

**Milwaukee Public School District (4, 6 and 7)  
A Survey of Likely General Election Voters**

January 15, 2008

**Sample size: 400 Likely Voters**

**Gender**

Men	47%
Women	53%

1. Are you 18 or older and registered to vote?

Yes	100%
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2. I know it's still a long way off, but what are the chances of you voting in the Milwaukee Public School Board elections in April of this year – are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or don't you think you will vote?

Almost certain	71%
Probably	20%
50-50	9%

3. Regardless of how you are registered to vote, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

Democrat	56%
Independent	23%
Republican	11%
(Other)	7%
(Don't know/ Refused)	3%

4. **SPLIT 1A:** Thinking about the direction the Milwaukee Public Schools are headed, generally speaking, are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the direction in which the Milwaukee Public Schools are headed? **[IF RESPONDENT SAYS “SATISFIED” OR “DISSATISFIED,” PROBE WITH]** And is that somewhat or very satisfied/dissatisfied?

Total satisfied	25%
Total dissatisfied	64%
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Very satisfied	2%
Somewhat satisfied	23%
Somewhat dissatisfied	36%
Very dissatisfied	28%
(Don't know/ Refused)	11%

5. **SPLIT 1B:** Do you APPROVE or DISAPPROVE of the job the current Milwaukee Public School Board is doing? **[PROBE:** And is that STRONGLY (approve/disapprove) or SOMEWHAT (approve/disapprove)?]

Total approve	29%
Total disapprove	61%
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Strongly approve	7%
Somewhat approve	22%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	40%
(Don't know/ Refused)	10%

6. I am now going to read you two statements about the Milwaukee Public Schools. Please tell me which of these statements is closer to your own point of view. **[ROTATE ORDER. READ FIRST STATEMENT, SAY “OR”, READ SECOND STATEMENT.]**

With the right leadership in place, MPS as it exists today can make solid progress on improving student achievement over the next few years	36%
MPS has so many problems that something drastic needs to change for Milwaukee to make any real progress on student achievement	58%
(Don't know/ Refused)	6%

7a. **[DISTRICT 6 ONLY]:** Thinking now about Milwaukee School Board president Peter Blewett **[BLEW-itt]**, do you believe that he deserves to be re-elected to the Milwaukee Public School Board, or do you believe it is time for someone new?

Deserves re-election	20%
Time for someone new	54%
(Don't know/ Refused)	26%

7b. **[DISTRICT 4 ONLY]:** Thinking now about Milwaukee School Board member Charlene Hardin **[HARD-inn]** do you believe that she deserves to be re-elected to the Milwaukee Public School Board, or do you believe it is time for someone new?

Deserves re-election	15%
Time for someone new	50%
(Don't know/ Refused)	35%

Now, I'd like you to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations using a scale from zero to one hundred, on which a "100" means that you feel VERY WARM and FAVORABLE toward that person or organization, a "0" means that you feel VERY COLD and UNFAVORABLE, and a "50" means that you do not feel particularly warm or cold. You may use any number from zero to one hundred, depending on how you feel. If you have no opinion or have never heard of a person or organization, please say so. **[IF "NO OPINION" OR "DON'T KNOW," RECORD AS 101. IF "NEVER HEARD OF," RECORD AS 102.]**

<b>[ASK Q8 FIRST. ALL OTHERS, READ AND ROTATE]</b>	<b>Mean Score</b>
8. Barack Obama	81.2
9. Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker	43.7
10. Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett <b>[BARE-itt]</b>	62.5
11. The Milwaukee Public School Board	42.3
12. The Teachers Union in the Milwaukee Public Schools	52.5
13. Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent William Andrekopoulos <b>[an-drah-KOPP-ah-liss]</b>	46.9
<b>14. DISTRICT 4 ONLY:</b>	
a. Charlene Hardin <b>[HARD-enn]</b>	37.9
b. Annie Woodward	51.3
c. Gloria Gaston <b>[GAS-tinn]</b>	44.2
d. Mike Mathias <b>[mith-AYE-iss]</b>	42.2

	<b>Mean Score</b>
<b>[ASK Q8 FIRST. ALL OTHERS, READ AND ROTATE]</b>	
<b>15. DISTRICT 6 ONLY</b>	
a. Peter Blewett [ <b>BLEW-itt</b> ]	42.4
b. Redonna [ <b>rah-DONN-ah</b> ] Rodgers	39.7
c. Charlene Hardin [ <b>HARD-enn</b> ]	32.5
<b>16. DISTRICT 7 ONLY</b>	
a. David Voeltner [ <b>VOLT-nerr</b> ]	40.6
b. Donna Peck	42.5
c. Felicia [ <b>fell-EE-SEE-ah</b> ] Owen	37.8
d. Charlie Sykes [ <b>SIKES</b> ]	44.9

## ISSUE POSITIONS

I am now going to read you sets of statements about issues facing the Milwaukee Public Schools. After each set of statements, please tell me which is closer to your own point of view.

