



UW Badger Poll™ #32, Release #1  
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. (email: ckniss@ssc.wisc.edu) (office: 608.262.4157)

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## **WISCONSINITES VIEWS ON BADGER STATE ECONOMICS, GOVERNMENT, AND POLITICS**

The most recent UW Badger Poll finds that a majority of Wisconsinites are not happy with current state of affairs in the Badger state.

- 55% are dissatisfied with the way things are going in the state today, a new high for the UW Badger Poll.
- 81% said Wisconsin is in bad times economically and 50% expect it will be in about the same economic condition in the next 12 months, while 20% said things will get worse.
- Nearly two-thirds of Wisconsinites feel that state government is run for the benefit of a few big interests over that of all the people and can only be trusted to do the right thing some of the time.
- 59% disapprove of the way Scott Walker is handling his job as Governor.
- 60% disapprove of the way the State Legislature is handling its job.
  - 56% disapprove of the job Republicans in the State Legislature are doing.
  - 48% disapprove of the job Democrats in the State Legislature are doing.
- Wisconsinites overwhelmingly think the recall option in the state constitution is a good thing (78%), and 50% said the current recalls of state senators made them feel better about Wisconsin politics.
- 59% of residents statewide preferred that the Democratic state senators remain in office rather than be recalled and 49% said the same of the Republican state senators.

For additional data and analysis see the following pages.

## Satisfaction and Trust in Wisconsin

### General satisfaction with the way things are going in Wisconsin today

The latest UW Badger Poll finds that 55% of Badger state residents are dissatisfied with the way things are going in Wisconsin, while only 36% are satisfied. This is the highest level of dissatisfaction reported since we began asking about general satisfaction in the fall of 2006.

Further, 33% of state residents reported they are either very much or extremely dissatisfied with the way things are going in the state. Only 12% are either very much or extremely satisfied.

### **Trend in Satisfaction with the Way Things are Going in Wisconsin**

	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Mixed (vol.)</b>	<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>(N)</b>
June '11	36%	8%	55%	1%	<1%	(556)
Fall '10	38%	12%	50%	<1%	<1%	(535)
June '10	55%	5%	40%	<1%	0%	(500)
Nov. '09	51%	3%	44%	1%	1%	(507)
Spring '09	42%	2%	56%	<1%	0%	(593)
Oct. '08	45%	5%	49%	1%	<1%	(538)
April '08	54%	4%	41%	1%	<1%	(521)
Dec. '07	48%	6%	45%	<1%	0%	(507)
June '07	60%	2%	37%	1%	0%	(502)
Oct. '06	51%	5%	41%	3%	<1%	(508)

### How often do you trust the state government in Madison to do what is right?

When asked about how often Wisconsinites feel they can trust state government to do the right thing, only 25% said either just about always or most of the time and that is down from 31% who responded similarly one year earlier (see the table below).

### **Trust in Wisconsin State Government to do the Right Thing**

	<b>Just about always</b>	<b>Most of the time</b>	<b>Only some of the time</b>	<b>Never (volunteered)</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>(N)</b>
June '11	1%	24%	68%	5%	1%	<1%	(556)
June '10	2%	29%	67%	1%	1%	<1%	(500)

For whose benefit is Wisconsin State Government run?

One reason for the high level of dissatisfaction and lack of trust is that a very large majority of Wisconsin residents think that the state government is run for a few big interests and not for all the people of the state. As the table below shows, nearly two-thirds think state government works to benefit a few big interests, while only 28% said state government is working to benefit all the people of Wisconsin. The table also shows that while the portion of people who think state government is working for the benefit of all is nearly the same as one year ago, there has been a substantial increase (by 20%) in the number of people who feel the state is benefiting a few big interests.

