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Public Understanding of the Legal System Report

JERICHO
RESOURCES, INC.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO BETTER PERFORMANCE



Public Understanding of the Legal System

Submitted by
Jericho Resources, Inc.
August 2008

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August 2008

State Bar of Wisconsin
5302 Eastpark Boulevard
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Members of the PULS Committee & State Bar of Wisconsin:

On behalf of Jericho Resources, Inc., I would like to thank you for the opportunity to work with the State Bar of Wisconsin in conducting original research and analysis regarding public understanding of the legal system (PULS). Under the direction of volunteer and paid leaders of the State Bar of Wisconsin, Jericho Resources, Inc. reached out to a cross-section of Wisconsin's richly diverse population. In the course of our collective work, the firm was able to gain insights from 350 individuals living in over 80 communities throughout the state.

Thanks again. It is an honor to have worked with each of you in completing this project.

Respectfully Submitted,



William Martin
President

Introduction

Public Understanding of the Legal System Research

To Fulfill a Strategic Priority & Goal

After careful deliberation, the State Bar of Wisconsin adopted a strategic plan on December 7, 2007 that outlined its vision:

State Bar of Wisconsin Vision Statement

Excellence in legal services in an accessible, valued justice system.

The organization tasked itself to establish “**a limited number of enterprise-wide strategic priorities that signal important targets or areas for the Association to focus on**” (Source: State Bar of Wisconsin Strategic Planning Committee Charge). The approved strategic plan included only four strategic priorities and goals, one of which directly speaks to the State Bar of Wisconsin’s vision of a valued justice system:

Increase public understanding of the legal system

Beginning in FY 2008, the State Bar will increase the percentage of people living in Wisconsin who report that they understand the importance, value and relevancy of the law and the legal system by 20% every 5 years.

(Source: State Bar of Wisconsin Strategic Plan, Goal IIIA)

To carry out this strategic priority and goal, the State Bar of Wisconsin engaged Jericho Resources, Inc. to assist the Public Understanding of the Legal System (PULS) Committee in conducting baseline research regarding the percentage of people who report they understand the importance, value and relevancy of the law and the legal system. As a way of aiding the

Committee's efforts to increase that percentage, Jericho Resources, Inc. also analyzed data to determine the subgroups of Wisconsin's population that might benefit most from any public education initiatives regarding the importance, value, and relevancy of the legal system.

To facilitate the PULS research and analysis project, the Committee tasked Jericho Resources, Inc. with **"formulat[ing] specific questions designed to produce information related to five areas":**

- A. Importance of the role of lawyers in the legal system**
- B. Basic understanding of the legal system**
- C. Citizens' importance of participation in and shaping public policy**
- D. Fair and impartial judiciary**
- E. Understanding legal rights and responsibilities**
(Source: State Bar of Wisconsin PULS Request For Proposal)

Recognizing that each person may conceptualize the public's understanding of the legal system very differently, Jericho Resources, Inc. began the project by tapping the expertise of the State Bar of Wisconsin's volunteer and paid leadership. Working with Public Affairs Director Lisa Roys, the firm emailed a PULS Project Leadership Questionnaire to 70 leaders, including representatives of the Board of Governors, State Bar of Wisconsin staff, and members of the following bodies:

- ❖ Public Understanding of the Legal System Committee
- ❖ Communications Committee
- ❖ Law-related Education Committee
- ❖ Public Image Committee
- ❖ Strategic Planning Committee

The PULS Project Leadership Questionnaire provided these 70 individuals an opportunity to contribute their informed perspectives about what it means, in fact, for the citizenry to possess a genuine understanding of the importance, value, and relevancy of the law and legal system. Eleven individuals, representing a cross-section of those leaders contacted, provided insights.

Jericho Resources, Inc. developed the PULS Survey Instrument for the general public based on the consensus responses received from State Bar of Wisconsin-related leaders. The PULS Committee and staff then reviewed the draft instrument and made recommendations for revisions, which were incorporated into the finalized survey instrument used throughout the state.

The PULS Survey Instrument asked citizens at least 18 years of age and residing in Wisconsin to indicate the degree to which they agreed (strongly or somewhat) or disagreed (strongly or somewhat) with the following statements:

About the PULS Survey Instrument	
Category	Belief/Understanding Statement
Lawyers & the Legal System	"It is important to have a lawyer provide advice on legal matters and/or guide individuals through the legal system."
Fair & Impartial Judiciary	"It is important that judges be fair and treat everyone equally in court."
Shaping/Participating in Public Policy	"Voting, contacting public officials, attending government meetings, and/or running for office represent important rights for a citizen."

About the PULS Survey Instrument	
Category	Belief/Understanding Statement
Legal System Overall	"I understand the differences between the small claims, civil, and criminal courts."
	"I understand the differences between the executive (e.g., Governor, President), legislative (e.g., Senators, Representatives), and judicial (e.g., Judges, Justices) branches of government."
	"I understand the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government are equal."
	"Wisconsin's form of government and legal system are important to me."
Rights & Responsibilities	"I understand my rights and responsibilities as a citizen."
	"My rights and responsibilities as a citizen are important to me."

The statements above were designed to elicit respondents' self-assessment of their beliefs about, and understanding of, the legal system. In the language of the State Bar of Wisconsin strategic priority and goal, it sought to determine the percentage of state residents who report they understand the importance, value, and relevancy of the law and legal system.

Survey respondents were not asked solely regarding their beliefs about, and understanding of, the legal system. They were also asked about their actions regarding those beliefs and understandings:

About the PULS Survey Instrument	
Category	Action-Related Statement
Lawyers & the Legal System	"I have sought advice or assistance from a lawyer." [Yes/No]
Fair & Impartial Judiciary	"I vote in judicial elections (e.g., Municipal Court, Circuit Court, or Supreme Court elections)." [Frequently/Occasionally/Never]
Shaping/Participating in Public Policy	"I vote, contact public officials, attend government meetings, and/or have run for office." [Frequently/Occasionally/Never]

By asking about both beliefs/understandings and actions, the survey allowed PULS Committee to learn whether the former affects the latter. [Please note because of the nature of belief/understanding statements under the Legal System Overall and Rights & Responsibilities categories, no action-related statements were included with regard to them.]

In addition to being asked about beliefs, understandings, and actions, survey respondents were requested to specify rights and responsibilities:

- I. **"Please name two rights important to you as a citizen."**
- II. **"Please name two responsibilities important to you as a citizen"**

After completing it, respondents had an open-ended opportunity to make any comments regarding the survey itself or any related issues raised.

The PULS Committee and Jericho Resources, Inc. were interested in ensuring demographic diversity, including adequate representation across the State of Wisconsin. In keeping with that objective, survey respondents were asked to indicate a mailing address as well as the following about themselves:

❖ **Age Range**

- Less than 20
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 or More

❖ **Race/Ethnicity**

- American Indian
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Bi-Racial
- Black

- Hispanic/Latino
- White
- Other

❖ **Gender**

- Female
- Male

❖ **Educational Attainment**

- High School Diploma or Less
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor Degree
- Advanced Degree

Once the survey was finalized and approved by the State Bar of Wisconsin, Jericho Resources, Inc. aggressively sought to gain participation from across the state. As one means of reaching individuals, the firm distributed 3,000 project-related postcards statewide inviting citizens to participate.





Much of the surveying was conducted using an online platform, which made it available to Wisconsinites 24 hours a day during the surveying period. Approximately 20% of all surveying was conducted through in-person interviews, or over the telephone.

The aggressive canvassing resulted in 350 respondents completing the survey fully. That is the equivalent of a 12% response rate. [Note: Research indicates the average response rate to direct mail appeals is between 3%-5%.]

The next several sections provide a summary of lessons learned through the survey.

Respondent Demographics

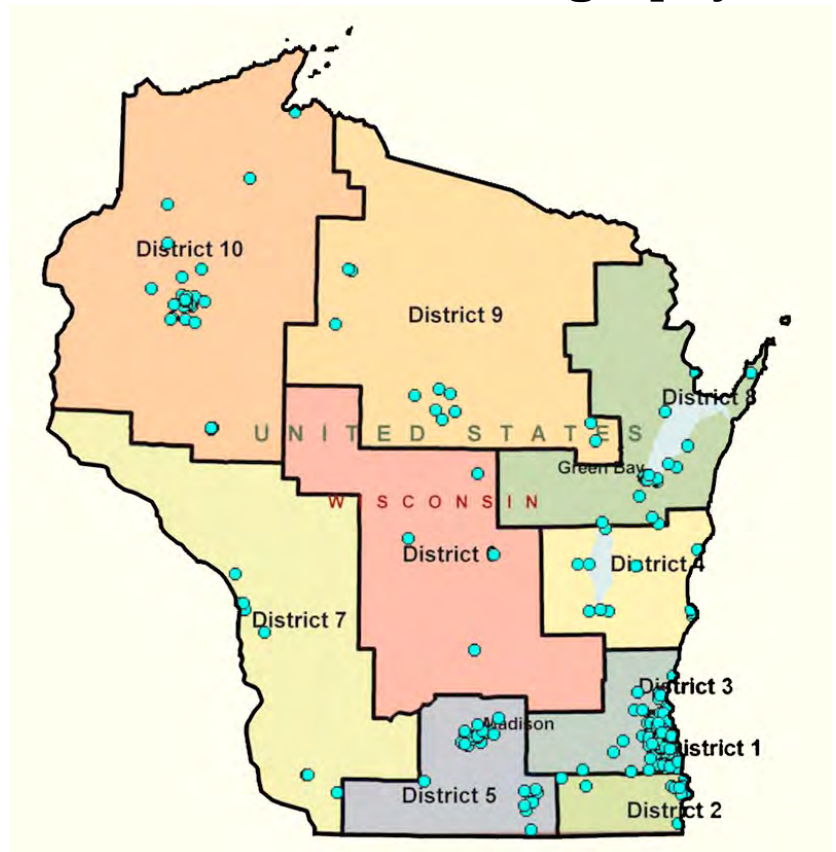
Public Understanding of the Legal System Research

As indicated in the previous section, Jericho Resources, Inc. distributed 3,000 promotional postcards throughout the State of Wisconsin. Individuals completing the survey fully were eligible to receive a \$10 Walmart gift card as an incentive. A total of 350 individuals completed the PULS project survey fully. This section reviews the demographics of the overall group that participated in the survey.

