

Trust in leadership

Minnesota residents have the most trust in the leadership of law enforcement, colleges and universities, and charitable organizations. They are least trusting of the leadership of labor unions, the media, and state government. When compared with the average U.S. adult (using a Harris Poll conducted in 2010), Minnesotans are far more trusting of leaders from all types of institutions, with the exception of small businesses (comparisons to the average U.S. adult could not be offered in all categories because of differences in polling categories). However, it is important to note that the Harris Poll used different question wording (“confidence” in leaders, instead of “trust” in leaders), as well as slightly different wording on some of the items, so caution should be used when interpreting these comparisons to the national poll.

- Women, residents with children, residents with more education, and younger residents have more trust in leadership compared with other residents overall.
- Non-metro area residents have similar levels of trust in leadership compared to metro-area residents, except in areas of health care and labor unions.

Advice for elected officials

When asked what one piece of advice they would give to elected officials in their state as they work on these and other issues of importance to their state, by far the most common suggestions provided by the residents of Minnesota fall under the following themes:

- Fiscal responsibility, a balanced budget, and don't waste money (18% of respondents).
- Listen to your constituents, represent the people that elected you, remember who you work for (16% of respondents).
- Political parties need to work together and quit fighting, don't blindly follow party lines, and be open-minded (15% of respondents).
- Use common sense and do what's best for the people, make tough decisions, and don't pander to lobbyists (10% of respondents).

Methods and respondent demographics

Households were randomly selected to participate in this survey using address-based sampling. Adults were chosen at random from these households using the “most recent birthday” method. Post-stratification weighting based on age and gender (from the 2010 U.S. Census) was used to ensure representativeness of the data. The sampling error is less than +/- 5 percent.

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Female	51%
Male	49%
Average household size	2.7 people
Percent with children	42%
Working full-time	51%
Working part-time	10%
Unemployed	12%
Retired	16%
Disabled - unable to work	6%
Stay at home parent	7%
High school diploma or less	26%
Some college/AA degree	24%
Bachelor's degree or more	51%
18-34	31%
35-49	27%
50-64	25%
65 and older	17%

Harris Interactive. (March 9, 2010). *Virtually no change in annual Harris Poll Confidence Index from last year*. Retrieved from <http://www.harrisinteractive.com/vault/Harris-Interactive-Poll-Research-Education-Confidence-2010-03.pdf>

For more information

For more information about this study, contact
Nicole MartinRogers at 651-280-2682
Author: Nicole MartinRogers
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451 Lexington Parkway North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
651-280-2700

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332 Minnesota Street, Suite East 900
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
Tel: 651-227-0891

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