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2001 State Fair Opinion Poll
Minnesota State Senate
Results

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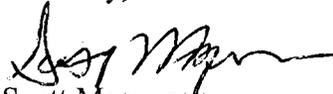
To: All Senators, staff and interested citizens

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 some of the issues that were considered during the 2001 Legislative Session, or may be dealt with in 2002.

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

Sincerely,



Scott Magnuson
and Senate Information Staff
651-296-7198

**Minnesota State Senate
2001 State Fair Poll
(respondents should be of voting age)
Total Respondents - 5241**

Demographics

Male ___	2598	50.1%	18-35 ___	1163	22.5%
Female ___	2591	49.9%	36-54 ___	2446	47.4%
Urban ___	1820	37.2%	55-64 ___	923	17.9%
Rural ___	861	17.6%	65 and older ___	627	12.2%
Suburban ___	2209	45.2%			

1. If there is a budget surplus next year, how should the state best respond?

a) Continue to cut taxes.	1309	26.2%
b) Grant a tax rebate.	681	13.6%
c) Save the excess revenue in case of a downturn in the economy.	728	14.6%
d) Provide more money for education.	1781	35.6%
e) Provide more money for highways.	279	5.6%
f) Other.	169	3.4%
g) Undecided/ No opinion.	50	1.0%

2. Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion regarding "conceal/carry" or individuals carrying handguns?

a) Keep current law on permits to carry handguns - i.e., allow the issuing authority discretion to issue or deny permits.	2654	52.1%
b) Essentially keep the current system in place, but change the law to allow a more informal appeal process for those who are denied a permit.	387	7.6%
c) Pass a "shall issue" law requiring the issuing authority to grant a permit to carry a handgun, if the statutory criteria are met.	1514	29.7%
d) Undecided/ no opinion.	540	10.6%

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3. Do you support the use of cameras or "photo cops" to ticket traffic law violators?
- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| a) Yes. | 1833 | 35.5% |
| b) Yes, but only for vehicles that run red lights. | 934 | 18.1% |
| c) No. | 2211 | 42.8% |
| d) Undecided/ No opinion. | 182 | 3.5% |
4. Should the state set up a program so that parents can stay home with their newborn (or newly adopted baby) for up to six months, with the state and the employer each paying a portion of the parent's wages?
- | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-------|
| a) Yes. | 2002 | 38.8% |
| b) No. | 2593 | 50.2% |
| c) Undecided/ No opinion. | 570 | 11.0% |
5. Should the state provide any kind of direct financial support for construction of the proposed baseball park for the Minnesota Twins?
- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|-------|
| a) Yes. | 1140 | 22.1% |
| b) No. | 3032 | 58.9% |
| c) No, but I support user fees. | 837 | 16.2% |
| d) Undecided/ No opinion. | 143 | 2.8% |
6. Minnesotans currently generate over five million tons of garbage each year. Experts estimate that by the year 2020 this amount will increase to 12 million tons and the amount of garbage going into landfills will triple. Would you support a requirement that all garbage must be processed before being placed in a landfill to reduce the need to site new landfills and expand existing landfills?
- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| a) Yes, if the additional cost is minimal. | 2663 | 51.6% |
| b) Yes, regardless of the additional cost. | 1598 | 31.0% |
| c) No. | 518 | 10.0% |
| d) Undecided/ No opinion. | 381 | 7.4% |
7. Do you think the state adequately funds pre-school education?
- | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-------|
| a) Yes. | 1914 | 38.7% |
| b) No. | 2110 | 42.6% |
| c) Undecided/ No opinion. | 926 | 18.7% |

8. How would you rate the overall academic quality of your child's public school?
- | | | |
|--------------------|------|-------|
| a) Excellent. | 398 | 8.1% |
| b) Very good. | 991 | 20.2% |
| c) Good. | 1067 | 21.8% |
| d) Fair. | 696 | 14.2% |
| e) Poor. | 273 | 5.6% |
| f) Very poor. | 132 | 2.7% |
| g) Not applicable. | 1348 | 27.5% |
9. Should Minnesota ban the use of handheld cell phones while driving?
- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| a) Yes. | 2794 | 56.6% |
| b) No. | 1298 | 26.3% |
| c) No, but certain restrictions should be applied. | 762 | 15.4% |
| d) Undecided/No opinion. | 81 | 1.6% |
10. Ninety percent of state funding for higher education goes directly to Minnesota public colleges and universities. Should state funding be changed so that a larger portion of the money goes directly to students to attend the institution of their choice?
- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| a) Yes, and the money could be used at either a public or private college or university. | 1801 | 36.4% |
| b) Yes, but the money could only be used at public colleges and universities. | 1188 | 24.0% |
| c) No. | 1616 | 32.7% |
| d) Undecided/ No opinion. | 338 | 6.8% |
11. Under what conditions would you support a state-owned casino?
- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| a) If half of the profits were shared with tribes that have little of their own gambling revenue while the other half went to the state general fund. | 124 | 2.5% |
| b) If half of the profits were used for infrastructure and capital projects such as roads, bridges and schools and the other half went to the state general fund. | 1089 | 22.0% |
| c) Both a and b (not including the general fund). | 287 | 5.8% |
| d) If the entire amount went to the state general fund. | 661 | 13.3% |
| e) I would not support a state-owned casino under any conditions. | 2557 | 51.6% |
| f) Undecided/ No opinion. | 237 | 4.8% |

