



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 1997 State Fair Poll Results In

[St. Paul] Minnesotaans want to crack down on drunk drivers, toughen up regulations for personal watercraft use, and keep public dollars out of the pro sports picture, according to the Legislature's unofficial opinion poll conducted during the 1997 Minnesota State Fair.

More than 8,100 people stopped by the House and Senate booths at the state fair and completed the 12-question poll. The poll gave the public a chance to sound off about issues of concern to the 1997-98 Legislature.

Results of the poll were tallied after the state fair concluded Sept. 1, 1997.

Here's a look at the poll questions and the responses from fairgoers.

### 1. Would you support a reduction in the definition of legal drunkenness for driving while intoxicated, from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent blood-alcohol content?

Yes	58.1%	(4,588)
No	36.6%	(2,890)
Undecided	5.3%	(416)

### 2. Currently, the state funds about two-thirds of K-12 education costs, with local property taxes picking up most of the remaining expenses. In order to cover a larger portion of K-12 education costs and lower reliance on local property taxes for schools, should the Legislature raise statewide taxes (such as income and sales taxes)?

Yes	37.4%	(2,937)
No	51.1%	(4,016)
Undecided	11.5%	(905)

### 3. The state recently adopted a law requiring statewide testing for K-12 students. Should schools that achieve better results on statewide tests receive additional funding as a reward for better performance?

Yes	31.3%	(2,455)
No	59.2%	(4,653)
Undecided	9.5%	(749)

### 4. Should the Legislature further regulate the use of personal watercraft on Minnesota Lakes and rivers?

Yes, numerous changes	58.2%	(4,591)
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Yes, minor changes	19.5%	(1,537)
No	13.4%	(1,057)
Undecided	8.9%	(699)

**5. Would you support an increase in the current state gasoline tax?**

Yes, but only for highway construction	21.9%	(1,714)
Yes, but only for public transit	27.7%	(2,160)
No	46.3%	(3,609)
Undecided	4.1%	(699)

**6. Would you be willing to pay for an increase in your monthly utility bill in order to implement a "green electricity" program that would help to increase the use of renewable energy sources (such as wind power or biomass)?**

Yes, if the increase is minimal (less than 10%)	36%	(2,824)
Yes, if the increase is moderate (10% to 20%)	11.5%	(903)
Yes, even if there is a significant increase (greater than 20%)	5.2%	(413)
No	41.5%	(3,266)
Undecided	5.8%	(452)

**7. Should a private corporation operate one or more of our state correctional facilities, if private management would lower the cost of running our correctional system?**

Yes, private sector should run all correctional facilities	26%	(2,031)
Yes, but there should be a mixed public and privately-run correctional system	34.6%	(2,713)
No	27.4%	(2,149)
Undecided	12%	(945)

**8. Should the state take an active role in preventing professional athletic teams from leaving Minnesota?**

Yes, if cost to taxpayers is minimal	19.3%	(1,529)
Yes, if cost to taxpayers is moderate	5.7%	(455)
Yes, even if cost to taxpayers is	3%	(241)

significant		
No	70%	(5522)
Undecided	2%	(148)

**9. If there is a surplus in the state's budget, the money should be used primarily to:**

Decrease income taxes		18.5%	(1,358)
Decrease sales taxes		2.8%	(204)
Decrease property taxes		15.1%	(1,107)
Increase funding for education		27.6%	(2,021)
Increase funding for health and social programs		7.1%	(524)
Increase funding for transportation		2.3%	(170)
Pay off long-term debt ahead of schedule		12.8%	(939)
Provide a one-time tax rebate		13.8%	(1,010)

**10. Should a portion of lottery proceeds continue to be dedicated to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for wildlife, water, and other conservation projects throughout Minnesota? If yes, for how long? (Currently, 40 percent goes toward the trust fund.)**

Yes, permanently	58%	(4,423)
Yes, for 50 years	4.9%	(373)
Yes, for 20 years	12.8%	(978)
No, the proceeds should be used for other purposes	14.5%	(1,110)
Undecided	9.8%	(752)

**11. Should some juvenile court proceedings be open to the public? (Under current law, most of these proceedings and the records they generate are closed to the public.)**

Yes, in cases of child abuse and neglect		12%	(909)
Yes, in cases involving juvenile offenders		14.4%	(1,086)
Yes, for both of the above		31.8%	(2,409)
No		29.9%	(2,266)
Undecided		11.9%	(903)

**12. Would you support allowing agricultural production of industrial hemp in Minnesota? (Industrial hemp could be used for such purposes as clothing, rope, or paper production.)**

Yes	62.9%	(4,815)
No	20.6%	(1,575)
Undecided	16.5%	(1,266)

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\*

The Legislature's survey is informal and unscientific. It is simply a measurement of the opinions

expressed by those who took the time to fill out a questionnaire while visiting the House and Senate booths located in the Education Building.

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 may be debated during the upcoming Legislative Session.

## Senate Stadium Poll Results In

[St. Paul] A computer poll devoted to the Twins stadium issue was conducted to gather the opinions of Minnesotans who visited the Senate booth at the Minnesota State Fair. More than 3,500 people completed the survey. Here are the results:

Number who support 11.5% installation of slot machines at Canterbury Park to pay for a new stadium	(411)
Number who support 12% an increase in cigarette taxes to pay for a stadium	(426)
Number who support 14.1% creation of a state run casino to finance a stadium	(502)
Number who do not 62.4% support any state financing of a stadium project	(2,217)

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