

# GENERAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS POLITICAL PARTICIAPTION SECTION REPORTS AND PRESS RELEASES

## SCSU FALL 2001 SURVEY

### General Political Questions [LAST REVISED 11/26/01]

This section of the report contains several questions of a general political nature. It is common practice for us to annually ask these questions. The questions include a general question on the direction of state, main problem Minnesotans see facing the state and which political party may be in the best position to fix that problem. We have also included our annual "Feeling Thermometer" in this section of the report.

Displayed in each table is data from this year's survey and from the statewide survey conducted in October 2000. The sample parameters of the 2000 survey are roughly the same as the 2001 survey. Survey Sampling, Inc. constructed the sample of Minnesota adults. The sample was constructed using the random digit dialing method. In 2000, the sample size was 629, with a margin of error of 3.9 percent. The cooperation rate for the 2000 survey was 58 percent. The demographics of the 2000 survey matched the state and weighting was unnecessary. Thus, we assert the data between the two surveys is comparable.

**Table 3:  
Direction of the State**

*"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?"*

RESPONSE	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Right Direction	436	70	344	56
Neutral	61	10	66	11
Wrong Track	102	16	165	27
Don't Know	27	4	35	6
<b>Total</b>	626	100%	610	100%

An examination of table 3 shows a large shift in public opinion. In 2000, 70 percent of Minnesotans agreed the state was headed in the right direction and only 16 percent saw the state headed on the wrong track. In 2001, however, only 56 percent see the state headed in the right direction and more than one quarter of Minnesotans see the state on the wrong track. Since we surveyed Minnesotans in 2000, a number of political, social and economic changes have occurred. Certainly, terrorism on American soil is now a reality. Unemployment is increasing. The state is facing a budget shortfall

this year. The majority of state employees struck for better pay and health care. The future of the Minnesota Twins is no longer clear.

Next, we asked respondents what problems they see facing Minnesota today. Table 4 shows that twice the number of Minnesotans today see the state budget as a problem compared to 2000. Four times the number of Minnesotans see economic issues and jobs, as well as moral and religious issues as important today compared to last year. Six times the number of Minnesotans noted welfare and housing as the most important problem facing Minnesota today compared to 2000. This data spike is due to categorization of various responses, all of which have something to do with poverty. Indeed, many of the respondents said welfare or inadequacy of affordable housing, but others responded with issues such as homelessness and unemployment (we view it somewhat different as “economic issues”). Given the recognition of these problems, the SCSU Survey will develop new and additional categories to allow better separation of the various “welfare-type” problems. The Minnesota Twins/Stadium is seen as a problem today, but not one respondent in 2000 noted sports related issues as a problem facing the state. This year, compare to last, fewer Minnesotans view environment or health care as the most important issue facing the state. In both years, education leads as the number one problem facing the state of Minnesota. Twenty one percent of Minnesotans noted that education was the most important problem facing the state in 2000. In 2001, that percentage has grown to 25 percent. We speculate that education has taken on an increased importance in the minds of many Minnesotans since approximately one-half of Minnesota school districts asked voters to approve a special funding levy this year.

<b>Table 4: PROBLEMS FACING THE STATE OF MINNESOTA</b>				
<i><b>“What do you think is the single most important problem facing the State of Minnesota today?”</b></i>				
<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>2000</b>		<b>2001</b>	
	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Abortion	9	1	8	1
Agriculture-General	4	1	3	0
Agriculture- Probs./Farmers	9	1	1	0
Budget/Surplus	6	1	16	2
Chemical/Bio. Hazard	2	0	1	0
Crime/Gangs/Violence	41	7	9	1
Drug Use	17	3	4	0
Economic Issues/Jobs/Wages	12	2	45	7
Education	128	21	150	25
Environmental Issues	16	3	3	0
Family Issues	2	0	3	0
Gambling	1	0	2	0
Health Issues/Insurance-	41	7	14	2
Issue Relating to Indians	1	0	1	0
Moral Issues	11	2	38	6
Religious Issues	2	0	6	1
Politics/Politicians	10	2	9	1
Poverty/ Poor	5	1	6	1
Roads/Highways	19	3	18	3
Utility Prices, Gas, Energy	2	0	14	2

Senior Issues/ Elderly	5	1	3	0
Sports	N/A	N/A	12	2
Jesse Ventura	9	1	0	0
Taxes	112	18	69	11
Terrorism	N/A	N/A	1	0
Twins Going	N/A	N/A	17	3
Welfare Issues, Waste, Fraud	14	2	76	12
Prescription Drugs	4	1	0	0
Other	74	12	6	1
No Problem Facing State	4	1	0	0
Don't Know	65	10	7	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>100%</b>

The survey then asked respondents to indicate which party they felt could do a better job in taking care of the issue they mentioned in the previous question. An examination of table 5 shows little change from 2000 to 2001 in terms of whether the Republicans or the Democrats are better equipped to respond to the problem previously identified. Although not significant, we found a smaller percentage of Minnesotans today indicating that either the Reform Party or the Independence Party is better able today to respond to the previously identified problem than in 2000. Where support for the Reform Party and the Independence Party support has decreased, we find a proportional increase in support for both the Republican and Democratic Parties. This is an important trend to monitor to see if Minnesota is beginning to end its flirtation with the Reform and Independence Parties.

**Table 5:  
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	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Republican	174	27	154	30
Democratic	152	28	165	32
Reform	19	4	15	3
Independence Party	63	12	41	8
Other - Volunteered	11	2	12	2
Same – Volunteered	N/A	N/A	6	1
Neither	58	11	46	9
Don't Know	89	16	79	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>100%</b>

The next question is the SCSU Survey's Feeling Thermometer used to annually gauge recognition and attitude toward various public figures. This is our yearly adaptation of the University of Michigan's National Election Study Feeling Thermometer in which respondents rate their feelings on

a scale of 0-100. A rating of 50-100 means the respondent feels warm and favorable, whereas below 50 indicates and unfavorable rating. The “degree rating” is an arithmetic mean, not a percentage, of those respondents who gave a response. Responses of *don’t know*, *can’t judge* or *refused* are not included in the mean. The *don’t know* and *can’t judge* responses are an indication of name recognition, and it is also a measure of validity. For example, approximately one percent of all respondents indicated they did not recognize or are unable to judge their feelings toward Governor Jesse Ventura and President George W. Bush while 58 percent of the respondents did not recognize or was unable to judge their feelings toward State Auditor Judi Dutcher. These patterns would not exist if respondents were merely guessing.

In terms of the pairing of Becky Lourey and Judi Dutcher in a potential 2002 DFL gubernatorial primary, fewer Minnesotans recognize Becky Lourey (114 or 19 percent) compared to 254 or 42 percent who recognize Judi Dutcher. Of those that recognize the two candidates, we find minimal difference in terms of respondent warmth between State Senator Lourey (49 mean degrees) and State Auditor Dutcher (51 mean degrees). The data offers a clear conclusion. Both candidates need to introduce themselves to Minnesota, especially Senator Lourey.

In terms of the potential pairing of Tim Pawlenty and Brian Sullivan in the hypothetical 2002 Republican gubernatorial primary contest, about twice the number of Minnesotans know who is Minnesota House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (254 respondents or 43 percent) compared to Brian Sullivan (138 respondents or 23 percent). Of those that do know the two candidates, Minnesotans are warmer toward Tim Pawlenty (54 mean degrees) than they are toward Brian Sullivan (49 mean degrees). Perhaps this finding explains the recent radio ads for Brian Sullivan’s candidacy.

In terms of the pairing of St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman and Senator Paul Wellstone in next year’s U.S. Senate race, incumbent Senator Wellstone is in trouble. About the same number of Minnesotans recognize both candidates, but more are warmer toward Norm Coleman (58 degrees) than Senator Wellstone (52 degrees). Table 9 shows the pairing of Senator Wellstone and Mayor Coleman as a statistical dead heat.

Although the primary discussion of Governor Ventura is later in the report, the data in table 6 shows that Minnesotans are not nearly as warm toward him (49 mean degrees) as they were in 2000 (60 mean degrees). His temperature reading is now similar to what we found (46 mean degrees) for President Clinton in 2000. Terry Ventura’s temperature reading, however, remains high.

Finally, perhaps the most important finding is the temperature reading we obtained for President George W. Bush. During the 2000 campaign, he received a mean degree temperature of 52 and lost the race in Minnesota to Al Gore. Today, President Bush’s mean temperature reading is 70 degrees.

**Table 6:  
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	Mean Response	Freq./Pct. “Recognized” Responses	Freq./Pct. of Don’t Know/ Can’t Judge
	2000	2001	2001	2001
Bill Clinton	46	N/A	N/A	N/A
Judi Dutcher	N/A	51	254/42%	353/58%
Becky Lourey	N/A	49	114/19%	491/81%
Tim Pawlenty	N/A	54	254/42%	350/58%
Brian Sullivan	N/A	49	138/23%	466/77%
Rod Grams	46	N/A	N/A	N/A
Paul Wellstone	51	52	570/94%	37/6%
Terry Ventura	62	59	543/90%	61/10%
Al Gore	49	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pat Buchanan	31	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jesse Ventura	60	49	601/99%	6/1%
Norm Coleman	55	58	543/90%	62/10%
George W. Bush	52	70	598/99%	9/1%
Laura Bush	N/A	69	547/91%	57/9%
Mark Dayton	52	56	546/90%	60/10%
James Gibson	48	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ralph Nader	49	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total/Average</b>	50	60	N/A	N/A

## 2002 Election “Horse-Race” Questions

The next section of questions focuses on upcoming elections. The first question, appearing in table 7, is an annual question we ask to gauge the relative strength of the political parties as they represent Minnesota in the U.S. Congress. The data does not indicate to us that we would expect any near-future change of party representation in Congress. The percentage of respondents who might vote for a Democratic Party candidate relative to a Republican Party candidate increased by a mere three percentage points since last year but the difference is within the survey’s margin of error.

**Table 7:  
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?”***

**2000**

**2001**

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Democrat	206	34	220	37
Republican	179	30	169	28
Reform	16	3	14	2
Independence Party	50	8	40	7
Other	30	5	35	6
Don't Know	125	21	121	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>100%</b>

We often find consistent opinion among respondents from question to question. In some cases, if the responses were not consistent between questions, we would wonder if the questions are valid and reliable. As we expected, we find response consistency between table 7 and table 8. That is, Minnesotans seem satisfied with the party composition in the Minnesota Legislature and if the election were held today, Minnesotans would vote similar to how they previously voted and the party composition of the legislature would not change.

**Table 8:  
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	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Keep Divided Control	144	23	152	25
Republican Control	115	18	111	18
Democratic Control	108	17	116	19
Another Party Controls	35	6	22	4
Haven't Thought Much About	161	26	160	26
Other- Volunteered	12	2	11	2
Don't Know	50	8	31	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>100%</b>

The next series of questions relate to next year’s Minnesota U.S. Senate race and the gubernatorial election. Regarding the 2002 U.S. Senate race, unless additional candidates enter the election, it looks to be a match between DFL incumbent Paul Wellstone and Republican challenger Norm Coleman. We asked Minnesotans, if the election were held today, would they vote for Norm Coleman or Paul Wellstone. As table 9 shows, at this time the race is a toss-up. Forty two percent of the respondents indicated that they are either definitely or leaning toward voting for Norm Coleman whereas 43 percent noted they are definitely or leaning toward voting for Senator Wellstone.



**Table 9:  
2002 Minnesota Senate Race  
All Respondents**

***“If the November 2002 election for U.S. Senate were being held today would you vote for Norm Coleman, the possible Republican candidate or Paul Wellstone, the Democrat or a candidate of another party?”***

**(If the respondent is not sure)  
*“Although you are not sure, would you say you are leaning more toward Coleman, Wellstone or a candidate of another party?”***

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Definitely Coleman	198	33
Leaning Coleman	55	9
Definitely Wellstone	222	37
Leaning Wellstone	38	6
Other	37	6
Won't Vote	9	1
Don't Know	50	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>100%</b>

We asked the typical follow-up question of our respondents regarding why they might cast a ballot for either Norm Coleman or Senator Wellstone. Table 10 was constructed as a cross tabulation of responses. An examination of table 10 shows that six, possibly seven issues have surfaced thus far in the contest of why Minnesotans are already supporting the candidates. Respondents were allowed to identify as many reasons as they thought relevant. The interviewers did not read possible reasons to support the candidates but did probe for answers.

Mayor Coleman's supporters are attracted to him because of his position on *taxes* and *budgetary matters*. In addition, Mayor Coleman's supporters like him because they do not like Senator Wellstone. At the same time, Senator Wellstone's supporters like him because of his position on *education*. You might recall (see table 3), education was the most important problem facing the state of Minnesota according to a plurality of respondents. Supporters of both Coleman and Wellstone like their respective candidates because of their professional *track records*. Both candidates are liked by their supporters because of their *character* and because they are simply liked as a *person*. Supporters of both candidates like their respective candidates because of *political ideology* and *political party*. In presidential elections, party and ideology explain a significant amount of vote choice. Far second is candidate related issues. As you can see from table 10, voters in senate races are far more likely to cast their ballots based on an evaluation of candidate background and personality than due to party affiliation or ideology of the candidate. Although the *other* response category contains a rather high number of responses, the responses proportionally mirror those in existing categories but they are lengthy responses or are responses with two answers (such as: Coleman has a level head and he's very bipartisan) to the question. The interviewers felt these responses were best placed in the *other* category.



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

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

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>COLEMAN FREQUENCY</b>	<b>WELLSTONE FREQUENCY</b>	<b>TOTAL FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT OF ALL RESPONSES</b>
Abortion Position	3	2	5	1
Budget Surplus Position	4	2	6	1
Crime Position	1	0	1	0
Don't Like Opponent	31	9	40	6
Education Position	4	13	17	3
Environment Position	2	1	3	0
Good Track Record- Exp.	25	36	61	10
Gun/Hunting Position	0	1	1	0
Health Care Position	2	0	2	0
Like Candidate's Character	65	71	136	22
Like Candidate as a Person	44	55	99	16
No Particular Reason	10	4	14	2
Not a Typical Candidate	1	3	4	1
Position on Terrorism	2	0	2	0
Same Political Ideology	29	30	59	9
Same Political Party	34	43	77	12
Senior Issue Position	0	1	1	0
Social Security Position	0	1	1	0
Somebody Different	6	3	9	1
Taxes	4	0	4	1
Time for a Change	2	2	4	1
Other	36	46	82	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>100%</b>

A standard question asked in a political opinion survey is party identification. Table 11 shows the current trend of how Minnesotans vote. We can easily see the plurality of Minnesotans remain DFLers and more than one-quarter of Minnesotans are Republicans. About seven percent are Independence Party voters, who have shifted from the Reform Party and 17 percent independent voters but tend to vote for DFL, Republican and Independence Party candidates. We asked this question to monitor any trends in party identification in Minnesota, but to also obtain a sub-sample of Republican and Democratic Party voters to ask them how they might vote in a primary election next year to pick their party's gubernatorial nominee.