Geography

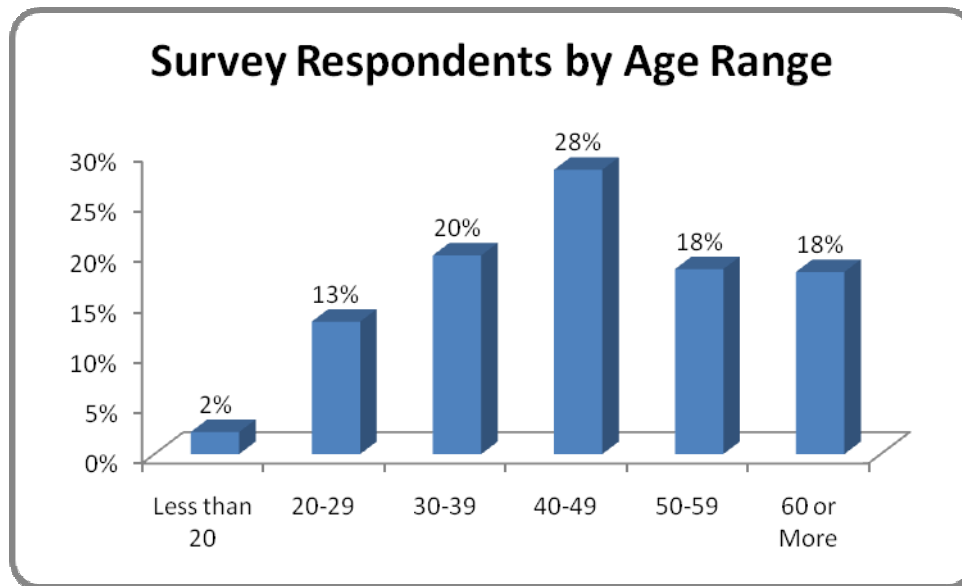
Wisconsin residents from 86 communities participated in the survey. As a means of analyzing survey responses geographically, Jericho Resources, Inc. opted to use the Wisconsin Judicial Districts map. The Wisconsin Judicial Districts map is a familiar delineation for volunteer and paid leaders affiliated with the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Using the Wisconsin Judicial Districts as a basis for geographical analysis, one can quickly see that all 10 judicial districts were represented in the results.



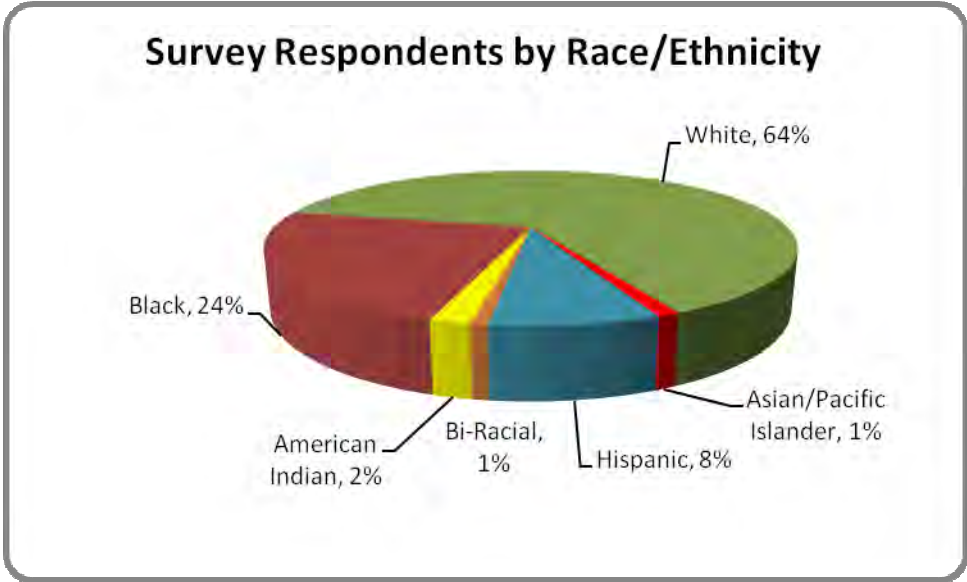
Age

While all adult age groups were represented, the greatest percentage of survey respondents was between the ages of 40 and 49. The smallest percentage of those participating was between the ages of 18 and 19. It should be noted, however, that this age range is the only one representing just two years. Other age ranges represent at least 10 years.



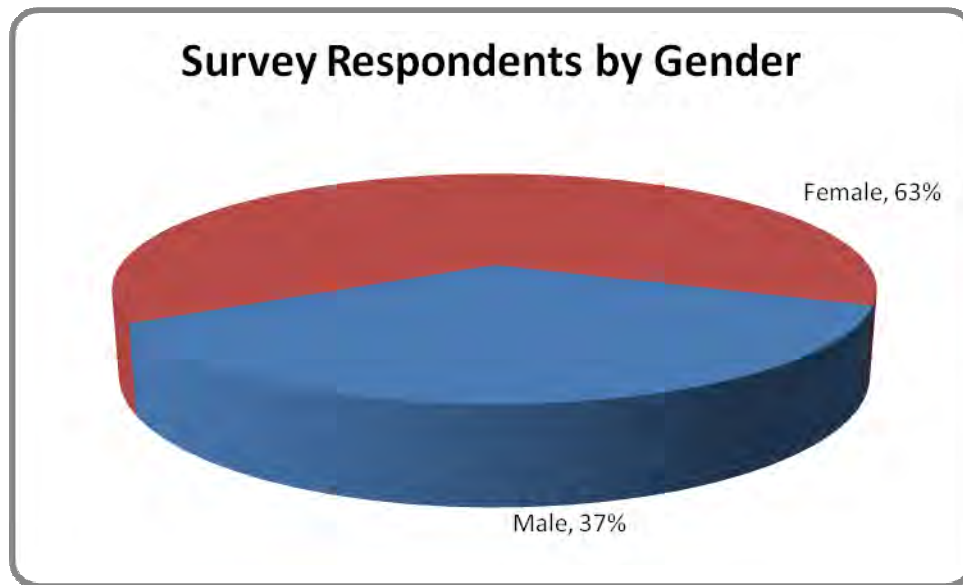
Race/Ethnicity

People of color were well-represented in the survey, giving the State Bar of Wisconsin an opportunity to understand better responses by race and ethnicity. Nearly two out of every five individuals participating in the survey were people of color.



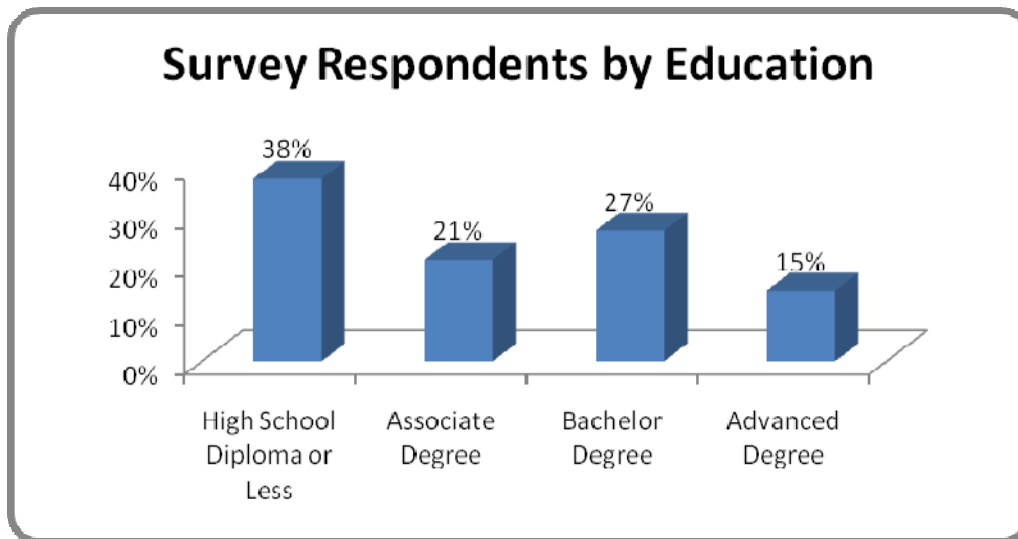
Gender

Nearly twice as many women responded to the survey as men. There is some research, however, that indicates women are more likely to respond to surveys than men.



