

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JULIE BUNN

Summary of 2010 Legislative Survey

This was NOT a scientific poll, but a sampling of constituent opinions. The results are therefore a general overview of community attitudes and preferences rather than a definitive summary of all viewpoints or suggestions.

1. In the 2010 Legislative Session, state leaders will resolve a \$994 million budget shortfall in the current biennium while also keeping a mindful eye on a projected budget gap of \$5.8 billion anticipated in 2012-13. Approximately a 7 percent across the board cut would be needed to solve the \$994 million deficit in Fiscal Year 2011. After these are made, the state would need to cut about another \$3 billion or close to 9 percent in fiscal years 2012-13. Here's a list of major budget areas, along with the percentage of the budget for each area. Which of the areas should be cut at least somewhat as part of our budget solution?

TOTAL (1081)	PERCENT	
143	13%	K-12 Education (40% of state budget)
118	11%	Health Care and Human Services (28% of state budget; 85% disabled and elderly)
151	14%	Colleges & Universities (9% of state budget)
86	8%	Property Tax Relief Aids to cities and counties (9% of state budget)
57	5%	Public Safety/Corrections (6% of state budget)
95	9%	Environmental Protection (2% of state budget)
164	15%	State Government Administration (2% of state budget)
152	14%	All areas should be cut by at least some amount
61	6%	All areas should be cut in equal proportion
54	5%	Other

2. As a Small Business Caucus member, I'm working with small business owners to define the challenges and opportunities facing Minnesota's small businesses. Rank the options you support to help create a more competitive business climate. (Rank 1-8, 1 being highly supported, 8 being lowest supported)

HIGH SUPPORT*		LOW SUPPORT*		
TOTAL	PERCENT	TOTAL	PERCENT	
80	33%	108	44%	Do a better job connecting small business owners with existing state resources
117	47%	45	18%	Help provide low-interest loans for small business expansion and entrepreneurs
144	55%	55	21%	Develop a statewide small business health insurance pool to lower costly premiums
153	59%	45	17%	Reduce and/or streamline state business regulations
135	52%	82	31%	Cut property taxes on small businesses
148	57%	43	17%	Provide small business tax credits for long-term investment
71	30%	119	50%	Improve workforce training efforts and continue our investment in higher education
25	34%	39	53%	Other

**High support and low support percentages are individually calculated based on the total number of each option and not the total number of responses for the question.*

3. **Regardless of what has happened at the federal level, what do you see as the major solutions for health care reform in Minnesota? (Check as many as you support)**

TOTAL (1241)	PERCENT	
118	9%	Mandate all citizens to have health insurance (similar to auto insurance) with subsidies to make insurance affordable for low income; eliminates denial for preexisting conditions
256	21%	Allow cross border purchase of health insurance in an effort to increase competition and lower cost of insurance
261	21%	Advance tort (medical malpractice) reform to lower system costs
206	17%	Further advance the 2007 and 2008 Minnesota system delivery reform initiatives to manage costs: electronic records, health-care homes, better management of chronic conditions, etc.
153	12%	Focus on public health and prevention to bring costs down
124	10%	Cover all Minnesota kids with health insurance
78	6%	Create a state-sponsored single-payer, private provider system that covers all Minnesotans
45	4%	Other

4. **As an appointee to the bipartisan Jobs Task Force, I've been meeting with business leaders and economic experts to discuss solutions to speed the state's economic recovery. Rank the options you support to grow new Minnesota jobs. (Rank 1-7, 1 being highly supported, 7 being lowest supported)**

HIGH SUPPORT*		LOW SUPPORT*		
TOTAL	PERCENT	TOTAL	PERCENT	
139	60%	55	24%	Make targeted capital investments in the state's aging infrastructure
153	66%	43	19%	Provide tax incentives for businesses that hire and retain workers
128	55%	77	33%	Invest in renewable energy industries to bring green jobs to Minnesota
84	39%	96	44%	Support research and development at colleges and universities
128	56%	60	26%	Enact new Research and Development and other tax breaks for corporations and small businesses
69	39%	95	53%	Nothing—let the market take its course
42	48%	36	41%	Other

**High support and low support percentages are individually calculated based on the total number of each option and not the total number of responses for the question.*

5. **Which of these policy issues do you support? (Circle yes or no for each issue)**

TOTAL (1732)		
YES	NO	
83%	17%	School boards can decide whether schools start before or after labor day
80%	20%	Repeal Minnesota's moratorium on the construction of nuclear power plants
38%	62%	Two-line fishing allowed on open water
22%	78%	State funding for a new Minnesota Vikings Stadium
50%	50%	Legalize medical marijuana as long as it is tightly regulated

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