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**Building a Stronger Wisconsin Poll Finds Voters Overwhelmingly Think
Walker has Gone Too Far in Proposals Related to Public Employees**

Building a Stronger Wisconsin contracted with The Shop Consulting, Inc. to conduct a statewide poll regarding Governor Scott Walker's proposed cuts to public employee benefits and collective bargaining rights. The poll consisted of a 600 response survey and was conducted on the evening of Wednesday, February 16th.

By a 2 to 1 margin, voters across that state are either strongly opposed to Walker's proposal or think that it goes too far.

"There is no way to look at the results of this poll and not be convinced that voters from all walks of life, all ages and all across Wisconsin think Governor Walker has gone too far in both how much he expects public employees to contribute for their benefits and especially in proposing to eliminate their collective bargaining rights," explained Randy Nash, Executive Director Building a Stronger Wisconsin.

The results show that while there is some support for increasing public employee contributions to pay for health care and retirement, those who oppose the proposal totally and those who think it has gone too far outnumber the supporters of the proposal almost 2-1.

When it comes to removing the ability to collectively bargain those opposing this change are even more solidly opposed with 65% opposing this portion of the proposal to only 31.9 percent supporting. Nearly 75% of those surveyed had no public employees in their household.

"We designed this poll to be a fair test of the Walker proposals and reached out to more than 600 Wisconsin voters. They have responded overwhelmingly that they think this proposal just goes too far," continued Nash.

"Building a Stronger Wisconsin is releasing the poll results today so that legislators and the governor are clear about how Wisconsinites across the state feel about this proposal as they debate and still have a chance to change it to reflect the will of the people," concluded Nash.



Background

The Shop Consulting was employed by Building a Stronger Wisconsin to coordinate a poll related to the changes proposed by Governor Scott Walker related to public employees.

The poll was conducted on the evening of Wednesday February 16, 2011. The poll sample was a clustered random sample of Wisconsin voters. The sample was designed to ensure a fair representation of gender, age and geographic location. The poll surveyed the opinion of 602 Wisconsin voters. The margin of error for the poll is +/- 4%.

Building a Stronger Wisconsin has authorized the full release of the results of the poll and the script. The attached results have not been altered and there were no other questions or direction given during the administration of the poll.

Notes on the Results

Not surprisingly the awareness of Governor Walker's proposal related to public employees is very high across the state and nearly everyone has formed an opinion about the issues with fewer than 4.5% of those polled with no opinion. Only 24.9% of those surveyed had a public employee living in the household.

On the question of whether public employees should be required to contribute more for their health care and pension costs those backing Walker's proposal (33.7%) trail those opposing the proposal (35.2%). A full 26.6% of those polled did support some additional level of contribution for health care and retirement by public employees. However, in what reveals itself as a strong theme in the poll, they believe that the Walker Proposal has gone too far.

When asked about the repeal of collective bargaining as a part of the proposal the results are even more strikingly in opposition as only 31.9% of those polled supported the Walker proposal. As in the case of the previous question those opposed to the entire Walker plan (32.9%) continue to out poll those in favor. The opposition to removing collective bargaining rights as a part of the proposal is doubled when you consider the responses of those who offer some support of increased payments for health care and retirement, but think the proposal goes too far in attacking the collective bargaining bringing the total opposition to the collective bargaining changes to 65%.

A more in-depth look at the results also shows:

- 61.5% of Independents oppose the proposal or think it that it goes too far
- 59.78% of non public employee households oppose the proposal or think it that it goes too far



- 90% Democrats oppose the proposal or think it that it goes too far
- 1/3 of Republicans oppose the proposal or think it that it goes too far
- A clear majority oppose the proposal or think it that it goes too far in all Wisconsin media markets

About Building a Stronger Wisconsin

Building a Stronger Wisconsin is an independent advocacy organization whose purpose is to publicly promote policies that maintain Wisconsin's high quality of life. Building a Stronger Wisconsin has been active promoting issues across Wisconsin since 2007.

Building a Stronger Wisconsin helps increase public awareness of the importance of job growth, quality education, affordable health care, fair taxation and a strong infrastructure. Building a Stronger Wisconsin believes without investment in schools, roads, utilities, housing and health care, we will not be able to build the stronger Wisconsin necessary to maintaining the high quality of living our citizens have come to expect.