**Table 11:  
Party Identification**

*“Do you usually consider yourself to be a Democrat, Republican, Reform Party*

***member, Minnesota Independence Party member, a member of another party, or are you an independent who is not a member of any party?"***

**(If Democrat or Republican or Reform or Independence)**

***"Would you say that you always vote Democrat/Republican/Reform/Independence or do you sometimes vote for a person of another party?"***

**(If Independent)**

***"Although you are an independent, do you usually consider yourself to be closer to the Democrats, Republicans, the Reform Party or the Independence Party?"***

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Always Votes Democratic	103	17
Democrat Who Sometimes Votes for Another Party	116	19
Always Votes Republican	73	12
Republican Who Sometimes Votes for Another Party	95	16
Always Votes Reform	1	0
Reform Party Member Who Sometimes Votes for Another Party	4	1
Always Votes Independence	12	2
Independence Party Member Who Sometimes Votes for Another Party	28	5
Independent Closer to Democrats	43	7
Independent Closer to Republicans	31	5
Independent Closer to Reform Party	8	1
Independent Closer to Independence Party	26	4
Other	27	5
Apolitical	6	1
Don't Know	29	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>100%</b>

Respondents who indicated they always vote Republican or are Republican voters who sometimes vote for another party were asked a hypothetical question of who they might vote for, Brian Sullivan or Tim Pawlenty, for governor. These candidates were chosen for inclusion, over others, simply because both have announced their intention to seek their party's nomination for governor. Although the Republican Party holds an endorsement convention and both candidates have indicated they will adhere to the results of the convention and not challenge each other in a subsequent primary election, we asked potential Republican Party primary voters to register their preference in a hypothetical primary election match-up. Only respondents who indicated they always vote Republican or are Republican voters who sometimes vote for another party are included in this analysis because, it is these voters who are most likely to vote in a Republican primary election.

Table 12 shows that House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty has a solid lead over his opponent Brian Sullivan. This finding may change as the election season proceeds and the 62 percent of respondents who could not pick between the two candidates decide which of the two candidates they prefer to represent their party in the 2002 gubernatorial election. Caution should be exercised if conclusions are reached from this data for several reasons. One, only 167 respondents are included in the sub-sample and the margin of error is very high. Two, only 60 respondents indicated they are prepared today to support either Brian Sullivan or Tim Pawlenty.

**Table 12:  
Republican Party Governor Primary Horse Race**

*“Republicans may have a primary to determine their candidate for Governor. If the Republican primary election for Governor were being held today, would you vote for Tim Pawlenty or Brian Sullivan? If not sure, do you lean more toward Brian Sullivan or Tim Pawlenty?”*

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Definitely Sullivan	18	11
Leaning Sullivan	6	4
Definitely Pawlenty	24	14
Leaning Pawlenty	12	7
Other	2	1
Won't Vote in Primary	1	1
Don't Know	104	62
<b>Total</b>	167	100

Respondents who indicated they always vote Democratic or are Democratic voters (see table 11) who sometimes vote for another party were asked a hypothetical question of who they might vote for, Judi Dutcher or Becky Lourey, for governor. These candidates were chosen for inclusion, over others, simply because either they had formally announced (Judi Dutcher) or had said they were going to formally announce (Becky Lourey) their intention any day to seek their party's nomination for governor. Although, Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe are often mentioned as possible entrants to the nomination battle, neither individual had publicly indicated strong intentions to run thus they were not included in the question. Although the Democratic Party holds an endorsement convention and both candidates may adhere to the results of the convention and not challenge each other in a subsequent primary election, we asked potential Democratic Party primary voters to register their preference in a hypothetical primary election match-up. Only respondents who indicated they always vote Democratic or are Democratic voters who sometimes vote for another party are included in this analysis because, it is these voters who are most likely to vote in a Democratic primary election.

Table 13 shows that almost three times the number of likely Democratic Party primary voter currently supports the candidacy of Judi Dutcher over her challenger Becky Lourey. Similar to the Republican Party, a large number of voters are undecided (57 percent don't know responses), thus the race is far from over and it is entirely possible for Becky Lourey to overtake the current lead Judi Dutcher has in capturing the nomination. Caution should be exercised in the interpretation of this data since the sub-sample only consists of 217 respondents.

**Table 13:  
Democratic Party Governor Primary Horse Race**

*“Democrats may have a primary to determine their candidate for Governor. If the Democratic primary election for Governor were being held today, would you vote for Becky Lourey or Judi Dutcher? If not sure, do you lean more toward Brian Sullivan or Tim Pawlenty?”*

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Definitely Lourey	12	6
Leaning Lourey	10	5
Definitely Dutcher	43	20
Leaning Dutcher	20	9
Other	4	2
Won't Vote in Primary	2	1
Don't Know	126	57
<b>Total</b>	217	100%

**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 executive, lawmaker, commander in chief, diplomat and political leader. This section of the report examines how Minnesotans view or evaluate Governor Ventura performance of these roles.

It is common practice to combine excellent and pretty-good categories into a single favorable category and combine the only fair and poor categories into a single unfavorable category. The table do not combine response categories but the narrative does.

The first specific role investigated is Chief Legislator. An examination of Table 2 shows that 40 percent of the 2001 respondents evaluate Governor Ventura’s performance as either excellent or pretty-good. Compared to 2000, this represents a drop of 19 percent. Jesse Ventura’s favorable rating as leader of the legislature in 2000 was 59 percent. The comparison of the performance data from 2000 to 2001 shows that a solid eight or nine percent of Minnesotans are of the opinion that their governor is performing his role of legislative leader in an excellent fashion. At the same time, the comparison of the 2000 and 2001 data also shows that two and one-half times the number of Minnesotans in 2001 (24 percent) compared to 2000 (ten percent) is of the opinion that their governor is performing his job as leader of the legislature poorly. One year ago, about the same number of Minnesotans evaluated Governor Ventura’s performance as chief legislator as excellent and poor. This year, however, three times the number of Minnesotans is of the opinion that their governor’s performance as chief legislator is poor compared to those that are of the opinion his performance is excellent.

**Table 14:  
Governor’s Role as Chief Legislator**

<b><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></b>				
	<b>2000</b>		<b>2001</b>	
<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Excellent	57	9	49	8
Pretty Good	309	50	198	32
Only Fair	171	27	196	32
Poor	61	10	143	24
Don’t Know	26	4	23	4
<b>Total</b>	624	100%	609	100%

The data clearly suggests the average Minnesotan is not as satisfied with the job Governor Ventura is doing leading the legislature as we found in 2000. Unfortunately, follow up was not possible with the respondents to inquire why their evaluation of Ventura’s performance has eroded. Tables 13-17 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 legislator, Minnesotans rating of Ventura’s performance as the chief executive of Minnesota has eroded from 2000. In 2000, 61 percent evaluated Ventura’s performance as chief executive as favorable. Governor Ventura’s favorable rating as chief executive today is down by 17 percent. Similar to the ratings for chief legislature, Jesse Ventura has maintained a solid 10 to eleven percent excellent performance rating for both 2000 and 2001 among Minnesotans. This year, however, 22 percent (compared to seven percent in 2000) of Minnesotans are of the opinion their governor performs his role as CEO of the state poorly.

<b>Table 15: Governor’s Role as Chief Executive</b>				
<b><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></b>				
	<b>2000</b>		<b>2001</b>	
<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Excellent	67	11	60	10
Pretty Good	312	50	211	34
Only Fair	170	27	187	31
Poor	44	7	132	22
Don’t Know	33	5	18	3
<b>Total</b>	626	100%	608	100%

Third, we investigated how Minnesotans evaluate the performance of Governor Ventura as Commander in Chief. Of the five roles investigated, Governor Ventura received his highest performance grade for his role as commander in chief. This conclusion applies to both 2000 and 2001. Nonetheless, we did find that Minnesotans do not evaluate his job performance as favorable as they did in 2000. In 2000, 71 percent of Minnesotans gave their governor a favorable job review for the commander in chief role. This year, 61 percent of Minnesotans give Ventura a similar job performance review. Of the five-job performance roles investigated, commander in chief and chief diplomat are the only ones this year that more than one-half of Minnesotans give their governor a favorable job evaluation. In 2000, over one-half of all respondents gave Ventura a favorable job review for all five of his roles.

Twenty percent of Minnesotans in 2000 and 18 percent in 2001 give their governor an excellent job review for his performance as commander in chief. In 2000, 51 percent of Minnesotans gave Ventura a pretty-good job evaluation for his conduct as commander in chief but this year that amount declined to 43 percent. A review of tables 13-17 shows that Governor Ventura has lost approximately ten-15 percent of his favorable reviews from the pretty-good category. Finally, in the 2000 survey, we found that only four percent of Minnesotans gave Ventura a poor rating for his role of commander in chief. This year, we found that 12 percent of Minnesotans are of the opinion their governor performs his job as commander in chief poorly.

**Table 16:  
Governor's Role as Commander in Chief**

***“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?”***

RESPONSE	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	123	20	110	18
Pretty Good	316	51	264	43
Only Fair	74	12	114	19
Poor	23	4	73	12
Don't Know	82	13	46	8
<b>Total</b>	618	100%	607	100%

Next, we inquired how Minnesotans perceive the performance of 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. Only one-third (34 percent) of Minnesotans give their governor an excellent or pretty-good rating for his performance as a political leader of the state. This is a drop of 19 percent from 2000. Importantly, 32 percent of Minnesotans rate his political leadership as poor. In comparison, 14 percent rated Ventura's political leadership as poor in 2000. Overall, approximately two-thirds of Minnesotans give their governor an unfavorable rating for his performance as a political leader of the state.



**Table 17:  
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	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	97	16	56	9
Pretty Good	233	37	157	25
Only Fair	188	30	189	31
Poor	90	14	188	32
Don't Know	17	3	18	3
<b>Total</b>	625	100	608	100%

Finally, the SCSU Survey inquired how Minnesotans perceive Governor Ventura’s job performance as the state’s Chief Diplomat. Of the five roles investigated, Governor Ventura received his second highest job performance rating as chief diplomat. Nonetheless, the governor’s favorable performance ratings declined by 17 percent, from 70 percent in 2000, to 53 percent in 2001. This decline of 17 percent is consistent with the erosion of performance ratings for all five gubernatorial roles. The percentage of Minnesotans who rate Governor Ventura’s performance of chief diplomat as excellent decreased from 28 percent in 2000 to 16 percent in 2001. The percentage of Minnesotans who rate Governor Ventura’s performance as chief diplomat as pretty-good and only fair increased from 25 percent in 2000 to 43 percent in 2001. The percentage of Minnesotans who rate their governor’s work poor as the state’s diplomat more than doubled (seven percent in 2000 compared to 18 percent in 2001) between 2000 and 2001.

**Table 18:  
Governor's Role as Chief Diplomat**

***“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?”***

RESPONSE	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	173	28	95	16
Pretty Good	266	42	221	37
Only Fair	115	18	154	25
Poor	41	7	108	18
Don't Know	32	5	28	4

<b>Total</b>	627	100%	606	100%
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The final job performance rating we queried about obtains an impression of how adult Minnesotans rate Jesse Ventura's overall job performance as Governor of Minnesota. Although Minnesotans clearly do not give their governor the same high overall favorable rating in 2001 (44 percent) as they did in 2000 (63 percent), the decline is not from the excellent category. Instead, it is from the pretty-good rating category. We found the least amount of change from 2000 to 2001 in the only fair performance category. Regarding the specific role questions, the least amount of change was found in the excellent category. Importantly, we found the percentage of Minnesotans who rate their governor's overall job performance as poor more than doubled from 2000 (seven percent) to 2001 (18 percent). In 2000, a wide gap existed between the percentages of Minnesotans who evaluated Governor Ventura's overall performance as excellent (28 percent) compared to those who evaluated his performance as poor (seven percent). In 2001, however, more Minnesotans (18 percent) evaluate their governor's overall job performance as poor than excellent (16 percent).

The SCSU Survey first inquired of Minnesotans about their governor's overall job performance in its November 1999 annual statewide survey. In that survey, the SCSU Survey found that 55 percent of Minnesotans rated Governor Ventura's overall job performance as excellent or pretty good. Interestingly, the 1999 survey was conducted approximately one month following the publication of the Governor's now infamous *Playboy* interview. It was widely thought that the Governor's overall job performance favorable rating could not decline much lower than what he received after his *Playboy* comments. Clearly, in the year following the publication of the *Playboy* interview, Minnesotans *pardoned* Governor Ventura's for his comments. Since then, however, the data suggests that Minnesotans are once again rating Governor Ventura's overall job performance similar to those he received following the *Playboy* debacle. Throughout the past year, Governor Ventura has increased his attacks on the media and begun to regularly storm out of press conferences when he did not like the questions he received from the press. He has since stopped holding press conferences. He called Minnesota public schools unaccountable black holes of tax revenues. Soon after the terrorist attack on September 11, without any evidence, he declared himself a target of the terrorists. Although once embraced by state employees, after his verbal assaults on them when they engaged in a work strike, he is now their enemy. Most recently, he has taken to verbally attacking callers on his various radio call-in shows when he does not like their questions.

**Table 19:  
OVERALL RATING OF JESSE VENTURA AS GOVERNOR**

***“How would you rate the overall performance of Jesse Ventura as Governor; excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?”***

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>2000</b>		<b>2001</b>	
	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Excellent	77	12	68	11
Pretty Good	318	51	200	33
Only Fair	175	28	206	34
Poor	51	8	127	21
Don't Know	6	1	9	1
<b>Total</b>	627	100%	610	100%

In terms of demographic indicators, males more than females, but not significantly more, like the overall job Governor Ventura is performing as governor. Interestingly, Minnesotans over the age 65 are much more likely to give Governor Ventura an excellent rating for his overall job performance than are other groups. The age group least likely to give Governor Ventura an excellent rating is the 25 to 35 age group. Of various occupation groups, 43 percent of disable persons gave Governor Ventura an excellent job rating, while an average of 12 percent Minnesotans in all other occupation groups gave their governor an excellent job review. Lower income Minnesotans are three times as likely (28 percent compared to ten percent) to give Governor Ventura an excellent for his job performance as other income groups. Approximately 21 percent of Democrat Party identifiers gave Governor Ventura an overall excellent job review compare to ten percent of Republicans and Independence Party identifiers.