Educational Attainment

Sixty-three percent of those responding to the survey had earned a post-secondary degree. Nearly 40%, however, had earned a High School Diploma or less.



Importance of the Role of Lawyers in the Legal System

Public Understanding of the Legal System Research

Jokes and negative comments regarding attorneys have been pervasive throughout American society for some time. However, the State Bar of Wisconsin can take some solace in the survey's findings regarding the importance of the role of lawyers in the legal system. Survey respondents were nearly unanimous in agreeing with the following statement:

"It is important to have a lawyer provide advice on legal matters and/or guide individuals through the legal system."

Seventy-three percent of all respondents strongly agreed with the statement; an additional 26% indicated they agreed somewhat. Just 1.2%, one in one hundred disagreed.

Although nearly all respondents indicated they believe it is important to have a lawyer provide advice on legal matters and/or guide individuals through the legal system, actual use reflects a somewhat less universal picture.

When asked whether they had actually sought advice or assistance from a lawyer, nearly 25% had never sought legal counsel. Utilization of attorneys among respondents varies by race and ethnicity. American Indians, Hispanics, and Blacks were less likely to have sought legal counsel than their White counterparts participating in the survey.

Respondents Who Have Never Used Attorneys	
Race/Ethnicity	Percent
American Indian	43%
Hispanic	34%
Black	26%
White	22%

The starkest difference in utilization seems to be linked to gender. Twenty-eight percent of all women who responded to the survey had never sought legal counsel. Only 19% of men responding had never done so.

Hispanic females are much less likely to have retained an attorney. Fifty-three percent of all the Latinas responding to the survey had never sought legal counsel, while only 8% of their male counterparts had never retained an attorney.

Utilization also appears to be a function of age. According to survey results, the longer people live, the more likely they are to have used an attorney at some point in their lives. None of those under 20 who participated in the survey had ever used an attorney, while nearly 9 of every 10 (88%) respondents 60 years of age and older had availed themselves of legal counsel.

Conclusion

The typical respondent least likely to have sought legal counsel is a female of color below the age of 30 with a high school diploma or less. As the State Bar of Wisconsin creates its action plan to increase public understanding as relates to the importance of lawyers in the legal system, it may wish to target some of its efforts toward women and people of color, particularly Hispanic women.

Fair & Impartial Judiciary

Public Understanding of the Legal System Research

Participating Wisconsinites of every ethnic background, education level, age range, and gender believe:

"It is important that judges are fair and treat everyone equally in court."

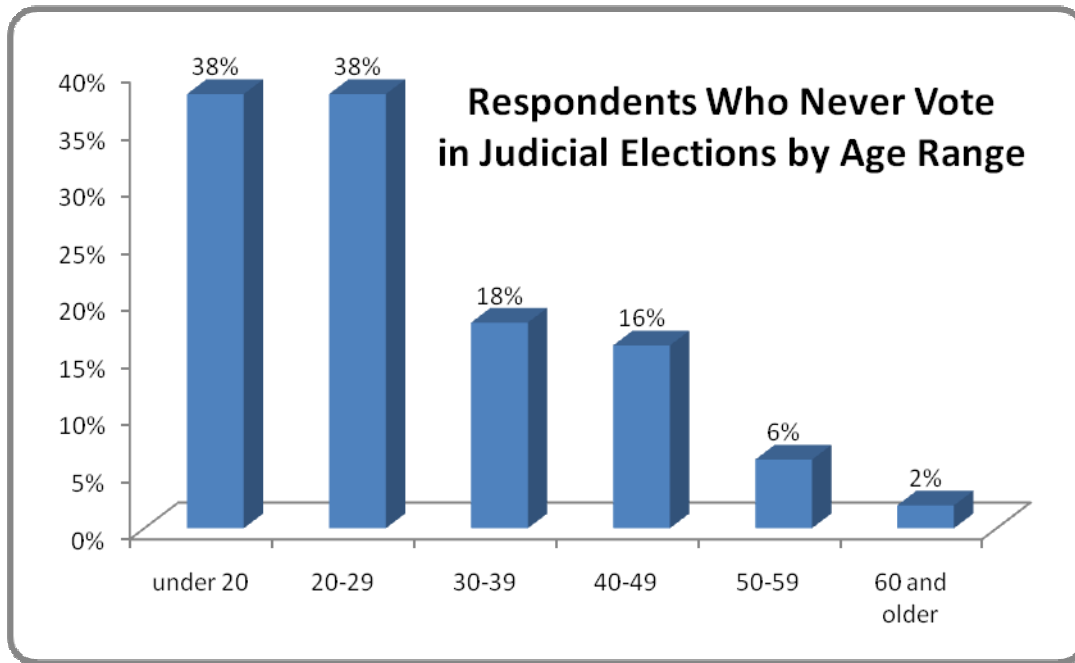
Ninety-three percent of respondents strongly agreed with the statement.

Nearly 5% more indicated they somewhat agreed. However, citizens may not be connecting the belief with the action needed to ensure a fair and impartial judiciary.

Judges are elected in the State of Wisconsin. Essentially, the people decide which candidate will be fair and impartial in administering justice.

If there is unanimity regarding the importance of a fair and impartial judiciary, barely a majority of respondents (54%) report they vote frequently in judicial elections for municipal courts, circuit courts, or the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Nearly one in six respondents reports he or she never votes in judicial elections.

As was the case with regard to utilization of lawyers, the older the individual participating in the survey, the more likely he or she reports voting in judicial elections. The larger divergence in voting is linked to gender and education.



Rates of judicial voting vary by race and ethnicity. Black and Hispanic respondents report never voting in such elections by a rate of 22% and 21%, respectively. That is nearly double the percentage of White respondents so indicating (12%).

Since men generally vote at a slightly lower rate than women, it should surprise no one that more women than men indicated they vote in judicial elections. Nearly one in five men (18%) responding indicated he had never voted in a judicial election. For women, the rate was just over one in eight (13%).

A quarter of all Black and Hispanic males participating in the survey indicated they had never voted in judicial elections. The rates for their female counterparts were slightly lower (Black females, 20%; Hispanic females, 18%). [Note: Studies have shown that Wisconsin has the highest rate of incarceration in the United States for Black men. Convictions affect one's eligibility to vote, and this factor may be reflected at some level in these findings.]

Education seems to affect one's decision to participate in judicial elections. For instance, half of all Hispanic respondents with a high school diploma or less abstains from voting for judges, while only 20% of those with an Associate Degree or higher forego voting. Thirty-one percent of Blacks with a high school diploma or less do not vote in judicial elections compared to just 6% for those with an Associate Degree or higher.

Conclusion

According to survey results, the typical person abstaining from voting in a judicial election is likely to be a male of color below the age of 30 with a high school diploma or less. The State Bar of Wisconsin may wish to consider targeting resources to people of color, particularly males, connecting the act of voting with the outcome of a fair and impartial judiciary.

Citizens' Importance of Participation in & Shaping Public Policy

Public Understanding of the Legal System Research

Much in the same way there appears to be a disconnect between the importance respondents place on a fair judiciary versus their voting patterns, survey data reflects a similar pattern exists between the importance respondents place on civic participation in government compared to actual participation.

Ninety-eight percent of respondents agree that:

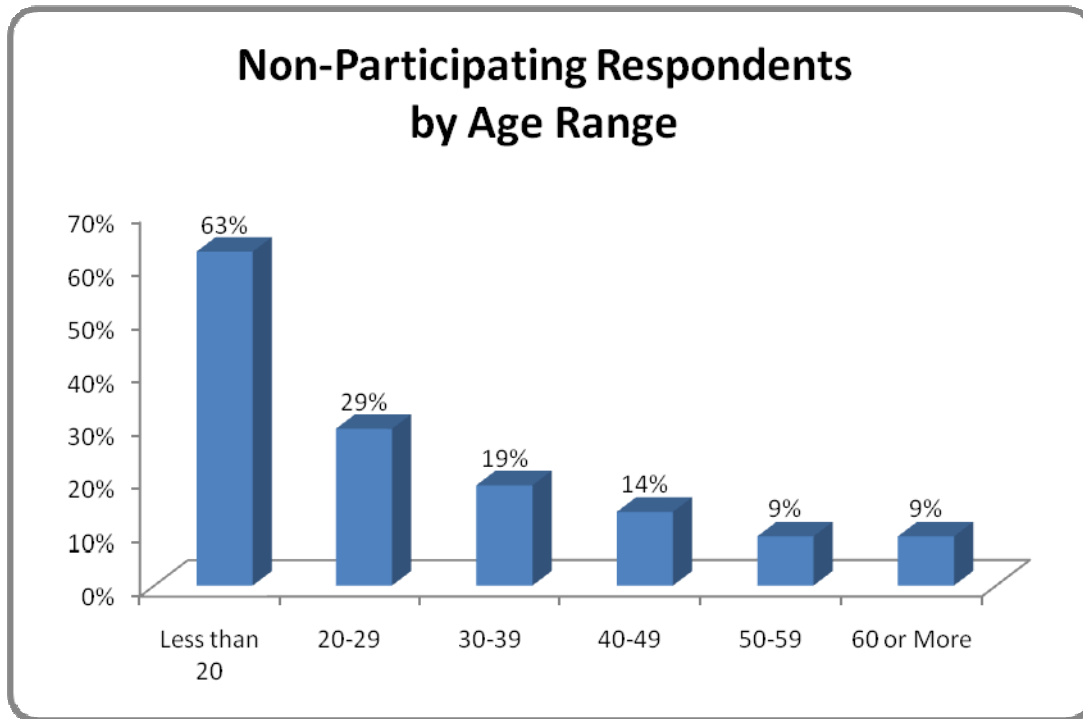
“Voting, contacting public officials, attending government meetings, and/or running for office represent important rights for a citizen.”

