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As part of this study we are interested in some issues that affect people's lives-that is views of adult Minnesotans about various aspects of the United States, Minnesota, problems facing the local area in which your residence is located, and so on.

1) We would like to begin by asking what you think is the single most important problem facing the State of Minnesota today?
[PROBE FOR ONE SPECIFIC RESPONSE]

66. NO PROB FACING STATE>88. DON'T KNOW >99. REFUSED> SKIP TO QUESTION-3

2) [FOR THOSE WHO GAVE A RESPONSE IN QUESTION 1]-Which political party, if any, do you think can do a better job of handling the problem you have just mentioned-the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

1. REPUBLICAN

2. DEMOCRATIC

3. OTHER-VOL

4. SAME-VOLUN.

5. NEITHER

8. DONT KNOW

9. REFUSED

3) Thank you. Now we would like you to rate the quality of various services and policies in your local area. Please rate each as excellent, good, only fair, or poor. If a service or policy doesn't apply, please let me know. [REPEAT CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY-CIRCLE APPROPRIATE NUMBER]

EXCEL	GOOD	ONLY FAIR	POOR	NOT APP.	DON'T KNOW	REF
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

How would you rate:

1) garbage service to your house--4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
4) snow removal-----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
5) your personal safety from crimes such as assault-----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
6) over-all police protection-----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
7) a place to raise children-----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
8) street traffic-----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
9) street maintenance-----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
10) your local public schools-----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
11) availability of good residential housing-----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
12) local property taxes -----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
13) overall fire protection-----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
14) quality of drinking water-----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----
15) local efforts to protect the environment -----4	3	2	1	6	8	9	----

Okay, let's switch to a different topic.

16) How much influence do you think people like yourself have over your local government decisions? Do you think you have a lot of influence, a moderate amount, a little influence, or no influence at all?

1. A LOT

2. MODERATE

3. A LITTLE

4. NO INFLU

8. D.K.

9. REF

17) How much influence do you think people like yourself have over your state government decisions? Do you think you have a lot of influence, a moderate amount, a little influence, or no influence at all?

1. A LOT	2. MODERATE	3. A LITTLE	4. NO INFLU	8. D.K.	9. REF
----------	-------------	-------------	-------------	---------	--------

18) And, how much influence do you think people like yourself have over your national government decisions? Do you think you have a lot of influence, a moderate amount, a little influence, or no influence at all?

1. A LOT	2. MODERATE	3. A LITTLE	4. NO INFLU	8. D.K.	9. REF
----------	-------------	-------------	-------------	---------	--------

Thank you. Now here's a slightly different question.

19) As far as people in charge of running your local government are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence in them, only some confidence, hardly any confidence, or absolutely no confidence in them?

1. GREAT DEAL	2. SOME CONFIDENCE	3. HARDLY ANY AT ALL
4. ABSOLUTELY NONE	8. DON'T KNOW	9. REFUSED

20) As far as people in charge of running state government are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence in them, only some confidence, hardly any confidence, or absolutely no confidence in them?

1. GREAT DEAL	2. SOME CONFIDENCE	3. HARDLY ANY AT ALL
4. ABSOLUTELY NONE	8. DON'T KNOW	9. REFUSED

21) And, as far as people in charge of running the national government are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence in them, only some confidence, hardly any confidence, or absolutely no confidence in them?

1. GREAT DEAL	2. SOME CONFIDENCE	3. HARDLY ANY AT ALL
4. ABSOLUTELY NONE	8. DON'T KNOW	9. REFUSED

Here are some questions that deal with the honesty and ethics of government officials.

22) Based on what you've read, heard, or personally experienced, would you say your local government officials are generally honest and ethical or dishonest and unethical?

1. HONEST/ETHICAL	2. DISHONEST/UNETHICAL	8. D.K.	9. REF.
-------------------	------------------------	---------	---------

23) And what about state officials? Based on what you've read, heard, or personally experienced would you say your state government officials are generally honest and ethical or dishonest and unethical?

1. HONEST/ETHICAL	2. DISHONEST/UNETHICAL	8. D.K.	9. REF.
-------------------	------------------------	---------	---------

24) What about national government officials? Would you say your national government officials are generally honest and ethical or dishonest and unethical?

