



# REASON-RUPE

## Public Opinion Survey

### WISCONSIN MAY 2012 TOPLINE RESULTS

Poll conducted May 14th-18th 2012 of both mobile and landline phones, 708 Wisconsin adults, margin of error +/- 3.7%. Likely Wisconsin voters (609, MOE +/-4%) include registered respondents who said they are absolutely certain to vote or very likely to vote in the June 5th recall election for governor.

RELEASED: MAY 24th 2012

1 Overall, do you [ROTATE] (approve) or (disapprove) of the way Scott Walker is handling his job as governor of Wisconsin?

Approve	49%
Disapprove	44%
Don't know/No opinion	6%
Refused	<1%
Total	100%

2 Overall, do you [ROTATE] (approve) or (disapprove) of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

Approve	49%
Disapprove	45%
Don't know/No opinion	5%
Refused	<1%
Total	100%

3 Are you registered to vote in Wisconsin?

Yes	89%
No	10%
Don't Know	1%
Total	100%

4 What are the chances that you will vote in the June recall election for Governor? Are you absolutely certain to vote, very likely to vote, are the chances 50-50, or is it unlikely you will vote?

Absolutely certain to vote	69%
Very likely to vote	12%
Chances are 50/50	10%
Unlikely to will vote	9%
Don't Know	<1%
Total	100%

5 In the election to recall the governor, do you plan to vote for [ROTATE] (Republican Scott Walker) or (Democrat Tom Barrett)? Likely Voters

Republican Scott Walker	50%
Democrat Tom Barrett	42%
Do not intend to vote (vol.)	0%
Don't know	6%
Refused	3%
Total	100%

6 If the presidential election was held today and [ROTATE] (Barack Obama was the Democratic candidate) and (Mitt Romney was the Republican candidate), and Gary Johnson was the Libertarian candidate, for whom would you vote?

Barack Obama, the Democratic candidate	46%
Mitt Romney, the Republican candidate	36%
Gary Johnson, the Libertarian candidate	6%
Don't know	10%
Refused	2%
Total	100%

7 Please tell me if you have [ROTATE] (a favorable) or (an unfavorable) opinion of public employee unions – those representing state and local government workers – or have you not heard enough about them yet to have an opinion? (IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASK: And is that very or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable)?)

Very favorable	21%
Somewhat favorable	14%
Somewhat unfavorable	11%
Very unfavorable	20%
Don't know/Have not heard enough	34%
Refused	1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favorable</i>	35%
<i>Net Unfavorable</i>	31%

As you may know, last year a number of changes were made regarding government employees and spending. For each of the following, please tell me if this is something you [ROTATE] (favor) or (oppose). Do you [ROTATE] (favor) or (oppose)...

8 A. Increasing the amount that government employees contribute to their own pensions from less than 1% to 6% of their annual salaries

Strongly favor	51%
Somewhat favor	21%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	14%
Don't know	4%
Refused	<1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	72%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	24%

9 B. Increasing the amount that government employees contribute to their own health care from 6% to 12% of the cost of their health care?

Strongly favor	51%
Somewhat favor	20%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	16%
Don't know	3%
Refused	<1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	71%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	27%

10 C. Ending automatic union dues deductions from government employee paychecks?

Strongly favor	31%
Somewhat favor	19%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	25%
Don't know	8%
Refused	1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	50%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	41%

11 D. Limiting government employee collective bargaining to just negotiating wages, and excluding bargaining on benefits, working conditions, pensions, and rules?

Strongly favor	30%
Somewhat favor	17%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	31%
Don't know	6%
Refused	1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	47%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	46%

12 E. Exempting police and firefighters from these changes?

Strongly favor	22%
Somewhat favor	16%
Somewhat oppose	22%
Strongly oppose	35%
Don't know	4%
Refused	1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	38%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	57%

13 Do public employee unions – those representing state and local government workers – have [ROTATE] (too much power,) (too little power,) or the right amount of power in negotiating their contracts?