Seventy-seven percent strongly agree. Another 21% somewhat agree. However, just over one in seven respondents indicated he or she never participates at any level with respect to government. Specifically, 30% of Blacks, 20% of Hispanics, and 10% of Whites report never participating.

According to the survey results, people are more likely to participate as they attain higher levels of education. Of those who report not participating in their government:

- ❖ 28% has a high school diploma or less
- ❖ 15% has an Associate Degree
- ❖ 8% has a Bachelor Degree

A person’s age has a direct impact on citizen participation, in that younger respondents indicated they were much less likely to participate than their older counterparts.



Individuals under the age of 30 who responded to the survey were most likely to have never participated in government.

Conclusion

According to the survey, the typical person who does not participate in government by voting, contacting public officials, attending government meetings, and/or running for office is a person of color under the age of 30 with a high school diploma or less. The State Bar of Wisconsin may wish to consider focusing some of its efforts on this population.

Basic Understanding of the Legal System

Public Understanding of the Legal System Research

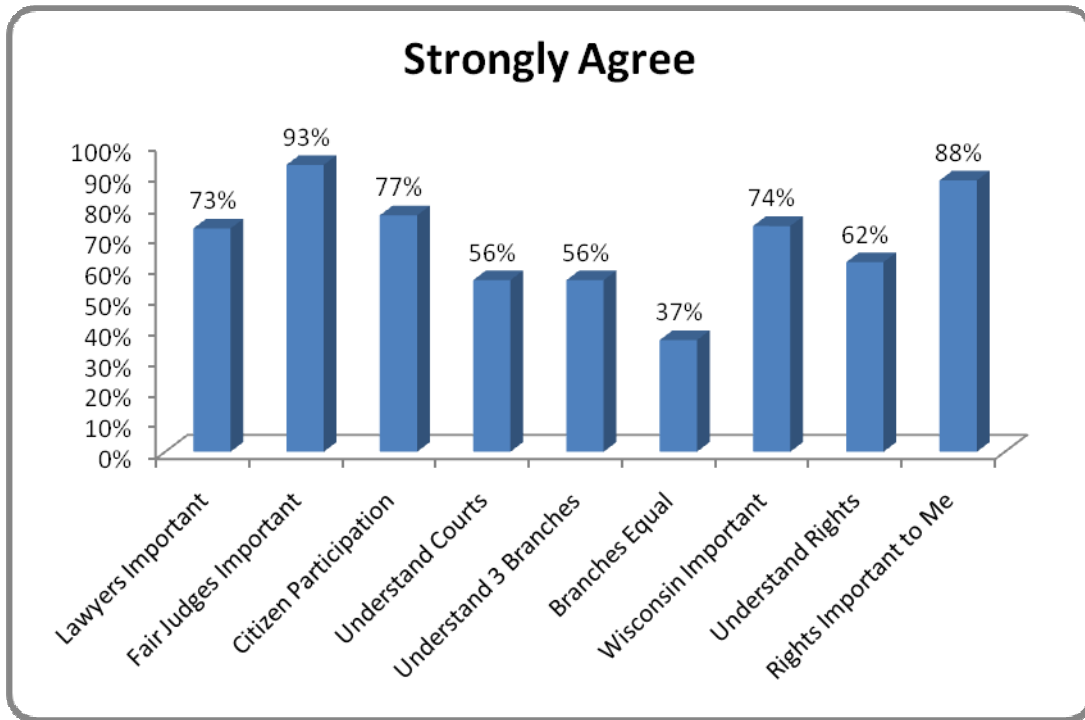
In previous sections, survey respondents strongly agreed with the belief/understanding statements. There is a marked difference between the responses in the previous sections and those received regarding Basic Understanding of the Legal System.

When respondents were asked whether lawyers and a fair and impartial judiciary were important, they strongly agreed with the statements (Lawyers, 73%; Fair/Impartial Judiciary, 93.4%). However, when asked to react to the following statements, the percentages of people who strongly agreed fell substantially:

"I understand the differences between the small claims, civil, and criminal courts."

"I understand the differences between the executive (e.g., Governor, President), legislative (e.g., Senators, Representatives), and judicial (e.g., Judges) branches of government."

"I understand the executive, legislative, and judicial branches are equal."



Fifty-six percent of respondents strongly agreed they understood the differences in the courts and the three branches of government. However, **only 37% of all those participating in the survey indicated strong agreement with the concept that the three branches are equal.**

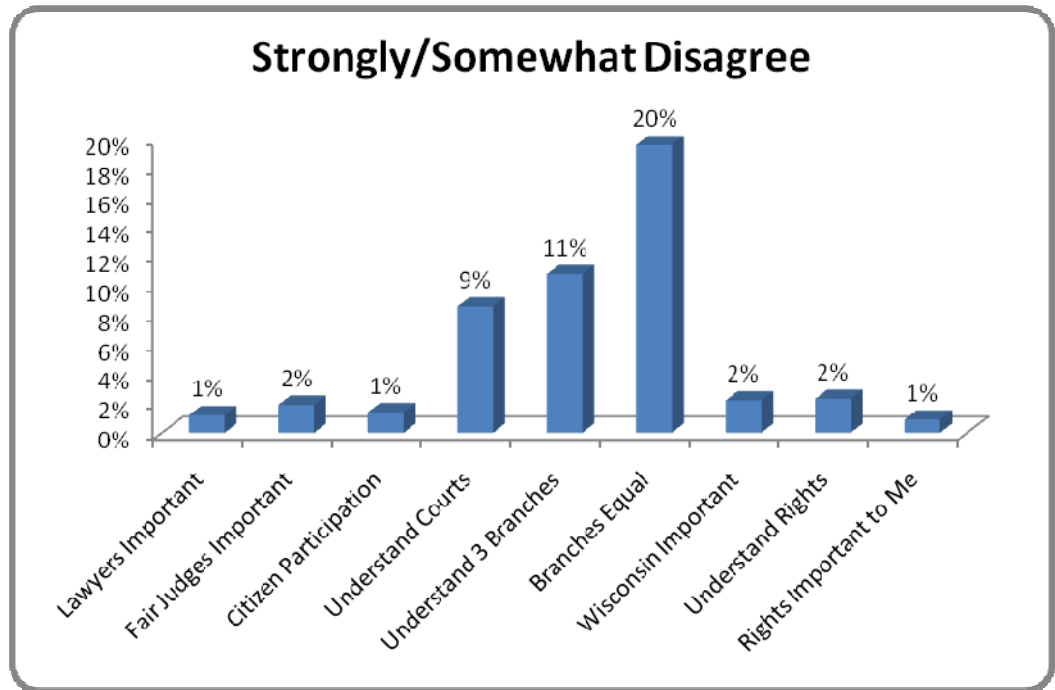
At first blush, it might appear that Wisconsinites surveyed do not understand the concept of co-equal branches of American government (and that may explain some of the difference in responses). However, from both face-to-face interviews and comments that online survey respondents provided, it is clear there is more to the story.

Some respondents are not simply reacting to the theory of co-equal branches of government. Some are actually responding in reaction to government in practice. One respondent wrote the following comment:

**"It is apparent to me that the branches of government are not equal at the Federal level. The executive branch is out of control with little or no checks being provided by the legislative or judicial branches."
[Source: A Survey Respondent]**

With the nation heavily divided politically, two wars being waged, a downturn in the economy, high energy prices, and the record-low approval ratings for the President and Congress, the statement likely tapped into a range of issues beyond the scope of this research and analysis.

The graph illustrates the radically different rates of disagreement across all the belief/understanding statements. As the reader



will note, the percent who disagree, whether strongly or somewhat so, generally ranges from 1% to 2%.

Only the statements having to do with the courts and the branches of government generated significant levels of disagreement. One in ten may genuinely not understand the differences between the courts or the branches of government. However, based on the fieldwork Jericho Resources, Inc. conducted, the firm believes one in five may not be registering a simple lack of understanding about the system. Some may be registering a frustration with what they perceive to be inequality among the branches.

The survey also asked individuals to react to the following statement:

“Wisconsin’s form of government and legal system are important to me.”

Nearly three-quarters of all those participating in the survey strongly agreed. Another 24% somewhat agreed. Altogether, 98% of all respondents supported the statement at some level.

Conclusion

Nine out of every 10 respondents reported they understood the differences between the courts and branches of government. Eighty percent reported they understood that the branches of government are co-equal. However, given that the belief/understanding statements associated with the Basic Understanding of the Legal System had the lowest levels of agreement, the State Bar of Wisconsin may wish to consider efforts to make Wisconsinites

more aware of the specifics regarding the courts and branches of government.

