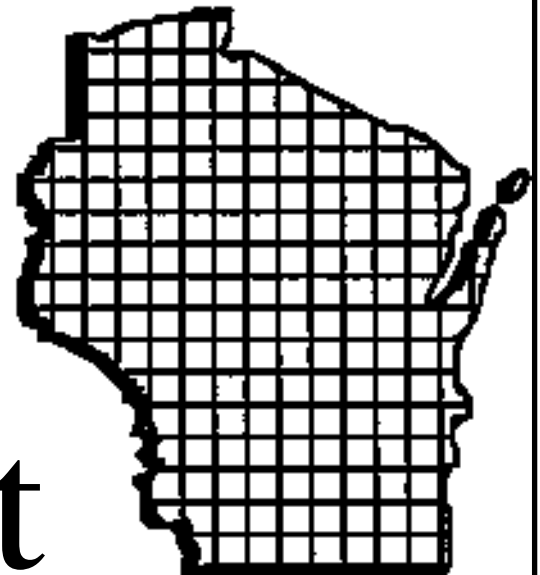


Wisconsin

Policy  
Research  
Institute

Report



July 2006

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**Wisconsin  
Speaks 2006**

**A Survey of Public Opinion**

## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT:

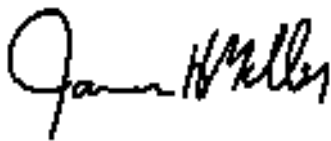
This Wisconsin Citizen Survey was conducted by Diversified Research, a nationally known survey research company. Dr. Michael LaVelle, who has had a relationship with us since 1987, directed this project. He has been President of Diversified Research since 1982, has thirty years of experience in survey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

This is the third 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

## 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 June 18 and June 19, 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 third 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 87% 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 — 76 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 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, **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 — 172 RESPONSES**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Area Of State</b>	<b>Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin</b>
F	Southeast	Crime
M	Southeast	Drug addicts committing crime for their habits
F	City/Milwauk	They should do something about crime
M	Milwauk Sub	Crime prevention - gun control
F	Rest/State	Enforcing the law, people driving with no insurance and expired tags
F	City/Milwauk	Police involvement
M	Southeast	Marijuana - legalizing it
M	Southeast	Stop the drug selling marijuana
F	Rest/State	Gas prices
M	Waukesha Co	The price of gas. Will it ever stop going up?
F	Milwauk Sub	Gasoline tax should be frozen
F	Milwauk Sub	Minimum wage, health care issues statewide health care
M	Grn Bay Area	No good jobs. Can't support a family on minimum wage
M	Madison	Gas prices and unemployment are two that come to mind
F	Madison	Good paying jobs are tough to find
M	La Crosse	The gas prices in our area. More statewide, it would be the taxes. That would pretty much be all taxes. They're high and we don't get our money's worth out of them. Where's the money going?
F	Milwauk Sub	The high prices of gasoline
M	Milwauk Sub	Gas prices too high
M	Waukesha Co	Probably the gas prices
F	Milwauk Sub	Making it easier for the farmers to make a living, and giving them insurance and lower taxes
M	Rest/State	Jobs
M	La Crosse	I don't know: probably employment is too high
F	Grn Bay Area	Jobs and economy. They go hand in hand
M	City/Milwauk	Should emphasize job growth
F	Madison	Gas prices
M	Rest/State	Price of fuel way too high
M	Milwauk Sub	Economy is dragging
M	Rest/State	Fuel. It is way out of whack for pricing. I am in a community that is two ninety-eight. The ones around me are two ninety-two. Tell me what is wrong?
M	Milwauk Sub	Jobs - lack of good ones
F	La Crosse	Gas prices too high
F	City/Milwauk	Too much unemployment
F	Rest/State	I think the wages compared to taxes.
F	Rest/State	Farming is getting worse
M	City/Milwauk	Improving the economy - more better paying jobs

