

**2016 State Fair Opinion Poll
Minnesota State Senate
Survey Results**

September 6, 2016

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 a sampling of issues that are currently being discussed at the Capitol.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Scott Magnuson, John Trombley and Charley Shaw
Senate Information Office
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**Minnesota State Senate
2016 State Fair Poll**

Respondents should be of voting age.
Please mark one answer per question.

5208 TOTAL RESPONDENTS

Demographics

Residence

Minneapolis/St. Paul	37.93% (1945)
Rural	13.07% (670)
Suburban	43.53% (2232)
Regional hub of at least 40,000 people (Rochester, Duluth, St. Cloud, Mankato, Moorhead)	4.04% (207)
Another state	1.17% (60)
No Answer	.27% (14)

Age:

18-24	6.19% (318)
25-34	11.06% (568)
35-49	16.47% (846)
50-64	34.93% (1794)
65 and older	30.45% (1254)
No Answer	.90% (46)

- 1.** Should Minnesota regulate and tax the operators of online fantasy sports games (which are not to be confused with online video games), similar to the way the state currently regulates and taxes providers of lawful gambling like pull-tabs, tipboards, raffles and bingo (e.g. requiring vendors to register, pass background checks and submit to financial audits).

A) Yes	66.51% (3396)
B) No	20.54% (1049)
C) Undecided	12.95% (661)

2. What should the consequence be for a student that engages in violent behavior towards a teacher?

- A) The student should be removed from class until the school principal decides that they can return to class **18.20% (928)**
- B) The student should be expelled after the school district's due process is met **22.93% (1169)**
- C) The student should be suspended after the school district's due process is met **19.24% (981)**
- D) The student should be provided with an alternative to suspension or expulsion that allows the student to stay in school **32.42% (1653)**
- E) Undecided/No opinion **7.20% (367)**

3. Because of the effects on bees and other pollinators, which of the following should the legislature enact to restrict the use of pesticides containing neonicotinoids?

- A) Totally ban the use of neonicotinoids for home and agriculture use **50.30% (2572)**
- B) Ban the use of neonicotinoids at the consumer level (home use and pretreating plants purchased for the home), while still allowing neonicotinoids to be used for agriculture purposes by those who are trained in their use **22.65% (1,158)**
- C) Maintain the current law requiring the proper labeling of neonicotinoid use on plants, but do not regulate the use of specific insecticides or products **14.73% (753)**
- D) Undecided/No opinion **12.32% (630)**

4. Before a doctor prescribes an opioid, should the doctor be required to check a database that contains the patient's history of use of controlled substance prescriptions to prevent inappropriate use?

- A) Yes **79.60% (4070)**
- B) No **13.26% (678)**
- C) Undecided/No opinion **7.14% (365)**

5. To what extent should the use of unmanned aerial devices (drones) by law enforcement and government to observe citizen activity and collect evidence be regulated or limited by state law?
- A) Prohibit them from conducting surveillance of a person on public or private property without a warrant, except in emergency situations **43.71% (2229)**
 - B) b. Prohibit them from conducting surveillance of a person on **private property** without a warrant, except in emergency situations **38.05% (1940)**
 - C) c. Unlimited except when in violation of the Constitution's illegal search and seizure prohibition **12.90% (658)**
 - D) d. Undecided/No opinion **5.33% (272)**
6. Should Minnesota pass legislation that would prohibit individual cities from requiring a minimum wage and other employee benefits that exceed or are different from state law, such as sick time and family leave?
- A) Yes **30.34% (1545)**
 - B) No **59.98% (3054)**
 - C) Undecided/No opinion **9.68% (493)**
7. How should the members of the Metropolitan Council be selected? (The Council is a Twin Cities regional governance entity that's responsible for transit, wastewater collection and treatment, affordable housing, regional planning and other issues. All 17 Council members are currently appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate.)
- A) Continue the current process where the governor appoints members that are subject to state Senate confirmation **27.39% (1390)**
 - B) The governor should appoint only locally elected county or city officials to the Council **3.63% (184)**
 - C) City councils and county boards should appoint locally elected city or county officials to the Council **12.39% (629)**
 - D) The governor should appoint members that are subject to local government approval **7.96% (404)**
 - E) Residents of the metropolitan area should elect Council members **33.00% (1675)**
 - F) Undecided/No opinion **15.63% (793)**

8. When a mentally competent adult is dying from an incurable and irreversible medical condition that is expected to end the individual's life within six months, do you think this individual should be allowed to obtain from a physician a prescription for medication that may be self-administered to end that person's life?

