



UW Badger Poll™ #29, Release #3
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

According to the latest UW Badger Poll a majority of Wisconsinites approve of the job that Barack Obama is doing as President of the United States while a majority disapprove to the job Jim Doyle is doing as Governor of Wisconsin. Other findings are also reviewed below.

- Obama's overall approval rating among adults in Wisconsin is 60%, very similar to the 63% approval this past spring. Among likely voters Obama's approval rating is at 54%.
 - Overall, approximately one-third of Wisconsinites said that they either very much approved or extremely approved of the way Barack Obama was handling his job as President. Just over one-quarter strongly disapprove.
- For the first time the UW Badger Poll finds a majority (50%) of respondents disapprove of the way that Doyle is handling his job as Governor. Among likely voters the disapproval rating is even higher at 58%.
 - Nearly twice as many residents very much or extremely disapprove of the job Jim Doyle is doing as Governor than those who strongly approve.
- 51% of Badger state residents disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing, although that is down from a high of 74% in October of 2008. Among likely voters, only 35% approve of the job the U.S. Congress is going – while 62% disapprove.
 - Only 8% of respondents said that they very much or extremely approved of the U.S. Congress's job performance. Four times as many people expressed strong disapproval.
- Wisconsinites give the state legislature higher marks than they give Congress. Overall 58% approve of the job the state legislature is doing, including 51% of likely voters.

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)
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)
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)

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)
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)
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)

APPENDIX:

Approval Rating for President Barack Obama							
		Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
Overall		60%	1%	37%	1%	1%	(507)
Likely Voters		54%	1%	44%	<1%	1%	(299)
Gender	Men	55%	1%	43%	<1%	1%	(213)
	Women	66%	1%	31%	1%	1%	(294)
Party ID	Democrats	94%	--	5%	1%	--	(172)
	Independents & Others	54%	1%	43%	--	2%	(203)
	Republicans	25%	2%	73%	--	--	(113)
Ages	18 to 29*	78%	-	22%	--	--	(28)
	30 to 44	60%	2%	37%	--	2%	(76)
	45 to 59	57%	1%	41%	--	1%	(157)
	60 and over	51%	2%	45%	2%	1%	(246)
Education	Never attended college	69%	6%	24%	--	1%	(197)
	Some college	62%	2%	35%	1%	--	(146)
	College graduate	57%	3%	38%	1%	1%	(164)
Income	Under \$40,000	73%	1%	25%	1%	--	(194)
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	53%	1%	44%	--	2%	(164)
	Over \$80,000	61%	--	39%	--	--	(90)
Interview Dates							
	On or before Nov. 7 th	56%	1%	42%	1%	1%	(277)
	On or after Nov. 8 th	65%	1%	32%	<1%	1%	(230)

(*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of respondents due to the potential for larger variation.)

Approval Rating for Governor Jim Doyle							
		Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
Overall		46%	2%	50%	1%	1%	(507)
Likely Voters		40%	<1%	58%	1%	1%	(299)
Gender	Men	42%	--	57%	1%	<1%	(213)
	Women	52%	3%	43%	1%	1%	(294)
Party ID	Democrats	69%	2%	27%	2%	--	(172)
	Independents & Others	39%	1%	58%	<1%	1%	(203)
	Republicans	30%	--	69%	1%	--	(113)
Ages	18 to 29*	70%	5%	25%	--	--	(28)
	30 to 44	35%	1%	62%	--	2%	(76)
	45 to 59	41%	1%	55%	2%	1%	(157)
	60 and over	44%	1%	53%	2%	--	(246)
Education	Never attended college	42%	1%	56%	1%	<1%	(197)
	Some college	51%	3%	45%	1%	--	(146)
	College graduate	48%	1%	48%	2%	1%	(164)
Income	Under \$40,000	61%	2%	36%	1%	--	(194)
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	39%	1%	57%	2%	1%	(164)
	Over \$80,000	42%	1%	57%	--	--	(90)
Region	Milwaukee County*	47%	2%	48%	3%	--	(62)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	31%	1%	67%	1%	--	(96)
	SC WI, inc. Madison	39%	5%	51%	1%	4%	(81)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	57%	2%	41%	--	--	(88)
	NC Wisconsin	55%	--	45%	--	--	(78)
	Western & NW WI	55%	--	43%	2%	--	(102)

(*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of respondents due to the potential for larger variation.)