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<b>How is Wisconsin State Government Run?</b>							
	<b>For a few big interests</b>	<b>For all the people</b>	<b>Combination (volunteered)</b>	<b>Neither (volunteered)</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>(N)</b>
June '11	65%	28%	1%	2%	3%	1%	(556)
June '10	54%	31%	4%	6%	4%	1%	(500)

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## Economic Outlook for Wisconsin

### Current economic conditions in Wisconsin

Another reason that a majority of Wisconsinites are dissatisfied with the way things are going is likely due to their view of the current economic conditions. Roughly 4 out of 5 state residents said that Wisconsin is currently in bad times economically.

<b>Trend of Perceptions of Economic Conditions in the State of Wisconsin</b>							
	<b>Good Times</b>	<b>Both Good &amp; Bad (vol.)</b>	<b>Bad Times</b>	<b>Neither Good nor Bad (vol.)</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>(N)</b>
June '11	11%	4%	81%	1%	2%	1%	(556)
June '10	9%	3%	85%	2%	1%	<1%	(500)
Nov. '09	9%	1%	88%	1%	<1%	<1%	(507)
Spring '09	10%	1%	86%	3%	<1%	0%	(593)
Oct. '08	12%	5%	78%	3%	2%	<1%	(538)
April '08	21%	7%	66%	4%	2%	0%	(521)
Dec. '07	34%	9%	41%	13%	4%	0%	(507)
June '07	50%	4%	40%	4%	2%	<1%	(502)

### Expectations for economic conditions in Wisconsin over the next 12 months

Looking ahead to the next 12 months, a slim majority of Wisconsin residents (50%) said they believe that economic conditions will be about the same as they are now – 29% expect the economy to get better, while 20% expect it to get worse.

<b>Trend for the Economic Outlook for Wisconsin over the Next 12 Months</b>						
	<b>Get Better</b>	<b>About the Same</b>	<b>Get Worse</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>(N)</b>
June '11	29%	50%	20%	1%	<1%	(556)
June '10	29%	56%	14%	1%	0%	(500)
November '09	36%	46%	17%	<1%	<1%	(507)
Spring '09	31%	43%	25%	<1%	0%	(593)
October '08	28%	42%	28%	2%	<1%	(538)
April '08	15%	44%	40%	2%	0%	(521)
December '07	9%	57%	33%	0%	0%	(507)
June '07	16%	69%	15%	0%	0%	(502)
March '05	28%	44%	27%	1%	0%	(501)
September '04	33%	47%	13%	5%	1%	(508)
Jan./Feb. '04	35%	48%	14%	3%	0%	(502)
May '03	44%	40%	14%	2%	0%	(503)
February '03	28%	47%	23%	2%	0%	(504)

## Assessing Governor Scott Walker Six Months In

### Job approval for Governor Scott Walker

A majority of Wisconsin residents (59%) disapprove of the way that Scott Walker is handling his job as Governor. In fact, a majority (53%) said they either very much or extremely disapprove of the way Walker is handling the job of being Governor of Wisconsin. This compares to the 28% of residents who said they very much or extremely approve of the way Walker is handling the job as Governor.

<b>Job Approval Rating for Governor Scott Walker</b>						
	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Neither (vol.)</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>(N)</b>
June '11	37%	3%	59%	1%	<1%	(556)

The table below shows the trend of job approval for the previous Governor Jim Doyle, from June 2007 through last year (June 2010).

<b>Trend in Job Approval for Governor Jim Doyle</b>						
	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Neither (vol.)</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>(N)</b>
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)