1. HONEST/ETHICAL	2. DISHONEST/UNETHICAL	8. D.K.	9. REF.
-------------------	------------------------	---------	---------

25) Thank you. Do you think things in Minnesota are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

1. RIGHT DIRECTION	2. NEUTRAL-VOL	3. WRONG TRACK
8. DON'T KNOW	9. REFUSED	

26) We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you are better off financially or worse off financially than you were a year ago?

1. BETTER

2. SAME-VOL

3. WORSE

8. D.K.

9. REFUSED

27) Do you think this time next year you will be financially better off than now or worse off than now?

1. BETTER

2. SAME-VOL

3. WORSE

8. D.K.

9. REFUSED

28) Looking ahead to next November's election in which all members of the Minnesota house and senate will be elected, which of the following would you like to see happen--the Republicans gain control of both houses, the Democrats maintain control of both houses; or haven't you thought much about this issue?

1. REPUB. CONTROL

2. DEM. CONTROL

3. DIVIDED-VOLUNTEERED

4. HAVEN'T THOUGHT MUCH

6. OTHER-----

8. DON'T KNOW

9. REFUSED

29) Next, we would like you to share your views on a different topic. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that there should be a law forbidding the possession of handguns except by police and other authorized persons?

1. STRONGLY AGREE

2. AGREE

3. DISAGREE

4. STRONGLY DISAGREE

8. DON'T KNOW

9. REFUSED

30) Would you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose a national seven day waiting period before a handgun can be purchased in order to give authorities time to check to see if the prospective owner has a criminal record or been in a mental institution?

1. STRONGLY FAVOR

2. FAVOR

3. OPPOSE

4. STRONGLY OPPOSE

8. DON'T KNOW

9. REFUSED

31) When you vote, how important is a candidate's position on gun control?--Would you say it is one of the most important factors you would consider, a very important factor, somewhat important, or not too important?

1. MOST IMPORTANT

2. VERY IMPORTANT

3. SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT

4. NOT TOO IMPORTANT

5. DONT VOTE

8. D.KNOW

9. REF

32) Have you ever written a letter to a public official expressing your views on gun ownership, joined an organization, or given money to an organization concerned with this issue? [IF YES]-What have you done?

01. JOINED AN ORGANIZATION

02. JOINED ORGANIZATION & WRITTEN LETTER

[ASK NEXT QUESTION-33]

03. JOINED ORGANIZATION & GIVEN MONEY

04. JOINED ORGANIZATION, LETTER & MONEY

05. WRITTEN LETTER

06. GIVEN MONEY

07. WRITTEN LETTER & GIVEN MONEY

[SKIP TO QUESTION-35]

08. NO-NOT DONE ANYTHING

88. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

33) [FOR THOSE WHO JOINED A GUN RELATED ORGANIZATION]-Could you please tell me the name of the group?

[NAME OF GROUP]-

88.DON'T KNOW

99.REFUSED

34) Within the past several months have you received any information from that organization containing information about political issues or candidates?

1. YES

5. NO

8. DON'T KNOW

9. REFUSED

35) Next, let's turn to some questions concerning abortion. Would you please tell me if you think Minnesota law should

never allow a woman to have an abortion;

or, the law should permit abortion only in cases of rape, incest or when the woman's life is in danger;

or, the law should allow a woman to have a legal abortion in circumstances other than rape, incest or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established;

or, the law should allow a woman to have an abortion as a matter of personal choice?

1. NEVER

2. SOME-RAPE, ETC.

3. SOME-OTHER IF CLEARLY ESTAB.

4. PERSONAL CHOICE

6. OTHER-

8. DON'T KNOW

9. REFUSED

36) When you vote, how important is a candidate's position on abortion?—Would you say it is one of the most important factors you would consider, a very important factor, somewhat important, or not too important?

1. MOST IMPORTANT

2. VERY IMPORTANT

3. SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT

4. NOT TOO IMPORTANT

5. DONT VOTE

8. DONT KNOW

9. REFUSED

37) Have you ever written a letter to a public official expressing your views on abortion, joined an organization, or given money to an organization concerned with this issue? [IF YES]—What have you done?

01. JOINED AN ORGANIZATION

02. JOINED ORGANIZATION & WRITTEN LETTER

[ASK NEXT QUESTION-38]

03. JOINED ORGANIZATION & GIVEN MONEY

04. JOINED ORGANIZATION, LETTER & MONEY

05. WRITTEN LETTER

06. GIVEN MONEY

07. WRITTEN LETTER & GIVEN MONEY

[SKIP TO QUESTION-40]

08. NO—NOT DONE ANYTHING

88. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

38) [FOR THOSE WHO JOINED AN ABORTION ORGANIZATION]—Could you please tell me the name of the group?

