly oppose .....	42
Don't Know/Refuse.....	3

I'm now going to mention some specific parts of the bill. For each, please tell me if this is something you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose . . .

**Q21.** Requiring public employees to contribute to their own pensions

Strongly favor .....	56
Somewhat favor .....	25
Somewhat oppose .....	8
Strongly oppose .....	10
Don't Know/Refuse .....	1

**Q22a.** Limiting most public employees' ability to negotiate over non-wage issues in order to prevent local union affiliates from obstructing the budgeting process for local governments **[SPLIT A]**

Strongly favor .....	31
Somewhat favor .....	16
Somewhat oppose .....	15
Strongly oppose .....	35
Don't Know/Refuse .....	3

**Q22b.** Stripping most public employees of their right to collectively bargain over benefits and working conditions as part of a ploy to eliminate public employee unions altogether **[SPLIT B]**

Strongly favor .....	22
Somewhat favor .....	10
Somewhat oppose .....	8
Strongly oppose .....	50
Don't Know/Refuse .....	9

**Q23.** Expanding the power of the state Department of Health Services to review and possibly cut state medical assistance programs, which include Medicaid.

Strongly favor .....	12
Somewhat favor .....	20
Somewhat oppose .....	20
Strongly oppose .....	42
Don't Know/Refuse .....	6

**Q24.** Exempting law enforcement, firefighters, and state troopers and inspectors from the changes to collective bargaining including contributing more for pensions and health care

Strongly favor .....	19
Somewhat favor .....	24
Somewhat oppose .....	21
Strongly oppose .....	31
Don't Know/Refuse .....	5

**Q25.** Eliminating the requirement that the employer must deduct union dues from members of a bargaining unit regardless of whether or not the individuals request such deductions.

Strongly favor .....	26
Somewhat favor .....	20
Somewhat oppose .....	23
Strongly oppose .....	23
Don't Know/Refuse.....	8

**Q26.** Instead of permanently restricting public employees' collective bargaining rights, some people have proposed limiting collective bargaining rights over non-wage issues for only the next two years, after which they would be fully restored. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose such a proposal?

Strongly favor .....	8
Somewhat favor .....	28
Somewhat oppose .....	22
Strongly oppose .....	38
Don't Know/Refuse.....	4

**Q27.** I'm going to read you two statements about the current conflict over public employee benefits and collective bargaining rights, and I want to know which one comes closest to your view. Governor Walker should stand strong for the plan he has proposed no matter how long the protests go on, OR Governor Walker should negotiate with Democrats and public employees' unions in order to find a compromise solution. **[OPTIONS ROTATED]**

Governor Walker should stand strong.....	33
Governor Walker should compromise .....	65
Don't Know/Refused.....	2

**Q28.** Do you approve or disapprove of Senate Democrats' decision to leave the state in order to prevent the passage of the budget repair bill that would reduce public employee benefits and change collective bargaining rights?

Strongly approve.....	36
Somewhat approve.....	11
Somewhat disapprove.....	9
Strongly disapprove.....	42
Don't know / Refused .....	2

I'm now going to mention some specific ideas for reducing the state budget deficit that have recently been in the news. For each, please tell me if this is something you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose . . .

**Q29.** Eliminating government health care benefits for low income single adults with incomes over \$14,300 per year

Strongly favor .....	7
Somewhat favor .....	14
Somewhat oppose .....	27
Strongly oppose .....	47
Don't Know/Refuse.....	4

**Q30.** Reducing state aid to local governments and school districts

Strongly favor .....	9
Somewhat favor .....	22
Somewhat oppose .....	28
Strongly oppose.....	39
Don't Know/Refuse.....	2

**Q31.** Laying off state workers

Strongly favor .....	9
Somewhat favor .....	21
Somewhat oppose .....	23
Strongly oppose .....	43
Don't Know/Refuse.....	3

**Q32.** Raising the state sales tax by one percent

Strongly favor .....	17
Somewhat favor .....	33
Somewhat oppose .....	16
Strongly oppose .....	32
Don't Know/Refuse.....	2

**Q33.** Raising the income tax on people making over \$150,000 a year

Strongly favor .....	52
Somewhat favor .....	20
Somewhat oppose .....	11
Strongly oppose .....	16
Don't Know/Refuse.....	2

