

In Their Own Words
An open-ended supplement to the Marquette Law School Poll
Conducted August 27-29, 2019

While the Marquette Law School Poll conducted live telephone interviews with 800 registered voters August 25-29, we also conducted a supplemental study online with 203 Wisconsin residents asking them to express in their own words what they like and dislike about President Donald Trump. This online survey is selected from a panel of people who have agreed to respond to online polls and is selected to be demographically similar to the Wisconsin adult population. Our goal with this supplement is to capture the flavor of how people feel about political issues “in their own words.”

The responses below are to two questions: “What, if anything, do you like about Donald Trump?” and “What, if anything, do you dislike about Donald Trump?” Respondents could write as much as they wished in response to each question.

In addition to the open-ended responses, we asked the respondent’s party identification, how they had voted in 2016 and how much they approve or disapprove of Trump’s handling of his job as president, in addition to a small number of other demographic items and what the respondent thought was the most important problem facing the country.

The range of responses below are illustrative of what different respondents had to say, but no attempt has been made to balance quotations in proportion to each party or approval group.

The responses have not been edited for typographical or other errors. Rather than make such changes, we simply present what respondents entered as their responses. The responses are grouped by how strongly the respondent approved or disapproved of the way Trump is handling his job as president, based on a closed ended question.

Respondents who strongly approve:

Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: “I like he speaks the truth and gets things done. He is also not afraid to say anything people are too sensitive”

Dislike: “There is not much”

Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: “He actually does what he says he is going to do. For far too long politicians have said what they needed to in order to get elected but renege on their promises once elected. It's a breath of fresh air to see a president finally delivering on his promises.”

Dislike: “He does leave a little to be desired when dealing with foreign dignitaries.”

Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: "I think Mr. Trump is doing a good job. He is trying to run the country like a business and do things that are financially responsible. He is trying to take care of the US rather than everyone else."

Dislike: "He should be more careful when using Twitter. The media is too quick to react and blow his comments out of proportion."

Independent, leans to neither party, voted for Trump:

Like: "he tells it like he sees it and does what he says he will do"

Dislike: "to many tweets that dont mean a thing but do stir up things"

Democrat, voted for Trump:

Like: "Working for country"

Dislike: "Talking too much"

Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: "Unfiltered"

Dislike: "Tariffs on anyone other than enemies"

Republican, voted for a third party:

Like: "He doesn't care what people think about him. He is taking a stand for our country!"

Dislike: "Sometimes he should think before he speaks"

Respondents who "somewhat approve:"

Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: "He runs the country like a business. He has solved the job problem that Obama said was impossible. He looks out for what's best for this country rather than try to please other countries or make this country into some other country"

Dislike: "Tariffs"

Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: "He has cut government regulations and does most of what he says he will do,"

Dislike: "Some of his comments about those who disagree with him"

Other party/no party, leans to neither party, did not vote:

Like: "I don't know anything about him. He's entertaining i guess."

Dislike: "Not much. I know nothing about him."

Independent, leans Republican, voted for a third party:

Like: "I like that he's pro-life."

Dislike: "He talks too much, tweets too much, and is far too arrogant."

Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: "Desire to fix issues no one else tackles"

Dislike: "Doesnt think before speaks or tweets as well as spoiled person"

Democrat, voted for Clinton:

Like: "I think he has all the tools to get things done but his big mouth and ego gets in the way and puts him and those around him in hot water."

Dislike: "He likes to stir up trouble and makes too many enemies."

Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: "mostly does what he says he will"

Dislike: "tweeting, and narcissistic"

Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: "his willingness to hang in there, no matter what the masses say or ridicule him."

Dislike: "that he is above the LAW. we the people would do hard time for what he does daily,"

Respondents who somewhat disapprove:

Other party/no party, leans Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: "You know what he really thinks when he speaks."

Dislike: "Too reactionary"

Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: "economy"

Dislike: "his use of twitter and his vocabulary"

Independent, leans Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: "He is not afraid to take risks even though I don't agree with a lot of them"

Dislike: "I'm scared about the tariffs and foreign policy"

Independent, leans to neither party, voted for Clinton:

Like: "He has made some good choices, but few"

Dislike: "who says one thing and next time you hear he's taking it back and saying something else"

Republican, voted for Trump:

Like: "Well umm maybe how it did build the economy"

Dislike: "The man needs to stay of twitter!"

Democrat, did not vote:

Like: "I like how he doesn't back down to anyone"

Dislike: "everything else"

Respondents who strongly disapprove:

Democrat, did not vote:

Like: "Nothing at all."

Dislike: "He's sexist, racist, homophobic and xenophobic. He's also a straight up idiot - you want to buy Greenland??? He lies in so many of his speeches, just blatant lies."

Independent, leans Democrat, voted for Clinton:

Like: "Nothing"

Dislike: "Everything is about him"

Democrat, voted for a third party:

Like: "Absolutely nothing"

Dislike: "His viewpoints, racism, sexual harassment, lack of knowledge, lack of empathy, cruelty, focus on unimportant topics, and for the love of god.....his tweeting"

Democrat, voted for Clinton:

Like: "I cannot think of anything I like about Donald Trump."

Dislike: "His lack of empathy. His lies that poison our nation."

Democrat, voted for Clinton:

Like: "I don't like anything about him."

Dislike: "Narcissism, lack of knowledge, ego driven decisions, failure to understand policy."

Independent, leans Republican, did not vote:

Like: "i am disappointed in him"

Dislike: "trade war, the most. i also dislike his flirting with Putin"

Independent, leans to neither party, voted for a third party:

Like: " I don't like anything about him."

Dislike: "He has divided the country."

Independent, leans Democratic, voted for Clinton:

Like: "His hostility towards China, which I think has been granted unfair advantages in trade with the US since the 1980s."

Dislike: "He is an opportunist without a moral compass, he makes fun of people who criticize him (as a child would do), he is a liar, he is hostile to facts and knowledge."

Democrat, voted for Clinton:

Like: "not a thing"

Dislike: "His is rude, disrespectful and respects no one. He is all about himself and other rich folks. He does not have the presence a president should have and has made our country look foolish to others."

A substantial number of those who strongly disapprove of Trump offered

Like: "Nothing"

Dislike: "Everything"

Methodology:

The data for “In Their Own Words” are collected through a non-probability, online, sample of Wisconsin residents using open-ended responses. The sample is designed to be demographically similar to the Wisconsin population. The purpose of the data collection is to provide examples of open-ended responses to a variety of questions in the words of the respondents. It is **not** used to estimate quantitative information about public opinion. This study interviewed 203 Wisconsin respondents August 27-29, 2019.

Study Design:

Sample source and frame: Online non-probability panel targeting Wisconsin general population age 18+

Respondents sent e-mail inviting them to participate in an online survey on the Internet; discrete logon ID/password ensures their security will be maintained/they can complete the survey only once

Incentive: Prize Points from panel

Criteria for inclusion in the sample:

Respondents are:

- Adults, age 18+
- Currently living in Wisconsin

Nested quotas are used to account for representativeness of the study population, including gender, age, race and WI strata

5 strata, proportionate to population:

- Milwaukee city
- Rest of Milwaukee DMA (excluding city)
- Madison DMA
- Green Bay DMA
- Rest of the state of Wisconsin (excluding above areas)

Prof. Charles Franklin designed the survey instrument and presentation of results. The data collection was administered by LHK Partners, Inc., Newtown PA.