



Marquette Law School Poll Toplines-  
August 16-19, 2012

(Reported total sample size may differ from 706 due to rounding of weighted data.)

**S2**

Gender

	N	%
Male	336	48
Female	370	52

**S4**

Region

	N	%
Milwaukee City	102	14
Rest of Milwaukee media market	227	32
Madison media market	129	18
Green Bay/Appleton media market	131	19
Rest of state media markets	118	17

**S5**

Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you registered to vote in the precinct or ward where you now live, or aren't you?

	N	%
Yes, registered to vote	671	95
No, not registered to vote	32	5
Don't know/Refused (v)	3	0

**S6**

Do you plan to register to vote, or is there a chance that you may not register?

	N	%
Plan to Register	35	100

**Q1**

Some people seem to follow what's going on in politics most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in politics most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?

	N	%
Most of the time	448	63
Some of the time	161	23
Only now and then	50	7
Hardly at all	46	7
Don't know (v)	0	0
Refused (v)	1	0

**Q2**

What are the chances that you will vote in the November 2012 general election for President, Congress, and other offices -- are you absolutely certain to vote, very likely to vote, are the chances 50-50, or don't you think you will vote?

	N	%
Absolutely certain	583	83
Very likely	80	11
50-50	26	4
Will not vote	15	2
Don't know (v)	1	0
Refused (v)	1	0

\*\*To assess the impact of the economy on approval (of Obama and Walker), half the sample was asked the economic evaluation questions (Q3 and Q4) before job approval, and half were asked approval before the economy. The results reported below include all respondents regardless of which set of questions they were asked first.

**Q3**

Over the past year, do you feel the economy has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

	N	%
Gotten better	134	19
Gotten worse	261	37
Stayed the same	304	43
Don't know (v)	7	1
Refused (v)	1	0

**Q4**

Looking ahead, over the next year do you expect the economy to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

	N	%
Get better	290	41
Get worse	117	17
Stay the same	226	32
Don't know (v)	73	10
Refused (v)	1	0

---

**Q5**

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	N	%
Approve	342	48
Disapprove	320	45
Don't know (v)	36	5
Refused (v)	8	1

---

**Q6**

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Scott Walker is handling his job as Governor of Wisconsin?

	N	%
Approve	356	50
Disapprove	322	46
Don't know (v)	23	3
Refused (v)	5	1

---

**Q7**

(I'm now going to read you a list of people and organizations. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of them or if you haven't heard enough about him yet to have an opinion.)

Barack Obama?

	N	%
Favorable	370	52
Unfavorable	307	43
Haven't heard enough	21	3
Don't know (v)	6	1
Refused (v)	2	0

---

**Q8**

(I'm now going to read you a list of people and organizations. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of them or if you haven't heard enough about him yet to have an opinion.)

Mitt Romney?

	N	%
Favorable	248	35
Unfavorable	316	45
Haven't heard enough	120	17
Don't know (v)	20	3
Refused (v)	2	0

**Q9**

(I'm now going to read you a list of people and organizations. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of them or if you haven't heard enough about him yet to have an opinion.)

Scott Walker?

	N	%
Favorable	356	50
Unfavorable	315	45
Haven't heard enough	27	4
Don't know (v)	8	1
Refused (v)	0	0

**Q10**

(I'm now going to read you a list of people and organizations. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of them or if you haven't heard enough about him yet to have an opinion.)

Tammy Baldwin?

	N	%
Favorable	226	32
Unfavorable	259	37
Haven't heard enough	191	27
Don't know (v)	30	4
Refused (v)	0	0

**Q11**

(I'm now going to read you a list of people and organizations. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of them or if you haven't heard enough about him yet to have an opinion.)

Tommy Thompson?

	N	%
Favorable	286	40
Unfavorable	272	38
Haven't heard enough	119	17
Don't know (v)	26	4
Refused (v)	4	1

---

**Q12**

(I'm now going to read you a list of people and organizations. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of them or if you haven't heard enough about him yet to have an opinion.)

