



UW Badger Poll™ #30, Release #4
University of Wisconsin Survey Center
University of Wisconsin Madison
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NOTE: When using material from this release please cite the UW Badger Poll™ conducted by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center. Poll results compiled by Chad J. Kniss, Project Director, UW Survey Center. ckniss@ssc.wisc.edu (office phone: 608.262.4157)

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BADGER STATE APPROVAL FOR STATE & NATIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS

The latest UW Badger Poll results find that people across the state and across party lines are concerned about the performance of both the state and federal government. The main findings are highlighted below, with additional information on the following pages.

- 49% of Wisconsinites approve of the job that Barack Obama is doing as President of the United States. Obama's overall approval rating has declined by 11 percentage points since last November's UW Badger Poll.
- Only 29% approve of the job the U.S. Congress is doing – down 17 percentage points since last November. While the majority of state residents disapprove of Congress' job, majorities approve of the jobs that Herb Kohl (62%) and Russ Feingold (55%) are doing as U.S. Senators.
- A bare majority (50%) of Badger state residents disapprove of the job Jim Doyle is doing as Governor. Only 38% approve.
- Wisconsinites are nearly evenly split on whether they approve (42%) or disapprove (41%) of the job the Wisconsin Legislature is doing.
- Just 31% of state residents say they can trust state government to do the right thing either most of the time or just about always and only 25% said the same about the federal government.
- Two-thirds of Wisconsinites agreed with the statement that "public officials don't care much what people like me think" and 54% feel that the State of Wisconsin is run by a few big interests that look out for themselves rather than the good of all the people.

Approval Ratings for Governor Doyle and the Wisconsin Legislature

Trend in the Approval Rating for Governor Jim Doyle						
	Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
June '10	38%	10%	50%	2%	<1%	(500)
Nov. '09	46%	2%	50%	1%	1%	(507)
Oct. '08	52%	5%	37%	6%	<1%	(538)
April '08	55%	4%	36%	4%	<1%	(521)
Dec. '07	52%	3%	41%	3%	1%	(507)
June '07	52%	2%	41%	4%	1%	(502)

Trend in the Approval for the Wisconsin State Legislature						
	Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
June '10	42%	13%	41%	3%	<1%	(500)
Nov. '09	58%	3%	37%	1%	1%	(507)
Oct. '08	53%	3%	37%	6%	1%	(538)
April '08	54%	3%	35%	7%	<1%	(521)
Dec. '07	40%	2%	53%	5%	<1%	(507)
June '07	57%	2%	36%	4%	1%	(502)

Concerns about the State Government in Wisconsin

How often trust Wisconsin state government to do the right thing?	
Just about always	2%
Most of the time	29%
Only some of the time	67%
Never (volunteered)	1%
Don't Know	1%
Refused	<1%
(N)	500

How much of the taxes paid to the State of Wisconsin are wasted?	
An extremely large amount	12%
A large amount	35%
A moderate amount	40%
Only a small amount	8%
None at all	<1%
Don't Know	3%
Refused	1%
(N)	500

How many of the people running the state of Wisconsin are crooked?	
Nearly all	6%
Most	12%
Some	42%
Only a few	28%
None	7%
Don't Know	4%
Refused	1%
(N)	500

How is the state government in Wisconsin run?	
By a few big interests for themselves	54%
For the benefit of all the people in WI	31%
Some combination of both (vol.)	4%
Neither (volunteered)	6%
Don't Know	4%
Refused	1%
(N)	500

Approval Ratings for the President and the U.S. Congress

Approval Rating for President Barack Obama						
	Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
June '10	49%	5%	46%	<1%	<1%	(500)
Nov. '09	60%	1%	37%	1%	1%	(507)
Spring '09	63%	4%	32%	<1%	1%	(593)

Trend in the Approval Rating for President George W. Bush						
	Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
Oct. '08	20%	2%	75%	1%	2%	(538)
April '08	29%	2%	68%	1%	<1%	(521)
Dec. '07	23%	3%	73%	1%	<1%	(507)
June '07	30%	1%	69%	<1%	--	(502)
Oct. '06	36%	2%	61%	<1%	1%	(508)

