## ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY STATEWIDE SURVEY OF MINNESOTA ADULTS 2003

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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.

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### **MISSION, BACKGROUND, AND METHODOLOGY**

#### 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. Wagner and Dr. Frank have published two texts on Minnesota's former Governor, Jesse Ventura. Frank and Wagner's newest publication is The Maverick Campaign and Election of Jesse Ventura—S.C. Wagner and S.I. Frank in <u>Campaigns and Elections: Issues, Concepts, Cases</u> Robert P. Watson and Colton C. Campbell, editors 3/2003. Frank has recently had published "New Directions In Public Opinion" in <u>Perspectives On Minnesota Government & Politics 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.</u> Steven Hoffman, Homer Williamson and Kay Wolsborn editors, June, 2003.Frank is currently serving as President of the Minnesota Political Science Association.

#### **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 and Dr. Frank have published two texts on Minnesota's former Governor, Jesse Ventura. Frank and Wagner's newest publication is The Maverick Campaign and Election of Jesse Ventura—S.C. Wagner and S.I. Frank in <u>Campaigns and Elections: Issues, Concepts, Cases</u> Robert P. Watson and Colton C. Campbell, editors 3/2003.

#### **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. Kukoleca Hammes has recently had published "The 'State' of Participation" in Perspectives On Minnesota Government & Politics 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Steven Hoffman, Homer Williamson and Kay Wolsborn editors, June, 2003. Kukoleca Hammes is currently serving on the board of the Minnesota Political Science Association.

#### STUDENT DIRECTORS AND TECHNICAL STAFF

STUDENT SUPERVISING DIRECTOR Ms. Angela Jabs, Junior, Education Major, Jordan, Minnesota

#### SCSU SURVEY LAB STUDENT DIRECTORS/CONSULTANTS

Ms. Tesha Peterson, Junior, Special Education Major, Almena, Wisconsin

- Ms. Marisol Rodriguez, Senior, Political Science Major, Houston, Texas
- Mr. Paul Ben-Yehuda, Senior, Political Science and Communication Studies Majors, St. Cloud, Minnesota
- Ms. Melissa Ackerman, Senior, Social Science Major with Political Science emphasis, Cottage Grove, Minnesota
- Mr. Jason Lunser, Junior, Political Science Major, Cold Spring, Minnesota
- Ms. Ginger Becker, Junior, Political Science Major, Deer Creek, Minnesota
- Ms. Kasey Lussier, Senior, Political Science Major, Spanish Minor, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Ms. Adriana Dobrzycka, Senior, Anthropology and Political Science Majors, Spanish Minor, Florence, Italy

#### STUDENT TECHNICAL CONSULTANT Mr. Jason Amunrud Sophomore, Computer Science Major, Shoreview, Minnesota

After five or more hours of training and screening approximately 50 students from Political Science 195 classes (introductory American National Government Class) taught by Drs. Frank and Wagner 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 <u>Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing Lab</u>. 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:

- Complete control of what the interviewer sees;
   Automatic skip or branch patterns based on previous answers, combinations of answers, or even mathematical computations performed on answers;
   Randomization of response categories or question order;
   Customized questionnaires using respondents' previous responses, and, 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. Keypunching 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. Some daytime calls were made
- 12. Some calls were made to Spanish speaking respondents.
- 13. 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 Sunday through Friday Monday through Sunday, not Friday or Saturday between November 7 and November 17. 2003. Most calls were made after 4:30 PM weekdays and during the afternoon on Sunday, November 9 and 16.

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 percent 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. In addition, we were able to call back several Spanish speaking respondents and utilize a Spanish speaking director to help facilitate those calls in Spanish. Also, we take extra care to ensure that all persons we call have a chance to participate in the survey. To this end we also worked to obtain answers from an individual with special needs. To this end a trained director spent extra time on the phone with the individual to help them understand the questions and provide answers.

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

- 1. construct a comprehensive database of all telephone working blocks which actually represent residential telephones;
- 2. 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, 3. 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);
- 4. assign working blocks known to contain residential telephones to geographic areas bases on zip code and most recent updates of census data; 5.
  - mark each working block for demographic targeting;

6.

7.

- 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 605 interviews the overall sample error due to sampling and other random effects is approximately plus/minus 3.9 percent at the 95 percent 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 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 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. The ratio of male to female adults in the sample was 48 to 52 percent, which almost perfectly matches the adult population. Although not needed the sample was weighted for sex. Other variables such as household income, political party affiliation and employment all closely match what is known of the Minnesota adult population.

The cooperation rate of the survey was 65 percent. This is above the average for professional marketing firms. When the SCSU Survey conducts specialized contract surveys, we use a smaller, more skilled group of student interviewers and the completion rate ranges often approach 80+ percent. Cooperation rate means that once an eligible household was reached, almost six of ten respondents agreed to participate in the survey.

The total survey consisted of 54 variables. Additional information was generated from the sample for area codes and country. 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.

## Methodology Table 1: Calling Record

| DISPOSITION RECORD  | FREQUENCY |
|---|-----------|
| Completed Calls   | 605       |
| Not Working Numbers   | 807       |
| Not Eligible – Respondent not available during the period of the study, language problems, hearing problems, not a Minnesota resident, cabin phone, illness, etc. | 88        |
| Callbacks – Appointments made but contact could not be made with designated respondent.   | 450       |
| Refusals – Attempt to re-contact and convert refusals to a completion was made for most refusals.   | 204       |
| Answering Machine – Live contact could not be made even after nine calls.   | 429       |
| Business Phone  | 237       |
| No Answers – Probable non-working numbers but some may be households on vacation, etc.  | 433       |
| Fax/Modem   | 103       |
| Busy  | 62        |
| Call Blocking   | 26        |
| Partial – Complete except for demographics  | 1         |
| Partial – Incomplete, more than demographics left.  | 17        |
| Total Calls Placed  | 3462      |

### **IV. Demographics**

#### METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Shown below are frequency tables of the demographic indicators we collected as part of the sample or asked of the respondents. Also, we show demographic tables of party, age, income, and employment with some categories combined to facilitate cross tabulation analysis. The tables labeled "recoded" are used in the cross tabulation analysis.

| Demographics Table 1:<br>Gender |           |         |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| RESPONSE                        | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
| Male                            | 297       | 49      |
| Female                          | 308       | 51      |
| Total                           | 605       | 100%    |

#### **Demographics Figure 1: Gender**



### Demographics Table 2: Party

| RESPONSE                                       | FREQUENCY                                  | PERCENT                   |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| Always Votes Democratic                        | 53   | 9                         |
| Democrat Who Sometimes Votes for Other Party   | 107  | 18                        |
| Always Votes Republican                        | 49   | 8                         |
| Republican Who Sometimes Votes for Other Party | 103  | 17                        |
| Always Votes Green                             | 0  | 0                         |
| Green Who Sometimes Votes for Other Party      | 9  | 1                         |
| Always Votes MN Independence                   | 5  | 1                         |
| MN Independence Who Sometimes Votes for Other  | 14   | 2                         |
| Party  | 1. 19 - 19 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | A CONTRACTOR OF THE OWNER |
| independent Closer to Democrats                | 72   | 12                        |
| independent Closer to Republicans              | 54   | 9                         |
| independent Closer to Green                    | 10   | 2                         |
| independent Closer to MN Independence Party    | 21   | 3                         |
| Other  | 41   | 7                         |
| Apolitical                                     | 16   | 3                         |
| Don't Know/ Refused                            | 51   | 8                         |
| Total  |  |                           |
| IUlai  | 605  | 100                       |

