



Badger Poll™ #22, Release #2
 University of Wisconsin Survey Center
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CORRUPTION IN THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Wisconsinites blame both the Democrats and the Republicans for recent corruption in state government. When asked which political party is more to blame for the scandals involving state employees campaigning on state time, and the misuse of state resources for personal or political purposes, 60% of the Wisconsin public said both parties equally are to blame. Almost 20% said neither political party.

- There were differences along party lines: 20% of Republicans blame the Democrats, and 16% of Democrats blame the Republicans.
- A majority (59%) of the public blames both parties. By party: 68% of Independents, 63% of Democrats and 47% of Republicans say both parties are to blame.
- A total of 19% of the public overall – and 28% of the Republicans – say that neither party is to blame for the problems in state government.
- There are also slight differences by age. Respondents who are aged 60 and older are more likely to blame the Democrats than the Republicans for these problems in state government.

	Total	Dems	Reps	Indeps	Age <30	Age 30-44	Age 45-59	Age 60+
REPUBLICANS	9.4	15.9	0.7	8.7	9.0	10.1	10.5	7.7
DEMOCRATS	7.5	1.3	19.9	4.0	2.7	7.2	8.4	12.0
EQUALLY	59.3	62.9	47.1	68.3	54.1	60.9	61.5	59.0
NEITHER	18.5	11.3	27.9	15.9	26.1	18.8	14.7	15.4
DON'T KNOW	4.9	8.6	3.7	3.2	8.1	2.2	4.9	5.1
REFUSED	0.4	--	0.7	--	--	0.7	--	0.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

People in Wisconsin see their state government as having a similar level of corruption compared to other states. More than two-thirds of the Wisconsin public believes that the Wisconsin government is “more or less like other states” with respect to corruption.

- However, women are more likely than men to say that the Wisconsin state government is more honest than other states. Twice as many men than women (13% of men compared to 6% of women) say it is more corrupt than other states.
- Older respondents, especially those over age 45, are more likely than their younger counterparts to say that Wisconsin state government is more honest than that of other states.

When asked how much attention they have been paying to the recent reports of scandals in Wisconsin, such as state employees campaigning on state time, and the misuse of state resources for personal or political purposes, 57% of people said a lot or some attention, and 42% said only a little or none at all.

- There are no differences between Democrats and Republicans, with just over half saying they pay a lot or some attention to this issue. However, 69% of Independents say the same.
- Men are more likely than women to say they pay a lot or some attention to the issue. 62% of men and 53% of women say this, while 38% of men and 46% of women say they pay only a little or no attention at all to recent reports of scandals in state government.

Those who pay more attention to reports of scandals are more likely to blame the Republicans for these problems than to blame the Democrats. Just over one-quarter of those who pay a lot or some attention blame Republicans, while 20% blame Democrats.

ATTENTION TO WI SCANDALS	PARTY TO BLAME FOR WI GOVERNMENT PROBLEMS					DON'T KNOW	Total
	REPUBLICANS	DEMOCRATS	BOTH EQUALLY	NEITHER			
A LOT	15.7	13.3	57.8	13.3	--	100	
SOME	10.0	6.2	65.2	16.7	1.4	100	
ONLY A LITTLE	7.6	9.3	57.6	21.2	4.2	100	
NONE AT ALL	4.2	7.6	9.3	57.6	16.8	100	

Respondents to the Badger Poll were asked about their perception of the level of corruption in the federal as well as the state government. More Wisconsinites believe the level of ethics and honesty has fallen in the federal government than in the state government. They are also more likely to say that the level of ethics has remained the same in the state government than in the federal government. However only about 10% believe that the level of ethics has risen – this is similar for both the federal and for the state government.

- Regarding the federal government, 51% of the Wisconsin public believes that the level of ethics and honesty in the federal government has fallen with Bush as President. Another 35% of people said it has stayed the same.
 - There are differences by partisanship. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say that the level of ethics and honesty has fallen. Over three-quarters of Democrats say so, while 57% of Independents and 20% of Republicans do. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say that the level of ethics and honesty in the federal government has risen, with 22% of them saying so, compared to 9% of Democrats.
- Regarding the state government, 25% of the Wisconsin public believes the level of ethics and honesty has fallen with Doyle as Governor, while 56% believe it has stayed the same.
 - Democrats are more like than Republicans to say it has stayed the same, and Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say it has fallen.