The Shop Consulting

The Shop Consulting is a data-driven communications company that applies technology and experience to develop and implement creative communication solutions. The Shop serves a variety of clients, ranging from business and trade organizations to government and non-profits. We specialize in the areas of education, reliable energy solutions, public advocacy and health & safety.



The Script and Results

Question QINTRO Single-Coded. Answered by 602 out of 602

Hello, may I speak to?

Hello, my name is _____. I would like to ask you a few questions on some issues being debated in Madison. I'm not selling anything and won't ask for a donation. The whole survey should only take about two minutes.

If asked, calls are being paid for by Building a Stronger Wisconsin.

	Tot/Ans	602 %/Ans	602 %/Resp
1. Continue	602	100.0	100.0
2. No Resisted Voter in HH	0	0.0	0.0
3. (Go to Disposition Menu)	0	0.0	0.0

Question QGENDER

Portions of this call may be monitored or recorded for quality purposes only.

Gender:

	Tot/Ans	602 %/Ans	602 %/Resp
1. Male	268	44.5	44.5
2. Female	334	55.5	55.5

Question Q1

Rather than negotiate with public employee Unions to address budget issues in Wisconsin, Governor Walker (WALK-ER) has proposed a number of changes that would directly affect many public employees in Wisconsin. With the exception of police and firefighters, all state, county and municipal employees including teachers will be asked to contribute greater amounts to help pay for health care and retirement benefits which would be in effect a pay reduction of around 9%.

	Tot/Ans	602 %/Ans	602 %/Resp
1. CONTINUE	602	100.0	100.0



Question Q1

Have you heard about the Governor's proposal?

	Tot/Ans	%/Ans	%/Resp
1. Yes	602	100.0	100.0
2. No	0	0.0	0.0

Question Q2

How would you characterize your feelings about this portion of the proposal?

Would you say:

	Tot/Ans	%/Ans
1. I fully support Walker's proposal	203	33.7
2. I think that public employees should pay more of the costs of their health care and retirement, but I think this proposal goes too far.	160	26.6
3. I oppose Walker's proposal and believe it is an attack on Unions and Wisconsin workers.	212	35.2
4. [DO NOT READ] Not sure	27	4.5



Question BQ3

The Walker proposal includes not only significant increases in public employee contributions for health care and retirement, but strips them of the ability to collectively bargain on any issue other than wages. Collective bargaining between workers and management is used to address many issues from workplace discipline to working hours and conditions.

What do you feel about Walker's proposal after learning this?
Would you say:

	Tot/Ans	%/Ans
1. I fully support Walker's proposal	192	31.9
2. I support some additional contributions by employees for health care and retirement, but removing the ability to collectively bargaining is going too far.	193	32.1
3. I oppose Walker's proposal and believe it is an attack on Unions and Wisconsin workers.	198	32.9
4. [DO NOT READ] Not sure	19	3.2

Question Q4

Are you or is anyone in your Household a public employee?

	Tot/Ans	602 %/Ans	602 %/Resp
1. Yes	150	24.9	24.9
2. No	450	74.8	74.8
3. [DO NOT READ] Not sure	2	0.3	0.3



Question Q5

How would you describe your point of view in terms of political parties?

Would you say you are:

	Tot/Ans	%/Ans	%/Resp
1. Mostly Democratic	165	27.4	27.4
2. Leaning Democratic	53	8.8	8.8
3. Completely Independent	135	22.4	22.4
4. Leaning Republican	76	12.6	12.6
5. Mostly Republican	121	20.1	20.1
6. Not Sure/Don't Know	33	5.5	5.5
7. Refused	19	3.2	3.2

Question Q6

Age

	Tot/Ans	%/Ans	%/Resp
1. Under 29	33	5.5	5.5
2. 30-39	77	12.8	12.8
3. 40-49	122	20.3	20.3
4. 50-59	137	22.8	22.8
5. 60-70	113	18.8	18.8
6. 70+	120	19.9	19.9
7. REFUSED	0	0.0	0.0