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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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1998 State Fair Poll Results

[St. Paul] < Minnesotans favor banning personal watercraft on small lakes and sticking with a two-house legislative system, but they oppose loosening the state's concealed-weapon laws, according to an unofficial opinion poll conducted by the Minnesota House of Representatives during the 1998 Minnesota State Fair.

More than 3,100 fairgoers stopped by the House booth at the state fair and completed the 10-question poll, using an experimental electronic touch-screen voting machine. The results were electronically calculated after the fair concluded Sept. 7.

Here's a look at the poll questions with fairgoers' responses:

1. Should state law be changed to require that law enforcement officials issue a license to carry a concealed weapon to any adult who requests one, with exceptions for the mentally ill and convicted felons?

Yes	43.1%	(1,282)
No	50.2%	(1,495)
Undecided/No Opinion	6.7%	(198)

2. Should school districts be allowed to begin the school year before Labor Day?

Yes	57.3%	(1,709)
No	37.7%	(1,124)
Undecided/ No Opinion	5.0%	(149)

3. The November 1998 ballot will include the following proposed constitutional amendment: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to affirm that hunting and fishing and the taking of game and fish are a valued part of our heritage that shall be forever preserved for the people and shall be managed by law and regulation for the public good?" How do you expect to vote?

Yes	56.5%	(1,669)
No	30.7%	(906)
Undecided/No Opinion	12.8%	(377)

4. Would you support a constitutional amendment that would eliminate the state Senate and House of Representatives and replace them with a unicameral (one-house) legislature?

Yes	38.6%	(1,138)
No	50.3%	(1,485)

Undecided/No opinion	11.1%	(328)
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5. Should personal watercraft be banned from small lakes < those less than 200 acres in surface area < in Minnesota?

Yes	62.3%	(1,821)
No	30.5%	(891)
Undecided/No Opinion	7.2%	(209)

6. Should the state reduce the threshold of legal drunkenness for driving while intoxicated from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent blood-alcohol content?

Yes	60.5%	(1,772)
No	36.5%	(1,069)
Undecided/No Opinion	3.0%	(88)

7. Should the state help finance the construction of a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings, or any other major sports team?

Yes	22.8%	(668)
No	72.2%	(2,111)
Undecided/ No Opinion	5.0%	(145)

8. Should the state place a moratorium on construction of large animal feedlots < those holding 750 heifers or the equivalent of other livestock < on Minnesota farms?

Yes	51.8%	(1,503)
No	28.3%	(820)
Undecided/ No Opinion	19.9%	(578)

9. What is your age range?

18-35	31.2%	(862)
36-50	40.3%	(1,113)
51-65	21.7%	(601)
66-over	6.8%	(188)

10. Please indicate your opinion about the touch-screen voting system you are using to vote on this poll.

Easy/Very Easy to Use	86.2%	(2,359)
Average	11.9%	(325)
Difficult	1.9%	(52)

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Please Note:

The Minnesota House of Representatives' survey is informal and unscientific. It is simply a measurement of the opinions expressed by those who took the time to complete the poll while visiting

our booth in the Education Building at the Fair.

Our main purpose in conducting this opinion poll was to familiarize fairgoers with some of the issues that have recently been discussed by the Legislature, and may be debated during the upcoming Legislative Session.