

FALL 2000 REPORTS

LAST REVISED 12/13/2000

SCSU SURVEY

STATEWIDE SURVEY OF MINNESOTA ADULTS

Prepared by

Dr. Stephen Frank
Dr. Steven Wagner
Dr. Michelle Kukoleca Hammes

Principal Investigators
SCSU Survey
Social Science Research Institute
College of Social Sciences
St. Cloud State University
St. Cloud, Minnesota

- I. POLITICAL SECTION--RELEASED 10/26**
- II. GOVERNOR VENTURA SECTION--RELEASED 12/1**
- III. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES QUESTIONS--RELEASED 12/13**
- IV. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION QUESTIONS RELEASED 12/13 (HARD COPIES AVAILABLE-DUE TO**

COMPUTER PROBLEMS THEY WON'T BE ON WEB PAGE UNTIL ABOUT 12/19)

I. 10/26 POLITICAL SECTION

PRESS RELEASE SCSU SURVEY

October 26, 2000

**St. Cloud State University
St. Cloud, MN**

Bush leads Gore by slim margin among “more likely voters” but Gore leads Bush among all respondents

The SCSU Survey, the telephone public opinion research center of St. Cloud State University, reports that among more likely voters in this November’s presidential election, George Bush leads with 41% of the vote to Al Gore’s 38%. Green Party candidate Ralph Nader has a grasp on 10% of the voters. However, among all respondents, Gore leads Bush, 39% to 38%, respectively. Again, Nader is polling 10%. Buchanan is favored by 1% of all respondents and of 1% of more likely voters.

Among more likely voters, Bush is favored heavily by Republicans, but also has the support of many independents and DFL voters. Ninety percent of Republican Party identifiers indicate they plan to vote for Bush, while 42% of independents and 6% of DFL voters are similarly inclined. Gore has the support of 86% of DFLers and 42% of independents but only 6% of Republicans. Of those voters that are conservative, 78% plan to vote for Bush compared to 12% for Gore. Among moderates, 38% support Bush and 51% support Gore. Only 13% of liberals plan to vote for Bush, but 72% plan to vote for Gore. Fifty-two percent of males, compare to 40% of women, favor Bush. Gore is polling 38% of males and 47% of female voters. Thirty-five percent of voters in the Twin Cities metro area prefer Bush compared to 41% for Gore.

The data suggests that Bush is benefiting by Nader’s presence on the ballot. Nader is favored by 15% of liberals, 11% of moderates and 10% of the conservative voters. Among DFLers, Nader is polling 8%, but is only favored by 5% of Republicans. However, 15% of independents indicated they plan to vote for Nader.

Dayton has a commanding lead over Grams among “more likely voters” and all respondents

In terms of the U.S. Senate race, Mark Dayton has a commanding lead over incumbent Rod Grams. The SCSU Survey has Dayton polling 48% to Grams at 33% of more likely voters, and among all respondents, Dayton has the support of 47% to Grams’ 30%. Among both more likely voters and all respondents, Gibson is polling 6%. Dayton’s support is strong among traditional DFL voters, but is also doing well among likely Republican voters. David Daniels, Eric Pakieser, David Swan and Rebecca Ellis combined are polling 5%.

Among more likely voters, eight-four percent of DFL voters and 16% of Republican voters support Dayton. Liberals (82%), moderates (58%) and conservatives (24%) support Dayton. Male (46%) voters, as well as women (58%) voters support Dayton. Dayton, who has campaigned as a champion health care, social security, is receiving significant support (57%) from those voters over the age 65.

When asked why they are going to vote for one of the candidates for U.S. Senate respondents could give 22 or so reasons. Party affiliation and character were the most frequently mentioned reasons with Gram and Dayton being about even on party and Dayton supporters mentioning character about twice as much as Gram supporters. Political ideology was the third most mentioned reason with Dayton having a slight advantage in this category. Other categories in order of mention were like as a person (Dayton 65%--Grams-29%), good record or experience (46% Dayton--51% Grams), and health position (87% Dayton-13% Grams). Other related findings can be found in the full packet of material

Other Findings

Minnesotans' continue to feel upbeat about the direction of the state. Seven of ten Minnesotans (70%) continue to believe the state is on the right track and only 16% say the state is on the wrong track.

When asked to name the single most important problem facing the state today, education has been increasing over the years and tops the list at 21% followed by taxes at 17%. Crime has dropped from a high of 25% in 1994 to 8% now. No party is seen to have an overall advantage in handling the problem(s). There does appear to be a decline in Minnesotans who believe the Reform Party can best handle the problem and a small switch to the Independence Party.

When asked which party, if any from your district will you vote for Congress no party has a clear advantage, Democrats are mentioned by 34% of Minnesotans, Republicans by 30% and the Independence Party by 8%. When ask about which party should control the Minnesota legislature, Republicans are named by 18%, Democrats by 17%, Reform and Independence parties by 6% combined.

The Survey again employed the University of Michigan's feeling thermometer. U.S. Senate candidate James Gibson continues to suffer from a major name recognition problem as 77% of all Minnesotans surveyed could not judge or did not know him. The figures for Mark Dayton and Rod Grams are 16% and 11%. Among respondents who could give a rating on a scale of 0-100 with 100 being very warm and favorable and 0 very unfavorable for 12 public figures, Terry Ventura and Jesse Ventura have very warm ratings of 62 and 60. Presidential candidate Pat Buchanan has a very low 31.

Political party affiliation and self-described political ideology have changed little, if at all, over the years.

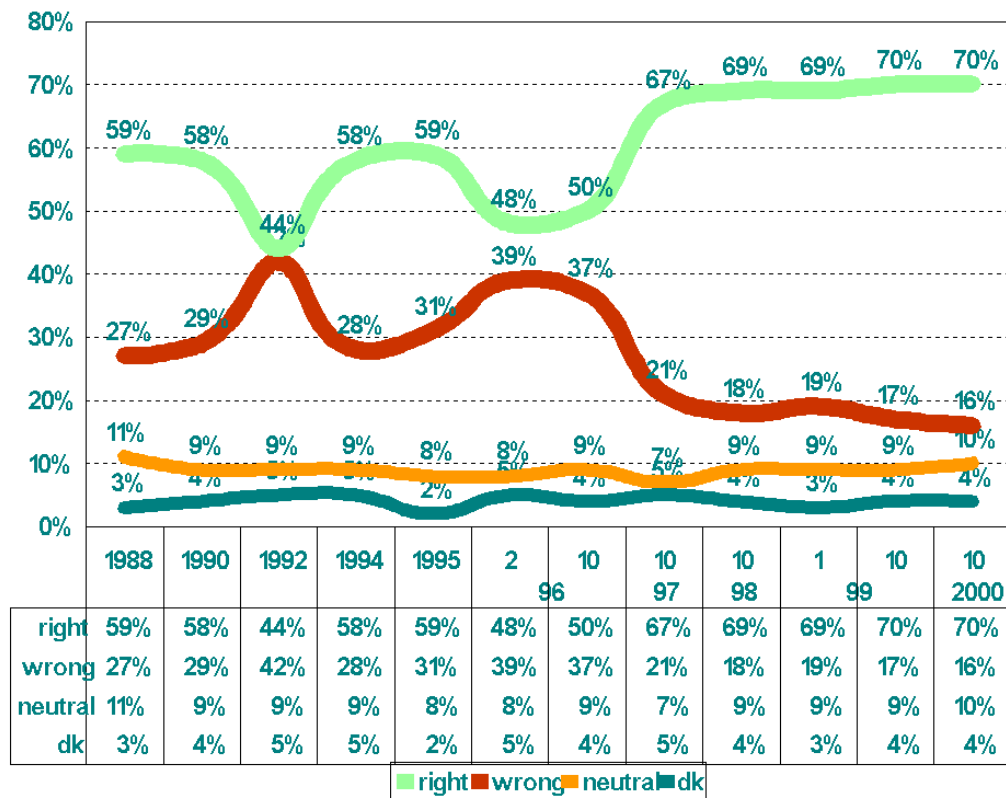
The SCSU Survey interviewed 629 Minnesotans from October 14th through 24th. Respondents were chosen randomly from computer generated telephone numbers. To ensure against response bias toward a particular candidate, the names of the candidates were randomly rotated. Respondents were asked, "If the November, 2000 (presidential or U.S. Senate) election were being held today, would you vote for"

The SCSU Survey conducts an omnibus statewide survey each fall. This year's survey consisted of 55 questions, asked of 629 respondents. The survey has a margin of sampling error no greater than 3.9 percentage points, plus or minus, at the 95 percent level of confidence.

Further information about these findings or about the methodology of the survey can be obtained by calling Dr. Steve Frank, SCSU Professor and Co-director of the SCSU Survey, at 320-255-4131, Dr. Steven Wagner, SCSU Associate Professor and Co-director of the SCSU Survey, at 320-654-5423 or Dr. Michelle Kukoleca Hammes, SCSU Assistant Professor and Co-Director of the SCSU Survey at 320-255-4130.

VIEWS OF MINNESOTANS AS TO HOW THINGS ARE GOING IN MN

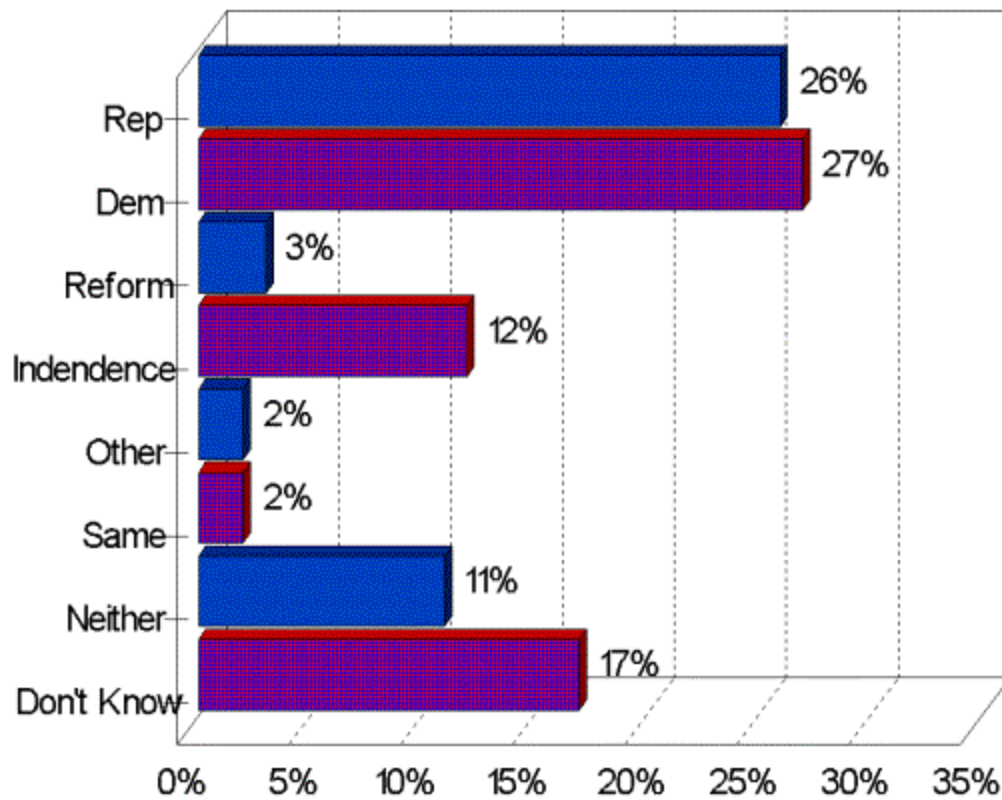
RIGHT DIRECTION OR WRONG TRACK



Source: SCSU Survey 10/200 N=600? 11/99 N=602 10/98 n=625 10/97 N=602 10/96 n=704 1-2/96 n=702 1/95 n=686 4-5/94 n=712
 2/92 n=807 4/90 n=754 10/88 n=801

