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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 4, 2001

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## 2001 State Fair Poll Results

[St. Paul] -- Minnesotans strongly support the notion that voters should have to present identification in order to receive a ballot at the polling place, they think the legal blood-alcohol level should be lowered to .08 percent, and grocery stores should be allowed to sell wine. However, an overwhelming number of fairgoers said they do not support the notion that professional sports teams should receive state support to build new stadiums. Those were among the findings of an unofficial opinion poll conducted by the Minnesota House of Representatives during the 2001 State Fair.

More than 75 percent of fairgoers voted yes when asked whether voters should provide a photo ID. Current law does not require registered voters to show photo identification to vote on Election Day. Unregistered voters may have to provide identification to verify their address. On the stadium issue, more than 67 percent of fairgoers said the state should not provide loans to professional sports teams to build new facilities.

The 2001 poll also found that drivers should not be allowed to talk on a cellular phone while driving, the state should not construct a state-owned, state-operated casino, the state Board of Education should be re-established to oversee statewide education policies, and fairgoers also support a mandate on biodiesel content in diesel fuel.

Fairgoers, House members, and House staff volunteering at the fair did express concern over one question dealing with the concealed carry issue. A proposal during the 2001 legislative session would have taken discretion for granting a concealed weapons permit away from sheriffs and police chiefs, establishing instead a list of criteria, including a background check and firearms safety training course. The proposal would have required that anyone meeting all the criteria would have been automatically granted a permit. Some fairgoers were confused by the question, thinking it was asking whether people should be allowed to carry concealed weapons at all. They also expressed concern that the 2001 proposal wasn't explained completely enough in the question to understand the debate.

More fairgoers participated in the 2001 State Fair poll than previous years, with 9,102 people stopping by the House booth in the Education Building to take the 10-question, unscientific survey. The results were electronically calculated after the fair concluded Sept. 3. Here's a look at the poll questions with fairgoers' responses:

### 1. Should the state make talking on a cellular phone while driving illegal?

Yes	58.4%	(5,320)
No	33.8%	(3,079)
Undecided/No Opinion	7.0%	(641)

Left blank/vote not tallied	less than 1%	(62)
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**2. Should people be required to show a picture ID at their polling place before they are given a ballot to vote?**

Yes	75.0%	(6,829)
No	18.3%	(1,669)
Undecided/ No Opinion	6.0%	(550)
Left blank/vote not tallied	less than 1%	(54)

**3. Should the legal blood-alcohol limit for drunk driving be lowered from .10 percent to .08 percent?**

Yes	56.1%	(5,109)
No	37.5%	(3,416)
Undecided/No Opinion	5.3%	(478)
Left blank/vote not tallied	less than 1%	(99)

**4. Do you support construction of a state-owned and state-operated casino in Minnesota?**

Yes	34.2%	(3,111)
No	56.7%	(5,157)
Undecided/No opinion	8.4%	(766)
Left blank/vote not tallied	less than 1%	(68)

**5. Should the state Board of Education, which was abolished in 1999, be re-established?**

Yes	41.4%	(3,764)
No	29.2%	(2,656)
Undecided/No Opinion	28.4%	(2,588)
Left blank/vote not tallied	less than 1%	(94)

**6. Do you support tougher penalties for hunters and anglers who violate the state's game and fish limit laws?**

Yes	70.9%	(6,457)
No	16.6%	(1,512)
Undecided/No Opinion	11.5%	(1,045)
Left blank/vote not tallied	less than 1%	(88)

**7. Should grocery stores be allowed to sell wine?**

Yes	57.5%	(5,232)
No	35.7%	(3,252)
Undecided/ No Opinion	5.9%	(541)
Left blank/vote not tallied	less than 1%	(77)

**8. For several years, state law has required that unleaded gasoline contain a certain percentage of the fuel additive ethanol. Should the state require that diesel fuels also contain a percentage of the additive biodiesel, a liquid fuel derived from organic oils?**

Yes	51.4%	(4,677)
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No	21.0%	(1,913)
Undecided/ No Opinion	26.5%	(2,419)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.0%	(93)

**9. Do you believe county sheriffs and police chiefs should have the discretion to grant or deny applications for state residents to obtain a concealed weapons permit?**

Yes	48.5%	(4,417)
No	38.5%	(3,504)
Undecided/ No Opinion	11.7%	(1,066)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.3%	(115)

**10. In general, do you think the state should provide support, through interest-free or low-interest loans, to professional sports teams desiring to build new facilities?**

Yes	25.8%	(2,345)
No	67.3%	(6,123)
Undecided/ No Opinion	6.1%	(556)
Left blank/vote not tallied	less than 1%	(78)

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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 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.*