



Annual Minnesota Statewide Survey Fall 2012

Findings Report- Constitutional Amendments



FALL SCSU STATEWIDE SURVEY-MINNESOTA VIEWS ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

[NOTE: SEE SEPARATE METHODOLOGY AND QUESTIONNAIRE DOCUMENT]

The SCSU Survey has just completed its annual fall survey of Minnesota residents 18 years of age or older. As is the custom for the SCSU Survey, the bulk of our annual fall survey is devoted to future elections and other recent political issues in Minnesota's news. A series of questions related to other parts of the survey will be released in the near future. Breakdowns are available by party, age, combined household income, education, religious denomination, importance of religion, type of phone, region of the state, etc.

The first released findings relate to the proposed two amendments to the MN Constitution. The actual wording of the questions are:

This November Minnesota voters will vote on two proposed amendments to the Minnesota Constitution. One proposed amendment will ask, "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require all voters to present valid photo identification to vote and to require the state to provide free identification to eligible voters, effective July 1, 2013?" If you were to vote today, would you vote for the amendment, vote against the amendment, or not vote on this issue?

T: 10 10

1. VOTE FOR
2. VOTE AGAINST
3. NOT VOTE
8. DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
9. REFUSED

Do you find the wording of the photo id amendment to be confusing?

T: 4 10

1. YES
2. NO
8. DON'T KNOW
9. REFUSED

Q: Q5MARRY

T:

The second proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution asks "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman be valid or recognized as marriage in Minnesota?" If you were to vote today would you vote for the amendment, vote against the amendment, or not vote on this issue?

T: 10 8

1. VOTE FOR
2. VOTE AGAINST
3. NOT VOTE
8. DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
9. REFUSED

Q: MARRYCON

Do you find the wording of the marriage amendment to be confusing?

T: 4 10

1. YES

2. NO

8. DON'T KNOW

9. REFUSED

PHOTO ID-VOTE FOR-AGAINST- NOT VOTE-DON'T KNOW

	ALL RESPONDENTS N=600	LIKELY VOTERS N= 328
1. VOTE FOR	52%	55%
2. VOTE AGAINST	36	39
3. NOT VOTE	8	3
8. DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)	4	3
Total	100%	100%

Notes: Likely voters are respondents who stated they have a great deal of interest in the November election, almost certain to vote, and had a past history of voting or a good reason not to have voted.

Those who say they will not vote are probably a vote against the amendment(s).

PHOTO ID CONFUSED OR NOT

	ALL RESPONDENTS N=600	LIKELY VOTERS N=328
1. YES-CONFUSED	33%	33%
2. NO-NOT CONFUSED	60	61
8. DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)	7	6
Total	100%	100%

MARRIAGE AMENDMENT ID-VOTE FOR-AGAINST NOT VOTE-DON'T KNOW

	ALL RESPONDENTS N=600	LIKELY VOTERS N=328
1. VOTE FOR	41%	44%
2. VOTE AGAINST	49	51
3. NOT VOTE	7	3
8. DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)	3	2
	100%	100%

MARRIAGE AMENDMENT CONFUSED OR NOT

	ALL RESPONDENTS N=600	LIKELY VOTERS N=328
1. YES CONFUSED	31%	31%
2. NOT CONFUSED	66	65
8. DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)	3	4
Total	100%	100%

GOING BEYOND THE OVERALL FINDINGS: MORE DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING:

Some faculty members are on leave, in England, etc. If Dr. Steve Frank sfrank@stcloudstate is not available try Dr. Steven Wagner at swagner@stcloudstate.edu

See our results regarding marriage from the **2011** survey below.

Those More Likely to Favor the Photo ID Amendment:

Republicans, leaning Republicans about 8 of 10; conservatives, males

Those Most Likely to Oppose the Photo I.D. Amendment:

Democrats, moderates, liberals, females

Those Most Likely to Favor the Marriage Amendment

Republicans, conservatives, those who say religion is very important in their lives, respondents over 65, Baptists

Those Most Likely to Oppose the Marriage Amendment

7 of 10 Democrats, liberals, moderates, college graduates

About evenly split Catholics, Lutherans, education, most age groups up to 65 years of age, moderates

Other recent statewide survey marriage and photo id findings below. There appears to be some movement toward opposing both. Remember not voting is a no vote. It will probably take a majority over 54% or so and not a plurality for an amendment to pass.

OTHR RECENT STATEWIDE SURVEYS

Photo ID

MN Poll 52% for 44% against **PPP** 53% for 47% against

Survey USA 53% for 47% against,

Marriage

MN POLL Sept 49% for 46% against **PPP** 46% for 49% against

Oct 25 A total of 53 percent of those polled support the amendment, compared to 41 percent who oppose it and 6 percent undecided,

Survey USA 53% for 40% against

FROM THE 2011 SCSU SURVEY

In response to the proposed Minnesota Constitutional amendment concerning same-sex marriage we constructed a question that we believed will be similar to the question on the ballot asking respondents "Should the Minnesota constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?" The overall results showed that 44 percent of respondents believed that the Minnesota Constitution should be amended and 47 percent believed that it should not be amended; nine percent of respondents either refused to answer or said that they were not sure.

Should the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes-Amend	273	43.6	47.9	47.9
	No-Do Not Amend	297	47.4	52.1	100.0
	Total	569	91.0	100.0	
Missing	Refused/Not Sure	57	9.0		
Total		626	100.0		

*The Missing Percent is made up of those who refused or said they were not sure

When the responses were adjusted by religion's importance in the respondents' life the results were as follows: 57 percent of those who said religion was important in their lives said the Minnesota Constitution should be amended whereas only 29 percent of those who said religion was not important believed that the constitution should be amended. The Pearson Chi-Square test shows that there is a significant association between importance of religion and the decision to amend or not amend the constitution¹.

¹ Pearson Chi-Square Value: 15.602, df: 1, p<0.001

Should the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?