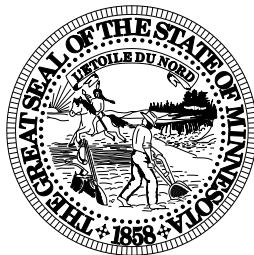


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**Minnesota  
House of  
Representatives**  
Melissa Hortman, Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **2019 State Fair Poll Results**

### **Steady support for background checks, recreational marijuana** *Majority also favors a metro tax for transit funding*

Support for criminal background checks on all gun sales and the legalization of marijuana for recreational use appears to have remained steady among Minnesotans during the past 12 months.

The 2019 House of Representatives State Fair Poll found that 89.1% of respondents favor firearm background checks on all gun sales, including private transactions and sales made at gun shows, down slightly from the 89.3% who answered yes to the same question on the 2018 poll.

A majority of polltakers also said they were in favor of legalizing recreational marijuana for people age 21 or older. Results show 56.3% of respondents answered yes, up very slightly from 56.2% the year before, while 33.8% registered opposition, compared with 33.9% the year before.

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 2020.

Those questions were two of 12 asked in the poll, which was taken by 11,239 fairgoers.

More than 65% of polltakers support a quarter-cent sales tax increase in the seven-county metropolitan area to fund transit improvements and expansions, while a little over 60% voted in favor of restoring the voting rights of someone convicted of a felony immediately upon release from a correctional facility, with 32.5% oppose to the idea.

That viewpoint has changed significantly over the last five years. When the same question was asked on the 2014 poll, 43% of respondents favored it and 47% were opposed.

A large majority (74.4%) favor a ban on so-called "conversion therapy" for vulnerable adults and those under the age of 18, by prohibiting mental health practitioners or professionals from seeking to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

More than 60% of respondents oppose a ban on abortions for women who are more than 20 weeks into their pregnancy, while 29.9% favor it.

Respondents were more divided on other issues.

A majority of respondents (55.3%) support the creation of a new insurance program, funded by a tax on employers and employees, which would provide workers with up to 12

weeks of paid family and medical leave. But a proposal that would require Minnesota residents to provide proof of citizenship or lawful presence in the country to obtain a state driver's license or identification card received more mixed results among fairgoers, with 42.6% in favor of the idea and 50.4% against.

Fairgoers were almost evenly split on removing the prohibition on school districts from beginning classes before Labor Day, with 41% for and 42% against the idea.

Polltakers also:

- favor a proposal to require high schools students to take a class in personal finance;
- support requiring elementary school students to learn cursive writing; and
- said they would not support a tax credit for donations that fund scholarships to a private K-12 school.

Here are the results of the 2019 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.

**1. Should Minnesota residents be required to provide proof of citizenship or lawful presence in the country to obtain a state driver's license or identification card?**

Yes	42.6%	(4,738)
No	50.4%	(5,607)
Undecided/No Opinion	7%	(774)

**2. School districts are prohibited by state statute from beginning classes before Labor Day. Should that prohibition be repealed?**

Yes	41%	(4,547)
No	42.4%	(4,699)
Undecided/No Opinion	16.7%	(1,847)

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

Yes	89%	(9,914)
No	9%	(998)
Undecided/No Opinion	2%	(219)

**4. Should the state provide a tax credit for donations that fund scholarships to private K-12 schools?**

Yes	36%	(3,974)
No	52.3%	(5,763)
Undecided/No Opinion	11.7%	(1,292)

**5. Should high school students be required to take a class in personal finance, even if it means they have to give up another elective or postsecondary enrollment course option?**

Yes	70.1%	(7,781)
No	18.9%	(2,101)
Undecided/No Opinion	11%	(1,211)

**6. Should the state ban abortions for women who are more than 20 weeks into their pregnancy?**

Yes	29.9%	(3,316)
No	61.7%	(6,847)
Undecided/No Opinion	8.4%	(932)

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

Yes	56.3%	(6,272)
No	33.8%	(3,761)
Undecided/No Opinion	9.9%	(1,102)

**8. Would you support a quarter-cent sales tax increase in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area to fund transit improvements and expansions?**

Yes	65.5%	(7,264)
No	26.8%	(2,972)
Undecided/No Opinion	7.8%	(862)

**9. Should the state create an insurance program to provide workers with up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave, to be funded by a new tax on employers and employees?**

Yes	53.3%	(5,899)
No	31.7%	(3,504)
Undecided/No Opinion	15.1%	(1,666)

**10. A person convicted of a felony is not eligible to vote while serving any part of their sentence, including time in a correctional facility and while on probation, parole or other supervised release. Should the law be changed so a person convicted of a felony regains their right to vote immediately upon release from a correctional facility?**

Yes	60.3%	(6,699)
No	32.5%	(3,607)
Undecided/No Opinion	7.3%	(807)

**11. Should Minnesota ban “conversion therapy” for vulnerable adults and those under the age of 18 by prohibiting mental health practitioners or professionals from seeking to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity?**

Yes	74.4%	(8,200)
No	16.7%	(1,844)
Undecided/No Opinion	8.9%	(979)

**12. Should elementary school students be required to learn cursive writing?**

Yes	55.1%	(6,135)
No	28.7%	(3,194)
Undecided/No Opinion	16.2%	(1,798)