**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	Grn Bay Area	Jobs
M	Grn Bay Area	The price of gas
F	City/Milwauk	Fading farming population. The future of the country is dependent on the agricultural base.
M	Grn Bay Area	Economy
M	Southeast	Energy
F	Madison	The economy
M	Milwauk Sub	Gas prices too high
M	City/Milwauk	Unemployment rate is too high
F	Rest/State	High gasoline prices
F	La Crosse	Gas prices - think they too high
F	Grn Bay Area	Education issues
F	Madison	Education
F	Madison	Education
M	Milwauk Sub	Education
M	Rest/State	Education
F	City/Milwauk	Education
F	Milwauk Sub	Education
F	Rest/State	The formula that is used to calculate school budget
M	Madison	I think our education - because they are the future of the country - the children we educate or do not educate are the future of the country.
F	Southeast	Education
F	Grn Bay Area	Education
F	Madison	Educational funding
F	City/Milwauk	Raising the quality of education for everybody
F	City/Milwauk	No money for anything - cut the pensions of retired government officials
M	Grn Bay Area	Government overspending
M	Southeast	Deficit spending is killing us
F	Waukesha Co	Control spending - stop the waste
M	Madison	Federal government is not giving enough money to our state
M	Grn Bay Area	Ethics reform desperately needed
M	Rest/State	Integrity in the government
M	Grn Bay Area	Budget deficit
M	Rest/State	There too much control dept. In the dept of natural resources. Too much money involved.
F	Milwauk Sub	More money in our local government
F	Grn Bay Area	Overspending
M	Grn Bay Area	Budget
F	Southeast	The deficit has to be faced
F	Rest/State	Health care. Make more people be able to afford 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	Southeast	The high cost of prescription drugs
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care. Paying for prescription meds is a hardship
M	La Crosse	Health care
M	Milwauk Sub	Health care has to be more affordable
M	Rest/State	Health care
F	La Crosse	That they take care of the Medicare and prescriptions
F	La Crosse	Health care
F	Rest/State	Cut out waste in health care
M	Milwauk Sub	We need health care for the children
F	Grn Bay Area	Health
M	Milwauk Sub	Health care especially for children
M	La Crosse	Health care - we should have a plan like the state of Massachusetts
F	Rest/State	High cost of health insurance
F	Milwauk Sub	Health insurance universal for all
F	Southeast	Health care - making it affordable
F	Southeast	Affordable health care for all
F	Milwauk Sub	Health insurance
F	Milwauk Sub	Universal health coverage
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	Rest/State	I think health care for everyone is a must
M	Rest/State	Health care system and prescription drugs. Union has to agree with management - customer has to pay more than original cost
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	Rest/State	Health care
M	Rest/State	Health care
F	La Crosse	The single most important problem is health care. There should be insurance so that there aren't any uninsured people.
F	Grn Bay Area	Health
F	Madison	Health care for everyone
F	La Crosse	We need four lane highway on highway 54
M	Rest/State	Right to life issues because it's murder
F	Grn Bay Area	Water quality has to be taken seriously
F	City/Milwauk	Inner city crime
M	Rest/State	The war in Iraq
M	Grn Bay Area	Get out of Iraq
M	La Crosse	State employee layoffs are not good because services get less and less
M	Southeast	Environment
F	Milwauk Sub	Transportation
M	Grn Bay Area	Ecology is a web of life

**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	Can't trust the media
F	Southeast	Bringing our guys back from war
F	Grn Bay Area	War in Iraq
M	Southeast	We need better roads, better maintained
M	City/Milwauk	Over taxation
F	Milwauk Sub	Need to do something about Social Security. I don't know what
F	Grn Bay Area	Seniors need the help
M	Rest/State	Social services for the ones who need help
M	Rest/State	Take care of illegal immigrants-better enforcement, both for the individuals and the businesses that hire them. It's a drain on the economy.
M	Rest/State	Illegal immigration is threatening us
F	Rest/State	I think they should not be any tax on Social Security or pensions. The fact that they are taxing it so high it is very sad.
F	Milwauk Sub	Improving Social Security
F	Rest/State	Illegal aliens have more rights
F	Grn Bay Area	Immigration too much in my area
F	Grn Bay Area	The poor always get shafted
F	Rest/State	Taxes - I think they should be reduced for older people - I'm retired
M	Rest/State	Social services
M	Milwauk Sub	The most important problem is the welfare situation
M	Rest/State	Taxes - pay too much
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes keep increasing, for what?
M	Rest/State	Probably lowering property taxes
F	Madison	Taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
M	Rest/State	Reduce state income taxes
F	Milwauk Sub	Taxes
M	Waukesha Co	All taxes are too high in Wisconsin period
F	Southeast	Real estate taxes too high
M	Milwauk Sub	Taxes way too high
F	Waukesha Co	Taxes - they're too high
M	La Crosse	Property taxes
F	Milwauk Sub	Taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Taxes
M	Waukesha Co	Lowering taxes
M	La Crosse	Taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Taxes. Property taxes are sky high. Gasoline taxes and school taxes are also high. My husband is disabled, and they tax his disability check.
F	Rest/State	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	Milwauk Sub	Taxes are too high
M	Southeast	Taxes
F	Madison	Taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Taxes
M	Milwauk Sub	Taxes
F	Waukesha Co	Taxes
M	City/Milwauk	It has to be taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes. They keep going up.
M	Waukesha Co	Taxes
M	Waukesha Co	Trying to keep taxes in a better line
M	City/Milwauk	Right now taxes is the biggest
M	Grn Bay Area	High taxes
M	Milwauk Sub	Taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Taxes
M	Waukesha Co	Taxes. They are very high.
F	Milwauk Sub	All of the taxes in Wisconsin- one of the highest states
M	Madison	Taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
M	Milwauk Sub	Taxes
M	Madison	Reducing property taxes
M	Southeast	Taxes
M	Milwauk Sub	High taxes and too much spending
M	La Crosse	Property taxes
M	Rest/State	Lowering property taxes
M	Milwauk Sub	Taxes
M	Madison	Taxes

