



SENATE INFORMATION OFFICE
231 Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-0504

2009 State Fair Teen Opinion Poll Minnesota State Senate Survey Results

September 8, 2009

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 fairgoers with some of the issues that may be dealt with in 2010, 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
2009 State Fair Teen Opinion Poll
Ages 13-17
476 Total Respondents

1. What should be the core requirements of a high school diploma?
 - A. Completing required courses and passing a reading test. **4.48% (21)**
 - B. Completing required courses and passing a math test. **3.62% (17)**
 - C. Both A and B. **72.07% (338)**
 - D. Completing required courses with no further testing. **15.99% (75)**
 - E. Undecided/No opinion. **3.84% (18)**

2. Are you comfortable with your school's plan for handling a disease outbreak, such as swine flu cases?
 - A. Yes. **30.34% (142)**
 - B. No. **9.19% (43)**
 - C. I don't know my school's plan. **54.27% (254)**
 - D. Undecided/No opinion. **6.20% (29)**

3. Should medical marijuana be legalized in Minnesota?
 - A. Yes. **34.68% (163)**
 - B. No. **46.17% (217)**
 - C. Undecided/No opinion. **19.15% (90)**

4. What is your preferred method of gathering news?
 - A. Twitter. **.65% (3)**
 - B. Facebook. **15.73% (73)**
 - C. Other websites. **7.76% (36)**
 - D. Television. **36.64% (170)**
 - E. Radio. **8.19% (38)**
 - F. Newspapers/Magazines. **14.66% (68)**
 - G. Friends. **7.11% (33)**
 - H. Teachers/Parents. **9.27% (43)**

5. What is your main source of information for political news?

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| A. Twitter. | .22% (1) |
| B. Facebook. | 2.15% (10) |
| C. Other websites. | 5.16% (24) |
| D. Television. | 46.45% (216) |
| E. Radio. | 9.46% (44) |
| F. Newspapers/Magazines. | 13.33% (62) |
| G. Friends. | 2.37% (11) |
| H. Teachers/Parents. | 20.86% (97) |

6. In Minnesota you must be 21 to serve as a state legislator. Would you support a constitutional amendment to change the age from 21 to 18 (as it is in 16 other states)?

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| A. Yes. | 30.34% (142) |
| B. No. | 53.54% (250) |
| C. Undecided/no opinion. | 16.24% (76) |

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

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| A. Yes. | 46.09% (212) |
| B. No. | 24.56% (113) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion. | 29.35% (135) |

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

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| A. Yes | 95.44% (440) |
| B. No | 1.08% (5) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion | 3.47% (16) |

9. Should gambling be expanded to raise revenue for the state?

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| A. I oppose any increase in gambling. | 40.68% (190) |
| B. I support slot machines at a licensed horse racing facility. | 7.28% (34) |
| C. I support slot machines in bars throughout the state. | 3.43% (16) |
| D. I support both B and C. | 18.41% (86) |
| E. Undecided/No Opinion. | 30.19% (141) |

10. Minnesota law currently bans the construction of nuclear power plants. Should this law be repealed?

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| A. Yes. | 29.16% (135) |
| B. No. | 50.54% (234) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion | 20.30% (94) |

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

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| A. Yes. | 66.74% (311) |
| B. No. | 29.83% (139) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion. | 3.43% (16) |