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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Nick Healy

(651) 296-2146, Fax: (651) 297-8135

2000 State Fair Poll Results

[St. Paul] < Minnesotans strongly back the concept of the basic skills tests that are required to be eligible for high school graduation, but there appears to be dwindling support for a unicameral legislature and little interest in partisan endorsements in judicial races. Those were among the findings of an unofficial opinion poll conducted by the Minnesota House of Representatives during the 2000 State Fair.

Despite the recent scoring snafu, the poll found that 76.3 percent of respondents support basic skills testing, with only 16.6 percent in opposition. When asked if they would support a constitutional amendment to create a unicameral legislature, only 27.7 percent of fairgoers said yes, while 59.3 percent said no. In 1999, the same question found 36.7 percent of respondents in favor of a unicameral system and 49.2 percent in opposition.

The 2000 poll also found that Minnesotans favor felony charges for repeat DWI offenders, resoundingly reject the idea of lowering the voting age to 16, and don't want the government selling personal data to private companies that use the information for marketing purposes.

A total of 7,013 fairgoers stopped by the House booth in the Education Building and completed the 10-question poll. The results were electronically calculated after the fair concluded Sept. 4. Here's a look at the poll questions with fairgoers' responses:

1. Should cities be allowed to install "photocop" cameras to snap photographs of vehicles that pass through an intersection after the stoplight has turned red? (Citations would be issued automatically to the owner of the vehicle.)

Yes	56.9%	(3,989)
No	35.8%	(2,509)
Undecided/No Opinion	6.7%	(471)

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

Yes	27.5%	(1,926)
No	59.3%	(4,158)
Undecided/ No Opinion	12.9%	(905)

3. Should minors be restricted from purchasing video games that portray violence, specifically those with adults only (AO) or mature (M) ratings from the Entertainment Software Rating Board?

Yes	74.3%	(5,209)
No	18.8%	(1,317)
Undecided/No Opinion	6.4%	(447)

4. Should repeat DWI offenders face felony charges?

Yes	88.6%	(6,216)
No	6.4%	(446)
Undecided/No opinion	4.4%	(309)

5. Do you support state law requiring public school students to pass basic skills tests in reading, math, and writing before they can be eligible for a high school diploma?

Yes	76.3%	(5,353)
No	16.6%	(1,167)
Undecided/No Opinion	6.4%	(447)

6. Should judicial candidates such as those running for seats on the Minnesota Supreme Court be endorsed by political parties and have a party affiliation listed on the ballot?

Yes	23.9%	(1,679)
No	61.6%	(4,318)
Undecided/No Opinion	13.8%	(967)

7. Should the state lower the legal voting age from 18 to 16?

Yes	9.3%	(654)
No	88.3%	(6,195)
Undecided/ No Opinion	1.9%	(131)

8. Should police officers be able to pull over a vehicle if one or more of its occupants is not wearing a seat belt (making seat belt violations a primary offense)?

Yes	40.9%	(2,870)
No	51.5%	(3,612)
Undecided/ No Opinion	7.2%	(502)

9. Should the state offer a discount on the cost of a marriage license for couples who fulfill certain requirements for premarital education?

Yes	48.4%	(3,397)
No	41.1%	(2,879)
Undecided/ No Opinion	10.0%	(699)

10. Should state agencies be barred from selling data about individuals (such as fishing license information) to companies that use the data for marketing purposes?

Yes	90.1%	(6,322)
No	7.0%	(489)
Undecided/ No Opinion	2.3%	(161)

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 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 issues that may be debated during the upcoming legislative session.