The final table included in this report shows how Ventura might fare if he ran for re-election and if the election were held now. Jesse Ventura was elected with 37 percent of the vote in 1998. In 2000, the SCSU Survey found that 47 percent of Minnesota voters would vote to re-elect Governor Ventura. He seemed unstoppable in 2000 and easily translated that support into victory after victory in the 2001 legislative session. Now, however, his potential for re-election is not as clear. In a three-way race between Governor Ventura and whoever might run as a DFL and a Republican Party candidate, the race could be considered an even match or one for the Democrat Party candidate to win since more voters today still consider themselves Democrats than Republicans.

**Table 20:  
Voting for Jesse Ventura**

<b><i>"If the election for governor were held today, would you vote for Jesse Ventura as Governor?"</i></b>				
<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>2000</b>		<b>2001</b>	
	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Yes	290	47	195	32
No	221	36	339	56
Not Sure/Don't Know	107	17	74	12
<b>Total</b>	618	100%	608	100%

In terms of demographic identifiers, males compare to females are more likely to vote for Governor Ventura if the election were held today. Minnesotans over the age 25 are more likely to vote for Governor Ventura again than are those under age 24. We did not find a majority of future Ventura voter support in a single age group. Fifty seven percent of Minnesotans who identified themselves as disabled indicated they would vote for Ventura if the election were held today. Otherwise, a majority of support was not found in any other occupational groups. In terms of income groups, we found that only 25 percent of respondents in all income groups are willing to vote for Governor Ventura if he ran again and the election were held today. However, a majority of those making less than \$25-30,000 per year are willing to vote for Governor Ventura if the election were held today. Of those Minnesotans with incomes less than \$25-30,000, approximately 50 percent suggested they are ready to vote for Governor Ventura. Democrats (32 percent), more than Republicans (25 percent), are prepared to vote for Governor Ventura if the election were held today. Approximately 40 percent of Independence Party identifiers indicated they would vote for Governor Ventura if he ran and the election was held today.

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY**

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM THE FALL 2001 STATEWIDE SCSU SURVEY OMNIBUS SURVEY**

### *METHODOLOGY*

The SCSU Survey completed its annual fall statewide survey on November 15<sup>th</sup>. This year, we interviewed 611 randomly chosen Minnesota adults. Survey Sampling, Inc. of Fairfield, Connecticut, generated the sample.

As is always the case with our statewide omnibus surveys, we used a random digit dial sample, which is a sample unique to telephone sampling that generates telephone numbers on a random basis, thus avoiding bias with listed telephone numbers. The margin of error of the sample is no greater than plus or minus 3.9 percent at the 95 percent level of confidence. This means that if one draw 20 samples of the state and administered the same instrument, it would be expected that the overall findings would be greater/lesser than 3.9 percent only one time in twenty. However, in all sample surveys there are other possible sources of error for which precise estimates cannot be calculated. These include interviewer and coder error, respondent misinterpretation, and analysis errors. When analysis is made of sub-samples such as respondent gender, the sample error may be larger.

All interviewing was conducted from November 5 to November 15, except Friday and Saturday November 9 and 10, from SCSU Survey calling laboratory on the St. Cloud State University campus. The survey was conducted as one part of two separate courses offered by Dr. Steven Wagner and Dr. Stephen Frank of the SCSU Department of Political Science. Students enrolled in those courses conducted all interviewing, after three or more hours of training.

The cooperation rate of the survey is 56%. The demographics of the sample match census and other known characteristics of the state population very well. For example, the ratio of male to female respondents in the sample is 49 percent to 51 percent, which almost perfectly matches the adult population. Other variables, such as income, employment status and political party affiliation closely match with what is known of the Minnesota adult population.

Drs. Stephen Frank and Steven Wagner, with Dr. Michelle Kukoleca Hammes, also of the political science department, direct the SCSU Survey and serve as Principle Investigators of the annual statewide omnibus survey.

### **FINDINGS**

**STATE ON RIGHT OR WRONG TRACK:** A majority, 56 percent, think the state is heading in the right direction. However, this is down by 14 percent from 2000. This year, 27 percent think the state is headed down the wrong track. In 2000, only 16 percent of respondents thought the state was headed down the wrong track.

**IMPORTANT PROBLEM FACING THE STATE:** The top three problems facing the state are Education (25%), Welfare, Housing and Unemployment (12%) and Taxes (11%) according to our 2001 sample. In 2000, education and taxes also ranked in the top three, but not welfare, housing and unemployment. More

respondents (5%) said that the Minnesota Twins/Sports is the greatest problem facing the state today than did respondents (3%) who think that transportation issues are the most important problem facing the state.

**IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE TWINS:** Sixty six percent said it is personally very important or somewhat important to them to keep the Twins in Minnesota. This is the first time we have asked how “important” it is to respondents personally to keep the Twins, we have asked many questions about the Twins and constructing a new stadium for the team. In the past, we only obtain a mild response about the Twins and never found support for publicly or partially publicly financed stadium. Follow-up on this issue is urgent.

**FEELING THERMOMETER:** Annually, we ask Minnesotans if they recognize various political leaders and, if they do, how “warm” they feel toward to those individuals. In terms of recognition, less than one-half recognized DFL gubernatorial rivals Judi Dutcher or Becky Lourey. Only 19% recognized Becky Lourey compare to 42% who recognized Judi Dutcher. Of those that did recognize the candidates, the respondents are slightly warmer toward Auditor Dutcher compared to Senator Lourey. In terms of the other potential gubernatorial match-up, almost one-half of our respondents recognized Tim Pawlenty compared to only about one-quarter who recognized Brian Sullivan. Respondents are warmer toward Tim Pawlenty compared to Brian Sullivan. In the U.S. Senate match-up between Senator Wellstone and Mayor Norm Coleman, almost everyone recognizes the two individuals, but Minnesotans are warmer toward Coleman. Perhaps the big news is how warm (or heading cold) are Minnesotans toward their governor. In 2000, Governor Ventura received a “warm” reading of 60 degrees. This year, it dropped to 49 degrees. **GEORGE BUSH?**

**U.S. SENATE MATCH-UP:** Big trouble is on the horizon for Senator Wellstone. We asked or respondents to consider, if the U.S. Senate race was held today and the match-up was between Mayor Coleman and Senator Wellstone, who would they vote for. Forty-two percent indicated Coleman and 43 percent indicated Wellstone. The real trouble for Wellstone is that only eight percent are undecided.

**DFL GUBERNATORIAL MATCH-UP:** Respondents who indicated the always vote DFL are DFL voters but sometimes vote for another party, were asked to pick who they would vote for in a hypothetical primary match-up between Becky Lourey and Judi Dutcher. Although most respondents (57%) could not make a choice today, of those that did, 11% picked Lourey whereas 29% picked Dutcher.

**REPUBLICAN GUBERNATORIAL MATCH-UP:** Respondents who indicated the always vote Republican or are Republican voters but sometimes vote for another party, were asked to pick who they would vote for in a hypothetical primary match-up between Brian Sullivan and Tim Pawlenty. Although most respondents (62%) could not make a choice today, of those that did, 15% picked Sullivan whereas 21% picked Pawlenty.

## WEASEL WORDS ON PRIMARIES

**GOVERNOR VENTURA’S PERFORMANCE:** In the 2000 statewide survey, we asked Minnesotans to rate the job performance of Governor Ventura. We repeated the same questions this year. In terms of **leading the legislature**, 40 percent of Minnesotans this year give Governor Ventura an excellent or pretty good rating. In 2000, 59 percent of Minnesotans gave their governor an excellent or pretty-good job performance rating for leading the legislature. In terms of serving as **chief executive**, 44 percent of our sample gave Ventura an excellent or pretty-good rating this year for his the job he has performed as chief executive. In 2000, however, 61 percent of Minnesotans thought he was performing as chief executive as excellent or pretty-good. In terms of **commander in chief**, 61 percent of Minnesotans think their governor is performing in the excellent and pretty-good range. In 2000, 71 percent thought his job performance as commander in chief rated an excellent or pretty good rating. As **political leader**, 34 percent of the Minnesotans we interviewed thought their governor was performing at the excellent or pretty-good level. In 2000, 53 percent thought Ventura’s performance as political leader was in the excellent or pretty-good level. In terms of **chief diplomat**, 53 percent of Minnesotans think their governor is performing at the excellent or pretty-good level. In 2000, 70 percent thought Ventura’s role performance as chief diplomat was at the excellent or pretty good level. In terms of his **overall job**

**performance**, 43 percent of Minnesotans think his performance is excellent or pretty good. In 2000, 63 percent of all Minnesotans saw their governor performing at the excellent or pretty good level. The data is clear, Governor Ventura’s overall job performance has dropped 20 percent in the past year.

**VOTE FOR GOVERNOR VENTURA:** The question on many minds today is whether Jesse Ventura will run for a second term. We asked our sample of Minnesotans, if the election for governor were held today, would they vote for Jesse Ventura. We asked the same question in 2000 and found that 47 percent of our sample was ready to vote to retain their governor. This year, however, we found far fewer Minnesotans are ready to vote for their governor. Thirty-two percent (or a drop of 15% from last year) of our sample would vote for Ventura if the election were held today. Jesse Ventura won the gubernatorial election with 37 percent of the vote.

A more complete discussion of the methodology and findings may be examined on the SCSU Survey web page. The address is:

<http://stcloudstate.edu/scussurvey> <http://web.stcloudstate.edu>-----

You may call Dr. Frank at 320-255-4231 or email him at [sfsurvey@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:sfsurvey@stcloudstate.edu)

You may call Dr. Wagner at 320-654-5423 or email him at [swagner@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:swagner@stcloudstate.edu)

You may call Dr. Kukoleca Hammes at 320-255-4130 or email her at [mhammes@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:mhammes@stcloudstate.edu)

## Questions on Political Participation

<b>Table 2: Interest in Politics</b>				
<b>”First, how interested would you say you are in politics? Are you very interested, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not at all interested?”</b>				
<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY 2000</b>	<b>PERCENT 2000</b>	<b>FREQUENCY 2001</b>	<b>PERCENT 2001</b>
Very Interested	175	28%	155	25%
Somewhat Interested	320	51%	351	57%
Not Very Interested	110	17%	80	13%
Not at All Interested	23	4%	122	4%
Don’t Know/ Refused	1	0%	3	1%
Total	629	100%	611	100%

**FIGURE 1: INTEREST IN POLITICS**

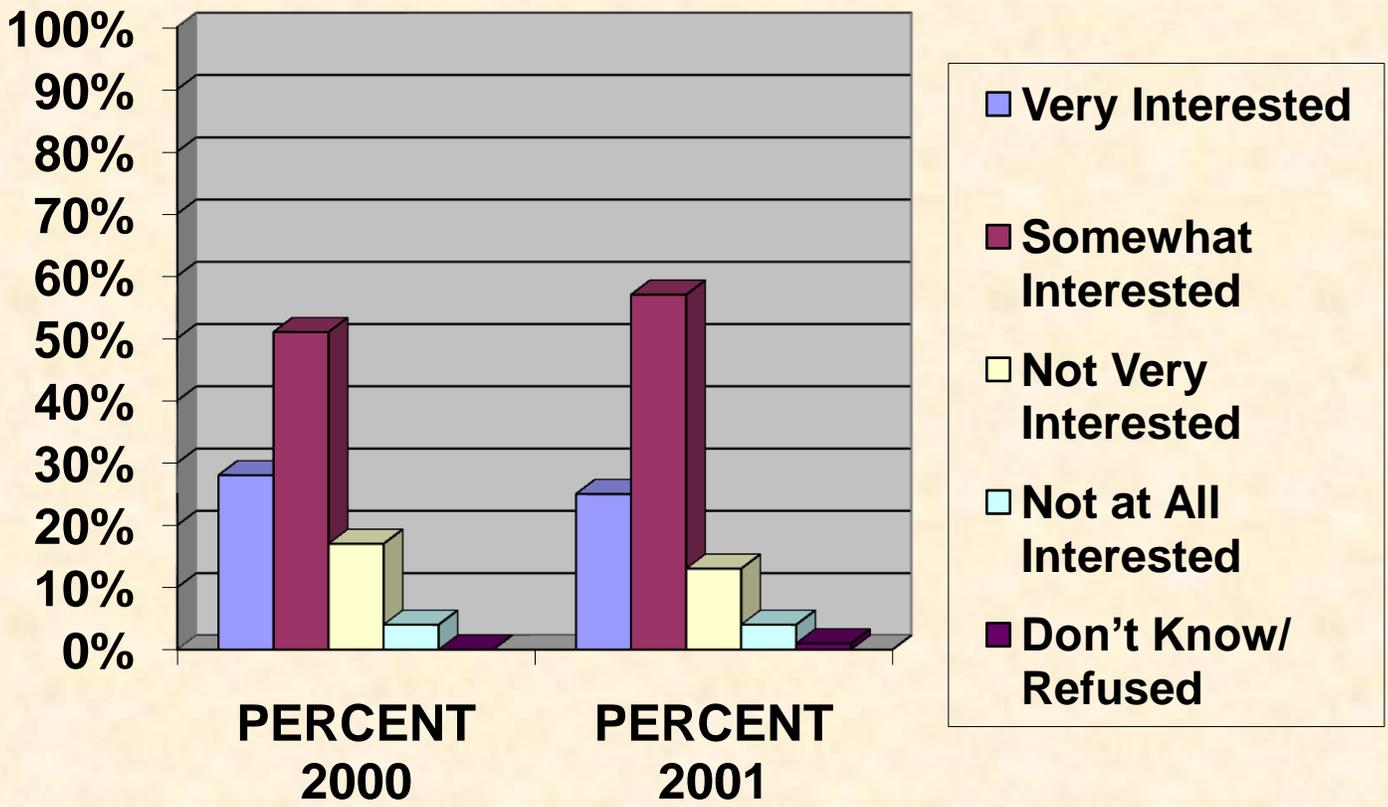
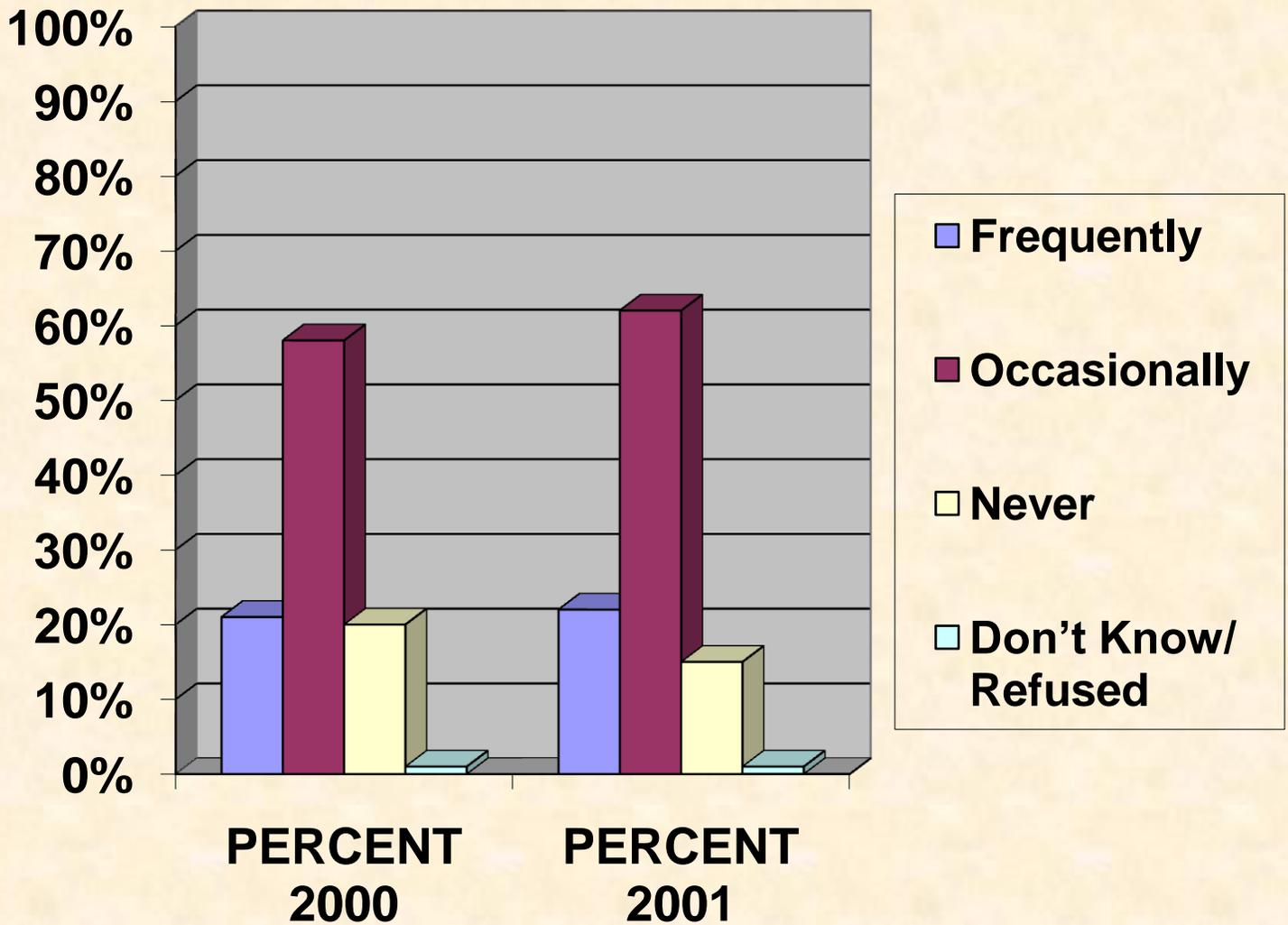