### Demographics Table 3: Recoded Party

| RESPONSE            | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Democrat            | 232       | 38      |
| Republican          | 206       | 34      |
| Green               | 19        | 3       |
| Independence        | 40        | 7       |
| Other               | 92        | 15      |
| Don't Know/ Missing | 13        | 3       |
| Total               | 605       | 100%    |



| Demographics Table 4:<br>Age |           |         |
|------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| RESPONSE                     | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
| 18-24                        | 62        | 10      |
| 25-34                        | 85        | 14      |
| 35-44                        | 114       | 19      |
| 45-54                        | 141       | 23      |
| 55-65                        | 101       | 17      |
| 65+                          | 100       | 17      |
| Don't Know/ Refused          | 2         | 0       |
| Total                        | 605       | 100%    |

### **Demographics Figure 3: Age**



| Demographics Table 5:<br>Recoded Age |           |         |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| RESPONSE                             | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
| 18-24                                | 146       | 24      |
| 35-64                                | 357       | 59      |
| 65+                                  | 100       | 17      |
| Don't Know/ Missing                  | 2         | 0       |
| Total                                | 605       | 100%    |

Demographics Figure 4: Recoded Age



### Demographics Table 6: Employment

| RESPONSE            | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Working Now         | 390       | 65      |
| Laid Off            | 13        | 2       |
| Unemployed          | 20        | 3       |
| Retired             | 116       | 19      |
| Disabled            | 11        | 2       |
| Household Manager   | 25        | 4       |
| Student             | 28        | 5       |
| Don't Know/ Refused | 2         | 0       |
| Total               | 605       | 100%    |

### Demographics Table 7: Recoded Employment

| RESPONSE             | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Working Now          | 390       | 64      |
| Laid Off/ Unemployed | 33        | 6       |
| Retired              | 116       | 19      |
| Disabled             | 11        | 2       |
| Household Manager    | 25        | 4       |
| Student              | 28        | 5       |
| Don't Know/ Refused  | 2         | 0       |
| Total                | 605       | 100%    |



### Demographics Table 8: Combined Household Income Level

| RESPONSE           | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|
| Under \$10,000     | 26        | 4       |
| \$10,001-\$15,000  | 27        | 4       |
| \$15,001-\$20,000  | 12        | 2       |
| \$20,001-\$25,000  | 34        | 6       |
| \$25,0001-\$30,000 | 31        | 5       |
| \$30,001-\$40,000  | 56        | 9       |
| \$40,001-\$50,000  | 49        | 8       |
| \$50,001-\$100,000 | 101       | 17      |
| \$100,000+         | 165       | 27      |
| Refused            | 64        | 11      |
| Don't Know         | 41        | 7       |
| Total              | 605       | 100%    |

### Demographics Figure 6: Combined Household Income Level



| Under \$10,000            | <b>\$10,001-\$15,000</b>  |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>\$15,001-\$20,000</b>  | □ \$20,001-\$25,000       |
| <b>\$25,0001-\$30,000</b> | <b>\$30,001-\$40,000</b>  |
| ■ \$40,001-\$50,000       | <b>\$50,001-\$100,000</b> |
| <b>\$100,000</b>          | Refused                   |
| Don't Know                |                           |

### Demographics Table 9: Recoded Income Level

| RESPONSE             | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Under \$25,000       | 98        | 16      |
| \$25,001-\$50,000    | 136       | 22      |
| \$50,001-\$100,000   | 101       | 17      |
| \$100,000+           | 165       | 27      |
| Don't Know/ Refused/ | 106       | 18      |
| Missing              |           |         |
| Total                | 605       | 100%    |



| Demographics Table 10:<br>Area Code |           |         |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------|--|--|--|
| RESPONSE                            | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |  |  |  |
| 218                                 | 97        | 16      |  |  |  |
| 320                                 | 78        | 13      |  |  |  |
| 507                                 | 100       | 17      |  |  |  |
| 612                                 | 37        | 6       |  |  |  |
| 651                                 | 113       | 19      |  |  |  |
| 763                                 | 93        | 15      |  |  |  |
| 952                                 | 86        | 14      |  |  |  |
| Total                               | 605       | 100%    |  |  |  |

### Demographics Figure 8: Area Code



#### Demographics Table 11: Recoded Area of State (from Area Code)

| RESPONSE           | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|
| Twin Cities Metro  | 330       | 54      |
| Northern Minnesota | 97        | 16      |
| Central Minnesota  | 78        | 13      |
| Southern Minnesota | 100       | 17      |
| Total              | 605       | 100%    |

Demographics Figure 9: Recoded Area of State (from Area Code)



#### Demographics Table 12: County Code from Sample

| RESPONSE                   | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Seven Metro Counties       | 309       | 51      |
| Greater Minnesota Counties | 296       | 49      |
| Total                      | 605       | 100%    |

**Demographics Figure 10: County Code From Sample** 



Recoded area code of the state was used for cross tabulation analysis for the Education, Immigration and Mascot questions. County code was used for the Direction, Problem, Governor and President Ratings, and Feeling Thermometer questions. The reminder of the report shows the substantive findings of the survey.

### ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY STATEWIDE SURVEY OF MINNESOTA ADULTS 2003



### DIRECTION AND BIGGEST PROBLEM OF THE STATE December 2003

Prepared By Ms. Kasey Lussier Survey Student Director

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

> Principal Investigators SCSU Survey

#### **Substantial Findings**

We began our survey by asking the respondent's opinion on the direction of the state. We found that almost half (43%) of Minnesota residents believe that the state is going in the right direction. When comparing this with results from the past three years, we can see that the downward trend that occurred between 2000 and 2002 seems to be turning around. Where the number of Minnesotans that believe the state is going in the right direction has fallen by a quarter every year, this year it has risen by 10%. We also found that more women than men believe that the state is going in the wrong direction. It was also found that Republicans are almost two times as likely to think that the state is going in the right direction, while almost three times as many Democrats responded that the state is moving in the wrong direction. There were small differences by combined household income before taxes with higher income respondents feeling more positive. There were only a small differences in the responses by demographics such as gender, age and region of the state.

VIEWS OF MINNESOTANS AS TO HOW THINGS ARE GOING IN MN.

