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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday April 4, 2019

Poll reveals overwhelming support for enhanced taxpayer protection in public construction projects

(Madison)...Wisconsin residents overwhelmingly support laws that create new levels of taxpayer protection and highlights Wisconsin-based employers in publicly-funded construction projects.

The proposals would impact publicly-funded infrastructure projects and create a series of new protections for taxpayers from being burdened with hidden costs by companies that bid on taxpayer-funded projects that require low bids. In addition, the poll demonstrates strong support for ensuring Wisconsin workers are building Wisconsin projects.

“There is clear-cut and passionate support for a series of taxpayer protections that increase transparency and foster highly skilled Wisconsin workers’ ability to compete aggressively for public projects in the state,” says Robb Kahl, WIIN’s executive director. “These reforms would be similar to various protections already in place in other states and prevent dumping hidden costs on taxpayers.”

Among the findings:

- More than 90% of voters support laws that require public bids accurately reflect all taxpayers’ costs associated with a company’s bids.
- More than 2/3rds of voters support eliminating loopholes and making workers independent contractors to avoid paying worker’s compensation and avoiding paying employment taxes.
- 2/3rds support protections that would prevent contractors from forcing employees onto taxpayer-funded healthcare rather than paying them as part of their contract.
- More than 80% of the voters polled support provisions ensuring Wisconsin workers are building Wisconsin projects keeping the taxpayer funds in our state.

“These reforms protect Wisconsin taxpayers by increasing the integrity of the bidding process and not letting out-of-state firms undercut Wisconsin contractors by misclassifying workers and dumping hidden costs onto taxpayers without them knowing,” said Kahl.

About the poll: Public Opinion Strategies conducted this statewide survey from March 3-5, 2019. The survey was paid for by Wisconsin Infrastructure Investment Now, Inc. (WIIN).

See the attached memorandum and presentation from Public Opinion Strategies (POS).



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: GENE ULM—PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES
SUBJECT: RECENT WISCONSIN SURVEY DATA
DATE: APRIL 3, 2019

The following memorandum is based on a statewide survey of 500 likely voters completed in Wisconsin March 3-5, 2019. The margin of error for the survey is plus or minus 4.38%. Two hundred interviews were completed via cell phone.

Key findings:

1. Wisconsinites support company bids that include taxpayer protections and transparent wages of their workers.

- Ninety-one percent of likely voters believe a company's bid must accurately show the wages and benefits of their workers, removing the risk of hidden costs for taxpayers.
- Over two-thirds (68%) support bids eliminating loopholes that allow employers to label employees as consultants to avoid paying various taxes.
- Additionally, 67% support bids protecting taxpayers from forcing workers onto taxpayer funded health care rather than paying for them as part of their contract.

2. Over eight-in-ten likely voters support making sure that companies disclose whether they are a majority Wisconsin-based company.

- Eighty-two percent of likely voters support the change that would make companies disclose whether or not they are a majority Wisconsin-based company with Wisconsin employees receiving preferential treatment in the bidding process.



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

Wisconsin Statewide Survey



500 Likely Voters
March 3-5, 2019

Gene Ulm | PARTNER
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#19075

TURNING QUESTIONS INTO ANSWERS



Methodology

Public Opinion Strategies presents the key findings from a statewide survey of 500 likely voters in Wisconsin. The survey was conducted March 3-5, 2019 and has a margin of error of $\pm 4.38\%$.

Gene Ulm was the primary researcher and pollster on the project. Brian O'Bannon was the project director and Michael Lopez provided analytical assistance.