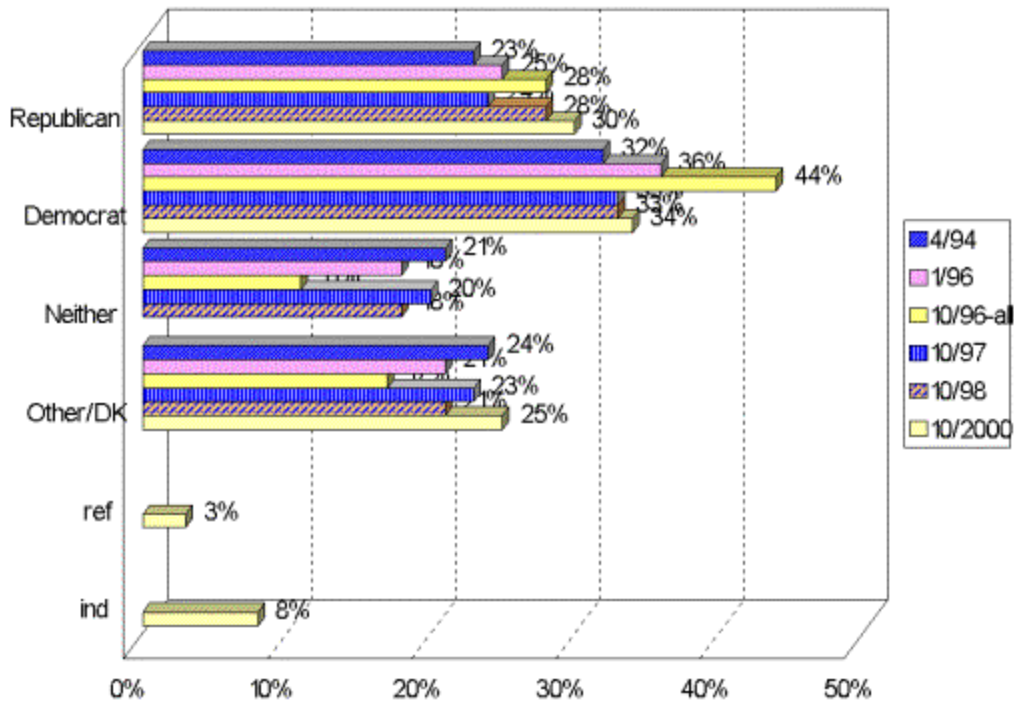
Which Political Party, If Any, Can Best Handle Named Problem

10/2000



Source: SCSU Survey N=600+

Which Party, If Any, From Your District Will You Vote For Congress

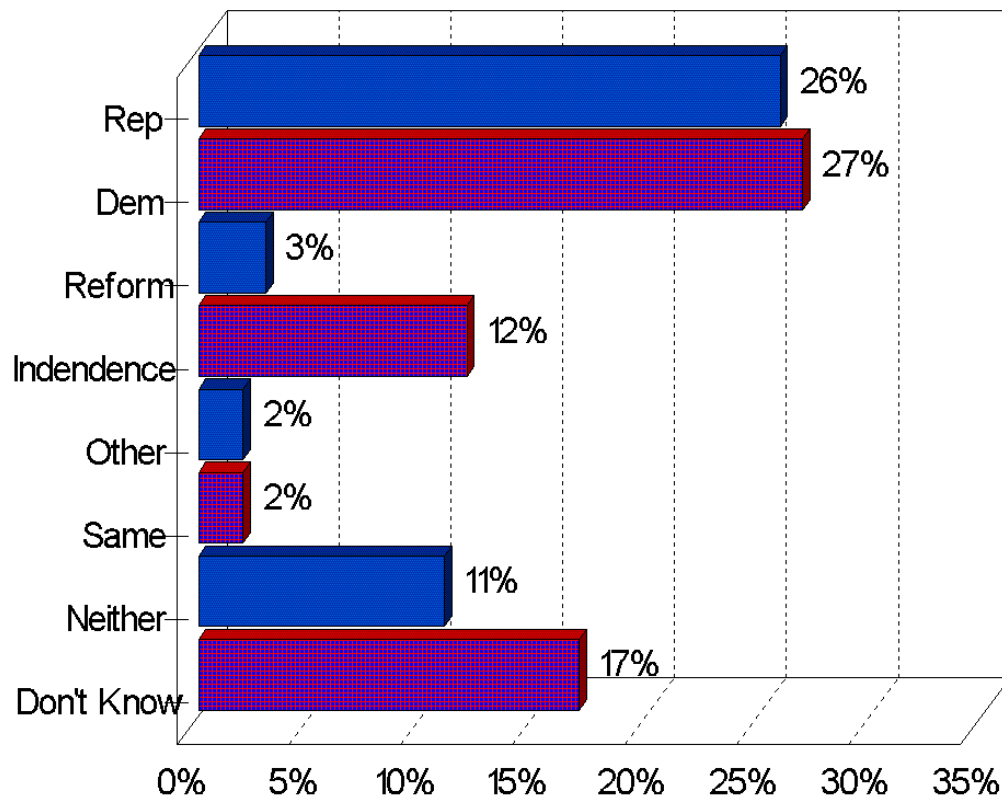


	Republican	Democrat	Neither	Other/DK	ref	ind
4/94	23%	32%	21%	24%		
1/96	25%	36%	18%	21%		
10/96-all	28%	44%	11%	17%		
10/97	24%	33%	20%	23%		
10/98	28%	33%	18%	21%		
10/2000	30%	34%		25%	3%	8%

Source: SCSU Survey 10/98 n=625 10/97 n=802 4/96 n=702 1/96 n=702 10/96 n=704 10/2000 n=629

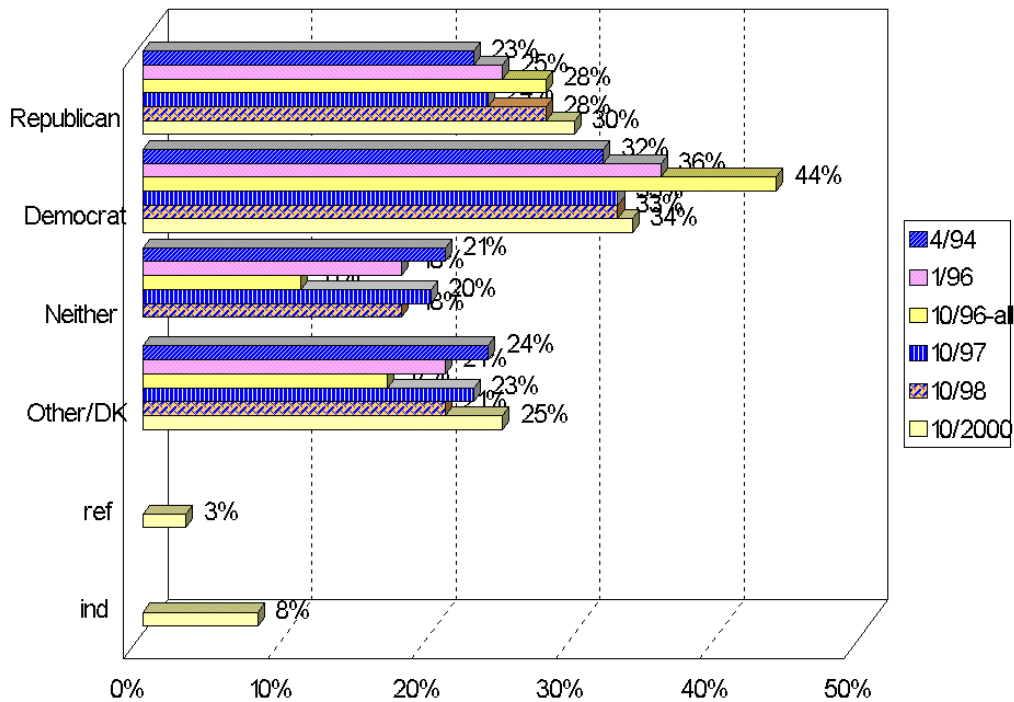
Which Political Party, If Any, Can Best Handle Named Problem

10/2000



Source: SCSU Survey N=600+

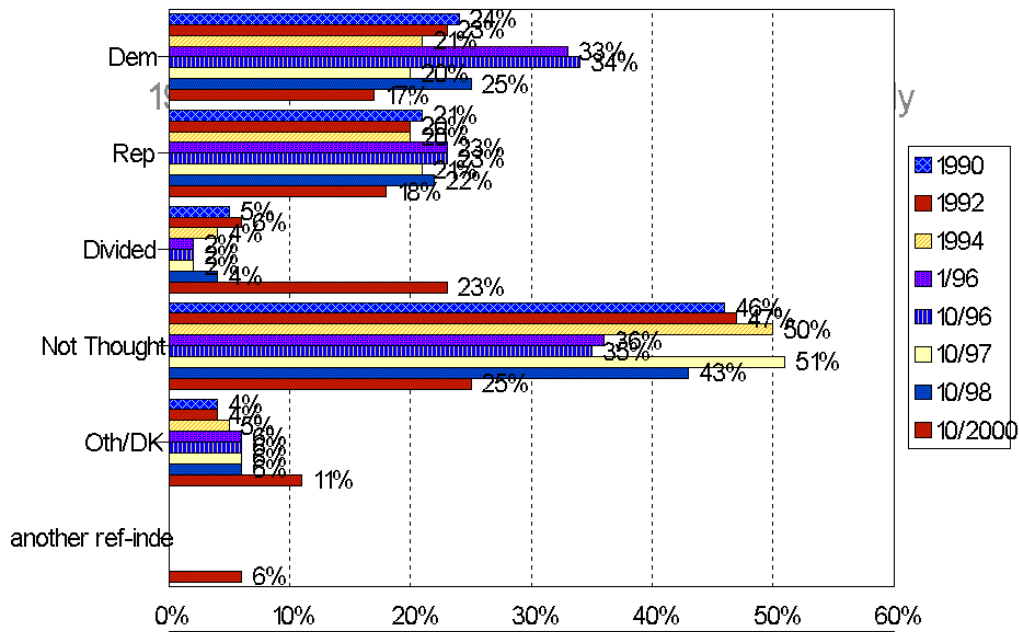
Which Party, If Any, From Your District Will You Vote For Congress



	Republican	Democrat	Neither	Other/DK	ref	ind
4/94	23%	32%	21%	24%		
1/96	25%	36%	18%	21%		
10/96-all	28%	44%	11%	17%		
10/97	24%	33%	20%	23%		
10/98	28%	33%	18%	21%		
10/2000	30%	34%		25%	3%	8%

Source: SCSJ Survey 10/98 n=625 10/97 n=602 4/96 n=702 1/96 n=702 10/96 n=704 10/2000 n=629

What Political Party Should Control the MN. Legislature

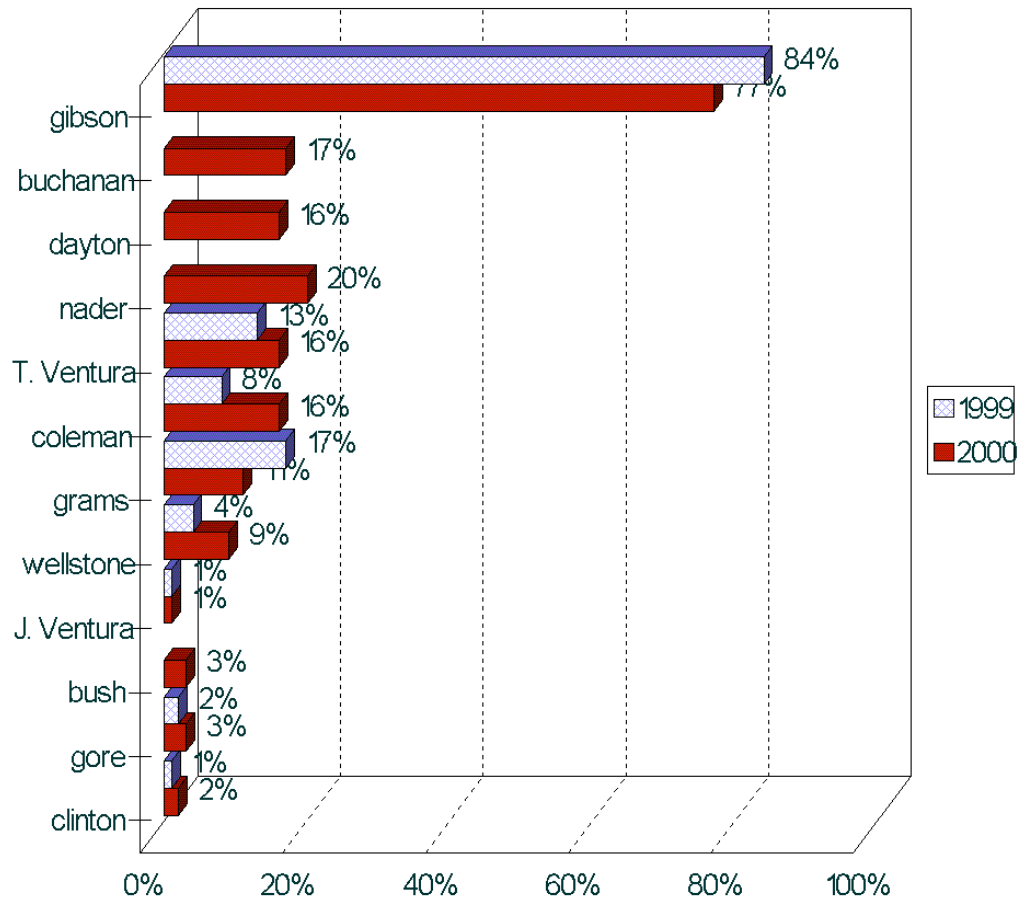


	Dem	Rep	Divided	Not Thought	Oth/DK	another ref-inde
1990	24%	21%	5%	46%	4%	
1992	23%	20%	6%	47%	4%	
1994	21%	20%	4%	50%	5%	
1/96	33%	23%	2%	36%	6%	
10/96	34%	23%	2%	35%	6%	
10/97	20%	21%	2%	51%	6%	
10/98	25%	22%	4%	43%	6%	
10/2000	17%	18%	23%	25%	11%	6%

