

Bush Foundation Citizen Solutions Poll
Data Collected August 1–4, 2011
N = 600 Respondents

The first questions ask about your general opinion about how things are going for Minnesota's economy.
1. In your opinion, do you think Minnesota is heading in the right direction, or are we on the wrong track?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Right direction	142	23.7	26.9	26.9
	Wrong track	387	64.4	73.1	100.0
	Total	529	88.2	100.0	
Missing	Don't know/no opinion	70	11.7		
	Refused	1	.1		
	Total	71	11.8		
Total		600	100.0		

2. In general, when it comes to quality of life in Minnesota, would you say things are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Getting better	36	6.1	6.2	6.2
	Getting worse	242	40.3	40.9	47.1
	About the same	312	52.0	52.9	100.0
	Total	591	98.4	100.0	
Missing	Don't know/no opinion	9	1.6		
Total		600	100.0		

3. How closely did you follow the budget debate and government shutdown? Would you say that you followed this news story...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very closely,	181	30.1	30.1	30.1
	Somewhat closely,	283	47.2	47.3	77.4
	Not very closely, or	111	18.4	18.4	95.8
	Not at all?	25	4.2	4.2	100.0
	Total	600	99.9	100.0	
Missing	Don't know/no opinion	0	.1		
Total		600	100.0		

4. Looking back, how do you feel about the FINAL BUDGET AGREEMENT? Would you say that you are very satisfied with THE FINAL AGREEMENT TO BALANCE THE STATE'S BUDGET, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the budget agreement?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very satisfied	6	1.0	1.0	1.0
	Somewhat satisfied	176	29.3	30.3	31.3
	Somewhat dissatisfied	210	34.9	36.2	67.5
	Very dissatisfied	189	31.4	32.5	100.0
	Total	580	96.6	100.0	
Missing	Don't know/no opinion	20	3.4		
Total		600	100.0		

6. And what about THE PROCESS our elected officials used to reach the final budget agreement? Would you say that you are very satisfied with the process, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the process that was used?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very satisfied	8	1.3	1.3	1.3
	Somewhat satisfied	130	21.7	22.8	24.1
	Somewhat dissatisfied	190	31.6	33.2	57.3
	Very dissatisfied	244	40.7	42.7	100.0
	Total	572	95.3	100.0	
Missing	Don't know/no opinion	28	4.7		
Total		600	100.0		

8. Minnesota's elected officials did the best they could to reach an acceptable solution, given the very large deficit they started with. Do you...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree,	20	3.3	3.4	3.4
	Somewhat agree,	183	30.5	31.6	35.0
	Somewhat disagree, or	220	36.6	38.0	73.0
	Strongly disagree?	156	26.0	27.0	100.0
	Total	578	96.4	100.0	
Missing	Don't know/no opinion	20	3.3		
	Refused	2	.3		
	Total	22	3.6		
Total		600	100.0		

9. The voice of average citizens has been lost in the debate about Minnesota's budget. Many people had great ideas about how to fix the deficit, but Minnesota's elected officials weren't listening to what people were saying. Do you...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree,	317	52.9	54.8	54.8
	Somewhat agree,	182	30.3	31.3	86.1
	Somewhat disagree, or	51	8.4	8.7	94.8
	Strongly disagree?	30	5.0	5.2	100.0
	Total	580	96.6	100.0	
Missing	Don't know/no opinion	19	3.2		
	Refused	1	.2		
	Total	20	3.4		
Total		600	100.0		

10. Minnesotans tend to look to government to solve too many of our problems. Do you...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree,	196	32.6	33.2	33.2
	Somewhat agree,	179	29.9	30.4	63.5
	Somewhat disagree, or	135	22.5	22.9	86.4
	Strongly disagree?	80	13.4	13.6	100.0
	Total	590	98.4	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	7	1.1		
	Refused	3	.4		
	Total	10	1.6		
Total		600	100.0		

11. Government services are a critical part of Minnesota's economy and quality of life. Do you...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree,	257	42.9	43.6	43.6
	Somewhat agree,	236	39.3	40.0	83.6
	Somewhat disagree, or	46	7.7	7.9	91.4
	Strongly disagree?	51	8.4	8.6	100.0
	Total	590	98.4	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	9	1.4		
	Refused	1	.2		
	Total	10	1.6		
Total		600	100.0		

12. What about consolidating government by reducing the number of counties, school districts, and/or state agencies. Do you think that should be...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The most central piece of the solution,	23	3.8	4.0	4.0
	A major part of the solution,	80	13.4	13.9	17.8
	A minor part of the solution, or	239	39.8	41.2	59.1
	Not really part of the solution at all?	237	39.5	40.9	100.0
	Total	579	96.5	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	20	3.3		
	Refused	1	.2		
	Total	21	3.5		
Total		600	100.0		

