MEETING STREET
RESEARCH

MINNESOTA STATEWIDE VOTER SURVEY

Field Dates: **April 26-28, 2015**
Sample Size: **N=500 Registered Voters (30% cell)**
Margin of Error: **+/-4.38%**

---

* Denotes result less than 0.5%.
Due to rounding, some figures may be higher or lower by less than one-half of one percent.

Screener Question A
Before we begin, I need to know if I have reached you on a cell phone, and if so, are you in a place where you can talk safely without endangering yourself or others?

30%   Yes, cell and in safe place
70%   No, not on cell

Screener Question C
Are you registered to vote at (IF LAND: this address/IF CELL: your home address in Minnesota)?

100%   YES

Question 1
To start, thinking about things nationally...
Generally speaking, would you say that things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

34%   RIGHT DIRECTION
57%   WRONG TRACK
 9%   NO OPINION **(DO NOT READ)**
 1%   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

Question 2

Next, turning our attention to things here in Minnesota...
Generally speaking, would you say that things in Minnesota are going in the right
direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

58%   RIGHT DIRECTION
36%   WRONG TRACK
 4%   NO OPINION **(DO NOT READ)**
 2%   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

Question 3

Thinking now about some issues, which TWO of the following issue areas do you believe
should be the top priorities for the Governor and State Legislature? Would it be...
(RANDOMIZE. RECORD AS RANKED FIRST AND SECOND CHOICE)

(PROMPT IF NEEDED) And, what would you say is the NEXT top priority for the Governor
and State Legislature? **(DO NOT READ LIST UNLESS ASKED TO)**

1st	**Comb**	
22%	36%	Education
12%	22%	The economy
12%	20%	State government spending
9%	20%	Traffic and transportation infrastructure
9%	18%	Taxes
8%	17%	Jobs here in Minnesota
8%	15%	Health care
7%	12%	Moral issues and decline of the family
5%	9%	Poverty
3%	7%	Climate change
2%	7%	Race relations
1%	5%	Crime
1%	1%	ALL OF THESE **(DO NOT READ)**
1%	1%	NONE OF THE ABOVE **(DO NOT READ)**
1%	1%	DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

Question 4
Turning our attention to the economy…
Over the last year, do you think Minnesota's economy has… **(ROTATE FIRST TWO)**

46%   Gotten better
10%   Gotten worse
42%   Stayed about the same
 2%   Not sure **(DO NOT READ)**
 --   Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

Question 5
And, compared to the rest of the country, do you believe Minnesota's economy is…
(ROTATE FIRST TWO)

61%   Better
 5%   Worse
31%   Or about the same
        …as the national economy?
 4%   DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**
 --   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

Question 6
Over the last year, has your personal financial situation… **(ROTATE FIRST TWO)**

20%   Gotten better
16%   Gotten worse
63%   Stayed about the same
 *   Not sure **(DO NOT READ)**
 *   Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

Question 7

Now, I want to turn our attention to the Metropolitan Council, also known as the Met Council. To start, please tell me first if you have heard of the Met Council and if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable.

(IF FAV/UNFAV, ASK) And would that be STRONGLY (favorable/unfavorable) or just SOMEWHAT (favorable/unfavorable)?

4%	Very Favorable
15%	Somewhat Favorable
7%	Somewhat Unfavorable
11%	Very Unfavorable
29%	Heard of/No Opinion **(DO NOT READ)**
33%	Never Heard of
2%	Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

65% *TOTAL HEARD OF*
19% *TOTAL FAVORABLE*
18% *TOTAL UNFAVORABLE*

Questions 8-11

Thinking some more about this…

The Met Council was created in the 1960s with limited planning and coordinating powers over regional infrastructure – mainly sewers and roads for the seven counties that make up the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Over the years, the Council's scope and power have expanded to include approving local governments' comprehensive plans, allocating federal transportation funds, administering some affordable housing programs, and operating regional transit and waste water systems. All 17 members of the Met Council are appointed by the Governor. Now, having heard more about the Met Council I am going to read you a series of different views about the Met Council's plans for transportation and housing. After I read each view, please tell me if you AGREE or DISAGREE with that particular viewpoint. The (FIRST/NEXT) one is…

(IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASK) And do you COMPLETELY (AGREE/DISAGREE) or just MOSTLY (AGREE/DISAGREE) that view?