Source: SCSU Survey 10/2000 n=629 10/98 N=625 10/97 n=602 10/96 n=704 1-2/96 n=702 4-5/94 n=702 1992 n=794 1990 n=738

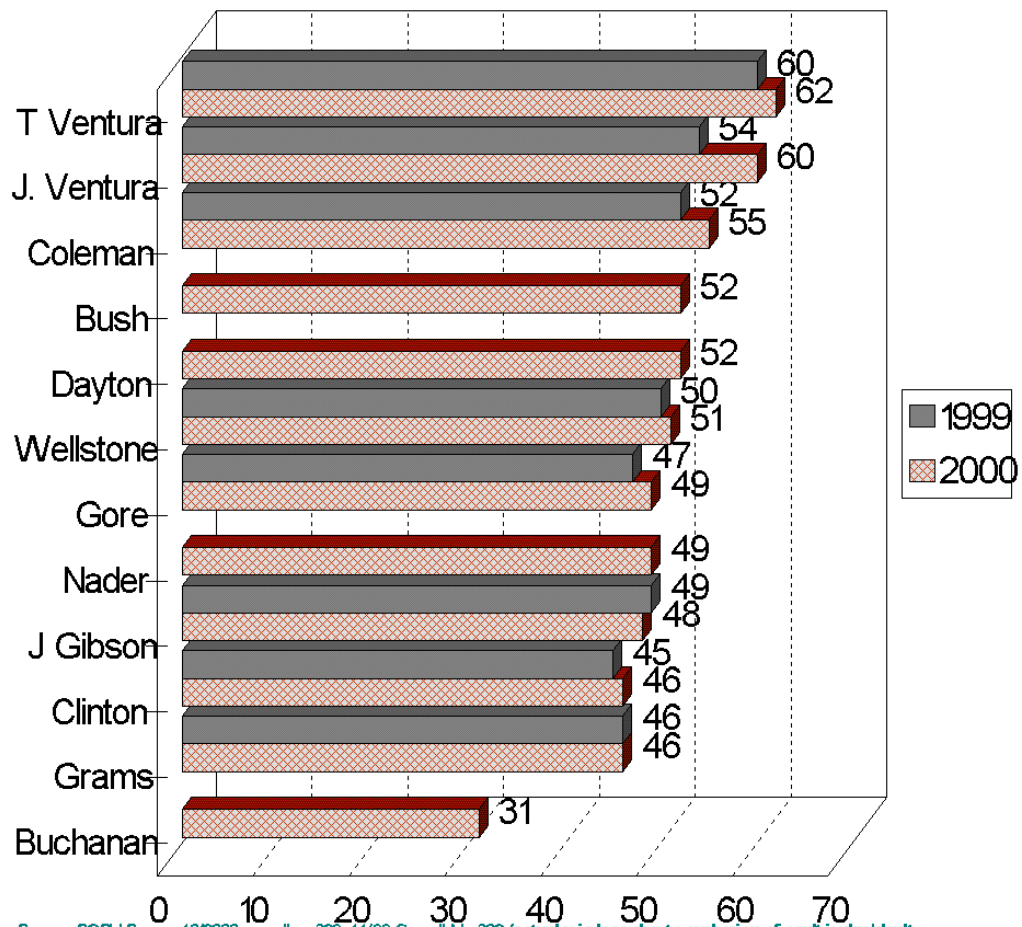
% Saying Don't Know or Can't Judge On "Feeling Thermometer" 1999 & 2000

% don't know/can't judge



Source: SCSU Survey 11/99 Overall N=602 10/2000 n=629

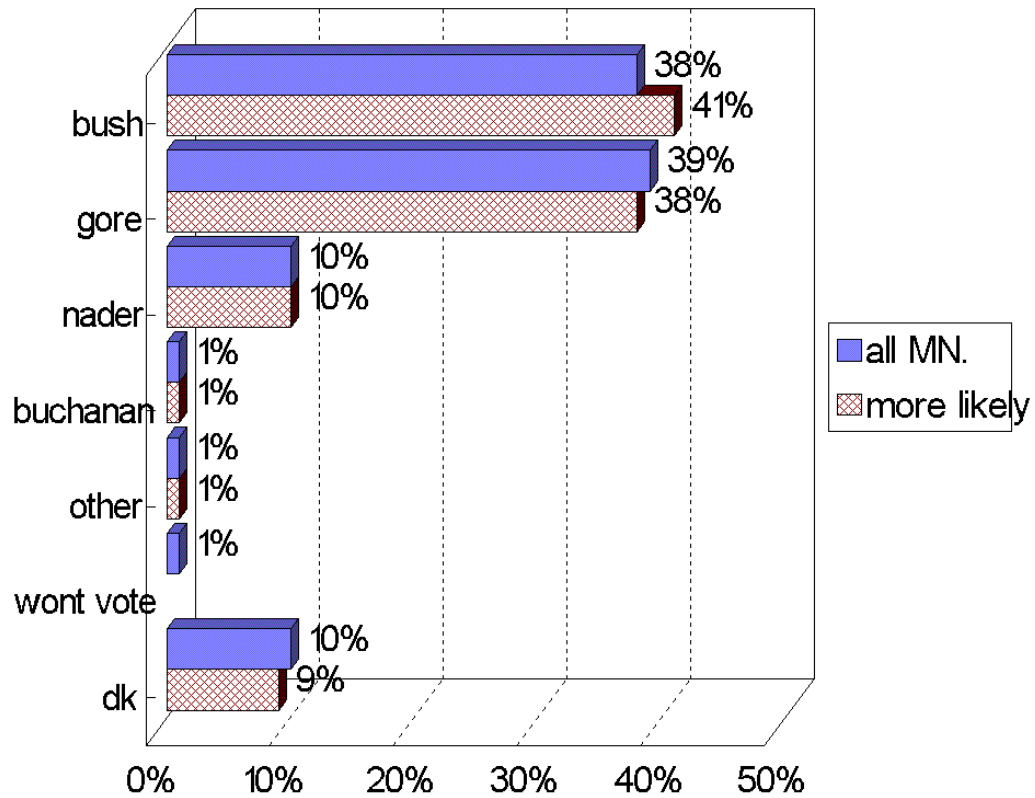
11/99 & 10/2000 SCSU "Feeling Thermometer"
mean or average [this is not a %]



Source: SCSU Survey 10/2000 overall n=629 11/99 Overall N= 602 (actual n is less due to exclusion of can't judge/don't know/refusals)