[NAME OF GROUP]—

88.DON'T KNOW

99.REFUSED

39) Within the past several months have you received any information from that organization containing information about political issues or candidates?

1. YES

5. NO

8. DON'T KNOW

9. REFUSED

40) Thank you. Now, I would like to ask you about television. Do you presently have cable t.v. in the home in which you are now living?

1. YES > [ASK NEXT QUESTION-41]

5. NO

> 8. DON'T KNOW

>

9. REFUSED

>[SKIP TO QUES.-42]

41) How would you rate the overall level of service you receive from your local cable company-would you rate it as excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?

1. EXCELLENT	2. PRETTY GOOD	3. ONLY FAIR	4. POOR
8. DON'T KNOW	9. REFUSED		

42) Now we would like your opinions on some of our national and state officials and those who would like to be elected to public office. But first-up to now-how much attention have you personally been paying to the upcoming November elections for Governor of Minnesota, the Minnesota legislature and the U.S. Congress--have you been paying no attention at all, some attention, or a great deal of attention?

1. NO ATTEN.	2. SOME ATTEN.	3. GREAT DEAL	8. D.K.	9. REF.
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Here's 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 and other people who are in the news. 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 don't 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'll move on to the next one.

If you do recognize the name, but don't feel particularly warm or cold toward the person, you would rate the person at the 50 degree mark.

	RATING 000 TO 100	CAN'T JUDGE	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED	
43) George Bush-----	_____	777	888	999-----	---
44) Rudy Perpich-----	_____	777	888	999-----	---
45) Mike Hatch-----	_____	777	888	999-----	---
46) Hubert H. Humphrey III-----	_____	777	888	999-----	---
47) Jon Grunseth-----	_____	777	888	999-----	---
48) Dave Durenburger-----	_____	777	888	999-----	---
49) Rudy Boschwitz-----	_____	777	888	999-----	---
50) Arnie Carlson-----	_____	777	888	999-----	---
51) George Latimer-----	_____	777	888	999-----	---
52) Roger Moe-----	_____	777	888	999-----	---
53) David Printy-----	_____	777	888	999-----	---

(DATA
ENTRY GO TO
LINE 2)

54) Do you usually consider yourself to be a Democrat, Republican or independent?--[IF DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN]-Would you say that you always vote (Democrat/Republican) or do you sometimes vote for a person of the other party? [IF INDEPENDENT]--Although you are an independent, do you usually consider yourself to be closer to the Democrats or the Republicans?

01. ALWAYS VOTES DEMOCRATIC

02. DEMOCRAT WHO SOMETIMES VOTES FOR OTHER PARTY

ASK NEXT
QUESTION-55

03. INDEPENDENT CLOSER TO DEMOCRATS

04. INDEPENDENT CLOSER TO REPUBLICANS

05. REPUBLICAN WHO SOMETIMES VOTES FOR OTHER PARTY

SKIP TO
QUESTION-56

06. ALWAYS VOTES REPUBLICAN

07. INDEPENDENT

SKIP TO QUESTION 57

08. OTHER PARTY

77. APOLITICAL

88. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

55) [FOR DEMOCRATS ONLY]-Next September there may be a Democratic primary for Governor. If the primary were being held today and the candidates were Mike Hatch and Rudy Perpich for whom would you vote?

1. HATCH

2. PERPICH

3. OTHER

4. WON'T VOTE

8. DK

9. REF

56) [FOR REPUBLICANS ONLY]-Next September there may be a Republican primary election for Governor. If the primary was being held today and the candidates were David Printy, Doug Kelly, Arnie Carlson, Jon Grunseth and John Burger-for whom would you vote?

1. PRINTY

2. KELLY

3. CARLSON

4. GRUNSETH

5. BURGER

6. OTHER

7. WON'T VOTE

8. DON'T KNOW

9. REFUSED

57) Now here's a different topic. Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

1. YES-FAVOR-ASK NEXT QUESTION-58

5. NO-OPPOSE
SKIP TO 59

8. D.K.
SKIP-59

9. REF.---SKIP TO QUESTION-59

58) Would you still favor the death penalty if a person convicted of murder would be sentenced to life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole?

