

**Wisconsin Policy Research Institute/UW Political Science Study
September 2009**

TOPLINES

1. 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?

1. Most of the time	371	53.00%
2. Some of the time	192	27.43%
3. Only now and then	66	9.43%
4. Hardly at all	70	10.00%
9. Don't know/Refused	1	0.14%

2. 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?

1. Right direction	256	36.57%
2. Wrong track	376	53.71%
9. Don't know/Refused	68	9.71%

3. 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?

1. Right direction	227	32.43%
2. Wrong track	403	57.57%
9. Don't know/Refused	70	10.00%

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

1. Making health care and prescription drugs more affordable	101	14.43%
2. Holding the line on taxes and government spending	125	17.86%
3. Improving the state's economy and protecting jobs	229	32.71%
4. Improving education	53	7.57%
5. Protecting the environment	7	1.00%
6. Fighting crime	8	1.14%
7. Reforming campaign finance laws	6	0.86%
8. Gasoline prices	1	0.14%
9. Affordable electricity	2	0.29%
10. Other	99	14.14%
11. Don't know/Refused	69	9.86%

5. Would you say that over the past year the economy in Wisconsin has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

1. Gotten better	51	7.29%
2. Gotten worse	457	65.29%
3. Stayed about the same	172	24.57%
9. Don't know/Refused	20	2.86%

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

1. Get better	284	40.57%
2. Get worse	143	20.43%
3. Stay about the same	253	36.14%
9. Don't know/Refused	20	2.86%

7. What about your own family's economic situation? Do you expect it to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

1. Get better	187	26.71%
2. Get worse	96	13.71%
3. Stay about the same	402	57.43%
9. Don't know/Refused	15	2.14%

Now I would like to read you the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. As I read each one, please tell me whether you have a very favorable opinion of that person, a somewhat favorable opinion, a somewhat unfavorable opinion, or a very unfavorable opinion. If you don't feel you can rate that person or don't recognize the name, just say so.

8. Jim Doyle

1. Very favorable	68	9.71%
2. Somewhat favorable	240	34.29%
3. Somewhat unfavorable	121	17.29%
4. Very unfavorable	211	30.14%
5. Never heard of person	26	3.71%
9. Don't know/Refused	34	4.86%

9. Tommy Thompson

1. Very favorable	116	16.57%
2. Somewhat favorable	268	38.29%
3. Somewhat unfavorable	112	16.00%
4. Very unfavorable	105	15.00%
5. Never heard of person	36	5.14%
9. Don't know/Refused	63	9.00%

10. Barbra Lawton

1. Very favorable	25	3.57%
2. Somewhat favorable	123	17.57%
3. Somewhat unfavorable	86	12.29%
4. Very unfavorable	64	9.14%
5. Never heard of person	261	37.29%
9. Don't know/Refused	141	20.14%

11. Tom Barrett

1. Very favorable	84	12.00%
2. Somewhat favorable	167	23.86%
3. Somewhat unfavorable	62	8.86%
4. Very unfavorable	22	3.14%
5. Never heard of person	233	33.29%
9. Don't know/Refused	132	18.86%

12. Russ Feingold

1. Very favorable	163	23.29%
2. Somewhat favorable	218	31.14%
3. Somewhat unfavorable	110	15.71%
4. Very unfavorable	101	14.43%
5. Never heard of person	46	6.57%
9. Don't know/Refused	62	8.86%

13. Scott Walker

1. Very favorable	88	12.57%
2. Somewhat favorable	120	17.14%
3. Somewhat unfavorable	62	8.86%
4. Very unfavorable	49	7.00%
5. Never heard of person	254	36.29%
9. Don't know/Refused	127	18.14%

14. Mark Neuman

1. Very favorable	36	5.14%
2. Somewhat favorable	133	19.00%
3. Somewhat unfavorable	57	8.14%
4. Very unfavorable	29	4.14%
5. Never heard of person	273	39.00%
9. Don't know/Refused	172	24.57%

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

1. Strongly approve	171	24.43%
2. Somewhat approve	231	33.00%
3. Somewhat disapprove	111	15.86%
4. Strongly disapprove	172	24.57%
9. Don't know/Refused	15	2.14%

16. Overall, do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the way Jim Doyle is handling his job as governor?

1. Strongly approve	55	7.86%
2. Somewhat approve	247	35.29%
3. Somewhat disapprove	145	20.71%
4. Strongly disapprove	221	31.57%
9. Don't know/Refused	32	4.57%

18. If the election for State Assembly in Wisconsin were held today, for whom in your district would you vote?

1. Democratic candidate	280	40.00%
2. Republican candidate	245	35.00%
3. Undecided	155	22.14%
9. Refused	20	2.86%

19. How much of the time do you think you can trust the state government in Madison to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or never?

