

INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312

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WI voters narrowly against Walker recall but favor Feingold

Raleigh, N.C. – The frenzied political atmosphere in Wisconsin for most of the year and the failure of the Democrats to take control of the State Senate in last Tuesday’s recall elections appear to have dampened voters’ desire to recall Governor Scott Walker. When PPP last polled the question in May, Wisconsinites narrowly favored booting Walker from office before his current term is up, with 50% for it and 47% against it. Now that margin has reversed (47-50). Republicans, already almost unanimously against a recall, are now even more so (8% in favor and 89% opposed three months ago, and 6-94 now). On top of that, those in the middle of the fray, independents, have moved from 50-47 for a recall, just like the overall electorate, to 46-50 against.

On top of that, voters are not particularly upset with last week’s recall election results. 43% are happy with the outcomes, and 39% are unhappy. Since they took two seats but were unable to win a third for the majority, 17% of Democrats are happy, but 64% unhappy, and 19% not sure what to feel. Republicans are more unilaterally elated (73-13), and independents split at 41-38.

Despite their narrow opposition now to the prospect of a Walker recall, if activists succeed in petitioning for one, the governor would likely fall, though by narrower margins than when PPP last tested potential matchups in May. Against his best-known and best-liked potential Democratic opponent, Russ Feingold, Walker would lose, 52-45, up from 52-42 previously. He would also trail the Democrat he beat by almost six points last fall, Tom Barrett, 48-47, an improvement on his 50-43 deficit in May. Matched with two lesser-known figures, former Rep. David Obey and current Rep. Ron Kind, Walker would prevail by three points based mostly on name recognition.

“A Scott Walker recall is still in the realm of possibility,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But Democrats really might need Russ Feingold to run if they want to knock off Walker.”

PPP surveyed 830 Wisconsin voters from August 12th to 14th. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.4%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



Wisconsin Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Scott Walker's job performance?

Approve..... 45% Not sure 2%
Disapprove..... 53%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Russ Feingold?

Favorable..... 49%
Unfavorable 43%
Not sure 8%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tom Barrett?

Favorable..... 39%
Unfavorable 37%
Not sure 24%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of David Obey?

Favorable..... 24%
Unfavorable 33%
Not sure 43%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Kind?

Favorable..... 18%
Unfavorable 26%
Not sure 56%

Q6 Would you support or oppose recalling Scott Walker from office before his term is up?

Support..... 47%
Oppose..... 50%
Not sure 2%

Q7 If there was a recall election between Republican Scott Walker and Democrat Russ Feingold, who would you vote for?

Scott Walker 45%
Russ Feingold..... 52%
Undecided..... 2%

Q8 If there was a recall election between Republican Scott Walker and Democrat Tom Barrett, who would you vote for?

Scott Walker 47%
Tom Barrett..... 48%
Undecided..... 6%

Q9 If there was a recall election between Republican Scott Walker and Democrat David Obey, who would you vote for?

Scott Walker 47%
David Obey..... 44%
Undecided..... 10%

Q10 If there was a recall election between Republican Scott Walker and Democrat Ron Kind, who would you vote for?

Scott Walker 46%
Ron Kind..... 43%
Undecided..... 11%

Q11 Were you happy or unhappy with the results of Tuesday's State Senate recall elections?

Happy 43%
Unhappy 39%
Not sure 18%

Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 41%
Barack Obama..... 51%
Someone else/Don't remember 8%





Q13 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	11%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	22%
<i>Moderate</i>	29%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	21%
<i>Very conservative</i>	17%

Q14 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	55%
<i>Man</i>	45%

Q15 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i>	37%
<i>Republican</i>	34%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	29%

