

ST. CLOUD STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
**SURVEY**



# Annual Minnesota Statewide Survey Fall 2012

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RELEASED 10-29-12

**“Do you think things in the state are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?”**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	11	12
<b>Wrong Track</b>	42%	36%	36%	39%	44%	37%	39%	44%	56%	55%	48%
<b>Right Direction</b>	38%	48%	50%	46%	41%	46%	42%	43%	26%	26%	35
<b>Neutral</b>	14%	8%	8%	9%	9%	11%	12%	9%	12%	14%	9
<b>Don't Know</b>	6%	8%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	4%	6%	5%	8

**MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM FACING THE STATE  
TOP 5**

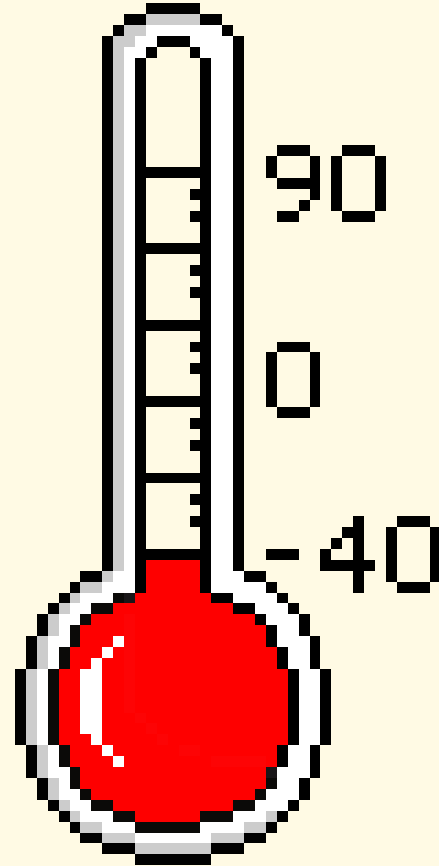
OVERALL ALL PROBLEMS    DEMS 36% REPUB. 29%

2012	OVERALL TOP 5	REP BETTER	DEM BETTER		
ECONOMY	16%	41%	31%		
UNEMPLOY MENT	12	23	41		
BUDGET	7	34	24		
TAXES	6				
OTHER	9				

# WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS FACING THE STATE? 2011

- Respondents were also asked to indicate what they feel is the biggest problem facing the state today. The top six problems facing the state, according to our respondents are, from the top, unemployment/job opportunities (22%), budget and budget deficit (20%), the economy (14%), education funding and quality (9%), and politics/politicians and taxes were tied (6%). In 2010 the top five were: the economy, budget and budget deficit, unemployment/job opportunities, education funding and quality, and taxes. In 2009, the top five were: health care, budget, education, unemployment, taxes. In 2008, the top five were education, taxes, financial/mortgage crisis, unemployment, health care. In 2007, education, taxes, health care, roads, crime. In 2006, education, taxes, health care, crime, roads.
- We then asked the respondents which party they believe can do a better job of fixing that issue. An examination of the top six problems this year and which political party can do a better job of fixing them, we found the respondents were more likely to see Republicans doing a better job tackling the budget and taxes but Democrats were seen to better tackle the economy, education and unemployment/jobs. These findings are similar to last year; the only addition is respondents were split in who they saw better dealing with the issue of politics and politicians.

# FEELING THERMOMETER



- Thank you. Here is a different kind of question.
- 
- 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. 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 the person at the 50-degree mark

## THE FEELING THERMOMETER

Name	2012 Mean	2011 Mean	2010 Mean	2012 % of Respondents who didn't know/ couldn't judge	2011 % of Respondents who didn't know/couldn't judge
Barack Obama	54	50	49	1%	0
Michele Bachmann	37	33	N/A	8	3
Mark Dayton	55	52	48	8	4
Amy Klobuchar	64	60	N/A	8	15
Dan Severson	NA	47	N/A	N/A	74
Joe Arwood*	NA	47	N/A	N/A	85
Mitt Romney	42	48	N/A	3	11
Al Franken	49			N/A	
Hermain Cain	NA	47	N/A	N/A	18
Kirt Bills	47			59%	
Tea Party	NA	37	N/A	N/A	14
Wall Street	NA	37	N/A	N/A	8
Occupy Wall Street	NA	44	N/A	N/A	25

\* 2011 Joe Arwood was added part way through the conduction of the survey N/A: person was not rated in 2010 survey



# US SENATE

- The actual wordings of the questions are:
- Ok, our next several questions relate to the November U.S. Senate election in Minnesota. If the election for U.S. Senate was being held today, would you vote for Democrat candidate Amy Klobuchar
- or Republican candidate Kurt Bills?
- 1. KLOBUCHAR
- 2. BILLS
- 3. OTHER CANDIDATE [VOLUNTEERED]
- 4. NOT SURE
- 8. WON'T VOTE
- 9. REFUSED

● Q: Q7USSENC

- Although you are not sure, would you say you lean more toward Bills, Klobuchar, or a candidate of another party?
- 1. LEANING BILLS
- 2. LEANING KLOBUCHAR
- 3. LEANING OTHER CANDIDATE
- 4. WON'T VOTE
- 8. DON'T KNOW
- 9. REFUSED
-

# SCSU SURVEY

all respondents and likely voters

October 15 to October 21, 2012

**ACTUAL VOTE** KLOBUCHAR 65% BILLS 31%  
34% spread

		ALL SEN=597	ALL SEN + LEANERS N=552	ALL SEN + COMBIN ED LIKELY VOTERS n=328
	KLOBUCHAR	61%	62%	63%
	BILLS	27	32	36
	OTHER]- VOLUNTEERED	2	6	1
	NOT SURE/ WON'T VOTE	10		
		100%	100%	100%