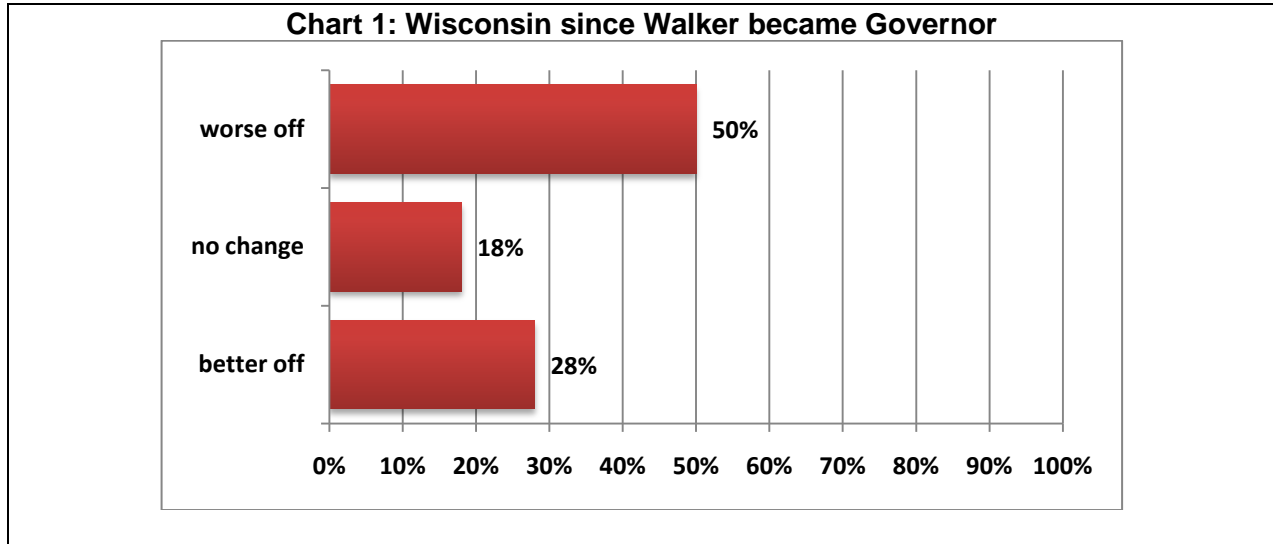
### Support and opposition to the Governor's two year budget

A likely reason for the high disapproval rating that Governor Walker receives from Wisconsin residents is that 55% said they opposed his budget plan for the next two years. Additionally, more residents said they strongly opposed the Governor's budget plan (37%) than did all those who said they favored the plan at any level of intensity (32%).

<b>Do you oppose or favor Governor Walker's tax and spending plan for the next two years?</b>	
Strongly oppose	37%
Somewhat oppose	18%
Neither oppose nor favor	10%
Somewhat favor	15%
Strongly favor	17%
Don't Know	2%
Refused	1%
<b>(N)</b>	<b>556</b>

Is Wisconsin better off under Scott Walker as Governor?

When we asked residents of the Badger state if Wisconsin is better off or worse off since Scott Walker took office as Governor in January 2011 half said Wisconsin is worse off. Just over one quarter said the state is better off, while just under one fifth said there had been no change.



We also asked those respondents who thought the state is either better off or worse off how much of the change is due to Governor Walker and his policies. About 60% of all respondents said that the Governor and his policies were responsible for either most of or all of the change.

Among those who said that Wisconsin is better off since Scott Walker became Governor (N=157), 75% of them said it was mostly or all due to Governor Walker's policies (21% of all respondents). Among those that said that Wisconsin is worse off (N=277), 78% of them said it was mostly or all due to Governor Walker's policies (38% of all respondents).

The table below shows the results of a very similar question that was asked when Jim Doyle was Governor between January 2004 and May 2005.

**Trend in the question is Wisconsin better off when Jim Doyle was Governor**

	Better off	About as well off	Worse off	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
May '05	13%	60%	21%	6%	<1%	(509)
Mar. '05	12%	63%	19%	5%	1%	(501)
Jan. '05	17%	62%	18%	3%	<1%	(503)
Sept. '04	15%	61%	18%	6%	<1%	(508)
June '04	17%	60%	18%	5%	<1%	(504)
April '04	17%	61%	16%	5%	<1%	(511)
Mar. '04	16%	68%	16%	<1%	<1%	(500)
Jan. '04	20%	61%	16%	4%	0%	(511)

## Job Approval for the Wisconsin State Legislature and the two Political Parties

### Job approval for the Wisconsin State Legislature overall

A large majority (60%) of Badger state residents disapprove of the way that the Wisconsin State Legislature is doing its job. Nearly 3 times as many people reported that they either very much or extremely disapprove (43%) of the way the state legislature is doing its job compared to those who reported that they either very much or extremely approve (14%).