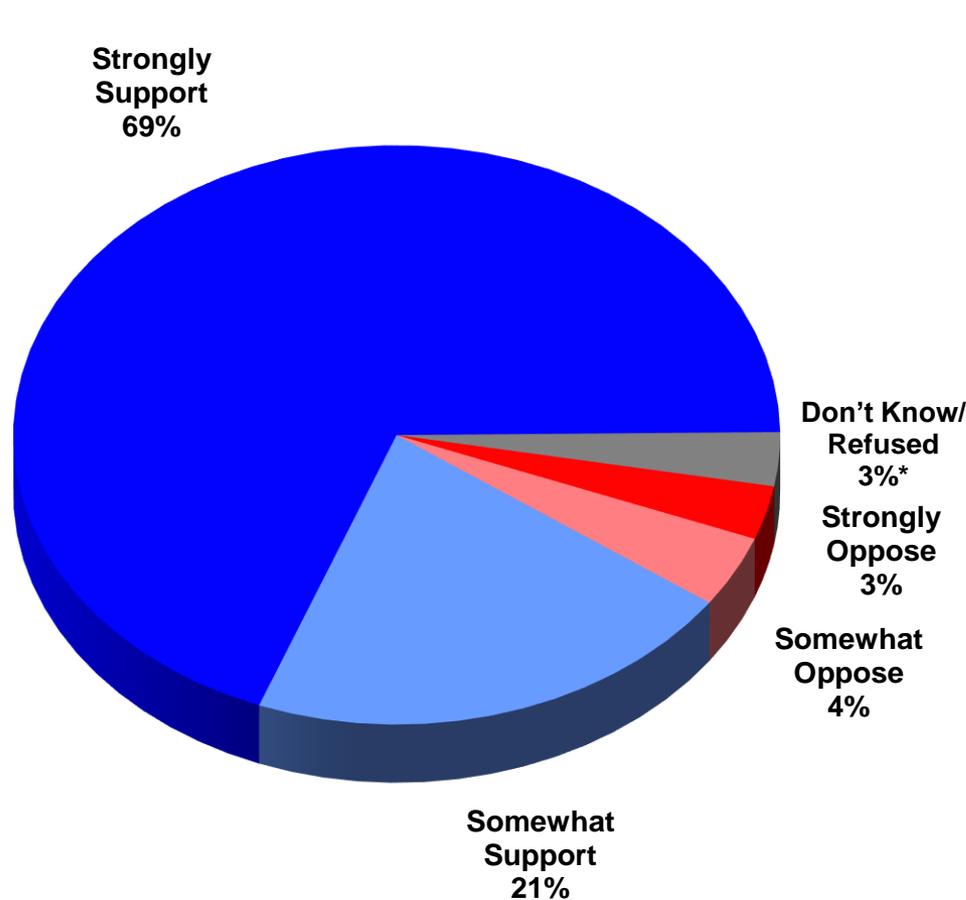


Taxpayer Protections

Nine-in-ten voters support making a company's bid accurately reflect the wages and benefits of their workers with no hidden costs.

There is a proposal that if adopted would change how companies bid for taxpayer funded state and local construction projects like road construction, water, sewer, and other infrastructure. I am going to read a number of these proposed changes and after I read each one please tell me if you support or oppose that change.

The company's bid must accurately and fully reflect the wages and benefits their workers receive with no hidden costs that taxpayers will pay for elsewhere.



