

1999 STATE FAIR OPINION POLL MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ☒
(Select only one choice)

QUESTION 1

Wolves in Minnesota have been protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act since the 1970s. The federal government, now that the wolf population has sufficiently recovered, is considering removing special protection for wolves in Minnesota and transferring management of the wolf to the state of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Legislature has debated several wolf management plans. Which of the following best reflects your views on wolf population management?

- ☐ a. The wolf population should be managed. Public hunting and trapping seasons should be permitted. **514 24.2%**
- ☐ b. The wolf population should be controlled to keep them out of agricultural areas and away from human contact. Public hunting and trapping of wolves should not be permitted. **589 27.7%**
- ☐ c. Wolves should be minimally managed. Farmers should be allowed to eliminate wolves that harm their livestock. **599 28.2%**
- ☐ d. Wolves should be minimally managed. Farmers should not be permitted to eliminate wolves that harm their livestock. **334 15.7%**
- ☐ e. Undecided or no opinion **91 4.3%**

QUESTION 2

Highway construction and maintenance is paid through the Highway User Fund, which is funded by the gasoline tax and the motor vehicle registration (license plate) tax. Twenty years ago approximately 2/3 of the fund's revenue came from the gas tax, which is more of a user fee, and the other third came from the registration tax, which is more of a value-based fee. Currently, because of higher new automobile prices, almost half of the fund's revenue comes from the motor vehicle registration tax.

Would you support a reduction in the motor vehicle registration tax and an increase in the gas tax to shift more highway revenue to the gas tax?

- ☐ a. Yes **1,043 49.4%**
- ☐ b. No **864 40.9%**
- ☐ c. Undecided or no opinion **204 9.7%**

QUESTION 3

In 1999 the Minnesota Legislature legalized card games at Canterbury Park. What, if any, further changes to Minnesota's gambling laws do you believe the Legislature should enact?

- ☐ a. Allow a casino at Canterbury Park **527 24.9%**
- ☐ b. Allow a state run casino at the Mall of America **205 9.7%**
- ☐ c. Allow video poker or slot machines in bars **99 4.7%**
- ☐ d. Make no changes to the gambling laws **340 16.1%**
- ☐ e. Reduce the types of available legalized gambling **379 17.9%**
- ☐ f. Abolish all legalized gambling **457 21.6%**
- ☐ g. Undecided or no opinion **106 5%**

QUESTION 4

The issue of publicly funded stadiums for professional sports franchises has been considered by the Legislature throughout the past several years. Three funding plans are currently being considered. Which of the following statements best reflects your view on the matter?

- ☐ a. The Legislature should allow Hennepin County to build a stadium for the Minnesota Twins and the Minnesota Vikings with a sales tax in Hennepin County, without state funding. **203 9.6%**
- ☐ b. The Legislature should authorize the bonding and tax authority to allow the city of St. Paul to build a baseball stadium for the Minnesota Twins. (This would involve some direct state funding.) **345 16.3%**
- ☐ c. The Legislature should help the University of Minnesota build a football stadium that could also be leased to the Vikings. **216 10.2%**
- ☐ d. The legislature should do nothing to help build a baseball stadium for the Twins or a football stadium for the Vikings. **1,269 59.9%**
- ☐ e. Undecided or no opinion **85 4%**

QUESTION 5

Which statement best reflects your opinion concerning state financing of statewide election campaigns?

- ☐ a. The state should fully fund statewide campaigns, if the candidates agree to accept no private campaign contributions. **561 26.5%**
- ☐ b. I support the current system, whereby the state partially funds statewide elections and sets restrictions on the amount candidates can raise. **902 42.6%**
- ☐ c. The candidates should be responsible for raising their own campaign funds without state assistance. **557 26.3%**
- ☐ d. Undecided or no opinion **95 4.5%**

QUESTION 6

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund will have, on average, \$14 million a year to spend on projects to protect and improve the environment. The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources is responsible for recommending these expenditures. Considering all of the natural resource needs in the state, where would you recommend they focus the spending?