Joe Biden?

	N	%
Favorable	265	38
Unfavorable	302	43
Haven't heard enough	111	16
Don't know (v)	26	4
Refused (v)	2	0

---

**Q13**

(I'm now going to read you a list of people and organizations. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of them or if you haven't heard enough about him yet to have an opinion.)

Paul Ryan?

	N	%
Favorable	290	41
Unfavorable	243	34
Haven't heard enough	144	20
Don't know (v)	27	4
Refused (v)	2	0

---

**Q14**

(I'm now going to read you a list of people and organizations. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of them or if you haven't heard enough about him yet to have an opinion.)

The Tea Party?

	N	%
Favorable	194	27
Unfavorable	306	43
Haven't heard enough	164	23
Don't know (v)	41	6
Refused (v)	1	0

**Q15 (ALL REGISTERED VOTERS)**

If the election for the U.S. Senate were held today, would you vote for (the Democrat Tammy Baldwin) or for (the Republican Tommy Thompson)?

	N	%
Baldwin	276	40
Thompson	350	50
Undecided (v)	55	8
Don't know (v)	9	1
Refused (v)	5	1

**Q15 (LIKELY VOTERS)**

If the election for the U.S. Senate were held today, would you vote for (the Democrat Tammy Baldwin) or for (the Republican Tommy Thompson)?

	N	%
Baldwin	237	41
Thompson	290	50
Undecided (v)	42	7
Don't know (v)	3	1
Refused (v)	3	1

**Q16 (ALL REGISTERED VOTERS)**

If the election for President were held today, would you vote for (the Democrats Barack Obama and Joe Biden) or for (the Republicans Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan)?

	N	%
Obama-Biden	345	50
Romney-Ryan	307	44
Undecided (v)	33	5
Someone else (v)	3	0
Don't know (v)	3	0
Refused (v)	2	0

**Q16 (LIKELY VOTERS)**

If the election for President were held today, would you vote for (the Democrats Barack Obama and Joe Biden) or for (the Republicans Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan)?

	N	%
Obama-Biden	280	49
Romney-Ryan	266	46
Undecided (v)	23	4
Someone else (v)	3	1
Don't know (v)	2	0
Refused (v)	2	0

---

**Q17**

In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more?

	N	%
Higher taxes, more services	307	44
Lower taxes, fewer services	336	48
Don't know (v)	57	8
Refused (v)	5	1

---

**Q18**

Do you approve or disapprove of the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress in 2010?

	N	%
Approve	298	42
Disapprove	343	49
Don't know (v)	64	9
Refused (v)	1	0

---

**Q19**

Which comes closest to your view about the tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003? The tax cuts should be continued for everyone. The tax cuts should only continue for household earning less than \$250,000 a year. Or, the tax cuts should expire for everyone.

	N	%
Continue for all	227	32
Continue for those earning less than \$250,000	316	45
Expire for all	105	15
Don't know (v)	53	8
Refused (v)	4	1

---

**Q20**

How important do you think it is that Congress and the President act to significantly reduce the federal budget deficit?

	N	%
Extremely important	345	49
Very important	240	34
Only somewhat important	92	13
Not at all important	16	2
Don't know (v)	12	2
Refused (v)	1	0

---

**Q21**

Would you be willing or not willing to cut defense spending in order to reduce the federal budget deficit?

	N	%
Willing	378	54
Not willing	301	43
Don't know (v)	23	3
Refused (v)	4	1

---

**Q22**

Would you be willing or not willing to cut spending on Medicare in order to reduce the federal budget deficit?

	N	%
Willing	179	25
Not willing	484	69
Don't know (v)	37	5
Refused (v)	5	1

---

**Q23**

Would you be willing or not willing to increase taxes on all incomes in order to reduce the federal budget deficit?