Table 3: Discussion of Politics				
"When you get together with friends, would you say you discuss political matters frequently, occasionally, or never?"				
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY 2000	PERCENT 2000	FREQUENCY 2001	PERCENT 2001
Frequently	132	21%	138	22%
Occasionally	366	58%	378	62%
Never	128	20%	92	15%
Don't Know/ Refused	2	1%	3	1%
Total	629	100%	611	100%

FIGURE 2: DISCUSSION OF POLITICS



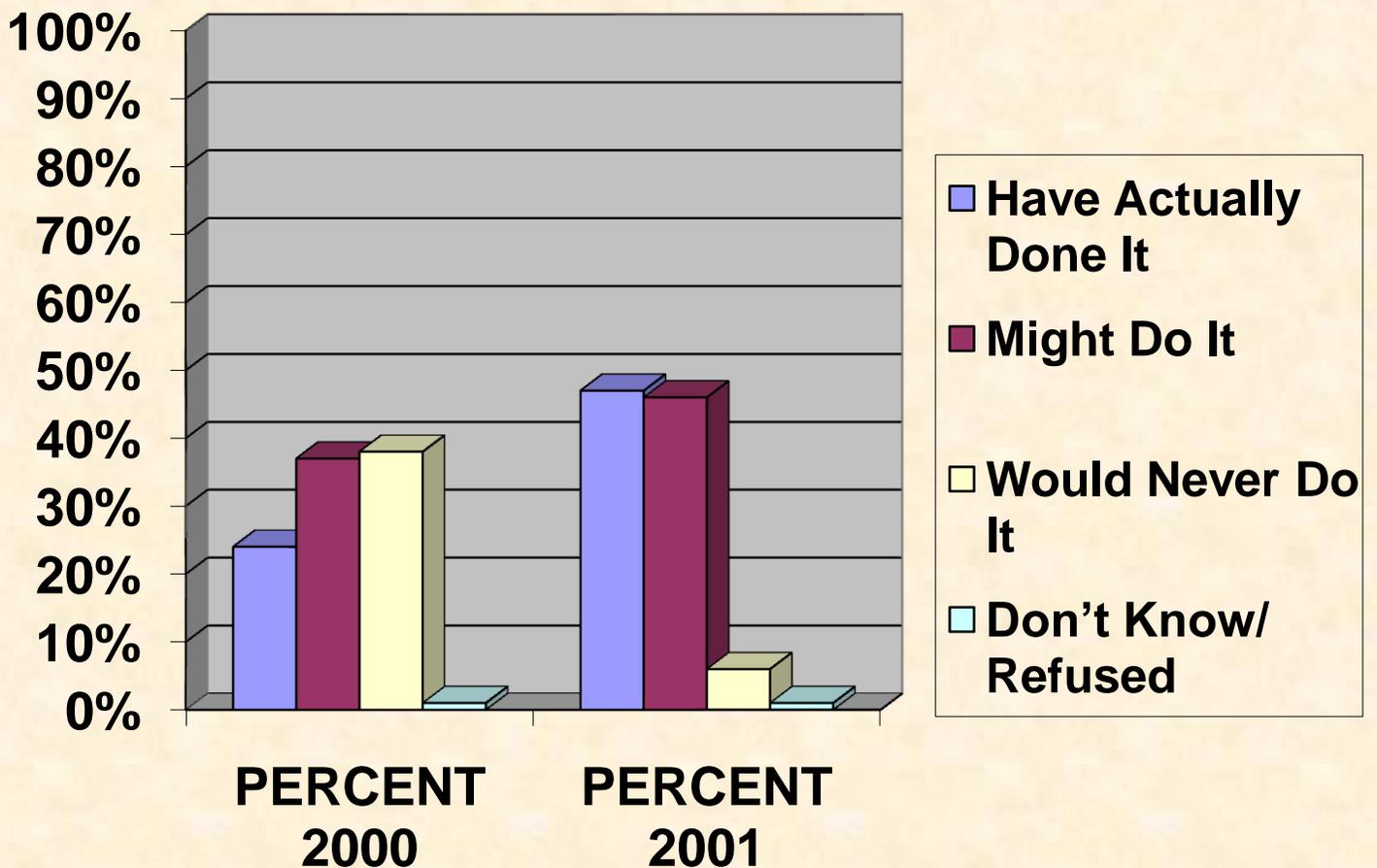
**Table 4:  
Signing a Petition**

**"Here are some other political activities you might engage in. For each one, please tell me if you have actually done any of these things, whether you might do it, or would never under any circumstances do it."**

**"Would you sign a petition?"**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY 2000</b>	<b>PERCENT 2000</b>	<b>FREQUENCY 2001</b>	<b>PERCENT 2001</b>
Have Actually Done It	152	24%	291	47%
Might Do It	232	37%	280	46%
Would Never Do It	239	38%	35	6%
Don't Know/ Refused	6	1%	5	1%
Total	629	100%	611	100%

**FIGURE 3: SIGNING A PETITION**



**Table 5:  
Attending A Rally**

**"Would you attend a political speech or rally?"**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY 2000</b>	<b>PERCENT 2000</b>	<b>FREQUENCY 2001</b>	<b>PERCENT 2001</b>
Have Actually Done It	152	24%	183	30%
Might Do It	232	37%	252	41%
Would Never Do It	239	38%	168	28%
Don't Know/ Refused	6	1%	8	1%
Total	629	100%	611	100%

**FIGURE 4: ATTENDING A RALLY**

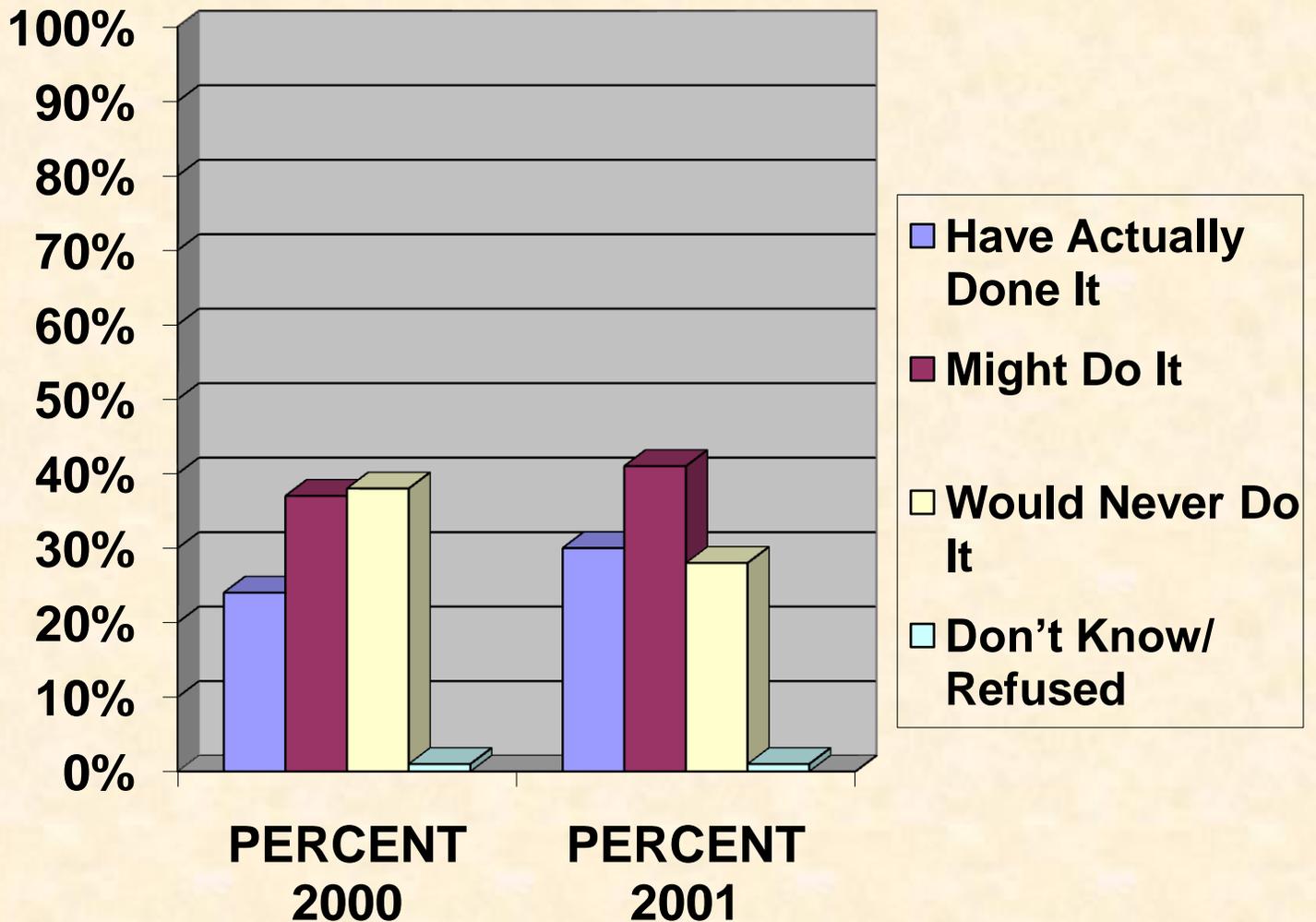
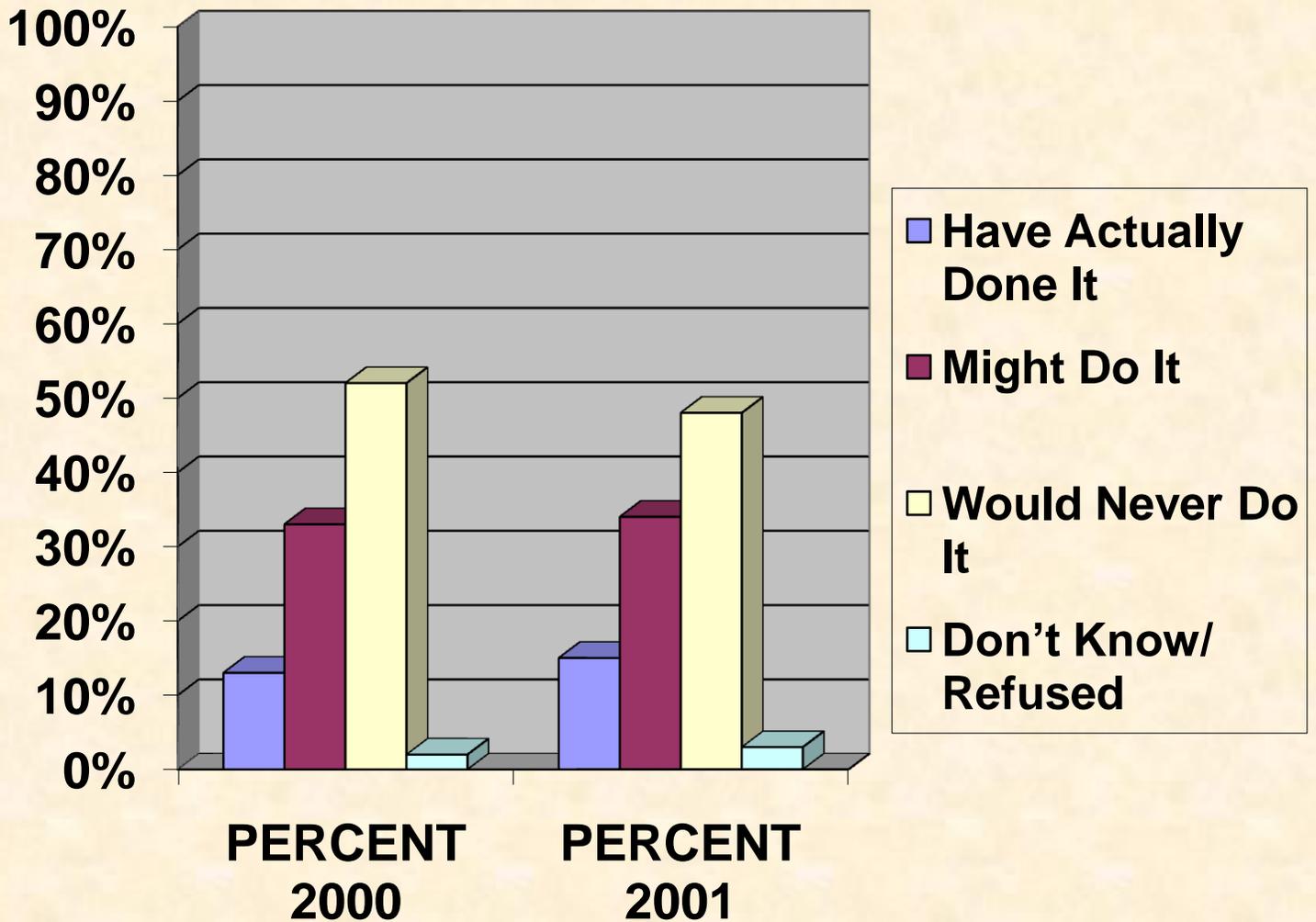