Q16 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

<i>White</i>	89%
<i>Other</i>	11%

Q17 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i>	12%
<i>30 to 45</i>	26%
<i>46 to 65</i>	42%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Walker Approval				
Approve	45%	87%	10%	48%
Disapprove	53%	11%	88%	48%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%	4%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Feingold Favorability				
Favorable	49%	12%	79%	46%
Unfavorable	43%	78%	14%	44%
Not sure	8%	10%	7%	10%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Barrett Favorability				
Favorable	39%	12%	63%	24%
Unfavorable	37%	62%	16%	46%
Not sure	24%	26%	21%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obey Favorability				
Favorable	24%	7%	38%	22%
Unfavorable	33%	50%	20%	29%
Not sure	43%	42%	42%	49%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Kind Favorability				
Favorable	18%	12%	23%	19%
Unfavorable	26%	26%	26%	26%
Not sure	56%	62%	51%	56%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Support/Oppose Walker Recall				
Support	47%	8%	77%	54%
Oppose	50%	91%	19%	44%
Not sure	2%	1%	4%	3%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Walker/Feingold				
Scott Walker	45%	87%	12%	46%
Russ Feingold	52%	12%	86%	48%
Undecided	2%	1%	2%	6%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Walker/Barrett				
Scott Walker	47%	88%	13%	45%
Tom Barrett	48%	11%	79%	40%
Undecided	6%	1%	8%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Walker/Obey				
Scott Walker	47%	88%	14%	41%
David Obey	44%	9%	72%	38%
Undecided	10%	3%	13%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Walker/Kind				
Scott Walker	46%	89%	12%	44%
Ron Kind	43%	8%	71%	39%
Undecided	11%	4%	17%	17%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Happy/Unhappy w/ Recall Results?				
Happy	43%	72%	21%	40%
Unhappy	39%	14%	61%	31%
Not sure	18%	15%	18%	29%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Walker Approval						
Approve	45%	8%	13%	28%	81%	92%
Disapprove	53%	92%	86%	67%	18%	7%
Not sure	2%	-	2%	5%	1%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Feingold Favorability						
Favorable	49%	81%	79%	62%	20%	4%
Unfavorable	43%	6%	19%	27%	70%	89%
Not sure	8%	13%	2%	11%	10%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Barrett Favorability						
Favorable	39%	66%	65%	46%	13%	9%
Unfavorable	37%	16%	17%	27%	58%	69%
Not sure	24%	18%	18%	27%	29%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obey Favorability						
Favorable	24%	45%	31%	34%	10%	4%
Unfavorable	33%	17%	22%	24%	42%	61%
Not sure	43%	38%	47%	41%	48%	35%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Kind Favorability						
Favorable	18%	24%	26%	20%	13%	8%
Unfavorable	26%	25%	21%	25%	27%	34%
Not sure	56%	51%	53%	55%	60%	59%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Support/Oppose Walker Recall						
Support	47%	87%	77%	59%	15%	5%
Oppose	50%	13%	21%	37%	84%	93%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%	4%	1%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Walker/Feingold						
Scott Walker	45%	9%	15%	31%	77%	91%
Russ Feingold	52%	87%	84%	66%	19%	7%
Undecided	2%	4%	1%	2%	3%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Walker/Barrett						
Scott Walker	47%	16%	15%	32%	80%	90%
Tom Barrett	48%	83%	81%	56%	16%	8%
Undecided	6%	1%	5%	13%	3%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Walker/Obey						
Scott Walker	47%	15%	13%	33%	82%	90%
David Obey	44%	78%	75%	51%	12%	8%
Undecided	10%	8%	12%	16%	6%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Walker/Kind						
Scott Walker	46%	12%	13%	32%	82%	90%
Ron Kind	43%	76%	74%	51%	12%	5%
Undecided	11%	12%	14%	18%	6%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Happy/Unhappy w/ Recall Results?						
Happy	43%	15%	20%	33%	70%	76%
Unhappy	39%	73%	62%	43%	18%	8%
Not sure	18%	13%	18%	24%	12%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Walker Approval			
Approve	45%	41%	50%
Disapprove	53%	56%	49%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Feingold Favorability			
Favorable	49%	53%	45%
Unfavorable	43%	38%	49%
Not sure	8%	10%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Barrett Favorability			
Favorable	39%	44%	33%
Unfavorable	37%	34%	42%
Not sure	24%	23%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obey Favorability			
Favorable	24%	20%	30%
Unfavorable	33%	30%	37%
Not sure	43%	50%	33%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kind Favorability			
Favorable	18%	17%	20%
Unfavorable	26%	24%	29%
Not sure	56%	60%	51%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Support/Oppose Walker Recall			
Support	47%	51%	43%
Oppose	50%	46%	56%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Walker/Feingold			
Scott Walker	45%	42%	50%
Russ Feingold	52%	57%	47%
Undecided	2%	2%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Walker/Barrett			
Scott Walker	47%	43%	51%
Tom Barrett	48%	52%	43%
Undecided	6%	6%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Walker/Obey			
Scott Walker	47%	42%	51%
David Obey	44%	46%	41%
Undecided	10%	12%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Walker/Kind			
Scott Walker	46%	43%	50%
Ron Kind	43%	44%	40%
Undecided	11%	13%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Happy/Unhappy w/ Recall Results?			
Happy	43%	41%	46%
Unhappy	39%	39%	39%
Not sure	18%	20%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Walker Approval				
Approve	45%	7%	87%	44%
Disapprove	53%	93%	10%	53%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Feingold Favorability				
Favorable	49%	84%	8%	52%
Unfavorable	43%	10%	83%	37%
Not sure	8%	6%	9%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Barrett Favorability				
Favorable	39%	68%	12%	33%
Unfavorable	37%	17%	61%	36%
Not sure	24%	16%	27%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obey Favorability				
Favorable	24%	39%	7%	27%
Unfavorable	33%	20%	49%	31%
Not sure	43%	41%	44%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Kind Favorability				
Favorable	18%	24%	12%	19%
Unfavorable	26%	25%	25%	28%
Not sure	56%	51%	63%	53%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Support/Oppose Walker Recall				
Support	47%	86%	6%	46%
Oppose	50%	11%	94%	50%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Walker/Feingold				
Scott Walker	45%	9%	87%	43%
Russ Feingold	52%	90%	11%	53%
Undecided	2%	1%	2%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Walker/Barrett				
Scott Walker	47%	10%	86%	46%
Tom Barrett	48%	84%	11%	44%
Undecided	6%	5%	3%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Walker/Obey				
Scott Walker	47%	11%	87%	45%
David Obey	44%	76%	10%	42%
Undecided	10%	13%	3%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Walker/Kind				
Scott Walker	46%	9%	88%	44%
Ron Kind	43%	77%	7%	39%
Undecided	11%	13%	4%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Happy/Unhappy w/ Recall Results?				
Happy	43%	17%	73%	41%
Unhappy	39%	64%	13%	38%
Not sure	18%	19%	14%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Walker Approval			
Approve	45%	46%	32%
Disapprove	53%	51%	68%
Not sure	2%	3%	-