Understanding Your Legal Rights & Responsibilities

Public Understanding of the Legal System Research

Just over six in ten respondents strongly agreed with the statement:

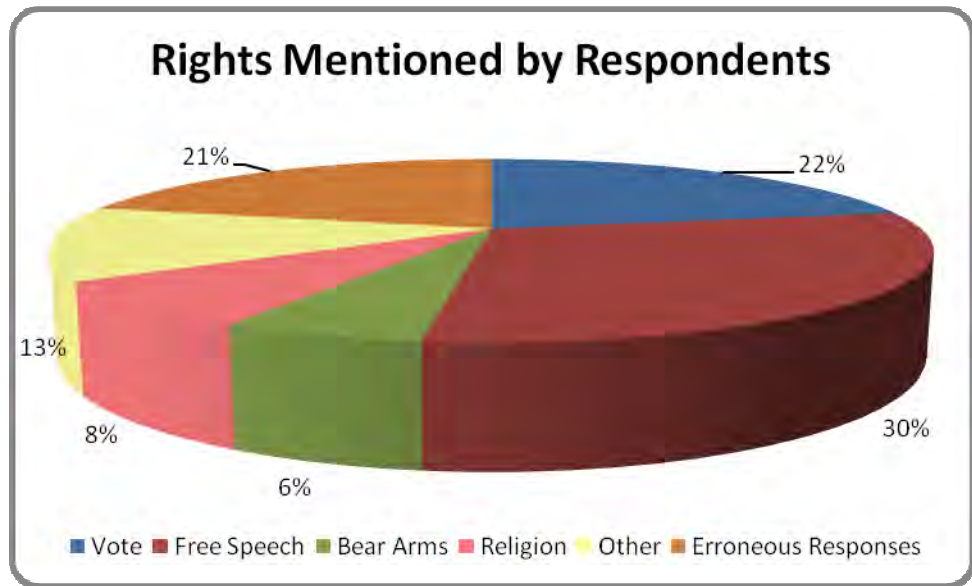
"I understand my rights and responsibilities as a citizen."

Thirty-six percent more somewhat agreed with the statement. Eighty-eight percent strongly agreed that:

"My rights and responsibilities as a citizen are important to me."

Another 11% somewhat agreed. In other words, 99% of all those participating in the survey expressed agreement with the statement. Clearly, respondents felt they both understood and found their rights and responsibilities to be important, valued, and relevant.

After being asked to react to the related belief/understanding statements, respondents were also asked to specify two rights important to them as citizens. Despite the high level of importance individuals across all demographics placed on their rights, there were only two



rights that reached double-digit percentages: free speech and voting. Freedom of religion and the right to bear arms were the only other rights that were mentioned at least 5% of the time.

Other worthy freedoms, or rights, were also mentioned. However, they were mentioned so infrequently that these had to be consolidated into an “Other” category, which is reflected in the graph on the preceding page. For instance, out of the 700 responses received, participating individuals mentioned freedom of assembly four times (0.6%) and the right to privacy 10 times (1.4%), respectively.

As the reader may note from the associated graph, one out of every five responses was erroneous. Respondents named a wide array of perceived rights not necessarily grounded in the U.S. or Wisconsin Constitutions.

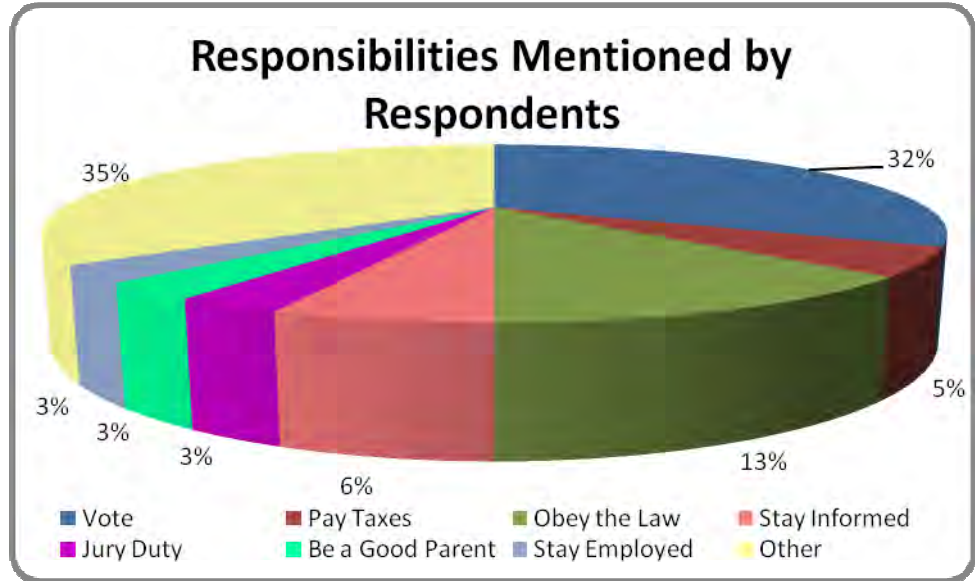
Examples mentioned include:

- ❖ gay marriage
- ❖ equal pay
- ❖ respect
- ❖ drive
- ❖ police protection
- ❖ choice of schools
- ❖ motorcycle rights
- ❖ retirement fund protection

About one in eight respondents was unable to identify two rights. Twenty-nine percent of Blacks, 10% of Hispanics, and 6% of Whites responding to the survey were unable to identify two rights. It is worth noting that, while those who were unable to name two rights represented 12% of total respondents, that same group comprised 24% of all those who report never voting in

judicial elections or participating in government-related activities (e.g., attending government meetings, running for office, contacting elected officials, etc.).

Respondents had much more difficulty articulating responsibilities. The most frequent response was voting (32%). Jury duty, for instance, was only mentioned 6% of the time. Registering for selective service was mentioned once.



The graph regarding this topic reflects the responses most frequently given by survey participants. Examples of less relevant responsibilities mentioned include:

- ❖ fight injustice
- ❖ charitable donations
- ❖ home ownership
- ❖ education
- ❖ environmental protection
- ❖ watch over grandkids

Given the volume of erroneous responses offered, it is evident people across demographics were less clear about their responsibilities than they were their rights. For a listing of responsibilities mentioned, please see Appendix IV.

Conclusion

There is clearly more work to do in helping Wisconsinites understand their responsibilities as citizens. The State Bar of Wisconsin may wish to invest in making state residents more aware of their obligations.

About Jericho Resources, Inc.

Breaking Down Barriers to Better Performance

Jericho Resources, Inc. is a human services consulting firm with clients in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. William Martin, a former Executive Aide to Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson, founded Jericho Resources, Inc. as a way of assisting governments and organizations in breaking down barriers to delivering better performance for their communities and constituents.

Jericho Resources, Inc. has provided technical assistance, training, marketing, evaluation, performance improvement, resource development, and strategic planning for non-profit executives and policymakers in the United States, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, and Israel. Its leadership has advised several members of the British, Dutch and Israeli governments on both human services initiatives and engaging the private for-profit and non-profit sectors in effective policy implementation. To date, the company has assisted its clients in successfully competing for over a quarter of a billion dollars in financial support for worthy initiatives.

Based on his experience in government and non-profits, Mr. Martin recognized the demand for executive-level counsel within these sectors in order to strengthen both organizational and community-wide capacity to meet the needs of the population being served. Jericho Resources, Inc. provides management support and technical assistance targeted to the senior management of governments as well as community- and faith-based organizations, ranging from non-profit start-ups to multi-million-dollar agencies.

Appendix I

Leaders Receiving PULS Project Leadership Questionnaire

Working with State Bar of Wisconsin Public Affairs Director Lisa Roys, Jericho Resources, Inc. emailed the PULS Project Leadership Questionnaire to the following volunteer and paid leaders.

Leader	PULS Committee	Communications Committee	LRE Committee	Public Image Committee	Leadership/Presidents	Strategic Planning Committee	Staff/ Directors	No Designation
Mike Rosenberg	✓		✓					
Kevin Palmershiem	✓	✓						
Ann Brandau	✓			✓				
Lindsey Draper	✓		✓					
Michelle Mackey	✓							
Marsha Mansfield	✓					✓		
Lynne Solomon	✓		✓					
Joyce Hastings	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Jan Wood	✓						✓	
Lisa Roys	✓							
Margaret Hickey	✓				✓	✓		

Leader	PULS Committee	Communications Committee	LRE Committee	Public Image Committee	Leadership/Presidents	Strategic Planning Committee	Staff/ Directors	No Designation
Tom Basting					✓	✓		
Diane Diel					✓	✓		
Doug Kammer					✓			
Amy Dixon		✓						
Kimberly Matthei								✓
Gina Ozelie		✓						
Nilesh Patel		✓						
James Peterson		✓						
Richard Ricci		✓						
Susan Schaubel		✓						
Connie Von Der Heide								✓
Thomas Watson		✓						
Mark Young		✓						
Kira Zavorski								✓
Alyson Zierdt								✓
Michael Jassak				✓				

Leader	PULS Committee	Communications Committee	LRE Committee	Public Image Committee	Leadership/Presidents	Strategic Planning Committee	Staff/ Directors	No Designation
Patricia Ballman				✓				
Joseph Cardamone				✓				
Thomas Cullen				✓				
John Finn				✓				
Jacqueline Fontana			✓	✓				
Cynthia Kieper				✓				
Stephen Nick				✓				
Marna Tess-Mattner				✓				
Michael Tobin			✓					
Doug Bartels			✓					
Paul Bauer			✓					
Thomas Boykoff			✓					
Dawn Drellos			✓					
Sharon Ewers			✓					
Phillip Freeburg			✓					
Ellen Henak			✓					

