

**2004 State Fair Opinion Poll
Minnesota State Senate
Final Results**

September 10, 2004

To: All Senators, staff and interested citizens:

We apologize for the slight delay in posting our results.

As you can see the following is a partial tally of our poll results. This is an unscientific survey. It is simply a measurement of the opinions expressed by those individuals that visited the Senate Fair Booth within the Education Building and took the time to fill out our questionnaire.

This year, as a cost saving measure we made the decision to print the ballots in-house. The decision was made in consultation with Anoka County Election officials after several days of experimentation and evaluation because of the strict and exact standards involved.

Though precautions were taken, we did experience problems the third day of the Fair with a number of ballots being slightly too wide and unable to be inserted into the machine. That same day, Saturday August 28th, an Anoka County Elections official came out to our booth to assess the situation. A complete and correct reading of 1058 respondents was registered.

In addition, a new machine had to be installed because of the difficulty the first machine encountered with the effect of humidity and the width of some of the ballots. With the installation of the second machine, the wrong program card was inadvertently used thus setting the lines off their original alignment.

The end result was that only three of the twelve questions were complete with a remainder a mix of partial results or no results at all.

In summation, we learned a valuable lesson. The printing and care of election ballots is a very careful and precise operation. Under normal situations the ballots are all printed at once and immediately shrink wrapped.

It was impossible for us to take the same precautions, care and maintenance of the ballots as state election officials do. Obviously, next year's opinion poll survey will be conducted with the same precise standards as an official election.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Scott Magnuson
and Senate Information Staff
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