

**2014 State Fair Opinion Poll  
Minnesota State Senate  
Survey Results**

September 2, 2014

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 past year, or may be dealt with in 2015.

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

Sincerely,

Scott Magnuson and John Trombley  
Senate Information Office  
651-296-0504

**Minnesota State Senate  
2014 State Fair Poll**

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

**5340 TOTAL RESPONDENTS**

---

---

Demographics

Gender

Male	<b>48.81% (2576)</b>
Female	<b>49.75% (2626)</b>
No Answer	<b>1.44% (76)</b>

Residence

Minneapolis/St. Paul	<b>34.20% (1808)</b>
Rural	<b>13.49% (713)</b>
Suburban	<b>46.39% (2452)</b>
Regional hub (Rochester, Duluth, etc.)	<b>4.14% (219)</b>
Another state	<b>.95% (50)</b>
No Answer	<b>.83% (44)</b>

Age:

18-24	<b>7.01% (370)</b>
25-34	<b>11.74% (620)</b>
35-49	<b>15.89% (839)</b>
50-64	<b>37.06% (1957)</b>
65 and older	<b>26.45% (1397)</b>
No Answer	<b>1.86% (98)</b>

1. Which of the following best reflects your opinion concerning the level of state government services in Minnesota?
  - A) I am satisfied with the type and amount of services provided. **40.52% (2132)**
  - B) I feel that state government provides more services than necessary. **29.61% (1558)**
  - C) I feel government services should be increased. **24.31% (1279)**
  - D) Undecided/No opinion. **5.55% (292)**

2. During the 2014 session, the legislature passed a law requiring all employers with more than 21 employees to increase unpaid parental leave upon the birth or adoption of a child from six weeks to twelve weeks. Do you support changing Minnesota law to require all employers with more than 21 employees to provide paid parental leave for the first six weeks?
- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| A) Yes                  | <b>56.83% (3003)</b> |
| B) No                   | <b>35.47% (1874)</b> |
| C) Undecided/No opinion | <b>7.70% (407)</b>   |
3. Should Minnesota require vehicle owners to provide proof of motor vehicle insurance coverage when initially obtaining or renewing vehicle license tabs?
- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| A) Yes                  | <b>76.31% (4036)</b> |
| B) No                   | <b>16.01% (847)</b>  |
| C) Undecided/No opinion | <b>7.68% (406)</b>   |
4. Should companies that use mobile apps to facilitate ridesharing between passengers and drivers operating their personal vehicles be subject to regulations comparable to taxicab and limousine service regulations in areas such as liability insurance, vehicle standards, driver qualification, driver history, and accessibility for disabled individuals?
- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| A) Yes                  | <b>42.60% (2247)</b> |
| B) No                   | <b>40.02% (2111)</b> |
| C) Undecided/No opinion | <b>17.38% (917)</b>  |
5. The Legislature recently established a program to allow patients with a qualifying medical condition to access cannabis (marijuana) for medicinal use. The Legislature limited the delivery methods for medical cannabis to oil or pill forms and specifically excluded smoking. Should patients with a qualifying medical condition be allowed to smoke medical cannabis as a permissible delivery method?
- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| A) Yes, smoking should be allowed as an available delivery method for medical cannabis.   | <b>46.40%(2441)</b> |
| B) Yes, smoking should be allowed as an available delivery method, but only if the patient cannot obtain the medical relief through the use of oil or pill forms due to the patient's qualifying medical condition. | <b>20.81%(1095)</b> |
| C) No, smoking should never be allowed as an available delivery method.   | <b>28.15%(1481)</b> |
| D) Undecided/No opinion   | <b>5.02%(264)</b>   |
6. Do you support recent legislative efforts to create more jobs in solar, wind, and energy efficiency sectors?
- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| A) Yes                  | <b>74.39% (3928)</b> |
| B) No                   | <b>19.79% (1045)</b> |
| C) Undecided/No opinion | <b>5.81% (307)</b>   |