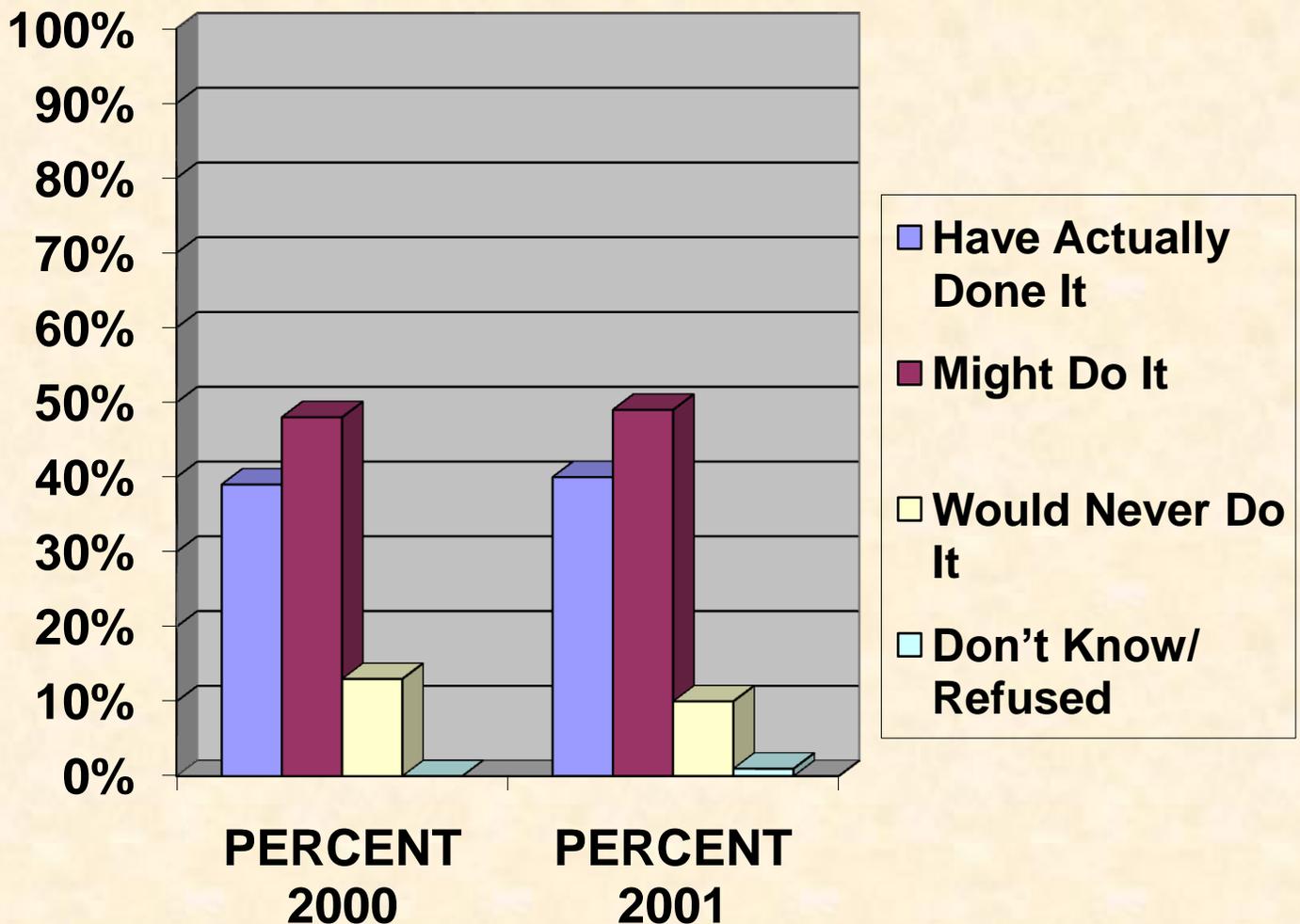
Table 6: Attending A Protest Demonstration				
"Would you attend a protest demonstration?"				
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY 2000	PERCENT 2000	FREQUENCY 2001	PERCENT 2001
Have Actually Done It	80	13%	90	15%
Might Do It	209	33%	206	34%
Would Never Do It	328	52%	297	48%
Don't Know/ Refused	12	2%	18	3%
Total	629	100%	611	100%

FIGURE 5: ATTENDING A PROTEST DEMONSTRATION



<b>Table 7: Contacting A Government Official</b>				
<b>"Would you contact a government official by letter, phone, or e-mail?"</b>				
<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY 2000</b>	<b>PERCENT 2000</b>	<b>FREQUENCY 2001</b>	<b>PERCENT 2001</b>
Have Actually Done It	244	39%	244	40%
Might Do It	303	48%	298	49%
Would Never Do It	79	13%	64	10%
Don't Know/ Refused	3	0%	5	1%
Total	629	100%	611	100%

**FIGURE 6: CONTACTING A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL**

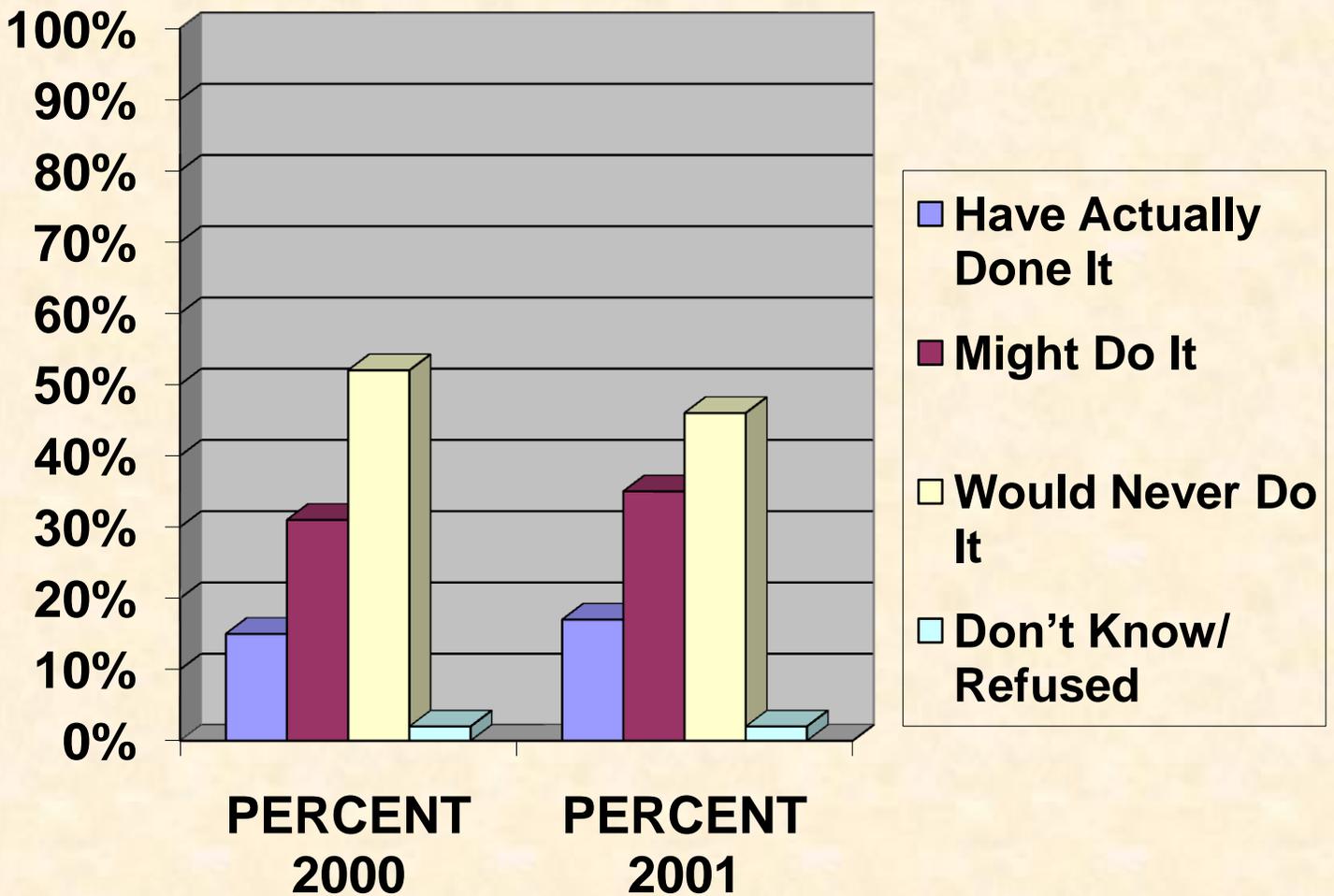


**Table 8:  
Campaign Work**

**"Would you work for an election for a candidate or party?"**

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY 2000</b>	<b>PERCENT 2000</b>	<b>FREQUENCY 2001</b>	<b>PERCENT 2001</b>
Have Actually Done It	97	15%	105	17%
Might Do It	195	31%	212	35%
Would Never Do It	325	52%	284	46%
Don't Know/ Refused	12	2%	10	2%
Total	629	100%	611	100%

**FIGURE 7: CAMPAIGN WORK**



2001 SCSU SURVEY  
STATEWIDE SURVEY OF MINNESOTA ADULTS



2002 U.S. SENATE AND GOVERNOR HORSE RACES

EVALUATION OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA

MINNESOTA TWINS

November 2001



REPORT  
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

November 2001

## I. History and Mission of the Survey

The SCSU Survey is an ongoing survey research extension of the Social Science Research Institute in the College of Social Science at St. Cloud State University. The SCSU Survey performs its research in the form of telephone interviews. Telephone surveys are but one of the many types of research employed by researchers to collect data randomly. The telephone survey is now the instrument of choice for a growing number of researchers.

Dr. Steve Frank began the SCSU Survey in 1980 conducting several omnibus surveys a year of central Minnesota adults in conjunction with his Political Science classes. The omnibus surveys are now done once a year. In addition to questions focusing on the research of the faculty directors, clients can buy into the survey or contract for specialized surveys.

Presently, the omnibus surveys have continued, but have shifted to a primary statewide focus. These statewide surveys are conducted once a year in the fall and focus on statewide issues such as election races, current events, and other important issues that are present in the state of Minnesota. Besides the annual fall survey, the SCSU Survey conducts an annual spring survey of SCSU students on various issues such as campus safety, alcohol and drug use, race, etc. Lastly, the SCSU Survey conducts contract surveys for various public and private sector clients. The Survey provides a useful service for the people and institutions of the State of Minnesota by furnishing valid data of the opinions, behaviors, and characteristics of adult Minnesotans.

The primary mission of the SCSU Survey is to serve the academic community and various clients through its commitment to high quality survey research and to provide education and experiential opportunities to researchers and students. We strive to assure that all SCSU students and faculty directors contribute to the research process, as all are essential in making a research project successful. This success is measured by our ability to obtain high quality survey data that is timely, accurate, and reliable while maintaining an environment that promotes the professional and personal growth of each staff member. The survey procedures used by the SCSU Survey adhere to the highest quality academic standards. The SCSU Survey maintains the highest ethical standards in its procedures and methods. Both faculty and student directors demonstrate integrity and respect for dignity in all interactions with colleagues, clients, researchers, and survey participants.

## II. Survey Staff

The Survey's faculty directors are Dr. Steve Frank (SCSU Professor of Political Science), Dr. Steven Wagner (SCSU Associate Professor of Public and Non-Profit Administration) and Dr. Michelle Kukoleca Hammes (SCSU Assistant Professor of Political Science). The faculty directors are members of the Midwest Association Of Public Opinion Research (M.A.P.O.R.) and the American Association Of Public Opinion Research (A.A.P.O.R.). The directors subscribe to the code of ethics of A.A.P.O.R.

STEPHEN I. FRANK

Dr. Frank holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science from Washington State University. Dr. Frank teaches courses in American Politics, Public Opinion and Research Methods at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Frank started the SCSU Survey in 1980 and has played a major role in the development, administration and analysis of over 150 telephone surveys for local and state governments, school districts and a variety of nonprofit agencies. Dr. Frank has completed extensive postgraduate work in survey research at the University of Michigan. Dr. Frank recently coauthored with Dr. Wagner and published by Harcourt College, *"We Shocked the World!" A Case Study of Jesse Ventura's Election as Governor of Minnesota, Revised Edition.*

### **STEVEN C. WAGNER**

Dr. Wagner holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. Dr. Wagner earned his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Illinois State University. Dr. Wagner teaches courses in American Politics and Public and Nonprofit Management at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Wagner joined the SCSU Survey in 1997. Before coming to SCSU, Dr. Wagner taught in Kansas where he engaged in community-based survey research and before that was staff researcher for the U.S. General Accounting Office. Dr. Wagner has written many papers on taxation, health care delivery and state politics and has published articles on voting behavior, federal funding of local services and organizational decision making. Dr. Wagner, with Dr. Frank, recently completed a second text on Minnesota's Governor, Jesse Ventura.

### **MICHELLE K. HAMMES**

Dr. Kukoleca Hammes holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science and a Masters in Political Science from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Dr. Kukoleca Hammes earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Niagara University. Kr. Kukoleca Hammes' is a comparativist with an area focus on North America and Western Europe. Her substantive focus is representative governmental institutions. She teaches courses in American Government, Introduction to Ideas and Institutions, Western European Politics, and a Capstone in Political Science at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Kukoleca Hammes has recently joined the survey team and will be using her extensive graduate school training in political methodology to aid in questionnaire construction and results analysis.

