

Minnesota State Senate
2001 State Fair Poll
(respondents should be of voting age)
Total Respondents - 5241

Demographics

Male	2598	50.1%	18-35	1163	22.5%
Female	2591	49.9%	36-54	2446	47.4%
Urban	1820	37.2%	55-64	923	17.9%
Rural	861	17.6%	65 and older	627	12.2%
Suburban	2209	45.2%			

1. If there is a budget surplus next year, how should the state best respond?
 - a) Continue to cut taxes. 1309 26.2%
 - b) Grant a tax rebate. 681 13.6%
 - c) Save the excess revenue in case of a downturn in the economy. 728 14.6%
 - d) Provide more money for education. 1781 35.6%
 - e) Provide more money for highways. 279 5.6%
 - f) Other. 169 3.4%
 - g) Undecided/ No opinion. 50 1.0%

2. Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion regarding "conceal/carry" or individuals carrying handguns?
 - a) Keep current law on permits to carry handguns - i.e., allow the issuing authority discretion to issue or deny permits. 2654 52.1%
 - b) Essentially keep the current system in place, but change the law to allow a more informal appeal process for those who are denied a permit. 387 7.6%
 - c) Pass a "shall issue" law requiring the issuing authority to grant a permit to carry a handgun, if the statutory criteria are met. 1514 29.7%
 - d) Undecided/ no opinion. 540 10.6%

3. Do you support the use of cameras or "photo cops" to ticket traffic law violators?
- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| a) Yes. | 1833 | 35.5% |
| b) Yes, but only for vehicles that run red lights. | 934 | 18.1% |
| c) No. | 2211 | 42.8% |
| d) Undecided/ No opinion. | 182 | 3.5% |
4. Should the state set up a program so that parents can stay home with their newborn (or newly adopted baby) for up to six months, with the state and the employer each paying a portion of the parent's wages?
- | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-------|
| a) Yes. | 2002 | 38.8% |
| b) No. | 2593 | 50.2% |
| c) Undecided/ No opinion. | 570 | 11.0% |
5. Should the state provide any kind of direct financial support for construction of the proposed baseball park for the Minnesota Twins?
- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|-------|
| a) Yes. | 1140 | 22.1% |
| b) No. | 3032 | 58.9% |
| c) No, but I support user fees. | 837 | 16.2% |
| d) Undecided/ No opinion. | 143 | 2.8% |
6. Minnesotans currently generate over five million tons of garbage each year. Experts estimate that by the year 2020 this amount will increase to 12 million tons and the amount of garbage going into landfills will triple. Would you support a requirement that all garbage must be processed before being placed in a landfill to reduce the need to site new landfills and expand existing landfills?
- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| a) Yes, if the additional cost is minimal. | 2663 | 51.6% |
| b) Yes, regardless of the additional cost. | 1598 | 31.0% |
| c) No. | 518 | 10.0% |
| d) Undecided/ No opinion. | 381 | 7.4% |
7. Do you think the state adequately funds pre-school education?
- | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-------|
| a) Yes. | 1914 | 38.7% |
| b) No. | 2110 | 42.6% |
| c) Undecided/ No opinion. | 926 | 18.7% |

8. How would you rate the overall academic quality of your child's public school?

a) Excellent.	398	8.1%
b) Very good.	991	20.2%
c) Good.	1067	21.8%
d) Fair.	696	14.2%
e) Poor.	273	5.6%
f) Very poor.	132	2.7%
g) Not applicable.	1348	27.5%

9. Should Minnesota ban the use of handheld cell phones while driving?

a) Yes.	2794	56.6%
b) No.	1298	26.3%
c) No, but certain restrictions should be applied.	762	15.4%
d) Undecided/No opinion.	81	1.6%

10. Ninety percent of state funding for higher education goes directly to Minnesota public colleges and universities. Should state funding be changed so that a larger portion of the money goes directly to students to attend the institution of their choice?

a) Yes, and the money could be used at either a public or private college or university.	1801	36.4%
b) Yes, but the money could only be used at public colleges and universities.	1188	24.0%
c) No.	1616	32.7%
d) Undecided/ No opinion.	338	6.8%

11. Under what conditions would you support a state-owned casino?

a) If half of the profits were shared with tribes that have little of their own gambling revenue while the other half went to the state general fund.	124	2.5%
b) If half of the profits were used for infrastructure and capital projects such as roads, bridges and schools and the other half went to the state general fund.	1089	22.0%
c) Both a and b (not including the general fund).	287	5.8%
d) If the entire amount went to the state general fund.	661	13.3%
e) I would not support a state-owned casino under any conditions.	2557	51.6%
f) Undecided/ No opinion.	237	4.8%

12. In which situation would you be willing to pay higher gasoline taxes?

a) Additional gas tax money would be devoted to road and bridge construction.	625	12.6%
b) Additional gas tax money would be devoted to road and bridge construction, and transit. (buses and rail).	1605	32.4%
c) Gasoline taxes should not be raised.	2580	52.1%
d) Undecided/ No opinion.	140	2.8%