		Lean/		
		GOP	IND	Dem
Total Support	91%	90%	89%	94%
Total Oppose	8%	10%	8%	5%

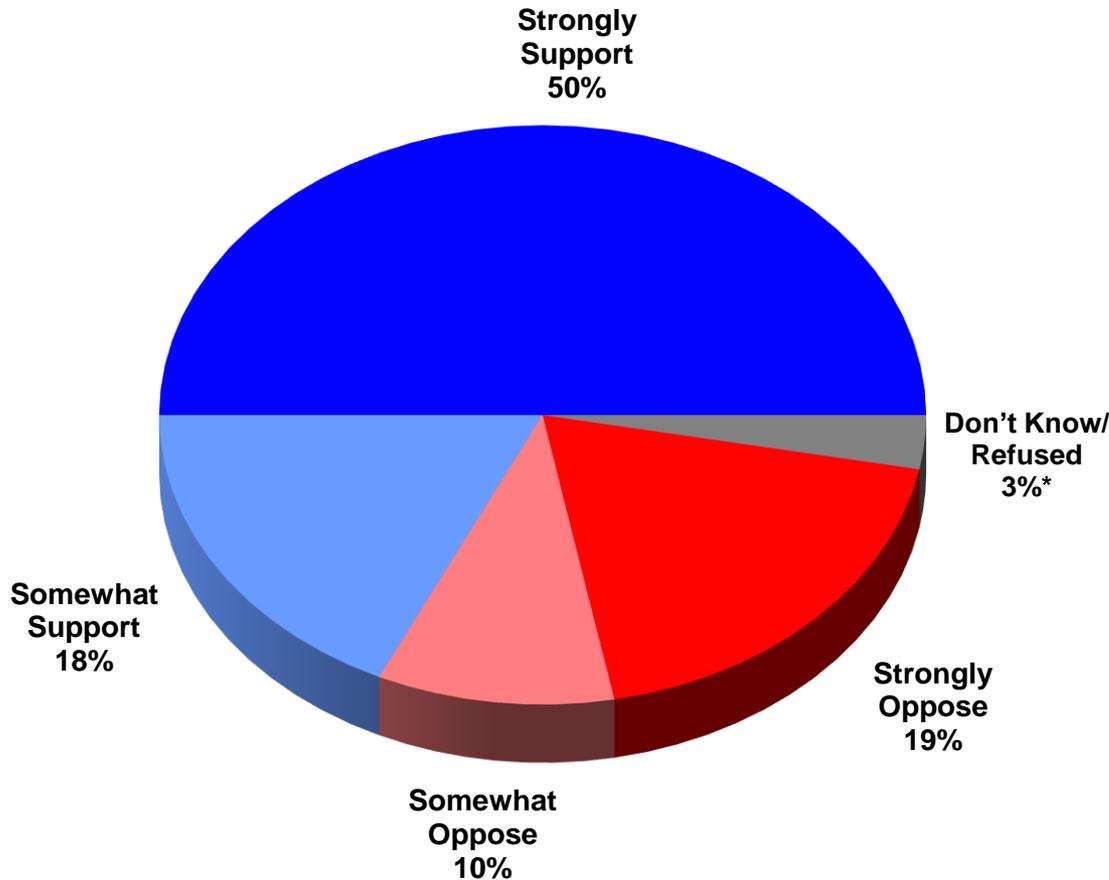
	Support	Oppose
Milwaukee DMA	91%	7%
Milwaukee DMA w/o Milwaukee County	89%	10%
Madison DMA	87%	11%
Green Bay/Appleton DMA	92%	7%
Wausau/Rhinelanders DMA	92%	5%
Northern DMA	90%	7%
La Crosse/Eau Claire DMA	95%	5%

*Denotes rounding

About two-thirds of voters also support eliminating loopholes that allow employers to avoid paying taxes.

There is a proposal that if adopted would change how companies bid for taxpayer funded state and local construction projects like road construction, water, sewer, and other infrastructure. I am going to read a number of these proposed changes and after I read each one please tell me if you support or oppose that change.

The company's bid must eliminate loopholes in the current law that allow employers to label employees as consultants to avoid paying Social Security, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or AFDC, Workers Compensation Insurance or withholding of federal, state and local taxes.