**DEMOCRATS — 171 RESPONSES**

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	City/Milwauk	They should be doing something about crime
F	Milwauk Sub	Crime rate too high
M	Rest/State	Crime is getting out of control
F	City/Milwauk	Crime rate among youths is escalating
M	City/Milwauk	Crime and centers for the kids to keep them off the streets
F	City/Milwauk	Crime
F	City/Milwauk	Crime
M	City/Milwauk	Crime
F	Milwauk Sub	Crime - lowering taxes more for the people who need it
F	Grn Bay Area	Crime

**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	Crime is a problem
M	Milwauk Sub	Crime
M	Milwauk Sub	Drugs. Taxes.
F	Southeast	Gas prices and housing
M	Grn Bay Area	Needs to be more energy education throughout the state
M	Rest/State	Gasoline prices should be capped
F	Rest/State	Create employment opportunities
M	Grn Bay Area	Promote economic growth
F	Southeast	Unemployment is too high
M	Southeast	Unemployment
F	Rest/State	I don't know - I haven't thought about it - find more jobs with benefits
M	Southeast	Need more jobs, better jobs
F	Milwauk Sub	Jobs
M	Southeast	Gas prices
M	Madison	Everything (gas prices)
F	Rest/State	Gas and taxes both are too high
F	Southeast	Gasoline price gauging
M	Grn Bay Area	Work
F	Rest/State	High cost of gas prices and high cost of living
F	Rest/State	Gas prices
M	Madison	Fix the economy
F	La Crosse	Price of gas is high, jobs are low
M	Madison	High gas prices
F	Southeast	Jobs
M	Rest/State	The gas problem
F	Grn Bay Area	Energy cost affects the economy
F	Grn Bay Area	Gas prices go up every day
F	La Crosse	Economy, gas prices, jobs, minimum wage, everything
F	Milwauk Sub	Gas prices
F	La Crosse	Economy - high gas price
M	Grn Bay Area	The economy stupid
F	Madison	We need more employment and better paying jobs. Kids who graduate move to other states.
F	City/Milwauk	The economy
M	Grn Bay Area	Unemployment
M	Grn Bay Area	Need to do more to save energy
F	City/Milwauk	Jobs
M	Madison	The economy
F	Milwauk Sub	Gasoline prices
M	Rest/State	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
F	Rest/State	Unemployment
F	Southeast	Work
M	Southeast	Gas prices
F	Rest/State	I would like to see more jobs help for people who do not have jobs, such as jobs and places to live
F	City/Milwauk	Employment is too shaky
F	Grn Bay Area	Education is failing
F	Southeast	Children are not learning in the public schools
F	Madison	Education. So the children have a future
M	City/Milwauk	Improve the education system
F	Waukesha Co	I believe education is declining
F	Waukesha Co	Education, it needs help because they are not doing the job with the kids, kids are the ones who are losing
F	City/Milwauk	Education
F	City/Milwauk	Improving education; they are taking away music
F	Rest/State	Increasing the funding to public schools
F	Grn Bay Area	Education
M	Southeast	Education
F	Madison	Education
M	City/Milwauk	I'd like to see something done about money for education. Not enough of it
F	Grn Bay Area	Education
F	Milwauk Sub	Our education system is failing our students
M	Milwauk Sub	They should do something about education
F	City/Milwauk	Education is not up to standards
F	Southeast	Education
F	Southeast	Schools, helping people, gas prices - begin with any of them
F	Milwauk Sub	School systems, poor education, and less kids graduating, poor test scores, and they are our future we need to invest in it
M	La Crosse	Education
F	Rest/State	The way education is funded has to be more fair
M	Southeast	Education
F	City/Milwauk	Need more funding for education
M	City/Milwauk	Education
F	Grn Bay Area	Schools are not teaching
M	City/Milwauk	Budget shortfalls
F	Grn Bay Area	Political corruption is rampant at all levels
M	City/Milwauk	More money is needed by the cities
F	Southeast	Money to run the local community
M	Madison	Personally I think spending, fiscal irresponsibility, too much money wasted
F	Madison	Honesty in politics is a dying breed
F	Grn Bay Area	Save on spending