Vote for U.S. President

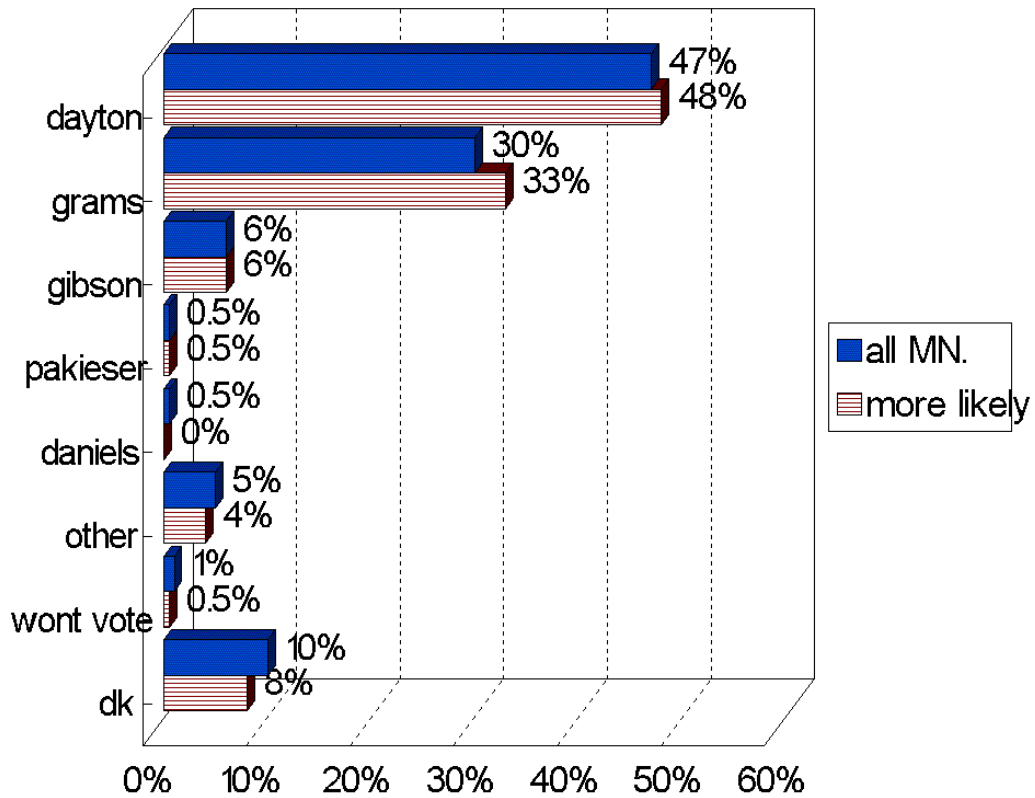
all Minnesotans and more likely voters



Source: SCSU Survey 10/2000 overall n=629 more likely voters n=514

Vote for U.S. Senator

all Minnesotans and more likely voters



Source: SCSU Survey 10/2000 overall n=629 more likely voters n=514

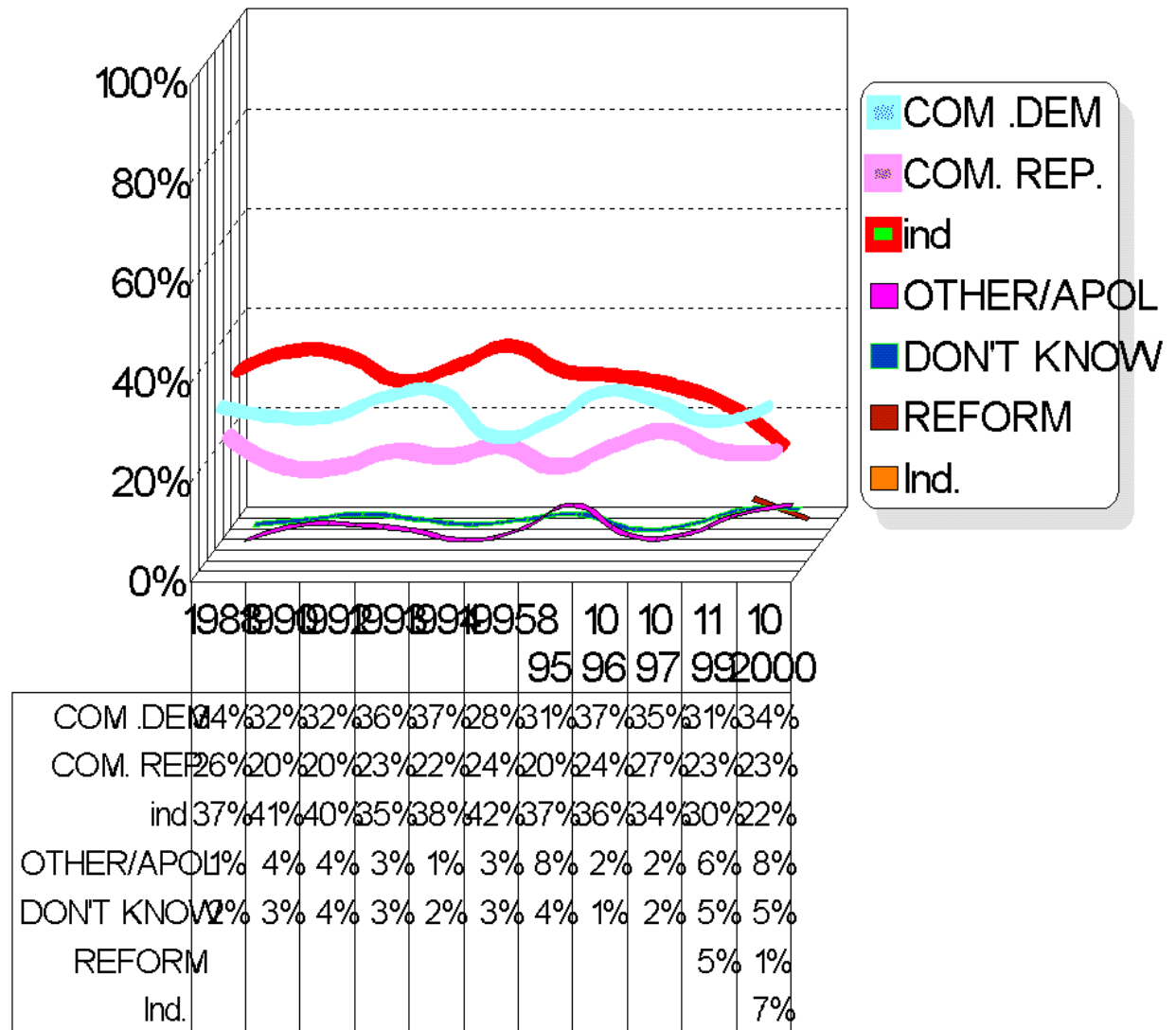
Top 10 Reasons Why MN Respondents Say They Will Vote For A U.S. Senate Candidate

respondents could give up to 22 reasons-[% is based on a percent of all the 455 responses from more likely voters]

	party	like character	ideology	like as person	dont like other tactics	good rec/exper	health pos	someone diff	gun pos	ed pos
dayton	46%	61%	54%	65%	49%	46%	87%	69%	17%	58%
gibson	5	7	7	4	9	3	0	12	0	9
grams	47	31	38	29	29	51	13	19	83	33
others	2	0	1	2	14	0	0	0	19	0
overall % of all mentions	22	22	18	11	8	7	7	4	3	3

Source: SCSU Survey 10/2000 overall N=629

POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION OF MN. ADULTS 1988-2000



SOURCE: SCSU SURVEY (1994 LIKELY VOTERS ONLY); REP & DEM ARE COMBINED ALWAYS VOTE REP/DEM AND USUALLY VOTE DEM/REP-IND ARE IND+IND WHO FEEL CLOSER TO DEM AND REP.

FREQUENCY TABLES

10/26 POLITICAL SECTION

Table 2:
Direction of the State

<i>“Do you think things in the State of Minnesota are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?”</i>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Right Direction	436	70
Neutral	61	10
Wrong Track	102	16
Don't Know	27	4
Total	626	100%

<p align="center">Table 3: Problems Facing the State of Minnesota</p>		
<i>“What do you think is the single most important problem facing the State of Minnesota today?”</i>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Abortion	9	1%
Agriculture-General	4	1%
Agriculture-Probs./Farmers	9	1%
Budget/Surplus	6	1%
Candidate Character	2	0%
Crime/Gangs/Violence	41	7%
Drug Use	17	3%
Economic Issues (Jobs, Wages, etc.)	12	2%
Education	128	21%
Environmental Issues	16	3%
Family Issues	2	0%
Gambling	1	0%
Health Issues-Health Insurance, etc.	41	7%
Issue Relating to Indians	1	0%
Moral Issues	11	2%
Religious Issues	2	0%
Politics/Politicians	10	2%
Poverty/ Poor	5	1%
Roads, Highways, Transportation	19	3%

Utility Prices, Gas, Energy	2	0%
Senior Issues/ Elderly	5	1%
Jesse Ventura	9	1%
Taxes	112	18%
Welfare Issues, Waste, Fraud	14	2%
Prescription Drugs	4	1%
Other	74	12%
No Problem Facing State	4	1%
Don't Know	65	9%
Total	625	100%

Table 4:
Which Party Can Better Fix Problems

“Which political party, if any, do you think can do a better job of handling the problem you have just mentioned- the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, the Independence Party, or the Reform Party?”

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Republican	174	27
Democratic	152	28
Reform	19	4
Independence Party	63	12
Other- Volunteered	11	2
Neither	58	11
Don't Know	89	16
Total	539	100

Table 5:
Party Choice in U.S. Congressional Races

“If the election for U.S. Congress were being held today and you could choose between a Democratic candidate, a Republican candidate, a Reform Party candidate, and Independence Party candidate,, or a candidate who belongs to some other party, which party's candidate would you vote for?”

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Democrat	206	34
Republican	179	30
Reform	16	3
Independence Party	50	8
Other	30	5
Don't Know	125	20
Total	606	100

Table 6:
Control of Minnesota Legislature

“Looking ahead to next November’s election in which all members of the Minnesota legislature will be elected, right now the Republicans control the Minnesota House while the Democrats control the Minnesota Senate. Which of the following would you like to see happen- keep control the way it is now, the Republicans gain control of both Houses, the Democrats gain control of both Houses, another party such as the Reform Party of Independence Party gain control, or haven’t you thought much about this issue?”

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Keep Divided Control	144	23
Republican Control	115	18
Democratic Control	108	17
Another Party Controls	35	6
Haven’t Thought Much About Issue	161	26
Other- Volunteered	12	2
Don’t Know	50	8
Total	625	100

**Table 7:
Feeling Thermometer**

“Please think of a thermometer that has a range of 0 to 100 degrees. I’d like you to rate your feelings toward some of our political leaders and other people who are in the news. Ratings on the thermometer between 50 and 100 degrees mean that you feel favorable and warm toward the person. Ratings between 0 and 50 mean that you do not feel too favorable toward the person. If we come to a person whose name you don’t recognize, you don’t need to rate that person. Just tell me and we will move on to the next one. If you do recognize the name, but do not feel particularly warm or cold toward the person, you would rate that person at the 50 degree mark.”

(Interviewers do not tell the respondent who the person is or any information about the person.)

Person	Mean Response 2000	Mean Response 1999¹	Frequency of Don’t Know/ Can’t Judge 2000	Qualified Sample 2000
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Bill Clinton	46	46	12	617
Rod Grams	46	46	73	556
Paul Wellstone	51	50	59	570
Terry Ventura	62	60	103	526
Al Gore	49	47	21	608
Pat Buchanan	31		113	516
Jesse Ventura	60	54	8	621
Norm Coleman	55	52	110	519
George W. Bush	52		24	605
Mark Dayton	52		106	532
James Gibson	48	49	485	114
Ralph Nader	49		126	503
Survey Total				629

**Table 8:
2000 Minnesota Senate Race
All Respondents**

“If the November 2000 election for U.S. Senate were being held today would you vote for Republican candidate Rod Grams, Democratic candidate Mark Dayton, Independence Party candidate James Gibson, or a candidate or another party?”

(If the candidate is not sure)
“Although you are not sure, would you say you are leaning more toward Grams, Gibson, Dayton, or a candidate of another party?”

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Definitely Dayton	214	35
Leaning Dayton	75	12
Definitely Gibson	27	4
Leaning Gibson	11	2
Definitely Grams	148	24
Leaning Grams	33	6
Eric Pakieser- Libertarian Party	1	.5
David Swan- Constitution Party	0	0
David Daniels- Grassroots Party	2	.5
Other	29	5
Won't Vote	8	1
Don't Know	63	10
Total	611	100

**Table 9:
2000 Minnesota Senate Race
Likely Voters**

“If the November 2000 election for U.S. Senate were being held today would you vote for Republican candidate Rod Grams, Democratic candidate Mark Dayton, Independence Party candidate James Gibson, or a candidate or another party?”

(If the candidate is not sure) <i>“Although you are not sure, would you say you are leaning more toward Grams, Gibson, Dayton, or a candidate of another party?”</i>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Definitely Dayton	179	36
Leaning Dayton	60	12
Definitely Gibson	21	4
Leaning Gibson	10	2
Definitely Grams	140	28
Leaning Grams	26	5
Eric Pakieser- Libertarian Party	1	0.5
Other	20	4
Won't Vote	1	.5
Don't Know	41	8
Total	499	100

Where available.

A likely voter is one who is registered to vote or planning to register to vote, voted in 1996 or had a good reason not to vote (such as illness or not being 18 years of age), and indicate that they are very interested or somewhat interested in this election. This screened out approximately 18% of the respondents.

**Table 10:
Reasons for Senate Candidate Choice**

“Why are you going to vote for this person?”
(Interviewer probes for answer, but does not read responses.)

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT OF ALL RESPONSES
Same Political Party	123	20
Same Political Ideology	90	14
Like Candidate’s Character	102	16
Like Candidate as a Person	61	10
Somebody Different	20	3
Not a Typical Candidate	8	1
Good Track Record- Experience	34	5
No Particular Reason	15	2
Position on Abortion	12	2
Budget Surplus Position	3	1
Like Candidate’s Ads	12	2
Don’t Like Tactics of Opponent	37	6
Time for a Change	14	2
Crime Position	4	1
Education Position	3	2
Position on the Environment	10	2
Gun/Hunting Position	12	2
Health Care Position	36	6
Social Security Position	8	1
Taxes	10	2
Senior Issue Position	6	1
Total Responses	630	
Total Respondents	455	

Multiple Responses Accepted

Table 11: Percentage of Candidate Support On Key Issues				
Candidates →	Dayton	Gibson	Grams	Other
Issues ↓	Percent			
Same Political Party	46%	5%	47%	2%
Same Political Ideology	54%	7%	38%	1%
Like Candidate's Character	61%	7%	31%	0%
Like Candidate as a Person	65%	4%	29%	2%
Don't Like Other Candidates Tactics	49%	9%	29%	14%
Somebody Different	69%	12%	19%	0%
Good Track Record- Experience	46%	3%	51%	0%
Education Position	58%	9%	33%	0%
Gun/Hunting Position	17%	0%	83%	19%
Health Care Position	87%	0%	13%	0%

**Table 12:
Demographics and Senate Candidate Support
Among Likely Voters**

Candidate →	Dayton	Gibson	Grams	Other
Demographic Characteristic ↓				
Gender- Male	100 46	16 7	93 43	10 5
Female	139 58	15 6	73 31	11 5
Age- 18-24	12 50	1 4	10 42	1 4
25-34	34 60	3 5	17 30	3 5
35-44	48 47	11 11	35 34	9 9
45-54	62 55	6 5	40 36	4 4
55-65	34 45	5 7	35 47	1 1
65+	48 57	5 6	28 33	3 4
Party Affiliation- Democrat	129 84	6 4	11 7	8 5
Republican	21 16	5 4	104 79	2 2
Reform	2 40	0 0	1 20	2 40
Independence	15 52	2 7	11 38	1 3
independents	49 50	16 16	28 29	5 5
Ideology- Liberal	119 82	10 7	8 6	8 6
Moderate	71 58	11 9	32 26	8 7
Conservative	42 24	9 5	119 70	2 1

**Table 13:
2000 U.S. Presidential Election
All Respondents**

“If the November 2000 Presidential election were being held today would you vote for Republican candidate George W. Bush, Democratic candidate Al Gore, Reform Party candidate James Buchanan, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, or a candidate or another party?”