#### RIGHT DIRECTION OR WRONG TRACK 100% 80% 70% 69% 59% 60% 56% 50% 48% 42% 37% 40% 36% 27% 279 18% 20% 16% 14% 11% 11% 9% 9% 170 6% **u** /0 4% 3% -+ /0 0% 1988 1996 1998 2000 2001 2002 2003 59% 56% 48% 50% 69% 70% 38% right 27% 37% 18% 16% 27% 42% 8% wrong neutral 11% 9% 9% 10% 11% 14% 36% 3% 4% 4% 4% 6% 6% 8% dk right wrong neutral dk

Source: SCSU Survey 11/03 N-604 10/02 n=613; 11/2001 n=611 10/200 N=600? 11/99 N=602 10/98 n=625 10/96 n=704 4-5/94 n=712 4/90n=754 10/88 n=801

#### Direction of State Table 1: The Direction of the State 2000-2003

| - 12220   | 2000      |                      | 2001           |                | 2002      | 100 million                           | 2003    |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Response  | Frequency | Percent              | Frequency      | Percent        | Frequency | Percent                               | Frequen |
| Right     | 436       | 70                   | 334            | 56             | 232       | 38                                    | 291     |
| Direction | 100       |                      |                |                | 1000      | and the second                        |         |
| Neutral   | 61        | 10                   | 66             | 11             | 83        | 14                                    | 48      |
| Wrong     | 102       | 16                   | 165            | 27             | 260       | 42                                    | 220     |
| Track     |           |                      |                |                |           |                                       |         |
| Don't     | 27        | 4                    | 35             | 6              | 35        | 6                                     | 44      |
| Know      |           | a contraction of the | and the second | and the second |           | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 |         |
| Total     | 606       | 100                  | 600            | 100            | 600       | 100                                   | 603     |

Direction of State Figure 1: The Direction of the State 2000-2003



Right Direction 
 Neutral

 Wrong Track 
 Don't Know

We next asked respondents what they feel is the biggest problem facing the state of Minnesota. The top five responses, in order, are Education, the Budget Deficit, Taxes, Economic Issues and Health Issues. In comparison to responses in the past, Minnesotans are no longer as concerned with Roads and Highways. Also, Minnesotans are less concerned with economic issues than they were last year. We compared the responses by gender and found that more women than men feel that education and health care are the largest problems facing the state. More men than women responded that taxes are the number one issue. Looking at the age of the respondents we found that Minnesotans between 24 and 55 were almost two times as concerned with education compared to other age groups. We also found that Minnesotans between 18 and 24 years old do not worry at all about health care. Among all income groups there was large concern about the budget deficit. We found that the higher the income level, the more Minnesotans believe that education is a large problem. Also, the higher the income level, fewer Minnesotans feel that economic issues such as jobs and wages are a problem. More Republicans feel that taxes are an issue, while more Democrats responded that education was the most important problem. People living in the 10 county metro area of the state are almost three times as worried about health care issues as those living in other parts of the state. We found that there was no significant difference among any demographics that the budget deficit is a problem. Regardless of income, gender, and age, and location, Minnesotans are concerned about the budget. Table 2 shows the responses of this years survey compared with the responses from the past three years.

| Direction of State Table 2:<br>The Five Most Important Problem Facing the State 2000-2003 |                   |       |                               |    |                    |    |                      |     |
|---|-------------------|-------|-------------------------------|----|--------------------|----|----------------------|-----|
|   | 2000              | 1.817 | 2001                          |    | 2002               |    | 2003                 | 100 |
| Rank  | Problem           | %     | Problem                       | %  | Problem            | %  | Problem              | %   |
| 1   | Education         | 21    | Education                     | 25 | Education          | 23 | Education<br>Funding | 25  |
| 2   | Taxes             | 18    | Welfare                       | 12 | Budget/Surplus     | 14 | Budget<br>Deficit    | 16  |
| 3   | Health            | 7     | Taxes                         | 11 | Economic<br>Issues | 13 | Taxes                | 11  |
| 4   | Crime             | 7     | Economic<br>Issues            | 7  | Taxes              | 10 | Economic<br>Issues   | 9   |
| 5   | Environment/Roads | 3     | Moral/<br>Religious<br>Issues | 7  | Roads<br>/Highways | 7  | Health<br>Issues     | 6   |

#### Direction of State Figure 2: The Five Most Important Problems Facing the State in 2003



We asked Minnesotans what party they feel could handle the above problem the best. Almost two times as many people responded that for economic issues, the Democratic Party could handle the problem the best. Minnesotans also feel that Democrats can solve the education problems. Almost five times as many people feel that Democrats can fix the problem of health care. Almost half (45%) of Minnesotans feel that Republicans can best deal with taxes. In response to the budget deficit, there was not significant difference between any of the parties. Table 3 shows the responses to this question.

| Direction Table 3:<br>Which party can best handle the above problem? |      |     |      |       |      |      |      |     |
|--|------|-----|------|-------|------|------|------|-----|
|  | 2000 |     | 2001 | 2002  |      | 2003 |      |     |
| Response   | Freq | %   | Freq | %     | Freq | %    | Freq | %   |
| Republican   | 174  | 27  | 154  | 30    | 166  | 27   | 132  | 24  |
| Democratic   | 152  | 28  | 165  | 32    | 157  | 26   | 158  | 30  |
| Independence   | 63   | 12  | 41   | 8     | 58   | 10   | 42   | 8   |
| Reform (00/01)   | 19   | 4   | 15   | 3     | 16   | 3    | 15   | 3   |
| Green (02/03)  |      |     |      | 1.8.2 |      |      |      |     |
| Other / weak   | 11   | 2   | 12   | 2     | 7    | 1    | 3    | .5  |
| independents   |      |     |      |       |      |      |      |     |
| Same   | NA   | NA  | 6    | 1     | 7    | 1    | 38   | 7   |
| Neither  | 58   | 11  | 46   | 9     | 73   | 12   | 60   | 11  |
| Don't Know   | 89   | 16  | 79   | 15    | 118  | 20   | 94   | 17  |
| Total  | 603  | 100 | 600  | 100   | 600  | 100  | 604  | 100 |

#### Direction Figure 3: Which party can best handle the above problem?



#### SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM FACING THE STATE OF MN.



Source: SCSU Survey

### ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY STATEWIDE SURVEY OF MINNESOTA ADULTS 2003



### RATING QUESTIONS GOV.PAWLENTY & PRESIDENT BUSH December 2003

Prepared By

Mr. Paul Ben-Yehuda Survey Student Director

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> Principal Investigators SCSU Survey

# WHY WE ASKED QUESTIONS RATING GOVERNOR PAWLENTY'S AND PRESIDENT BUSH'S PERFORMANCE.

We asked respondents to rate the performance of Governor Pawlenty and President Bush to track their performance over time and to compare their performance to previous administrations.

| Rating Table 1:<br>Overall Rating of Governor Pawlenty's Performance   |           |         |  |  |  |  |
|--|-----------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| "How would you rate the overall performance of Governor Pawlenty;<br>excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?" |           |         |  |  |  |  |
| RESPONSE   | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |  |  |  |  |
| Excellent  | 54        | 9       |  |  |  |  |
| Pretty Good  | 263       | 43      |  |  |  |  |
| Only Fair  | 163       | 27      |  |  |  |  |
| Poor   | 83        | 14      |  |  |  |  |
| Don't Know   | 41        | 7       |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotal   | 604       | 100%    |  |  |  |  |

Table 1 displays the frequency and percentage results of the question on Governor Pawlenty's Performance. The data is clear, a majority of Minnesotans rate Governor Pawlenty's performance as favorable.