7. The Minnesota Constitution requires a simple majority (51%) vote of the legislature to submit a proposed constitutional amendment to voters at a future general election. A bill under discussion during the 2014 session sought to increase the threshold to require a 60% super majority of the legislature to approve these ballot questions. Proponents argue requiring a super majority would lead to fewer, more broadly bi-partisan constitutional amendments; opponents argue the super majority would make it too difficult to propose changes to the Minnesota Constitution. Do you support this legislation?
- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| A) Yes                  | <b>54.80% (2885)</b> |
| B) No                   | <b>32.78% (1726)</b> |
| C) Undecided/No opinion | <b>12.42% (654)</b>  |
8. Should the Legislature pass a law requiring the results of teacher performance evaluations to be a higher priority than years of experience in the school district when determining which public school teachers lose their jobs in a lay off situation?
- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| A) Yes                                    | <b>57.52% (3033)</b> |
| B) No, the current system is appropriate. | <b>28.45% (1500)</b> |
| C) Undecided/No opinion                   | <b>14.03% (740)</b>  |
9. Which of the following statements best reflects your highest priority in handling a budget surplus? (One answer only, please.)
- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| A) Put money in a reserve fund for possible future budget shortfalls. | <b>50.71% (2554)</b> |
| B) Increase the funding for state government services.                | <b>15.79% (795)</b>  |
| C) Send rebate checks to taxpayers.                                   | <b>10.50 % (529)</b> |
| D) Reduce the personal income tax.                                    | <b>17.47% (880)</b>  |
| E) Reduce the sales tax.  | <b>3.63% (183)</b>   |
| F) Undecided/No opinion   | <b>1.89% (95)</b>    |
10. The Metropolitan Council (Met Council) is a regional governance entity in the seven county metropolitan area including Minneapolis and St. Paul. They are responsible for transit, wastewater collection and treatment, affordable housing, regional planning, and other issues related to the metropolitan area. There are 17 board members on the Met Council, made up of a chair and 16 members that each represents a district. How should board members of the Met Council be selected to serve?
- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| A) As under current law the governor should appoint the members subject to state senate confirmation.  | <b>22.20 % (1113)</b> |
| B) The governor should appoint the members, but the legislature and local governments in each district should ultimately approve the appointments. | <b>19.43% (974)</b>   |
| C) Residents of the metropolitan area should elect the members.  | <b>44.62% (2237)</b>  |
| D) Undecided/No opinion.   | <b>13.74% (689)</b>   |
11. Should Minnesota establish additional regulations concerning short-term, high-interest loans, commonly known as payday loans?
- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| A) Yes                                  | <b>61.48% (3082)</b> |
| B) No                                   | <b>14.76% (740)</b>  |
| C) I am not familiar with payday loans. | <b>16.18% (811)</b>  |
| D) Undecided/No opinion                 | <b>7.58% (380)</b>   |

12. On average, the state contributes approximately 3% toward the costs of new school facility construction and other significant capital improvements for school buildings. The remaining cost are financed by local property taxes within the district. In districts with less property wealth, the state share is larger; in districts with more property wealth, the state share is smaller. What is your opinion regarding how these costs should be shared?

- A) The state should bear the entire cost of constructing new school facilities. **6.04%(302)**
- B) The state should significantly increase its contribution to the cost of constructing new facilities. **36.84% (1842)**
- C) The cost-sharing between state and local taxpayers is about right. **39.02% (1951)**
- D) Local property taxpayers should bear the entire cost of constructing new school facilities. **8.28% (414)**
- E) Undecided/No opinion **9.82% (491)**

13. Should Minnesota require labeling of foods that have been genetically engineered?

- A) Yes **59.22% (2967)**
- B) Yes, if surrounding states have the same labeling requirement. **7.45% (373)**
- C) No, labeling should be determined at the federal level. **27.27% (1366)**
- D) Undecided/No opinion **6.07% (304)**

14. What is your primary focus when choosing your state legislator?

- A. Fiscal issues **18.82% (944)**
- B. Social issues **20.75 % (1041)**
- C. Party affiliation **9.75% (489)**
- D. Personality of the candidate **.90% (45)**
- E. Name recognition **.10% (5)**
- F. A combination of the above **47.22% (2369)**
- G. I don't vote **.80% (40)**
- H. Other/No opinion **1.67% (84)**