(If the candidate is not sure)

“Although you are not sure, would you say you are leaning more toward Bush, Gore, Buchanan, Nader, or a candidate of another party?”

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Definitely Gore	188	31
Leaning Gore	51	8
Definitely Bush	199	32
Leaning Bush	33	5
Definitely Buchanan	5	1
Leaning Buchanan	4	1
Definitely Nader	44	7
Leaning Nader	19	3
Other	8	1
Won't Vote	4	1
Don't Know	61	10
Total	616	100

**Table 14:
2000 U.S. Presidential Election
Likely Voters**

“If the November 2000 Presidential election were being held today would you vote for Republican candidate George W. Bush, Democratic candidate Al Gore, Reform Party candidate James Buchanan, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, or a candidate or another party?”

(If the candidate is not sure)

“Although you are not sure, would you say you are leaning more toward Bush, Gore, Buchanan, Nader, or a candidate of another party?”

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
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Definitely Gore	152	30
Leaning Gore	38	8
Definitely Bush	179	36
Leaning Bush	26	5
Definitely Nader	38	8
Leaning Nader	14	2
Definitely Buchanan	2	0
Leaning Buchanan	4	0
Other	5	1
Don't Know	43	10
Total	447	100

**Table 15:
Demographics and Presidential Candidate Support
Among Likely Voters**

Candidate → Demographic Characteristic ↓	Gore	Bush	Nader
Gender- Male	79 38	110 52	21 10
Female	111 47	95 40	31 13
Age- 18-24	6 24	12 48	7 28
25-34	22 38	31 53	5 9
35-44	49 48	36 35	17 17
45-54	49 45	50 46	9 8
55-65	29 43	34 50	5 7
65+	34 41	41 49	9 11
Party Affiliation- Democrat	128 86	9 6	12 8
Republican	7 5	117 90	6 5
Reform	0 0	0 0	3 100
Independence	11 42	11 42	4 16
independents	31 32	47 49	18 19

Ideology- Liberal	103	19	21
	72	13	15
Moderate	60	44	13
	51	38	11
Conservative	20	134	17
	12	78	10

II. 12/1 GOVERNOR VENTURA SECTION

November 2000

For more on Governor Ventura read *We Shocked the World! A Case Study of Jesse Ventura's Election As Governor of Minnesota* Harcourt College Publishers 1999. [Second edition due early 2001]
<http://tigger.stcloudstate.edu/~t00001/book.html>

IV. Indicators of Jesse Ventura's Performance as Governor of Minnesota

Is there one person who personifies a state today? What political position is the most powerful in a state today? Whom does the public expect to lead the legislature and the bureaucracy? Who is the most influential person in today's state government? The answer to all these questions is the state governor. The contemporary governor fills a long roster of roles or jobs. Some of these include chief executive, chief lawmaker, commander in chief, chief diplomat and political leader. This section of the report examines how Minnesotans view or evaluate Governor Ventura performance of these roles.

First, we display a table to show the growing support that Governor Ventura has in Minnesota. When respondent categories, *Did Not Vote*, *Don't Know* and *Refused* are removed from the statistical analysis, the data shows that Ventura was supported by 45% of our respondents, Coleman was supported by 26% and Humphrey by 23%. Governor Ventura received 37% of the vote in 1998, while Coleman received 34% and Humphrey received 29% of the vote in 1998. It is common, as time passes, to find that voters who supported a candidate that lost an election eventually indicate they voted for the winning candidate. We asked the same question last year and found that only Humphrey voters had deserted their candidate.

Table 2:
1998 Gubernatorial Vote

<p><i>“In the 1998 gubernatorial election, did you vote for Jesse Ventura, Norm Coleman, Herbert H. Humphrey, some other candidate or did you not vote?”</i></p>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Ventura	210	34
Coleman	122	19
Humphrey	108	17
Other	25	4
Did Not Vote	122	19
Don't Know	18	3
Refused	24	4
Total	624	100

The first specific role investigated is **Chief Legislator**. An examination of Table 3 shows that 59 percent of the respondents suggested that Governor Ventura's performance is either excellent or pretty good. Of those respondents, 50 percent rated Ventura's performance as a leader of the legislature as pretty good. Twenty percent of the respondents rated Ventura's performance as only fair and ten percent give Ventura's performance a poor rating. Almost everyone interviewed had an opinion about Ventura's performance. Only four percent could not rate Ventura's performance as a leader of the legislature.

<p>Table 3: Governor's Role as Chief Legislator</p>		
<p><i>“One role is chief legislator, which is the ability and success in initiating legislative programs, working with the state legislature, and signing or vetoing bills sent them by the legislature. Would you rate Governor Ventura's performance as chief legislator as excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?”</i></p>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	57	9
Pretty Good	309	50
Only Fair	171	27
Poor	61	10
Don't Know	26	4
Total	624	100

The data clearly suggests the average Minnesotan is satisfied with the job Ventura is doing as chief legislator. Unfortunately, follow up was not possible with the respondents to inquire why they evaluate Ventura's performance so high. We speculate Minnesotans evaluate Ventura's performance high for several reasons. One, most Minnesotans received a tax rebate each of the past two years. A causal reading of newspaper letters to editors shows most Minnesotans associate the rebates with action taken by Ventura. Two, the successes he has achieved, such as preserving commuter rail in the Twin Cities and increasing new housing construction for low-income families, have compelled Minnesotans to evaluate Ventura's performance as favorable.

In some respects, the high rating Ventura received is extraordinary. After all, Ventura's legislative agenda is rather thin. He tends to make grand announcements, such as the *Big Plan* and the unicameral legislature, but lacks a follow through. In terms of Ventura's working relationship with the legislature, he has had several notable failures. Ventura's choice to lead the consolidation of two cabinet agencies, Steve Minn, was rejected by the state senate and he had more vetoes overridden than any post war Governor. Tables 3-7 shows that of the five roles, Ventura's second lowest rating is as chief legislator.

The second role investigated is **Chief Executive**. Similar to Governor Ventura as Minnesota's chief legislature, Minnesotans rate Ventura's performance, as the chief executive of Minnesota very favorable. Table 4 shows that eleven percent of the respondents rated Ventura's performance as chief executive as excellent, 50 percent gave his performance a pretty good rating, 27 percent rated him as only fair and only seven percent gave him a poor evaluation. Only five percent indicated they did not know enough about Ventura's performance as chief executive to rate him.

<p>Table 4: Governor's Role as Chief Executive</p>		
<p><i>"Another role is chief executive, which is the ability and success in coordinating the state's bureaucracy, overseeing the preparation of the state's budget, and supervising major state programs. Would you rate Governor Ventura's performance as chief executive as excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?"</i></p>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	67	11
Pretty Good	312	50
Only Fair	170	27
Poor	44	7
Don't Know	33	5

Total	626	100
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The first question to come to mind is why did 61 percent of Minnesotans interviewed give Ventura's performance as chief executive an excellent or pretty good rating. His first two-year budget, submitted shortly after taking office, was increased only for the rate of inflation. Previous budgets were often increased at a rate higher than for annual inflation. Ventura was able to successfully assemble a cabinet. He argued that party affiliation, race, and gender were not factors in his choices for potential commissioners. Instead, he sought highly trained, professional individuals to serve in this cabinet. Most observers of the Minnesota Capitol agree that Ventura assembled and has maintained a highly qualified cabinet. Ventura's commissioners seem to have the power to manage their departments almost completely unencumbered from Governor Ventura and have his full support provided they stay within general operating parameters. Except for Ventura's initial choice to lead the Department of Natural Resources and the trouble his designee, Steve Minn, ran into during the consolidation of the Departments of Commerce and Public Service, Ventura has not encountered any problems with his cabinet appointees.

In terms of the operation of the state bureaucracy, several problems have surfaced and they have not blemished Ventura's management record. For example, near the end of the 1999-2000 K-12 school year, the state administered high school graduation tests. A number of students, who thought they passed, and therefore graduate, were notified they failed. As it turned out, they indeed passed but the firm the Department of Education and Learning Services contracted with to administer the tests reported the students had failed and thus they did not graduate. After several parents sought to learn why their children failed, it was determined that the firm had not scored some of the student tests correctly. At first, it seemed that the Ventura administration was at fault, but the contract was let prior to Ventura taking office and Ventura was able to deflect criticism arguing that he and his staff was not responsible.

Third, Governor Ventura's role as **Commander in Chief** is examined. Of the five roles investigated, Governor Ventura received his highest performance grade for his role as commander in chief. The second highest role performance is chief diplomat. In terms of commander in chief, 71 percent of the respondents gave him an excellent or pretty good rating. Of those, 20 percent gave him an excellent and 51 percent gave in a pretty good rating. Twelve percent indicated that his performance was only fair and four percent noted his performance was poor. Interestingly, 13 percent could not rate Ventura performance as commander in chief. This particular finding is not a surprise; much of what a governor does, as commander in chief, is not a public activity.

Table 5:
Governor's Role as Commander in Chief

<p><i>“Another role is commander in chief, which is the ability and success in using the state national guard and other law enforcement agencies in situation such as natural disasters like tornadoes, strikes, and possible civil disputes. Would you rate Governor Ventura’s performance as commander in chief as excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?”</i></p>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	123	20
Pretty Good	316	51
Only Fair	74	12
Poor	23	4
Don’t Know	82	13
Total	618	100

At the same time, Ventura called out the Minnesota Guard to participate in two emergency preparedness exercises at nuclear facilities. He also used the Minnesota Guard to help search of several lost individuals. In one instance, the individual was a kidnapped victim, and that case received extensive publicity. He called out the Guard to help with several disasters and they received favorable publicity. Additionally, President Clinton nationalized one of the Minnesota Guard units in 1999. Battery E of the 151st Field Artillery, served in Kosovo for seven months. Ventura participated in the embarkation activities and ceremonies. Although important, these activities do not seem strong enough to compel the extraordinarily high performance rating Ventura received.

We suggest that Ventura’s rating in this area of his performance is particularly due to the entertainer persona of Ventura. He often wears tee shirts, hats, and coats from his service in the U.S. Navy SEALs. During his inauguration, his SEAL training officer was on the speaker’s platform. Ventura ended this inaugural speech with a SEAL *rally cry* and often concludes press conferences with that same utterance. Ventura made his first choice as commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources solely on the basis that the individual also served in the SEALs. In Ventura’s autobiography, significant amount of the text is devoted to his service in the SEALs. In other words, Ventura uses his military past as part of his gubernatorial persona. Does it have anything significant to do with governing Minnesota? No.

Next, we inquired about Governor Ventura as the state’s **Political Leader**. The lowest performance rating Ventura received of the five roles was for his job as political leader. Fifty three percent of the respondents gave Ventura an excellent or pretty good rating. Of those, 16 percent rated Ventura excellent and 37 percent gave him a pretty good rating. Thirty percent gave his political leadership abilities an only fair rating, while 14 percent gave him a poor rating.

Only three percent could not rate Ventura's performance as the state political leader.

**Table 6:
Governor's Role as Political Leader**

"Another role is that of political leader, which is the ability and success in leading their political party, setting the political agenda for the state, and helping lead and shape Minnesota public opinion. Would you rate Governor Ventura's performance as political leader as excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	97	16
Pretty Good	233	37
Only Fair	188	30
Poor	90	14
Don't Know	17	3
Total	625	100

There can be no doubt, Ventura's success as leader of his political party is at best, mixed. Jesse Ventura ran for governor as a Reform Party member. When the supporters of Pat Buchanan took over the Reform Party, Ventura felt compelled to disassociate himself from the party and reorganized the Minnesota Independence Party. How well Governor Ventura leads the Independence Party will be determined in the coming years. So far, Ventura is the only member of his party to enjoy electoral success. We speculate this has harmed Ventura's performance rating.

In this congressional election cycle, several Independence Party candidates sought office. Not one was successful. Two candidates ran for high profile offices, the U.S. Senate and in the Fourth Congressional district. The Senate candidate, James Gibson, seemed capable but lacked political experience and had almost no campaign funds. He received six percent of the vote. The Congressional district candidate, Thomas Foley, a former DFLer and a very popular prosecutor for Ramsey County had a long political resume but only limited campaign funds. He placed a distant third behind the DFL winner and her Republican challenger.