**Ms. Angela Bennett serves as senior supervising student director. Other student directors are, Anne Mahlum, Bridget Kearney, Chow-Bing Ngeow, Sonu Kapoor, Stefanie Morseth, Laurie Hoogeveen, and MINA . Mr. Ivan Nunez is our technical support person.**

**After five or more hours of training and screening approximately 55 students from Political Science 195 sections taught by Drs. Wagner and Frank completed the calling. Faculty directors monitored the calling shifts. Student directors conducted both general training sessions and one-on-one training sessions as well as monitoring all calling shifts.**

### III. Methodology

The SCSU Survey is operated out of Stewart Hall 324. It is also known as the CATI Lab, which stands for Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing Lab. It is equipped with 13 interviewer stations that each includes a computer, a phone, and a headset. In addition to the interviewer stations, there is the Supervisor Station, which is used to monitor the survey while it is in progress. The SCSU Survey has its own server designated solely for the use of the survey.

The SCSU Survey is licensed to use Sawtooth Software's Ci3 Questionnaire Authoring Version 4.1, a state-of-the-art windows-based computer-assisted interviewing package. This program allow us to develop virtually any type of questionnaire while at the same time programming edit and consistency checks and other quality control measures to insure the most valid data. Interviewing with Ci3 offers many advantages:

1. Complete control of what the interviewer sees;
2. Automatic skip or branch patterns based on previous answers, combinations of answers, or even mathematical computations performed on answers;
3. Randomization of response categories or question order;
4. Customized questionnaires using respondents' previous responses, and,
5. Incorporation of data from the sample directly into the sample database.
6. All interview stations are networked for complete, ongoing sample management.
7. Data is updated immediately, ensuring maximum data integrity and allowing clients to get progress reports anytime. Data is reviewed for quality and consistency.
8. Answers are entered directly into the computer. Key punching is eliminated, thus decreasing human error. Data analysis can start immediately.
9. The computer handles call record keeping automatically, allowing interviewers and supervisors to focus on the interviewing task.
10. Callbacks are handled by the computer and made on a schedule. We call each number ten times. Interrupted surveys are easily completed. Persons who are willing to be interviewed can do so when it is convenient to them, improving the quality of their responses.
11. Calls are made at various times during the week (Monday through Thursday, 4:30 to 9:30) and on weekends (Sunday, 2:30 to 9:30) to maximize contacts and ensure equal opportunities to respond among various demographic groups.
12. CATI maintains full and detailed records, including the number of attempts made to each number and the disposition of each attempt.

The survey was administered Monday through Tuesday, not Friday or Saturday between November 5 and November 15, 2001. Most calls were made after 4:30 PM weekdays and during the afternoon on Sunday, November 11.

Several steps were taken to ensure that the telephone sample of Minnesota adults who were eighteen years of age or older was representative of the larger population. Survey Sampling Inc. of Fairfield, Connecticut prepared the random digit sample of telephone numbers. Random digit dialing makes available changed, new, and unlisted numbers. Drawing numbers from a telephone book may skip as many as 20% of Minnesota households. Within each household the particular respondent was determined in a statistically unbiased fashion. This means that the selection process alternated between men and women and older and younger respondents. Few substitutions were allowed. In order to reach hard-to-get respondents each number was called up to ten times over different days and times and appointments made as necessary to interview the designated respondent at her/his convenience.

We have found Survey Sampling a particularly efficient sample production company. They generate samples of very high quality because they:

- construct a comprehensive database of all telephone working blocks which actually represent residential telephones;
- obtain, update and cross check working block information from the local (U.S. West) telephone company;
- confirm the estimated number of residential telephones with each working block, excluding sparsely populated working blocks (industry standard is to exclude those blocks with less than three known working residential telephones out of the 100 possible numbers);
- assign working blocks known to contain residential telephones to geographic areas bases on zip code and most recent updates of census data;
- mark each working block for demographic targeting;
- check each RDD number against a list of known business telephone numbers and generate new numbers as necessary; and,
- arrange the ending sample in a random order to eliminate potential calling order bias.

In samples of 611 interviews the overall sample error due to sampling and other random effects is approximately plus/minus 3.9% at the 95% confidence level. This means that if one were to have drawn 20 samples of the state and administered the same instrument it would be expected that the overall findings would be greater/lesser than 3.9% only one time in twenty. However, in all sample surveys there are other possible sources of error for which precise estimates cannot be calculated. These include interviewer and coder error, respondent misinterpretation, and analysis errors. When analysis is made of sub-samples such as respondents who are Republicans or when the sample is broken down by variables such as gender the sample error may be larger.

The demographics of the sample match census and other known characteristics of the larger state population very well. Usually surveys have to employ a statistical technique called weighting on demographics such as sex. Most surveys usually over-sample females. However, the ratio of male to female adults in the sample is 49 percent to 51 percent, which almost perfectly matches the adult population. Other variables such as household income, political party affiliation and employment all closely match what is known of the Minnesota adult population. Therefore, weighting was not necessary.

The cooperation rate of the survey was 56%. This is several percentage points above the average for professional marketing firms. When the S.C.S.U. Survey does specialized contract surveys we use a smaller, more skilled group of student interviewers and the completion rate ranges from 68 percent to 80+ percent. Cooperation rate means that once an eligible household was reached over six of ten respondents agreed to participate in the survey.

The total survey consisted of 51 variables. Additional material on the survey's methodology and findings are available by contacting Steve Frank, Steven Wagner, or Michelle Kukoleca Hammes. Contact information can be found on the back page of this report.



Table 1:  
Calling Record

Disposition Record	Frequency	Percentage
Completed Calls	611	%
Not Working Numbers	816	%
Not Eligible - Respondent not available during the period of the study, language problems, hearing problems, not a Minnesota resident, cabin phone, illness, etc.	129	%
Callbacks - Appointments made but contact could not be made with designated respondent.	206	%
Refusals - Attempt to re-contact and convert refusals to a completion was made for 265 of the refusals.	474	%
Answering Machine - Live contact could not be made even after nine calls.	159	%
Business Phone	252	%
No Answers - Probable non-working numbers but some may be households on vacation, etc.	264	%
Fax/Modem	120	%
Busy	49	%
Call Blocking	108	%
Partial - Complete except for demographics	1	%
Partial - Incomplete, more than demographics left.	12	%
Total Calls Placed	3202	

#### IV. Indicator of Importance of the Minnesota Twins

The potential loss of the Minnesota Twins baseball team compelled the SCSU Survey to join the debate about the importance of the team to Minnesota. The SCSU Survey has asked many sports related questions over the years, but not one specifically to register how important a specific team is to the state. We have inquired about level of support for a publicly or partially publicly funded stadium for both the Viking and the Twins. In 1999, we asked statewide voters if they were in favor of allowing Hennepin County voters to vote for a county sales tax to pay for a new sports stadium. Approximately 60 percent of statewide voters were not in favor of letting residents of one county vote to pay for a new stadium for the Twins. Support among Hennepin county residents was even less. In 1997, two-thirds of Minnesotans we interviewed were opposed to public funding for new Twins stadium. Moreover, seven of ten who were opposed indicated they would not change their minds even if it meant loss of the Twins. Today, however, we argue voters may be more inclined to support a publicly funded or partially publicly funded stadium. We base this conclusion on this year's finding that 66 percent or two thirds of Minnesotans now personally believe it very important or important to keep the Twins in Minnesota.

\* More Twin's discussion is found in the reports section.

<b>Table 2: Importance of Twins</b>		
<b>“How important is it to you personally to keep the Minnesota Twins in Minnesota? Is it very important, somewhat important, not important or not at all important??”</b>		
<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Very Important	165	31
Somewhat Important	188	35
Not Important	73	14
Not at all Important	100	19
Don't Know	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### V. General Political Questions

This section of the report contains several questions of general political nature. It is common practice for us to ask annual these questions. The questions include a general question on the direction of state, main problem Minnesotans see facing the state and which political party may be in the best

position to fix that problem. We have also included our annual "Feeling Thermometer" in this section of the report.

Displayed in each table is data from this year's survey and from the statewide survey conducted in October 2000. The sample parameters of the 2000 survey are roughly the same as the 2001 survey. Survey Sampling, Inc. constructed the sample of Minnesota adults. The sample was constructed using the random digit dialing method. In 2000, the sample size was 629, with a margin of error of 3.9 percent. The cooperation rate for the 2000 survey was 58 percent. The demographics of the 2000 survey matched the state and weighting was unnecessary. Thus, we assert the data between the two surveys is comparable.

**Table 3:  
Direction of the State**

*"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?"*

RESPONSE	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Right Direction	436	70	344	56
Neutral	61	10	66	11
Wrong Track	102	16	165	27
Don't Know	27	4	35	6
<b>Total</b>	626	100%	610	100%

An examination of table 3 shows a large shift in public opinion. In 2000, 70 percent of Minnesotans agreed the state was headed in the right direction and only 16 percent saw the state headed on the wrong track. As is obvious, only 56 percent see the state headed in the right direction and more than one quarter of Minnesotans see the state on the wrong track. Since we surveyed Minnesotans in 2000, a number of problems have surfaced. Certainly, terrorism on American soil is now reality. Unemployment is increasing. The state is facing a budget shortfall this year. The majority of state employees struck for better pay and health care. The future of the Minnesota Twins is no longer clear.

Next, we asked respondents what problems they see facing Minnesota today. Table 4 shows that twice the number of Minnesotans today see the state budget as a problem compared to 2000. Four times the number of Minnesotans see economic issues and jobs, as well as moral and religious issues as important today compared to last year. Six times the number of Minnesotans see welfare and housing as the most important problem facing Minnesota today compared to last year. As noted above, the Minnesota Twins is seen as problem today. In 2000, not one respondent noted sports related issues as a problem facing the state. This year, compare to last, fewer Minnesotans view

environment or health care as the most important issue facing the state. The welfare question is not just welfare per se but now includes such items as affordable housing, lack of food, etc. There seems to be more recognition of these as problems and in the future we will develop additional categories.

**Table 4:  
PROBLEMS FACING THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

*“What do you think is the single most important problem facing the State of Minnesota today?”*

RESPONSE	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Abortion	9	1	8	1
Agriculture-General	4	1	3	0
Agriculture- Probs./Farmers	9	1	1	0
Budget/Surplus	6	1	16	2
Chemical/Bio. Hazard	2	0	1	0
Crime/Gangs/Violence	41	7	9	1
Drug Use	17	3	4	0
Economic Issues (Jobs, Wages, etc.)	12	2	45	7
Education	128	21	150	25
Environmental Issues	16	3	3	0
Family Issues	2	0	3	0
Gambling	1	0	2	0
Health Issues- Health Insurance, etc.	41	7	14	2
Issue Relating to Indians	1	0	1	0
Moral Issues	11	2	38	6
Religious Issues	2	0	6	1
Politics/Politicians	10	2	9	1
Poverty/ Poor	5	1	6	1
Roads, Highways, Transportation	19	3	18	3
Utility Prices, Gas, Energy	2	0	14	2
Senior Issues/ Elderly	5	1	3	0
Sports	N/A	N/A	12	2
Jesse Ventura	9	1	0	0
Taxes	112	18	69	11
Terrorism	N/A	N/A	1	0
Twins Going	N/A	N/A	17	3
Welfare Issues, Waste, Fraud	14	2	76	12
Prescription Drugs	4	1	0	0
Other	74	12	6	1
No Problem Facing State	4	1	0	0

Don't Know	65	10	7	1
<b>Total</b>	625	100%	611	100%

The survey then asked respondents to indicate which party they felt could do a better job in taking care of the issue they mentioned in the previous question. An examination of table 5 shows little change in terms of whether the Republicans or the Democrats are better equipped to respond to the problem previously identified. Although not significant, we found a smaller percentage of Minnesotans today indicating that either the Reform Party or the Independence Party is better able today to respond to the previously identified problem than in 2000. Where support for the Reform Party and the Independence Party support has decreased, we find a proportional increase in support for both the Republican and Democratic Parties. This is an important trend to monitor to see if Minnesota is beginning to end its flirtation with the Reform and Independence Parties.

**Table 5:  
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	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Republican	174	27	154	30
Democratic	152	28	165	32
Reform	19	4	15	3
Independence Party	63	12	41	8
Other - Volunteered	11	2	12	2
Same – Volunteered	N/A	N/A	6	1
Neither	58	11	46	9
Don't Know	89	16	79	15
<b>Total</b>	539	100%	518	100%

The next question is the SCSU Survey's feeling thermometer used to annually gauge recognition and attitude toward various public figures. This is our yearly adaptation of the University of Michigan's National Election Study feeling thermometer in which respondents rate their feelings on a scale of 0-100. 50-100 means the respondent feels warm and favorable, below 50 indicates an unfavorable rating. The figure is a mean (not a %) of those who can give a response. Responses of don't know, can't judge and refused are not included in the mean. The don't knows and can't judge are also an indicator of name recognition. It is also a measure of validity. For example, only about 1% say they can't judge figures such as George Bush and Jesse Ventura while eight of ten give this response for Becky Lourey. If respondents were just guessing these patterns would not be found.

In terms of the potential pairing of Becky Lourey and Judi Dutcher in the 2002 DFL gubernatorial primary, fewer Minnesotans know who Becky Lourey (114-about 20%) recognized Becky Lourey compared to 254 for Judi Dutcher-43%) is and of those that do, they are not as warm towards her (49 mean degrees) compared to those that know Judi Dutcher (51 mean degrees). The conclusion here is simple, both candidates need to introduce themselves to Minnesota. In terms of the potential pairing of Tim Pawlenty and Brian Sullivan in the 2002 Republican gubernatorial contest, about twice the number of Minnesotans know who Tim Pawlenty (48% name recognition) is compared to Brian Sullivan( 32% name recognition). Of those that do know the two candidates, Minnesotans are warmer toward Tim Pawlenty. Perhaps this finding explains the radio ads for Brian Sullivan’s candidacy. In terms of the pairing of Norm Coleman and Paul Wellstone in next year’s U.S. Senate race, incumbent Wellstone is in trouble. About the same number of Minnesotans recognize both candidates, but more are warmer toward Norm Coleman than Senator Wellstone. Table 9 shows the pairing of Senator Wellstone and Mayor Coleman as a statistical dead heat. Although more will be noted about Governor Ventura later, the data in table 6 shows that Minnesotans are not nearly as warm toward him (49 mean degrees) as they were in 2000 (60 mean degrees). His temperature reading is now similar to what we found (46 mean degrees) for President Clinton in 2000. Terry Ventura’s temperature reading, however, remains high. The most important finding is the temperature reading we obtained for President Bush. During the 2000 campaign, he received a mean degree temperature of 52 and lost the race in Minnesota to Al Gore. Today, President Bush’s mean temperature reading is 70 degrees.

