

Legislative Survey Results

2015



Representative
Joyce Peppin

1 How should Minnesota pay for transportation improvements such as rebuilding roads and bridges? *(Select all options you support)*

- 16.27%** Raise the gas tax as Governor Dayton has proposed. (The Dayton plan would result in a gas tax increase of approximately .16 cents/gallon and the tax would rise as the price of gas went up.)
- 15.88%** Raise the gas tax, but at a lesser amount of a nickel or dime a gallon.
- 13.73%** Issue state bonds to make improvements. Bonds would be paid back over a 20-30 year time frame.
- 54.12%** Don't raise taxes. Instead, better prioritize existing transportation spending and dedicating a percentage of general fund dollars to transportation.

2 Minnesota is one of only seven states that tax Social Security benefits. A proposal has been forwarded to eliminate the tax on Social Security benefits. The proposal would cost \$127 million over the next two years and provide a tax break to more than 637,000 Minnesotans. What is your position on this plan?

- 59.75%** Get it done. It's an idea that should be adopted to ease the tax burden on senior citizens in Minnesota.
- 22.18%** It's a good idea but should be limited to lower income senior citizens only.
- 7.39%** The plan is well meaning, but middle income working families should benefit from tax reductions first.
- 10.68%** Undecided/Need more information.

3 Current law requires school districts to make layoff decisions based on teacher seniority where the last hired teacher is the first to be let go. Should state law be changed to allow school districts to also consider teacher effectiveness in determining which teacher(s) to layoff?

- 74.07%** Yes, districts should be able to use every tool at their disposal to provide the best education for our kids.
- 19.34%** No, it's not that simple and defining effectiveness can become a tool for administrators to play favorites or single out a teacher who may be able to improve his or her performance.
- 6.58%** Undecided/Need more information.

4 Under current law, families making up to \$39,000 annually are eligible to receive tax cuts for children enrolled in day care. Governor Dayton has proposed expanding the program to permit families making up to \$124,000 per year to receive the same tax cuts. The expansion is expected to cost \$100 million over the next two years. What is your opinion of the Governor's proposal?

5 What is your position on the proposal to provide free college to students attending the state's 2-year colleges and technical schools? The college plan would cost as much as \$150 million over the next two years.

- 22.27%** It's about time. A free 2-year college program will create a stronger economy and eliminate the worry many families have about accumulating huge debt for higher education.
- 38.24%** Minnesota's current system, which provides grants sufficient to result in tuition free 2-year education for up to 30,000 students is fine and no changes are needed.
- 39.50%** Rather than subsidize college tuition, lawmakers should demand 2-year colleges and technical schools work to reduce the cost of education so it is more affordable.

6 Should Minnesota permit liquor stores to be open on Sunday?

- 20.41%** No, six days a week is plenty and opening on Sunday will be a hardship on liquor store owners.
- 53.20%** Yes, the state has no business mandating when a legal business can be open.
- 26.39%** Who cares? This isn't an important issue and lawmakers are spending too much time on it.

7 Please select any of the following that apply to you:

- 13.27%** I am a veteran/active member of the military
- 13.98%** I have children in college
- 20.18%** I have children in school
- 27.43%** I am retired
- 4.78%** I have children in day care
- 20.35%** I own a small business

8 What mode of transportation do you normally use to get to work?

- 78.97%** I drive myself
- 1.29%** I take the light rail
- 3.43%** I carpool
- 12.88%** Other:
- 3.43%** I take the bus

12.78% This would help families with children in day care. I support the Governor's plan.

- 38.35%** It's a good idea but the income limit should be lower.
- 43.30%** The state should not subsidize day care costs. I oppose the Governor's plan.
- 5.57%** Undecided/ Need more information.