The table below shows how the current job approval of the state legislature compares to past job approval ratings since June 2007. Back in June 2010, Wisconsinites were evenly split about the way the state legislature was doing its job. One year later the public has dramatically changed its view of how well the legislature is doing its job.

<b>Trend in Job Approval for the Wisconsin State Legislature</b>						
	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Neither (vol.)</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>(N)</b>
June '11	33%	3%	60%	3%	1%	(556)
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)

### Job approval for each of the two political parties in the Wisconsin State Legislature

<b>Job Approval for the Wisconsin State Legislature June 2011</b>						
	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Neither (vol.)</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>(N)</b>
Overall	33%	3%	60%	3%	1%	(556)
Democrats	45%	5%	48%	2%	<1%	(556)
Republicans	39%	2%	56%	3%	<1%	(556)

#### Republicans

A majority (56%) of state residents disapprove of the way Republicans in the state legislature are handling their job. Further 44% said they either very much or extremely disapprove of how they are doing their job and only 24% either very much or extremely approve.

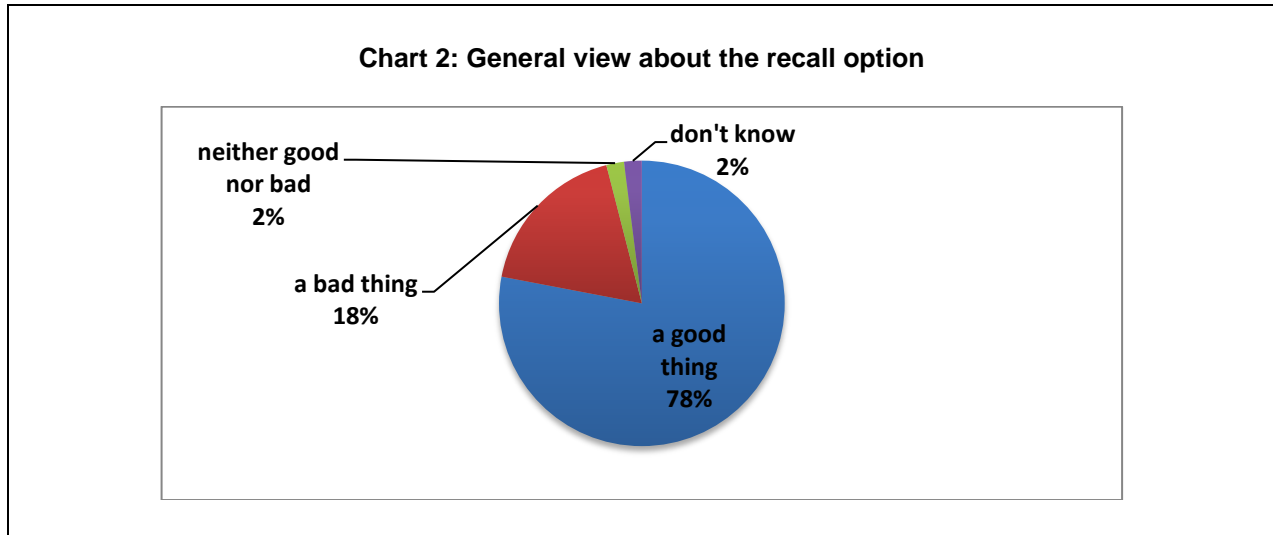
#### Democrats

The public is nearly evenly split in approval and disapproval of the Democrats in the state legislature -- 23% either very much or extremely approve and 22% either very much or extremely disapprove of how they are doing their job.

