



SENATE INFORMATION OFFICE
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2010 State Fair Opinion Poll Minnesota State Senate Survey Results

September 7, 2010

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 opinion poll was to familiarize fairgoers with some of the issues that were considered during the past year, or may be dealt with in 2011.

On this year's survey, question number 14 allowed up to three choices for those choosing budget cuts. Rather than displaying percentages for this question, we chose to simply show the raw numbers depicting which areas were selected and the numerical ranking.

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
2010 State Fair Opinion Poll
Respondents should be of voting age.
5948 Total Respondents

Demographics

Minneapolis/St. Paul	32.1% (1894)
Rural	15.9% (937)
Suburban	47.2% (2785)
Regional hub (Rochester, Duluth, etc.)	4.0% (235)
Another state	0.8% (49)

<i>Age:</i>	
18-24	6.6% (387)
25-44	22.4% (1319)
45-64	50.6% (2978)
65 and above	20.4% (1204)

<i>Party Affiliation:</i>	
DFL Party	41.9% (2456)
Republican Party	21.1% (1239)
Independence Party	2.3% (134)
Independent or other	18.3% (1076)
No comment	16.4% (963)

1. Should commercial dog and cat breeders be licensed by the state of Minnesota and their facilities inspected by state inspectors?

A. Yes.	79.1% (4647)
B. No.	11.6% (684)
C. Undecided/No Opinion.	9.3% (547)

2. Should the Legislature require all wireless telecommunications service providers to alert customers whose usage approaches or exceeds their contract limit?

A. Yes.	57.2% (3367)
B. No.	30.2% (1779)
C. Undecided/No opinion.	12.5% (736)

3. Minnesota law allows individuals and corporations to buy wind right easements over large areas of agricultural land. However, the purchaser loses those rights if a commercial wind operation is not in place within seven years of the purchase. The seven-year provision is scheduled to be repealed on June 1, 2012. Should the Legislature extend that provision or allow it to lapse?
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| A. Yes, extend the provision. | 43.5% (2539) |
| B. No, allow it to lapse. | 28.1% (1639) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion. | 28.4% (1656) |
4. Do you think debt collectors should be required to verify they have the correct debtor and the correct amount of the debt before filing a lawsuit against an alleged debtor?
- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| A. Yes. | 95.8% (5644) |
| B. No. | 1.8% (108) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion. | 2.4% (142) |
5. Would you be willing to pay higher electric rates for electric energy that produced less pollution than coal-generated electricity? If so how much?
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| A. No, not any higher. | 39.0% (2294) |
| B. Yes, ten percent higher. | 38.3% (2252) |
| C. Yes, 25 percent higher. | 10.4% (609) |
| D. Yes, 50 percent or higher. | 4.4% (258) |
| E. Undecided/No opinion. | 8.0% (468) |
6. When there is a budget shortfall, how should the Legislature resolve it?
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| A. Increase state revenue. | 13.5% (798) |
| B. Reduce state spending. | 33.8% (1996) |
| C. A combination of A and B. | 51.6% (3048) |
| D. Undecided/No opinion. | 1.0% (61) |
7. Currently, the Minnesota Legislature is constitutionally responsible for legislative and congressional redistricting and redrawing of legislative and congressional district boundaries. Would you support legislation creating a nonpartisan redistricting commission composed of retired judges to do this work?
- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| A. Yes. | 62.0% (3640) |
| B. No. | 21.5% (1265) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion. | 16.5% (968) |

8. Is it important for the Minnesota Legislature to resolve the Vikings stadium issue before their lease expires at the end of the 2011 season?
- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| A. Yes, because the team will likely be sold or relocated. | 33.0% (1939) |
| B. No, the team will likely remain in Minnesota. | 26.2% (1543) |
| C. This issue is not important to me. | 35.5% (2087) |
| D. Undecided/No opinion. | 5.4% (315) |
9. The Legislature recently considered changing teacher licensure requirements to allow an alternative method for an individual to become a teacher. This would allow teachers from programs such as “Teach for America” or mid-career professionals to teach in our classrooms provided they pass the teacher licensure exam. Would you support an alternative method for licensing skilled professionals to teach Minnesota’s students or do you support the traditional method for training and licensing teachers in Minnesota?
- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| A. Yes, I would support an alternative method. | 62.2% (3462) |
| B. No, I oppose an alternative method. | 30.1% (1677) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion. | 7.7% (427) |
10. The Legislature has considered proposals to increase funding for early childhood education. Some proposals provide funding directly to established programs. Other proposals provide funding directly to parents who select a program from a qualified list. Which approach would you favor?
- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| A. Fund established programs. | 48.3% (2681) |
| B. Send funding to parents who select a qualified provider. | 17.5% (973) |
| C. I don’t support increased funding for early childhood. | 24.1% (1340) |
| D. Undecided/No opinion. | 10.1% (559) |
11. Would you support an increase in the state income tax if the money generated was used to reduce your local property taxes?
- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| A. Yes. | 42.4% (2360) |
| B. No. | 44.9% (2495) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion. | 12.7% (706) |
12. Should a company be allowed to consider an applicant’s credit history as a basis for hiring employees to work in nonfinancial positions?
- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| A. Yes. | 18.5 % (1029) |
| B. No. | 75.2% (4184) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion. | 6.3% (349) |

13. Under current law, a prisoner in a state or local correctional facility must serve a minimum of 66.7% of their sentence before being eligible for supervised release. As part of a budget-balancing strategy intended to lessen cuts in other areas, would you support reducing this minimum period to 60% of a prisoner's sentence?

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| A. Yes. | 14.2% (790) |
| B. Yes, but not for violent offenders. | 46.8% (2609) |
| C. No. | 36.2% (2019) |
| D. Undecided/No opinion. | 2.8% (155) |

14. If the 2011 Legislature decides to cut funding to resolve a general fund budget shortfall, currently projected to be 15% of the budget, which areas should be cut? The percentages of the general fund budget are listed in parentheses.

Select up to three budget areas:	Rank	
A. E-12 Education. (37.1%)	4	(1073)
B. Higher Education. (9.2%)	5	(1009)
C. Health and Human Services. (29.6%)	2	(1638)
D. Property Tax Aids and Credits. (9.7%)	3	(1601)
E. Corrections/Public Safety. (5.9%)	8	(562)
F. State Government. (2.1%)	1	(2234)
G. Transportation. (0.5%)	9	(428)
H. Environment/Pollution Control. (1.1%)	6	(828)
I. Economic Development. (0.9%)	6	(828)

OR select one of the following:	Rank	
J. I would only support equal cuts across the board.	2	(635)
K. I oppose any further cuts in state spending.	1	(978)
L. Undecided/No opinion.	3	(234)