13. What about reducing the amount of services provided by government. Do you think that should be...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The most central piece of the solution,	35	5.8	6.0	6.0
	A major part of the solution,	171	28.5	29.5	35.5
	A minor part of the solution, or	218	36.4	37.6	73.1
	Not really part of the solution at all?	156	26.0	26.9	100.0
	Total	580	96.7	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	18	2.9		
	Refused	2	.3		
	Total	20	3.3		
Total		600	100.0		

14. What about reducing the number of people eligible for state services. Do you think that should be...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The most central piece of the solution,	63	10.5	11.0	11.0
	A major part of the solution,	199	33.2	34.7	45.6
	A minor part of the solution, or	189	31.4	32.8	78.4
	Not really part of the solution at all?	124	20.7	21.6	100.0
	Total	575	95.9	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	22	3.7		
	Refused	2	.4		
	Total	25	4.1		
Total		600	100.0		

15. What about making government services more efficient. Do you think that should be...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The most central piece of the solution,	146	24.3	25.0	25.0
	A major part of the solution,	337	56.1	57.9	82.9
	A minor part of the solution, or	80	13.3	13.7	96.6
	Not really part of the solution at all?	20	3.3	3.4	100.0
	Total	582	97.0	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	16	2.7		
	Refused	2	.3		
	Total	18	3.0		
Total		600	100.0		

16. What about increasing tax rates for income and/or sales taxes to provide more revenue. Do you think that should be...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The most central piece of the solution,	38	6.4	6.5	6.5
	A major part of the solution,	159	26.4	26.9	33.5
	A minor part of the solution, or	180	30.0	30.6	64.0
	Not really part of the solution at all?	212	35.3	36.0	100.0
	Total	589	98.1	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	10	1.6		
	Refused	1	.2		
	Total	11	1.9		
Total		600	100.0		

17. What about reforming our tax system so state revenue is more stable, which would reduce the size of our deficits AND surpluses over time. Do you think that should be...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The most central piece of the solution,	124	20.6	21.6	21.6
	A major part of the solution,	290	48.3	50.6	72.1
	A minor part of the solution, or	125	20.9	21.9	94.0
	Not really part of the solution at all?	34	5.7	6.0	100.0
	Total	573	95.5	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	23	3.8		
	Refused	4	.7		
	Total	27	4.5		
Total		600	100.0		

18. What about finding new sources of state revenue, such as sales tax on food, clothing, or Internet purchases or new gambling revenues. Do you think that should be...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The most central piece of the solution,	57	9.4	9.8	9.8
	A major part of the solution,	164	27.3	28.5	38.3
	A minor part of the solution, or	185	30.9	32.2	70.5
	Not really part of the solution at all?	170	28.3	29.5	100.0
	Total	576	95.9	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	21	3.4		
	Refused	4	.6		
	Total	24	4.1		
Total		600	100.0		

19. What about borrowing funds or delaying payments into the future, to pay for current deficits in state spending. Do you think that should be...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The most central piece of the solution,	5	.8	.9	.9
	A major part of the solution,	48	8.0	8.3	9.1
	A minor part of the solution, or	153	25.4	26.2	35.3
	Not really part of the solution at all?	377	62.9	64.7	100.0
	Total	583	97.2	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	16	2.6		
	Refused	1	.2		
	Total	17	2.8		
Total		600	100.0		

20. The State of Minnesota is likely to face additional budget challenges in the future. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion about generally how the Governor and State Legislature should approach this problem? Would you say...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	We need to find ways to raise more revenue to fund state services,	84	14.1	14.6	14.6
	We need to cut services and live within our means, or	166	27.7	28.6	43.2
	We need to BOTH find more revenue and cuts some state services?	329	54.9	56.8	100.0
	Total	580	96.6	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	17	2.8		
	Refused	3	.6		
	Total	20	3.4		
Total		600	100.0		

In politics, do you consider yourself to be...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very conservative,	48	8.0	8.4	8.4
	Conservative,	155	25.9	27.4	35.8
	Moderate,	185	30.8	32.6	68.4
	Liberal, or	145	24.1	25.5	93.9
	Very liberal?	23	3.9	4.1	98.0
	IF VOLUNTEERED: Other	11	1.9	2.0	100.0
	Total	568	94.6	100.0	
Missing	Don t know/no opinion	29	4.8		
	Refused	3	.5		
	Total	32	5.4		
Total		600	100.0		

Do you consider yourself to be a member of a political party? If so, which party?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not a member of any political party	280	46.6	50.2	50.2
	Democrat or DFL	132	22.0	23.7	73.9
	Republican	98	16.4	17.7	91.6
	Independence	34	5.6	6.0	97.6
	Green	6	.9	1.0	98.6
	Tea	3	.5	.6	99.2
	Other	4	.7	.8	100.0
	Total	557	92.8	100.0	
Missing	Don't know/no opinion	28	4.7		
	Refused	15	2.5		
	Total	43	7.2		
Total	600	100.0			