1. YES-STILL WANT DEATH PEN

2. NO-WOULD FAVOR LIFE IMPRIS.

6. OTHER-

8. DON'T KNOW

9. REFUSED

59) The following questions are primarily for statistical analysis and to help us determine if we are getting a random sample. You don't have to answer all the questions but it will help us if you do.

) What age group are you? Are you...: [READ CATEGORIES-AS NECESSARY]

- _1. 18-24
- _2. 25-34
- _3. 35-44
- _4. 45-54
- _5. 55-64
- _6. 65+

9. REFUSED

60) Are you working now, temporarily laid off, unemployed, retired, a household manager, a student or what? [IF MORE THAN ONE: What do you consider yourself primarily?]

1. WORKING NOW-ASK NEXT QUESTION----

- 2. LAID OFF
- 3. UNEMPLOYED
- 4. RETIRED
- 5. DISABLED
- 6. HOMEMAKER
- 7. STUDENT
- 9. REFUSED

SKIP TO QUESTION-62

61) [IF WORKING:] What is your occupation, that is, what kind of work do you do for a living?

88. DON'T KNOW 99. REFUSED

62) What was the last grade in school you completed?

- 1. LESS THAN 9 2. 9-11 YEARS 3. 12 YEARS 4. POST HIGH-NO COLL
- 5. 13-15 (SOME COLL) 6. 16-COLL GRAD. 7. 16+---GRAD EDUCATION ---
- 8. DON'T KNOW 9. REFUSED

63) What...if any...is your religious preference? [IF DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE]--Well are you closer to being Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Presbyterian, or something else?

01. CATHOLIC

02. BAPTIST

03. LUTHERAN

04. PRESBYTERIAN

[ASK NEXT QUESTION-64]

05. METHODIST

06. EPISCOPALIAN

07. OTHER-PROTESTANT

08. JEWISH

09. NONE

10. OTHER -[EXPLAIN]-

[SKIP TO QUESTION-65]

88. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

64) Are you a born again Christian or have you had a born again experience?

1. YES

5. NO

8. DON'T KNOW

9. REFUSED

65) Would you please tell me the range which best represents the total income, before taxes, of all immediate family living in your household?
[READ LIST UNTIL STOPPED IF NECESSARY]

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 01. under \$10,000 | 05. \$25-30 thousand |
| 02. \$10-15 thousand | 06. \$30-40 thousand |
| 03. \$15-20 thousand | 07. \$40-\$50 thousand |
| 04. \$20-\$25 thousand | 08. \$50 thousand or more |

88. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

66) Thinking about your own general approach to politics, do you consider yourself to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

1. VERY LIBERAL

2. SOMEWHAT LIBERAL

3. MODERATE

4. SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE

5. VERY CONSERVATIVE

8. DON'T KNOW

9. REFUSED

67) Is your residence located within city limits? [IF NO-SKIP TO -THANK YOU]-IF YES-Is the approximate size of the city under 2,500 people; 2,500 to 5,000; 5,000 to 10,000; 10,000 to 25,000; 25,000 to 50,000; 50,000 to 100,000 or over 100,000 people?

01. UNDER 2,500

02. 2,500-5,000

03. 5,000-10,000

04. 10,000-25,000

05. 25,000-50,000

06. 50,000-100,000

07. OVER 100,000

08. NOT IN CITY

88. D.K.

99. REF.

I would like to thank you very much for your time and cooperation. You have been very helpful. If you are interested in the results of this study you may contact Dr. Steve Frank at Saint Cloud State University in about a month or pay attention to the local media. Good-by!

68) OBTAIN FROM CONTACT SHEET-RESPONDENT SEX 1. MALE 5. FEMALE

69) RESPONDENT'S COOPERATION WAS:

1. EXCELLENT

-[LITTLE PERSUASION NEEDED TO GET RESPONDENT TO PARTICIPATE OR ANSWER QUESTIONS]

2. GOOD

-[SOME PERSUASION NEEDED TO GET RESPONDENT TO PARTICIPATE OR ANSWER QUESTIONS]

3. FAIR-POOR

-[MUCH PERSUASION NEEDED TO GET RESPONDENT TO PARTICIPATE OR ANSWER QUESTIONS]

70) YOUR SEX -[INTERVIEWER'S SEX]-

1. MALE

5. FEMALE

INTERVIEWER-CHECK OVER INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETENESS, ACCURACY, AND LEGIBILITY. PLEASE DESCRIBE ON THE BACK AND BRING TO A DIRECTOR'S ATTENTION ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE INTERVIEW, SUCH AS DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, CODING PROBLEMS, ETC. INSERT CONTACT SHEET FOR THIS SCHEDULE INSIDE THE SCHEDULE.]