		Lean/		
		GOP	IND	Dem
Total Support	68%	61%	67%	78%
Total Oppose	29%	36%	29%	20%

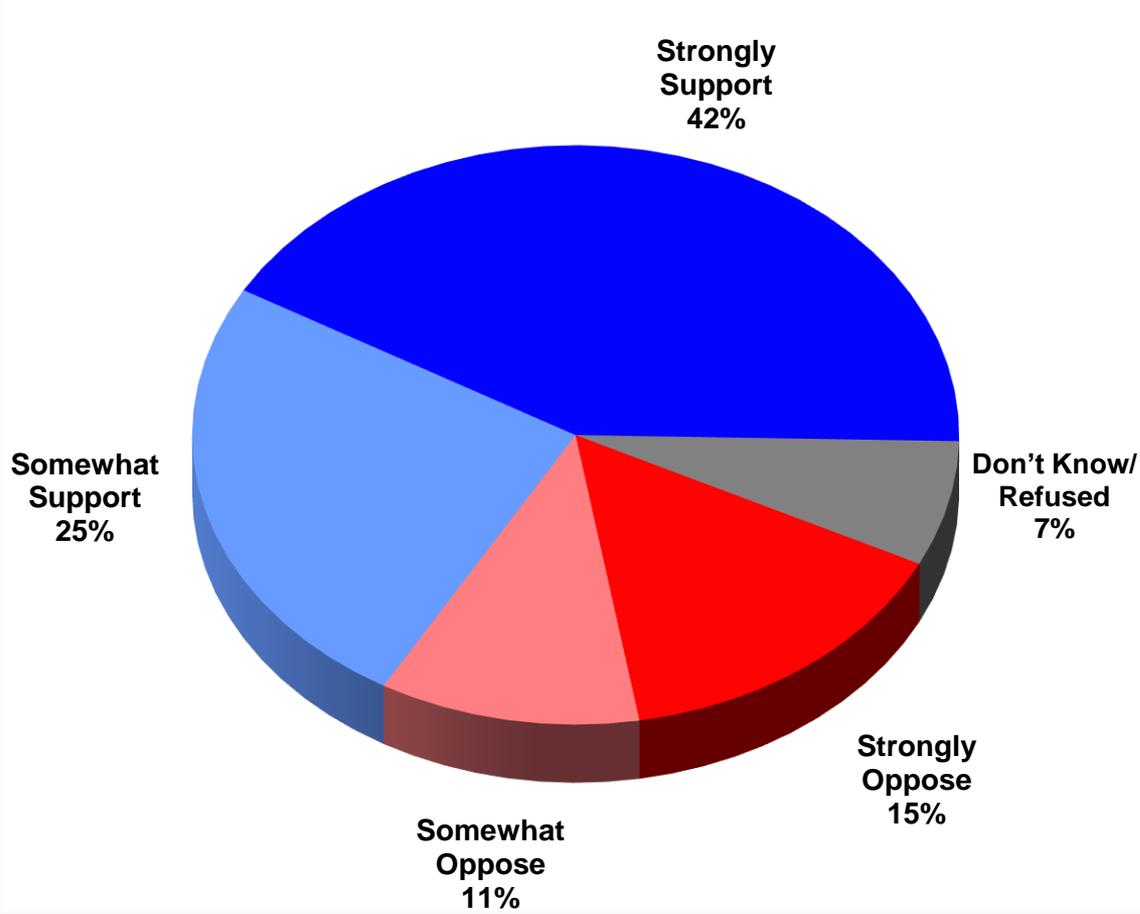
	Support	Oppose
Milwaukee DMA	67%	29%
Milwaukee DMA w/o Milwaukee County	65%	31%
Madison DMA	71%	28%
Green Bay/Appleton DMA	63%	34%
Wausau/Rhinelanders DMA	77%	18%
Northern DMA	69%	29%
La Crosse/Eau Claire DMA	68%	29%

*Denotes rounding

Two-thirds of voters support protections from forcing workers onto taxpayer-funded health care.

There is a proposal that if adopted would change how companies bid for taxpayer funded state and local construction projects like road construction, water, sewer, and other infrastructure. I am going to read a number of these proposed changes and after I read each one please tell me if you support or oppose that change.

The company's bid must protect taxpayers from forcing workers onto taxpayer funded health care, BadgerCare or other taxpayer funded benefits rather than paying for them as part of their contract.



