

**2006 State Fair Opinion Poll  
Minnesota State Senate  
Results**

September 5, 2006

To: All Senators, staff and interested citizens

Attached are the results of our State Fair opinion poll survey. 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.

Our main purpose in conducting this opinion poll was to familiarize fair-goers with some of the issues that were considered during the past year, or may be dealt with in 2007.

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

Sincerely,

Scott Magnuson  
and Senate Information staff  
651-296-0504

## **Minnesota State Senate 2006 State Fair Poll**

Respondents should be of voting age.  
Please mark one answer per question.

### **4524 Total Respondents**

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#### **Demographics**

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Male                                   | 49.77% (2210) |
| Female                                 | 50.23% (2230) |
| Minneapolis/St. Paul                   | 34.88% (1548) |
| Rural                                  | 13.90% (617)  |
| Suburban                               | 46.01% (2042) |
| Regional hub (Rochester, Duluth, etc.) | 4.78% (212)   |
| Another state                          | 0.43% (19)    |
| <i>Party Affiliation:</i>              |               |
| DFL Party                              | 45.01% (1985) |
| Republican Party                       | 19.86% (876)  |
| Independence Party                     | 2.43% (107)   |
| Independent or other                   | 17.48% (771)  |
| No comment                             | 15.22% (671)  |

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1.) Currently Minnesota law requires that all drivers carry a minimum amount of automobile insurance. Should Minnesota drivers be required to show proof of insurance when renewing their license tabs to help enforce this law?

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Yes.                  | <b>81.86% (3636)</b> |
| No.                   | <b>12.94% (575)</b>  |
| Undecided/No opinion. | <b>5.20% (231)</b>   |

2.) Would you support state funding to offer full-day/every-day kindergarten?

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Yes.                  | <b>59.72% (2635)</b> |
| No.                   | <b>31.17% (1375)</b> |
| Undecided/No opinion. | <b>9.11% (402)</b>   |

3.) Currently in Minnesota, persons may shoot farm-raised deer and elk, by firearms or archery, within the confines of a private shooting preserve. The preserves are registered and regulated by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, not by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Which of the following responses best describes your view?

I am satisfied that the current regulations of the Board of Animal Health are adequate for deer and elk private shooting preserves. **36.14% (1596)**

I would like to have additional regulation of deer and elk private shooting preserves by the Department of Natural Resources. **11.48% (507)**

I am opposed to deer and elk private shooting preserves. **26.13% (1154)**

Undecided/No opinion. **26.25% (1159)**

4.) Would you support party designation in Judicial elections?

Yes. **30.02% (1327)**

No. **58.05% (2566)**

Undecided/No opinion. **11.92% (527)**

5.) Would you support a bill allowing Minnesota liquor stores to be open on Sundays?

Yes. **49.24% (2184)**

No. **45.10% (2000)**

Undecided/No opinion. **5.66% (251)**

6.) Would you support a new half-cent sales tax in the seven county Metro Area to fund transit projects? (Buses, light rail, and commuter rail.)

Yes. **69.43% (3087)**

No. **26.41% (1174)**

Undecided/No opinion. **4.16% (185)**

7.) Which answer best reflects your opinion on illegal immigration in Minnesota?

I don't believe there is a significant problem with illegal immigration in Minnesota.

**16.39% (723)**

Because immigration law is primarily federal, the state should leave any enforcement action to the federal authorities.

**12.44% (549)**

Heighten the enforcement of existing employment laws. (Employers must withhold taxes and pay unemployment insurance and workers' compensation insurance.)

**18.16% (801)**

State and local law enforcement personnel should assist the federal government to enforce laws against undocumented workers and employers who hire undocumented workers.

**13.10% (578)**

Enact legislation requiring law enforcement officers to ask about immigration status and arrest illegal immigrants.

**4.08% (180)**

Answers C, D, and E.

**31.21% (1377)**

Undecided/No opinion.

**4.62% (204)**

**8.)** Approximately ninety-five percent of the money the Legislature appropriates for higher education pays a part of the cost of educating students attending Minnesota public colleges and universities. Five percent is used for financial aid to students attending private colleges and universities. Which of the following best describes your opinion on the state's support of higher education?

