



## Marquette Law School Poll – July 15-18, 2013

S1. May I please speak with the (male/female) adult member of your household, currently at home, age 18 or older, with the most recent birthday?

(IF SELECTED RESPONDENT NOT CURRENTLY AT HOME AND AVAILABLE, ASK FOR THE (FEMALE/MALE) CURRENTLY AT HOME.)

- 1 Correct household member on phone (CONTINUE)
- 2 Will put correct member of household on phone (RE-READ INTRO AND CONTINUE WITH S2.)
- 3 No household member age 18 or over is currently available (PLACE HOUSEHOLD INTO CALLBACK)
- 4 No one in household age 18 or older (TERMINATE)

S2. Record Gender: (DO NOT ASK. RECORD ONLY ONE RESPONSE)

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

**\*\*Author note: If respondent in overquota, go to overquota/callback script and have interviewer place respondent in specified callback for future day.\*\***

S3a. Do you currently live in Wisconsin? (RECORD ONE ANSWER)

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (TERMINATE)

S3b. In what county in Wisconsin do you live?

---

**\*\*Author note: Insert county list on screen.\*\***

**\*\*Author note: If respondent lives in Milwaukee County or County is Don't Know/Other, continue to S4. If respondent lives in any Wisconsin county besides Milwaukee, place in appropriate quota group and skip to S5. If over quota, thank and terminate.\*\***

S4. Do you currently live within Milwaukee city limits? **(RECORD ONE ANSWER)**

- 1 Yes (Milwaukee City quota group)
- 2 No (Milwaukee DMA quota group)

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? **(READ LIST IF NECESSARY)**

- 1 Yes, Registered to Vote (SKIP TO Q.1)
- 2 No, Not Registered to Vote (TERMINATE)  
(DO NOT READ)
- 9 No Answer/Don't Know/Refused (TERMINATE)

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? (READ LIST IF NECESSARY)

- 1 Most of the time
- 2 Some of the time
- 3 Only now and then
- 4 Hardly at all
- (DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: THERE IS NO Q2 in this instrument\*\***

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: Scramble so half get Q3-Q4 BEFORE Q5-Q6 and half get Q5-Q6 before Q3-Q4.\*\***

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: RECORD WHICH QUESTION ORDER IS USED AS A VARIABLE.\*\***

Q3. Over the past year, do you feel the economy has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same? (READ LIST IF NECESSARY)

- 1 Gotten better
- 2 Gotten worse
- 3 Stayed the same
- (DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q4. Looking ahead, over the next year do you expect the economy to get better, get worse, or stay about the same? (READ LIST IF NECESSARY)

- 1 Get better
- 2 Get worse
- 3 Stay the same
- (DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q5. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove  
(DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q6. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Scott Walker is handling his job as Governor of Wisconsin?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove  
(DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q7. Do you think Wisconsin is creating jobs at a faster rate than most other states, at about the same rate, or is Wisconsin lagging behind other states in job creation? (READ LIST IF NECESSARY)

- 1. Faster than other states
- 2. About the same rate
- 3. Lagging behind  
(DO NOT READ)
- 8. Don't know
- 9. Refused

(TRANSITION SCREEN)

We want to ask a few questions about your community.

Q8. How many years have you been in your current community?

(TRY AND GET WHOLE NUMBER. IF RANGE IS GIVEN, CODE THE UPPER END, I.E., 2-3 YEARS = 3. IF NUMBER IS LESS THAN 1, ENTER '0')

- 1-95 Code actual years
- 97. All my life
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Refused

**\*\*Authors Note: Scramble Q9-Q12\*\***

(TRANSITION SCREEN) Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements.

PROMPT IF NECESSARY: Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that [INSERT STATEMENT]?

- 1. Strongly agree
- 2. Somewhat agree
- 3. Somewhat disagree
- 4. Strongly disagree
- (DO NOT READ)
- 8. Don't know
- 9. Refused

Q9. I feel safe walking alone at night in my neighborhood

Q10. The people in my community really care about their neighbors

Q11. Most people in my community share the same basic values that I do

Q12. It would not bother me too much to move from here into some other community

**\*\*Author Note: Scramble Q13-Q15\*\***

PROMPT IF NECESSARY: Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that [INSERT STATEMENT]?

[READ IF NECESSARY]

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree

(DO NOT READ)

8. Don't know
9. Refused

Q13. You really can't trust the government to do the right thing.

Q14. The government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.