Too much power	44%
Too little power	20%
Right amount of power	29%
Don't know	7%
Refused	<1%
Total	100%

14	Do you [ROTATE] (favor) or (oppose) a law in Wisconsin that would no longer require workers in unionized companies to pay union dues as a condition of employment? (IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: And is that strongly or somewhat (favor/oppose)?)	
	Strongly favor	34%
	Somewhat favor	17%
	Somewhat oppose	17%
	Strongly oppose	24%
	Don't know	7%
	Refused	1%
	Total	100%
	<i>Net Favor</i>	<i>51%</i>
	<i>Net Oppose</i>	<i>41%</i>

15	Do you think public sector unions have done more to [ROTATE] (HELP the state and local economy) or (HURT the state and local economy), or have they not made much of a difference?	
	Helped state and local economy	26%
	Hurt state and local economy	36%
	Not made much of a difference	32%
	Don't know	5%
	Refused	2%
	Total	100%

16	Do you think government employees receive [ROTATE] (better,) (worse,) or the same in retirement benefits than workers with similar jobs in the private sector?	
	Better	65%
	Worse	7%
	Same	22%
	Don't know	6%
	Refused	<1%
	Total	100%

Often, state and local governments find they do not have enough money to fund government employee retirement benefits, including pensions and health care benefits. In this difficult situation, please say whether you [ROTATE] (strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose) (strongly oppose, somewhat oppose, somewhat favor, or strongly favor) each of the following options to help fund these retirement benefits.

17 A. Increasing sales, income, or property taxes?

Strongly favor	7%
Somewhat favor	18%
Somewhat oppose	18%
Strongly oppose	54%
Don't know	1%
Refused	1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	25%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	72%

18 B. Cutting spending on government programs, such as education and health care?

Strongly favor	10%
Somewhat favor	13%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	59%
Don't know	1%
Refused	1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	23%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	75%

19 C. Reducing public employee benefits?

Strongly favor	20%
Somewhat favor	26%
Somewhat oppose	22%
Strongly oppose	27%
Don't know	4%
Refused	1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	46%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	49%

20 D. Requiring public employees to contribute more toward their own pensions and health care?

Strongly favor	51%
Somewhat favor	23%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	12%
Don't know	1%
Refused	1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	74%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	24%

21 Government employees will typically get guaranteed pension payments during retirement, while private sector workers will typically get payments from 401(k)-style accounts based on the amount they saved for retirement and investment returns. For new government employees who have not been promised pension benefits, would you [ROTATE] (favor) or (oppose) shifting them from guaranteed pensions to 401(k)-style accounts? (IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK: And is that strongly or somewhat (favor/oppose)?)

Strongly favor	48%
Somewhat favor	21%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	15%
Don't know	5%
Refused	<1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	69%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	26%

ASK OF ½ SAMPLE

22 In order to reduce state budget deficits, do you [ROTATE] (support) or (oppose) LIMITING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING for public employee unions? (IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: And is that strongly or somewhat (support/oppose)?)

Strongly support	31%
Somewhat support	20%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	28%
Don't know	6%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	51%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	43%

ASK OF ½ SAMPLE

23 In order to reduce state budget deficits, do you [ROTATE] (support) or (oppose) REDUCING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS for public employee unions? (IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: And is that strongly or somewhat (support/oppose)?)

Strongly support	32%
Somewhat support	11%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	36%
Don't know	5%
Refused	1%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	43%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	52%

24	If the state and local governments had to reduce spending, which of the following areas would you reduce spending on FIRST?	
	Education	5%
	Health care	4%
	Prisons and courts	29%
	Roads and infrastructure	17%
	Pensions and benefits for public employees	38%
	Don't know	5%
	Refused	2%
	Total	100%
25	How old should government workers be before they are eligible to begin receiving lifetime retirement benefits?	
	Less than 45	2%
	45-49	2%
	50-54	3%
	55-59	10%
	60-64	29%
	65-70	47%
	Older than 70	3%
	Don't know	3%
	Refused	1%
	Total	100%
	<i>Net 65+</i>	<i>50%</i>
26	Most teachers in the nation now belong to unions or associations that bargain over salaries, working conditions, and the like. Has unionization, in your opinion, [ROTATE] (helped,) (hurt,) or made no difference in the quality of public school education?	
	Helped	28%
	Hurt	38%
	Made no difference	28%
	Don't know	4%
	Refused	1%
	Total	100%
27	Compared to other states, do you think the taxes Wisconsin residents pay are [ROTATE] (higher than most states,) (lower than most states,) or about what most states pay?	
	Higher than most states	55%
	Lower than most states	8%
	About what most states pay	29%
	Don't know	7%
	Refused	<1%
	Total	100%