Trend in the Approval Rating for the U.S. Congress						
	Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
June '10	29%	6%	64%	1%	<1%	(500)
Nov. '09	46%	2%	51%	1%	<1%	(507)
Oct. '08	21%	2%	74%	2%	1%	(538)
April '08	33%	<1%	62%	4%	1%	(521)
Dec. '07	33%	2%	61%	4%	<1%	(507)
June '07	41%	3%	54%	2%	--	(502)

Approval Ratings for the U.S. Senators from Wisconsin

Trend in the Job Approval Rating for Senator Russ Feingold

	Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
June '10	55%	7%	32%	5%	1%	(500)
May '08	66%	2%	23%	8%	1%	(521)

Trend in the Job Approval Rating for Senator Herb Kohl

	Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
June '10	62%	8%	24%	6%	<1%	(500)
May '08	68%	2%	22%	7%	1%	(521)

Previous Job Ratings for Senator Russ Feingold

	2006		2004				
	Oct.	Jun.	Sept.	Jun.	Apr.	Mar.	Jan.
Excellent	18%	19%	16%	11%	8%	12%	10%
Good	30%	28%	33%	34%	40%	36%	36%
Fair	27%	22%	24%	31%	27%	27%	31%
Poor	19%	20%	14%	12%	9%	11%	7%
Don't Know	5%	10%	13%	12%	15%	14%	15%
Refused	1%	1%	--	--	--	--	--

Previous Job Ratings for Senator Herb Kohl

	2006		2004				
	Oct.	Jun.	Sept.	Jun.	Apr.	Mar.	Jan.
Excellent	13%	12%	8%	4%	5%	7%	7%
Good	38%	42%	39%	39%	42%	43%	42%
Fair	31%	26%	30%	36%	28%	32%	32%
Poor	9%	7%	6%	8%	10%	7%	7%
Don't Know	9%	12%	15%	13%	12%	11%	11%
Refused	<1%	1%	--	--	1%	--	--

Job ratings for U.S. Senators from Wisconsin were not asked in 2005, 2007 or 2009. In 2008, the UW Badger Poll stopped asking about senatorial job ratings with the four-point scale and started using the more widely used question wording asking about job approval or disapproval.

Concerns that the Government is Not Listening

How often trust the federal government to do the right thing?	
Just about always	2%
Most of the time	23%
Only some of the time	72%
Never (volunteered)	3%
Don't Know	<1%
Refused	<1%
(N)	500

People like me don't have any say about what the government does.	
Agree	54%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	5%
Disagree	40%
Don't Know	<1%
Refused	0%
(N)	500

Public officials don't care much what people like me think.	
Agree	66%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	4%
Disagree	30%
Don't Know	<1%
Refused	0%
(N)	500

APPENDIX:

Approval Rating for President Barack Obama							
		Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
Overall		49%	5%	46%	<1%	<1%	(500)
Likely Voters		47%	3%	50%	<1%	<1%	(297)
Gender	Men	48%	4%	48%	<1%	<1%	(228)
	Women	50%	6%	43%	1%	<1%	(272)
Party ID	Democrats	73%	1%	25%	0%	1%	(157)
	Independents & Others	50%	10%	38%	1%	<1%	(198)
	Republicans	23%	0%	77%	0%	0%	(143)
TEA Party	Supporter	25%	0%	75%	0%	0%	(121)
Ages	18 to 29*	71%	12%	17%	0%	0%	(17)
	30 to 44	38%	3%	58%	1%	0%	(90)
	45 to 59	42%	3%	54%	1%	0%	(159)
	60 and over	48%	2%	49%	0%	1%	(224)
Education	Never attended college	47%	5%	47%	1%	<1%	(183)
	Some college	50%	6%	44%	0%	0%	(154)
	College graduate	50%	4%	46%	0%	<1%	(193)
Income	Under \$40,000	63%	<1%	36%	0%	1%	(180)
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	43%	4%	52%	1%	0%	(154)
	Over \$80,000	41%	7%	52%	0%	0%	(93)
Region	Southern Wisconsin	53%	6%	40%	<1%	<1%	(247)
	Northern Wisconsin	43%	3%	53%	<1%	<1%	(253)

* Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of respondents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.