## Wisconsin's Views on the Recall Elections

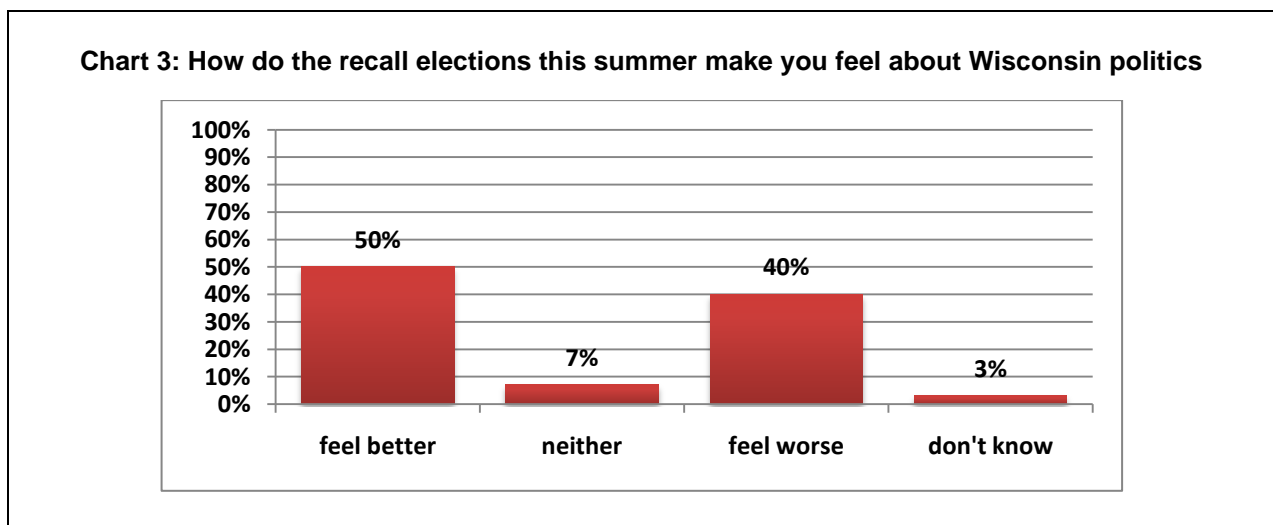
### General reaction to the recall option

Wisconsinites overwhelmingly think that it is a good thing (78%) that the Wisconsin state constitution provides a way to recall elected officials.



### Views on the 2011 recall elections

While nearly four out of five Wisconsinites think that it is a good thing that the Wisconsin state constitution provides a way to recall elected officials, only half of them said that the recall elections for state senators this summer made them feel better about Wisconsin politics – 40% said it made them feel worse.





