

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES
175 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2146
Fax: 651-297-8135
800-657-3550



Minnesota House of Representatives

Kurt Daudt, Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Sept. 4, 2018
Contact: Jonathan Mohr
651-296-0337
jonathan.mohr@house.mn

2018 State Fair Poll Results

Background checks on all gun sales strongly supported

Opinions nearly divided on legalized sports gambling

Nearly 90 percent of those who took the 2018 House of Representatives' State Fair Opinion Poll support requiring criminal background checks on all gun sales, including private transactions and sales made at gun shows.

Of the 8,159 votes cast on that question, 89.3 percent were in favor of the requirement, 8.1 percent opposed it and 2.6 percent were undecided or had no opinion.

Conducted by the nonpartisan House Public Information Services Office, the poll is an informal, unscientific survey of issues discussed in prior legislative sessions and that may again be topics of discussion in 2019.

The question on background checks was one of 12 asked in the poll, which also found solid support for issues related to opioids, elder abuse and school safety. More than 65 percent of polltakers said they support requiring pharmaceutical companies to pay a fee for every opioid painkiller they sell, with the money raised going to abuse prevention and treatment efforts.

More than two-thirds of respondents (67.6 percent) favor requiring elder care facilities to allow families to place electronic monitoring devices, such as cameras, in the rooms or private living spaces of residents to monitor their care and well-being. And 57.8 percent support requiring school districts to establish threat assessment teams to intervene when students display behavior that may cause harm to others.

Respondents were more divided on other issues, however.

One such area is wagering, where 41.6 percent of polltakers oppose the legalization and regulation of sports gambling in Minnesota, while 40.7 percent favor legal sports betting. But that slim margin represents a significant shift on the issue. When a similar question was asked on last year's poll, only 30.6 percent of

respondents said they favored legalization, while 55 percent were opposed.

Opinions on transportation funding were also closely split, with 41.9 percent of polltakers in favor of amending the state constitution to require tax revenue from the sale of auto parts and repairs be dedicated to fund road and bridge improvements, and 39.1 percent opposed to the idea.

The poll also found support for the use of recreational marijuana to have ticked up over the last year. Asked if those age 21 or over should be legally allowed to use recreational marijuana, 56.2 of respondents answered "yes," while 33.9 percent registered opposition. When the same question was asked last year, 50.6 percent were in favor and 39.7 percent were not.

Polltakers also favored:

- an increase in fees to help maintain the state's parks and trails (72.7 percent);
- a statewide ban on some types of plastic, non-recyclable to-go containers at restaurants (68.1 percent);
- allowing grocery and convenience stores to sell beer, wine and distilled spirits (64.3 percent);
- not allowing employers to pay lower hourly wages to tipped workers if the tips they make boost their hourly salary to certain minimum levels (57 percent); and
- not requiring adults between the ages of 18 and 60 without a disability or responsibilities as a caregiver, to work at least 80 hours per month to receive Medicaid benefits (46.5 percent).

Here are the final results of the 2018 House of Representatives State Fair Poll. All percentages are rounded to the nearest one-tenth. Totals are for those who actually voted on the question. The total number of ballots cast is 8,235.

1. Should criminal background checks be required on all gun sales, including private transactions and at gun shows?

Yes..... 89.3%..... (7,285)
No..... 8.1%..... (661)
Undecided/No Opinion 2.6%..... (213)

2. Should grocery and convenience stores be allowed to sell beer, wine and distilled spirits?

Yes..... 64.3%..... (5,246)
No..... 22.3%..... (1,820)
Undecided/No Opinion 13.3%..... (1,088)

3. Should pharmaceutical companies be charged a fee for every opioid painkiller they sell – the so-called “penny-a-pill” plan – with the money going to abuse prevention and treatment efforts?

Yes..... 65.7%..... (5,346)
No..... 21.1%..... (1,716)
Undecided/No Opinion 13.3%..... (1,081)

4. Should school districts be required to establish threat assessment teams, which include school officials and local law enforcement, to intervene when a student is displaying behavior that may cause harm to others?

Yes..... 57.8%..... (4,694)
No..... 20.2%..... (1,641)
Undecided/No Opinion 21.9%..... (1,780)

5. Should Minnesota allow the recreational use of marijuana for those age 21 and over?

Yes..... 56.2%..... (4,567)
No..... 33.9%..... (2,754)
Undecided/No Opinion 9.9%..... (802)

6. The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled sports gambling cannot be limited to Nevada. Should Minnesota legalize and regulate sports gambling?

Yes..... 40.7%..... (3,305)
No..... 41.6%..... (3,381)
Undecided/No Opinion 17.7%..... (1,442)

7. Should employers be allowed to pay lower hourly wages to tipped workers, such as restaurant wait staff, if tips bring their pay to \$14 an hour for large employers and \$12 an hour for small employers?

Yes..... 31.9%..... (2,594)
No..... 57.0%..... (4,636)
Undecided/No Opinion 11.1%..... (903)

8. Should adults between the ages of 18 and 60 – who do not have a disability and are not the sole caregivers of a child or incapacitated family member – be required to work at least 80 hours per month in order to receive Medicaid benefits?

Yes..... 39.9%..... (3,242)
No..... 46.5%..... (3,778)
Undecided/No Opinion 13.7%..... (1,112)

9. Should elder care facilities be required to allow families to place electronic monitoring devices, such as cameras, in the rooms or private living spaces of residents in order to monitor their care and well-being?

Yes..... 67.6%..... (5,309)
No..... 17.7%..... (1,392)
Undecided/No Opinion 14.7%..... (1,156)

10. Should the state constitution be amended to require revenue from the sale of auto parts and repairs be dedicated to fund road and bridge improvements?

Yes..... 41.9%..... (3,286)
No..... 39.1%..... (3,070)
Undecided/No Opinion 19.0%..... (1,488)

11. Some cities, including Minneapolis and St. Louis Park, have banned certain types of plastic, non-recyclable to-go containers at restaurants. Should Minnesota institute a statewide ban of these types of containers?

Yes..... 68.1%..... (5,337)
No..... 24.5%..... (1,918)
Undecided/No Opinion 7.5%..... (586)

12. Would you support increasing fees to help maintain the state’s parks and trails?

Yes..... 72.7%..... (5,706)
No..... 19.2%..... (1,511)
Undecided/No Opinion 8.1%..... (634)