Q15. People in the government waste a lot of money we pay in taxes.

**\*\*Author Note: Scramble Q16-Q19\*\***

(TRANSITION SCREEN) Next I will read a list of statements about crime and your community. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree, with the following statements.

PROMPT IF NECESSARY: Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that [INSERT STATEMENT]?

[READ IF NECESSARY]

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree

(DO NOT READ)

8. Don't know
9. Refused

Q16. The courts are too lenient with criminals.

Q17. We need tougher prison sentences for repeat offenders.

Q18. A person convicted of murder should receive the death penalty.

Q19. Once a prisoner has served at least half of his term, he should be released from prison and given a less costly form of punishment if he can demonstrate that he is no longer a threat to society.

Q20. I will now read you two statements. Which comes closer to your point of view?

**\*\*Author note: Scramble statement A/B\*\***

Statement A:

Prisons are a government spending program, and just like any other government program, they should be put to the cost-benefit test. States should analyze their prison populations and figure out if there are offenders in expensive prison cells who can be safely and effectively supervised in the community at a lower cost.

or

Statement B:

People who commit crimes belong behind bars, end of story. It may cost a lot of money to run prisons, but it would cost society more in the long run if more criminals were on the street.

1. Statement A
2. Statement B  
(DO NOT READ)
8. Don't know
9. Refused

**\*\*Authors Note: Scramble Q21-Q23\*\***

(TRANSITION SCREEN) Laws that ban parole and require prisoners to serve the full term of their sentences, regardless of what they do in prison, are often called 'truth in sentencing' laws. Wisconsin adopted a truth in sentencing law in 1998.

Q21. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Truth in sentencing sends a message that society will not tolerate crime. (READ IF NECESSARY)

1. Agree
2. Disagree  
DO NOT READ)
8. Don't know
9. Refused

Q22. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Truth in sentencing helps to reduce crime and make Wisconsin safer. (READ IF NECESSARY)

1. Agree
2. Disagree  
DO NOT READ)
8. Don't know
9. Refused



Q23. Truth in sentencing should continue to be the law in Wisconsin. (READ IF NECESSARY)

1. Agree
2. Disagree  
DO NOT READ)
8. Don't know
9. Refused

(TRANSITION SCREEN) For the next set of questions, please assume that Wisconsin provides an opportunity for prisoners to be released and supervised in the community if they demonstrate that they do not pose a threat to others.

In determining whether a prisoner should be released, there are many different considerations that might be taken into account. For each of the following considerations, please tell me whether you think it is "very important," "somewhat important," or "not important."

**\*\*Authors Note: Scramble Q24-Q29\*\***

Do you think [INSERT STATEMENT] is very important, somewhat important, or not importance in determining whether a prisoner should be released.

[READ IF NECESSARY]

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not important  
(DO NOT READ)
8. Don't know
9. Refused

Q24. The prisoner's record of good behavior in prison

Q25. Whether the prisoner has accepted responsibility for his crime

Q26. Whether the prisoner's victim opposes release

Q27. Whether the prisoner has obtained a GED or completed other educational programs in prison

Q28. Whether the prisoner has completed treatment for any addiction or mental illness problems he has

Q29. Whether the prisoner has marketable skills and good employment prospects after being released from prison

In determining whether a prisoner should be released, there are some people who think it would be better for the decision to be made by the original sentencing judge, and some people who prefer a statewide commission of experts. For the following questions, please tell me whether you think a judge would be better, a commission of experts would be better, or they are about equally good.

\*\*Authors Note: Scramble Q30-Q35\*\*

[READ IF NECESSARY]

1. Judge
2. Commission of experts
3. Equally good  
(DO NOT READ)
7. Neither/Both Bad
8. Don't Know
9. Refused

Q30. Which do you think would do a better job of evaluating the seriousness of the prisoner's crime?

Q31. Which do you think would do a better job of taking into account the needs and values of the community?

Q32. Which do you think would do a better job of taking into account the needs and wishes of victims?

Q33. Which do you think would be better able to use the latest scientific knowledge on rehabilitation and risk?

Q34. Which do you think would do a better job of ensuring fair and equal treatment for all Wisconsin prisoners?

Q35. Which do you think would be less likely to give into political pressure?

Q36. Overall, do you think it would be better for release decisions to be made by the original sentencing judge or by a statewide commission of experts?

Q37. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Early release should generally be restricted to prisoners who are elderly, terminally ill, or severely physically disabled; with others, it is just too hard to tell whether they really can be safely released.