	Level of Ethics And Honesty In The Federal Government with Bush				Level of Ethics And Honesty In The State Government with Doyle			
	Total	Dems	Reps	Indeps	Total	Dems	Reps	Indeps
RISEN	12.0	9.3	22.2	5.6	10.8	11.9	11.8	10.5
FALLEN	51.2	77.5	20.0	57.1	25.0	13.2	40.4	26.6
SAME	35.2	13.2	57.0	35.7	56.1	66.9	41.9	56.5
DON'T KNOW	1.0	--	0.7	0.8	7.5	7.9	5.9	5.6

REFUSED	0.4	--	--	0.8	0.6	--	--	0.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Respondents were also asked for their views on whether the federal case involving Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff is limited to a few individuals or if it is evidence of widespread corruption. Nearly 40% of people said it is limited to a few individuals, and half said it is evidence of widespread corruption.

- Women are more likely than men to say it is limited to a few individuals.
- Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say it is limited to a few individuals. Among Democrats, 50% say it is widespread, while among Republicans, 37% say it is widespread.
- Younger respondents (under age 30) are more likely than their older counterparts to say it is limited to a few individuals.

Opinions on this issue also vary by how much attention people pay to the issue of scandals in state government.

- Those who pay more attention are more likely to say that the case involving Abramoff is evidence of widespread corruption.
- Those who aren't paying any attention to these issues are more likely to say the case is limited to a few corrupt individuals.

ABRAMOFF GUILTY EVIDENCE OF CORRUPTION

ATTENTION TO WI SCANDALS	DON'T KNOW	LIMITED TO A FEW	EVIDENCE OF WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION	Total
DON'T KNOW	100.0%	--	--	100.0%
A LOT	6.0%	24.1%	69.9%	100.0%
SOME	4.8%	39.2%	54.1%	100.0%
ONLY A LITTLE	9.3%	45.8%	44.1%	100.0%
NONE AT ALL	19.8%	44.8%	35.4%	100.0%

APPENDIX: Question Text and Statewide Percentages for Key Groups

wicmp03 Compared to other states, do you think the Wisconsin state government is especially honest, especially corrupt, or more or less like other states?

	Tot	M	W	Dem	Rep	Ind	Other	<30	<45	<60	60+
HONEST	16.9	15.7	18.1	23.8	14.7	16.0	11.9	9.1	13.0	22.5	22.2
CORRUPT	9.4	12.9	6.2	2.0	9.6	16.0	11.9	9.1	12.3	10.6	6.0
LIKE OTHERS	69.3	67.1	71.4	66.9	72.1	68.0	72.6	76.4	68.8	65.5	67.5
DON'T KNOW	4.1	4.4	3.9	7.3	3.7	--	2.4	5.5	5.1	1.4	4.3
REFUSED	0.2	--	0.4	--	--	--	1.2	--	0.7	--	--
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Differences are statistically significant by gender ($p < 0.02$) and age ($p < 0.000$).

ethics03 Do you think the overall level of ethics and honesty in the federal government has risen, fallen, or stayed the same with Bush as president?

	Tot	M	W	Dem	Rep	Ind	Other	<30	<45	<60	60+
RISEN	12.0	12.9	11.2	9.3	22.2	5.6	10.7	8.1	16.7	11.3	11.1
FALLEN	51.2	50.6	51.7	77.5	20.0	57.1	45.2	67.6	44.9	50.0	44.4
SAME	35.2	35.3	35.1	13.2	57.0	35.7	40.5	24.3	37.0	36.6	41.9
NO OPINION	0.2	--	0.4	--	--	--	1.2	--	--	--	0.9
DON'T KNOW	1.0	0.8	1.2	--	0.7	0.8	1.2	--	0.7	1.4	1.7
REFUSED	0.4	0.4	0.4	--	--	0.8	1.2	--	0.7	0.7	--
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Differences are statistically significant by party ID ($p < 0.000$) and age ($p < 0.02$).

ethics04 A prominent lobbyist in Washington named Jack Abramoff has pleaded guilty to corruption charges allegedly involving a U.S. congressman. Do you think this case [is limited to a few individuals] or do you think it [is evidence of widespread corruption]?

