

GUBERNATORIAL SURVEY QUESTIONS

BACKGROUND

In early 2011, the newly elected Republican majority quickly proposed, passed and signed into law Wisconsin Act 10 (a.k.a., “The Budget Repair Bill”). The bill’s stated intent was to have public employees bear the cost of projected budget shortfalls. It characterized public employees as “haves” contrasted to the average worker/voter who were characterized as “have nots”.

Public employees no longer have any input into terms and conditions of employment such as scheduling, wages, disciplinary actions and work rules. That brings us to the November 6, 2018 election.

The short list of issues that concern your future workforce, should you succeed and be elected governor, is as follows.

Question # 1: What specific steps will you take to restore employee input into the terms and conditions of employment?

Question #2: What criteria will you use to determine appointments to state agencies and commissions?

Question #3: How do you propose to restore the public’s trust in government’s ability to work effectively for all citizens, including public employees?

Question # 4: For more than 20 years, governors from both parties have increased the number of political appointees in state government. The UW also seems to have more politically connected appointments. Proponents of political appointees say that governors need to have their own team in place to achieve their agenda.

During that same time period, there has been an increasing number of large scale financial debacles – IT projects run amok, campus administrators mixing public funding with private funding, failures to reconcile funds and reoccurring security lapses. Some legislators are complaining that they can’t seem to make agencies/campuses do what they are supposed to do.

What is your plan for balancing political appointees and career state employees if you are elected? How will you make agency/campus managers “do what they are supposed to do”?

Question # 5: According to DOA’s Annual Report on Contracting Services, the dollar amount spent by agencies on contracting services increased from \$426,663,505 in fiscal year 2005 to \$520,030,749 in fiscal year 2017.¹ The amount spent by the UW increased from \$73,577,905 in fiscal year 2005 to \$138,815,504 in fiscal year 2017. (These figures do not include transportation contracting.)

According to DOA’s Classified Workforce & Affirmative Action Report for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016 (the most current report available), the rate of employees separating from state service increased during the last three years, reaching an annual rate of 13.4%, “the highest rate in at least a decade”.² In addition, the percentage of employees immediately eligible for retirement is 8.3%, up from 6.4% ten years ago in June 2006.

Given the high rate of permanent employees leaving state service and the increasing number of high-turnover, temporary staff (political appointees and contract employees), how will you manage and preserve institutional knowledge?

¹ State of Wisconsin Contractual Services Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2017, p. 3.
<https://doa.wi.gov/DEO/FY2017ContractSvcRpt.pdf>

² State of Wisconsin Classified Workforce & Affirmative Action Report, Cover Letter,
<https://dpm.wi.gov/Documents/Statistics-Data-Reports/2016%20State%20of%20Wisconsin%20Workforce%20Report.pdf>