**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	The connection between the money and legislation - campaign contributions to buy the votes
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	Rest/State	Health insurance, medical insurance, drug costs
F	Southeast	Health care is poor and cost is too high
F	Waukesha Co	Providing Medicare that accepts everybody - health care
F	Waukesha Co	Health care system is a mess
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care issues
M	Grn Bay Area	Health care
M	Rest/State	Health care issues
F	Southeast	Health
F	La Crosse	We need health care for people who don't get it through work
F	Rest/State	Health problems
F	Rest/State	Health care and dental care for the elderly
F	Rest/State	Cost of health insurance and prescription drugs
F	Madison	Health care - we should have a payer plan - it should be socialized medicine
F	Milwauk Sub	The health care issues
F	La Crosse	Improving health and finances for senior citizens
F	City/Milwauk	Health care
F	Milwauk Sub	The health insurance issue
F	Rest/State	Health care for the elderly
F	La Crosse	Health care - high cost of it
F	Southeast	Better health programs for seniors, more benefits for the retired
F	Southeast	Health care
M	Southeast	Health care
F	City/Milwauk	Health insurance
F	Rest/State	Lower health insurance
F	La Crosse	Health care
F	La Crosse	Health care. Too many people are uninsured.
F	Madison	Make health care affordable for all
M	Waukesha Co	Health care, services, affordable health care procedures are so expensive. And many people are uninsured. Days that you can stay are too few, and people are being sent home before they are fully recovered.
F	Waukesha Co	Health care
F	Waukesha Co	School system isn't so good
F	Grn Bay Area	Gov gets reelected and also no gay marriage
M	Madison	Iraq war
M	Madison	War in Iraq, immigration, high gas prices - is that enough?
F	Southeast	Abortion
F	Southeast	Protecting the environment

**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	Grn Bay Area	War has to end
F	Grn Bay Area	Preventing gay marriage
F	Grn Bay Area	Budget cuts
M	Rest/State	Economics. I am looking at the DNR situation. The dept of natural resources. They have had a lot of cutbacks and terminations.
F	Grn Bay Area	Budget cuts
F	Grn Bay Area	War in Iraq is draining us
M	Southeast	War
M	Waukesha Co	Get rid of the war
F	Milwauk Sub	The environment
M	Madison	Global warming - climates is the long range threat
F	Grn Bay Area	Social Security retirement fund is going broke
F	Grn Bay Area	Illegal immigration is hurting the country
M	Madison	Poor people do not have anything
F	Madison	Affordable housing
M	Grn Bay Area	Immigration laws have to be enforced
F	Madison	The government needs to do something about Social Security
F	Grn Bay Area	Seniors and education are both the issues - the old and the young
F	Rest/State	Social Security is in danger
F	Madison	Affordable housing
F	La Crosse	Eliminate the poverty
M	La Crosse	Senior citizens. I'm talking about long-term health care and housing.
F	Waukesha Co	Helping the poor
M	Rest/State	I think there should definitely be more financial help for older people. A lot of seniors have to get by on 3 or 4 hundred dollars a month, and they really can't get by on that. And I also think they shouldn't have to give up their homes or pay taxes
M	Rest/State	Taxes, for one thing
F	Madison	Property taxes keep going up
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
F	Waukesha Co	Taxes
F	Madison	Taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Taxes
M	Rest/State	Taxes
F	La Crosse	Lowering property taxes. But don't hold your breath for that one
M	Madison	Local taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Property taxes here are too high
F	Grn Bay Area	Probably taxes
F	Southeast	Taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	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	Grn Bay Area	Rising taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
F	Rest/State	Taxes
M	Madison	High taxes
F	City/Milwauk	Property taxes are too high
F	Grn Bay Area	Tax
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes
F	La Crosse	Property taxes should be lowered
F	Waukesha Co	Taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Taxes