Governor Ventura was able to recruit seven candidates to run for seats in the Minnesota Senate. All of them lost their election bids. On average, they each received seven percent of the vote. In the Minnesota House, 21 Independent Party candidates ran. Two of the 21 finished second in their respective races but the remaining 19 finished third and, on average, each received eight percent of

the votes cast. Thus, once again, Ventura will face a Minnesota Legislature without a single party supporter. This can only harm his ability to transform his policy agenda into law.

It is important to mention that this was the first election for candidates representing the Independence Party. It may take several election cycles before Independence Party candidates are known enough to successfully win office. It is common for candidates to seek office several times before they are successful. Mark Dayton had previously sought a seat in the Senate and in 1998 had unsuccessfully run for governor.

Finally, the SCSU Survey asked about Ventura as the state's **Chief Diplomat**. Governor Ventura's performance rating as chief diplomat is the second highest of the five investigated. Twenty eight percent of the respondent indicated Ventura is performing at an excellent level as chief diplomat. Forty-two percent noted he is a pretty good diplomat, while 18 percent noted his diplomatic performance is only fair. Of all respondents, only seven percent think his work in this area is poor and five percent are unable to judge his performance.

Table 7: Governor's Role as Chief Diplomat		
<p><i>"Another role is chief diplomat, which is the ability and success in dealing with foreign governments and businesses, other governors, Congress, and the President I promoting Minnesota trade and industry. Would you rate Governor Ventura's performance as chief diplomat as excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?"</i></p>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	173	28
Pretty Good	266	42
Only Fair	115	18
Poor	41	7
Don't Know	32	5
Total	627	100

Governor Ventura's interactions with other government officials began soon after his election and before he took office. He attended a training session for newly elected governors and his celebrity status earned him significant national media exposure. Did other governors seek his counsel? No. Did that matter to the average Minnesota voter? No. What mattered is that they saw their governor on national TV more often in a few days than they had their previous governor in eight years.

Soon after taking office, Ventura traveled to Japan to meet with officials about ensuring Minnesota products and produce have a market in Japan. His trip received extensive coverage on local television and in the print media. Did Ventura and his advisors solidify many trade agreements with the Japanese during the trip? No. Did they oversee the formalization of existing agreements between Minnesota and Japanese companies? Yes. During the summer of 2000, Ventura took a similar trip to Canada that obtained the same results. Minnesota media however did not cover this trip nearly as extensively as the trip to Japan. In the fall of 2000, Ventura traveled to Mexico. Again, the work was largely symbolic.

Ventura met several times during the first two years of his term with President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. Ventura appeared before a congressional subcommittee and gave testimony on how milk price supports benefited eastern dairy farmers to the harm of Minnesota dairy producers. In many respects, Ventura has only had successes in this area. We think that Minnesotans like to see their governor visit the White House, stay in the Lincoln bedroom, visit foreign countries and other American cities. Whether these trips result in substantive policy agreements is somewhat irrelevant. As long as Ventura does not commit a gross error of judgment regarding where he visits and clearly does not use these trips as state financed vacations, most everyone in Minnesota will evaluate his travels and diplomatic endeavors favorable.

Table 8 shows that the strong evaluation Minnesota gives Governor Ventura for his role performance would result in his reelection. Forty seven percent of our respondents indicated they would vote for Governor Ventura's reelection. We think this data speaks for itself!

<p>Table 8: Voting for Jesse Ventura</p>		
<p><i>"If the election for governor were held today, would you vote for Jesse Ventura as Governor?"</i></p>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	290	47
No	221	36
Not Sure/Don't Know	107	17
Total	618	100

Finally, we asked our respondents to rate Governor Ventura's overall performance as Governor of Minnesota. Table 9 shows that 63 percent of Minnesotans think Governor Ventura is performing at the excellent or pretty good level. We asked this question in November 1999, and found 55

percent of Minnesotans rated his overall performance as excellent or pretty good. The November 1999 survey was conducted about one month following the publication of now infamous *Playboy* interview. Clearly, in the past year, Minnesotans have *pardoned* Governor Ventura's for his comments to the *Playboy* interviewer and are once again rewarding his performance. The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and the Minnesota Poll have reported similar findings.

**Table 9:
Overall Rating of Jesse Ventura as Governor**

<i>"How would you rate the overall performance of Jesse Ventura as Governor; excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?"</i>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	77	12
Pretty Good	318	51
Only Fair	175	28
Poor	51	8
Don't Know	6	1
Total	627	100

The data presented in this report clearly shows that Minnesotans are favorable toward their governor. Jesse Ventura entered office with remarkable high favorable ratings. Except for a brief dip after his now infamous *Playboy* interview, he has maintained extraordinary high favorable ratings. We suggest that Ventura's favorable ratings will remain high unless he commits a major error of judgment that shows the public he is simply unfit to govern. We do not think his recently announced job with the XFL rises to that level. We also think that if Ventura runs for and wins a second term, his favorable ratings will decline. We suggest that during a second term, the voters will evaluate Venture as a trained and seasoned professional politician. For now, however, Ventura is one of the most popular governors to serve the state of Minnesota. Table 10 confirms this statement.

**Table 10:
Feeling Thermometer**

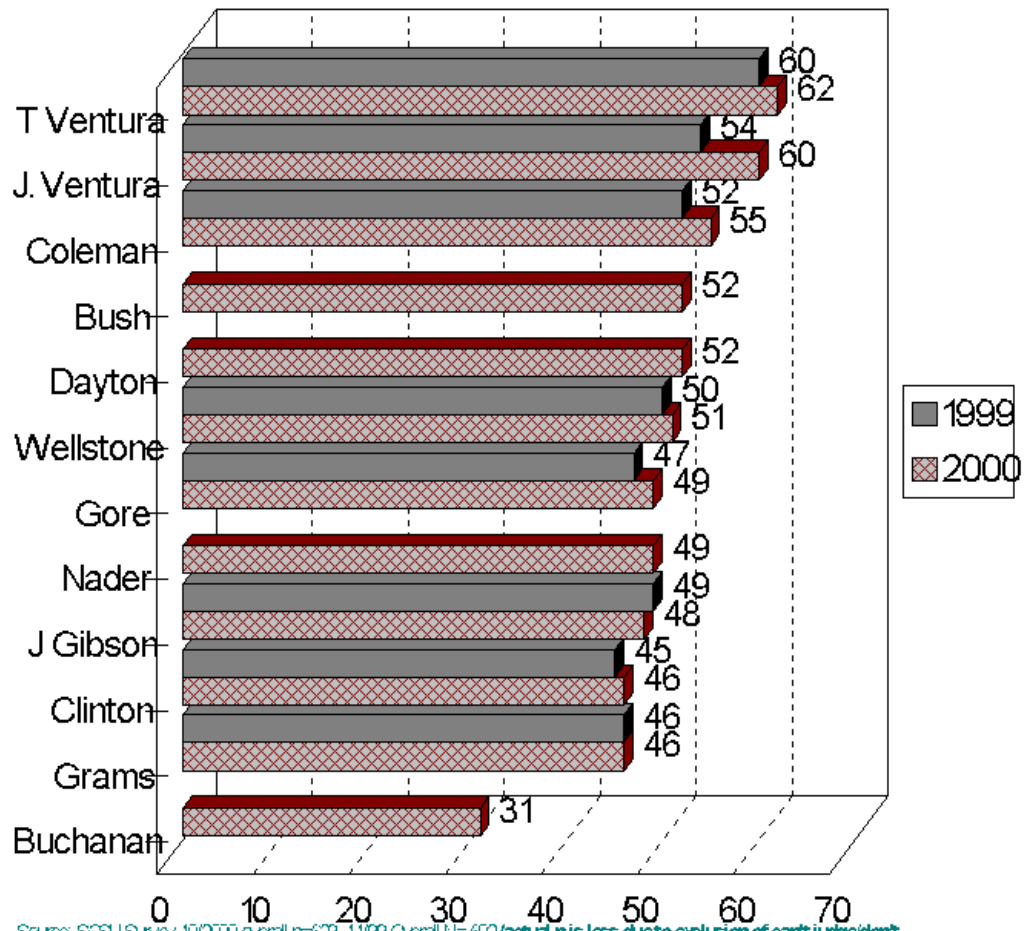
"Please think of a thermometer that has a range of 0 to 100 degrees. I'd like you to rate your feelings toward some of our political leaders and other people who are in the news. Ratings on the thermometer between 50 and

100 degrees mean that you feel favorable and warm toward the person. Ratings between 0 and 50 mean that you do not feel too favorable toward the person. If we come to a person whose name you don't recognize, you don't need to rate that person. Just tell me and we will move on to the next one. If you do recognize the name, but do not feel particularly warm or cold toward the person, you would rate that person at the 50 degree mark."

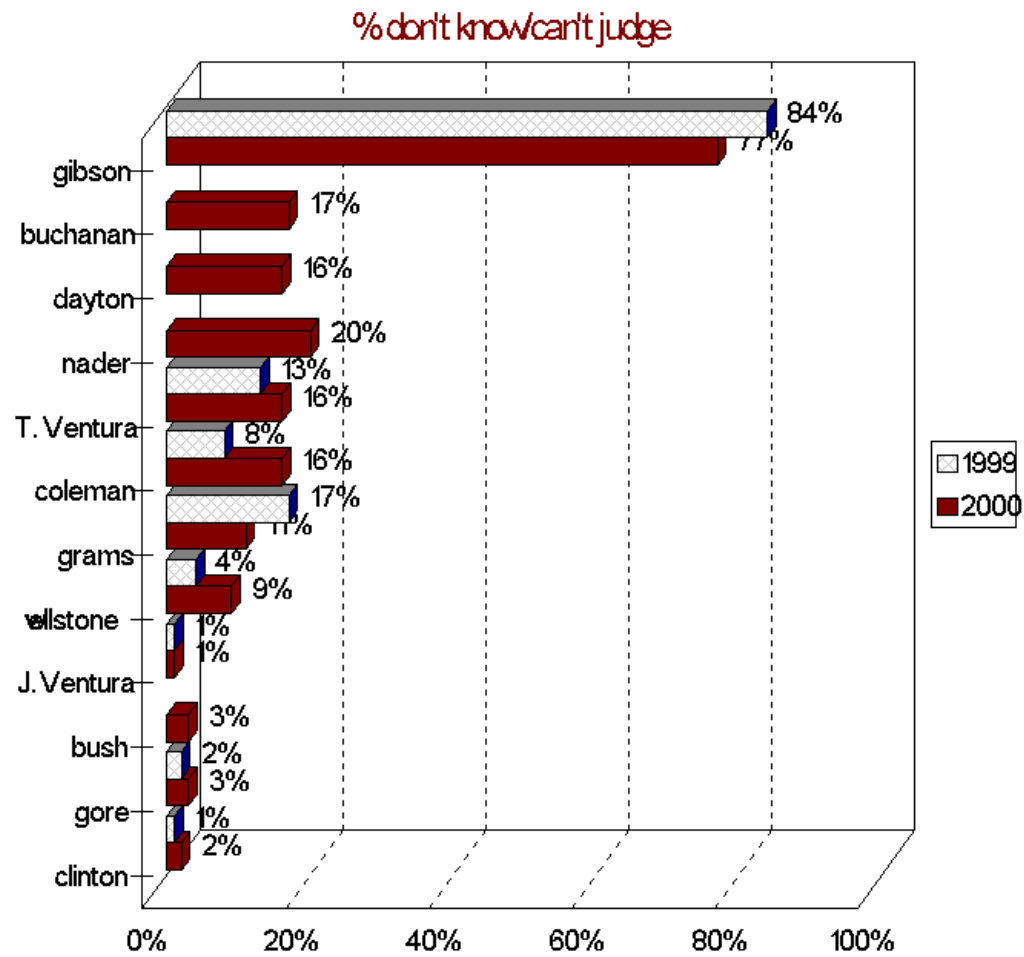
(Interviewers do not tell the respondent who the person is or any information about the person.)

