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# Minnesota House of Representatives

Paul Thissen, Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2014 State Fair Poll Results

### Fairgoers slightly against recreational marijuana use

*Nickel per gallon gas tax increase gains support*

By a slim margin, Minnesotans believe that the state should not legalize the use of recreational marijuana. However, they strongly support same-day voter registration and lean toward increasing the state's gas tax for road and bridge construction.

Conducted by the nonpartisan House Public Information Services Office, the annual state fair poll is an informal, unscientific survey of issues discussed in prior legislative sessions and may be topics of discussion in 2015.

Of the 7,607 people taking the 2014 poll, 48.1 percent are against the state allowing the recreational use of marijuana for persons age 21 and older; however, 43.3 percent support the idea. Nearly 9 percent of those taking the poll were undecided or had no opinion.

The 2014 Legislature passed a law for use of medical cannabis (marijuana) for nine specific illnesses, but not for the recreational use of the drug. Only the use of pills, oils or vaporizing of a cannabis compound through a device similar to an e-cigarette is allowed.

Only Colorado and Washington permit recreational use of the drug. Alaska and Oregon residents will vote in November to legalize recreational marijuana.

Fifty-four percent of polltakers support raising the state's gas tax by 5 cents per gallon to help fund the backlog of highway and bridge needs across the state. More than 40 percent are against the increase and 5.5 percent were undecided or had no opinion.

When the same-worded question was asked in 2013, the respective percentages were 53.4 percent, 39.7 percent and 6.9 percent.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 10 states plus the District of Columbia presently offer same-day registration allowing any qualified resident of the state to go to the polls or an election official's office on Election Day, register that day, and then vote.

It's a practice that 70.7 percent of polltakers believe should continue, compared to nearly 26 percent who are against the idea.

Minnesota is one of 14 states that prohibits Sunday liquor sales, and the issue annually surfaces at the Capitol where efforts to repeal the liquor blue laws fail each year.

Nearly two-thirds of persons taking the poll think liquor stores should be permitted to open on the second day of the weekend, while 27.5 percent oppose. The "yes" answers are a 1.1 percent increase compared to 2012 poll results, while the percent of "no" votes decreased 2.4 percent.

In the area of commerce and taxes, respondents were almost evenly split — a 62-vote difference — on expanding the definition of taxable foods to include snack items, such as chips, popcorn, cookies and ice cream novelties. Fifty percent of respondents believe consumers should be able to purchase lottery tickets and play scratch games online, at the gas pump or at an ATM-like machine.

Polltakers also believe:

- the state should provide no additional public subsidies to the National Football League in connection with the 2018 Super Bowl being played in Minneapolis (70.1 percent);
- e-cigarettes should be regulated the same as tobacco cigarettes (66.4 percent);
- employers should be required to give veterans the opportunity to take Veteran's Day off (65.2 percent);
- the threshold should be increased for the Legislature to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot (51.6 percent);
- public schools should not be required to provide swimming lessons to students in kindergarten through 12th grade (49.6 percent); and
- a person convicted of a felony should not regain their right to vote upon release from a correctional facility (47.2 percent).

Here's a look at the questions and results. All percentages are rounded to the nearest one-tenth. Totals are for those that actually voted on the question.

**1. Should e-cigarettes be regulated the same as tobacco cigarettes?**

Yes..... 66.4% ..... (5,046)  
 No..... 23.4% ..... (1,778)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 10.2% ..... (772)

**2. The Super Bowl is scheduled to be played in Minneapolis in 2018. Should the state refuse to provide any additional public subsidies to the NFL?**

Yes..... 70.1% ..... (5,312)  
 No..... 20.1% ..... (1,524)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 9.8% ..... (741)

**3. Should employers be required to give veterans the opportunity to take Veterans Day off?**

Yes..... 65.2% ..... (4,939)  
 No..... 22.5% ..... (1,706)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 12.3% ..... (934)

**4. 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 also any time 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..... 43.7% ..... (3,311)  
 No..... 47.2% ..... (3,572)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 9.1% ..... (690)

**5. Should Minnesota do away with same-day voter registration; thereby requiring all voters to be registered before Election Day?**

Yes..... 25.8% ..... (1,957)  
 No..... 70.7% ..... (5,354)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 3.5% ..... (266)

**6. Should liquor stores be permitted to open on Sundays?**

Yes..... 64.1% ..... (4,863)  
 No..... 27.5% ..... (2,085)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 8.4% ..... (634)

**7. Consumers can now purchase lottery tickets and play scratch games online, at the gas pump or at an ATM-like machine. Should this be prohibited?**

Yes..... 34.9% ..... (2,647)  
 No..... 50.0% ..... (3,791)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 15.1% ..... (1,144)

**8. A simple majority is now needed for the Legislature to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot. Should this threshold be increased?**

Yes..... 51.6% ..... (3,903)  
 No..... 36.8% ..... (2,785)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 11.6% ..... (877)

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

Yes..... 43.3% ..... (3,277)  
 No..... 48.1% ..... (3,640)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 8.7% ..... (656)

**10. Should public schools be required to provide swimming lessons to students in kindergarten through 12th grade?**

Yes..... 38.4% ..... (2,904)  
 No..... 49.6% ..... (3,757)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 12.0% ..... (907)

**11. Minnesota now imposes a sales tax on candy and soft drinks. Should the definition of taxable foods be expanded to include snack items such as chips, popcorn, cookies and ice cream novelties?**

Yes..... 46.5% ..... (3,526)  
 No..... 47.3% ..... (3,588)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 6.2% ..... (468)

**12. Should the state's gas tax be increased by 5 cents a gallon to help fund the backlog of highway and bridge needs around the state?**

Yes..... 54.0% ..... (4,087)  
 No..... 40.5% ..... (3,068)  
 Undecided/No Opinion ..... 5.5% ..... (420)