TOT AGREE	TOT DISAG	COMPLETELY AGREE	MOSTLY AGREE	MOSTLY DISAGREE	COMPLETELY DISAGREE	DK/REF (DNR)

(8) Some say the Met Council's plan is RIGHT to focus public resources on developing high-density housing along fixed rail transit lines to reduce reliance on cars and encourage more residents to take public transit.

TOT AGREE	TOT DISAG	COMPLETELY AGREE	MOSTLY AGREE	MOSTLY DISAGREE	COMPLETELY DISAGREE	DK/REF (DNR)
62%	**29%**	16%	46%	17%	13%	9%

(9) Some say the Met Council's plan is WRONG to prioritize tax dollars for light rail transit projects, while virtually ignoring congestion relief on our roads and highways.

TOT AGREE	TOT DISAG	COMPLETELY AGREE	MOSTLY AGREE	MOSTLY DISAGREE	COMPLETELY DISAGREE	DK/REF (DNR)
52%	**38%**	19%	33%	26%	12%	10%

(10) Some say the Met Council's plan is RIGHT to focus on developing plans to disperse low-income people throughout the metro area and require communities to plan for and promote affordable housing and build it in higher income areas.

TOT AGREE	TOT DISAG	COMPLETELY AGREE	MOSTLY AGREE	MOSTLY DISAGREE	COMPLETELY DISAGREE	DK/REF (DNR)
50%	**39%**	14%	35%	20%	20%	11%

(11) Some say the Met Council's plan is WRONG because it prioritizes and gives funding preferences to the urban areas at the expense of suburban communities.

TOT AGREE	TOT DISAG	COMPLETELY AGREE	MOSTLY AGREE	MOSTLY DISAGREE	COMPLETELY DISAGREE	DK/REF (DNR)
48%	**37%**	16%	32%	28%	9%	15%

Question 12
Next, I am going to give you a list of different factors that some say are obstacles to a successful education system in the state. After I read them, please tell me which ONES you believe are significant challenges facing Minnesota's education system today.
(RANDOMIZE AND ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

55%   Parents not involved in their kids' education
45%   Too much bureaucracy
45%   Lack of funding
42%   Poverty
41%   Family breakdown
28%   Teacher quality
25%   Teachers union blocks reform efforts
24%   Lazy students
16%   Not enough choice and competition between schools

 1%   ALL OF THESE **(DO NOT READ)**
 1%   NONE OF THESE **(DO NOT READ)**
 2%   REFUSED/DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**

Questions 13-16

Next, we're going to look at a series of proposals dealing with transportation issues that might be considered this year by the Governor and State Legislature. After I read each one, please tell me if you would SUPPORT or OPPOSE that proposal. The (FIRST/NEXT) one is... **(RANDOMIZE)**

(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK) And do you STRONGLY (support/oppose) or just SOMEWHAT (support/oppose) that proposal?

TOT SUPPT	TOT OPPO	STRG SUPPT	SMWT SUPPT	SMWT OPPO	STRG OPPO	NO DIFF	DK/ REF
(15) Modernizing and expanding aging roads, highways and bridges							
94%	**3%**	68%	26%	2%	2%	*	2%
(16) Prioritize funding for updating roads and bridges over funding for mass transit projects like light rail							
65%	**29%**	33%	32%	15%	13%	2%	4%
(14) Focusing transit spending on less costly options, such as bus rapid transit							
65%	**30%**	23%	43%	17%	12%	*	5%
(13) Expanding light rail projects							
61%	**35%**	30%	31%	14%	21%	1%	3%

Question 17

The state legislature is currently debating how to pay to maintain Minnesota's roads and bridges. I am going to read you two different viewpoints on this issue and after I read both of them, tell me which ONE you tend to support the most. **(RANDOMIZE)**

29%   (One/Another) side believes we should raise the gas tax.
        …while…
65%   (Another/One) side believes we should not raise taxes and instead use the existing sales tax on automobile related expenses, such as auto parts and car rentals.