**REPUBLICANS — 133 RESPONSES**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Area Of State</b>	<b>Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin</b>
F	Milwauk Sub	The drug problem continues
F	Rest/State	Reduce property taxes
M	Milwauk Sub	Gun control to protect us
F	Waukesha Co	No opinion - crime rate in Milwaukee... Taxes - everything is getting worse
M	City/Milwauk	Gun control is too lax
M	Milwauk Sub	Gun control
F	Rest/State	The lack of prison space - sometimes have to let the convicted felons out
F	Waukesha Co	Street crime in Milwaukee area, particularly in the city
M	Madison	Gas prices are out of control
M	City/Milwauk	Workers need higher wages
M	Grn Bay Area	The economy
M	City/Milwauk	Jobs
M	Rest/State	High prices of fuel
M	Rest/State	Gas taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Wages are too low
F	Rest/State	Fuel and oil prices
M	Grn Bay Area	Trying to make things easier for employment
F	Grn Bay Area	Losing jobs out of state and out of country
M	La Crosse	Lack of jobs
F	Grn Bay Area	Price of gas
F	Madison	Education. All aspects
M	Rest/State	The schools. That is school taxes. The money needed for schools is not available
M	Waukesha Co	Improving the quality of K-12 education
M	Rest/State	Protect the environmental wetlands
F	Waukesha Co	They are too many cuts in the school budget
M	Rest/State	Need to change the governor

**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	Get rid of Feingold
M	Milwauk Sub	Democrats are a disgrace
F	Rest/State	The misuse of taxes and the spending of tax dollars
M	Southeast	Stop mandating without funding
M	Milwauk Sub	Get the voters out to hear the voice of the people
F	Madison	Deficit
F	Waukesha Co	Spending too much money
M	Rest/State	Change our governor
M	Rest/State	Cutting a lot of the spending
M	Milwauk Sub	High level spending - social services, public transportation, and those types of sectors can be handled by private sectors in order to limit government spending
M	Madison	Medical bills should be lower
F	Rest/State	Health care
F	Milwauk Sub	Too many mosquitoes - danger of epidemics
M	La Crosse	The health care situation - the cost
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care for seniors
M	Grn Bay Area	Providing a backup plan for health insurance
M	Southeast	Health care
F	Southeast	Bring the cost of medicine down.
F	Grn Bay Area	Health care
F	Rest/State	Health care for the elderly and uninsured
M	Rest/State	Health care, the government waste, spending money on nothing, get gas prices down, lots of things they could do
M	Milwauk Sub	Health insurance
F	Southeast	The war is the most important. Compared to everything else
M	La Crosse	If the environment is not protected, nothing else will matter
F	Southeast	Religion
F	Rest/State	Hunting and fishing licenses - cost is too high
M	City/Milwauk	Sending billion of dollars to other countries aid - don't take care of our own people
M	Grn Bay Area	Transportation could be improved
F	Milwauk Sub	Gay marriage issue - I don't think we should have it. There shouldn't be any question about it
F	La Crosse	Disapprove of the abortion clinics
F	Milwauk Sub	The environment - taking care of our parks and resources such as our lakes
F	Milwauk Sub	Overpopulation straining the resources
M	Rest/State	Abortion
M	Madison	Step down on abortion
F	Rest/State	What the state government should fix? Homeland security, I know that's not a state issue. But I don't think Wisconsin has any problems that the government should fix
M	Grn Bay Area	Pass a total ban on abortion