- ☐ a. Recreation projects including historic sites **332 16%**
- ☐ b. Fish and wildlife habitat **367 17.7%**
- ☐ c. Water resources **207 10%**
- ☐ d. Agriculture and natural resource industries, such as forestry and tourism **230 11.1%**
- ☐ e. Environmental education **100 4.8%**
- ☐ f. Land use and natural resource management including research **429 20.7%**
- ☐ g. Alternative energy sources **212 10.2%**
- ☐ h. Undecided or no opinion **195 9.4%**

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QUESTION 7

Should the state continue to set statewide graduation standards for all Minnesota students?

- ☐ a. Yes, the state should set statewide standards for all students.
1,445 70.5%
- ☐ b. No, each school district should establish its own graduation standards.
520 25.4%
- ☐ c. Undecided or no opinion
84 4.1%

QUESTION 8

What role should public high schools be allowed to play in distributing birth control information and/or contraceptives to students?

- ☐ a. Public high schools should be allowed to distribute both birth control information and contraceptives to students.
876 42.6%
- ☐ b. Public high schools should be allowed to distribute birth control information, but not contraceptives to students.
677 33%
- ☐ c. Public high schools should not be allowed to distribute birth control information or contraceptives to students.
437 21.3%
- ☐ d. Undecided or no opinion
64 3.1%

QUESTION 9

What philosophy should our schools follow to best provide a safer environment for our children?

- ☐ a. Physical intervention such as back pack and locker searches, use of metal detectors and police liaisons are the best tools to provide safe schools and communities.
596 29.2%
- ☐ b. The primary focus should be on preventive measures such as teaching conflict resolution, providing after school activities and requiring additional teacher and administrator training on children's mental health issues.
1,094 53.5%
- ☐ c. Schools provide a safe environment already.
252 12.3%
- ☐ d. Undecided or no opinion
102 5%

QUESTION 10

In 1999 the legislature considered, but did not pass, an increase in hunting and fishing license fees. The DNR's Fish and Wildlife Division is now approximately \$10.5 million short of funds for the next two years. To make up for the loss, several fish and wildlife projects will be eliminated or curtailed. Which best reflects your position on a fee increase next year?

- ☐ a. License fee increases should be a top priority. The state should also provide matching funds from general tax revenues.
806 39.2%
- ☐ b. License fees should be increased with no matching funds from the state.
701 34.1%
- ☐ c. I do not support a license fee increase.
372 18.1%
- ☐ d. Undecided or no opinion
178 8.7%

QUESTION 11

Which one of the following selections would be your top priority if Minnesota continues to enjoy a budget surplus?

- ☐ a. Provide farm relief 228 11.2%
- ☐ b. Increase funding for K-12 education 453 22.2%
- ☐ c. Increase funding for higher education 104 5.1%
- ☐ d. Increase funding for highways, bridges and mass transit 157 7.7%
- ☐ e. Increase funding for health and social programs 170 8.3%
- ☐ f. Increase funding for computer technology and internet connections 20 1%
- ☐ g. Return the money to taxpayers in the form of a one time rebate.
176 8.6%
- ☐ h. Reduce the sales tax 205 10%
- ☐ i. Provide further permanent tax relief 482 23.6%
- ☐ j. Undecided or no opinion 45 2.2%

QUESTION 12

What is your main source for receiving information about the Legislature?

- ☐ a. Contacting the House and Senate Information Offices 99 4.9%
- ☐ b. The newsletters, the Senate Briefly and Session Weekly 222 10.9%
- ☐ c. Legislative web site (www.leg.state.mn.us) 84 4.1%
- ☐ d. Newspapers 848 41.7%
- ☐ e. Radio 266 13.1%
- ☐ f. Television (local news) 346 17%
- ☐ g. Televised committee and floor action coverage 34 1.7%
- ☐ h. Conversation with friends 72 3.5%
- ☐ i. I do not receive information about the Legislature. 65 3.2%