 2%   ALL OF THESE **(DO NOT READ)**
 4%   NONE OF THESE **(DO NOT READ)**
 1%   DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE **(DO NOT READ)**
 --   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

Question 18

Next, I'd like to ask a couple questions about public pensions – that's the pension plan for state and local government employees. Based on what you know, how serious is the current financial situation with Minnesota's public pensions? Is it a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious or not a serious problem at all?

17%   Very serious problem
34%   Somewhat serious
14%   Not too serious
12%   Not a serious problem at all
22%   DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE **(DO NOT READ)**
 1%   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

51%   *TOTAL SERIOUS PROBLEM*
27%   *TOTAL NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM*

Question 19

Would you SUPPORT or OPPOSE a plan to transition Minnesota's public employees from their current pension plan to the kind of 401 K-style pension system that is commonly used by private sector employers?

IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK) And do you STRONGLY (support/oppose) or just SOMEWHAT (support/oppose) that plan?

39%   STRONGLY SUPPORT
24%   SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
11%   SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
15%   STRONGLY OPPOSE
10%   DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE **(DO NOT READ)**
 1%   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

64%   TOTAL SUPPORT
26%   TOTAL OPPOSE

Question 20

Now let's talk about health care. Health care costs continue to increase faster than growth in the overall economy. Which ONE of the following do you believe is a better way to contain rising health care costs?

35%   Create a single payer health care system in which all Americans would get their health insurance from one health plan that is financed by taxes.
        …OR…
59%   Increase competition in the health insurance market by letting people use employer contributions to choose their own health plan.

 --   ALL OF THESE **(DO NOT READ)**
 3%   NONE OF THESE **(DO NOT READ)**
 2%   DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE **(DO NOT READ)**
 1%   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

Question 21

Changing topics and looking at energy next…Do you SUPPORT or OPPOSE requiring Minnesota electric utilities to generate electricity from renewable resources, even if it means Minnesota residents and businesses pay higher electricity prices?

IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK) And do you STRONGLY (support/oppose) or just SOMEWHAT (support/oppose) that requirement?

26%   STRONGLY SUPPORT
28%   SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
17%   SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
25%   STRONGLY OPPOSE
 4%   DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE **(DO NOT READ)**
 *   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

54%   TOTAL SUPPORT
42%   TOTAL OPPOSE

Question 22

On the issue of the state budget…
Do you SUPPORT or OPPOSE placing a limit on how much lawmakers can increase state spending, such as limiting the growth in spending to the growth in inflation or personal income?

IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK) And do you STRONGLY (support/oppose) or just SOMEWHAT (support/oppose) the spending limit?

36%   STRONGLY SUPPORT
27%   SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
16%   SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
13%   STRONGLY OPPOSE
 7%   DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE **(DO NOT READ)**
 *   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

64%   TOTAL SUPPORT
29%   TOTAL OPPOSE

Question 23
And, finally, the State economic forecast says that the state is probably going to have a 1.9 billion dollar budget surplus. Which ONE of the following do you think should be the legislature's top priority for allocating the excess funding? **(RANDOMIZE)**

39%   Save it for a rainy day
38%   Use it to cut future taxes
13%   Spend it on new and expanded government programs
 7%   NONE OF THESE **(DO NOT READ)**
 2%   DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE **(DO NOT READ)**
 *   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

Question D1
In what year were you born?