Students attending private colleges and universities should not be eligible for financial aid funded with state taxpayer money. Taxpayer money should only be used to subsidize the cost of educating students who attend public colleges and universities.

**31.92% (1410)**

The proportion of money that subsidizes the education of students at private colleges and universities should be decreased.

**5.57% (246)**

The proportion of money that subsidizes the education of students at private colleges and universities should be increased.

**21.39% (945)**

The current level of money for students at public and private colleges and universities should be continued.

**31.40% (1387)**

Undecided/No opinion.

**9.71% (429)**

**9.)** Which of the following statements best expresses your opinions on driving while using cellular phones?

The law should prohibit every driver from operating a cellular phone, whether handheld or hands-free, while driving.

**41.34% (1808)**

The law should prohibit every driver from operating a handheld cellular phone while driving, but should permit hands-free phone use.

**27.55% (1205)**

I support the current law, which prohibits only people under the age of 18 from using cellular phones while driving.

**20.53% (898)**

The law should not prohibit anyone's use of cellular phones while driving.

**7.75% (339)**

Undecided/No opinion.

**2.83% (124)**

**10.) Would you support a statewide smoking ban in all bars and restaurants?**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| I would support a smoking ban in both bars and restaurants.         | <b>61.91% (2714)</b> |
| I would support a smoking ban in restaurants only.                  | <b>14.19% (622)</b>  |
| I oppose any further restrictions on smoking.                       | <b>13.85% (607)</b>  |
| This issue should be dealt with on a local rather than state level. | <b>8.99% (394)</b>   |
| Undecided/No opinion.   | <b>1.07% (47)</b>    |

**11.) What should be the preferred method to control the deer population in the metro area?**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Expanded legal hunting options, including bow hunting and bag limits.   | <b>39.56% (1725)</b> |
| Use government hired sharpshooters and donate the meat to food shelves. | <b>28.72% (1252)</b> |
| Use biological reproduction control.                                    | <b>10.30% (449)</b>  |
| No controls necessary, let nature take its course.                      | <b>8.85% (386)</b>   |
| Undecided/No opinion.   | <b>12.57% (548)</b>  |

**12.) When Minnesota has a budget surplus, which of the following selections would be your top priority?**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Increase funding for K-12 education.                            | <b>30.32% (1313)</b> |
| Increase funding for higher education.                          | <b>5.45% (236)</b>   |
| Increase funding for highways, bridges and mass transit.        | <b>9.26% (401)</b>   |
| Increase funding for health and social programs.                | <b>11.94% (517)</b>  |
| Increase funding for public safety.                             | <b>1.99% (86)</b>    |
| Increase funding for wildlife habitat and clean water programs. | <b>3.65% (158)</b>   |
| Return the money to taxpayers in the form of a one time rebate. | <b>7.62% (330)</b>   |
| Reduce the sales tax.   | <b>2.29% (99)</b>    |
| Provide permanent property tax relief.                          | <b>9.15% (396)</b>   |
| Provide income tax relief.                                      | <b>5.73% (248)</b>   |
| Increase the "rainy day fund" or budget reserve.                | <b>11.29% (489)</b>  |
| Undecided/No opinion.   | <b>1.32% (57)</b>    |

**13.) When Minnesota needs to resolve a budget shortfall, the Legislature should resolve it by:**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Reduce state spending.  | <b>32.08% (1399)</b> |
| Increasing the personal income tax.   | <b>8.78% (383)</b>   |
| Increasing user fees.   | <b>3.00% (131)</b>   |
| Increasing corporate taxes.   | <b>13.02% (568)</b>  |
| Increasing the sales tax rate.  | <b>1.56% (68)</b>    |
| Expanding the sales tax base to such areas as clothing and professional services. | <b>2.52% (110)</b>   |
| A combination of tax increases and spending cuts.                                 | <b>36.90% (1609)</b> |

Undecided/No opinion.

**2.13% (93)**

**14.) What is your primary focus when choosing your state legislator?**

Fiscal issues.

**18.78% (821)**

Social issues.

**29.26% (1279)**

Party affiliation.

**9.24% (404)**

Personality of the candidate.

**.30% (13)**

Name recognition.

**.001% (3)**

A combination of the above.

**39.56% (1729)**

I don't vote.

**.53% (23)**

Other/No opinion.

**2.26% (99)**