28	Since Governor Scott Walker took office, has state government spending [ROTATE] (increased, decreased,) or stayed about the same?	
	Increased	19%
	Decreased	39%
	Stayed about the same	28%
	Don't know	14%
	Refused	<1%
	Total	100%
29	Generally speaking, do you feel you are saving or have saved enough money for your retirement to live a comfortable life after you retire?	
	Yes	35%
	No	62%
	Don't know	2%
	Refused	<1%
	Total	100%
30	If your taxes were reduced, would you use [ROTATE] (all, most, some, a little, or none) (none, a little, some, most, or all) of the savings to contribute to your retirement savings?	
	All	17%
	Most	20%
	Some	39%
	A little	8%
	None	13%
	Don't know	2%
	Refused	1%
	Total	100%
31	[ROTATE] (Some people say/Others say 'The less government the better.')	
	(Some people say/Others say 'There are more things that government should be doing.')	
	Which comes closer to your own view?	
	The less government the better	59%
	More things government should be doing	36%
	Don't know	4%
	Refused	1%
	Total	100%

32	[ROTATE] (Some people think/Others think the government should promote traditional values in our society.) (Some people think/Others think the government should not favor any particular set of values.) Which comes closer to your own view?	
	Government should promote traditional values	48%
	Government should not favor any particular set of values	47%
	Don't know	5%
	Refused	1%
	Total	100%
33	Have you seen or heard about Governor Walker's 'divide and conquer' comments?	
	Yes	50%
	No	49%
	Refused	<1%
	Total	100%
34	(If heard of "divide and conquer" comments) Do Governor Walker's comments make you [ROTATE] (more) or (less) likely to vote for him in the recall election, or have they not made much of a difference?	
	More likely	13%
	Less likely	37%
	No change	50%
	Do not intend to vote (vol.)	<1%
	Don't know	<1%
	Total	100%
35	In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?	
	Republican	29%
	Democrat	29%
	Independent	39%
	Other party	1%
	Don't know/Refused	2%
	Total	100%
36	(Asked of Independents) As of today, do you lean more to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?	
	Republican	39%
	Democratic	38%
	Neither/Other	19%
	Don't know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%

37	Political Party Identification (DERIVED)	
	Republican	29%
	Independent-lean Republican	16%
	Independent	7%
	Independent-lean Democratic	16%
	Democrat	29%
	Other party	1%
	Don't know/Refused	1%
	Total	100%
38	Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?	
	Yes, supporter of Tea Party Movement	26%
	Not a supporter of Tea Party Movement	67%
	Don't know	6%
	Refused	1%
	Total	100%
39	Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Occupy Wall Street movement, or not?	
	Yes, supporter of Occupy Wall Street Movement	17%
	Not a supporter of Occupy Wall Street Movement	74%
	Don't know	8%
	Refused	1%
	Total	100%
40	Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Are you...	
	Employed full time	44%
	Employed part time	10%
	Self employed	8%
	Retired	20%
	Not currently employed	8%
	Student	5%
	Homemaker	4%
	Refused/Nr	1%
	Total	100%
41	(Asked of those employed full time or part time) Are you employed by local, state, or the federal government?	
	Yes	28%
	No	71%
	Refused	1%
	Total	100%

42	(Asked of those currently retired) Before retiring, did you primarily work as a public sector or private sector employee?	
	Public sector	33%
	Private sector	55%
	Both	6%
	Did not work outside the home	4%
	Refused	1%
	Total	100%
43	Are you, or is anyone in your family a member of a union?	
	Yes	30%
	No	67%
	Don't know	2%
	Refused	1%
	Total	100%
44	What was the last grade in school you completed?	
	High school or less	41%
	Some College	30%
	College graduate/Bachelors degree	18%
	Postgraduate Degree, such as Master's, PH.D., MD, JD	10%
	Refused/Nr	1%
	Total	100%
45	Please tell me, which of the following ranges best fits your age?	
	18 to 29	20%
	30 to 44	26%
	45 to 54	18%
	55 to 64	16%
	65+	19%
	Refused/Nr	1%
	Total	100%
46	Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?	
	Yes	4%
	No	95%
	Refused/Nr	1%
	Total	100%

47 Which of the following describe your race? You can select as many as apply.

White/Caucasian	88%
Black/African-American	5%
Asian/Asian-American, or	1%
Some other race	4%
Refused/Nr	2%
Total	100%

48 Was your TOTAL household income BEFORE taxes for 2011...

Under \$25,000	23%
\$25,000 but less than \$30,000	8%
\$30,000 but less than \$35,000	7%
\$35,000 but less than \$40,000	5%
\$40,000 but less than \$50,000	8%
\$50,000 but less than \$60,000	9%
\$60,000 but less than \$75,000	9%
\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	9%
\$100,000 but less than \$125,000	8%
\$125,000 or more	6%
Don't know/Ref/NR	9%
Total	100%

49 Gender

Male	50%
Female	50%
Total	100%

50 Telephone Use

Cell only	30%
Cell mostly	17%
Both equally	22%
Landline mostly	15%
Landline only	15%
Refused	1%
Total	100%