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Feingold Favorability			
Favorable	49%	48%	56%
Unfavorable	43%	43%	39%
Not sure	8%	9%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Barrett Favorability			
Favorable	39%	38%	48%
Unfavorable	37%	37%	38%
Not sure	24%	25%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obey Favorability			
Favorable	24%	24%	24%
Unfavorable	33%	32%	38%
Not sure	43%	43%	37%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Kind Favorability			
Favorable	18%	18%	18%
Unfavorable	26%	26%	27%
Not sure	56%	56%	55%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Support/Oppose Walker Recall			
Support	47%	46%	58%
Oppose	50%	52%	38%
Not sure	2%	2%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Walker/Feingold			
Scott Walker	45%	47%	32%
Russ Feingold	52%	51%	64%
Undecided	2%	2%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Walker/Barrett			
Scott Walker	47%	48%	37%
Tom Barrett	48%	47%	52%
Undecided	6%	5%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Walker/Obey			
Scott Walker	47%	48%	34%
David Obey	44%	43%	52%
Undecided	10%	9%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Walker/Kind			
Scott Walker	46%	47%	36%
Ron Kind	43%	43%	41%
Undecided	11%	10%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Happy/Unhappy w/ Recall Results?			
Happy	43%	44%	34%
Unhappy	39%	38%	50%
Not sure	18%	18%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Walker Approval					
Approve	45%	33%	46%	44%	52%
Disapprove	53%	65%	53%	53%	46%
Not sure	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Feingold Favorability					
Favorable	49%	56%	42%	52%	46%
Unfavorable	43%	30%	53%	38%	47%
Not sure	8%	14%	5%	10%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Barrett Favorability					
Favorable	39%	37%	40%	41%	34%
Unfavorable	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%
Not sure	24%	26%	23%	22%	28%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obey Favorability					
Favorable	24%	23%	18%	29%	24%
Unfavorable	33%	35%	34%	29%	38%
Not sure	43%	42%	48%	42%	38%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kind Favorability					
Favorable	18%	23%	12%	22%	15%
Unfavorable	26%	23%	28%	23%	31%
Not sure	56%	53%	60%	54%	54%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Support/Oppose Walker Recall					
Support	47%	60%	44%	50%	38%
Oppose	50%	40%	54%	47%	58%
Not sure	2%	-	2%	3%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Walker/Feingold					
Scott Walker	45%	35%	50%	44%	50%
Russ Feingold	52%	63%	50%	54%	46%
Undecided	2%	2%	-	3%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Walker/Barrett					
Scott Walker	47%	40%	51%	44%	49%
Tom Barrett	48%	53%	47%	49%	42%
Undecided	6%	7%	2%	7%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Walker/Obey					
Scott Walker	47%	37%	52%	45%	49%
David Obey	44%	51%	42%	46%	38%
Undecided	10%	12%	7%	9%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Walker/Kind					
Scott Walker	46%	35%	51%	44%	50%
Ron Kind	43%	53%	40%	45%	34%
Undecided	11%	12%	9%	11%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Happy/Unhappy w/ Recall Results?					
Happy	43%	33%	43%	44%	49%
Unhappy	39%	49%	39%	39%	34%
Not sure	18%	19%	18%	18%	16%