#### SUBSTANSIVE FINDINGS

There is no significant difference with gender, along with there being no significant difference of where respondents lived. The significant difference between ages was that those sixty five and over favored Governor Pawlenty more than the other age groups. Those in the highest household income bracket have a substantial more favorable opinion of Governor Pawlenty than those in the lowest income bracket. Also the household managers and retired were most likely to favor the Governor's performance. Party identification while not surprising that the self described Republicans favored the Governor more, the surprising result was the Republicans favored the Governor Ventura, there was a significant difference in first year of their respective terms but in Governor Ventura's first year there was a significant state fiscal surplus. It is more appropriate to compare the last year of Governor Ventura to the first year of Governor Pawlenty in which both were similar in approval rating. The reason for this is the public knew Governor Ventura agenda and the future economic forecast was already known.

Rating Table 2: Overall Rating of President Bush

"How would you rate the overall performance of President Bush; excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?"

| RESPONSE    | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|-------------|-----------|---------|
| Excellent   | 57        | 10      |
| Pretty Good | 201       | 33      |
| Only Fair   | 167       | 28      |
| Poor        | 169       | 28      |
| Don't Know  | 8         | 1       |
| Total       | 602       | 100%    |

Table 2 displays the frequency results of the question on President Bush performance. The data is clear, a majority of Minnesotans rate President Bush's performance as unfavorable.


#### **Substantive Findings**

There is no significant difference with gender as well as there being no significant difference between age of respondents and where they lived. The substantive findings are that those in the highest household income bracket have a slightly more favorable opinion of President Bush than those in the lowest income bracket. Also the household managers were most likely to favor the President's performance. Party identification while not surprising that the self described Republicans favored the President more, the surprising result was the Republicans favored the President fifty-four percent more than the Democrats. When comparing President Bush's performance to the national average, from the Gallup Poll from November 14-16, there was no significant difference between Minnesotans and the rest of the nation.

# ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY 2003

## STATEWIDE SURVEY OF MINNESOTA ADULTS



## FEELING THERMOMETER December 2003

Prepared By Ms. Ginger Becker Survey Student Director

Supervised By Dr. Stephen Frank Dr. Steven Wagner Dr. Michelle Kukoleca Hammes Principal Investigators SCSU Survey The following displays the results to questions pertaining to public figures in the news and in politics that were asked this fall. We asked these questions because we wanted a feel on how people felt on a scale of 1 to 100 with these public figures. With this scale, it is apparent how many people can hear a name and know whom that person is pertaining to the state of Minnesota, or the whole United States.

Not only were questions about politicians asked, other questions pertaining to other prominent media figures were asked, including: Al Franken, Rush Limbaugh, and Michael Moore. The reason why we wanted to know how people felt about these certain "authority" figures is that they do affect public opinion at a high level.

When asking the question we asked the respondent to rate this person on a scale of 1-100, numbers between one and forty-nine meant that the respondent didn't now feel too favorable or warm towards the person, and responses between fifty-one and one-hundred meant that you felt warm and favorable towards that person. If the respondent did recognize the name, but did not feel either warm or cold towards the person, they rated them at the fifty-degree mark. If they did not recognize the person, we did not give the respondent any information on whom that person was before they gave their score.

#### SUBSTANTIVE FINDINGS

Feeling Thermometer Table 1: 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."

| PERSON                 | MEAN<br>RESPONSE<br>2001 | MEAN<br>RESPONSE<br>2002 | Mean<br>Response<br>2003 | % CAN'T JUDGE/<br>DON'T KNOW<br>2003 |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| George W. Bush         | 70                       | 60                       | 51                       | 1%                                   |
| Mike Hatch             | Na                       | 56                       | 55                       | 34                                   |
| Hillary Rodham Clinton | Na                       | Na                       | 46                       | 6                                    |
| Laura Bush             | Na                       | Na                       | 60                       | 5                                    |
| Tim Pawlenty           | 54                       | 50                       | 56                       | 5                                    |
| Arnold Schwarzengger   | Na                       | Na                       | 43                       | 10                                   |
| Jesse Ventura          | 49                       | 47                       | 41                       | 1                                    |
| Norm Coleman           | 58                       | 53                       | 55                       | 9                                    |
| Mary Pawlenty          | Na                       | Na                       | 52                       | 45                                   |
| Mark Dayton            | 56                       | 50                       | 56                       | 18                                   |
| Rush Limbaugh          | Na                       | Na                       | 31                       | 16                                   |
| Al Franken             | Na                       | Na                       | 42                       | 50                                   |
| Michael Moore          | Na                       | Na                       | 44                       | 60                                   |

SOME BREAKDOWNS BY GROUPS

**Gender**: When looking at how women and men rate some of the public figures there were a few that ended with some differences worth noting: **Hillary Rodham Clinton** fell more favorably toward women (50) then with men (42). **Mike Hatch** also was more favorable with women in the state (58), compared to men (53). **Jesse Ventura** ended up more favorable with men (43). Women rated five points lower (38). Men rated **Mark Dayton**, on average, a 53, and women rated him a 59. Our most significant difference between men and women was with **Michael Moore**. Women rated him a 50, and men rated him a 40.

\*All other gender findings were negligible.

**Combined Household Income:** When income increased the positive ratings for **George W. Bush** increased as well. The \$100,000 plus group rated him as a 55, and the lowest group, less than \$25,000, rated him as a 49.**Mark Dayton** received the highest mean score (61) with people whose household incomes were \$25,000 or below. The next closest group was the \$50-100,000 (56). **Mike Hatch** rated highest among the \$50-100,000 group and the under \$25,000 group (59), compared to the \$25-50,000 who rated him at a 53. **Hillary Rodham Clinton** rated very well (51) with those with a household income under \$25,000. This is seven points higher then those with an

annual household income of \$100,000 plus (44). For **Jesse Ventura** there are some interesting income differences. Those with incomes under \$25,000 rated him as a 47 compared with those with \$100,000 plus, they rated him a 35. **Rush Limbaugh** rates the highest with the \$25-50,000 group. The next closest group is both the \$50-100,000 and under \$25,000 groups. **AI Franken** rates highest with both the \$25-50,000 and \$50-100,000 groups (48). **Michael Moore** rates highest with the under \$25,000 groups and the \$25-50,000 groups (50 and 49 respectively). The under \$25,000 respondents rates **Arnold Schwarzenegger** a 46. His lowest rating group is those with a household income of \$50-100,000.

| Party*:                   |                                  |                                  |                                    |   |               |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| RATED<br>PERSON           | MEAN<br>0-100<br>COMBINED<br>DEM | MEAN<br>0-100<br>COMBINED<br>REP | MEAN<br>0-100<br>COMBINED<br>GREEN | MEAN 0-100<br>COMBINED<br>INDEPENDENCE<br>PARTY | ALL<br>OTHERS |
| GEORGE W BUSH             | 36                               | 71                               | 20                                 | 50  | 52            |
| MIKE HATCH                | 58                               | 51                               | 51                                 | 57  | 59            |
| HILLARY RODHAM<br>CLINTON | 62                               | 27                               | 54                                 | 49  | 46            |
| LAURA BUSH                | 52                               | 71                               | 37                                 | 61  | 59            |
| TIM PAWLENTY              | 47                               | 70                               | 39                                 | 61  | 51            |
| ARNOLD<br>SCHWARZENGGER   | 38                               | 47                               | 30                                 | 44  | 46            |
| JESSE VENTURA             | 41                               | 36                               | 31                                 | 45  | 59            |
| NORM COLEMAN              | 46                               | 68                               | 37                                 | 59  | 50            |
| MARY PAWLENTY             | 48                               | 57                               | 33                                 | 58  | 49            |
| MARK DAYTON               | 65                               | 44                               | 62                                 | 60  | 57            |
| RUSH LINBAUGH             | 21                               | 46                               | 12                                 | 29  | 30            |
| AL FRANKEN                | 53                               | 30                               | 52                                 | 38  | 33            |
| MICHAEL MOORE             | 54                               | 32                               | 68                                 | 51  | 33            |
|                           |                                  |                                  |                                    |   |               |