[CODERS-COMplete COUNTY CODE HERE]

SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGY FOR THE SPRING 1990 SAINT CLOUD STATE UNIV SURVEY

The SCSU Survey is an ongoing survey research arm of the Social Science Research Institute in the College of Social Sciences at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Steve Frank began the survey in 1980 conducting several omnibus surveys a year of central Minnesota adults in conjunction with his Political Science classes. The omnibus surveys are still done twice a year but have shifted to a statewide focus and Dr. John Murphy serves as co-director along with Frank. The fall survey emphasizes political science concerns while the spring survey concentrates on sociological issues. Clients can buy into the survey or contract for specialized surveys.

Directors of the survey are Dr. Steve Frank, SCSU Professor of Political Science and Dr. John Murphy, SCSU Professor of Sociology (on leave from the survey during 1989-1990). Renee Walsh, a two quarter student supervisor served as senior supervising student director. Seven selected students served as student directors-Brian Schoenborn, Julie Kampa, Kevin Malloy, Steve Ubl, Jill Melby, Jane Cunningham and Greg Running.

After five or more hours of training and screening about 75 political science students conducted the actual interviews. They were monitored by supervisors and directors. All calls were made from the SCSU Survey Research Laboratory. The survey was administered between April 19-26, 1990.

Several steps were taken to ensure that the telephone sample of Minnesota adults who were 18 years of age or older was representative of the larger population. Survey Sampling Inc. of Fairfield, Connecticut prepared the random digit sample of telephone numbers. Random digit dialing makes available changed, new, and unlisted numbers. Drawing numbers from a telephone book may skip as many as 30% of Minnesota households. Within each household the particular respondent was determined in a statistically unbiased fashion. This means that the selection process alternated between men and women and older and younger respondents. Few substitutions were allowed. In order to reach hard-to-get respondents each number was called up to five times over different days and times and appointments made as necessary to interview the designated respondent at her/his convenience. Calls were primarily made after 5:00 but day calls were made as necessary.

In samples of 754 interviews the overall sample error due to sampling and other random effects is approximately plus/minus 4% at the 95% level of confidence. This means that if one were to have drawn 20 samples of the state and administered the same instrument it would be expected that the overall findings would be greater/lesser than 4% only one time in twenty.

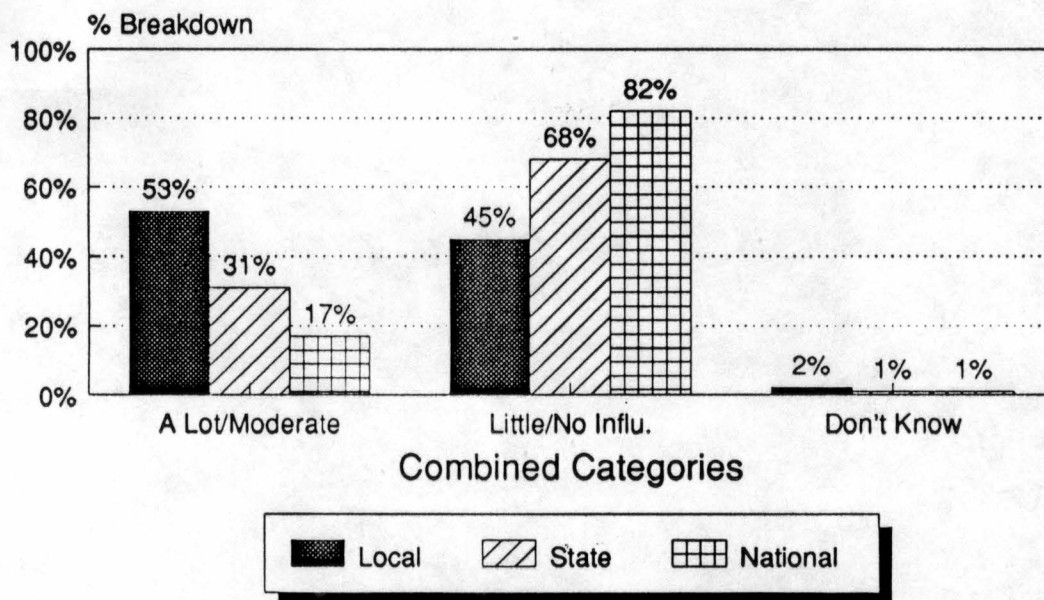
However, in all sample surveys there are other possible sources of error for which precise estimates cannot be calculated. For subsamples such as likely voters or breakdowns by variables such as gender the sample error may be larger.

