



Annual Minnesota Statewide Survey Fall 2012

Findings Report- MN US SENATE ELECTION"

RELEASED 10-29-12 (updated 10-30)



FALL SCSU STATEWIDE SURVEY-Minnesota Preferences for US SENATE

[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.

This release relate to one of the two "horserace" questions-Minnesotans choice for US SENATE

Senator Amy Klobuchar has a large and probably insurmountable lead over Republican challenger Kurt Bills. The lead is 27% among the smaller number of likely voters and 34% among all Minnesotans. This is consistent with various other state polls (see below).

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

SELECT 6 1 1 0 OFF ON

IF (ANS > 3) SKIPTO Q4PHOTO

Q: Q9USSEND

Why are you going to vote for this person?

[PROBE - DO NOT READ - SELECT ONLY 1 THAT APPLIES]

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10. SOCIAL ISSUES IE ABORTION | 24. NO PARTICULAR REASON |
| 11. BACKGROUND-PROF/PERSONAL | 25. NOT A TYPICAL CANDIDATE |
| 12. BUDGET POSITION | 26. SAME POLITICAL IDEOLOGY |
| 13. CHARACTER/LIKE THEM AS PERSON | 27. SAME POLITICAL PARTY |
| 14. CRIME POSITION | 28. SENIOR ISSUE POSITION |
| 15. DON'T LIKE OPPOSITION | 29. SOMEBODY DIFFERENT |
| 16. ECONOMIC PLAN | 30. TAXES |
| 17. EDUCATION/SCHOOL | 31. TERRORISM POSITION |
| 18. ENVIRONMENT POSITION | 32. TIME FOR A CHANGE |
| 19. GOOD TRACK RECORD-EXPERIENCE | 33. SAME PARTY AS PRES CANDIDATE |
| 20. GUN/ HUNTING POSITION | 34. OTHER |
| 21. HEALTH CARE POSITION | 35. DON'T KNOW |
| 22. IMMIGRATION POSITION | 36. REFUSED |
| 23. INTEGRITY/SCRUPLES | 37. NO OTHER RESPONSE |

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.

[NEVER TELL WHO THE PERSON IS OR WHAT THEY DO-YOU CAN REREAD THE NAME]

Do you usually consider yourself to be a Democrat, Republican, Libertarian party member, Green party member, Minnesota Independence party member, another party, or are you an independent who is not a member of any party?

1. DEMOCRAT
2. REPUBLICAN
3. LIBERTARIAN
4. GREEN
5. MN INDEPENDENCE PARTY
6. TEA PARTY [VOLUNTEERED]
7. OTHER PARTY [VOLUNTEERED]
8. INDEPENDENT, NOT A MEMBER OF ANY PARTY
9. NOT POLITICAL
10. DON'T KNOW
11. REFUSED

IF (ANSWER < 8) SKIPTO QVOTE19

IF (ANSWER > 8) SKIPTO QVOTE19

Q: PARTY2

Although you are an independent, do you usually consider yourself to be closer to the Republicans, Democrats, the Libertarian Party, the Green Party, Tea Party, or the Minnesota Independence Party?

1. DEMOCRAT
2. REPUBLICAN
3. LIBERTARIAN
4. GREEN
5. MN INDEPENDENCE PARTY
6. TEA PARTY
7. NOT CLOSE TO ANY PARTY [VOLUNTEERED]
8. DON'T KNOW
9. REFUSED

Q: QVOTE19

Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in the November general election - a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or no interest at all?

1. GREAT DEAL
2. FAIR AMOUNT
3. ONLY A LITTLE
4. NO INTEREST AT ALL
8. DON'T KNOW
9. REFUSED

Q: QVOTE20

What are the chances of your voting in the upcoming November election?

Are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or do you think you will not vote?

1. ALMOST CERTAIN
2. PROBABLY VOTE
3. 50-50
4. WON'T VOTE
8. DON'T KNOW
9. REFUSED

Q: QVOTE22

T:

Do you happen to recall if you voted in the 2008 Presidential election or 2010 election?

1. YES VOTED IN BOTH
2. VOTED IN 2008 ELECTION
3. VOTED IN 2010 ELECTION
4. DIDN'T VOTE BUT HAD GOOD REASON [age, illness, etc.]
5. DIDN'T VOTE IN EITHER ELECTION
8. DON'T KNOW
9. REFUSED

	ALL SEN=597	ALL SEN + LEANERS N- 552	ALLSEN + COMBINED LIKELY VOTERS n=328
1. KLOBUCHAR	61%	62%	63%
2. BILLS	27	32	36
3. OTHER]-VOLUNTEERED	2	6	1
4. 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.

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

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

SOME TABLES (more breakdowns available upon request)

[Tables are based on all respondents]

	PARTY			IDEOLOGY		
	DEM	REP	IND	LIB	MOD	CONSERVATIVE
KLOBUCHAR	92%	23%	64%	83%	74%	31%
BILLS	3	70	19	3	13	61

- a) Party does not include leaners, other and don't know.
- b) Ideology is combined very and somewhat liberal or conservative.

	RELIGION					IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION	
	CATH	LUTHERAN	OTHER PROT	BAPTIST	NONE	VERY- /SOMEHAT	LITTLE OR NO
KLOBUCHAR	55%	71%	73%	38%	70%	59%	64%
BILLS	30	25	19	48	16	30	24

- A) Religion-some groups excluded. Some have small n's
- B) Importance of religion-very and somewhat combined also little or no importance combined

	AGE						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
KLOBUCHAR	66%	58	60%	52%	65%	81%	68%
BILLS	12	21	35	38	30	15	27

	EDUCATION				
	12 OR LESS	POST HIGH	SOME COLLEGE	COLLEGE GRAD	GRADUATE WORK
KLOBUCHAR	55%	67%	60%	61%	75%
BILLS	25	22	30	32	17

GENDER

	GENDER	
	MALE	FEMALE
KLOBUCHAR	57%	67%
BILLS	32	22

TOP SEVEN REASONS WHY RESPONDENTS WILL VOTE FOR KLOBUCHAR OR BILLS

	Personal characteristics	Good track record	Same ideology	Same party	No particular reason	Time for change	Same Party as President
OVERALL	17%	12%	11%	10%	5%	4%	4%
KLOBUCHAR	86%	98%	53%	58%	67%	50%	38%
BILLS	11%	12%	45%	40%	29%	50%	52%

Other factors received 3% or less abortion-social issues, background, budget position, don't like the other candidate, economic problems, and others.

FEELING TERMOMETER

	MEAN scale 0-100 degrees	% saying don't know or can't judge	% giving a 0	2011 rating - mean	2006 rating - mean
KLOBUCHAR	63	6%	4%	60	63
BILLS	47	58%	8%	---	---

Findings for all 7 will be released in the near future (Obama, Romney, Bachman, Franken, Dayton).

About 3% or less said don't know or can't judge for Obama or Romney.

Means are available for various demographics. For example:

MEANS

	Republicans	independents	Democrats	men	women
KLOBUCHAR	47	61	80	58	69
BILLS	62	47	33	47	46