- **All**= doesn't include leaners from follow up question
- **All+ leaners** both questions
- **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.
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- **OTHR RECENT STATEWIDE SURVEYS**
- **MN Poll** 51% KLOBUCHAR% 28% BILLS (one month ago)
- 10-29 KLOBUCHAR 65% BILLS 22%
- **PPP** 57% KLOBUCHAR 31% BILLS 10-09-12
- **Survey USA** 58% KLOBUCHAR 30% BILLS 10-15-12

- Why are you going to vote for this person?
- [PROBE - DO NOT READ - SELECT ONLY 1 THAT APPLIES]
- 10. SOCIAL ISSUES IE ABORTION
- 11. BACKGROUND-PROF/PERSONAL
- 12. BUDGET POSITION
- 13. CHARACTER/LIKE THEM AS PERSON
- 14. CRIME POSITION
- 15. DON'T LIKE OPPOSITION
- 16. ECONOMIC PLAN
- 17. EDUCATION/SCHOOL
- 18. ENVIRONMENT POSITION
- 19. GOOD TRACK RECORD-EXPERIENCE
- 20. GUN/ HUNTING POSITION
- 21. HEALTH CARE POSITION
- 22. IMMIGRATION POSITION
- 23. INTEGRITY/SCRUPLES
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3

- 24. NO PARTICULAR REASON
- 25. NOT A TYPICAL CANDIDATE
- 26. SAME POLITICAL IDEOLOGY
- 27. SAME POLITICAL PARTY
- 28. SENIOR ISSUE POSITION
- 29. SOMEBODY DIFFERENT
- 30. TAXES
- 31. TERRORISM POSITION
- 32. TIME FOR A CHANGE
- 33. SAME PARTY AS PRES CANDIDATE
- 34. OTHER
- 35. DON'T KNOW
- 36. REFUSED
- 7. NO OTHER RESPONSE

# OVERHEAD ON WHY SENATE

# 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**All**= doesn't include leaners from follow up question

**All+ leaners** both questions

**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.

		ALL PRES N=600	ALL PRES -+ LEANERS N=556	ALL PRES + COMBINED LIKELY VOTERS
	OBAMA	50%	56%	53%
	ROMNEY	37	42	45
	GARY JOHNSON - LIBERTARIAN [VOLUNTEERED]	1	All others 2	ALL OTHERS 2
	SOMEONE ELSE [VOLUNTEERED]	4		
	DON'T KNOW	87		
	REFUSED	2		
		100%	100%	100%

# 2011 HORSERACE QUESTIONS

	Obama vs. Bachmann	Obama vs. Cain	Obama vs. Romney
Obama	53%	47%	45%
Opponent	25%	36%	39%



# PRES. ELECTION

- **The President** has a comfortable 13% lead among all Minnesotans which narrows to a still comfortable 8% lead among likely voters. As noted below other statewide polls are finding the same margins. However this is what is called a “fluid opinion” [some say snapshot] and can change.
- In most demographic groups the President either has a slight advantage to a large advantage in groups such as women.
- The President has the advantage in most of the demographic areas with the exception of {note some of the breakdowns have small n’s and should be interpreted very carefully}: 45-64 year olds [for the first time the survey breaks out the 65+ into 65-74 and 75+]; those Minnesotans with some college education; Baptists (Catholics and Lutherans are evenly divided); and among self-identified conservatives
- By gender he does slightly better among males but very well with females [about an 18% difference].
- **Governor Romney** does best with Republicans, those with some college education, conservatives, and Baptists.

# 2011 SCSU SURVEY

## MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

\*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

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		

# MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

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

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

# MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

- **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
- **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.**

# MARRIAGE CONT.-OTHER POLLS

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

# PHOTO ID

## PHOTO ID-VOTE FOR-AGAINST- NOT VOTE-DON'T KNOW Actual 46% for

	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%

### Photo ID -OTHER POLLS

**MN Poll 52% for 44% against**

**PPP 53% for 47% against**

**Survey USA 53% for 47% against,**

# PHOTO ID

- **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

# JOB APPROVAL -OBAMA

Q11OBAMA					
How would you rate the overall performance of Barack Obama as President? Would you rate his performance as excelle					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 1. EXCELLENT	56	9.3	9.4	9.4
	2 2. PRETTY GOOD	222	37.0	37.3	46.7
	3 3. ONLY FAIR	149	24.8	25.0	71.7
	4 4. POOR	165	27.5	27.7	99.4
	8 8. DON'T KNOW	3	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	596	99.2	100.0	
Missing	9 9. REFUSED	5	.8		
Total		601	100.0		

**2010 -38% POSITIVE**  
**2011-41% POSITIVE**



# JOB APPROVAL - DAYTON

<b>Q10DAYTON</b>					
<b>How would you rate the overall performance of Mark Dayton as Governor? Would you rate his performance as excellent</b>					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	EXCELLENT	45	7.4	7.5	7.5
	PRETTY GOOD	271	45.1	45.4	52.9
	ONLY FAIR	170	28.3	28.5	81.4
	POOR	79	13.2	13.3	94.7
	DON'T KNOW	32	5.3	5.3	100.0
	Total	597	99.3	100.0	
Missing	REFUSED	4	.7		
Total		601	100.0		

**2011 POSITIVE 45%**

THAT'S IT