15%	18-34
20%	35-44
21%	45-54
21%	55-64
22%	65+
1%	REFUSED

Question D2
GENDER **(BY OBSERVATION, BUT ASK EVERYONE)** Are you currently employed, a student, a homemaker, retired, or unemployed and looking for work?

(ASK IF EMPLOYED) And are you now employed full-time or part-time?

31%	MALE/EMPLOYED FULL-TIME
2%	MALE/EMPLOYED PART-TIME
1%	MALE/HOMEMAKER
12%	MALE/RETIRED/STUDENT/UNEMPLOYED
*	MALE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**
25%	FEMALE/EMPLOYED FULL-TIME
7%	FEMALE/EMPLOYED PART-TIME
4%	FEMALE/HOMEMAKER
17%	FEMALE/RETIRED/STUDENT/UNEMPLOYED
1%	FEMALE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

47% *TOTAL MALE*
53% *TOTAL FEMALE*

Question D4

And what is the last grade you completed in school? **(DO NOT READ CHOICES)**

 1%   SOME GRADE SCHOOL (GRADES 1-8)
 2%   SOME HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-11)
20%   GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL (GRADE 12)
 7%   TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
22%   SOME COLLEGE
31%   GRADUATED COLLEGE
16%   POST-GRADUATE
 1%   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

23%   HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS
29%   SOME COLLEGE
47%   COLLEGE+

Question D5

Which of the following best describes your household… **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)**

 3%   UPPER CLASS
18%   UPPER MIDDLE CLASS
51%   MIDDLE CLASS
17%   LOWER MIDDLE CLASS
 7%   LOWER CLASS
 2%   DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**
 2%   REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

21%   UPPER/UPPER MIDDLE CLASS
51%   MIDDLE CLASS
24%   LOWER/LOWER MIDDLE CLASS

Question D6

In politics today, do you usually think of yourself as **(ROTATE FIRST TWO)** a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent or something else?

(IF REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT, ASK) Would you call yourself a STRONG (Republican/Democrat) or a NOT-SO-STRONG (Republican/Democrat)?

(IF INDEPENDENT/SOMETHING ELSE/NO PREFERENCE, ASK) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or the Democrat Party?

13%	STRONG REPUBLICAN
7%	NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN
14%	LEAN REPUBLICAN
25%	INDEPENDENT / SOMETHING ELSE
9%	LEAN DEMOCRAT
11%	NOT-SO-STRONG DEMOCRAT
18%	STRONG DEMOCRAT
2%	NOT SURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

34%   *TOTAL REPUBLICAN*
39%   *TOTAL DEMOCRAT*

Question D7

Generally speaking, on most political issues, do you consider yourself to be **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)** conservative, moderate or liberal on most issues?

(IF CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL, ASK) And would you say you are VERY (CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL), or just SOMEWHAT (CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL)?

15%	VERY CONSERVATIVE
23%	SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE
34%	MODERATE
12%	SOMEWHAT LIBERAL
12%	VERY LIBERAL
2%	DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**
2%	REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

38%   *TOTAL CONSERVATIVE*
24%   *TOTAL LIBERAL*

_M_

Question D8
And, thinking back to the 2012 presidential election...Regardless of how you may feel today...for which of the following candidates did you vote for President... **(ROTATE PUNCHES 1-2)**

Voted	Total	
45%	39%	Mitt Romney
53%	46%	Barack Obama
--	--	Gary Johnson **(DO NOT READ)**
3%	3%	SOMEONE ELSE **(DO NOT READ)**
--	*	TOO YOUNG TO VOTE **(DO NOT READ)**
--	2%	DID NOT VOTE **(DO NOT READ)**
--	4%	DON'T KNOW/DON'T RECALL **(DO NOT READ)**
--	6%	REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

Question D9
How would you describe the area where you currently live?

23% A city
35% A suburban area
22% A small town
18% A rural area
* DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE **(DO NOT READ)**
2% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**