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Minnesota at a glance.....

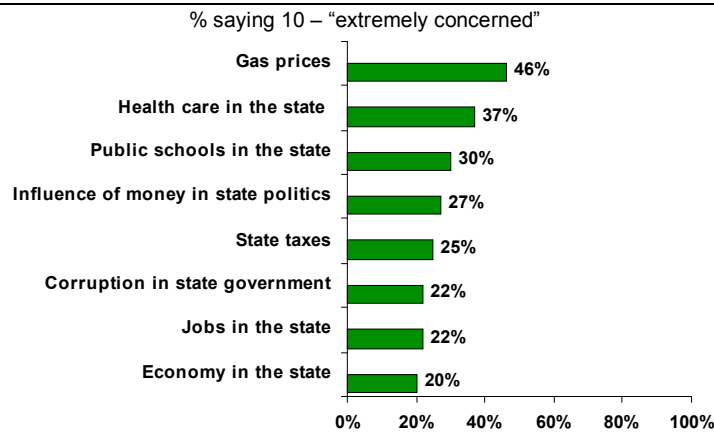
Although they hold a slightly more positive view of state government than others in the Midwest, Minnesotans still believe that the influence of money is holding them back. Over two thirds of Minnesota residents believe that their elected leaders cannot keep their promises on key issues due to the influence of money in politics. Additionally, their concerns about money in politics are on a level with those for schools, taxes, and jobs.

Minnesota residents are certain, however, that the system can and must be changed. They support a number of political and government reforms that would make the system more honest and responsive. Furthermore, large majorities reject the idea that the influence of money and political corruption are pervasive problems that are not worth addressing.

Below is a summary and comparison of key Minnesota findings:

Minnesotans are concerned about making state government work better ...

Minnesota Concerns



Q. On a scale of one to ten where ten means extremely concerned and one means not concerned at all, how concerned are you personally about each of the following issues in your state: [RANDOMIZE Q6-Q13]

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 12. Gas prices | 11. The influence of money in state politics |
| 7. Health care in [STATE] | 6. The economy in [STATE] |
| 13. Jobs in [STATE] | 8. Corruption in state government |
| 10. Public schools in [STATE] | 9. State taxes |

Joyce Foundation Survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, n=2040 residents of 5 Midwestern states (Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin), June 14-July 6, 2006

Connecting the dots...

69 percent of Minnesota residents believe that “unless we limit the influence of money in government, elected officials will not be able to keep their promises on issues that are important to people like me.”

Citizens are engaged and won't give up...

74 percent of Minnesota residents disagreed with the statement that “corruption in government will always be a problem, so trying to fix it will not make much difference.”

59 percent of Minnesota residents disagreed with the statement that “money will always influence government decisions, so trying to fix it will not make much difference.”

Reforms widely supported....

57 percent of Minnesota residents feel that prohibiting judges from taking money from interests that may have cases in their courts would make a big difference in making government work better.

54 percent of Minnesota residents believe public financing of campaigns would make a big difference in making government work better.

54 percent of Minnesota residents feel that requiring lobbyists to fully report their activities would make a big difference in making government work better.

Statement from C. Scott Cooper of Take Action Minnesota

This polling is consistent with what we hear from our members every day. They know there are problems with our democracy and our government, but they haven't given up. They believe these problems can be fixed, and they're willing to be part of the solution.

Minnesotans understand that when you eliminate corruption and big money from politics, it makes it much easier to provide good health care, great education, clean air and water, and living wages. That's why TakeAction Minnesota is leading the fight for Fair And Clean Elections and why we're coordinating the Minnesota Voting Rights Coalition.

Hopefully, this poll will help more public officials see preservation of our democracy as a key issue that their constituents care about. Even many of the legislators who have supported pro-democracy reforms like full public financing of elections have often assumed that voters don't know about or care about such

esoteric issues. This poll shows that what we've been saying all along is true: people know about the influence of money in politics, they care about taking back control of their government, and they believe we can bring about that change.

(Additional information about the five-state survey as well as reform recommendations for Minnesota can be found on the Take Action Minnesota's web site at www.takeactionminnesota.org.)

The Joyce Foundation Survey was conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart. A random survey of 2,040 residents of five Midwestern states was conducted from June 14-July 6, 2006. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.2 percentage points for the entire study. The margin of sampling error for individual state results is plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

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