

**2013 State Fair Opinion Poll
Minnesota State Senate
Survey Results**

September 3, 2013

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 2013.

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

2013 State Fair Poll

Respondents should be of voting age.

Please mark one answer per question.

4380 TOTAL RESPONDENTS

Demographics

Gender

Male	50.43% (2183)
Female	49.57% (2146)

Residence

Minneapolis/St. Paul	37.79% (1634)
Rural	13.44% (581)
Suburban	43.85% (1896)
Regional hub (Rochester, Duluth, etc.)	4.00% (173)
Another state	0.93% (40)

Age:

18-24	8.02% (347)
25-34	12.10% (524)
35-49	16.93% (733)
50-64	40.70% (1762)
65 and older	22.25% (963)

1. Overall, do you have a favorable, unfavorable, or neutral opinion of the outcomes from the 2013 Minnesota State Legislature?

A) Favorable	40.51% (1751)
B) Unfavorable	35.98% (1555)
C) Neutral	18.60% (804)
D) Undecided / no opinion	4.91% (212)

2. Under current law, all liquor stores in Minnesota are closed on Sunday. Would you support legislation that allows liquor stores the option of being open on Sunday?

A) Yes	59.48% (2586)
B) No	32.34% (1406)
C) Undecided / no opinion	8.19% (356)

3. Should the state provide financial assistance to local governments to subsidize housing efforts so that affordable housing is available to more working people throughout Minnesota?

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|---------------------------|----------------------|
| A) Yes | 59.22% (2570) |
| B) No | 29.35% (1274) |
| C) Undecided / no opinion | 11.43% (496) |

4. Of the following election reform issues, which one is your top priority? (Select only one)

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| A) Permitting voters to cast their ballot at selected government offices during the 15 days prior to Election Day. (Early voting) | 30.42% (1308) |
| B) Opening the polling place for four days prior to an election. For example, for a general election the polls would be open Saturday through Tuesday. | 10.28% (442) |
| C) Using electronic poll books (or rosters) to process same-day registration and verifying the registration status of pre-registered voters. | 7.42% (319) |
| D) Requiring voters to show a photo ID prior to casting a ballot in any election. | 30.02% (1291) |
| E) Allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference. (Ranked-Choice Voting) | 12.88% (554) |
| F) Moving the state primary election from mid-August to mid-June. | 2.58% (111) |
| G) Undecided / no opinion | 6.40% (275) |

5. Are you aware of MNsure, the state-based health insurance marketplace, and are you familiar with what it is and what it does?

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| A) Yes, but I know little about it. | 49.95% (2162) |
| B) Yes, and I am also aware of the specifics. | 24.51% (1061) |
| C) Yes, I am familiar with it and plan on using it. | 4.09% (177) |
| D) No | 19.18% (830) |
| E) Undecided / no opinion | 2.26% (98) |

6. The State of Minnesota's minimum wage is currently set at \$6.15/hour. What is your opinion regarding the state's minimum wage rate?

- A) The state minimum wage should not be changed. **18.21% (788)**
- B) The state minimum wage should be raised to match the federal rate of \$7.25/hour. **23.34% (1010)**
- C) The state minimum wage should be raised above the federal rate, between \$7.25 – \$8.25 /hour. **17.28% (748)**
- D) The state minimum wage should be raised above the federal rate, between \$8.25 – \$9.25 /hour. **38.12% (1650)**
- E) Undecided / no opinion **3.05% (132)**

7. Should the state Legislature enact legislation that establishes a means of preventing and responding to bullying in schools throughout Minnesota?

- A) Yes, for all Minnesota schools. **53.19% (2279)**
- B) Yes, with the exception of private schools. **2.66% (114)**
- C) No, this should be left to the local school districts. **39.42% (1689)**
- D) Undecided / no opinion **4.74% (203)**

8. 2013 marked the first time in 22 years that one party controlled both legislative chambers and the Governor's office. Do you favor one-party control of the Legislature and the Governor's Office?

- A) Yes **17.05% (721)**
- B) No, I favor divided control of government. **38.05% (1609)**
- C) Yes, depending on which party is in control. **26.58% (1124)**
- D) Undecided / no opinion **18.33% (775)**

9. The current speed limit on many state highways is 55 miles-per-hour. Would you support a change in the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit for all state highways designated 55 miles-per-hour?

- A) Yes, I support an increase in the speed limit to 60 miles-per-hour. **20.33% (869)**
- B) Yes, I support an increase in the speed limit to 65 miles-per-hour. **21.69% (927)**
- C) Yes, I support an increase in the speed limit, but only if the increase is recommended by a Department of Transportation engineering and traffic investigation of each affected roadway. **31.82% (1360)**
- D) No, I do not support an increase in the 55-miles-per-hour speed limit. **21.50% (919)**
- E) Undecided / no opinion **4.66% (199)**

10. Should the state Legislature give school boards the authority to increase property taxes to operate schools without first going to the voters for their approval? (For example, counties have the authority to raise property taxes, within levy limits, without a voter referendum.)

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| A) Yes | 22.20% (947) |
| B) No | 69.81% (2978) |
| C) Undecided / no opinion | 7.99% (341) |

11. The Minnesota Constitution dedicates gas tax dollars for highway purposes only. The bipartisan Transportation Finance Advisory Committee recommended increases to the state gas tax rate over the next 20 years to improve roads and bridges. How much additional gas tax would you be willing to pay for transportation investments in roads and bridges?

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| A) Five cents per gallon for roads and bridges (generating \$150 million per year in additional revenue). | 33.29% (1426) |
| B) Seven cents per gallon for roads and bridges (generating \$210 million per year in additional revenue). | 29.30% (1255) |
| C) No gas tax increases are necessary. | 30.88% (1323) |
| D) Undecided / no opinion | 6.54% (280) |

12. Just over 400 wolves were taken by hunting and trapping in the 2012 inaugural wolf season. Should the state continue to have a wolf hunting and trapping season with a limited quota?

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| A) Yes | 42.12% (1800) |
| B) No, the law should be repealed. | 41.74% (1784) |
| C) Undecided / no opinion | 16.14% (690) |

13. In 2008, the Minnesota voters approved an amendment to the constitution dedicating a portion of the sales tax to the Outdoor Heritage, Clean Water, Parks and Trails, and Arts & Cultural Heritage funds. Do you believe that the Legislature has appropriated these funds according to the original intent of the constitutional amendment?

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| A) Yes | 33.33% (1418) |
| B) No | 33.83% (1439) |
| C) Undecided / no opinion | 32.84% (1397) |

14. When Minnesota has a budget surplus, which of the following selections in your opinion should be the top priority? (Select one only)

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|---|---------------------|
| A) Increase funding for E-12 education. | 23.43% (995) |
| B) Increase funding for higher education. | 5.06% (215) |
| C) Increase funding for highways, bridges, and mass transit. | 8.76% (372) |
| D) Increase funding for health and social programs. | 7.89% (335) |
| E) Increase funding for public safety. | 0.94% (40) |
| F) Increase funding for the environment. | 4.10% (174) |
| G) Return the money to taxpayers in the form of a onetime rebate. | |

	11.61% (493)
H) Provide permanent property tax relief.	7.14% (303)
I) Provide income tax relief.	7.47% (317)
J) Increase the “rainy day fund” or budget reserve.	21.31% (905)
K) Undecided / no opinion	2.28% (97)