**Table 6:  
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	Mean Response	Frequency of Responses	Frequency of Don’t Know/ Can’t Judge
	2000	2001	2001	2001
Bill Clinton	46	N/A	N/A	N/A %dk/cj
Judi Dutcher	N/A	51	254	353 58%
Becky Lourey	N/A	49	114	491 80%
Tim Pawlenty	N/A	54	254	350 57%
Brian Sullivan	N/A	49	138	466 68%
Rod Grams	46	N/A	N/A	N/A

Paul Wellstone	51	52	570	37 6%
Terry Ventura	62	59	543	61 7%
Al Gore	49	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pat Buchanan	31	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jesse Ventura	60	49	601	6 1%
Norm Coleman	55	58	543	62 10%
George W. Bush	52	70	598	9 1%
Laura Bush	N/A	69	547	57 9%
Mark Dayton	52	56	546	60 10%
James Gibson	48	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ralph Nader	49	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total/Average</b>	50	60	N/A	N/A

## VI. 2002 Election “Horse-Race” Questions

The next section of questions focuses on upcoming elections. The first question, appearing in table 7, is an annual question to gauge the relative strength of the political parties as they represent Minnesota in the U.S. Congress. As is shown, if the U.S. congressional elections were held today, we would not expect any change in party representation in Congress. The percentage of respondents who might vote for a Democratic Party candidate relative to a Republican Party candidate increased some since last year but the difference is within the survey’s margin of error.

<b>Table 7: PARTY CHOICE IN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RACES</b>				
<i>“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?”</i>				
RESPONSE	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Democrat	206	34	220	37
Republican	179	30	169	28
Reform	16	3	14	2
Independence Party	50	8	40	7
Other	30	5	35	6
Don’t Know	125	21	121	2
<b>Total</b>	606	100%	599	100%

We often find consistent opinion among respondents from question to question. In some cases, if the responses were not consistent between questions, we would wonder if the questions are valid and reliable. As we expected, we find response consistency between table 7 and table 8. That is, Minnesotans seem satisfied with the party composition in the Minnesota Legislature and if the election were held today, Minnesotans would vote similar to how they previously voted and the party composition of the legislature would not change.

**Table 8:  
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	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Keep Divided Control	144	23	152	25
Republican Control	115	18	111	18
Democratic Control	108	17	116	19
Another Party Controls	35	6	22	4
Haven’t Thought Much About	161	26	160	26
Other- Volunteered	12	2	11	2
Don’t Know	50	8	31	5
<b>Total</b>	625	100%	603	100%

The next series of questions relate to next year’s Minnesota U.S. Senate race and the gubernatorial election. Regarding the 2002 U.S. Senate race, unless additional candidates enter the election, it looks to be a match between DFL incumbent Paul Wellstone and Republican challenger Norm Coleman. We asked Minnesotans, if the election were held today, would they vote for Norm Coleman or Paul Wellstone. As table 9 shows, at this time the race is a toss-up. Forty two percent of the respondents indicated that they are either definitely or leaning toward voting for Norm Coleman whereas 43 percent noted they are definitely or leaning toward voting for Senator Wellstone.

**Table 9:**

**2002 Minnesota Senate Race  
All Respondents**

*“If the November 2002 election for U.S. Senate were being held today would you vote for Norm Coleman, the possible Republican candidate or Paul Wellstone, the Democrat or a candidate of another party?”*

(If the respondent is not sure)  
*“Although you are not sure, would you say you are leaning more toward Coleman, Wellstone or a candidate of another party?”*

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Definitely Coleman	198	33
Leaning Coleman	55	9
Definitely Wellstone	222	37
Leaning Wellstone	38	6
Other	37	6
Won't Vote	9	1
Don't Know	50	8
<b>Total</b>	609	100%

We asked the typical follow-up question of our respondents regarding why they might cast a ballot for either Norm Coleman or Senator Wellstone. **DATA SHOWS....**

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

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

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT OF ALL RESPONSES</b>
Abortion Position		
Budget Surplus Position		
Crime Position		
Don't Like Opponent		
Education Position		
Environment Position		
Good Track Record- Experience		
Gun/Hunting Position		
Health Care Position		
Like Candidate's Character		
Like Candidate as a Person		

No Particular Reason		
Not a Typical Candidate		
Position on Terrorism		
Same Political Ideology		
Same Political Party		
Senior Issue Position		
Social Security Position		
Somebody Different		
Taxes		
Time for a Change		
Other		
<b>Total Responses</b>		
<b>Total Respondents</b>		

A standard question asked in a political opinion survey is party identification. Table 11 shows the current trend of how Minnesotans vote. We can easily see the plurality of Minnesotans remain Dflers and more than one-quarter of Minnesotans are Republicans. About seven percent are Independence Party voters, who have shifted from the Reform Party and 17 percent independent voters but tend to vote for DFL, Republican and Independence Party candidates. We asked this question to monitor any trends in party identification in Minnesota, but to also obtain a sub-sample of Republican and Democratic Party voters to ask them how they might vote in a primary election next year to pick their party’s gubernatorial nominee.

<b>Table 11: Party Identification</b>		
<i>“Do you usually consider yourself to be a Democrat, Republican, Reform Party member, Minnesota Independence Party member, a member of another party, or are you an independent who is not a member of any party?”</i>		
(If Democrat or Republican or Reform or Independence)		
<i>“Would you say that you always vote Democrat/Republican/Reform/Independence or do you sometimes vote for a person of another party?”</i>		
(If Independent)		
<i>“Although you are an independent, do you usually consider yourself to be closer to the Democrats, Republicans, the Reform Party or the Independence Party?”</i>		
<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Always Votes Democratic	103	17
Democrat Who Sometimes Votes for Another Party	116	19
Always Votes Republican	73	12
Republican Who Sometimes	95	16

Votes for Another Party		
Always Votes Reform	1	0
Reform Party Member Who Sometimes Votes for Another Party	4	1
Always Votes Independence	12	2
Independence Party Member Who Sometimes Votes for Another Party	28	5
Independent Closer to Democrats	43	7
Independent Closer to Republicans	31	5
Independent Closer to Reform Party	8	1
Independent Closer to Independence Party	26	4
Other	27	5
Apolitical	6	1
Don't Know	29	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>100%</b>

Respondents who indicated they always vote Republican or are Republican voters who sometimes vote for another party were asked a hypothetical question of who they might vote for, Brian Sullivan or Tim Pawlenty, for governor. These candidates were chosen for inclusion, over others, simply because both have announced their intention to seek their party's nomination for governor. Although the Republican Party holds an endorsement convention and both candidates have indicated they will adhere to the results of the convention and not challenge each other in a subsequent primary election, we asked potential Republican Party primary voters to register their preference in a hypothetical primary election match-up. Only respondents who indicated they always vote Republican or are Republican voters who sometimes vote for another party are included in this analysis because, it is these voters who are most likely to vote in a Republican primary election.

Table 12 shows that Tim Pawlenty has solid lead over his opponent Brian Sullivan. This finding may change as the election season proceeds and the 62 percent of respondents who could not pick between the two candidates decide which of the two candidates they prefer to represent their party in the 2002 gubernatorial election. Caution should be exercised if conclusions are reached about this data because only 167 respondents are included in the sub-sample and the margin of error is very high.

**Table 12:  
Republican Party Governor Primary Horse Race**

*“Republicans may have a primary to determine their candidate for Governor. If the Republican primary election for Governor were being held today, would you vote for Tim Pawlenty or Brian Sullivan? If not sure, do you lean more toward Brian Sullivan or Tim Pawlenty?”*

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Definitely Sullivan	18	11
Leaning Sullivan	6	4
Definitely Pawlenty	24	14
Leaning Pawlenty	12	7
Other	2	1
Won't Vote in Primary	1	1
Don't Know	104	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>

Respondents who indicated they always vote Democratic or are Democratic voters (see table 11) who sometimes vote for another party were asked a hypothetical question of who they might vote for, Judi Dutcher or Becky Lourey, for governor. These candidates were chosen for inclusion, over others, simply because either they had formally announced (Judi Dutcher) or had nearly announced (Becky Lourey) their intention to seek their party's nomination for governor. Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe are often mentioned as possible entrants to the nomination battle, neither individual had publicly indicated strong intentions to run nor thus they were not included in the question. Although the Democratic Party holds an endorsement convention and both candidates may adhere to the results of the convention and not challenge each other in a subsequent primary election, we asked potential Democratic Party primary voters to register their preference in a hypothetical primary election match-up. Only respondents who indicated they always vote Democratic or are Democratic voters who sometimes vote for another party are included in this analysis because, it is these voters who are most likely to vote in a Democratic primary election.

Table 13 shows that almost three times the number of likely Democratic Party primary voter currently supports the candidacy of Judi Dutcher over her challenger Becky Lourey. Similar to the Republican Party, a large number of voters are undecided (57 percent don't know responses), thus the race is far from over and it is entirely possible for Becky Lourey to overtake the current lead Judi Dutcher has in capturing the nomination. Since the sub-sample consists of 217 respondents, caution should be exercised in the interpretation of this data.

**Table 13:  
Democratic Party Governor Primary Horse Race**

*“Democrats may have a primary to determine their candidate for Governor. If the Democratic primary election for Governor were being held today, would you vote for Becky Lourey or Judi Dutcher? If not sure, do you lean more toward Brian Sullivan or Tim Pawlenty?”*

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
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Definitely Lourey	12	6
Leaning Lourey	10	5
Definitely Dutcher	43	20
Leaning Dutcher	20	9
Other	4	2
Won't Vote in Primary	2	1
Don't Know	126	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100%</b>

## VII. 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 executive, lawmaker, commander in chief, diplomat and political leader. This section of the report examines how Minnesotans view or evaluate Governor Ventura performance of these roles.

It is common practice to combine excellent and pretty-good categories into a single favorable category and combine the only fair and poor categories into a single unfavorable category.

The first specific role investigated is Chief Legislator. An examination of Table 2 shows that 40 percent of the 2001 respondents evaluate Governor Ventura's performance as either excellent or pretty good. Compared to 2000, this represents a drop of 19 percent. Jesse Ventura's favorable rating as leader of the legislature in 2000 was 59 percent. The comparison of the performance data from 2000 to 2001 shows that a solid eight or nine percent of Minnesotans are of the opinion that their governor is performing his role of legislative leader in an excellent fashion. At the same time, the comparison of the 2000 and 2001 data also shows that two and one-half times the number of Minnesotans in 2001 (24 percent) compared to 2000 (ten percent) is of the opinion that their governor is performing his job as leader of the legislature poorly. One year ago, about the same number of Minnesotans evaluated Governor Ventura's performance as chief legislator as excellent and poor. This year, however, three times the number of Minnesotans is of the opinion that their governor's performance as chief legislator is poor compared to those that are of the opinion his performance is excellent.

**Table 14:  
Governor's Role as Chief Legislator**

<i><b>"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?"</b></i>				
	<b>2000</b>		<b>2001</b>	
<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>

Excellent	57	9	49	8
Pretty Good	309	50	198	32
Only Fair	171	27	196	32
Poor	61	10	143	24
Don't Know	26	4	23	4
<b>Total</b>	624	100%	609	100%

The data clearly suggests the average Minnesotan is not as satisfied with the job Governor Ventura is doing leading the legislature as we found in 2000. Unfortunately, follow up was not possible with the respondents to inquire why their evaluation of Ventura's performance has eroded. Tables 13-17 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 legislator, Minnesotans rating of Ventura's performance as the chief executive of Minnesota has eroded from 2000. In 2000, 61 percent evaluated Ventura's performance as chief executive as favorable. Governor Ventura's favorable rating as chief executive is down by 17 percent. Similar to the ratings for chief legislature, Jesse Ventura has maintained a solid 10 to eleven percent excellent performance rating for both 2000 and 2001 among Minnesotans. This year, however, 22 percent (compared to seven percent in 2000) of Minnesotans are of the opinion their governor performs his role as CEO of the state poorly.

<b>Table 15: Governor's Role as Chief Executive</b>				
<i><b>“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?”</b></i>				
<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>2000</b>		<b>2001</b>	
	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Excellent	67	11	60	10
Pretty Good	312	50	211	34
Only Fair	170	27	187	31
Poor	44	7	132	22
Don't Know	33	5	18	3
<b>Total</b>	626	100%	608	100%

Third, we investigated how Minnesotan's evaluate the performance of Governor Ventura as Commander in Chief. Of the five roles investigated, Governor Ventura received his highest performance grade for his role as commander in chief. This conclusion applies to both 2000 and 2001. Nonetheless, we did find that Minnesotans do not evaluate his job performance as favorable

as they did in 2000. In 2000, 71 percent of Minnesotans gave their governor a favorable job review for the commander in chief role. This year, 61 percent of Minnesotans give Ventura a similar job performance review. Of the five-job performance roles investigated, commander in chief and chief diplomat are the only ones this year that more than one-half of Minnesotans give their governor a favorable job evaluation. In 2000, over one-half of all respondents gave Ventura a favorable job review for all five of his roles.

Twenty percent of Minnesotans in 2000 and 18 percent in 2001 give their governor an excellent job review for his performance as commander in chief. In 2000, 51 percent of Minnesotans gave Ventura a pretty-good job evaluation for his conduct as commander in chief but this year that amount declined to 43 percent. A review of tables 13-17 shows that Governor Ventura has lost approximately ten-15 percent of his favorable reviews from the pretty-good category. Finally, in the 2000 survey, we found that only four percent of Minnesotans gave Ventura a poor rating for his role of commander in chief. This year, we found that 12 percent of Minnesotans are of the opinion their governor performs his job as commander in chief poorly.

**Table 16:  
Governor’s Role as Commander in Chief**

*“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?”*

RESPONSE	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	123	20	110	18
Pretty Good	316	51	264	43
Only Fair	74	12	114	19
Poor	23	4	73	12
Don’t Know	82	13	46	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>100%</b>

Next, we inquired how Minnesotans perceive the performance of 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. Only one-third (34 percent) of Minnesotans give their governor an excellent or pretty-good rating for his performance as a political leader of the state. This is a drop of 19 percent from 2000. Importantly, 32 percent of Minnesotans rate his political leadership as poor. In comparison, 14 percent rated Ventura’s political leadership as poor in 2000. Overall, approximately two-thirds of Minnesotans give their governor an unfavorable rating for his performance as a political leader of the state.

**Table 17:  
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	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	97	16	56	9
Pretty Good	233	37	157	25
Only Fair	188	30	189	31
Poor	90	14	188	32
Don't Know	17	3	18	3
<b>Total</b>	625	100	608	100%

Finally, the SCSU Survey inquired how Minnesotans perceive Governor Ventura’s job performance as the state’s Chief Diplomat. Of the five roles investigated, Governor Ventura received his second highest job performance rating as chief diplomat. Nonetheless, the governor’s favorable performance ratings declined by 17 percent, from 70 percent in 2000, to 53 percent in 2001. This decline of 17 percent is consistent with the erosion of performance ratings for all five gubernatorial roles. The percentage of Minnesotans who rate Governor Ventura’s performance of chief diplomat as excellent decreased from 28 percent in 2000 to 16 percent in 2001. The percentage of Minnesotans who rate Governor Ventura’s performance as chief diplomat as pretty-good and only fair increased from 25 percent in 2000 to 43 percent in 2001. The percentage of Minnesotans who rate their governor’s work poor as the state’s diplomat more than doubled (seven percent in 2000 compared to 18 percent in 2001) between 2000 and 2001.