Person	Mean Response	Frequency of Don't Know/ Can't Judge	Number of Responses Mean is Based On
Bill Clinton	46	12	617
Rod Grams	46	73	556
Paul Wellstone	51	59	570
Terry Ventura	62	103	526
Al Gore	49	21	608
Pat Buchanan	31	113	516
Jesse Ventura	60	8	621
Norm Coleman	55	110	519
George W. Bush	52	24	605
Mark Dayton	52	106	532
James Gibson	48	485	114
Ralph Nader	49	126	503
Survey Total			629

11/99 & 10/2000 SCSU "Feeling Thermometer"
mean or average [this is not a %]

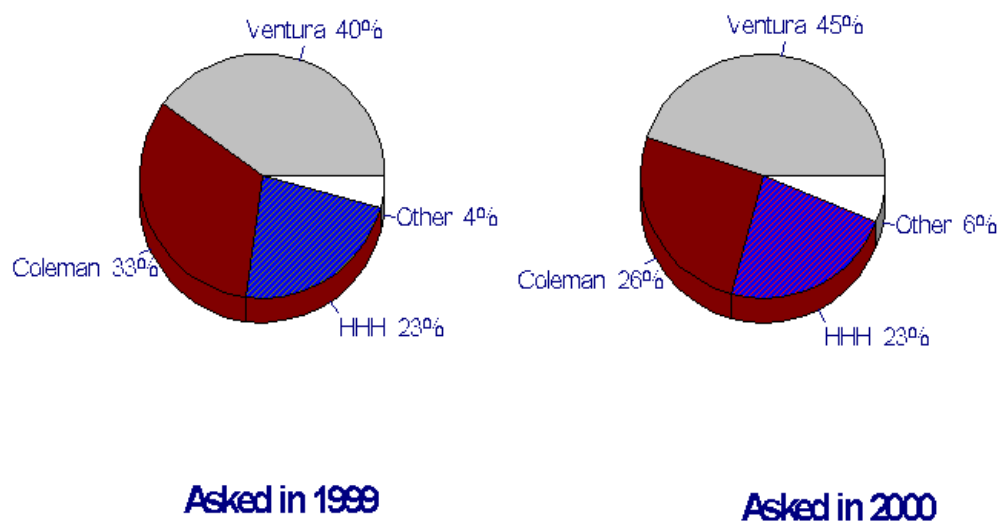


% Saying Don't Know or Can't Judge On "Feeling Thermometer" 1999 & 2000



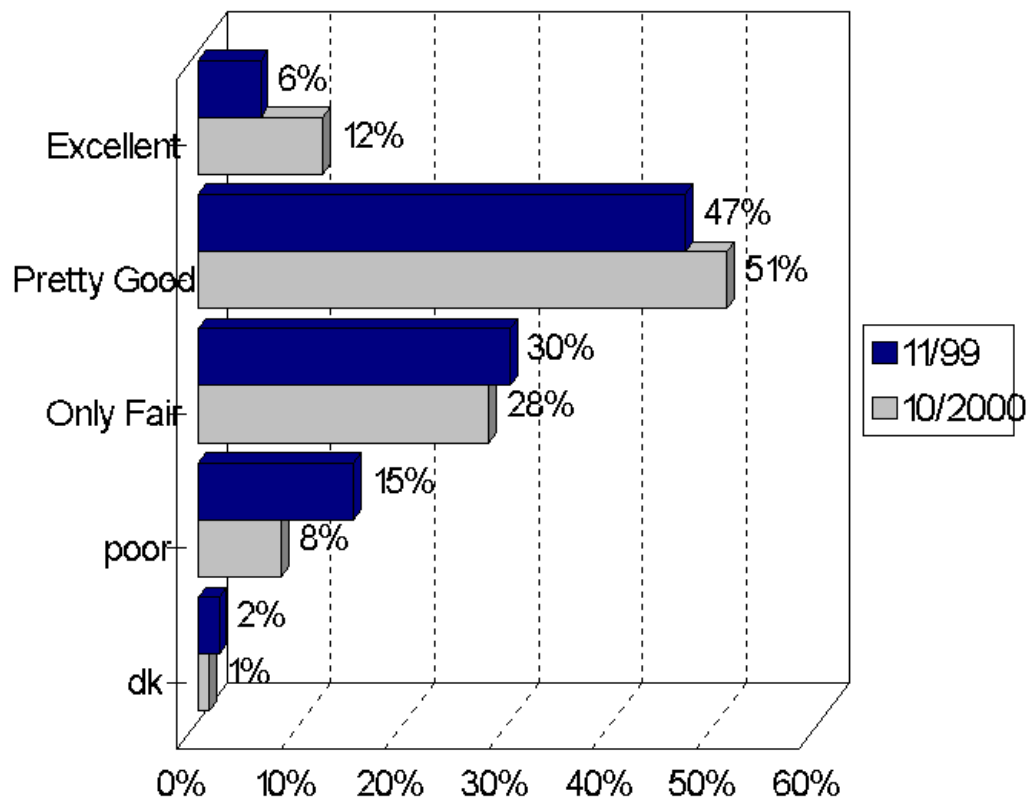
Source: SCSU Survey 11/99 Overall N=602 10/2000 n=629

Who Did Respondents Vote For In 1998 For Governor-Asked in 1999 and 2000 Surveys Didn't Vote-Don't Know excluded



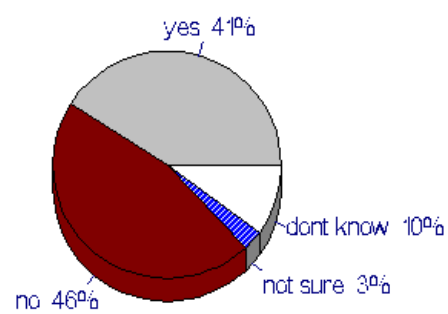
Source: SCSU Survey 11/99 n=602 10/2000 n=629

Rate Performance of Jesse Ventura As Governor

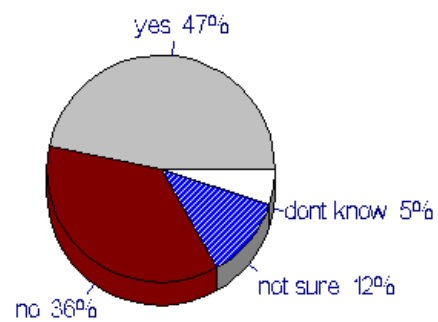


Source: SCSU Survey 11/99 overall n=602 10/2000 n=629

Would Vote For Jesse Again As Governor



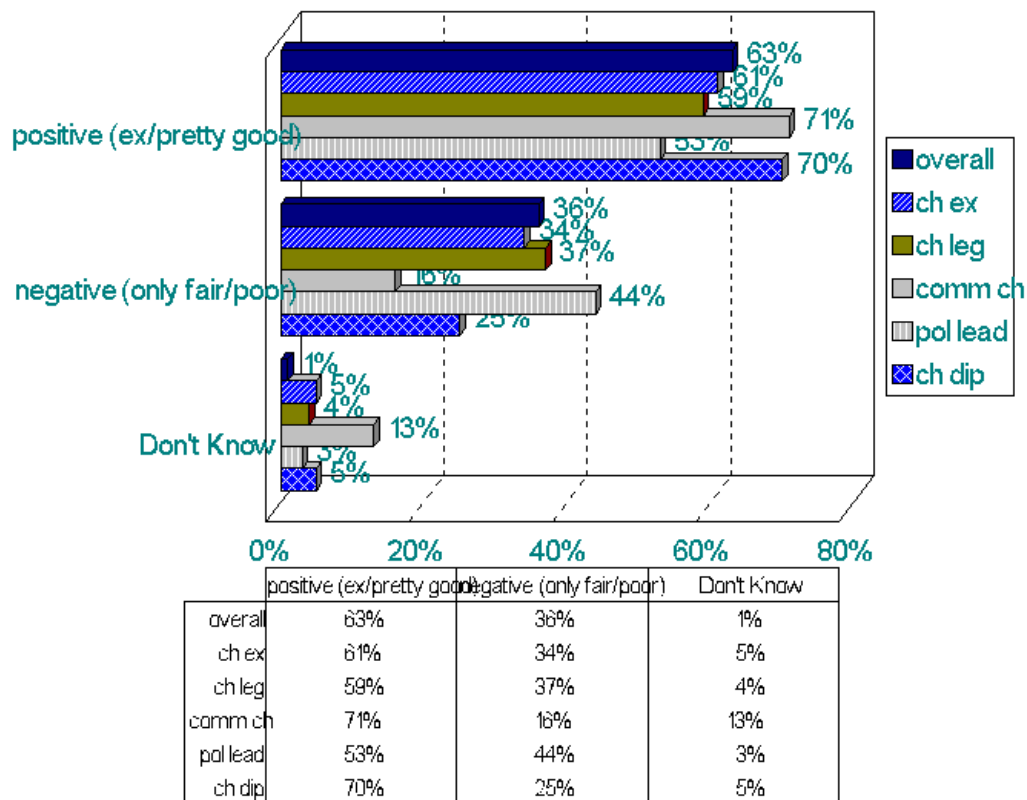
Asked in 1999



Asked in 2000

Source: SCSU Survey 11/99 n=602 10/2000 n=629

Rate Jesse Overall and On 5 Gubernatorial Roles



Source: SCSU Survey 10/2000 overall n=629

II. 12/13 ANNUAL STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA SURVEY

IV. Legislative Agenda Substantive Findings

The SCSU Survey is initiating its annual fall legislative agenda survey. We plan to ask a scientifically selected (random) sample of Minnesota adults about various issues that either didn't receive full attention by the state legislature the immediate past spring session and seem to deserve a revisit or new issues that have come to our attention. This year, we asked about a diverse group of issues.

We had taken notice that some cities across Minnesota are thinking about installing *photocop* at some of their busy intersections. Table 2 shows that Minnesotans are very mixed about whether they would like to see the installation of *photocops* at intersections in their communities.

During the immediate past legislative session, the legislature debated imposing felony penalties for repeat Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) convictions. The debate centered on the number of DWI convictions before felony charges would be levied and the cost to the taxpayer for incarceration of those convicted of felony DWI. We are led to believe that the legislature in the 2001 session will consider imposing felony charges after the fourth DWI conviction in a ten-year period. The data presented in Table 3 shows that 44 percent of our respondents think that after someone has two DWI convictions, that person should be charged with a felony. Of all the respondents, 93 percent indicated that after three DWI convictions a felony charge is appropriate.

A second question we asked about driving, asked respondents to evaluate how dangerous it is to drink and drive. We asked the respondents to rate drinking and driving on a 0 to 10 scale, with 0 indicating not dangerous and 10 indicating very dangerous. As we expected, most respondents (64%) indicated that drinking and driving is very dangerous. The mean response for this question is 8.9. We asked this question to obtain a rating drinking and driving, but it was also asked to develop a benchmark to allow us to rate how dangerous other activities are while driving.

To that end, we asked the respondents to rate, on a scale of 0 to 10, how dangerous it is to use a hand held cell telephone while driving in traffic. Over 90 percent of the respondents, on the 0 to 10 scale rated talking on a cell telephone in traffic as a five. Compared to drinking and driving, where 64 percent gave that activity a "10", 29 percent rated talking on a cell telephone in traffic as very dangerous and rated it a "10". The mean rating is 7.37.

Next, we asked about one of the most significant potential changes in state education policy that might be implemented in the past 30 years. That is, replacing the local property tax as a source of local public education financing with a statewide sales tax. Although a monumental potential policy proposal, Minnesotans are not clear on whether the change is advised. Forty-five percent of the respondents agree with the proposal but 42 disagree. It is important to note that 13 percent of the respondents are unsure of don't know if they agree or disagree with replacing the local property tax with an increased state sales tax so the state may fully finance local public education.

Finally, we asked if smoking should be prohibited in restaurants and bars that serve food. Although several cities across Minnesota have passed city ordinances to prohibit smoking in restaurants, the general population of Minnesota remains mixed in terms of this sort of action. Fifty-six percent of our

respondents agree that smoking in restaurants should be prohibited, but 40 percent disagree with imposing such a rule.

**Table 2:
“Photocop” Traffic Devices**

“Do you think cities in Minnesota should be allowed to install ‘photocop’ cameras, which snap photographs of vehicles that pass through an intersection after the stop light has turned red so that citations could be automatically issued to the owner of the vehicle?”