Even though the demographics of the sample matched census and other known characteristics of the larger state population very well, the sample was weighted for sex. As is characteristic of telephone surveys females were slightly oversampled. The completion rate of the survey was 61%. This is several percentage points above the average for professional marketing firms. When the S.C.S.U. Survey does specialized contract surveys we use a smaller, more skilled group of student interviewers and the completion rate ranges from 68% to 80+%. Completion rate means that once an eligible household was reached about 2/3 of the respondents agreed to participate in the survey.

Coding of open-ended political questions was done by a team of coders working with student directors Running, Walsh, and Melby and by Frank. The total survey consisted of 71 variables. Additional material on the survey's methodology and findings are available by contacting Frank or Murphy.

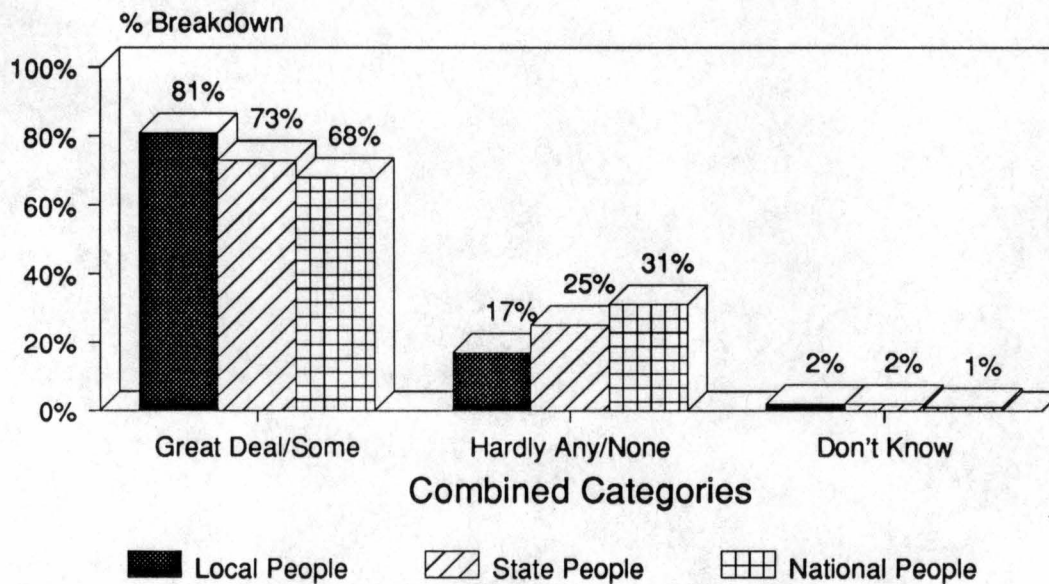
THE DIRECTORS ARE MEMBERS OF THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC
OPINION RESEARCH (M.A.P.O.R.) AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC
OPINION RESEARCH AND SUBSCRIBE TO THE CODE OF ETHICS OF THE
A.A.P.O.R.

