

**2011 State Fair Opinion Poll
Minnesota State Senate
Survey Results**

September 6, 2011

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 2012.

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

Sincerely,

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

Minnesota State Senate
2011 State Fair Poll

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

8324 TOTAL RESPONDENTS

1. Should the school year be allowed to start before Labor Day?
 - A. Yes **54.46% (4490)**
 - B. No **36.97% (3048)**
 - C. Undecided/No Opinion **8.56% (706)**

2. Would you support legislation allowing liquor stores to be open on Sundays and holidays?
 - A. Yes **63.50% (5239)**
 - B. No **31.02% (2559)**
 - C. Undecided/No Opinion **5.48% (452)**

3. Would you support a constitutional amendment that would require individuals to provide a photo ID before they are given an election ballot for voting?
 - A. Yes **46.71% (3856)**
 - B. No **50.35% (4156)**
 - C. Undecided/No Opinion **2.94% (243)**

4. Minnesota law prohibits all drivers from text messaging while driving. Provisional drivers, generally those under the age of 18, are not allowed to use cell phones. Should the ban on cell phone use while driving be extended to all drivers?
 - A. Yes **49.96% (4119)**
 - B. Yes, with an adult exception for hands-free devices **25.56% (2107)**
 - C. No **21.59% (1780)**
 - D. Undecided/No Opinion **2.87% (238)**

5. When spending is projected to grow at a rate higher than projected revenues, how should legislators solve the resulting budget deficit?
 - A. Reduce spending growth to meet projected revenues **29.63% (2435)**
 - B. Increase taxes to meet projected spending growth **11.50% (945)**
 - C. A mix of spending reductions and increase in taxes **57.19% (4700)**
 - D. Undecided/No Opinion **1.68% (138)**

6. Every state has a different budget process. For example, if a budget is not passed by July 1 in Wisconsin, the current budget remains unchanged and funding continues on a

month-by-month basis. In Minnesota, government services shut down if a new budget is not approved by June 30th. Should the Minnesota legislature enact a change in the budget process to avoid a government shutdown in the event of a budget deadlock?

- A. No, continue to require budgets to be completed or risk shutdown. **34.68% (2847)**
- B. Yes, change state law to reflect language similar to Wisconsin law. **58.51% (4803)**
- C. Undecided/No Opinion **6.81% (559)**

7. Should the teacher tenure system be changed so that teachers are retained for performance and not by seniority?

- A. Yes **62.31% (5124)**
- B. No **25.87% (2127)**
- C. Undecided/No Opinion **11.82% (921)**

8. Would you support a constitutional amendment that would provide for some limits on the maximum growth in state spending?

- A. Yes **39.95% (3283)**
- B. No **48.84% (4013)**
- C. Undecided/No Opinion **11.21% (921)**

9. What should the state's involvement in a new Vikings Stadium be?

- A. None **47.57% (3911)**
- B. Support with roads and infrastructure **26.07% (2143)**
- C. Allow local city/county to increase taxes **11.52% (947)**
- D. Pay one-third of the cost **8.22% (676)**
- E. Undecided/ No Opinion **6.62% (544)**

10. Should Minnesota remain in control of its health care system, rather than be mandated to implement a federally run program?

- A. Yes **43.88% (3344)**
- B. No **42.37% (3229)**
- C. Undecided/No Opinion **13.75% (1048)**

11. Current fishing laws only allow one line per angler. Do you support increasing this to two lines (or more) per angler?

- A. Yes, allow two or more lines **11.67% (891)**
- B. Yes, allow up to two lines **16.37% (1250)**
- C. No, only allow one line **48.62% (3712)**
- D. Undecided/No Opinion **23.34% (1782)**

12. Currently, Minnesota has 74 state parks and recreation areas. Future state budgets may require operating reductions in the park system. If the state were to reduce the operating costs of state parks, how should it be accomplished?

- A. Completely close a small number of state parks that have the smallest amount of annual visitors. **12.14% (920)**
- B. Reduce overall park services, such as park hours, park upkeep, maintenance, etc. **11.76% (891)**
- C. I favor increasing park fees to avoid any reductions. **68.03% (5153)**
- D. Undecided/No opinion **8.07% (611)**