Approval Rating for the United States Congress

		Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
Overall		46%	2%	51%	1%	<1%	(507)
Likely Voters		35%	1%	62%	1%	1%	(299)
Gender	Men	37%	1%	61%	<1%	<1%	(213)
	Women	55%	2%	41%	1%	1%	(294)
Party ID	Democrats	73%	2%	24%	1%	<1%	(172)
	Independents & Others	32%	<1%	67%	--	1%	(203)
	Republicans	36%	--	63%	1%	--	(113)
Ages	18 to 29*	58%	4%	38%	--	--	(28)
	30 to 44	52%	2%	45%	--	1%	(76)
	45 to 59	39%	1%	59%	1%	<1%	(157)
	60 and over	37%	1%	59%	2%	1%	(246)
Education	Never attended college	50%	<1%	47%	2%	<1%	(197)
	Some college	47%	3%	50%	--	--	(146)
	College graduate	41%	2%	55%	--	2%	(164)
Income	Under \$40,000	56%	--	43%	1%	--	(194)
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	43%	<1%	56%	--	1%	(164)
	Over \$80,000	44%	3%	53%	--	--	(90)
Interview Dates							
	On or before Nov. 7 th	38%	2%	58%	1%	1%	(277)
	On or after Nov. 8 th	54%	1%	43%	1%	<1%	(230)

(*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of respondents due to the potential for larger variation.)

Approval Rating for the Wisconsin State Legislature

		Approve	Neither (vol.)	Disapprove	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
Overall		58%	3%	37%	1%	1%	(507)
Likely Voters		51%	2%	45%	1%	1%	(299)
Gender	Men	56%	2%	40%	<1%	1%	(213)
	Women	60%	3%	34%	2%	1%	(294)
Party ID	Democrats	76%	2%	19%	2%	1%	(172)
	Independents & Others	50%	2%	46%	<1%	1%	(203)
	Republicans	52%	--	47%	1%	--	(113)
Ages	18 to 29*	75%	8%	17%	--	--	(28)
	30 to 44	64%	2%	33%	--	1%	(76)
	45 to 59	46%	1%	50%	2%	1%	(157)
	60 and over	51%	1%	43%	3%	2%	(246)
Education	Never attended college	60%	--	37%	2%	1%	(197)
	Some college	60%	3%	36%	1%	--	(146)
	College graduate	54%	5%	38%	2%	1%	(164)
Income	Under \$40,000	69%	3%	26%	1%	1%	(194)
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	56%	--	41%	2%	1%	(164)
	Over \$80,000	51%	3%	45%	--	1%	(90)
Region	Milwaukee County*	61%	2%	34%	3%	--	(62)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	46%	5%	47%	1%	1%	(96)
	SC WI, inc. Madison	59%	5%	32%	--	4%	(81)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	66%	2%	32%	--	--	(88)
	NC Wisconsin	56%	--	43%	1%	--	(78)
	Western & NW WI	63%	--	32%	3%	1%	(102)

(*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of respondents due to the potential for larger variation.)

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?
- 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 if 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?

DEFINITION OF REGIONS

Region	Counties Included in Region
Milwaukee County:	only Milwaukee County
SE WI, without Milwaukee County:	Kenosha, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha
SC WI, including Madison:	Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Rock, Sauk
NE WI, Fox Valley & Green Bay:	Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Sheboygan, Winnebago
North Central WI:	Adams, Florence, Forest, Green Lake, Iron, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Portage, Shawano, Vilas, Waupaca, Waushara, Wood
Western & North Western WI:	Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Crawford, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Grant, 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 507 persons who were randomly chosen within households with working landline telephone numbers and interviewed between October 29 and November 20, 2009, inclusive. During this time period, the UWSC made 10,847 phone calls to 2,026 telephone numbers. Additionally, advance letters describing the survey and its procedures were sent to 841 households whose randomly chosen telephone numbers were matched to a known listed address. The response rate for this survey was 38.3%, 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 11 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 73% of the 507 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).