**Q34.** Some people say that the proposed changes to public employees' collective bargaining rights are a necessary reform because they will give local governments greater flexibility to control their budgets over several years. Others say that public employees are willing to compromise on pensions and benefits, but limiting collective bargaining rights does nothing to address the state's budget situation and is really an just attempt to get rid of public employee unions. Which of these statements comes closest to your point of view? **[OPTIONS ROTATED]**

Changes are a necessary reform..... 43  
 Changes are an attempt to get rid of unions..... 50  
 Don't Know/Refuse..... 7

**Q35.** I'm going to read you two statements about the current conflict over public employee benefits, and I want to know which one comes closest to your view. Keep public employees' wages and benefits the same but reduce total the number of public employees, OR Make public employees pay more for their pensions and health care but avoid laying off public employees. **[OPTIONS ROTATED]**

Keep wages and benefits the same but reduce total the number of public employees ..... 12

Make public employees pay more for their pensions and health care but avoid laying off public employees..... 83

Don't Know/Refuse..... 5

Now, turning to some other issues that people are talking about.....

**Q36.** I'm going to read you two statements, and I want to know which one comes closest to your view. Some people say it is important to maintain strong air and water quality regulations to protect the environment, even if it costs some jobs or hinders Wisconsin's economic growth. Others say job creation and economic development are more important, even if it means weakening air and water quality regulations and potentially harming the environment. Which view point comes closest to your own? **[OPTIONS ROTATED]**

Maintain air and water regulations, even if it costs some jobs ..... 58

Create jobs, even if it weakens air and water regulations..... 35

Don't Know/Refuse..... 7

**Q37.** Some people suggest that DNR should be divided into two agencies, one dealing with hunting and fishing and other outdoor activities and the other dealing with environmental regulatory issues. Would you favor or oppose dividing the DNR into two agencies?

Completely favor .....	24
Somewhat favor .....	29
Neither favor nor oppose .....	8
Somewhat oppose .....	16
Completely oppose.....	19
Don't know/Refused .....	5

**Q38.** The DNR currently is authorized to spend \$86 million per year to buy land for preservation. Some people believe that Wisconsin should impose a two year moratorium on this program. Would you favor or oppose implementing a two year moratorium on the state buying land for preservation?

Completely favor .....	31
Somewhat favor .....	25
Neither favor nor oppose .....	6
Somewhat oppose .....	15
Completely oppose.....	18
Don't know/Refused .....	5

**Q39.** Would you support or oppose giving local school boards the option of extending the school day or the school year if they believe doing so will improve student performance?

Completely favor .....	47
Somewhat favor .....	24
Somewhat oppose .....	8
Completely oppose.....	17
Don't know/Refused .....	4

**Q40.** Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

Republican .....	24
Democrat.....	28
Independent.....	29
Other/No preference.....	17
Don't know/Refused .....	2

**Q41.** [If not Democrat or Republican] Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?

Republican .....	30
Democrat.....	38
Neither/Just Independent .....	24
Don't know/Refused .....	8

**Q42.** What is the highest level of education you completed?

Elementary school only.....	2
Some high school but did not finish .....	8
Completed high school .....	33
Some college but didn't finish.....	20
Two year college degree .....	9
Four year college degree.....	15
Some graduate work .....	1
Completed masters or professional degree .....	7
Advanced graduate work or PhD.....	1
Don't know/Refused .....	4

**Q43.** What is your age?

18-24 years old.....	12
25-44 years old.....	34
45-64 years old.....	35
65+ years old.....	18
Don't know/Refused .....	1

**Q44.** Are you currently married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Married.....	55
Widowed .....	7
Divorced.....	10
Separated.....	2
Never Married.....	26
Don't know/Refused .....	1

**Q45.** Would you describe yourself as White, African American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, or some other race?

White.....	85
African American or Black .....	7
Asian, South Asian, or Pacific Islander .....	1
Hispanic of Latino.....	1
Native American or American Indian.....	1
Other .....	3
Don't know/Refused .....	2

**Q46.** Are you or any member of your household a member of a local or national labor union?

Yes, respondent.....	14
Yes, another household member.....	9
No, nobody in household.....	76
Don't know/Refused .....	1

**Q47.** Do you work for federal, state, or local government—for example, as a public school teacher, police officer, firefighter, or other government job?

Yes .....	13
No.....	87

**Q48.** Of all the personal telephone calls that you receive, do you get...?

All or almost all on a cell phone .....	28
Some on a cell and some on a home phone .....	27
All or almost all on a regular home phone.....	44
Don't know/Refused .....	1

**Q49.** Is this number a cell phone or a landline?

Cell phone .....	29
Landline .....	71