

**2005 State Fair Opinion Poll  
Minnesota State Senate  
Results**

9/6/05

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 2006.

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

Sincerely,

Scott Magnuson  
and Senate Information Staff  
651-296-7198

# **Minnesota State Senate**

## **2005 State Fair Poll**

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

**4820 Total Respondents**

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### **Demographics**

Male	50%	(2413)
Female	48.5%	(2340)
No answer	1.5%	(67)
Minneapolis/St. Paul	34.3%	(1654)
Rural	15.7%	(755)
Suburban	43.8%	(2113)
Regional hub (Rochester, Duluth, etc.)	4.3%	(208)
Another state	.4%	(19)
No answer	1.5%	(71)
<i>Age:</i>		
18-35	19.5%	(939)
36-54	38.7%	(1865)
55-64	24.2%	(1168)
65 and older	15.2%	(734)
No answer	2.4%	(114)
<i>Party Affiliation:</i>		
DFL Party	41.6%	(2008)
Republican Party	19.5%	(938)
Independence Party	2.3%	(110)
Green Party	1.4%	(66)
Independent or other	17.8%	(858)
No comment	17.4%	(840)

1. In an attempt to solve the budget impasse, two proposals to raise revenue were seriously considered. These were a state run casino at Canterbury Park, and a tax increase on married couples having taxable incomes over \$250,000 and single taxpayers with taxable income over \$166,000.

Which of the following best represents your thoughts?

I support both of these ideas.	<b>22.2% (1068)</b>
I only support a state run casino at Canterbury Park.	<b>16.8% (808)</b>
I only support raising income taxes on upper income Minnesotans.	<b>43.9% (2116)</b>
I don't support either.	<b>13.9% (670)</b>
Undecided/No opinion.	<b>3.3% (158)</b>

2. Currently, most of Minnesota's electricity is generated by burning coal and by nuclear power. Do you support a law to require utilities to generate at least 20 percent of their electricity by the year 2020 from renewable sources like wind power?

Yes, regardless of the cost.	<b>46.2% (2226)</b>
Yes, if the increased cost on my utility bill is minimal.	<b>35.2% (1695)</b>
No.	<b>12.0% (579)</b>
Undecided/No opinion.	<b>6.6% (320)</b>

3. Do you think the new charge on tobacco products is a fee or a tax? Do you support the fee/tax?

I believe it is a fee and support it	<b>13.5% (652)</b>
I believe it is a tax and support it.	<b>56.6% (2730)</b>
I believe it is a fee and do not support it.	<b>3.2% (156)</b>
I believe it is a tax and do not support it.	<b>21.9% (1053)</b>
Undecided/ No opinion.	<b>4.8% (129)</b>

4. Would you support a constitutional amendment adopting initiative and referendum, which allows the electorate by petition to place issues on the general election ballot?

Yes.	<b>47.0% (2266)</b>
No.	<b>37.5% (1805)</b>
Undecided/ No opinion.	<b>15.5% (749)</b>

5. Some legislators and interest groups have suggested that several issues that require immediate attention (i.e. transportation needs, stadiums, hospital construction siting, pension reform, etc.) were left unresolved this year. Do you believe the governor should call a special session this fall to deal with these issues?

Yes.	<b>37.1% (1788)</b>
No.	<b>55.6% (2679)</b>
Undecided/ No opinion.	<b>7.3% (353)</b>

6. The current proposal for financing a new Minnesota Twins stadium relies on adding .015 percent ( 3 cents on 20 dollars) to the sales tax in Hennepin County. The amount raised by the sales tax increase would be approximately \$300 million. The Twins organization would contribute \$125 million. There would be no contribution from the state. The Hennepin County Board has requested a waiver from the requirement of a referendum or public vote on the tax increase.

Which of the following best represents your thoughts?

I approve of the proposal with no referendum of Hennepin County voters. **23.2% (1118)**

I approve of the proposal, but only with a referendum of Hennepin County voters.	<b>24.2% (1165)</b>
I don't approve of this proposal, but support using tax dollars to finance a new Twins stadium.	<b>3.0% (146)</b>
I don't approve of this proposal and do not believe tax dollars should be used to finance a new Twins stadium.	<b>43.0% (2068)</b>
Undecided/No opinion.	<b>6.7% (323)</b>

**7.** Every state has a different budget process. For example, if a budget is not passed by July 1<sup>st</sup> in Wisconsin, the current budget remains unchanged and funding continues on a month-by-month basis. In Minnesota, government services shut down if a new budget is not approved by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Should the Minnesota Legislature enact a change in the budget process to avoid a government shutdown in the event of a budget deadlock?

No. Continue to require budgets to be completed or risk shutdown.	<b>31.5% (1517)</b>
Yes. Change state law. If no budget is passed, appropriations continue month by month in the same amounts as the previous budget, until a new agreement is reached.	<b>61.2% (2948)</b>
Undecided/ No opinion.	<b>7.4% (349)</b>

**8.** The city of Minneapolis operates a system of cameras, sometimes called “photo-cops,” posted at accident-prone intersections. The cameras photograph vehicles that enter the intersection when the traffic light is red. A traffic ticket is issued by mail to the registered owner of the vehicle. How do you view this type of system?

Issuing any traffic tickets based on photo-cop evidence should be prohibited by state law.	<b>20.4% (984)</b>
I support allowing cities statewide to use this system to fine red-light runners, but only if the actual driver, not the vehicle owner is fined.	<b>38.4% (1852)</b>
I support allowing cities statewide to use this system as is.	<b>19.2% (925)</b>
I support the use of this system statewide, along with an expansion to include other violations, such as speeding, equipment violations (i.e. broken taillights) and expired license tabs.	<b>13.7% (661)</b>
Undecided/ No opinion.	<b>7.4% (398)</b>

**9. Should Minnesota opt out of current testing and school accountability requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, whether or not the state loses some federal education funds as a consequence?**

Yes.	<b>46.6% (2246)</b>
No.	<b>32.8% (1582)</b>
Undecided/No opinion	<b>20.6% (992)</b>

**10. Would you support a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of state sales tax revenue for the protection and improvement of fish, wildlife, water, and cultural resources?**

Yes, for all of the purposes listed.	<b>45.1% (2174)</b>
Yes, for fish, wildlife, and water resource protection and improvement only.	<b>14.2% (684)</b>
Yes, for fish and wildlife resource protection and improvement only.	<b>2.5% (122)</b>
No, I would not support a constitutional amendment dedicating revenue for any of the purposes listed.	<b>27.7% (1337)</b>
Undecided/ No opinion	<b>10.5% (503)</b>

**11. Which of the following best reflects your opinion concerning the level of state government services in Minnesota?**

I am satisfied with the type and amount of services provided.	<b>33.1% (1595)</b>
I feel that state government provides more services than necessary.	<b>24.4% (1175)</b>
I feel government services should be increased.	<b>30.8% (1487)</b>
Undecided/No opinion.	<b>11.7% (563)</b>

**12. Which of the following best reflects your opinion concerning the level of state government regulation in Minnesota?**

I am satisfied with the type and amount of state government regulation.	<b>37.9% (1828)</b>
I feel that there is too much state government regulation.	<b>33.7% (1623)</b>
I feel that there should be more government regulation.	<b>12.1% (585)</b>
Undecided/No opinion.	<b>16.3% (784)</b>

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**If a question was left blank we categorized it as Undecided/No Opinion or no comment.**