17. **SPLIT 2A:** In terms of the level of property taxes and education funding in the city of Milwaukee, do you believe that: **[ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP, SAY “OR” BETWEEN EACH]**

Property tax levels in Milwaukee are too high and need to be reduced, even if it means cutting education budgets	43%
Property tax levels in Milwaukee are about right, given the educational services MPS provides	32%
Property tax levels should be raised to provide additional funding for education in Milwaukee	16%
(Don't Know / Refused)	8%

18. **SPLIT 2B:** Currently, many parents in the city of Milwaukee use taxpayer funded vouchers to send their children to private schools. Do you believe that **[ROTATE ORDER. READ FIRST STATEMENT, SAY “OR”, READ SECOND STATEMENT.]**

Vouchers are destructive to public education, taking funding and students away from public schools.	41%
Vouchers are a pragmatic approach to ensuring Milwaukee parents have a variety of options for their children’s education, even if it is at a private school.	53%
(Don’t Know / Refused)	6%

19. **ASK ALL:** The teachers union represents all teachers in Milwaukee. Do you believe that **[ROTATE ORDER. READ FIRST STATEMENT, SAY “OR”, READ SECOND STATEMENT.]**

The teachers union in Milwaukee is good for the school district, and is committed to ensuring a quality education for all students.	42%
The teachers union does not care about helping students. They are only focused on protecting teachers, even low quality ones, and expanding their lavish benefits packages.	42%
(Don’t Know / Refused)	16%

20. **SPLIT 3A:** In recent years, the Milwaukee School Board has implemented an expanded set of educational options in Milwaukee. Do you believe that **[ROTATE ORDER. READ FIRST STATEMENT, SAY “OR”, READ SECOND STATEMENT.]**

The School Board should stop experimenting with radical education models like vouchers, charter schools, and neighborhood schools, and instead focus on improving Milwaukee’s schools as they exist today.	37%
The School Board should embrace whatever creative solutions lead to better education for our children, even if it means non-traditional means such as vouchers, charter schools, or smaller neighborhood schools.	54%
(Don’t Know / Refused)	9%

21. **SPLIT 3B:** Currently, teachers in the Milwaukee Public Schools are required to live in the city of Milwaukee. Do you believe that **[ROTATE ORDER. READ FIRST STATEMENT, SAY “OR”, READ SECOND STATEMENT.]**

It is hard to find good teachers. The School Board should be open to negotiating with the teachers union to drop the rule which requires teachers to live within the city limits. 51%

MPS teachers should be required to commit to the city of Milwaukee and live within its borders, to maintain quality neighborhoods and a solid tax base within the city limits. 45%

(Don't Know / Refused) 4%

22. **SPLIT 4A:** In recent years, the school board has often been unable to resolve their differences on key issues facing our schools. Do you believe that **[ROTATE ORDER. READ FIRST STATEMENT, SAY “OR”, READ SECOND STATEMENT.]**

School Board members should stick to their principles when conflict arises over key issue, rather than bending to compromise with those on the other side of the issue. 9%

Now is the time for members of the School Board to put aside their ideological differences, and unite to provide real solutions to the problems facing our schools. 85%

(Don't Know / Refused) 7%

23. **SPLIT 4B:** In recent years, some have suggested saving money by reducing bussing programs. Do you believe **[ROTATE ORDER. READ FIRST STATEMENT, SAY “OR”, READ SECOND STATEMENT.]**

Parents should be able to use the MPS bussing system to send their children to any school they wish in MPS, rather than being limited only to the neighborhood school. 48%

The School Board should focus on reducing the amount of money spent on bussing by requiring students to attend schools closer to their homes. 44%

(Don't Know / Refused) 8%

24. **SPLIT 5A:** In terms of how the School Board uses our tax dollars today, do you believe that **[ROTATE ORDER. READ FIRST STATEMENT, SAY “OR”, READ SECOND STATEMENT.]**

The Milwaukee School Board should place much more focus on using our tax dollars more wisely by eliminating wasteful spending, and streamlining MPS to run more efficiently.	77%
The current School Board uses our tax dollars efficiently and effectively to provide educational services without much waste	17%
(Don't Know / Refused)	6%

25. **SPLIT 5B:** Currently, MPS schools have capacity for a hundred thousand students, but only eighty thousand students enrolled. Do you believe that **[ROTATE ORDER. READ FIRST STATEMENT, SAY “OR”, READ SECOND STATEMENT.]**

Despite lower enrollment, the School Board should keep all of the school open to enable students to attend a school close to their home.	42%
The School Board should look to sell or lease some school buildings to private or charter schools to save the money it takes to keep them open.	51%
(Don't Know / Refused)	7%

**[QUESTION 26 AND 27 ONLY FOR DISTRICT 6. ALL OTHERS, SKIP]** I would like to read you a series of statements that some people have made about why they have doubts about supporting School Board president Peter Blewett **[BLEW-itt]** for reelection. Please rate each statement on a scale of 0 to 100, where 100 means that statement raises some very serious doubts about that person, 50 means it raises some doubts, and 0 means that statement doesn't raise any doubts at all to you about supporting Blewett. You may use any other number between 0 and 100. **[CODE DON'T KNOW/REFUSED AS “999”]**