	N	%
Willing	270	38
Not willing	395	56
Don't know (v)	39	6
Refused (v)	1	0

---



**Q24**

Would you be willing or not willing to end most tax deductions, such as for child care and home mortgage deductions, in order to reduce the federal budget deficit?

	N	%
Willing	221	31
Not willing	426	60
Don't know (v)	55	8
Refused (v)	3	0

---

**Q25**

Please tell me whether the following statement describes Barack Obama, or not...he is someone who cares about people like me.

	N	%
Describes	405	57
Does not describe	277	39
Don't know (v)	24	3
Refused (v)	1	0

---

**Q26**

Please tell me whether the following statement describes Barack Obama, or not...he is a strong leader.

	N	%
Describes	368	52
Does not describe	326	46
Don't know (v)	10	1
Refused (v)	3	0

---

**Q27**

Please tell me whether the following statement describes Mitt Romney, or not... he is someone who cares about people like me.

	N	%
Describes	262	37
Does not describe	362	51
Don't know (v)	81	11
Refused (v)	1	0

---

**Q28**

Please tell me whether the following statement describes Mitt Romney, or not... he is a strong leader.

	N	%
Describes	323	46
Does not describe	272	38
Don't know (v)	110	16
Refused (v)	2	0

---

**Q29**

As you may know, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney has selected Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan as his vice presidential running mate. How would you rate Romney's choice of Ryan for vice president? Would you rate this choice as excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?

	N	%
Excellent	221	31
Pretty good	192	27
Only fair	115	16
Poor	133	19
Don't know (v)	42	6
Refused (v)	2	0

---

**Q30**

Do you think Mitt Romney's choice of Paul Ryan as his running mate reflects favorably or unfavorably on Romney's ability to make important presidential decisions?

	N	%
Favorably	408	58
Unfavorably	222	31
Don't know (v)	71	10
Refused (v)	5	1

---

**Q31**

Based on what you know about Paul Ryan, do you think he is qualified to serve as president if it becomes necessary, or not?

	N	%
Qualified	386	55
Not qualified	258	37
Don't know (v)	61	9
Refused (v)	1	0

---

**Q32**

Does having Paul Ryan as his running mate make you more likely to vote for Mitt Romney for president in November, less likely, or will it not have much effect on your vote?

	N	%
More likely	203	29
Less likely	114	16
Not have much effect	371	53
Don't know (v)	16	2
Refused (v)	1	0

**Q33**

Which of these two descriptions comes closer to your view of what Medicare should look like in the future? Option A: Medicare should continue as it is today, with the government guaranteeing seniors health insurance and making sure that everyone gets the same defined set of benefits.

Option B: Medicare should be changes to a system in which the government would guarantee each senior a fixed amount of money to put toward health insurance. Seniors would purchase that coverage either from traditional Medicare or from a list of private health plans.

	N	%
Option A	391	55
Option B	268	38
Don't know (v)	44	6
Refused (v)	3	0

**Q34**

Do you think the federal government can find ways to continue to support the current Medicare system as it is today, or that major changes will be required because the current system is too expensive to continue as it is?

	N	%
Can find ways to continue	261	37
Major changes required	389	55
Don't know (v)	48	7
Refused (v)	7	1

**F1**

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

	N	%
Republican	186	26
Democrat	200	28
Independent	293	42
Other/No preference (v)	18	3
Don't know (v)	5	1
Refused (v)	3	0

**PARTY ID WITH LEANERS**

Party identification including those who lean toward one party or another

	N	%
Republican	307	43
Democrat	309	44
Neither/Just Independent (v)	84	12
Don't know/Refused (v)	6	1

---

**F3 RECODE**

What is the highest level of education you completed?