Approval Rating for Governor Jim Doyle							
		Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
Overall		38%	10%	50%	2%	<1%	(500)
Likely Voters		35%	5%	59%	1%	0%	(297)
Gender	Men	34%	6%	60%	<1%	0%	(228)
	Women	42%	14%	40%	4%	<1%	(272)
Party ID	Democrats	62%	9%	27%	2%	0%	(157)
	Independents & Others	32%	15%	49%	4%	0%	(198)
	Republicans	24%	2%	73%	0%	1%	(143)
TEA Party	Supporter	25%	1%	74%	0%	0%	(121)
Ages	18 to 29*	51%	26%	23%	0%	0%	(17)
	30 to 44	28%	8%	59%	4%	1%	(90)
	45 to 59	33%	3%	61%	3%	0%	(159)
	60 and over	42%	6%	50%	2%	0%	(224)
Education	Never attended college	29%	9%	59%	3%	0%	(183)
	Some college	47%	14%	38%	1%	0%	(154)
	College graduate	39%	8%	50%	3%	<1%	(193)
Income	Under \$40,000	47%	11%	38%	4%	0%	(180)
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	42%	7%	50%	1%	<1%	(154)
	Over \$80,000	28%	7%	63%	2%	0%	(93)
Region	Southern Wisconsin	37%	14%	48%	1%	<1%	(247)
	Northern Wisconsin	39%	5%	52%	4%	0%	(253)

* Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of respondents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.

Approval Rating for the U.S. Congress							
		Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
Overall		29%	6%	64%	1%	<1%	(500)
Likely Voters		26%	2%	72%	0%	0%	(297)
Gender	Men	25%	1%	74%	0%	0%	(228)
	Women	34%	11%	53%	2%	<1%	(272)
Party ID	Democrats	48%	2%	48%	1%	1%	(157)
	Independents & Others	21%	12%	65%	2%	0%	(198)
	Republicans	24%	<1%	76%	0%	0%	(143)
TEA Party	Supporter	25%	0%	75%	0%	0%	(121)
Ages	18 to 29*	43%	17%	39%	0%	<1%	(17)
	30 to 44	27%	3%	68%	2%	0%	(90)
	45 to 59	24%	3%	72%	1%	0%	(159)
	60 and over	26%	2%	70%	2%	0%	(224)
Education	Never attended college	27%	9%	62%	1%	<1%	(183)
	Some college	39%	6%	55%	0%	0%	(154)
	College graduate	24%	4%	71%	1%	0%	(193)
Income	Under \$40,000	43%	7%	47%	2%	1%	(180)
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	28%	2%	70%	0%	0%	(154)
	Over \$80,000	19%	4%	77%	0%	0%	(93)
Region	Southern Wisconsin	27%	9%	64%	0%	0%	(247)
	Northern Wisconsin	33%	2%	63%	2%	<1%	(253)

* Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of respondents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.

Approval Rating for the Wisconsin State Legislature							
		Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
Overall		42%	13%	41%	3%	<1%	(500)
Likely Voters		40%	9%	48%	2%	1%	(297)
Gender	Men	44%	6%	49%	<1%	0%	(228)
	Women	40%	20%	33%	6%	1%	(272)
Party ID	Democrats	55%	9%	32%	2%	2%	(157)
	Independents & Others	39%	18%	38%	5%	0%	(198)
	Republicans	35%	7%	55%	3%	0%	(143)
TEA Party	Supporter	28%	4%	64%	4%	0%	(121)
Ages	18 to 29*	66%	17%	17%	0%	0%	(17)
	30 to 44	38%	13%	42%	7%	0%	(90)
	45 to 59	29%	11%	56%	2%	2%	(159)
	60 and over	42%	9%	44%	4%	1%	(224)
Education	Never attended college	29%	15%	49%	5%	2%	(183)
	Some college	50%	16%	33%	1%	0%	(154)
	College graduate	47%	8%	41%	4%	0%	(193)
Income	Under \$40,000	49%	14%	31%	6%	0%	(180)
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	47%	6%	45%	2%	0%	(154)
	Over \$80,000	31%	17%	48%	3%	1%	(93)
Region	Southern Wisconsin	40%	15%	43%	1%	<1%	(247)
	Northern Wisconsin	45%	9%	39%	6%	1%	(253)

* Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of respondents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.