MINNESOTANS EVALUATE THEIR INFLUENCE ON THEIR LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS



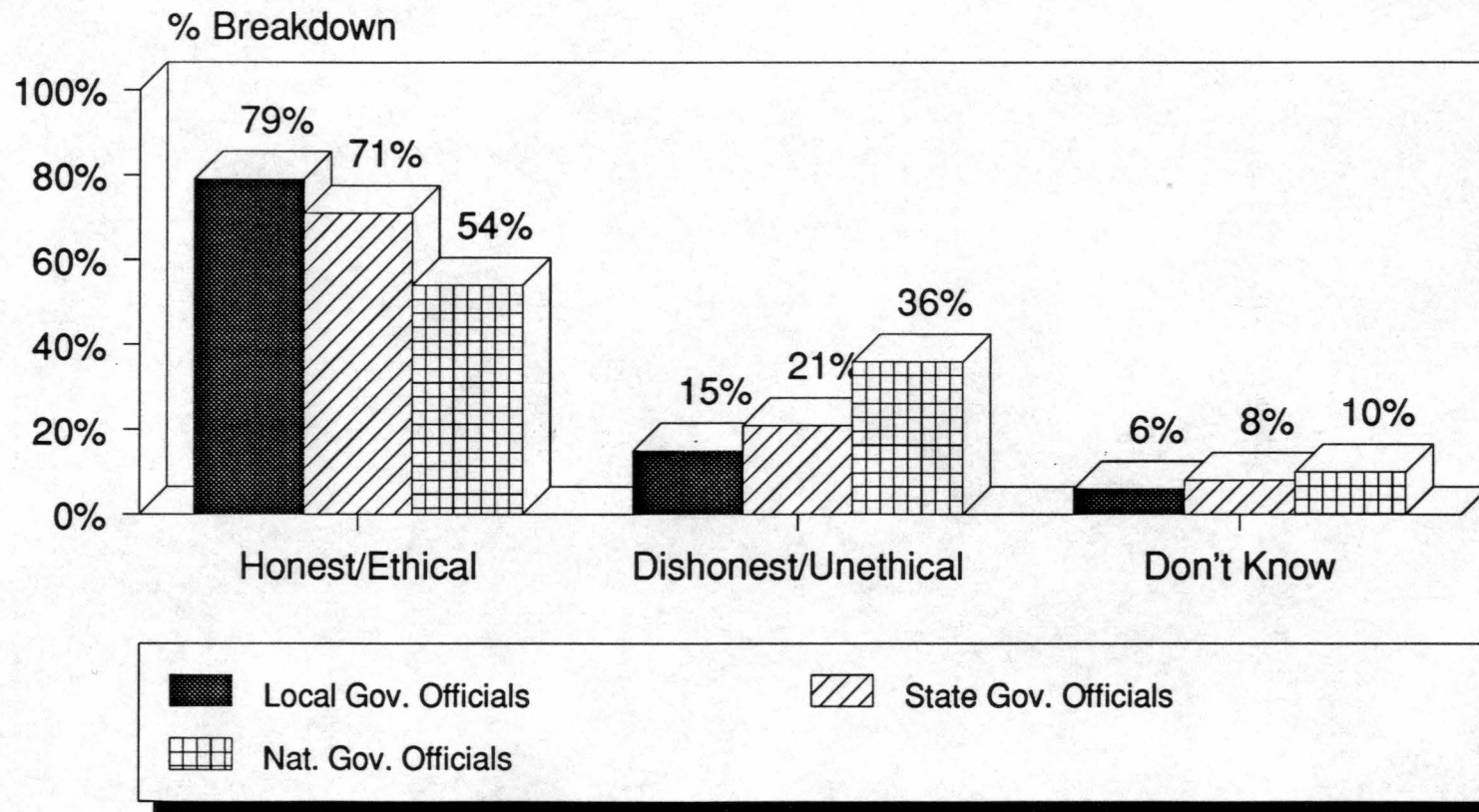
Source: Spring SCSU Survey 4/90
Overall N=754

CONFIDENCE LEVELS OF MINNESOTANS IN PEOPLE RUNNING THEIR LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS



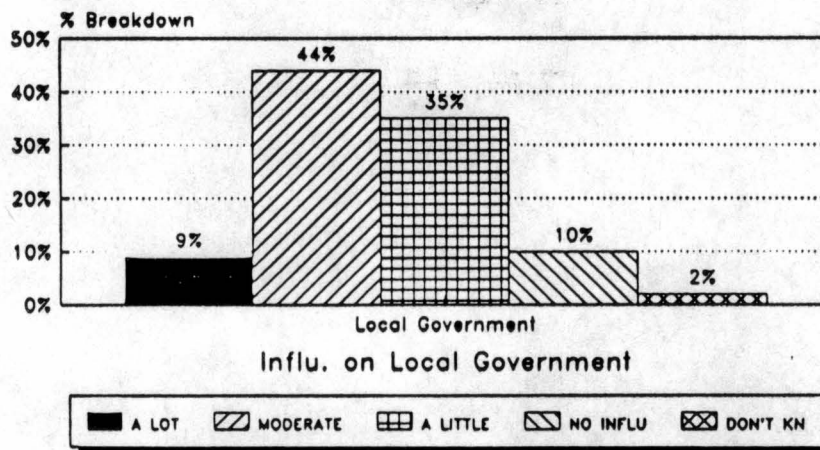
Source: Spring SCSU Survey
Overall N=754

