

**2008 State Fair Teen Opinion Poll  
Minnesota State Senate  
Survey Results**

September 2, 2008

To: All Senators, staff and interested citizens

Attached are the results of the Senate State Fair opinion poll survey. This is an unscientific survey. It is simply a measurement of the opinions expressed by those individuals who visited the Senate Fair Booth in the Education Building and took the time to fill out our questionnaire.

Our main purpose in conducting this teen opinion poll was to familiarize teen fair-goers with some of the issues that may be dealt with in 2009, as well as to assess their general feelings toward government and the political process.

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

Sincerely,

Scott Magnuson, John Trombley, and Jessica Tupper  
Senate Information Office  
651-296-0504

**Minnesota State Senate**  
**2008 State Fair Teen Opinion Poll**  
**Ages 13-17**

**349 TOTAL RESPONDENTS**

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1. Should we increase the mandatory attendance age for high school students from 16 years old to 18 years old?

A. Yes.	<b>55.78% (193)</b>
B. No.	<b>29.48% (102)</b>
C. Undecided/No opinion.	<b>14.74% (51)</b>

2. Should the state require age appropriate comprehensive sex education in public schools?

A. Yes.	<b>66.57% (231)</b>
B. No.	<b>17.58% (61)</b>
C. Undecided/No opinion.	<b>15.85% (55)</b>

3. Minnesota law prohibits all drivers from text messaging. Provisional drivers, generally those under age 18, are not allowed to use cell phones. Should the ban on cell phone use apply to all drivers?

A. Yes.	<b>55.91% (194)</b>
B. No.	<b>38.90% (135)</b>
C. Undecided/No opinion.	<b>5.19% (18)</b>

4. In general, is your perception of government in Minnesota favorable?

A. Yes.	<b>50.05% (172)</b>
B. No.	<b>18.90% (65)</b>
C. Undecided/No opinion.	<b>31.10% (107)</b>

5. What is your main source of information concerning government and politics?

A. The internet.	<b>16.28% (56)</b>
B. Television.	<b>37.79% (130)</b>
C. Radio.	<b>11.05% (38)</b>
D. Newspapers.	<b>6.69% (23)</b>
E. Parents or friends.	<b>21.22% (73)</b>
F. Other.	<b>6.98% (24)</b>

6. Should the state minimum wage be increased?

- A. Yes. **38.44% (133)**
- B. Yes, and indexed to keep pace with inflation. **35.55% (123)**
- C. No. **14.16% (49)**
- D. Undecided/No opinion. **11.85% (41)**

7. Under existing Minnesota law, a driver must be stopped or detained for a moving violation before a citation can be issued for failure to wear a seat belt. Should the law be changed to allow the police to stop someone for not wearing a seat belt?

- A. Yes. **58.36% (199)**
- B. No. **33.72% (115)**
- C. Undecided/No opinion. **7.92% (27)**

8. Do you plan to exercise your right to vote when you turn 18?

- A. Yes. **89.24% (307)**
- B. No. **0.00%**
- C. Sometimes, it depends on the election/candidate(s) **8.72% (30)**
- D. Undecided/No opinion **2.03% (7)**

9. Do you generally feel safe at your school?

- A. Yes. **88.05% (302)**
- B. No. **4.37% (15)**
- C. Undecided/No opinion. **7.58% (26)**

10. Have gas prices impacted your decision to get a driver's license?

- A. Yes. **20.00% (68)**
- B. No. **32.65% (111)**
- C. No, but I am driving less due to prices. **21.76% (74)**
- D. Undecided/Not applicable to me at this time. **25.59% (87)**

11. Should the legal drinking age (21) be lowered in Minnesota?

- A. Yes. **31.47% (107)**
- B. No. **62.06% (211)**
- C. Undecided/No opinion. **6.47% (22)**

12. Should the legal voting age (18) be lowered in Minnesota?

- A. Yes. **39.12% (133)**
- B. No. **53.82% (183)**
- C. Undecided/No opinion. **7.06% (24)**