**Table 18:  
Governor's Role as Chief Diplomat**

***“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?”***

RESPONSE	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	173	28	95	16
Pretty Good	266	42	221	37

Only Fair	115	18	154	25
Poor	41	7	108	18
Don't Know	32	5	28	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>100%</b>

The final job performance rating we queried is constructed to obtain an impression of how adult Minnesotans rate Jesse Ventura's overall job performance as Governor of Minnesota. Although Minnesotans do not give their governor the same high overall favorable rating in 2001 (44 percent) as in 2000 (63 percent), the decline is not from the excellent category. Instead, it is from the pretty-good rating category. We found the least amount of change from 2000 to 2001 in the only fair performance category. Regarding the specific role questions, the least amount of change was found in the excellent category. Importantly, we found the percentage of Minnesotans who rate their governor's overall job performance as poor more than doubled from 2000 (seven percent) to 2001 (18 percent). In 2000, a wide gap existed between the percentages of Minnesotans who evaluated Governor Ventura's overall performance as excellent (28 percent) compared to those who evaluated his performance as poor (seven percent). In 2001, however, more Minnesotans (18 percent) evaluate their governor's overall job performance as poor than excellent (16 percent).

The SCSU Survey first inquired of Minnesotans about their governor's overall job performance in its November 1999 annual statewide survey. In that survey, the SCSU Survey found that 55 percent of Minnesotans rated Governor Ventura's overall job performance as excellent or pretty good. Interestingly, the 1999 survey was conducted approximately one month following the publication of the Governor's now infamous *Playboy* interview. It was widely thought that the Governor's overall job performance favorable rating could not decline much lower than what he received after his *Playboy* comments. Clearly, in the year following the publication of the *Playboy* interview, Minnesotans pardoned Governor Ventura's for his comments. Since then, however, the data suggests that Minnesotans are once again rating Governor Ventura's overall job performance similar to those he received following the *Playboy* debacle. Throughout the past year, Governor Ventura has increased his attacks on the media and begun to regularly storm out of press conferences when he did not like the questions he received from the press. He has since stopped holding press conferences. He called Minnesota public schools unaccountable black holes of tax revenues. Soon after the terrorist attack on September 11, without any evidence, he declared himself a target of the terrorists. Although once embraced by state employees, after his verbal assaults on them when they engaged in a work strike, he is now their enemy. Most recently, he has taken to verbally attacking callers on his various radio call-in shows when he does not like their questions.

**Table 19:  
OVERALL RATING OF JESSE VENTURA AS GOVERNOR**

*“How would you rate the overall performance of Jesse Ventura as Governor; excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?”*

RESPONSE	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Excellent	77	12	68	11
Pretty Good	318	51	200	33
Only Fair	175	28	206	34
Poor	51	8	127	21
Don't Know	6	1	9	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>100%</b>

In terms of demographic indicators, males more than females, but not significantly more, like the overall job Governor Ventura is performing as governor. Interestingly, Minnesotans over the age 65 are much more likely to give Governor Ventura an excellent rating for his overall job performance than are other groups. The age group least likely to give Governor Ventura an excellent rating is the 25 to 35 age group. Of various occupation groups, 43 percent of disabled persons gave Governor Ventura an excellent job rating, while an average of 12 percent Minnesotans in all other occupation groups gave their governor an excellent job review. Lower income Minnesotans are three times as likely (28 percent compared to ten percent) to give Governor Ventura an excellent for his job performance as other income groups. Approximately 21 percent of Democrat Party identifiers gave Governor Ventura an overall excellent job review compare to ten percent of Republicans and Independence Party identifiers.

The final table included in this report shows how Ventura might fare if he ran for re-election and if the election were held now. Jesse Ventura was elected with 37 percent of the vote in 1998. In 2000, the SCSU Survey found that 47 percent of Minnesota voters would vote to re-elect Governor Ventura. He seemed unstoppable in 2000 and easily translated that support into victory after victory in the 2001 legislative session. Now, however, his potential for re-election is not as clear. In a three-way race between Governor Ventura and whoever might run as a DFL and a Republican Party candidate, the race could be considered an even match or one for the Democrat Party candidate to win since more voters today still consider themselves Democrats than Republicans.

**Table 20:  
Voting for Jesse Ventura**

*“If the election for governor were held today, would you vote for Jesse Ventura as Governor?”*

RESPONSE	2000		2001	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT

Yes	290	47	195	32
No	221	36	339	56
Not Sure/Don't Know	107	17	74	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>100%</b>

In terms of demographic identifiers, males compare to females are more likely to vote for Governor Ventura if the election were held today. Minnesotans over the age 25 are more likely to vote for Governor Ventura again than are those under age 24. We did not find a majority of future Ventura voter support in a single age group. Fifty seven percent of Minnesotans who identified themselves as disabled indicated they would vote for Ventura if the election were held today. Otherwise, a majority of support was not found in any other occupational groups. In terms of income groups, we found that only 25 percent of respondents in all income groups are willing to vote for Governor Ventura if he ran again and the election were held today. However, a majority of those making less than \$25-30,000 per year are willing to vote for Governor Ventura if the election were held today. Of those Minnesotans with incomes less than \$25-30,000, approximately 50 percent suggested they are ready to vote for Governor Ventura. Democrats (32 percent), more than Republicans (25 percent), are prepared to vote for Governor Ventura if the election were held today. Approximately 40 percent of Independence Party identifiers indicated they would vote for Governor Ventura if he ran and the election was held today.

## VIII. Demographic Indicators

**Table 21:  
Respondent Age**

*“What age group are you in?”*

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
18-24	67	11
25-34	93	15
35-44	116	19
45-54	146	25
55-65	94	15
65+	90	15
Don't Know	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 22:  
Respondent Occupation**

*“Are you working now, temporarily laid off, unemployed, retired, a household manager, a student or what?”*

**(If more than one)**  
*“What do you consider yourself primarily?”*

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Working Now	395	65
Laid Off	14	2
Unemployed	21	3
Retired	105	17
Disabled	7	1
Household Manager	27	4
Student	35	6
Don't Know	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 23:  
Respondent Income Level**

*“Would you please tell me the range which best represents the total income, before taxes, or all immediate family living in your household?”*

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Under \$10,000	32	6
\$10,000- \$15,000	31	6
\$15,001-\$20,000	21	4
\$20,001-\$25,000	24	4
\$25,001-\$30,000	31	6
\$30,001-\$40,000	55	10
\$40,001-\$50,000	58	11
\$50,001-\$75,000	118	22
\$75,001 +	134	25
Don't Know	36	9
<b>Total</b>	540	100%

**Table 24:  
Respondent Ideology**

*“Thinking about your own general approach to politics, do you consider yourself to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?”*

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Very and Somewhat Liberal	201	35
Moderate	178	20
Very and Somewhat Conservative	207	35
<b>Total</b>	586	100%

**PRESS RELEASE**

**ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY**

# **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM THE FALL 2001 STATEWIDE SCSU SURVEY OMNIBUS SURVEY**

## *METHODOLOGY*

The SCSU Survey completed its annual fall statewide survey on November 15<sup>th</sup>. This year, we interviewed 611 randomly chosen Minnesota adults. Survey Sampling, Inc. of Fairfield, Connecticut, generated the sample.

As is always the case with our statewide omnibus surveys, we used a random digit dial sample, which is a sample unique to telephone sampling that generates telephone numbers on a random basis, thus avoiding bias with listed telephone numbers. The margin of error of the sample is no greater than plus or minus 3.9 percent at the 95 percent level of confidence. This means that if one drew 20 samples of the state and administered the same instrument, it would be expected that the overall findings would be greater/lesser than 3.9 percent only one time in twenty. However, in all sample surveys there are other possible sources of error for which precise estimates cannot be calculated. These include interviewer and coder error, respondent misinterpretation, and analysis errors. When analysis is made of sub-samples such as respondent gender, the sample error may be larger.

All interviewing was conducted from November 5 to November 15, except Friday and Saturday November 9 and 10, from SCSU Survey calling laboratory on the St. Cloud State University campus. The survey was conducted as one part of two separate courses offered by Dr. Steven Wagner and Dr. Stephen Frank of the SCSU Department of Political Science. Students enrolled in those courses conducted all interviewing, after three or more hours of training.

The cooperation rate of the survey is 56%. The demographics of the sample match census and other known characteristics of the state population very well. For example, the ratio of male to female respondents in the sample is 49 percent to 51 percent, which almost perfectly matches the adult population. Other variables, such as income, employment status and political party affiliation closely match with what is known of the Minnesota adult population.

Drs. Stephen Frank and Steven Wagner, with Dr. Michelle Kukoleca Hammes, also of the political science department, direct the SCSU Survey and serve as Principle Investigators of the annual statewide omnibus survey.

## **FINDINGS**

**STATE ON RIGHT OR WRONG TRACK:** A majority, 56 percent, think the state is heading in the right direction. However, this is down by 14 percent from 2000. This year, 27 percent think the state is headed down the wrong track. In 2000, only 16 percent of respondents thought the state was headed down the wrong track.

**IMPORTANT PROBLEM FACING THE STATE:** The top three problems facing the state are Education (25%), Welfare, Housing and Unemployment (12%) and Taxes (11%) according to our 2001 sample. In 2000, education and taxes also ranked in the top three, but not welfare, housing and unemployment. More respondents (5%) said that the Minnesota Twins/Sports is the greatest problem facing the state today than did respondents (3%) who think that transportation issues are the most important problem facing the state.

**IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE TWINS:** Sixty six percent said it is personally very important or somewhat important to them to keep the Twins in Minnesota. This is the first time we have asked how "important" it is to respondents personally to keep the Twins, we have asked many questions about the Twins

and constructing a new stadium for the team. In the past, we only obtain a mild response about the Twins and never found support for publicly or partially publicly financed stadium. Follow-up on this issue is urgent.

**FEELING THERMOMETER:** Annually, we ask Minnesotans if they recognize various political leaders and, if they do, how “warm” they feel toward to those individuals. In terms of recognition, less than one-half recognized DFL gubernatorial rivals Judi Dutcher or Becky Lourey. Only 19% recognized Becky Lourey compare to 42% who recognized Judi Dutcher. Of those that did recognize the candidates, the respondents are slightly warmer toward Auditor Dutcher compared to Senator Lourey. In terms of the other potential gubernatorial match-up, almost one-half of our respondents recognized Tim Pawlenty compared to only about one-quarter who recognized Brian Sullivan. Respondents are warmer toward Tim Pawlenty compared to Brian Sullivan. In the U.S. Senate match-up between Senator Wellstone and Mayor Norm Coleman, almost everyone recognizes the two individuals, but Minnesotans are warmer toward Coleman. Perhaps the big news is how warm (or heading cold) are Minnesotans toward their governor. In 2000, Governor Ventura received a “warm” reading of 60 degrees. This year, it dropped to 49 degrees. **GEORGE BUSH?**

**U.S. SENATE MATCH-UP:** Big trouble is on the horizon for Senator Wellstone. We asked our respondents to consider, if the U.S. Senate race was held today and the match-up was between Mayor Coleman and Senator Wellstone, who would they vote for. Forty-two percent indicated Coleman and 43 percent indicated Wellstone. The real trouble for Wellstone is that only eight percent are undecided.

**DFL GUBERNATORIAL MATCH-UP:** Respondents who indicated they always vote DFL are DFL voters but sometimes vote for another party, were asked to pick who they would vote for in a hypothetical primary match-up between Becky Lourey and Judi Dutcher. Although most respondents (57%) could not make a choice today, of those that did, 11% picked Lourey whereas 29% picked Dutcher.

**REPUBLICAN GUBERNATORIAL MATCH-UP:** Respondents who indicated they always vote Republican or are Republican voters but sometimes vote for another party, were asked to pick who they would vote for in a hypothetical primary match-up between Brian Sullivan and Tim Pawlenty. Although most respondents (62%) could not make a choice today, of those that did, 15% picked Sullivan whereas 21% picked Pawlenty.

## WEASEL WORDS ON PRIMARIES

**GOVERNOR VENTURA’S PERFORMANCE:** In the 2000 statewide survey, we asked Minnesotans to rate the job performance of Governor Ventura. We repeated the same questions this year. In terms of **leading the legislature**, 40 percent of Minnesotans this year give Governor Ventura an excellent or pretty good rating. In 2000, 59 percent of Minnesotans gave their governor an excellent or pretty-good job performance rating for leading the legislature. In terms of serving as **chief executive**, 44 percent of our sample gave Ventura an excellent or pretty-good rating this year for his the job he has performed as chief executive. In 2000, however, 61 percent of Minnesotans thought he was performing as chief executive as excellent or pretty-good. In terms of **commander in chief**, 61 percent of Minnesotans think their governor is performing in the excellent and pretty-good range. In 2000, 71 percent thought his job performance as commander in chief rated an excellent or pretty good rating. As **political leader**, 34 percent of the Minnesotans we interviewed thought their governor was performing at the excellent or pretty-good level. In 2000, 53 percent thought Ventura’s performance as political leader was in the excellent or pretty-good level. In terms of **chief diplomat**, 53 percent of Minnesotans think their governor is performing at the excellent or pretty-good level. In 2000, 70 percent thought Ventura’s role performance as chief diplomat was at the excellent or pretty good level. In terms of his **overall job performance**, 43 percent of Minnesotans think his performance is excellent or pretty good. In 2000, 63 percent of all Minnesotans saw their governor performing at the excellent or pretty good level. The data is clear, Governor Ventura’s overall job performance has dropped 20 percent in the past year.

**VOTE FOR GOVERNOR VENTURA:** The question on many minds today is whether Jesse Ventura will run for a second term. We asked our sample of Minnesotans, if the election for governor were held today, would

they vote for Jesse Ventura. We asked the same question in 2000 and found that 47 percent of our sample was ready to vote to retain their governor. This year, however, we found far fewer Minnesotans are ready to vote for their governor. Thirty-two percent (or a drop of 15% from last year) of our sample would vote for Ventura if the election were held today. Jesse Ventura won the gubernatorial election with 37 percent of the vote.

A more complete discussion of the methodology and findings may be examined on the SCSU Survey web page. The address is:

<http://stcloudstate.edu/scussurvey> <http://web.stcloudstate.edu>-----

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# St. Cloud State University Survey

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Drs. Frank, Wagner and Kukoleca are members of the Midwest Association of Public Opinion Research (MAPOR) and the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) and subscribe to the code of ethics of the AAPOR.