

# *Wisconsin Public Radio & St. Norbert College Survey Center*

## THE WISCONSIN SURVEY – FALL 2005

### **National Budget**

**FOR RELEASE AFTER: 8AM FRIDAY NOV. 18.**

**Survey Information:**

Number of Adult Wisconsin Resident Respondents: 400

Interview Period: October 31 – November 11, 2005

Margin of Error: +/- 5% at the 95% confidence level.

**Contact:**

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*Given all the issues currently in front of Congress and the President, do you think reducing the federal budget deficit should be among the top priorities, or should it be a lower priority at this point in time?*

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Top Priority</b>   | <b>61%</b>    |
| <b>Lower Priority</b> | <b>33%</b>    |
| <b>Not Sure</b>       | <b>6%</b>     |
| <b>Refused</b>        | <b>&lt;1%</b> |

*The President and Congress are currently working on how to decrease the budget deficit. For each of the following means for doing this, please tell me whether you are in favor or opposed to that particular measure.*

|  | Favor | Oppose | Not Sure | Refused |
|--|-------|--------|----------|---------|
| Repealing Some of the Recent Tax Cuts                        | 51%   | 41%    | 8%       | <1%     |
| Cutting Defense Spending                                     | 36%   | 60%    | 4%       | <1%     |
| Cutting Domestic Program Spending                            | 41%   | 55%    | 4%       | <1%     |
| Continue to Run in Deficit Until We Are in a Better Position | 61%   | 34%    | 5%       | 0%      |

The table above should be read across. Respondents were asked each budget option separately and asked whether they favored or opposed each one.

While addressing the budget issue is, for most, a high priority, the most popular of the 4 options given to respondents was to continue to run a deficit until we are in a better position. While 61% said the budget should be a top priority, 61% also said we should continue to run a deficit. Over half said we should repeal some of the tax cuts, 41% said we should cut domestic spending and 36% said we should cut defense spending.

|              | Level of Budget Priority |       |          | Those who "Favor" Diff Methods of Budget Fix |                |                 |             |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|--|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
|              | Top                      | Lower | Not Sure | Repeal Tax Cuts                              | Cut Defense \$ | Cut Domestic \$ | Run Deficit |
| Democrats    | 70%                      | 23%   | 7%       | 68%  | 53%            | 25%             | 56%         |
| Republicans  | 50%                      | 45%   | 5%       | 36%  | 18%            | 63%             | 66%         |
| Independents | 61%                      | 34%   | 5%       | 46%  | 34%            | 40%             | 65%         |
| Other        | 67%                      | 27%   | 7%       | 50%  | 33%            | 27%             | 67%         |

The table above should be read across, e.g., 46% of Independents feel we should repeal some of the recent tax cuts to address the deficit.