Leader	PULS Committee	Communications Committee	LRE Committee	Public Image Committee	Leadership/Presidents	Strategic Planning Committee	Staff/ Directors	No Designation
Diana Hess			✓					
Kenneth Knudson			✓					
Jason Knutson			✓					
Sonia Komisar			✓					
Michelle Ann Leiker			✓					
Chad Mateske			✓					
JaniceMertes			✓					
Christine Olsen			✓					
Maureen Plunkett			✓					
Beth Ratway			✓					
Lisa Rosier			✓					
Larry Sarver			✓					
Charles Senn			✓					
Katherine Desmond Lloyd			✓					
Kelly Nickel			✓					
Bill Connors						✓	✓	

Leader	PULS Committee	Communications Committee	LRE Committee	Public Image Committee	Leadership/Presidents	Strategic Planning Committee	Staff/ Directors	No Designation
George Brown						✓	✓	
Derek Novotny						✓	✓	
Lynda Tanner						✓	✓	
Dean Dietrich						✓		
Mark Pennow						✓		
Michael Waterman						✓		
Grant Langley						✓		
Marcia Lucas						✓		
Paul Norman						✓		
Steven Tikalsky						✓		
Tom Dixon								✓

Appendix II

PULS Project Leadership Questionnaire Responses

The following are the responses received from a cross-section of State Bar of Wisconsin volunteer and paid leaders:

Importance of the Role of Lawyers in the Legal System
From your perspective, what would constitute, or demonstrate, public understanding of the importance of the role of lawyers in the legal system? How might the public demonstrate its understanding of the importance, value and relevancy of lawyers' role in the legal system?
People believe attorneys provide a valuable service to all, not just defendants. People believe it's important to be able to speak to an attorney to protect legal rights.
People's knowledge that lawyers represent overall legal system. People's understanding that lawyers are not hired to skirt the law, but to assist people in using laws to accomplish individual goals. People seeking advice before they make decisions that may impact their lives—that lawyers guide people through the system.
More people seeking representation, measured through less pro se cases and more calls to LRIS and other referral services, increased use of providers (Legal Action, JudaCare) and greater participation in free and low cost legal clinics.
Difficult to gauge public understanding by observation. Need to do general surveying. People telling/hearing fewer lawyer jokes. The number of calls to legal hotlines and referral services. People discussing various legal issues that appear in the media.
People's decisions to consult attorneys at times other than crises. People consulting attorneys rather than low/no cost means of navigating what are clearly legal matters, a recognition of attorney involvement.

Importance of the Role of Lawyers in the Legal System

From your perspective, what would constitute, or demonstrate, public understanding of the importance of the role of lawyers in the legal system? How might the public demonstrate its understanding of the importance, value and relevancy of lawyers' role in the legal system?

People more actively participating in elections of judges. More positive news coverage of accomplishments and services provided by attorneys. Anecdotal stories that portray attorneys in positive light. More public support of law schools and law school education.

People's familiarity with how to find a lawyer, the different types of lawyers and when people need a lawyer.

Public can demonstrate this through anecdotal evidence only. A change in media messages about lawyers' value and roles.

By the number of litigants represented by attorneys in the court system, by the number of calls to LRIS, by the number of requests for information received by the Bar. The Bar could gather number and usage of free legal clinics offered by local bars around the state. The ease at which pro se litigants can maneuver through the legal system decreases the importance/relevancy of attorneys.

People's recognition of the different roles lawyers play in the legal system and in society in general. Ask people 10 roles lawyers fill in society.

People's understanding that founders set up an adversarial process and provided lawyers with knowledge of the rules to advocate for each party. People's understanding that there are all types of lawyers and each adds value to the system.

Basic Understanding of Legal System

From your perspective, what would constitute, or demonstrate, the public's basic understanding of the legal system? How might the public demonstrate its understanding of the importance, value, and relevancy of the legal system?

People indicate they understand that Congress/state legislature, not courts, make laws, and courts apply laws to fact situations/disagreements. People believe courts are one of several means to resolve disputes. Perhaps invite people to imagine how disputes would be resolved w/o legal system.

People's knowledge that there are three independent branches of government and their functions. People's understanding that judges are independent of political parties; that they enforce law, not make law. People's understanding that laws are enforceable rules of conduct, not just suggestions of behavior.

People would be able to accurately answer questions related to the legal system. (See survey for examples). Ask court clerks if they have seen any sophistication in the people using the courts.

See answer to first question.

People's participation in activities such as answering a summons for jury duty and voting in judicial elections after having made efforts to become educated as to the important issues of the campaign and functions of the court.

People's increased/ improved ability to navigate the court system and increased involvement in judiciary/justice system matters. More legislative support of justice system would reflect public pressure to fully fund justice initiatives and programs.

People's familiarity with the court process and where to go to find answers.

Basic Understanding of Legal System

From your perspective, what would constitute, or demonstrate, the public's basic understanding of the legal system? How might the public demonstrate its understanding of the importance, value, and relevancy of the legal system?

See comments from Question 1. Public can demonstrate understanding through early education.

High rates of compliance given judicial decisions. Number of requests for Bar publications. People's usage of the legal system. People's compliance with laws.

Similar to Question 1. People's recognition that the legal system is more than just criminal court or Judge Judy. People's involvement in Law Day programs or other public forums.

People's understanding of the levels of the courts, the difference between civil and criminal court, the nature of judges' role in proceedings, and nature of a jury's role in proceedings.

Citizens' Importance of Participation in, and Shaping of, Public Policy

From your perspective, what would constitute, or demonstrate, the public's understanding of citizens' importance of participation in, and shaping of, public policy? How might the public demonstrate its understanding of the importance, value and relevancy of civic participation in, and shaping of, public policy?

More people voting. The ease or difficulty for local governments to find people willing to serve on boards, committees, etc. or people's willingness to run for public office.

An increase in the percentage of eligible voters actually casting ballots; knowing they can speak to, and should bring to, their elected officials their opinions.

People voting measured by increased voter registrations and actual voting. People contesting elections, especially at local level. People show greater awareness of, and desire more information related to, public policy. People vote based on knowledge/facts, not just name recognition. People being able to identify their elected officials and their roles/responsibilities. People indicating an understanding of the impact elected officials' decisions have on daily lives.

See answer to first question. People's contact with their elected representatives.

People's awareness of, and participation in, elections. People's attention to school board and common council activities, sharing opinions with elected officials. Making efforts to obtain information other than listening to media.

More participation in elections and the legislative process.

People's familiarity with where to go to find their representatives and the correct representatives. Understanding about how laws are created.

Citizens' Importance of Participation in, and Shaping of, Public Policy

From your perspective, what would constitute, or demonstrate, the public's understanding of citizens' importance of participation in, and shaping of, public policy? How might the public demonstrate its understanding of the importance, value and relevancy of civic participation in, and shaping of, public policy?

People's increased participation in government and civic affairs. Increased voter participation rates, attendance at meetings of local government, compliance with jury summons, involvement in community programs or charities.

Voting. People's level of participation in political campaigns, contributions of time or money to political causes and other avenues of communication between citizens and elected officials. Actions through lobbies, trade associations, etc. People's involvement in local government, boards, etc. Level of volunteerism in community. The creation and circulation of petitions for change.

People's recognition of the importance of educating themselves on elections and turning out to vote. Not sure this category has much, if anything, to do directly with the State Bar in terms of its interaction with the public and the public's understanding of shaping public policy.

People's knowledge that their participation (e.g., voting) makes a difference in the community; that their vote counts, their engagement with town council matters, that they are an important part of civic life. People's understanding of how their government functions and how to influence change. Higher levels of voter participation, more people running for public office, less struggle with getting juries empanelled.

Fair & Impartial Judiciary

From your perspective, what would constitute, or demonstrate, the public's understanding of a fair and impartial judiciary? How might the public demonstrate its understanding of the importance, value and relevancy of a fair and impartial judiciary?

People voting for judicial candidates who demonstrate a commitment to fair and impartial judiciary and against candidates who say or imply favoritism for a particular group.

People's indication that they know judges are not to be participants in political parties and are not the pawns of either party. People's objection to PAC money being spent on advertising that erroneously states a judicial candidate's position on legal matters.

People can define "rule of law," what it means and where a judge fits into it. People can define the merits of the elected vs. appointed judge debate and difference between the two. Measure people's attitudes relating to various acts of judges (conflicts, favoritism, etc.)

See answer to first question. People's willingness to fund judicial races shows that the need for individuals, rather than big interest groups, to care and be involved in the judiciary.

People's effort to learn the roles of the various courts-from municipal to Supreme Court. Understanding of the matters that do not appear in front of certain judicial officials/courts. Voting in judicial elections.

Voting in elections. More voter turn out because they care about the level of fairness, impartiality and excellence required by the judiciary.

Fair & Impartial Judiciary

From your perspective, what would constitute, or demonstrate, the public's understanding of a fair and impartial judiciary? How might the public demonstrate its understanding of the importance, value and relevancy of a fair and impartial judiciary?

People's understanding of why an impartial judiciary is important and what qualities constitute a fair and impartial judiciary.

Similar to Question 1. The media and political onslaught against the judiciary is believed to taint the public's understanding.

Survey public's opinion on whether they think the judiciary is fair and impartial. The public's general acceptance of judicial decisions. People's appreciation for and following of the Miranda Rights. Participation in judicial elections.