## Recalling State Senators

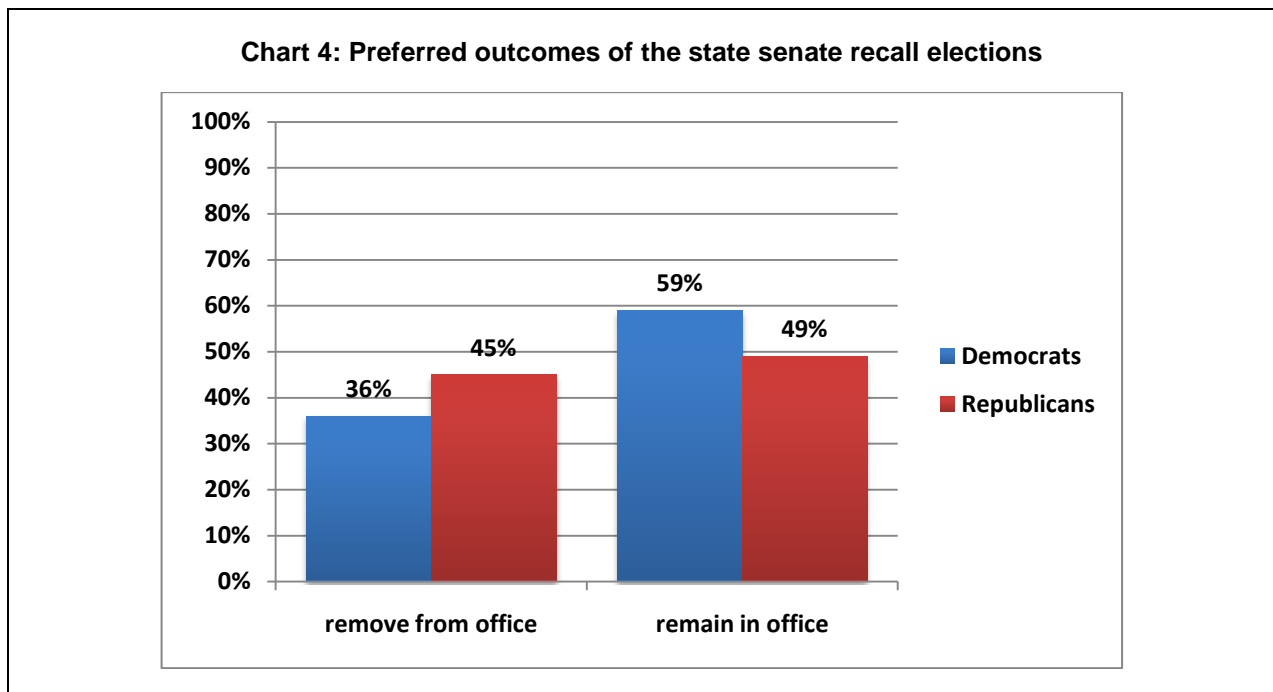
Since the UW Badger Poll is only designed to measure statewide issues and races for political offices (not district specific issues or races), we did not ask directly about specific recall elections for state senators. Rather we asked all Wisconsinites about what they would prefer to see happen in the recall elections for both Democratic and Republican state senators.

### Democrats

Approximately 59% of Wisconsinites said they would prefer to see the Democratic state senators remain in office. Only 36% would prefer they be removed from office.

### Republicans

Wisconsinites are more split when it comes to the Republican state senators. 49% said they would prefer to see the Republican state senators remain in office, while 45% would prefer they be removed from office.



**APPENDIX:**

<b>Approval Rating for Governor Scott Walker</b>							
		<b>Approve</b>	<b>Neither (vol.)</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>(N)</b>
<b>Overall</b>		<b>37%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>(556)</b>
Registered to Voter		39%	2%	59%	1%	<1%	(509)
November 2010 Voters		41%	3%	58%	<1%	<1%	(441)
Likely Voters		33%	2%	65%	<1%	<1%	(449)
Gender	Men	40%	1%	59%	<1%	0%	(243)
	Women	35%	5%	59%	1%	<1%	(313)
Party ID	Democrats	5%	<1%	94%	<1%	0%	(175)
	Independents & Others	31%	6%	62%	1%	0%	(235)
	Republicans	86%	3%	10%	1%	0%	(145)
TEA Party	Supporter	70%	3%	27%	0%	0%	(113)
Ages	18 to 34*	30%	5%	65%	0%	0%	(46)
	35 to 49	44%	1%	54%	1%	0%	(101)
	50 to 64	39%	2%	57%	2%	<1%	(207)
	65 and over	38%	2%	58%	2%	0%	(202)
Education	Never attended college	30%	2%	67%	1%	<1%	(205)
	Some college	37%	7%	55%	1%	0%	(150)
	College graduate	43%	2%	54%	1%	0%	(197)
Income	Under \$40,000	33%	6%	59%	2%	0%	(197)
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	36%	2%	62%	0%	0%	(167)
	Over \$80,000	43%	3%	54%	1%	0%	(115)
Union Households		22%	0%	77%	1%	0%	(121)
Households with children under 18		37%	4%	58%	<1%	0%	(124)
Region	Southern Wisconsin	35%	3%	61%	1%	<1%	(291)
	Northern Wisconsin	39%	4%	56%	1%	0%	(265)

