

THE WISCONSIN SURVEY – Spring 2011

Budget and Collective Bargaining

Survey Information:

Random Selection, Landline Telephone Survey
Number of Adult Wisconsin Resident Respondents: 400
Interview Period: 4/5/11 – 4/18/11
Margin of Error: +/- 5% at the 95% confidence level.

Contact:

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- *NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.*

Given the projected \$3.6 billion state budget deficit over the next two years, the Governor has proposed a number of spending cuts to try to decrease this deficit. For the following cuts, please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of this cut as a way to help decrease the state's budget deficit

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure	Refused
a. \$834 million cut to public k-12 schools	28%	67%	5%	<1%
b. \$59.5 million cut to cities/municipalities	46%	42%	11%	1%
c. \$36.5 million cut to counties	49%	42%	8%	1%
d. \$250 million cut to the UW System	39%	53%	8%	1%
e. Cuts in aid to cities for public transportation	46%	49%	5%	<1%
f. Cuts in aid and cutting the mandate to cities requiring recycling programs	34%	61%	4%	<1%
g. Cuts to SeniorCare prescription drug benefits moving them to Medicare Part D which has a lower income threshold to qualify for help paying for prescription drugs	31%	59%	10%	<1%

Some states are considering some tax increases in addition to spending cuts as a way to decrease their budget deficits. Do you think Wisconsin should consider tax increases along with spending cuts or do you oppose any tax increases?

Favor 32%
Oppose 58%
Depends (please specify....) 8%
Not Sure..... 2%
Refused..... <1%

Of "DEPENDS":

Who will get taxed.....	39%
General mention	
Everyone, no exemptions	
Businesses ok	
the Wealthy ok	
not people on fixed incomes	
What will they spend it on.....	32%
General mention	
Must prove the need for it	
tax must go to specific programs	
only for reducing the deficit	
ok for education	
accompanied by spending cuts	
What will get taxed.....	18%
General mention	
cigarettes and liquor ok	
sales tax ok	
How big an increase	7%
Moderate ok	
Huge debt	4%

Do you think public employees should or should not have the right to collectively bargain for wages?

Should	61%
Should Not	35%
Not Sure.....	4%
Refused.....	<1%

Do you think public employees should or should not have the right to collectively bargain for health and retirement benefits?

Should	54%
Should Not	42%
Not Sure.....	4%
Refused.....	<1%

In the budget debate in Wisconsin, do you feel that the issue of collective bargaining for public employees has been more about trying to decrease the budget deficit or more about trying to decrease the power of public sector unions?

Decreasing the Budget Deficit	31%
Decreasing the Power of Public Sector Unions	57%
Not Sure.....	12%
Refused.....	0%

Do you approve or disapprove of the State Senate Republicans removing the collective bargaining law from the fiscal bill and then voting on it as a non-fiscal issue?

Approve 39%
 Disapprove..... 49%
 Not Sure..... 11%
 Refused..... 0%

Do you approve or disapprove of the State Senate Democrats leaving the state to delay the vote on the fiscal bill that included collective bargaining?

Approve 33%
 Disapprove..... 59%
 Not Sure..... 8%
 Refused..... 0%

For the following groups, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of that group.

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Not Sure	Refused
a. Democrats in the Wisconsin State Legislature	46%	48%	6%	<1%
b. Republicans in the Wisconsin State Legislature	45%	46%	9%	<1%
c. Public School Teachers in Wisconsin	70%	24%	6%	<1%
d. Wisconsin Public Employees in General	70%	23%	6%	1%
e. Public Employee Unions	47%	45%	7%	<1%