

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES
175 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2146
Fax: 651-297-8135
800-657-3550



Minnesota House of Representatives

Kurt Daudt, Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Sept. 8, 2015
Contact: Mike Cook
651-296-1341
mike.cook@house.mn

2015 State Fair Poll Results

Publicly funded preschool favored by majority of fair polltakers

Not taxing Social Security income also receives favorable response

A majority of those participating in the House of Representatives state fair poll believe publicly funded preschool should be provided for the state's youngest learners. They also support exempting Social Security income from Minnesota's individual income tax and think the state should offer financial assistance to help local law enforcement agencies purchase body cameras.

The annual state fair poll, conducted at the House booth by nonpartisan House Public Information Services, is an informal, unscientific survey of issues discussed in prior legislative sessions and may be topics of discussion in 2016.

Of the 6,338 people taking the 2015 poll, 59.7 percent support publicly funding preschool for all 4 year olds; however, 32.6 percent are against the idea and 7.6 percent had no opinion or were undecided.

A primary difference in this year's state budget negotiations, Gov. Mark Dayton wants funding to ensure that all 4-year-old Minnesota children have access to preschool. That proposal did not become law.

Staying with the education theme, 73.4 percent of respondents say seniority should not be the primary factor when determining teacher layoffs. An even larger percentage — 81.1 percent — believe parents or guardians should be required to talk to a physician before opting their child out of being vaccinated.

When it comes to taxes and spending, 67.9 percent of those taking the poll believe Social Security income should be exempt from state income tax. Fewer than 19 percent of those responding voted "no," while 13.3 were undecided or had no opinion. Nearly 64 percent of those taking the poll believe local units of government that

propose spending-related referendums should hold such elections on Election Day in November.

Minnesota's minimum wage for large employers increased to \$9 per hour and \$7.25 per hour for small employers on Aug. 1. By a nearly 17-point margin, polltakers believe employers should not be able to pay lower wages to tipped employees, such as wait staff, if tips bring their pay above \$12 per hour.

Polltakers also believe:

- electronic communications and data, such as email or text messages, should be constitutionally protected from unreasonable government searches and seizure (73.2 percent);
- financial assistance should be provided by the state to local law enforcement agencies to purchase body cameras for officer use (70.1 percent);
- boaters should be required to take an Internet class on the spread of aquatic invasive species in order to get a boat license (70 percent);
- the state should continue the requirement of proof of lawful residency to get a driver's license or state identification card (61.6 percent); and
- increasing a tax that helps fund mass transit projects in the Twin Cities metropolitan area is a good idea (55.7 percent).

Finally, nearly half of those taking the poll — 48.3 percent — support legalizing more consumer fireworks, such as bottle rockets and firecrackers. However, those against the idea numbered 41.4 percent with 10.3 percent undecided or having no opinion. When a similarly worded question was asked in 2012, the support was 47.8 percent and opposition 45 percent.

Here's a look at the questions and results. All percentages are rounded to the nearest one-tenth. Totals are for those that actually voted on the question.

1. Do you support publicly funded preschool for all 4 year olds?

Yes.....59.7% (3,778)
 No.....32.6% (2,064)
 Undecided/No Opinion7.6% (482)

2. Minnesota requires all students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade to receive immunizations or have an exemption. Should parents or guardians be required to talk to a physician before opting their child out of being vaccinated?

Yes.....81.1% (5,124)
 No.....14.7% (929)
 Undecided/No Opinion4.2% (266)

3. Should Social Security income be exempt from Minnesota's individual income tax?

Yes.....67.9% (4,279)
 No.....18.8% (1,183)
 Undecided/No Opinion13.3% (841)

4. Minnesota's minimum wage for large employers increased to \$9 per hour and \$7.25 per hour for small employers on Aug. 1. Should employers be permitted to pay lower hourly wages to tipped workers, such as restaurant wait staff, if tips bring their pay above \$12 an hour?

Yes.....37.5% (2,363)
 No.....54.4% (3,433)
 Undecided/No Opinion8.1% (508)

5. Should the state eliminate the need for proof of lawful residency in the United States to obtain a driver's license or state identification card?

Yes.....31.6% (1,995)
 No.....61.6% (3,881)
 Undecided/No Opinion6.8% (429)

6. Should the existing quarter-cent Twin Cities metropolitan area sales tax that funds mass transit projects, such as express bus routes and light rail, be increased to a full cent?

Yes.....55.7% (3,509)
 No.....35.3% (2,222)
 Undecided/No Opinion9.1% (571)

7. Should the state constitution be amended to protect electronic communications and data, such as email or text messages, from unreasonable government searches and seizure?

Yes.....73.2% (4,607)
 No.....17.5% (1,103)
 Undecided/No Opinion9.3% (588)

8. Should the state offer financial assistance to help local law enforcement agencies purchase body cameras to be worn by officers?

Yes.....70.1% (4,413)
 No.....17.4% (1,096)
 Undecided/No Opinion12.5% (787)

9. Do you think boaters should be required to take an Internet class on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species in order to get a boat license?

Yes.....70.0% (4,412)
 No.....22.2% (1,401)
 Undecided/No Opinion7.7% (486)

10. Should seniority be the primary factor when determining teacher layoffs?

Yes.....18.0% (1,136)
 No.....73.4% (4,619)
 Undecided/No Opinion8.6% (540)

11. Should school districts, cities and counties that propose spending-related referendums be required to hold all special elections on Election Day in November?

Yes.....63.7% (4,011)
 No.....20.0% (1,262)
 Undecided/No Opinion16.2% (1,024)

12. Party poppers, snappers, toy smoke devices, snakes, glow worms or sparklers are now legal in Minnesota. Should bottle rockets, firecrackers and other consumer fireworks be legal in the state?

Yes.....48.3% (3,042)
 No.....41.4% (2,608)
 Undecided/No Opinion10.3% (647)