\* SOME CATEGORIES HAVE SMALLER N SO THE MEANS WILL HAVE LARGER VARIATIONS

## ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY

# STATEWIDE SURVEY OF MINNESOTA ADULTS



## SPORTS AND STADIUM QUESTIONS December 2003

Prepared By Ms. Tesha Peterson and Mr. J.David Lunser Student Survey Directors

Supervised By Dr. Stephen Frank Dr. Steven Wagner Dr. Michelle Kukoleca Hammes Principal Investigators SCSU Survey

#### WHY WE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS AND STADIUM FUNDING

This fall, as in years past, questions pertaining to Minnesota's professional sports teams were included in our statewide fall survey. In recent years there has been a great deal of speculation as to these teams' future in the state and our questions seek to ascertain the opinions of Minnesotans. Questions were asked about both the Minnesota Twins as well as the Vikings and their stadium needs.

Minnesota Twins' ownership has hinted in the past of team relocation and Major League Baseball has even discussed eliminating the team altogether. A contributing factor to both these possible outcomes was the team's stated need for a new stadium. Therefore, last fall there were two questions about the Twins in the instrument, one of which dealt with stadium need and funding. For consistency these questions were included verbatim again this year. The fact that these questions have remained in exact form from past years allows for opinion trends over time to be seen.

New to the survey are questions involving the Minnesota Vikings. Much like the Twins, the Vikings primary owner has discussed moving the team, and issues surrounding their current stadium have been cited as a motivating factor. The wording of these questions closely resembles that of those concerning the Twins to make comparison both valid and viable.

#### SUBSTANTIVE FINDINGS

As shown in Table 1 it was found that about three fourths of Minnesotans who held an opinion feel that it is either very or somewhat important to keep the twins in Minnesota (76%). No cross tabs were found to be significant. As Table 2 depicts this is up five percent from the 2002 Fall Saint Cloud State Survey.

| Sports Table 1:<br>Importance of Twins  |           |         |  |  |
|---|-----------|---------|--|--|
| "How important is it to you personally to keep the Minnesota Twins in<br>Minnesota? Is it very important, somewhat important, not important, or not at<br>all important?" |           |         |  |  |
| RESPONSE  | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |  |  |
| Very Important  | 215       | 36%     |  |  |
| Somewhat Important  | 230       | 38      |  |  |
| Not Important   | 58        | 10      |  |  |
| Not at all Important  | 87        | 14      |  |  |
| Don't Know  | 11        | 2       |  |  |
| Total   | 601       | 100     |  |  |



## Sports Table 2: Importance of Twins: 2002 and 2003

"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?"

| RESPONSE       | FREQUENCY | PERCENT | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                | 2002      | 2002    | 2003      | 2003    |
| Very Important | 176       | 29%     | 215       | 36%     |
| Somewhat       | 243       | 40      | 230       | 38      |
| Important      |           |         |           |         |
| Not Important  | 89        | 14      | 58        | 10      |
| Not at all     | 100       | 16      | 87        | 14      |
| Important      |           |         |           |         |
| Don't Know     | 4         | 1       | 11        | 2       |
| Total          | 612       | 100     | 601       | 100     |

## Sports Figure 2: Importance of Twins: 2002 and 2003



When it comes to the question involving stadium funding equal parts find private sector and a form of combination funding as optimal (35% and 38% respectively) as the third table shows. Furthermore, one out of five respondents felt that the current Twins Stadium is fine (21%). Cross tabulations show us that men are more likely to support the combining of funds from state and local governments to build a stadium then women (45% to 32%). On the other hand, 29% of women believe that the current stadium is fine, compared to 15% of men. These findings show little change from the previous fall, refer to Table 4.

#### Sports Table 3: Pay for a Baseball New Stadium

"It is widely suggested that the long-term presence of the Minnesota Twins in Minnesota is not possible without a new baseball stadium. If a new stadium is built, do you personally think the stadium should be funded by:" (respondent read choices by interviewer)

| RESPONSE                       | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| The private sector only, such  | 211       | 35%     |
| as the team owner, players or  |           |         |
| other private donors           |           |         |
| The state of Minnesota only    | 7         | 1       |
| Local government only          | 10        | 2       |
| A combination of private funds | 225       | 38      |
| and state and local            |           |         |
| governments                    |           |         |
| The current stadium is fine    | 128       | 21      |
| Don't Know                     | 18        | 3       |
| Total                          |           |         |
|                                | 599       | 100     |

## Sports Figure 3: Pay for a Baseball New Stadium



Don't Know

#### Sports Table 4:

Time Trends of How to Pay for a New Baseball Stadium

"It is widely suggested that the long-term presence of the Minnesota Twins in Minnesota is not possible without a new baseball stadium. If a new stadium is built, do you personally think the stadium should be funded by:"

(respondent read choices by interviewer)

| RESPONSE         | FREQUENCY                                | PERCENT    | FREQUENCY      | PERCENT |
|------------------|--|------------|----------------|---------|
|                  | 2002                                     | 2002       | 2003           | 2003    |
| The private      | 241                                      | 39%        | 211            | 35%     |
| sector only,     |  |            |                |         |
| such as the      |  |            |                |         |
| team owner,      |  |            | 1000           |         |
| players or other |  |            |                |         |
| private donors   |  |            |                |         |
| The state of     | 5  | 1          | 7              | 1       |
| Minnesota only   |  |            |                |         |
| Local            | 9  | 2          | 10             | 2       |
| government       | 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1 | 1000000000 | STATE OF STATE |         |
| only             |  |            |                |         |
| A combination    | 205                                      | 34         | 225            | 38      |
| of private funds |  |            |                |         |
| and state and    |  |            |                |         |
| local            |  |            |                |         |
| governments      |  |            |                |         |
| The current      | 137                                      | 22         | 128            | 21      |
| stadium is fine  |  |            |                |         |
| Don't Know       | 15                                       | 2          | 18             | 3       |
| Total            | 612                                      | 100        | 599            | 100     |

Table 5 makes it clear that a majority, seven out of ten, Minnesotans find it important to keep the Minnesota Vikings in the state (72%). This is only slightly lower than the percentages seen for the Twins this year. Nearly all (90%) of those respondents who felt it was important to keep the Vikings in Minnesota also felt it was important to keep the twins. All other cross tabulations were insignificant.