1. Just about always	13	1.86%
2. Most of the time	194	27.71%
3. Only some of the time	402	57.43%
4. Never	75	10.71%
9. Don't know/Refused	16	2.29%

24. Some people say that it is important to protect the environment, even if it costs some jobs or otherwise reduces our standard of living. Other people say that protecting the environment is not as important as maintaining jobs and our standard of living. Which viewpoint comes closest to your own?

1. Protecting environment	333	47.57%
2. Maintaining jobs	271	38.71%
3. Both equally	63	9.00%
4. Neither	10	1.43%
9. Don't know/Refused	23	3.29%

25. Some people feel the government in Washington should see to it that every person has a job and a good standard of living. Others think the government should just let each person get ahead on his/her own. Which is closer to the way you feel?

1. Government guarantee	189	27.00%
2. Get ahead on person's own	458	65.43%
9. Don't know/Refused	53	7.57%

26. Over the last year, do you think the policies of Wisconsin state government have made the economic situation in the state better, worse, or had no effect?

1. Better	94	13.43%
2. Worse	319	45.57%
3. Had no effect	239	34.14%
9. Don't know/Refused	48	6.86%

29. Which comes closest to your view? Gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to legally marry, or Gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or There should be no legal recognition of gay and lesbian relationships?

1. Legally marry	190	27.14%
2. Civil unions, but not legally marry	225	32.14%
3. No legal recognition	243	34.71%
9. Don't know/Refused	42	6.00%

30. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of global warming? Global warming is occurring and the federal government can take steps which would slow the rate of global warming or eventually stop it altogether. Global warming is occurring but the federal government cannot do anything to slow it down or stop it. Or, global warming is not occurring.

1. Occurring, federal government can help	356	50.86%
2. Occurring, federal government cannot help	161	23.00%
3. Not occurring	146	20.86%
9. Don't know/Refused	37	5.29%

32. Thinking about a typical weekday, do you get most of your news from television, print newspapers, the radio, or the internet?

1. Television	345	49.29%
2. Print newspapers	105	15.00%
3. Radio	103	14.71%
4. Internet	137	19.57%
9. Don't know/Refused	10	1.43%

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

1. Republican	179	25.57%
2. Democrat	233	33.29%
3. Independent	203	29.00%
4. Other preference/None of the above	72	10.29%
9. Don't know/Refused	13	1.86%

33_calc. Seven-point Party Identification scale. (Calculated from Q33-Q33c)

1. Strong Republican	98	14.00%
2. Weak Republican	81	11.57%
3. Lean Republican	117	16.71%
4. Independent	75	10.71%
5. Lean Democrat	96	13.71%
6. Weak Democrat	105	15.00%
7. Strong Democrat	128	18.29%

34. 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?

1. Yes, registered to vote	624	89.14%
2. No, not registered to vote	69	9.86%
3. Don't know/Refused	7	1.00%

35A. If the Democratic primary for Governor were held today, for whom would you vote?

1. Tom Barrett	111	38.41%
2. Barbara Lawton	46	15.92%
9. Don't know/Refused	132	45.67%

35B. If the Republican primary for Governor were held today, for whom would you vote?

1. Mark Neumann	39	14.34%
2. Scott Walker	105	38.60%
3. Tim Michels	10	3.68%
9. Don't know/Refused	118	43.38%

36. How often do you attend religious services--more than once a week, every week, once or twice a month, several times a year, or hardly ever?