12. In which situation would you be willing to pay higher gasoline taxes?

a) Additional gas tax money would be devoted to road and bridge construction.	625	12.6%
b) Additional gas tax money would be devoted to road and bridge construction, and transit. (buses and rail).	1605	32.4%
c) Gasoline taxes should not be raised.	2580	52.1%
d) Undecided/ No opinion.	140	2.8%

2001 State Fair Poll Suggested Reading

Following are just a few suggestions for further reading on the topics covered in the *2001 State Fair Poll*. The list is not meant to be exhaustive.

1. Budget surplus

The Senate Office of Fiscal Policy Analysis provides background information on the state budget. See their documents at:
<http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/departments/FiscalAnalysis/reports.htm>

2. Concealed weapons permits

Cleary, Jim, and Emily Shapiro. *The Effects Of "Shall-Issue" Concealed-Carry Licensing Laws : A Literature Review*. St. Paul, MN : House Research Department, 1999.
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/concarry.pdf>

Minnesota Firearms Laws: A Guide for Legislators. St. Paul, MN: House Research Department, 1999.
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/firearms.pdf>

3. "Photo cops"

Federal Highway Administration. "Stop Red Light Running : Red Light Cameras Implementation Issues." Accessed August 2001.
<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/fourthlevel/srlr/implementation.htm>

Federal Highway Administration "Stop Red Light Running: Red Light Camera Overview." Accessed August 2001.

<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/fourthlevel/srlr/overview.htm>

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. "Q & A: Red Light Cameras." Accessed August 2001.

<HTTP://www.hwysafety.org/safety%5Ffacts/qanda/rlc.htm>

4. Maternity/Paternity leave

For background information on the current law, see the "Parental Leave" brochure from the Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women:

http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcesw/brochures/_parentallev/parentallev.htm

5. Funding for Twins/Vikings/Gophers stadium

Legislative Reference Library. "Baseball Stadiums."
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/issues/baseball.htm>

Legislative Reference Library. "Financing Professional Sports Facilities."
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/issues/sports.htm>

6. Landfills

"Environmental Indicators: Municipal Solid Waste Generation and Disposal." Accessed August 2001.
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/indicators/iom-0201.html>
Solid Waste Policy Report: Waste Management in Minnesota: A Transition to the 21st Century. St. Paul, MN : Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance, 2000.
<http://www.moea.state.mn.us/publication>

7. State funding for pre-school education

Gallagher, James J., Jenna R. Clayton, and Sarah E. Heinemeier. *Education for Four-Year Olds: State Initiatives*. Chapel Hill, NC: National Center for Early Development and Learning, 2001.
<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~NCEDL/PDFs/EdFours-tr.pdf>

No Better Time: Starting Early for School Success. Roseville, MN: Department of Children, Families, and Learning, 2000.
<http://www.educ.state.mn.us/ecfi/nobettertime.pdf>

Punelli, Danyell. *Early Childhood Development and Care Programs*. St. Paul, MN: House Research Department, 2000.
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/ECDcare.PDF>

8. Quality of schools

Background information on school districts can be found on the Web site of the Minnesota Department of Children, Families, and Learning:
<http://www.educ.state.mn.us/>

9. Banning handheld phones while driving

An Investigation of the Safety Implications of Wireless Communications in Vehicles. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1997.
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/research/wireless/>

Passenger Vehicle Driver Cell Phone Use: Results from the Fall 2000 National Occupant Protection Use Survey. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2001.
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/ncsa/ResearchNotes/809-293.pdf>

10. Higher education finance

Minnesota State Grant web page. Accessed August 2001.
<http://www.mheso.state.mn.us/cfdocs/webdirectory/Common/Templates/MasterPage.cfm?PageID=138>

11. State-owned casino

12. Higher gasoline taxes

Williams, John. *The Motor Vehicle Sales Tax Transfer*. St. Paul, MN: House Research Department, 2000.
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/mvettrns.pdf>

The Federation of Tax Administrators Web site includes a list of "State Motor Fuel Excise Tax Rates." Accessed August 2001.
http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/rate/tax_stru.html