\* 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

- GWS01A In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in **the state of Wisconsin** today?
- GWS01B [#NOTE: only asked if GWS01A above is satisfied or dissatisfied]  
Would you say you are extremely, very, somewhat or are you only slightly [satisfied/dissatisfied]?
- ECON01 Thinking about the current economic conditions in **the state of Wisconsin**, would you say that economically, Wisconsin is in good times or bad times right now?
- ECON04 In the next 12 months or so, do you expect economic conditions in **the state of Wisconsin** to get better, get worse or stay about the same?
- APP\_02 The next questions are about Wisconsin government and politics.  
Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Scott Walker 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 Scott Walker 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?
- [NOTE: APP\_08 and APP\_09 below were asked in random order, so that neither party was always first or last]
- APP\_08 Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the Democrats in the Wisconsin Legislature are handling their job?
- APP\_08a [#NOTE: only asked if answer to APP\_08 was approve or disapprove]  
Would you say you [approve/disapprove] of the way the Democrats in the Wisconsin Legislature are handling their job extremely, very much, somewhat, or only slightly?
- APP\_09 Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the Republicans in the Wisconsin Legislature are handling their job?
- APP\_09 [#NOTE: only asked if answer to APP\_09 was approve or disapprove]  
Would you say you [approve/disapprove] of the way the Republicans in the Wisconsin Legislature are handling their job extremely, very much, somewhat, or only slightly?
- recall\_01 As you might know, there are efforts underway to recall several Wisconsin state senators from both political parties. In general, do you think it's a good thing or bad thing that the Wisconsin constitution provides a way to recall the state's elected officials?
- recall\_02 Do you feel better or worse about Wisconsin politics because of the recall elections that will happen this year?
- [NOTE: recall\_03 and recall\_04 below were asked in random order, so that neither party was always first or last]
- recall\_03 There have been calls for a recall election for Senate Democrats who left the state in opposition to the Governor's budget proposal. Do you think the Senate Democrats should be removed from office with a recall election, or do you think they should remain in office?

recall_04	There have been calls for recall elections for Senate Republicans who sided with the Governor in the budget debate. Do you think the Senate Republicans should be removed from office with a recall election, or do you think they should remain in office?
budg06a	Overall, would you say that you strongly oppose, somewhat oppose, somewhat favor, strongly favor, or neither favor or oppose Governor Walker's tax and spending plan for the next two years?
wicmp04	Is Wisconsin better off, worse off, or has there been no change since Scott Walker took office as Governor?
wicomp05	[#NOTE: only asked if answer to wicmp05 was better or worse] How much of the change is due to Governor Walker and his policies: all of it, most of it, about half of it, only a little of it, or none of it at all?
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?
GT_05b	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, or only some of the time?

#### DEFINITION OF REGIONS

Region	Counties Included in Region
<b>Southern Wisconsin</b>	Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha
<b>Northern Wisconsin</b>	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, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Washburn

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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 556 persons who were randomly chosen within households with working landline telephone numbers and interviewed between June 17th and July 10th, 2011, inclusive. During this time period, the UWSC made 12,552 phone calls to 2,123 telephone numbers. Additionally, advance letters describing the survey and its procedures were sent to 856 households whose randomly chosen telephone numbers were matched to a known listed address. The response rate for this survey was 39.6%, 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 15 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 (adding another 50 completes). Approximately 89% of the 556 interviews were completed in the first two weeks of calling.

Theoretically, results from this survey have a "margin of error" of a +/- 4.2%. 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).