

PRRI/The Atlantic 2018 Voter Engagement Survey Wisconsin

Wisconsinites' Views of Problems With Current Election System

A majority of Wisconsin residents believe that the following are major problems with the current election system:

- More than six in ten (63%) of Wisconsin residents agree that wealthy individuals and corporations having too much influence is a major problem with the current election system.
- Roughly six in ten (59%) Wisconsin residents say that media bias against certain candidates is a major problem.
- Nearly six in ten (59%) Wisconsin residents cite too few people voting as a major problem.
- A majority (55%) agree that too many uninformed people voting is a major problem with the current election system.

Fewer Wisconsin residents say outside interference or influence from foreign governments (41%), voter disenfranchisement (32%), or voter fraud (29%) are major problems.

Few Wisconsin residents report having voting issues.

- Few Wisconsin residents report that they or a member of their household experienced the following the last time they attempted to vote: were unable to get off work to vote (6%), were told they did not have correct voter identification (5%), could not find the correct polling place (4%), missed the registration deadline (3%), or were harassed while trying to vote (2%).

Wisconsin residents express considerable uncertainty about voting laws and restrictions.

- Wisconsin residents express uncertainty about a number of voting laws in their state. A majority of Wisconsin residents are not sure if a resident of their state can vote without a permanent address (54%) or if they are late in paying taxes (53%). About half (47%) are not sure if voting is allowed if you have an outstanding traffic ticket or unpaid utility bill.
- Notably, nearly three in ten (29%) residents are uncertain whether citizenship is required to vote.
- More than seven in ten (71%) Wisconsin residents correctly say that their state allows early voting, and a majority (55%) know that the state allows same-day voter registration.

There is broad support among Wisconsin residents for expanding voting access and the popular vote.

- More than eight in ten (83%) Wisconsin residents are in favor of allowing same-day registration for voting.

- Close to three-quarters (72%) of Wisconsin residents believe that a person convicted of a felony should be allowed to vote after they have served their sentence.
- About six in ten (62%) Wisconsin residents believe that citizens should be automatically registered to vote when they do business with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or other state agencies, while around one-third (34%) of residents oppose this policy.
- Two-thirds (67%) of Wisconsin residents believe presidential elections should be based on the popular vote instead of the electoral college.

Wisconsinites Polarized Along Partisan, Racial Lines Heading Into Midterms

A majority of Wisconsin residents believe the country has gotten off on the wrong track.

- Sixty-two percent of Wisconsin residents say things in the country have gone off course, while 38% say things are heading in the right direction.
- Ninety-one percent of Wisconsin Democrats say things are off track, while 77% of Wisconsin Republicans say the country is headed in the right direction.

Most Wisconsin residents say coming demographic change is mostly positive.

- Sixty-one percent of Wisconsin residents say that the U.S. becoming majority nonwhite by 2043 will primarily be a positive change for the country. Thirty-four percent say this will be a mostly negative development for the U.S.

Most Wisconsin residents view Trump unfavorably, but men and women express somewhat different views.

- More than six in ten (61%) of Wisconsin residents view Trump unfavorably, while 37% say they have a favorable opinion of him.
- Wisconsin women are more likely than Wisconsin men to express a negative view of President Trump (67% vs. 56%). More than four in ten (42%) Wisconsin men have a favorable view of Trump.

Wisconsin Democrats are more likely to vote in the midterms than Republicans, but voters in the state are divided in their candidate preference.

- Roughly half (49%) of Wisconsin residents report they are absolutely certain to vote in the upcoming midterm election.
- However, Wisconsin Democrats (60%) are more likely than Wisconsin Republicans (52%) to say they are absolutely going to vote in the midterm election.
- Fifty percent of Wisconsin voters say they would vote for the Republican candidate in their election district, compared to 49% who say they would vote for the Democratic candidate.