A push by the public for judicial campaign financing. Increase in voter turn out for judicial elections. People's attention to judicial races, showing up for debates/forums, etc.

People's understanding that judges are not politicians; that the system was set up with three branches of government and that the judiciary was designed to be free of partisan political influence. People's understanding that judges need to make the "right" decision free of fear of retribution. People's acknowledgement that the judiciary is different than traditional politicians. People's confidence in the fairness of the court process. People's attendance and meaningful vote in judicial races.

Understanding of Your Legal Rights & Responsibilities

From your perspective, what would constitute, or demonstrate, the public's understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities? How might the public demonstrate its understanding of the importance, value and relevancy of citizens' legal rights and responsibilities?

People register to vote and vote. A sharp turn in a particular criminal behavior, or people's outrage/protest of certain attempts to eliminate/limit legal rights.

People voting, attending local governmental meetings, understanding the importance of obeying laws and demonstrating it by their actions.

Survey people's understanding by asking "what would you do if" questions. (Check the On Being 18 pamphlet also). People's understanding related to the enforceability of contracts, criminal acts, etc.

See answer to first question. People's use of the court system, e.g., small claims court with or without an attorney.

Voting. People recognizing that some courts allow pro se participation and participating when appropriate. People obtaining licenses for activities that require them. People obeying laws.

Focusing on youth. More programs in middle and high schools that educate youth.

People's understanding of the importance of their vote and how they can make their voices heard.

Understanding of Your Legal Rights & Responsibilities

From your perspective, what would constitute, or demonstrate, the public's understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities? How might the public demonstrate its understanding of the importance, value and relevancy of citizens' legal rights and responsibilities?

This is largely based on anecdotal evidence, but can be demonstrated in schools through education.

The public's participation in the process. Are people involved in the community, in municipal discussions/ debates? Do they write letters to the editor or demonstrate support for policies/candidates? People's demonstration against policies or practices with which they disagree.

Voting in all elections at higher numbers. Objecting, demonstrating, voicing disapproval, writing letters, etc. when politicians and media seek to take away or minimize rights. Pushing for the inclusion of civics as required course in schools. Backing legislators who favor spending money on education instead of pork barrel politics.

There should be a set of specific issues related to the legal system that all persons understand. A determination that judges believe persons appearing before them are more informed about the process and their basic rights to be determined by the court.

Appendix III

Unduplicated Communities Represented in Survey Responses

Residents of the following communities responded to the PULS survey:

Appleton	Eau Claire	Lancaster	Portage
Ashland	Edgar	Luxemburg	Racine
Barron	Elkhorn	Madison	Rhineland
Beloit	Elm Grove	Manitowoc	Rice Lake
Big Bend	Fish Creek	Marinette	Schofield
Birchwood	Fitchburg	Menomonee Falls	Shawano
Blanchardville	Fond Du Lac	Mequon	Sheboygan
Bonduel	Franklin	Middleton	South Milwaukee
Brookfield	Franksville	Milton	Spooner
Brown Deer	Germantown	Milwaukee	Sun Prairie
Cable	Glendale	Muskego	Trego
Cameron	Green Bay	N. Fond du Lac	Waukesha
Catawba	Greendale	Nekoosa	Wausau
Cedarburg	Greenfield	New Berlin	Wautoma
Chaseburg	Greenleaf	New Franken	Wauwatosa
Chili	Haugen	Oak Creek	Webster
Chilton	Holmen	Oconto	West Allis
Colgate	Jackson	Oshkosh	Weston
Cudahy	Janesville	Palmyra	Whitefish Bay
Cumberland	Kenosha	Phillips	Whitewater
Custer	La Crosse	Platteville	
De Pere	Lac du Flambeau	Port Washington	

Responses by Wisconsin Judicial District were as follows:

District 1: 51%; District 2: 3%; District 3: 7%; District 4: 4%; District 5: 9%;
District 6: 2%; District 7: 2%; District 8: 6%; District 9: 4%; District 10: 12%

Appendix IV

Responsibilities Identified by Survey Respondents

The following is a listing of the range of responses received when those participating in the survey were asked to specify two responsibilities:

Please name two responsibilities important to you as a citizen.

A job
A safe environment
Abide by the law
Abide by the laws of WI and the United States
Accountability
Addressing neighborhood concerns to my local Representatives
Advocating for the rights of those that cannot do this for themselves
Advocating for children
Advocating for the rights of others/self
Against crime
Aid children in need, whatever that may be
Allegiance and service to our country
And stay in contact with all of my elected officials
asas
Assist law enforcement when needed
Assure my freedom
Assure my right to vote
Be a good citizen
Be aware of political issues
Be fair in every endeavor
Be good humanitarian
Be honest
Be informed
Be informed of issues
Be on right side of law
Be outspoken in beliefs about government

Please name two responsibilities important to you as a citizen.

Be protected by government for this right to voice opinion

Be safe and ensure safety of others

Being a juror

Being a responsible member of the community...obeying the laws of the land.

Being a valuable member of society (contributing in some way)

Being able to do what i need to do for my family

Being able to pay our share of taxes

Being able to vote

Being an environmentally sound individual

Being an informed voter

Being Eco-Friendly

Being economically productive

Being free

Being informed about elections and the candidates.

Being involved with community

Campaigning

Career

Charitable donations

Check to be sure who I am voting for

Choices

Citizen arrest

Civic participation

Civic responsibility (helping neighbors)

Civil and Respectful behavior

Civil order

Clean up neighborhood

Communicating with legislators

Community Service

Conduct myself in a proper manner

Please name two responsibilities important to you as a citizen.

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
Construction/roads
Contact legislator when something is important to you
Contribute to the education of the citizenry
Could not say
Defend the American Constitution when asked to
Democracy
Do your part
Donating to worthy causes to better our community
Driving
Earning a living/ contribution to country
Educate the youth
Education
Education/ College
Elected officials be held accountable
Electing public officials, president, etc.
Environmental protection
Equal rights
Equality
Everyone must obey the laws of the courts
Expressing opinions
Fair opportunity
Fair speech
Family
Feedback to elected Officials
Fight Injustice
Financial responsibility for myself and my family
Follow laws
For everyone to be treated fairly

Please name two responsibilities important to you as a citizen.

Free choice

Free speech

Free to believe in what I want

Freedom

Freedom to assimilate

Freedom to be allowed to provide for family/work.

Freedom to have a education

Freedom to live and work where I wish

Freedom to Vote

Giving back

God

Going green

Have job

Health

Health and welfare of citizens/ elderly or otherwise

Health care for my family

Help keep the crime rate down

Help neighbor

Help other citizens in need.

Help others in crisis/accident.

Help police

Help stop crime

Help those in need

help your communtiy

Helping to see that people are treated fairly

Holding public office

Home ownership

Honor our military

Honor our president...

Please name two responsibilities important to you as a citizen.

I have a responsibility to be a productive member of society

I should teach people the importance of voting and understanding rights

Identifying and drawing attention to opportunities and problems relative to common/public/communal interests, concerns, and resources

Informing individuals the importance of hard work

Involvement

Jury Duty

Justice to be served fairly and not because of color or prejudices

Keep elected officials accountable

Keep God in everything we do

Keep tabs on all government levels

Keep the neighborhood clean

Keep up on current affairs - at least try, with info overload!

Keeping an eye on our government

Keeping the community safe

Keeping the peace

Know my representatives

Know my rights

Know what candidates stand for

Know whom are the political parties

Knowing my neighbors, major community stakeholders, and key crime or property related problem sources in the neighborhood

Letting representatives know my concerns

Life responsibilities

Litter of our highways

Live

Maintaining public safety

Make sure my children are raised to do the same

Mayor Tom Baret

Please name two responsibilities important to you as a citizen.

N/A

No corruption in government

None

Not break the law

Obey all laws

Obey law

Obey the laws unless they are ungodly

Obeying the laws of WI.

Obligation to vote

Ownership of property

Parenting

Participate Actively; Vote, Dissent, Support, Be seen & heard

Participate in elections, meetings, etc., speak opinion, intervene when feel things are not right, give ideas to better community

Patriotism

Pay bills on time

Pay my fair share of taxes

Pay taxes

Pay taxes honestly

Prevent crime

Protect children

Protect my community

Protect myself

Protect the country

Provide a meaningful contribution to society

Public education

Public service

Pursuit of wealth, happiness & prosperity

Racism

Please name two responsibilities important to you as a citizen.

Raise children of good character/ raise responsible individuals

Recycle - keep this planet going!

Register to vote

Registering for the draft

Report crime

Report discrimination

Report illegal activity

Researching candidates

Respect and care about other drivers, consumers, citizens

Respect and obey the laws

Respect others

Respect the other persons rights

respecting government

Respecting my fellow citizens

Respecting neighbors (property)

Respecting the results of votes

Responsibilities as a citizen

Responsibility to ensure citizen rights

Responsibility to have my voice heard

Responsibility to learn and speak English

Responsibility to participate in the government

Responsibility to pay taxes for the common good

Responsibility to treat other citizens fairly

Right to disagree

Right to not be fired for unjust cause

Right to serve as part of a jury

Right to speak up

Right to vote

Righteousness

Please name two responsibilities important to you as a citizen.