## Sports Figure 4: Time Trends of How to Pay for a New Baseball Stadium



| Sports Table 5:<br>Importance of Vikings  |           |         |  |  |
|---|-----------|---------|--|--|
| "How important is it to you personally to keep the Minnesota<br>Vikings in Minnesota? Is it very important, somewhat important,<br>not important, or not at all important?" |           |         |  |  |
| RESPONSE  | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |  |  |
| Very Important  | 204       | 34      |  |  |
| Somewhat Important  | 220       | 37      |  |  |
| Not Important   | 79        | 13      |  |  |
| Not at all Important  | 85        | 14      |  |  |
| Don't Know  | 12        | 2       |  |  |
| Total   | 600       | 100     |  |  |

When we asked about possible funding options for a hypothetical new Viking's Stadium was posed to those interviewed, almost four of ten answered the private sector and an additional four of ten answered a combination of funds were the most desirable methods (see table **X**). The responses to this question mirror those of the Twins stadium funding. The only demographical cross tabulation found significant was that of gender. Significantly more women than men felt that the current stadium is fine (30% of women vs. 14% of men). Conversely, more men (45%) than women (30%) thought that a combination of both state and local government funds were the best way of funding a new stadium. This was the only cross tabulation found significant.

**Sports Figure 5: Importance of Vikings** 



| Sports Table 6:<br>Pay for a New Football Stadium   |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <i>" It is widely suggested that the Vikings in Minnesota is not pos If a new stadium is built, do you be funded by:"</i><br>(respondent read choices by in | e long-term presence of<br>sible without a new fo<br>a personally think the s<br>nterviewer) | of the Minnesota<br>otball stadium.<br>stadium should |  |  |
| RESPONSE  | FREQUENCY  | PERCENT   |  |  |
| The private sector only, such   | 220  | 37%   |  |  |
| as the team owner, players or   |  |   |  |  |
| other private donors  |  |   |  |  |
| The state of Minnesota only   | 7  | 1   |  |  |
| Local government only   | 7  | 1   |  |  |
| A combination of private funds  | 215  | 36  |  |  |
| and state and local   |  |   |  |  |
| governments   |  |   |  |  |
| The current stadium is fine   | 125  | 21  |  |  |
| Don't Know  | 21   | 4   |  |  |
| Total   |  |   |  |  |

In past years, we have asked about the ranked importance of various sports teams in Minnesota. Ranked importance research shows that Minnesotans have ranked football slightly more important than baseball. This year, using separate questions on the importance of the Twins and Vikings, the Twins seem more important. Also, in the past (2000) we asked which team, if any, Minnesotans want kept the most. Then, we found overwhelming support for the Vikings, not the Twins. This year, our data would suggest the Twins and Vikings are equally important to Minnesota.

595

100%

# Sports Figure 6: Pay for a New Football Stadium



- □ A combination of private funds and state and local governments
- The current stadium is fine
- Don't Know

## ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY STATEWIDE SURVEY OF MINNESOTA ADULTS 2003



## EDUCATION QUESTIONS December 2003

# Prepared By Ms. Angela Jabs Senior Survey Student Director

## Supervised

By Dr. Stephen Frank Dr. Steven Wagner Dr. Michelle Kukoleca Hammes Principal Investigators SCSU Survey

#### WHY WE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PUBLIC K-12 EDUCATION

This report presents the questions pertaining to education we asked this fall. We asked these questions because several education-related issues, such as vouchers and budget problems, seem to receive significant attention in the media, consume significant tax revenues and are always important issues of public discussion. Consequently, we asked about vouchers, school uniforms, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the future of state budget cuts.

Vouchers are discussed in some quarters as a possible alternative for some parents and children to public schools, especially if they are unable to afford tuition at private schools. Some argue that failing pubic schools need competition and one way to provide that competition is through vouchers. Regardless of the reasons, some favor voucher programs, we asked if Minnesotans agree or disagree with using public tax funds to finance K-12 vouchers.

Secondly, we are aware that some public schools have started to require their students wear uniforms. Many reasons exist for this requirement, including cost, appropriateness of clothing choices, and gang-related violence. Many, if not most, private schools also require uniforms. Thus, we asked if Minnesotans agree or disagree with the requirement of public school uniforms.

In the 2003 Minnesota legislative session, legislation passed requiring public school teachers and students recite the Pledge of Allegiance once per week. We were unsure if Minnesotans agree or disagree with this initiative and asked a simple question about this law.

As is commonly known, Minnesota public schools are under financial constraints. Last year, the legislature reduced state funding for many programs in Minnesota K-12 schools. Many school districts recently successfully sought a property tax increase from the voters in their districts. School districts are now changing fees they have never before levied and have increased many existing fees. Given these conditions, we wanted to know if Minnesotans agree or disagree that public K-12 schools should be exempt from future state budget cuts. Our final education question inquires about this possibility.

#### SUBSTANTIVE FINDINGS

In terms of the question on vouchers (next), the Gallup polling organization, in a national study conducted this past September found that 38 percent agree with the use of vouchers. Table 1 shows that 32 percent of Minnesotans are inclined to support the use of vouchers. In terms of our analysis of demographic indicators, we found that neither gender nor place of residence explains our findings on vouchers. However, party identification, employment status and income certainly do. Democratic voters and independents are much less likely to support the use of tax revenue to support a voucher program than are Republicans. We found that respondents over age 65 are more likely to support vouchers than are respondents in other age cohorts. Results regarding employment status are mixed, but employed individuals, retired individuals and students are more likely to support vouchers than are unemployed persons, disabled individuals and household managers. In terms of income, those respondents earning between \$25,000 and \$50,000 are more likely to support a voucher program than are other income groups.

Education Table 1: Vouchers

"Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree Minnesota state taxes should be used to pay for tuition vouchers for students attending private K-12 schools?"

| RESPONSE          | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|
| Strongly Agree    | 36        | 6       |
| Agree             | 158       | 26      |
| Disagree          | 255       | 42      |
| Strongly Disagree | 126       | 21      |
| Don't Know        | 30        | 5       |
| Total             | 604       | 100%    |



Table 2 displays the frequency results of the question on school uniforms. The data is clear. Most Minnesotans do not agree that public school students should wear uniforms. Only one-quarter of our respondents agree that public K-12 students should wear uniforms. In terms of cross tabulation analysis, we found that there is no relationship among any of the demographic indicators to explain our findings.

| "Do you strongly agree, agree, dis<br>Minnesota's public school student<br>school uniforms?" | agree or strongly<br>s should be requi | disagree<br>red to wear  |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| RESPONSE   | FREQUENCY                              | DEDCENT                  |
|  |  | ILIVOLINI                |
| Strongly Agree   | 31                                     | 5                        |
| Strongly Agree   | 31<br>125                              | 5<br>21                  |
| Strongly Agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree  | 31<br>125<br>328                       | 5<br>21<br>54            |
| Strongly Agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly Disagree                                     | 31<br>125<br>328<br>91                 | 5<br>21<br>54<br>15      |
| Strongly Agree   Agree   Disagree   Strongly Disagree   Don't Know                           | 31<br>125<br>328<br>91<br>30           | 5<br>21<br>54<br>15<br>5 |



Table 3 displays the results of the question we asked about the required recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Although we were unsure of the potential responses, we did not hypothesize that eight of ten Minnesotans strongly agree or agree with the current law requiring a weekly recitation of the Pledge. In terms of our analysis of demographic indicators, we found that neither income nor place of residence explain our findings on the Pledge of Allegiance, but party identification, employment status, age and gender do explain our findings. Republican voters are much more likely to support the Pledge of Allegiance legislation than are Democratic voters. Independent voters are much less likely to support such legislation than either the Democratic or Republican voters. In terms of employment status, all groups are about equal except students; students are much less likely to support Pledge of Allegiance legislation than are any other occupations. If we examine age as a factor, we see that those in the category of 35 to 65 years of age are slightly more likely to support this than are those in the 18 to 34 or the over 65 age category. Finally, looking at gender, men are more likely to support this legislation than are women.