SURVEY QUESTION WORDING

- APP_02 The next questions are about Wisconsin government and politics.
Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Jim Doyle is handling his job as Governor of Wisconsin?
- APP_02a2 [#NOTE: only asked if answer to APP_02 was approve or disapprove]
Would you say you [approve/disapprove] of the way Jim Doyle is handling his job as Governor extremely, very much, somewhat, or only slightly?
- APP_04_v2 The Wisconsin Legislature is made up of the Wisconsin State Assembly and the Wisconsin State Senate. Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the Wisconsin Legislature is handling its job?
- APP_04a_v2 [#NOTE: only asked if answer to APP_04_v2 was approve or disapprove]
Would you say you [approve/disapprove] of the way the Wisconsin Legislature is handling its job extremely, very much, somewhat, or only slightly?
- WIS01 Would you say the state government of Wisconsin is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?
- WIS02 How much of the money that we pay in taxes do the people in state government in Wisconsin waste: none at all, only a small amount, a moderate amount, a large amount, or an extremely large amount?
- WIS03 How many of the people running the state government in Wisconsin do you think are crooked: none, only a few, some, most or nearly all?
- APP_01 Moving from state politics to national politics:
Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?
- APP_01a_v2 [#NOTE: only asked if answer to APP_01 was approve or disapprove]
Would you say you [approve/disapprove] of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president extremely, very much, somewhat or only slightly?
- APP_03_v2 The U.S. Congress is made up of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?
- APP_03a_v2 [#NOTE: only asked is APP_03_v2 was approve or disapprove]
Would you say you [approve/disapprove] of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job extremely, very much, somewhat or only slightly?
- APP_05 Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Russ Feingold is handling his job as U.S. Senator from Wisconsin?
- APP_05a_v2 [#NOTE: only asked if answer to APP_05 was approve or disapprove]
Would you say you [approve/disapprove] of the way Russ Feingold is handling his job as U.S. Senator from Wisconsin extremely, very much, somewhat or only slightly?
- APP_06 Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Herb Kohl is handling his job as U.S. Senator from Wisconsin?
- APP_06a_v2 [#NOTE: only asked if answer to APP_06 was approve or disapprove]
Would you say you [approve/disapprove] of the way Herb Kohl is handling his job as U.S. Senator from Wisconsin extremely, very much, somewhat or only slightly?

- GT_04 People have different ideas about government. These ideas don't refer to Democrats or Republicans in particular, but just to government in general. We want to see how you feel about these ideas.
- How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington D.C. to do what is right; just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?
- GT_05 How much of the time do you think you can trust the state government in Wisconsin to do what is right; just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?
- GT_07 Please tell me if you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree with the following statements.
- GT_09 People like me don't have any say about what the government does.
- GT_10 Public officials don't care much what people like me think.

DEFINITION OF REGIONS

Region	Counties Included in Region
Southern Wisconsin	Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha
Northern Wisconsin	Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Sheboygan, Winnebago, Adams, Florence, Forest, Green Lake, Iron, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Portage, Shawano, Vilas, Waupaca, Waushara, Wood, Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Crawford, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Richland, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Washburn

Data sources: (1) question asked to respondents "In which county do you live?", (2) question asked to respondents "What is your zip code?", and (3) the county that the telephone number is assigned to by SSI (by plurality of listed telephone numbers known to be in a county).

HOW THE POLL WAS DONE

This UW 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 Chad J. Kniss, UW Survey Center. The Faculty Director of the Poll content is Associate Professor Katherine Cramer Walsh, Department of Political Science, UW-Madison. The UW 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 500 persons who were randomly chosen within households with working landline telephone numbers and interviewed between June 9th and July 10th, 2010, inclusive. During this time period, the UWSC made 12,889 phone calls to 2,245 telephone numbers. Additionally, advance letters describing the survey and its procedures were sent to 800 households whose randomly chosen telephone numbers were matched to a known listed address. The response rate for this survey was 38.2%, as defined by the American Association of Public Opinion Research Response Rate 3. Calls were made between 9AM and 9PM Monday through Friday and between 10AM and 5PM on Saturday and from 12 noon to 9PM on Sunday. All telephone numbers were randomly generated by computer. The UWSC made up to 10 attempts on each number in order to confirm if it was a residential number, select an eligible respondent and/or to convert first time refusals. Approximately 51% of the 500 interviews were completed in the first two weeks of calling.

Theoretically, results from this survey have a "margin of error" of a little over +/- 4%. This means that, had we asked every resident 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 (weighted to reflect statewide gender and age groups).