

May, 1999 Legislative Questionnaire Results

Thank you again for taking the time to fill out and send back the survey to me. Look for more discussion of these results and other issues in the weeks ahead.

I look forward to continuing to hear from you in the future as I do my best to represent us in the State Legislature.

As always, please contact me any time I can be of assistance on any issue of concern to you.

Thanks again,



Bob Ziegler
State Representative
25th Assembly District

PUBLIC SAFETY

- How safe do you feel living in our community?
20% Very Safe 77% Comfortably Safe
3% Unsafe
- In the Manitowoc County area, how good of a job do you feel that the police are doing in protecting the community from gang activity?
35% Very good 52% OK 6% Poor
- Are you in favor of a proposal which would make it legal for doctors to "assist" in the suicides of terminally ill patients who request it?
41% Yes 40% No 19% Undecided
- How do you feel about our current set of penalties and the enforcement of laws relating to drunken driving?
13% Too harsh 53% About right
32% Too lenient
- Would you support proposals allowing for primary enforcement of the mandatory seatbelt law (motorists could be stopped and ticketed for this alone)?
21% Yes 69% No 11% Undecided
- Should the death penalty be reinstated in Wisconsin?
51% Yes 27% No 22% Undecided

SMOKING

- Wisconsin is due to receive tens of millions of dollars over the next twenty years as a result of an out of court settlement with the tobacco industry which will result in dramatically increased prices for their products. How would you like to see these funds used?
70% Broad based tax cuts
10% New governmental spending programs aimed at preventing tobacco use
20% Funding existing government programs
- Would you be in favor of increasing penalties for adults who provide tobacco products to minors?
92% Yes 50% No 11% Undecided

- Do you favor raising taxes on cigarettes (and cigarette smokers) as a way to discourage smoking and raise revenue for new government health programs?
57% Yes 34% No 2% Undecided

LOCAL

- What is your opinion of the present working relationship between our local city government and our county government?
4% Very good 50% OK 46% Poor
- If not very good, who do you feel is primarily at fault?
28% City 10% County 62% Both
- Manitowoc County owns and operates a nursing home known as the Health Care Center. It is experiencing operating losses approaching \$1 million per year. A number of alternatives have been offered. Which would you favor?
22% Continue at the current location, cut costs and pay for annual operating deficits with increased local property taxes if necessary.
12% Vigorously explore ways to get out of the nursing home business entirely.
31% Build a more efficient and downsized facility at a new location using the value of the land at the current site as an endowment fund for the new Health Care Center to cover construction and future operating losses.
35% Undecided, I need more information.
- Do you feel that the County Board's decision making process on the Health Care Center issue is moving along satisfactorily?
57% Yes, the County Board should continue to take its time to analyze all options before deciding whether or not to change the size or location of the Health Care Center, regardless of how long it takes.
34% No, the County Board needs to make a decision on this issue with all deliberate speed in the near future.
22% Undecided
- Currently, Manitowoc County is experiencing budgetary problems with the funding of the Human Services department. As a result, a number of programs aimed at preventing child abuse and juvenile delinquency have had to be curtailed or abandoned. Would you favor cuts in other areas of County government in order for the County to fund programs aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency, strengthening families, and protecting children in dangerous situations?
58% Yes 12% No 22% Undecided

Taverns & Gambling

- Do you favor legalizing video poker gambling in taverns?
50% Yes 52% No 12% Undecided
- Would you support lowering the drinking age to 18 for all alcoholic beverages in Wisconsin, if no federal highway funds were lost to Wisconsin as a result?
22% Yes 62% No 2% Undecided

- Would you support lowering the drinking age FOR BEER ONLY to 18 in Wisconsin, if no federal highway funds were lost to Wisconsin as a result?
47% Yes 52% No 8% Undecided

EDUCATION

- Do you favor a new law recently passed which requires public school students to be given periodic standardized tests (4th, 8th, and 12th grade) to measure their proficiency at various grade levels that they must pass in order to be promoted to the next grade and graduate?
72% Yes 17% No 11% Undecided
- Would you support proposals which would loosen the current system of controls which limit increases in spending by public school districts and limit the pay increases available to public school teachers?
34% Yes 48% No 18% Undecided
- Would you be in favor of requiring that all junior high students take a tour of a state prison facility as part of their school curriculum as a deterrent to crime and gang influences?
62% Yes 10% No 12% Undecided

ELECTIONS

- Would you seriously consider voting for Tommy Thompson if he ran for President in 2000?
34% Yes 49% No 20% Undecided
- Would you seriously consider voting for a woman candidate for President in the year 2000 election?
61% Yes 12% No 12% Undecided
- Do you favor proposals to limit the terms of elected state and federal officials to 12 consecutive years in one office?
67% Yes 20% No 13% Undecided
- While it is ideal to have both, in your view, which characteristic is MORE important for elected political leaders?
43% High moral personal behavior
55% Good job performance

TAXES

- One of the biggest issues to be resolved in the upcoming State Budget, will be what to do with the budget surplus. Tax cuts are likely to be a major item in the mix. Which tax that you pay would you prefer to see cut? (Choose only one.)
40% Property Tax
32% Income Tax
6% Sales Tax
11% None, use the surplus for existing programs.
- Would you be in favor of using State tax revenues to assist the Green Bay Packers in future renovation or construction of their stadium?
12% Yes 79% No 2% Undecided