MINNESOTA POLL: $1.9 billion surplus

The Star Tribune Minnesota Poll surveyed 625 Minnesota adults March 16-18, 2015. Respondents were reached on both landlines (68 percent) and cell phones (32 percent). The poll has a margin of sampling error of 4.0 percentage points, plus or minus.

**QUESTION: The state is looking at a projected surplus of $1.9 billion. From the following options, what should the TOTAL do with this surplus money?  (ORDER ROTATED)**

**- Refund most of it to taxpayers**

**- Spend most of it to improve or add services**

**- Save most of it in a reserve fund for future use**

**REFUND SPEND SAVE COMBINATION NOT SURE**

**TOTAL 38% 19% 30% 12% 1%**

**REGION REFUND SPEND SAVE COMBINATION NOT SURE**

Hennepin/Ramsey 27% 26% 28% 18% 1%

Rest of metro 46% 12% 30% 11% 1%

Rest of state 40% 19% 31% 9% 1%

**GENDER REFUND SPEND SAVE COMBINATION NOT SURE**

Men 37% 24% 29% 9% 1%

Women 38% 15% 31% 16% -

**AGE REFUND SPEND SAVE COMBINATION NOT SURE**

18-34 32% 27% 30% 11% -

35-49 41% 16% 31% 12% -

50-64 41% 14% 31% 13% 1%

65+ 34% 21% 28% 15% 2%

**INCOME REFUND SPEND SAVE COMBINATION NOT SURE**

<$50,000 45% 16% 27% 12% -

$50,000+ 30% 22% 35% 12% 1%

**PARTY ID REFUND SPEND SAVE COMBINATION NOT SURE**

DFL/Democrat 25% 27% 26% 22% -

Republican 52% 2% 43% 3% -

Independent 39% 24% 27% 8% 2%

Other/none 35% 24% 23% 17% 1%

**QUESTION: If TOTAL spending is increased, which one of the following areas do you feel should have top priority? (ORDER ROTATED)**

**- K-12 public education   
- Higher Education   
- Roads   
- Health care   
- Social services**

**K-12 HIGHER ED ROADS HEALTH SOCIAL NOT SURE**

**TOTAL 34% 8% 28% 18% 6% 6%**

**REGION K-12 HIGHER ED ROADS HEALTH SOCIAL NOT SURE**

Hennepin/Ramsey 35% 13% 32% 11% 2% 7%

Rest of metro 37% 4% 29% 20% 7% 3%

Rest of state 32% 7% 23% 22% 9% 7%

**GENDER K-12 HIGHER ED ROADS HEALTH SOCIAL NOT SURE**

Men 33% 4% 37% 16% 5% 5%

Women 35% 12% 19% 20% 7% 7%

**AGE K-12 HIGHER ED ROADS HEALTH SOCIAL NOT SURE**

18-34 32% 8% 23% 25% 6% 6%

35-49 28% 10% 29% 16% 9% 8%

50-64 48% 9% 24% 12% 6% 1%

65+ 28% 5% 34% 21% 3% 9%

**INCOME K-12 HIGHER ED ROADS HEALTH SOCIAL NOT SURE**

<$50,000 24% 7% 28% 27% 8% 6%

$50,000+ 43% 7% 29% 11% 7% 3%

**PARTY ID K-12 HIGHER ED ROADS HEALTH SOCIAL NOT SURE**

DFL/Democrat 35% 7% 26% 19% 8% 5%

Republican 46% 7% 27% 15% 3% 2%

Independent 27% 11% 29% 17% 8% 8%

Other/none 27% 7% 30% 20% 7% 9%

**QUESTION: If some or all of the surplus is returned, should it be refunded proportionately based on how much income tax people paid, be targeted to help certain groups of people, or should an equal amount be given to every resident?**

**PROPORTIONAL TARGETED EQUAL NOT SURE**

**TOTAL 57% 9% 27% 7%**

**REGION PROPORTIONAL TARGETED EQUAL NOT SURE**

Hennepin/Ramsey 57% 11% 24% 8%

Rest of metro 67% 4% 22% 7%

Rest of state 49% 10% 34% 7%

**GENDER PROPORTIONAL TARGETED EQUAL NOT SURE**

Men 67% 5% 22% 6%

Women 47% 12% 33% 8%

**AGE PROPORTIONAL TARGETED EQUAL NOT SURE**

18-34 52% 7% 32% 9%

35-49 58% 13% 23% 6%

50-64 68% 6% 24% 2%

65+ 47% 9% 32% 12%

**INCOME PROPORTIONAL TARGETED EQUAL NOT SURE**

<$50,000 46% 10% 37% 7%

$50,000+ 69% 8% 19% 4%

**PARTY ID PROPORTIONAL TARGETED EQUAL NOT SURE**

DFL/Democrat 47% 16% 29% 8%

Republican 77% - 22% 1%

Independent 55% 8% 30% 7%

Other/none 48% 11% 27% 14%