		Lean/		
		GOP	IND	Dem
Total Support	67%	64%	66%	71%
Total Oppose	26%	31%	25%	23%

	Support	Oppose
Milwaukee DMA	66%	25%
Milwaukee DMA w/o Milwaukee County	68%	23%
Madison DMA	71%	24%
Green Bay/Appleton DMA	62%	34%
Wausau/Rhinelanders DMA	74%	23%
Northern DMA	63%	19%
La Crosse/Eau Claire DMA	67%	28%

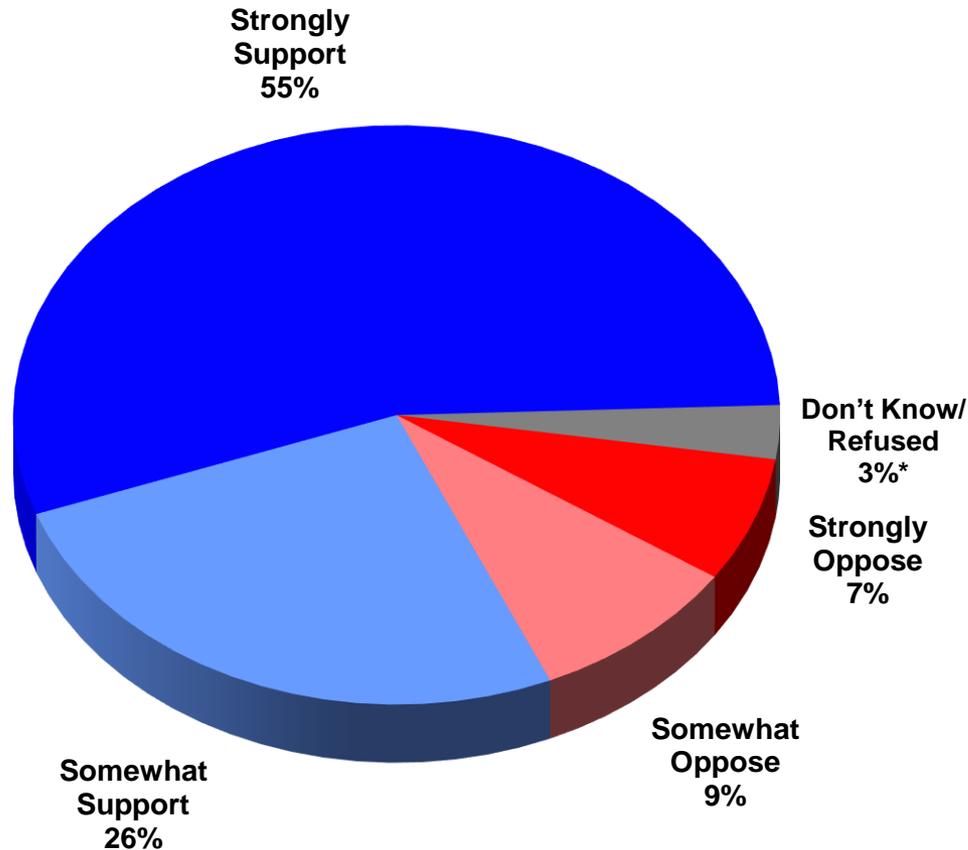


Wisconsin-Based

The change that would make bids disclose if a company is a majority Wisconsin-based company with Wisconsin employees receiving preferential treatment in the bidding process also gains support from eight-in-ten voters.

There is a proposal that if adopted would change how companies bid for taxpayer funded state and local construction projects like road construction, water, sewer, and other infrastructure. I am going to read a number of these proposed changes and after I read each one please tell me if you support or oppose that change.

Companies must disclose whether or not they are a majority Wisconsin-based company with Wisconsin employees receiving preferential treatment in the bidding process.



		Lean/		
		GOP	IND	Dem
Total Support	82%	77%	78%	91%
Total Oppose	16%	22%	19%	7%

	Support	Oppose
Milwaukee DMA	78%	20%
Milwaukee DMA w/o Milwaukee County	79%	20%
Madison DMA	86%	14%
Green Bay/Appleton DMA	85%	12%
Wausau/Rhinelanders DMA	82%	13%
Northern DMA	81%	16%
La Crosse/Eau Claire DMA	82%	16%

*Denotes rounding



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

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