



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: JONATHAN CROOK 252-206-6192**

## **Wisconsin Voters Split Over Public Finance Bill**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Although the Impartial Justice Bill, which would create a full public finance system for the state Supreme Court elections, is being fought over in the Wisconsin legislature, Public Policy Polling finds that voters are split among those who favor the passage of the law, those who oppose it, and those who aren't sure.

37% of respondents said that they favor the passage of the bill, 28% oppose it, and 34% said they are not sure.

However, much like the voters in Alabama, West Virginia, and North Carolina, Wisconsin voters say that they are against public finance in general, and adopting any kind of public finance system for their own state Supreme Court elections.

Although they may be against public financing, 91% of Wisconsin voters are concerned with special interest groups that purchase advertising for Supreme Court candidate, and 72% think that campaign contributions influence the way judges make decisions.

“Although entities like the State Bar of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign have endorsed the Impartial Justice Bill, the citizens are still unconvinced that it will work,” said Jonathan Crook of Public Policy Polling. “The legislators that have been elected to act on behalf of their constituents will have a difficult decision to make.”

Not only are the Wisconsin voters wary of the Impartial Justice Bill, they are also unsure as to the effectiveness of any kind of public finance system. 36% of respondents said that they think public finance systems can reduce conflicts of interests, while 28% said no, and another 36% said they were not sure.

PPP surveyed 580 Wisconsin voters on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.1%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Jonathan Crook at (252) 206-6192.

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## Wisconsin Survey Results

**Q1** The Impartial Justice Bill, if passed in the Wisconsin state Legislature, would create a full public funding system for the Supreme Court elections in the state. Are you in favor of this law? If you strongly favor it, press 1. If you somewhat favor it, press 2. If you somewhat oppose it, press 3. If you strongly oppose it, press 4. If you're not sure, press 5.

*Strongly Favor* ..... 13%  
*Somewhat Favor*..... 24%  
*Somewhat Oppose* ..... 18%  
*Strongly Oppose* ..... 10%  
*Not Sure*..... 34%

**Q2** Do you feel like judicial candidates are able to accept campaign financing from private entities like lawyers and law firms without creating a conflict of interests? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* ..... 10%  
*No*..... 74%  
*Not Sure*..... 16%

**Q3** Do you think that there should be more strict spending limits for Wisconsin's Supreme Court elections? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* ..... 77%  
*No* ..... 8%  
*Not Sure*..... 15%

**Q4** Would you be in favor of any kind of public finance system for Wisconsin's Supreme Court elections? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* ..... 30%  
*No*..... 43%  
*Not Sure*..... 28%

**Q5** Do you think that a public finance system would be effective in reducing conflicts of interest in Wisconsin's Supreme Court? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* ..... 36%  
*No*..... 28%  
*Not Sure*..... 36%

**Q6** Do you agree with the concept of public finance in general for state, judicial, or federal elections? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* ..... 32%  
*No*..... 40%  
*Not Sure*..... 28%

**Q7** Do you think that campaign contributions influence the way that judges make decisions in the courtroom? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* ..... 72%  
*No*..... 12%  
*Not Sure*..... 16%

**Q8** Are you concerned about special interest groups buying advertisements for judicial candidates in order to sway elections? If you are very concerned, press 1. If you are somewhat concerned, press 2. If you are somewhat unconcerned, press 3. If you are not concerned at all, press 4.

*Very Concerned*..... 66%  
*Somewhat Concerned* ..... 25%  
*Somewhat Unconcerned*..... 7%  
*Not Concerned*..... 1%





**Q9** If you would define yourself as being liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 22%  
*Moderate*..... 39%  
*Conservative*..... 39%

**Q10** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 50%  
*Man*..... 50%

**Q11** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

*Democrat* ..... 42%  
*Republican*..... 32%  
*Independent/Other*..... 26%

**Q12** If you are white, press 1. If African American, press 2. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 89%  
*African American* ..... 6%  
*Other*..... 6%