Running for elected office

Safety

Seek fair and equitable solutions when the laws do not reflect the needs of today's society

Self - take care of

Serve and protect

Serve as witness

Serve our country

Serving as a juror

Share a voice in decision making on local and state matters

Share info with other young men & women that may be helpful to their situation

Speak to my local elected officials

Speaking up regarding government issues or handling of things

Stand up for self

Stay informed

Stay informed using media

Stay out of trouble

Staying current on changes in government

Stop Crime

Strict obedience of contractual obligations

Support government

Support USA

Supporting community things

Supporting public education

Supporting someone running for office

Take care of children

Take care of church

Take care of family

take care of responsibilities

Please name two responsibilities important to you as a citizen.

Take care of self and family

Take criminals across streets

Taking care of home

Taking care of the environment

Taxes

The fact that I am able to earn a great job opportunity after education

The fact that I am able to get a education

To be a contributing member of society

To be a good parent

To be able to make a choice

To be informed of judicial/legislative issues.

To be knowledgeable of legal options available to me.

To keep children safe

To keep current with the local government concerns/changes

To keep our neighborhood safe & clean along with being informed on current issues

To know what's going on in your own township

To look for our community

To pay my taxes and voice my opinion in how they are utilized.

To treat others as I would like to be treated.

To uphold my country

To vote

To vote each and every time

To vote every year

To vote in as many elections that I am legally responsible to vote in.

To work

To work and contribute toward the well being of the country and not be a user of the system

Travel freedoms

Please name two responsibilities important to you as a citizen.

Treat citizens fairly

Treat everyone equally

Treat people with respect

Understand my right

Understand the issues

Understanding legislation

Uphold the laws

Voice opinion

Voicing my thoughts when appropriate

Vote & participate

Vote corrupt officials out

Vote for officials of own state

Vote into office, any level, responsible, able officers and follow up with keeping track of office holder's actions...and cross one's fingers that office holder does not screw up

Vote regularly

Voting in elections at all levels

Voting in EVERY election

Voting/attend meetings if possible

Watch over grandkids

Work legally

Appendix V

Comments by Survey Respondents

The following comments were made by survey respondents:

Also teaching and learning citizen responsibility from and to others

Believe all people should get free representation in court - should be treated the same.

Can't choose, too many to think of

Corruption

Do what God wants.

Every citizen should attend the church of their choice, vote for the official they believe will represent them in an honest and proper way

I am a law student. That may be an indicator of my answers.

I am concerned with the right to religion... The majority of Americans believe in God, but the minority is trying to eliminate God from government. Some schools are even eliminating Halloween parties from pre-school and elem. school. This makes no sense. It would be the same if there is an election and one candidate received 93% of the votes and one candidate received 7% of the votes, and the 7% complained, the candidate who received 7% of the votes wins.

I am concerned about the adv by law firms advocating the elimination of debt and tax that we lawfully owe. This in my opinion should be illegal.

I am cynical of legal system. I view attorneys as mainly seeking to win cases, not approaching justice.

I believe in free speech, but not hurtful or hateful expressions. I don't believe that the freedom to bear arms includes semiautomatic weapons, etc., and I do not believe in the right to carry concealed weapons except under certain circumstances.

I believe that Wisconsin does not protect poor citizens. I believe that Wisconsin caters to wealthy citizens and overtaxes middle income and poor citizens. I believe that most poor citizens do not have adequate education or health care. I believe that 33% for lawyers in lawsuit cases is far too high. I believe that when citizens are not adequately represented by lawyers those citizens should have recourse to not pay those lawyers for lack of services rendered.

I believe there are too many uninformed constituents; many of whom could care less!

I believe this survey should go across the board.

I do believe the legal system in Wisconsin often times protects the rights of an individual over the rights of the whole when dealing with the common good of society. Also, there seems to be a vast amount of apathy when it comes to government.

I don't know as much as I should about my rights and responsibilities as a citizen!

I especially hold the legal and judicial system to a high standard in its operation, effectiveness, fairness, honesty, humanity, compassion, equal treatment of citizens and equal enforcement of laws. Thanks for the survey.

I feel that once a person becomes an adult, they have the freedom to choose what their life is going to be. The government should stop trying to give people what they choose not to work for to get for themselves. The law should be consistently applied to everyone and should not work one way for some people and another way for someone else. It's not that tough to live within the limits of the law.

I feel the current system is too confusing for the uneducated and can be frustrating for all. I recently went with my daughter to court for a car accident she had and the whole unorganized system was frustrating.

I have a son who has been attacked and the attacker is still on the streets, and will be sentenced next Monday.

I have sat on a jury 3 times and felt it was my duty to help give back to the community by doing so. I have contacted a lawyer several times and am currently awaiting a settlement for an accident.

I have the right to voice my opinion to all elected officials. I may not be right, but it is my opinion and I also may be right.

I hope my opinion means something. Thank you for asking.

I just believe that the government should not hold you back for at least five years of your life once you become a felon. What about your children? Do you continue to live as an outlaw? Thanks.

I just feel that as a general public person, that my feelings aren't heard or don't matter. I am a state employee who is about to lose my office and have to start commuting for my job. I work with the displaced persons who have lost their jobs to foreign trade and feel I need to be available to help them when they have questions or problems. Once I leave my office, that won't be as easy for them to use me for their concerns and help. They have been devastated by losing their jobs through no fault of theirs and the job market is very disturbing right now. Even the very qualified are having difficulty finding work because they are either over-qualified or one of a hundred applying for a position. How are people supposed to support themselves without work? Many fall through the cracks by not being qualified for any programs to help them to survive after unemployment is done. This needs to seriously be looked at to help people become self sufficient again. Please help!!!

I truly believe there has been a collapse in our education system to teach our children about our government, rights and a basic understand on how the country works... 2nd, I think it's a travesty that justice is not blind that if you have the means you can buy your freedom no matter the crime.

I view these not only as rights and responsibilities but a privilege to participate and express ourselves. People do not realize that we are one of the few countries that allow these freedoms - we take them for granted sometimes. My father was born in a then Communist country and he taught me the importance and value of practicing our citizenship rights.

I would like to pay more attention to political issues in my community /Spanish community.

I would like to see more health benefits to my age group. I am currently on Badgercare, but that will disappear in the next two months. I am going to school to get a degree to get a job to have health benefits, but until I have a career I am not eligible to have health care. I am sure that there are more young teens out there that are having the same difficulty as I am. Someone needs to recognize this issue and take immediate action.

Interesting...would like to know the results of this survey.

It is amazing to me how the government does not offer help to my age group and allow companies to go foreign production so I lose my job and get half the salary I had with the company I worked for 25 years. Help is not available to me and my family. We need to support our own people first.

It is apparent to me that the branches of government are not equal at the Federal level. The executive branch is out of control with little or no checks being provided by the legislative or judicial branches.

It is important for me to be able to contact someone about health care and will continue to pursue our rights as citizens and tax payers to try and control the medical co-pays so that we can afford to stay in our home. It is unfortunate that they can take you to court so quickly and not be accountable or offer help. I am not able to find any legal sources that protect us.

It is important to have good laws and have them fairly interpreted.

It would help to have a non partisan, impartial watchdog group evaluate the various candidates and their running platforms and past experiences. Too much anymore you cannot believe what any media outlet is telling you about anyone. It's practically impossible to get the truth any more.

Judicare in WI in the North West is a joke. There are few and those who take Judicare are booked for a year at least. Barron County knows of many drug dealers, but tell us they can "do nothing" unless dealers are caught in the act. I also believe there should be a law for rural areas which would enact the same 'noise' laws as there are in towns. We have to put up with drug dealing neighbors, their traffic, barking dogs, garbage on the road. We pay taxes and can do nothing so that we who hold jobs can get sleep at night. Also in closing, I think businesses that are next to a residence out of the city limits should have to erect a sound baffle.

Managing human affairs demands a learned, interested citizenry. Apathetic, ignorant, uncaring people who let others do the heavy lifting, re: civic affairs affect our (my) quality of life!!! ?? What is the "tipping point"?? In numbers?

Nice job on this, but the Walmart card would be almost my last choice for a reward. Let's talk about a reward that's better for all concerned next time...like a Buy Local gift card that works anywhere, including SHARE. Thanks for having me on your list.

Partisan politics has made me ashamed of the way our government operates at all levels, City, County State and Federal

Some of the questions are worded to produce a certain result, i.e., they give limited choices and no chance to give ones choice.

The average citizen is not knowledgeable of local, state or federal government. The legal system "works" better for those who have financial means to access legal representation other than public defenders--creating an inequality based on financial means. I believe that many citizens, including myself, don't fully understand our rights and responsibilities as citizens as government seems to be not relevant to many citizens.

THE COURTS ARE GETTING TO LIBERAL

The Riverwest Neighborhood Network (www.riverwestneighborhood.org) and other local organizations I have been part of are key expressions and examples of my sense of civic needs and duties.

There are certain aspects of Wisconsin legal system that are a mystery to me, and that could just be that I have to take more time to really get to know some of the legislative workings, and stay in close touch with my legislative individuals.

Too much crime and violence

US Government is shady since 1776.

We need judges that put criminals behind bars for long enough periods of time.

We take our rights, responsibilities for granted or, totally, ignore; that such a tiny % of individuals vote in elections is shameful and unacceptable. I never miss voting regardless of the election.

While I understand the need to respond to individual differences, I have a real problem with the inconsistencies with which the letter of the law is administered. This is especially true in the case of individuals who have multiple OWIs.

Wisconsin has a terrific legal system.