	N	%
Less than high school	17	2
High school graduate	151	21
Some college, no degree	116	16
Associate's degree	85	12
Bachelor's degree or more	304	43
Don't know/Refused (v)	34	5

---

**F4 RECODE**

Age Category

	N	%
18-29 years old	116	16
30-44 years old	108	15
45-59 years old	243	34
60 years or older	205	29
Don't know/Refused (v)	34	5

---

**F5**

Are you currently married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

	N	%
Married	380	54
Widowed	52	7
Divorced	77	11
Separated	21	3
Never Married	139	20
Don't know (v)	7	1
Refused (v)	32	5

---

**RACE/ETHNICITY RECODE**

Race/Ethnicity

	N	%
White, non-Hispanic	555	79
Black, non-Hispanic	44	6
Hispanic	34	5
Other Race	31	4
Don't know/Refused (v)	42	6

---

**F8**

Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services...more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

	N	%
More than once a week	60	8
Once a week	208	29
Once or twice a month	93	13
A few times a year	118	17
Seldom	112	16
Never	79	11
Don't know (v)	2	0
Refused (v)	35	5

---

**F9**

What is your religious preferences - are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, another religion, or no religion?

	N	%
Protestant	193	27
Roman Catholic	234	33
Jewish	4	1
Muslim/Islam	6	1
Mormon/Latter-Day Saints	1	0
Other Christian religion	118	17
Other Non-Christian religion	20	3
No Religion/Atheist/Agnostic	82	12
Don't know (v)	4	1
Refused (v)	44	6

---

**F11**

Last year, that is in 2011, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

	N	%
Less than \$10,00	30	4
10 to under \$20,000	58	8
20 to under \$30,000	43	6
30 to under \$40,000	64	9
40 to under \$50,000	65	9
50 to under \$75,000	104	15
75 to under \$100,000	95	13
100 to under \$150,000	72	10
\$150,000 or more	46	7
Don't know (v)	37	5
Refused (v)	90	13

**F12**

Overall, which of the following best describes how the recession affected your own personal financial situation?

	N	%
Major effect, and finances not recovered	186	26
Major effect, but finances recovered	214	30
No major effect	256	36
Don't know (v)	10	1
Refused (v)	40	6

**F13**

In general would you describe your political views as ...

	N	%
Very conservative	75	11
Conservative	213	30
Moderate	215	30
Liberal	110	16
Very liberal	46	7
Don't know (v)	13	2
Refused (v)	34	5

**F14**

Are you or any member of your household a member of a local or national labor union?

	N	%
Yes, respondent	86	12
Yes, another household member	40	6
No, nobody in household	546	77
Don't know (v)	2	0
Refused (v)	33	5

---

**F15**

Do you or a member of your household work for federal, state, or local government - for example, as a public school teacher, police officer, firefighter, or other government job?

	N	%
Yes	164	23
No	505	72
Don't know (v)	5	1
Refused (v)	32	5

---

**F17**

How many days in the past week did you read a daily newspaper?

	N	%
None	139	20
One day	93	13
Two days	67	10
Three days	56	8
Four days	28	4
Five days	27	4
Six days	13	2
Seven days or every day	247	35
Don't know (v)	0	0
Refused (v)	35	5

---

**F18**

How many days in the past week did you watch the local TV news at 5, 6, or 10 o'clock?

	N	%
None	97	14
One day	48	7
Two days	56	8
Three days	53	7
Four days	52	7
Five days	59	8
Six days	22	3
Seven days or every day	283	40
Don't know (v)	0	0
Refused (v)	37	5

---

**F19**

Of all the personal telephone calls that you receive, do you get...?

	N	%
All or almost all on a cell phone	205	29
Some on a cell phone and some on a home phone	202	29
All or almost all on a home phone	262	37
Don't know (v)	1	0
Refused (v)	36	5

---

**F20**

And did I reach you by dialing (PHONE NUMBER)?

	N	%
Yes	701	99
No	5	1

---

**F22**

Is this a cell phone or not?

	N	%
Yes	205	29
No	501	71

---