**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	Southeast	Don't let the same sex marriage
F	La Crosse	Homelessness is a big problem in my area
F	Grn Bay Area	All of the immigrants coming into the country
F	Grn Bay Area	Illegal immigrants and high taxes. Not sure in what order
F	Milwauk Sub	Illegal aliens in Wisconsin
M	Grn Bay Area	End illegal immigration
M	Grn Bay Area	Controlling illegal immigration
F	Southeast	They should do something about the elderly and the hungry
F	Madison	Immigration
F	Southeast	Giving money away to the Mexicans that don't belong here
M	Waukesha Co	Overrun by illegal aliens
M	Madison	Immigration
F	Grn Bay Area	Taxes. All the taxes are too high
M	Madison	Taxes too high
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
M	Waukesha Co	Taxes are too high
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes are high. Who can stop it?
F	Milwauk Sub	Lowering property and income taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	High taxes
F	City/Milwauk	High taxes should be taken care of. Business do not want to settle here
M	Waukesha Co	State taxes. State income tax. It's too high.
F	Madison	Taxes too high
M	La Crosse	Taxes and gas prices
F	Milwauk Sub	Property tax and income tax both too high
F	Milwauk Sub	Taxes
F	Madison	Taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
M	Milwauk Sub	Lowering property taxes is most important
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
M	Madison	Property taxes
M	Southeast	Taxes
M	Southeast	Property taxes never go down
F	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
M	Rest/State	Taxes
F	Milwauk Sub	High taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
F	Madison	They should do something about high taxes
F	Rest/State	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
F	Southeast	Taxes - all the taxes are too high
M	Waukesha Co	High state and local taxes
M	Southeast	Taxes
F	Milwauk Sub	Taxes
F	La Crosse	Taxes they are way too high
M	Waukesha Co	Lowering taxes
M	Madison	Taxes too high
M	Rest/State	Taxes are too high
F	Grn Bay Area	Tax
F	Milwauk Sub	High taxes
F	Southeast	Taxes are too high
M	Southeast	Taxes
M	Rest/State	Keep our taxes low
F	Rest/State	I think the economy - the taxes - they are the most important things right now - they are getting very high.
M	City/Milwauk	They should do something about taxes.
F	Milwauk Sub	Taxes and schools budget cuts
F	Milwauk Sub	Taxes
M	Rest/State	Real estate tax, income tax
F	Southeast	Taxes
M	Waukesha Co	Taxes are too high
F	Rest/State	Rural property taxes
M	La Crosse	The only thing that comes to mind is the expense of property taxes
M	Waukesha Co	Taxes
F	Grn Bay Area	High taxes
M	Rest/State	Taxes
M	Southeast	Taxes are too high
M	Waukesha Co	Property taxes
F	Waukesha Co	High income tax
F	Grn Bay Area	Tax
F	Milwauk Sub	Taxes because they are so high
M	Waukesha Co	Taxes

**OTHER PARTY — 25 RESPONSES**

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
M	City/Milwauk	We need to lower the crime rate
M	City/Milwauk	Lowering crime
M	Grn Bay Area	Gas prices
M	Rest/State	Fuel prices - they need to come down - they need to take the taxes off

**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 jobs for people
M	Rest/State	Fuel prices too high - gas and oil
F	City/Milwauk	Unemployment
M	Grn Bay Area	Pump up the economy
F	City/Milwauk	Unemployment
M	Southeast	Fuel prices
M	City/Milwauk	Gas is too expensive
F	Madison	Gas prices. They should be doing something about. Keeping seniors in their own homes - it is very hard for them to be sent away. They need to be doing less government waste.
M	Waukesha Co	Education
M	Grn Bay Area	Education
M	Southeast	Political corruption and lack of ethics
F	Rest/State	Too much spending on nothing
M	Rest/State	Health care. The cost is higher than the quality
M	Milwauk Sub	Health care
F	Rest/State	Family values. Society is losing its decency
M	La Crosse	Road repair - gigantic potholes damage the cars
M	Madison	Environment
F	Grn Bay Area	Social Security system needs to be revamped
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
F	Milwauk Sub	High taxes
M	Rest/State	Taxes

**NO PARTY GIVEN — 23 RESPONSES**

Sex	Area Of State	Single Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin
F	Waukesha Co	Lowering the crime rate
M	La Crosse	They should do something about increasing wages for jobs
F	Rest/State	A lot of things- start with farmers
M	Milwauk Sub	Gas prices
F	Madison	Jobs
M	Madison	Gas prices
M	Rest/State	Inflation
M	La Crosse	Need higher wages around here
M	Rest/State	Fuel prices they are outrageous - I do not think farmers are getting their fair shake
F	Southeast	Education
F	Southeast	Education
F	City/Milwauk	Education. The high schools are a big problem, get more children to graduate
F	Grn Bay Area	Taking money from one fund to another - need fiscal responsibility

**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	Milwauk Sub	Health care is too complicated
M	Grn Bay Area	Health insurance
F	Rest/State	Health care. There are too many people without health care.
F	Grn Bay Area	Bringing our troops home is the first priority
F	Rest/State	Pollution is still around
F	Madison	We don't address spirituality any more and we are paying the price
F	Rest/State	Cleaning up and stopping pollution
M	Grn Bay Area	The amount of septic is threatening the water supply
M	Grn Bay Area	Taxes
M	City/Milwauk	Highways toll ways - fix the roads with the toll revenue

## 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.