



Methodology

Marquette Law School Poll

Aug. 3-8, 2021

The Marquette Law School Poll was conducted Aug. 3-8, 2021. A total of 807 registered voters were interviewed by a combination of landline and cell phone using random digit dialing (RDD). Interviews were completed with 232 (29%) landline respondents and 575 (71%) cell phone respondents. The data collection was managed by SSRS, Glen Mills, PA, with telephone interviews conducted by MAXimum Research, Inc., Cherry Hill, NJ.

The geographic coverage of the sample was the 72 counties of the state of Wisconsin.

The sample size for registered voters is 807. The margin of error, including design effects due to post-stratification is ± 3.8 percentage points for the full sample. The weighted sample size for registered voters is the same as the unweighted sample size, 807.

Some items were asked of half the sample. Those on Form A were asked of 404 and have a margin of error of ± 5.4 percentage points. Form B items were asked of 403 and have a margin of error of ± 5.4 percentage points.

Items asked of half-samples include the accuracy of the vote count, if government is working or broken, the perception of rising crime, raising minimum wage, need for added unemployment benefits, concerns about inflation and illegal immigration, photo ID for voting, automatic voter registration, if voting laws are too strict or not strict enough and whether critical race theory should be taught in public schools.

Post-Stratification

Post-stratification, or weighting, compensates for patterns of non-response that shift sample characteristics from known population values. In telephone surveys it is common for potential respondents who are younger and have fewer years of formal education to exhibit higher rates of non-response resulting in these groups being under-represented in the sample. To compensate for these non-response effects the sample is weighted to bring sample demographic characteristics into line with the population values. In this sample the registered voter population values of age groups, education levels, geographic region of the state, marital status and sex were determined

using the 1996-2020 releases of the Current Population Survey (CPS) and data on registered voters supplied by the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC)).

A raking algorithm was used to simultaneously balance the weights so that the sample distribution closely approximates the known population distributions for age, education, geographic region, marital status, and sex. The population, raw sample size, unweighted and weighted percentages, as well as population parameters from the CPS and Wisconsin Elections Commissions are shown in the table below.

Comparison of final weighted data to CPS and WEC parameters

Group	Raw N	Wisconsin		Parameter
		Unweighted	Weighted	
Gender				
Male	441	55	48	48
Female	366	45	52	52
Gender and Marital Status				
Married Male	246	30	30	30
Married Female	196	24	31	31
Unmarried Male	195	24	18	18
Unmarried Female	170	21	21	21
Age				
18-29	105	13	15	15
30-39	88	11	16	16
40-49	97	12	14	14
50-59	133	16	17	17
60-69	175	22	22	22
70+	203	25	17	17
Age NA	6	1	1	
Education				
Less than high school	33	4	3	3
High school	183	23	26	27
Some college	142	18	19	19
Associates degree	119	15	12	12
College Graduate	188	23	25	25
Post-Graduate	136	17	13	13
Education NA	6	1	1	
Region				
City of Milwaukee	69	9	8	9
Rest of Milwaukee DMA	212	26	31	31
Madison DMA	164	20	18	18
Green Bay-Appleton DMA	148	18	19	19
Rest of Wisconsin	214	27	23	23

AAPOR Transparency Initiative Information

The Marquette Law School Poll follows the guidelines for disclosure of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative. For more information on the initiative see: <http://www.aapor.org/AAPORKentico/transparency.aspx>

1. The poll is sponsored by Marquette Law School.
2. The Marquette Law School Poll, under the direction of Prof. Charles Franklin, designed the survey instrument and sampling design. The data collection was administered by SSRS, Glen Mills, PA with telephone interviews conducted by MAXimum Research, Inc., Cherry Hill, NJ.
3. Funding for this study was provided by the Marquette Law School Alumni Annual Fund. Their support is gratefully acknowledged.
4. The full survey instrument is available online at <https://law.marquette.edu/poll/results-data/>
5. The population surveyed consists of registered voters in the 72 counties of Wisconsin. Registration is determined by self-report. Those who are not registered but who say they will register by election day and included as registered voters.
6. The sample frame is a dual frame landline and cell telephone sample using a random digit dialing design. Sampling was stratified by region of the state to provide approximately proportional sample sizes for each region.
7. The sample was supplied by Marketing Systems Group (MSG).
8. The dual-frame random digit dial design was used to ensure that both cell phone and landlines and listed and unlisted numbers would be included in the sample. Registered voters, age 18 and over, in the landline sample were selected using the “most recent birthday” method. Respondents were also screened to ensure they were current residents of the 72 counties of Wisconsin included in the sampling frame. Interviews in the cell phone sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone if they were registered voter, age 18 or over, and lived in one of the 72 Wisconsin counties.
9. The sample is a probability design using a random digit dialed (RDD) dual-frame design of cell phone and landline numbers.
10. See 8 and 9 above.
11. The sample was designed to be representative of the state of Wisconsin. The registered voter sample size is 807. The margin of error, including design effects due to post-stratification is ± 3.8 percentage points for the full sample. The weighted sample size for registered voters is the same as the unweighted sample size, 807.

Some items were asked of half the sample. Those on Form A were asked of 404 and have a margin of error of ± 5.4 percentage points. Form B items were asked of 403 and have a margin of error of ± 5.4 percentage points.

In this sample the population values of age groups, education levels, geographic region and sex were determined using the 1996-2020 data from the Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau in Wisconsin and from data on registered voters reported by the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

A raking algorithm was used to simultaneously balance the weights so that the sample distribution closely approximates the known population distributions for age, education, geographic region, and sex.

The design effect, $deff$, for a sample of size n and with each case having a weight, w_i , is calculated as:

$$deff = \frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^n w_i \right)^2}$$

Incorporating the design effect, the 95% confidence interval around a percentage is:

$$\hat{p} \pm \left(\sqrt{deff} \times 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1 - \hat{p})}{n - 1}} \right)$$

where \hat{p} is the sample estimate and n is unweighted number of cases.

The design effects due to post-stratification for the sample is 1.23. That effect is included in the calculated margin of error reported above.

12. The design effect has been incorporated in the calculation of all reported margins of error.
13. Results reported reflect the full sample within Wisconsin, with the margins of error corresponding to those reported above in item 11. When subsamples are reported the appropriate margin of error is also reported, as in item 11 above.
14. The survey was administered in English by telephone (landline and cell) using live interviewers. The data were collected Aug. 3-8, 2021.
15. Full results, including the complete instrument, topline results and crosstabs as well as this methodological report are available online at <https://law.marquette.edu/poll/results-data/>
For further information contact the survey director, Prof. Charles Franklin at Charles.franklin@marquette.edu