Education Table 3: Pledge of Allegiance

"Under Minnesota law, teachers and students in grades K-12 are required to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in class at least one time per week. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with this law?"

| RESPONSE          | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|
| Strongly Agree    | 231       | 38      |
| Agree             | 255       | 43      |
| Disagree          | 69        | 11      |
| Strongly Disagree | 32        | 5       |
| Don't Know        | 17        | 3       |
| Total             | 603       | 100%    |



Table 4 shows the results of the budget question. It is clear that most Minnesotans agree that K-12 schools should be exempt from future budget cuts. Almost two-thirds of Minnesotans either strongly agree or agree K-12 schools should not be the subject of state budget cuts. In terms of an examination of demographic indicators, we found that neither income nor place of residence explain our findings on future budget cuts. However, party identification, employment status, age and gender certainly do. Democratic voters are more likely than independent voters to agree that public K-12 schools should be exempt from future budget cuts. Republicans are much less likely than either the Democratic voters or the independent voters to support such an idea. Looking at employment status, we see that those who are disabled or household managers are more likely than any of the other occupation categories to support exempting public K-12 education from future budget cuts. Those who are retired are least likely to support this idea. In terms of age of respondent, those over 65 years of age are much less likely than those in the other age groups to support making public K-12 education exempt from budget cuts. Finally, looking at gender, females are more likely to support exempting public K-12 education from are males.

| Education Table 4:<br>Budget Cuts  |           |         |  |  |
|--|-----------|---------|--|--|
| <i>"If the state of Minnesota faces future budget problems and<br/>must cut its budget, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or<br/>strongly disagree public K-12 education funding should be<br/>exempt from budget cuts?"</i> |           |         |  |  |
| RESPONSE   | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |  |  |
| Strongly Agree   | 231       | 38      |  |  |
| Agree  | 199       | 33      |  |  |
| Disagree   | 136       | 23      |  |  |
| Strongly Disagree  | 22        | Λ       |  |  |
| Subligiy Disagree  | 23        | 4       |  |  |
| Don't Know   | 14        | 2       |  |  |



ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY STATEWIDE SURVEY OF MINNESOTA ADULTS 2003



IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS December 2003

Prepared By Ms. Marisol Rodriguez Ms. Adriana Dobrzycka Survey Student Directors

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#### WHY WE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT IMMIGRATION IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

This report questions the political and social climate surrounding the issue of immigration in Minnesota. In particular, we look at Minnesotans' attitudes about how welcoming they feel the state of Minnesota is, why they believe immigrants are drawn to come to Minnesota, and whether they feel that immigration trends relate to job loss in the state. Historically, Minnesota has not been a very diverse with its main population groups being of Northern European and Western European heritage. However, currently there is an influx of other ethnic groups diversifying the state. Peoples are coming to Minnesota from wide ranging from areas of the world such as Africa, Asia, and Latin America. According to the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, trends are showing that that the Latino population growth rate will increase significantly along with Asians in the United States. Statistics given on Minnesota by the Census Bureau show that the population of Latinos, as well as the population of other people of color, are continuing to rise in the state .

In addition, immigration is a topic that frequently leads to heated debates across the nation, especially during times of economic recessions. Currently in the media there has been much attention directed towards the state of California regarding immigration issues and policies related to illegal immigrants. In addition, the events of September 11, 2001 have caused the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and other federal agencies to reexamine policies and procedures related to both legal and undocumented immigrants.

This is the first time that these questions have been asked by the SCSU Survey. The questions posed were aimed at gaining insight into the current feelings of Minnesotans in regards to the changing demographic landscape in Minnesota.

#### SUBSTANTIVE FINDINGS

Table 1 displays the results concerning the issue of whether or not respondents feel that the State of Minnesota is welcoming to immigrants. The majority of Minnesotans believes that the state offers a welcoming environment to the immigrants from other countries. Only about one-quarter of the respondents perceive that Minnesota does not provide a friendly environment to the newly arrived immigrants.

| Immigration Table 1:<br>Minnesota a Welcoming State                              |           |         |  |  |
|--|-----------|---------|--|--|
| "Are Minnesotans welcoming to new immigrants from other countries to the state?" |           |         |  |  |
| RESPONSE   | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |  |  |
| Yes  | 437       | 72      |  |  |
| No   | 128       | 21      |  |  |
| Don't know   | 40        | 7       |  |  |
| Total  | 604       | 100     |  |  |

# Immigration Figure 1: Minnesota a Welcoming State



According to the cross tabulations, in terms of age we found that the group who most feels that Minnesota is welcoming is middle aged Minnesotans. This group had a larger number of respondents indicating that Minnesota is indeed welcoming. Also, as a group, a smaller percentage of people with disabilities thought that Minnesota was welcoming compared to persons in other employment categories. Whereas, household managers as an employment group are slightly more apt to believe that the state is welcoming when compared to other employment categories. Also, when compared to other areas of the state, the group most likely to believe that the state is welcoming is central Minnesotans. No other crosstabulations for sub-sets of our sample showed any difference from the overall sample on this question.

Table 2 gives an indication of the beliefs Minnesotan's hold regarding the motives that immigrants have for moving to Minnesota. The data demonstrates that respondents believe there are two main reasons that immigrants are drawn to Minnesota; jobs and welfare services. In fact, one third of the respondents stated that immigrants move to Minnesota because of the job-market. Another one third of the respondents stated that immigrants move to the state because of the welfare system. Only one out of eight respondents believed that the chief reason for immigrants coming to the state was due to fact that Minnesota is a good place to live.

| Immigration Table 2:<br>Reasons to Immigrate to Minnesota                     |           |         |  |  |
|---|-----------|---------|--|--|
| "What is the single most important reason that immigrants come to Minnesota?" |           |         |  |  |
| RESPONSE  | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |  |  |
| Attend schools and stayed   | 6         | 1       |  |  |
| Churches helped them come   | 10        | 2       |  |  |
| Family friends  | 29        | 5       |  |  |
| Jobs  | 188       | 30      |  |  |
| Political Refugee   | 7         | 1       |  |  |
| Schools-education   | 12        | 2       |  |  |
| Visited and Stayed  | 6         | 1       |  |  |
| Weather/Recreation  | 17        | 3       |  |  |
| Welfare State/Aid/Medical Care  | 180       | 30      |  |  |
| Welcome in MN/ Good Place to<br>Live  | 71        | 12      |  |  |
| Other (volunteered)   | 18        | 3       |  |  |
| Don't Know  | 60        | 10      |  |  |
| Total   | 603       | 100     |  |  |

## **Immigration Figure 2: Reasons to Immigrate to Minnesota**



Regarding the cross tabulation, we found that women are, compared to men, slightly more likely to believe that immigrants come to Minnesota for welfare. Both Minnesotans that describe themselves as Democrats and those that describe themselves as Republicans feel that immigrants come to Minnesota for jobs. However, Republicans, more than other party members, feel that welfare and aid may play a role for the increase in immigration to Minnesota. Another interesting cross tabulation was age. Younger Minnesotans feel that immigrants come to Minnesota for jobs while older Minnesotans have a tendency to believe that immigrants come to Minnesota for welfare. Minnesotans in the Twin Cities metropolitan area believe immigrants come to Minnesota for the federal and state aid.