**ROTATE STATEMENTS**

	<u>Mean Score</u>
26. Peter Blewett has failed to provide leadership on key issues during his time as School Board President. As a result, our children are stuck in schools with the same old problems they have faced for years.	55.5
27. Peter Blewett repeatedly put disgraced school board member Charlene Hardin in positions of responsibility, even while Hardin was wasting taxpayer money on out of state travel for conferences she never attended.	60.7

The last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

[ASK Q28 ONLY IF AGECODE=14]

28. What is your age?..... — —

**IF REFUSED:** I am going to read you some categories. Stop me when we get to your category. **READ CATEGORIES:**

18-24 years	2%
25-29	6%
30-34	3%
35-39	6%
40-44	10%
45-49	10%
50-54	10%
55-59	14%
60-64	12%
65-69	8%
70-74	8%
75-79	4%
80 or over	5%
(Don't Know / Refused)	0%

29. Are you or any member of your household a member of a union or employee association? [**PROBE:**] — does that apply to you, someone in your household, or not? [**SINGLE RESPONSE ONLY, IF APPLIES TO RESPONDENT AND SOMEONE ELSE IN HOUSEHOLD THEN PLEASE RECORD UNDER 'APPLIES TO RESPONDENT'**]

Total union households	34%
Applies respondent	25%
Applies household	9%
Does not apply	66%
(Don't Know / Not Sure/Refused)	0%

30. How many children do you have any children living with you and attending Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade? **[RECORD NUMBER OF CHILDREN. USE 999 FOR DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED]**

Percent who said “1 or more school children in HH”	32%
Average # of children (among HH with school children)	1.9

**ASK IF RESPONDENT HAS 1 OR MORE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL (Q30>0)**

31. Which of the following best describes the school **[IF >1 CHILDREN: “SCHOOLS”]** your child **[IF >1 CHILDREN: “CHILDREN”]** attend? **[ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]**

<b>% AMONG THOSE W/SCHOOL CHILDREN IN HH</b>	
One of the regular Milwaukee Public Schools	56%
A public charter school in Milwaukee	16%
A private school paid for with vouchers	7%
A private school which you pay for	17%
(Don't Know / Refused)	7%

32. Are you married, singly but living with a partner, separated, divorced, widowed, or have you never been married?

Married	51%
Separated/divorced	13%
Widowed	11%
Never married/single	15%
Single, but living with a partner	9%
(Don't Know / Refused)	1%

33. How often do you attend church or religious services — twice a week or more, every week, once or twice a month, several times a year, or hardly ever, or never?

Twice a week or more	11%
Every week	36%
Once or twice a month	15%
Several times a year	13%
Hardly ever	13%
Never	11%
(Don't know/ Refused)	1%

34. Thinking about your approach to political issues, would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

**[ROTATE CHOICES FROM TOP-TO-BOTTOM / BOTTOM-TO-TOP]**

Total liberal	36%
Total moderate	27%
Total conservative	33%
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Very liberal	11%
Somewhat liberal	24%
Moderate	27%
Somewhat conservative	18%
Very conservative	15%
(Don't know/ Refused)	5%

35. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed? **[DO NOT READ]**

1 – 11 <sup>th</sup> grade	7%
High school graduate	22%
Some college – but less than two years of college	11%
Some college--two years or more/AA degree	16%
College graduate/bachelors degree/BA/BS	23%
Postgraduate courses	5%
Masters degree	12%
MBA or Law degree	1%
PhD or MD	2%
(Don't know/ Refused)	0%

36. Last year, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **[READ. DO NOT ROTATE.]**

Below 15,000 dollars	8%
More than 15 but less than 20 thousand	6%
More than 20 but less than 30 thousand	10%
More than 30 but less than 40 thousand	11%
More than 40 but less than 50 thousand	7%
More than 50 but less than 75 thousand	21%
More than 75 but less than 100 thousand	11%
Above 100 thousand	9%
(Don't know/ Refused)	18%

37. Do you, or does anyone in your immediate family, happen to come from a Latino, Spanish-speaking, African-American, Middle-Eastern, or Asian background? **[IF 'NO,' ASK:]** Just to be sure we're representing everybody, may I ask your race? **[DO NOT READ CHOICES]**

White/ Anglo / WASP / Caucasian, etc	49%
African-American/Black	37%
Hispanic (Puerto Rican, Mexican etc)	7%
Asian	2%
Native American/ American Indian	1%
Mixed – including Hispanic or Latino	2%
Mixed – not including Hispanic or Latino	0%
Middle Eastern / Arab American	0%
(Other: _____)	1%
(Refused)	1%
(Don't know)	1%

**THIS COMPLETES OUR SURVEY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME, AND HAVE A PLEASANT (DAY/EVENING).**