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes	303	49
No	294	47
Not Sure/Don’t Know	29	4
Total	626	100

**Table 3:
Felony Penalties for DWI Offenses**

“After how many DWI offenses would you support felony level penalties for DWI offenders?”

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
One DWI Offense	189	30
Two DWI Offenses	274	44
Three DWI Offenses	117	19
Four DWI Offenses	10	2
Five DWI Offenses	4	0
More Than Five DWI Offenses	3	0
None- There should never be a DWI Felony Level Penalty	9	1
Not Sure	22	4
Total	628	100

**Table 4:
Danger of Drinking and Driving**

<p><i>“On a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 representing not dangerous at all, and 10 representing very dangerous, how would you rate how dangerous it is to drink and drive?”</i></p>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
0	2	1
1	7	1
2	3	1
3	10	2
4	5	1
5	32	5
6	14	2
7	24	4
8	64	10
9	46	7
10	401	64
Don't Know	15	2
Total	621	100

**Table 5:
Danger of Driving While Using a Cellular Phone**

<p><i>“On a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 representing not dangerous at all, and 10 representing very dangerous, how would you rate talking on a hand held cell phone in an automobile in moving traffic?”</i></p>		
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
0	6	1
1	3	0
2	5	1
3	24	4
4	28	5
5	93	15
6	49	8
7	88	14
8	108	17
9	40	6
10	181	29
Don't Know	3	0
Total	628	100

**Table 6:
State Funding of Education**

“Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree that the State of Minnesota should lower property taxes and raise sales taxes so the state can pay 100% of Minnesota public school basic education costs?”

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	97	16
Agree	181	29
Disagree	200	32
Strongly Disagree	64	10
Not Sure/Don't Know	83	13
Total	625	100

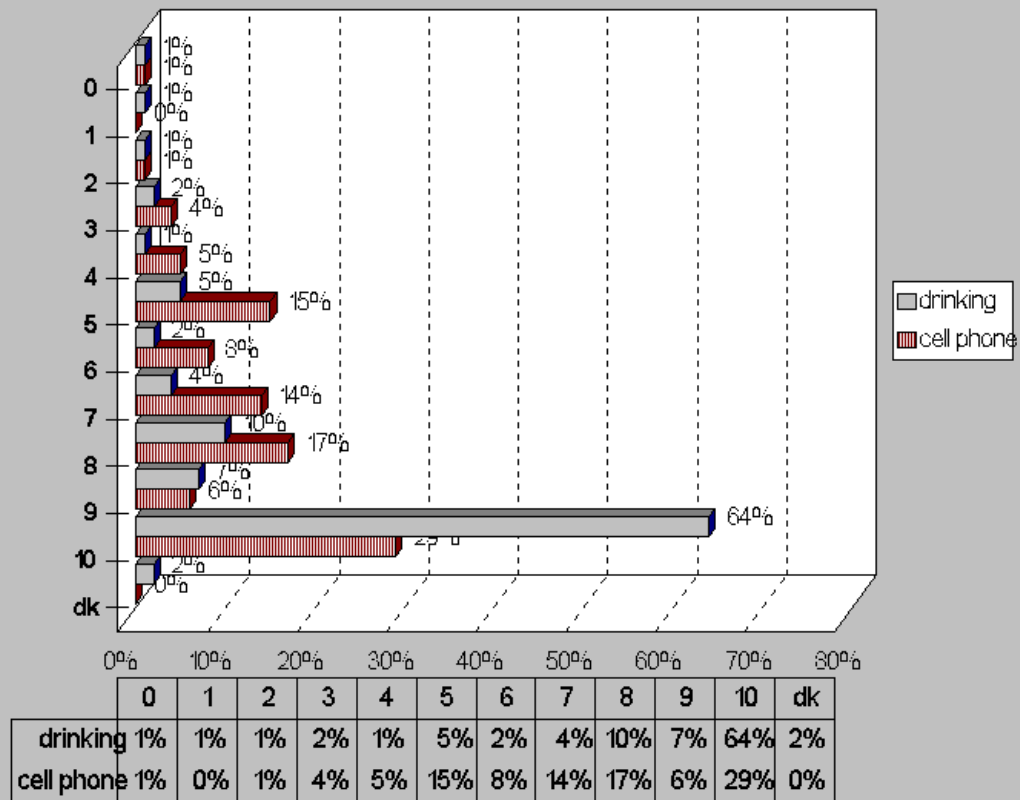
**Table 7:
Smoking Bans**

“Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree that smoking should be prohibited in all restaurants and bars that serve food?”

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly Agree	203	32
Agree	149	24
Disagree	179	28
Strongly Disagree	73	12
Not Sure/Don't Know	23	4
Total	627	100

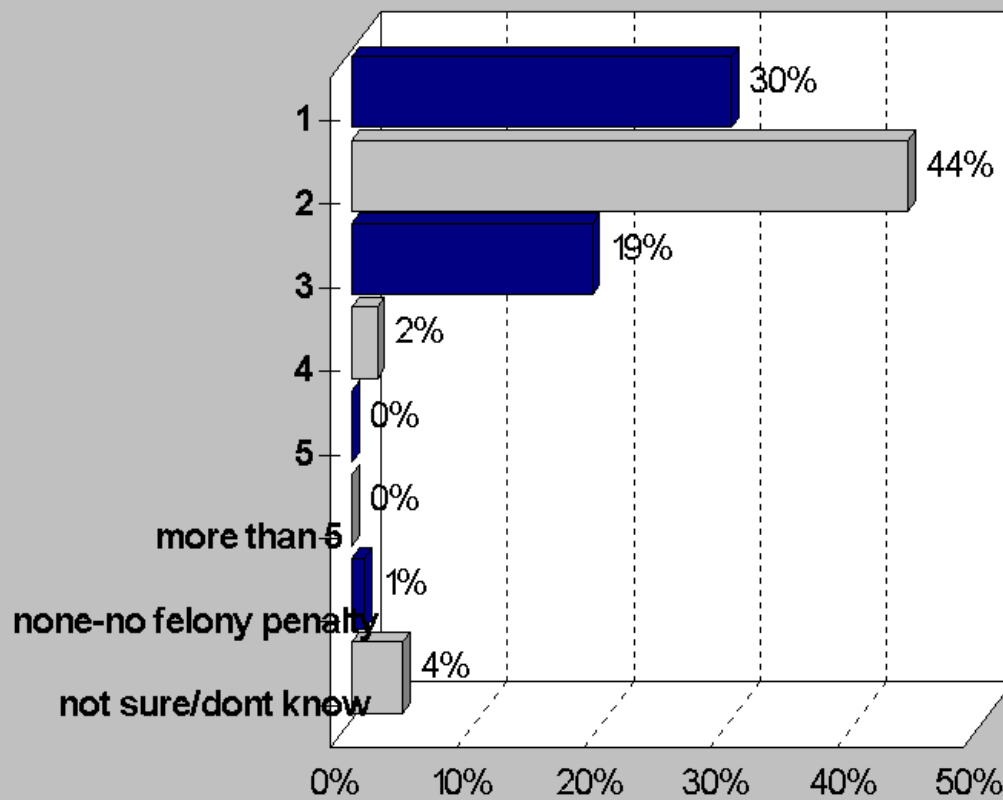
Scale of 0-10, How Serious is (drinking while driving and using cell phone while driving)

0=not dangerous at all 10=very dangerous [drinking mean=8.9 cell phone mean=7.4]



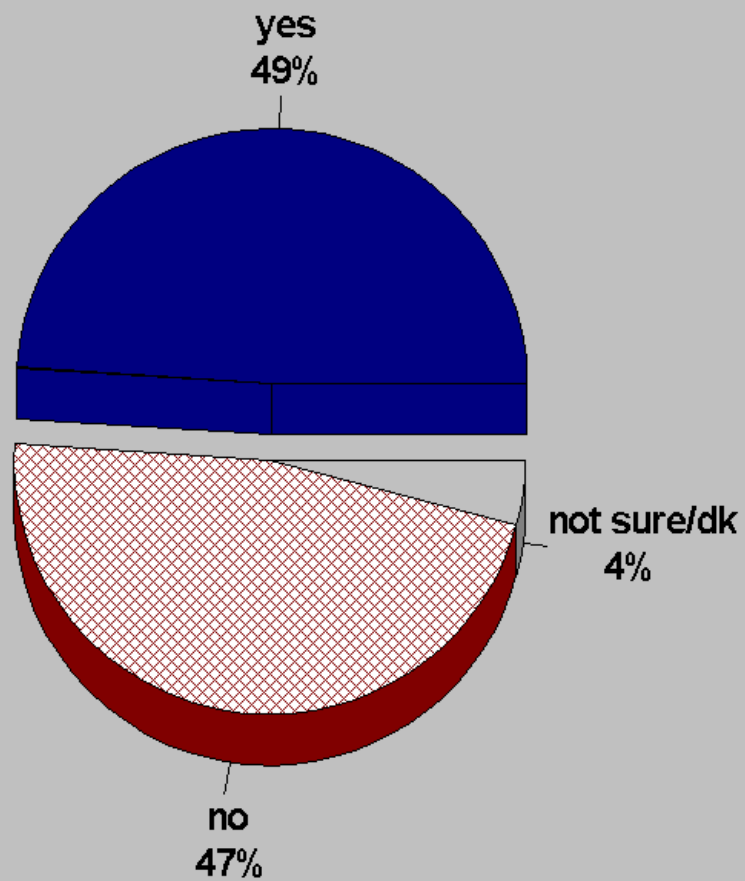
Source: SCSU Survey 10/2000 overall n=629

How Many DWI Offenses For Felony Level Penalties for DWI Offenders?



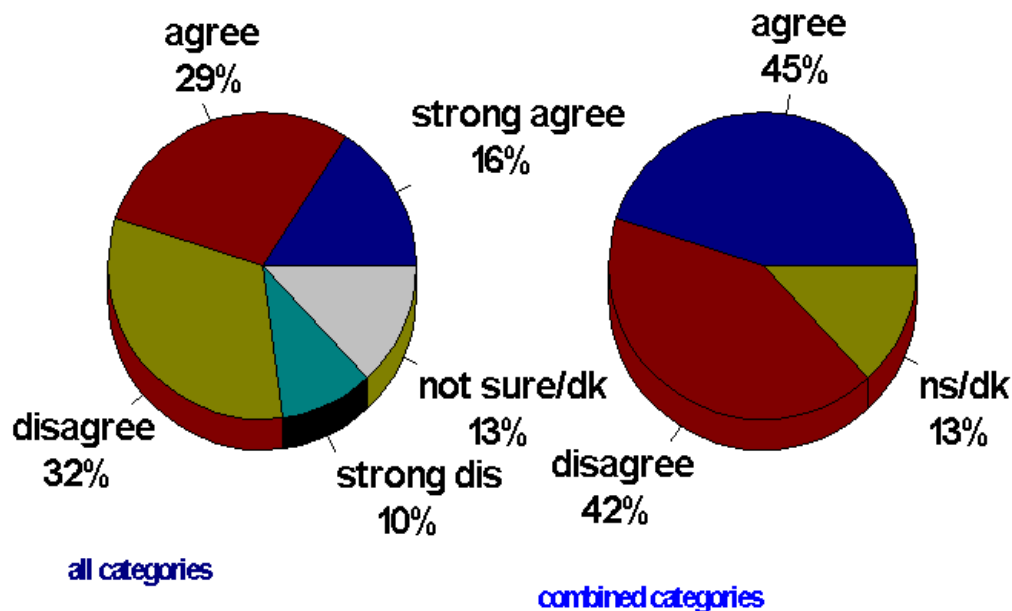
Source: SCSU Survey 10/2000 overall n=629

Should MN. Cities Be Allowed To Install "Photocop" Cameras



Source: SCSU Survey 10/2000 overall n=629

Should State Of MN Lower Property Taxes and Raise Sales Taxes So The State Can Pay 100% of MN Public Schools Basic Education Costs?



Source: SCSU Survey 10/2000 overall n=629

**IV. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
QUESTIONS RELEASED 12/13 (HARD COPIES
AVAILABLE-DUE TO COMPUTER
PROBLEMS THEY WON'T BE ON WEB PAGE
UNTIL ABOUT 12/19)**