**Q13** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 15%  
*30 to 45*..... 25%  
*46 to 65*..... 40%  
*Older than 65*..... 20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Impartial Justice Bill Favorability</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	13%	28%	14%	4%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	24%	23%	32%	18%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	18%	5%	18%	26%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	10%	3%	6%	17%
<b>Not Sure</b>	34%	41%	31%	34%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Accepting Finance Without Conflicts of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	10%	11%	8%	12%
<b>No</b>	74%	71%	76%	72%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	18%	16%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Stricter Spending Limits</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	77%	73%	81%	74%
<b>No</b>	8%	5%	7%	11%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	22%	12%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Public Finance Favorability</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	30%	50%	29%	19%
<b>No</b>	43%	22%	42%	55%
<b>Not Sure</b>	28%	27%	29%	27%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Would Public Finance Be Effective</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>36%</b>	53%	38%	25%
<b>No</b>	<b>28%</b>	15%	27%	35%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>36%</b>	32%	35%	40%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Agree with Public Funding in General</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>32%</b>	54%	32%	20%
<b>No</b>	<b>40%</b>	26%	37%	50%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>28%</b>	20%	31%	30%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Do Campaign Contributions Influence</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>72%</b>	64%	68%	81%
<b>No</b>	<b>12%</b>	18%	13%	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>16%</b>	18%	20%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Special Interest Groups Concern</b>				
<b>Very Concerned</b>	<b>66%</b>	61%	67%	69%
<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	<b>25%</b>	33%	25%	22%
<b>Somewhat Unconcerned</b>	<b>7%</b>	6%	8%	7%
<b>Not Concerned</b>	<b>1%</b>	1%	1%	2%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Impartial Justice Bill Favorability</b>			
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	13%	10%	16%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	24%	27%	22%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	18%	16%	20%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	10%	7%	13%
<b>Not Sure</b>	34%	40%	29%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Accepting Finance Without Conflicts of Interests</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	10%	9%	11%
<b>No</b>	74%	71%	76%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	20%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Stricter Spending Limits</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	77%	74%	79%
<b>No</b>	8%	6%	10%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	20%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Public Finance Favorability</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	30%	22%	38%
<b>No</b>	43%	42%	44%
<b>Not Sure</b>	28%	37%	19%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Would Public Finance Be Effective</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>36%</b>	33%	40%
<b>No</b>	<b>28%</b>	23%	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>36%</b>	44%	28%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Agree with Public Funding in General</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>32%</b>	28%	37%
<b>No</b>	<b>40%</b>	37%	42%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>28%</b>	36%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Do Campaign Contributions Influence</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>72%</b>	65%	79%
<b>No</b>	<b>12%</b>	12%	12%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>16%</b>	23%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Special Interest Groups Concern</b>			
<b>Very Concerned</b>	<b>66%</b>	62%	71%
<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	<b>25%</b>	29%	22%
<b>Somewhat Unconcerned</b>	<b>7%</b>	7%	6%
<b>Not Concerned</b>	<b>1%</b>	2%	1%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Impartial Justice Bill Favorability</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	13%	18%	3%	18%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	24%	31%	18%	22%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	18%	13%	20%	24%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	10%	1%	20%	11%
<b>Not Sure</b>	34%	36%	38%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Accepting Finance Without Conflicts of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	10%	10%	12%	7%
<b>No</b>	74%	71%	66%	87%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	19%	22%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Stricter Spending Limits</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	77%	77%	75%	79%
<b>No</b>	8%	7%	13%	5%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	16%	13%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Public Finance Favorability</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	30%	36%	16%	35%
<b>No</b>	43%	34%	58%	38%
<b>Not Sure</b>	28%	30%	26%	27%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Would Public Finance Be Effective</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	36%	46%	23%	37%
<b>No</b>	28%	21%	36%	28%
<b>Not Sure</b>	36%	33%	41%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Agree with Public Funding in General</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	32%	40%	20%	35%
<b>No</b>	40%	34%	51%	35%
<b>Not Sure</b>	28%	27%	29%	30%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Do Campaign Contributions Influence</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	72%	64%	76%	79%
<b>No</b>	12%	15%	12%	7%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	21%	12%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Special Interest Groups Concern</b>				
<b>Very Concerned</b>	66%	63%	64%	75%
<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	25%	30%	25%	19%
<b>Somewhat Unconcerned</b>	7%	5%	10%	6%
<b>Not Concerned</b>	1%	1%	2%	1%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Impartial Justice Bill Favorability</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	13%	12%	26%	19%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	24%	23%	47%	23%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	18%	19%	18%	3%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	10%	10%	2%	18%
<b>Not Sure</b>	34%	36%	7%	38%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Accepting Finance Without Conflicts of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	10%	10%	21%	3%
<b>No</b>	74%	74%	65%	75%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	16%	14%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Stricter Spending Limits</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	77%	77%	75%	64%
<b>No</b>	8%	8%	13%	5%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	15%	12%	31%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Public Finance Favorability</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	30%	28%	51%	24%
<b>No</b>	43%	43%	38%	51%
<b>Not Sure</b>	28%	29%	11%	26%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Would Public Finance Be Effective</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	36%	36%	50%	29%
<b>No</b>	28%	27%	37%	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	36%	38%	13%	39%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Agree with Public Funding in General</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	32%	31%	49%	25%
<b>No</b>	40%	39%	32%	57%
<b>Not Sure</b>	28%	30%	20%	18%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Do Campaign Contributions Influence</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	72%	73%	51%	74%
<b>No</b>	12%	11%	31%	4%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	15%	17%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Special Interest Groups Concern</b>				
<b>Very Concerned</b>	66%	67%	57%	71%
<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	25%	25%	36%	27%
<b>Somewhat Unconcerned</b>	7%	7%	7%	2%
<b>Not Concerned</b>	1%	1%	-	-





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Impartial Justice Bill Favorability</b>					
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	13%	8%	11%	17%	13%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	24%	19%	26%	24%	26%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	18%	12%	19%	19%	20%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	10%	8%	15%	8%	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	34%	54%	29%	32%	32%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Accepting Finance Without Conflicts of Interests</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	10%	8%	10%	9%	15%
<b>No</b>	74%	69%	78%	75%	68%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	23%	12%	16%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Stricter Spending Limits</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	77%	85%	74%	74%	78%
<b>No</b>	8%	4%	11%	7%	10%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	12%	15%	18%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Public Finance Favorability</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	30%	31%	30%	28%	30%
<b>No</b>	43%	42%	52%	37%	43%
<b>Not Sure</b>	28%	27%	18%	35%	27%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Would Public Finance Be Effective</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	<b>36%</b>	31%	38%	36%	37%
<b>No</b>	<b>28%</b>	42%	34%	22%	19%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>36%</b>	27%	27%	41%	44%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Agree with Public Funding in General</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	<b>32%</b>	31%	33%	33%	30%
<b>No</b>	<b>40%</b>	42%	47%	34%	40%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>28%</b>	27%	21%	33%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Do Campaign Contributions Influence</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	<b>72%</b>	85%	74%	71%	63%
<b>No</b>	<b>12%</b>	8%	15%	11%	13%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>16%</b>	8%	11%	18%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Special Interest Groups Concern</b>					
<b>Very Concerned</b>	<b>66%</b>	65%	64%	66%	70%
<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	<b>25%</b>	31%	23%	26%	23%
<b>Somewhat Unconcerned</b>	<b>7%</b>	4%	11%	6%	6%
<b>Not Concerned</b>	<b>1%</b>	-	1%	2%	1%