Table 3 shows that more than half of the respondents feel that undocumented immigrants tend to take jobs from Minnesotans. Whereas, just less than half of Minnesotans feel that they do not take jobs from Minnesotans.

Immigration Table 3: Immigrants and Jobs

"Do you agree that illegal immigrants in MN take jobs from Minnesotans?"

| RESPONSE          | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |  |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|--|
| Strongly Agree    | 231       | 38      |  |
| Agree             | 255       | 43      |  |
| Disagree          | 69        | 11      |  |
| Strongly Disagree | 32        | 5       |  |
| Don't Know        | 17        | 3       |  |
| Total             | 603       | 100%    |  |


With respects to party, the cross tabulations show that Republicans tend to think that undocumented immigrants take jobs from Minnesotans, while Democrats tend to disagree. With respect to age there is really no difference among the various age groups. However, when we look at employment sub-categories we find that more than half of retired people agree that undocumented immigrants take jobs from Minnesotans while 50 percent of students feel that they do not take jobs from Minnesotans. Minnesotans with an income level ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 are more likely than those in other income groups, both higher and lower, to suggest that undocumented immigrants take jobs from Minnesota residents. Respondents from central Minnesota are more likely than respondents living in other areas of the state to believe that undocumented immigrants take jobs from Minnesotans.

## ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY STATEWIDE SURVEY OF MINNESOTA ADULTS 2003



MASCOT QUESTIONS December 2003

Prepared By Ms. Melissa Ackerman Student Survey Director

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### WHY WE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MASCOTS

This section of the report discusses questions pertaining to mascot issues. We asked these questions for a few reasons. First, the issue of Native American mascots have been an issue on the St. Cloud State University campus. Each year when the University of North Dakota hockey team comes to play St. Cloud State University there is a protest over North Dakota's use of Native American depictions as their school and sports teams' mascot. Also, periodically in the national press there are articles pertaining to the use of mascots, especially depiction of Native Americans. Although we are aware of a call in poll regarding mascots done by ESPN, to our knowledge there have been no systematic studies of public opinion on this issue. To this end, we have asked the following three questions to begin to look at opinions about sport mascots held by Minnesotans. In addition, we asked similar questions to the students of St. Cloud State University this past spring, and wanted to see if there was a difference between what those students thought and what the general population of Minnesota believes.

### SUBSTANTIVE FINDINGS

Table 1 displays the frequency results and percentages for the question on ethnic bias. The data indicates that most Minnesotans do not agree school or sports teams' mascots are biased. Only one-quarter of our respondents agree that school or sports teams mascots are biased. In terms of cross tabulation analysis, party affiliation made a difference. Those respondents who align themselves with the Democratic party and those that identify themselves as independent or other are more inclined to agree that mascots that depict certain ethnic groups are biased against those groups that they depict, with approximately 3 out of 10 agreeing. Republicans were not as likely to answer that they felt that these depictions were biased. Only one out of ten of the respondents who aligned themselves with the Republican party were inclined to agree with this question. The significant finding within employment was with respondents who were students and those who were disabled, with approximately one-half of those respondents agreeing that there was bias. In terms of differences in beliefs across areas of the state, the data shows that nearly 8 out of 10 respondents from Northern Minnesota disagree with the statement. This is approximately 10 percent higher than other areas of Minnesota.

| Mascots Table 1:<br>Ethnic Bias  |           |         |  |  |
|--|-----------|---------|--|--|
| "Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree<br>that school or sports team's mascots which depict certain<br>ethnic groups are biased against those groups that they<br>depict?" |           |         |  |  |
| RESPONSE   | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |  |  |
| Strongly Agree   | 46        | 8       |  |  |
| Agree  | 92        | 15      |  |  |
| Disagree   | 317       | 53      |  |  |
| Strongly Disagree  | 89        | 15      |  |  |
| Don't Know   | 58        | 9       |  |  |
| Total  |           |         |  |  |

| 602 | 100% |
|-----|------|





Table 2 displays the frequency results for the question that specifies whether respondents believe that Native American mascots are biased toward that group. Most Minnesotans do not agree with the use of Native American depictions as mascots. Just under 50 percent of respondents disagreed with their use. In terms of cross tabulation analysis, there again is a difference in response along the lines of party affiliation. Over one-half of respondents who align themselves with the Democratic Party disagreed with the use of Native Americans as team or schools mascots. Those that align themselves with the Republican party were not as likely to disagree with the use of Native American depictions. The difference from the last question is that those who responded that they were independent or align themselves with a party other than Democrats, Republicans, Greens, or the Independence Party are less likely to disagree than those aligning themselves as democrats. When looking at the sub-categories for age, those respondents who were between 18 and 34 are more likely to disagree with the use of Native Americans as mascots, one-half, than the other age groups, were four out of ten disagreeing.

Mascot Table 2: Native American Mascots

"Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the use of Native American depictions as team or school mascots?"

| RESPONSE          | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |  |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|--|
| Strongly Agree    | 34        | 6       |  |
| Agree             | 205       | 34      |  |
| Disagree          | 217       | 36      |  |
| Strongly Disagree | 61        | 10      |  |
| Don't Know        | 84        | 14      |  |
| Total             | 602       | 100%    |  |



Table 3 displays the results of the question we asked about changing school and sports team mascots that depict Native Americans. Seven of ten respondents did not think that teams should change their mascots. In terms of cross tabulation analysis, gender made a difference in answering this question. While three-quarters of males disagreed with changing mascots, only two-thirds of women disagreed. Eight out of ten respondents who aligned themselves with the Republican party disagreed that teams should change their mascots while three out of ten respondents who aligned themselves with the Democratic party and those who were independent or other agreed that teams should change their mascots. One-half of the respondents who were students agreed that mascots should be changed. This was higher than for other employment sub-groups. In terms of income, those respondents who made under \$25,000 were less likely to disagree with this statement than the other income groups, with only six out of ten disagreeing.

#### Mascot Table 3: Change Mascots

"Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that teams such as the Cleveland Indians, Washington Redskins, Florida State University Seminoles, and the University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux should change their mascots?"

| RESPONSE          | FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|
| Strongly Agree    | 50        | 9       |
| Agree             | 82        | 13      |
| Disagree          | 321       | 54      |
| Strongly Disagree | 104       | 17      |
| Don't Know        | 43        | 7       |
| Total             | 601       | 100%    |



# 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.