1. Agree
2. Disagree  
(DO NOT READ)
8. Don't know
9. Refused

F1. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

- 1 Republican [ASK QF3.]
- 2 Democrat [ASK QF3.]
- 3 Independent [ASK QF2.]  
(DO NOT READ)
- 4 Other/No preference [ASK QF2.]
- 8 Don't Know [ASK QF2.]
- 9 Refused [ASK QF3.]

\*\*Author note: Ask QF2 IF 3,4, or 8 in F1]

F2. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat  
(DO NOT READ)
- 3 Neither/Just Independent (VOL)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

F3. What is the highest level of education you completed? (READ LIST)

- 01 Elementary school only
- 02 Some high school but did not finish
- 03 Completed high school
- 04 Some college but didn't finish
- 05 Two year college degree
- 06 Four year college degree
- 07 Some graduate work
- 08 Completed masters or professional degree
- 09 Advanced graduate work or PhD  
(DO NOT READ)
- 98 Don't know
- 99 Refused

F4. What is your age? (Record actual age in years).

- 
- 99 Refused [ASK F4A]

F4A. [If Refused] Are you...

- 1 18-29 years old
- 2 30-44 years old
- 3 45-59 years old
- 4 60 years old or more
- (DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

F5. Are you currently married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married? (READ IF NECESSARY)

- 1 Married
- 2 Widowed
- 3 Divorced
- 4 Separated
- 5 Never Married
- (DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

F6. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Spanish background?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- (DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

F7. Would you describe yourself as White, African American or Black, Asian, Native American, of more than one race or some other race?

- 01 White
- 02 African American or Black
- 03 Asian, South Asian, or Pacific Islander
- 04 Native American or American Indian
- 05 More than one race
- 97 Other, Specify
- (DO NOT READ)
- 06 Hispanic or Latino
- 98 Don't know
- 99 Refused

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?

- 1 More than once a week
- 2 Once a week
- 3 Once or twice a month
- 4 A few times a year
- 5 Seldom
- 6 Never
- (DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

F9. What is your religious preference – are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, another religion or no religion?

IF RESPONDENT NAMES ANYTHING ELSE, ASK:

Would that fall under the general category of Protestant religions, is it a Christian religion, but not Protestant, or is it something else?

- 1 Protestant
- 2 Roman Catholic
- 3 Jewish
- 4 Muslim/Islam
- 5 Mormon/Latter-Day Saints
- 6 Other Christian Religion
- 7 Other Non-Christian Religion
- 8 No Religion/Atheist/Agnostic
- (DO NOT READ)
- 98 DON'T KNOW
- 99 REFUSED

F10. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18 now living in your household?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- (DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

F11. Last year, that is in 2012, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER.)

- 01 Less than \$10,000
- 02 10 to under \$20,000
- 03 20 to under \$30,000
- 04 30 to under \$40,000
- 05 40 to under \$50,000
- 06 50 to under \$75,000
- 07 75 to under \$100,000
- 08 100 to under \$150,000
- 09 \$150,000 or more  
(DO NOT READ)
- 98 Don't know
- 99 Refused

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: There is no F12 in this instrument\*\***

F13. In general, would you describe your political views as...

- 1 Very conservative
- 2 Conservative
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Liberal
- 5 Very liberal  
(DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

F14. Are you or any member of your household a member of a local, state or national labor union?

- 1 Yes, respondent.
- 2 Yes, another household member
- 3 No, nobody in household  
(DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

F15. Do you or any 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?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No  
(DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

F16. Do you have any guns, rifles or pistols in your home?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No  
(DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

F17. How many days in the past week did you read a daily newspaper?

- 0 None
- 1 One day
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four
- 5 Five
- 6 Six
- 7 Seven days or "every day"  
(DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: There is no F18 in this instrument\*\***

F19. Of all the personal telephone calls that you receive, do you get...?

- 1 All or almost all on a cell phone
- 2 Some on a cell phone and some on a home phone
- 3 All or almost all on a regular home phone  
(DO NOT READ)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

F20. And did I reach you by dialing (INSERT PHONE NUMBER)?

- 1 Yes (SKIP TO QF22)
- 2 No

F21. For verification purposes, may I have the number where I reached you?

(ENTER 10 DIGIT PHONE NUMBER. VERIFY NUMBER.)

F22. Is this phone a cell phone or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

(CLOSING)

Thank you very much. Have a great day/evening!