

**2007 State Fair Opinion Poll
Minnesota State Senate
Survey Results**

September 4, 2007

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 2008.

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

Sincerely,

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Senate Information Office
651-296-0504

Minnesota State Senate
2007 State Fair Poll

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

4613 TOTAL RESPONDENTS

Demographics

Male	50.13% (2281)
Female	49.87% (2269)
Minneapolis/St. Paul	32.37% (1474)
Rural	14.69% (669)
Suburban	47.57% (2166)
Regional hub (Rochester, Duluth, etc.)	4.44% (202)
Another state	0.92% (42)
<i>Party Affiliation:</i>	
DFL Party	43.32% (1966)
Republican Party	19.57% (888)
Independence Party	2.27% (103)
Independent or other	19.70% (894)
No comment	15.14% (687)

1. Which one of the following issues is the most important statewide issue that should be addressed by the Legislature?

A. Providing access to affordable health care.	33.15% (1502)
B. Controlling state taxes and spending.	24.41% (1106)
C. Improving the state's transportation system.	12.56% (569)
D. Providing adequate funding for K-12 education.	19.09% (865)
E. Protecting the environment.	5.89% (267)
F. Other.	3.64% (165)
G. Undecided/No opinion.	1.26% (57)

2. Currently, clothing is exempt from the Minnesota state sales tax. Do you support taxing clothing?

A. Yes	14.84% (675)
B. Yes, but only if the overall sales tax rate is reduced.	6.64% (302)
C. No.	72.97% (3320)
D. Undecided/No opinion.	5.56% (253)

3. The state's literacy goal is to have all children able to read no later than the end of second grade. School districts are required to identify first-grade students who may not achieve that goal. Current law allows school districts to set their own policies in this situation. Which of the following best reflects your opinion?

A. The state should require a student to repeat second grade if the student is unable to read.

29.32% (1333)

B. The state should require a student to repeat second grade if the student is unable to read, unless the parent and school district reach a different agreement.

22.77% (1035)

C. Local school districts should continue to set their own policies.

34.67% (1576)

D. I believe holding students back a year in school is harmful.

6.20% (282)

E. Undecided/No opinion

7.04% (320)

4. State law places restrictions on drivers ages 16 to 18 that are not imposed on adult drivers. Do you think laws granting driving privileges to teens should be stricter than they are under current law?

A. No, current law is adequate.

24.73% (1124)

B. Yes, teen drivers should be limited in the number of non-family passengers they can transport.

12.82% (583)

C. Yes, teen drivers should be prohibited from driving during late-night hours.

3.15% (143)

D. Yes, teen drivers should be subject to the limitations in both b and c.

54.51% (2478)

E. Undecided/No opinion.

4.80% (218)

5. Would you support an income tax increase on the highest two percent of Minnesota's income earners, if the increase was used for improved early childhood, K-12 and higher education?

A. Yes.

66.60% (3029)

B. No.

29.05% (1321)

C. Undecided/No opinion.

4.35% (198)

6. Minnesota recently enacted legislation committing the state to achieving universal health care coverage for all Minnesotans by the year 2011, without providing a specific means of implementing it. Universal health care coverage is achieved when all Minnesotans have access to affordable health care. Which of the following best reflects your opinion?

A. I oppose universal health care coverage for all Minnesotans. The system is working fine the way it is. **16.22% (724)**

B. I support universal coverage for all Minnesotans, and in order to achieve it the state should adopt a single payer system where one entity, either the state or a quasi-public entity, acts as the single payer administrator or payer. **28.83% (1287)**

C. I support universal coverage for all Minnesotans and in order to achieve it the state should adopt a private market approach through increased market competition, health savings accounts, tax credits and premium subsidies. **14.67% (655)**

D. I support universal coverage for all Minnesotans. The state should achieve this by both b and c. **32.71% (1460)**

E. Undecided/No opinion. **7.57% (338)**

7. Would you support state subsidies for the production of energy from cellulosic material such as prairie grass, as we currently do for ethanol production from corn?

A. Yes. **56.32% (2517)**

B. No. **30.95% (1383)**

C. Undecided/No opinion. **12.73 (569)**

8. Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to dedicate funding to protect our drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore our wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve our arts and cultural heritage; to support our parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore our lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater by increasing the sales and use tax rate beginning July 1, 2009 by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales until the year 2034?

A. Yes. **55.08% (2452)**

B. No. **36.10% (1607)**

C. Undecided/No opinion. **8.83% (393)**

9. Should commercial development and new residential housing be restricted on land surrounding wildlife management areas and other public hunting lands?

A. Yes. **78.44% (3500)**

B. No. **14.50% (647)**

C. Undecided/No opinion **7.06% (315)**

10. Which of the following transportation revenue initiatives do you support?

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| A. Borrowing by issuing bonds for state highways. | 11.54% (515) |
| B. A gas tax increase of ten cents per gallon (currently constitutionally dedicated to roads and bridges). | 24.36% (1087) |
| C. A half cent metro-wide sales tax increase for roads, bridges and transit. | 7.19% (321) |
| D. Some combination of the above. | 40.38% (1802) |
| E. None of the above. | 12.48% (557) |
| F. Undecided/No opinion | 4.06% (181) |

11. Should Minnesota pass legislation to permit sales of more types of fireworks, as is currently the law in surrounding states?

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| A. Yes. | 28.93% (1292) |
| B. No, leave the law as is. | 41.45% (1851) |
| C. No, all fireworks sales should be banned. | 24.34% (1087) |
| D. Undecided/No opinion. | 5.28% (236) |

12. Would you support legislation allowing grocery stores to sell wine?

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| A. Yes. | 64.56% (2864) |
| B. No. | 29.33% (1301) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion. | 6.11% (271) |

13. State budget forecasts provide a projection of future state revenues and spending for lawmakers to use as a planning guide when adopting the actual state budget. Do you think state budget forecasts should include the impact of inflation on future state spending as they do for revenue?

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| A. No, do not include the impact of inflation. | 11.62% (518) |
| B. Yes, include the impact of inflation. | 75.96% (3385) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion. | 12.41% (553) |

14. Would you support increased restrictions on the ability of lakeshore property owners to control aquatic vegetation within public waters adjacent to their property?

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| A. Yes. | 51.57% (2298) |
| B. No. | 28.79% (1283) |
| C. Undecided/No opinion. | 19.64% (875) |