	Tot	M	W	Dem	Rep	Ind	Other	<30	<45	<60	60+
LIMITED TO A FEW	39.2	36.9	41.3	39.7	52.2	24.6	40.5	47.7	31.2	41.3	37.6
EVIDENCE OF WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION	50.4	51.8	49.0	49.7	36.6	65.9	52.4	39.6	56.5	50.3	53.8
DON'T KNOW	9.1	9.2	8.9	10.6	10.4	6.3	6.0	9.0	11.6	7.7	7.7
REFUSED	1.4	2.0	0.8	--	0.7	3.2	1.2	3.6	0.7	0.7	0.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Differences are statistically significant by party ID ($p < 0.000$) and age ($p < 0.04$).

ethics05 How much attention have you been paying to the recent reports of scandals in Wisconsin, such as state employees campaigning on state time, and the misuse of state resources for personal or political purposes. A lot, some, only a little, or none at all?

	Tot	M	W	Dem	Rep	Ind	Other	<30	<45	<60	60+
A LOT	16.3	21.3	11.5	13.2	14.9	22.4	17.9	12.6	8.0	22.4	22.2
SOME	41.1	40.2	41.9	40.1	41.8	46.4	36.9	25.2	44.9	42.7	49.6
ONLY A LITTLE	23.4	20.5	26.2	25.0	24.6	17.6	25.0	21.6	26.8	25.2	17.9
NONE AT ALL	18.9	17.7	20.0	21.1	18.7	13.6	19.0	40.5	19.6	9.1	10.3
DON'T KNOW	0.2	0.4	--	0.7	--	--	--	--	--	0.7	--

REFUSED	0.2	--	0.4	--	--	--	1.2	--	0.7	--	--
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Differences are statistically significant by party ID (p<0.000) and gender (p<0.01).

ethics07 Do you think the overall level of ethics and honesty in the state government has risen, fallen or stayed the same with Doyle as governor?

	Tot	M	W	Dem	Rep	Ind	Other	<30	<45	<60	60+
RISEN	10.8	11.2	10.4	11.9	11.8	10.5	9.5	17.1	8.7	9.1	9.4
FALLEN	25.0	32.1	18.1	13.2	40.4	26.6	20.2	18.0	28.3	23.8	29.1
STAYED THE SAME	56.1	48.6	63.3	66.9	41.9	56.5	60.7	55.9	50.7	61.5	55.6
DON'T KNOW	7.5	8.0	6.9	7.9	5.9	5.6	7.1	9.0	10.9	4.9	5.1
REFUSED	0.6	--	1.2	--	--	0.8	2.4	--	1.4	0.7	0.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Differences are statistically significant by party ID (p<0.000).

ethics08 Which political party, if either, do you think is more to blame for these problems in the [bold]state government[n]? The Republicans, the Democrats, both equally, or is neither really to blame?

	Tot	M	W	Dem	Rep	Ind	Other	<30	<45	<60	60+
REPUBLICANS	9.4	9.2	9.7	15.9	0.7	8.7	13.3	9.0	10.1	10.5	7.7
DEMOCRATS	7.5	8.4	6.6	1.3	19.9	4.0	4.8	2.7	7.2	8.4	12.0
EQUALLY	59.3	62.2	56.4	62.9	47.1	68.3	55.4	54.1	60.9	61.5	59.0
NEITHER	18.5	16.5	20.5	11.3	27.9	15.9	20.5	26.1	18.8	14.7	15.4
DON'T KNOW	4.9	3.6	6.2	8.6	3.7	3.2	4.8	8.1	2.2	4.9	5.1
REFUSED	0.4	--	0.8	--	0.7	--	1.2	--	0.7	--	0.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Differences are statistically significant by party ID (p<0.03), gender (p<0.002), and age (p<0.04)

HOW THE POLL WAS DONE

This BADGER POLL™ was conducted by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center as part of its ongoing program of research designed to benefit the research community and the people of Wisconsin. The Director of the poll operations is Danna Basson, UW Survey Center. The Faculty Director of the Poll content is Professor Katherine Cramer Walsh, Department of Political Science, UW-Madison. The BADGER POLL™ is intended to be a "poll of record" for the state, investigating matters of concern to Wisconsinites including politics, culture, and their daily lives, adhering to the highest standards of polling methodology and rigorous independence.

Results shown here are based on 508 persons who were randomly chosen within households with working telephone numbers and interviewed between June 23 and July 2, 2006. Telephone numbers were generated by computer. Theoretically, results from this survey have a "margin of error" of a little over +/- 4%. This means that, had we asked every potential voter in Wisconsin, exactly these questions at the time the survey was conducted, there is only a one in twenty chance that the answers would differ by more than that in either direction from what we report here. There could be differences because of changes in question wording, events occurring in the meantime, or any of the practical difficulties involved in taking a scientific survey. Results based on subgroups are subject to a larger "margin of error". Results reported here are based on weighted data.