1. More than once a week	56	8.00%
2. Every week	225	32.14%
3. Once or twice a month	96	13.71%
4. Several times a year	102	14.57%
5. Hardly ever	179	25.57%
6. Never	31	4.43%
9. Don't know/Refused	11	1.57%

37. Age Categories

1. 18-35	200	28.57%
2. 36-64	329	47.00%
3. 65 and older	166	23.71%
4 - Refused	5	0.71%

38. What is the highest level of education you completed?

1. Elementary school only	3	0.43%
2. Some high school but did not finish	23	3.29%
3. Completed high school	165	23.57%
4. Some college but did not finish	114	16.29%
5. Two-year college degree	82	11.71%
6. Four-year college degree	187	26.71%
7. Some graduate work	23	3.29%
8. Completed masters or professional degree	74	10.57%
9. Advanced graduate work or Ph.D.	22	3.14%
10. Don't know/Refused	7	1.00%

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

1. Yes, respondent	79	11.29%
2. Yes, household member	70	10.00%
3. No	550	78.57%
9. Don't know/Refused	5	0.71%

40. Have any of the following things happened to you or your family in the past year?

1. Lost a job	169	24.14%
2. Had hours reduced	163	23.29%
3. Been furloughed	37	5.29%
4. House foreclosure	20	2.86%
9. Don't know/Refused	407	58.14%

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

1. Married	448	64.00%
2. Widowed	57	8.14%
3. Divorced	63	9.00%
4. Separated	9	1.29%
5. Never been married	117	16.71%
9. Don't know/Refused	6	0.86%

42. Do you have a gun in your home?

1. Yes	302	43.14%
2. No	372	53.14%
9. Don't know/Refused	26	3.71%

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

1. White	623	89.00%
2. African American or Black	29	4.14%
3. Asian, South Asian, or Pacific Islander	5	0.71%
4. Hispanic or Latino	9	1.29%
5. Native American or American Indian	9	1.29%
6. Other	0	0.00%
7. Don't know/Refused	25	3.57%

44. In which group does your total household income fall?

1. Less than \$10,000	28	4.00%
2. \$10,000 - Less than \$20,000	39	5.57%
3. \$20,000 - Less than \$30,000	64	9.14%
4. \$30,000 - Less than \$40,000	77	11.00%
5. \$40,000 - Less than \$50,000	83	11.86%
6. \$50,000 - Less than \$75,000	124	17.71%
7. \$75,000 - Less than \$100,000	97	13.86%
8. \$100,000 or More	83	11.86%
9. Don't know/Refused	105	15.00%

45. How many years have you lived in Wisconsin?

Less than 5 years	28	4.00%
5 - 14 years	55	7.86%
15 - 24 years	82	11.71%
25 - 49 years	285	40.71%
50 years or more	248	35.43%
Don't know/Refused	2	0.29%

46. Would you say that you are very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not likely at all to move out of Wisconsin in the next five years?

1. Very likely	53	7.57%
2. Somewhat likely	82	11.71%
3. Not very likely	166	23.71%
4. Not likely at all	376	53.71%
9. Don't know/Refused	23	3.29%

47. Do you have any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

1. Yes	264	37.71%
2. No	429	61.29%
9. Don't know/Refused	7	1.00%

48. When you were growing up, did you live with both of your parents, one of your parents, or with someone else?

1. Both parents	609	87.00%
2. One parent	73	10.43%
3. Someone else	8	1.14%
9. Don't know/Refused	10	1.43%

49. Gender

1. Male	343	49.00%
2. Female	357	51.00%

Geographic Breakdowns of Education Questions

What grade would you give your community's public schools – A, B, C, D, or FAIL?

	Milwaukee County	Milwaukee Suburbs	Southern WI	NE WI	NW WI
A	7	18	18	8	21
B	28	42	46	40	47
C	29	21	22	27	20
D	9	11	5	6	6
F	24	2	2	3	1

What grade would you give the public schools in the state?

	Milwaukee County	Milwaukee Suburbs	Southern WI	NE WI	NW WI
A	4	3	4	5	6
B	25	29	41	25	37
C	39	45	37	46	30
D	10	10	5	8	9
F	9	2	2	4	3

Between these two positions, which do you tend to agree with more? “Government should give low income parents more educational choices by providing vouchers to help pay for private or religious schools” or “Government funding should be limited to children who attend public schools.”

	Milwaukee County	Milwaukee Suburbs	Southern WI	NE WI	NW WI
Support vouchers	55	47	39	45	32
Oppose Vouchers	34	42	49	44	59

Do you support the mayor of Milwaukee taking control of Milwaukee public schools with the power to choose the next superintendent and appoint members of the school board?

	Milwaukee County	Milwaukee Suburbs	Southern WI	NE WI	NW WI
Yes	53	38	25	25	21
No	32	38	41	41	37