- A) Yes **68.22% (3501)**
- B) No **22.62% (1161)**
- C) Undecided/No opinion **9.16% (470)**

9. Should the Legislature prohibit muskie from being stocked in waters where they haven't previously been stocked?

- A) Yes, prohibit stocking in any new lakes that do not already have a known muskie population **31.20% (1566)**
- B) No, allow the stocking of muskie in selected new lakes as determined by the DNR **26.30% (1320)**
- C) Enact a temporary moratorium on muskie stocking in new lakes until a study is completed about the effects of muskie stocking on other game fish populations **18.49% (928)**
- D) Undecided/No opinion **24.01% (1205)**

10. State law requires pedestrians to obey traffic-control signals when crossing the street. However, in the absence of traffic-control signals, the law gives the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the street in a crosswalk. Which of the following options would best safeguard pedestrian safety and reduce the number of pedestrian-vehicle collisions? (Select only one answer.)

- A) Increase enforcement of the existing right-of-way law, and post additional signs and warning lights **27.90% (1392)**
- B) Increase the penalty for first violation of the existing law from the current maximum fine of \$1,000 and maximum imprisonment of 90 days **2.65% (132)**
- C) Both A and B. **25.77% (1286)**
- D) Change the pedestrian right-of-way law to provide that a pedestrian may not enter or cross an intersection in disregard of approaching traffic **26.79% (1337)**
- E) Repeal the pedestrian right-of-way law, in order to eliminate any false sense of security that it gives **6.49% (324)**
- F) Undecided/No opinion **10.40% (519)**

11. If Minnesota has a projected budget surplus prior to the 2017 legislative session, what should be the top priority for its use? (Select only one answer.)

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|---|----------------------|
| A) Put it in a “rainy day” reserve fund | 15.43% (771) |
| B) Make permanent tax reductions | 9.79% (489) |
| C) Return the money to taxpayers in the form of a onetime rebate | 10.09% (504) |
| D) Increase spending on infrastructure needs such as transportation | 28.00% (1399) |
| E) Increase spending on education | 17.25% (862) |
| F) Increase spending on other priorities | 1.96% (98) |
| G) A combination of tax rebate/tax reduction/additional spending/rainy day reserve fund | 16.07% (803) |
| H) Undecided/No opinion | 1.40% (70) |

12. Should Minnesota enact a law requiring employers to provide paid-family leave to employees for up to 12 weeks a year to care for the employees own serious illness, a family member with a serious health condition, bonding with a new child or for pregnancy? (The program would be paid for by a new payroll tax on employers and employees and would provide an employee with partial wage replacement.)

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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| A) Yes | 56.71% (2771) |
| B) No | 32.15% (1571) |
| C) Undecided/No opinion | 11.13% (544) |

13. Would you be in favor of restricting the sale or transfer of firearms to Federal Firearms License (FFL) dealers only? This would ban private sales of firearms between individuals, at gun shows or elsewhere, that take place without a background check.

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|---|-----------------------|
| A) Yes | 45.72% (2,284) |
| B) Yes, excluding transfers within a family | 24.52% (1225) |
| C) No | 26.22% (1310) |
| D) Undecided/No opinion | 3.54% (117) |

14. How often do you contact your state legislator with a question or concern?

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|---|----------------------|
| A) Four or more times a year | 10.62% (530) |
| B) At least twice a year | 13.82% (690) |
| C) Once every year or two | 23.18% (1157) |
| D) I have contacted them previously but not in the last several years | 20.03% (1000) |
| E) Never, but I know who my legislators are | 24.32% (1214) |
| F) Never, and I don't know who my legislators are | 8.03% (401) |