MINNESOTANS EVALUATE THE HONESTY AND ETHICAL STANDARDS OF THEIR LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL GOV. OFFICIALS



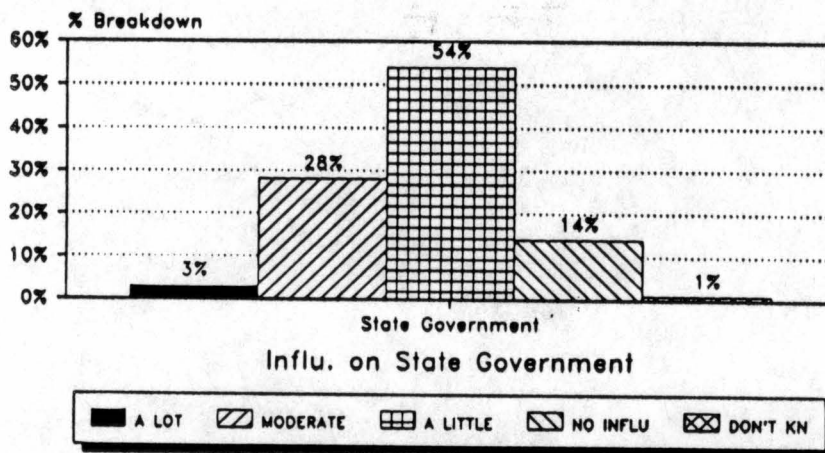
Source: Spring SCSU Survey
Overall N=754

MINNESOTANS EVALUATE THEIR INFLUENCE ON THEIR LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS



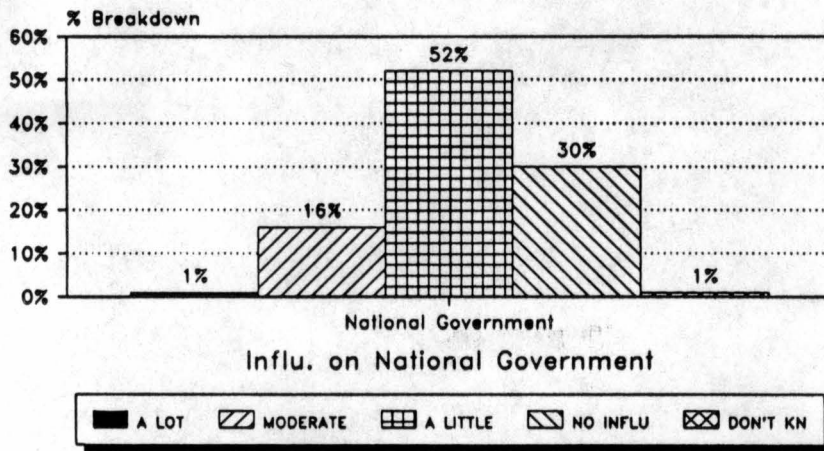
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MINNESOTANS EVALUATE THEIR INFLUENCE ON THEIR LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS



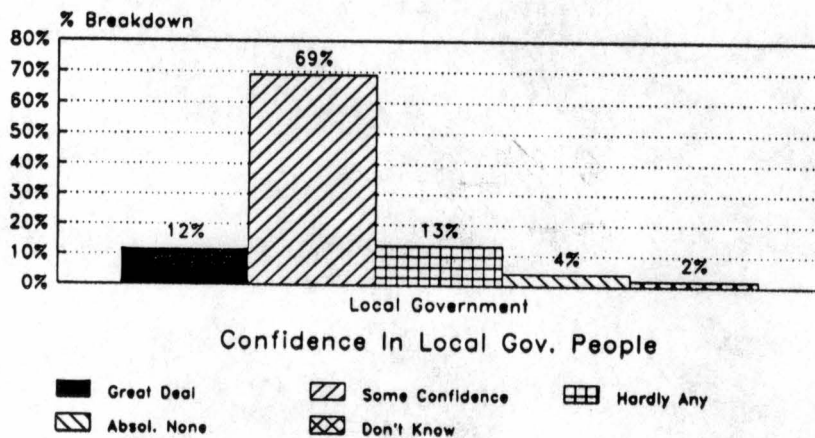
Source: Spring SCSU Survey 4/90
Overall N=754

MINNESOTANS EVALUATE THEIR INFLUENCE ON THEIR LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS



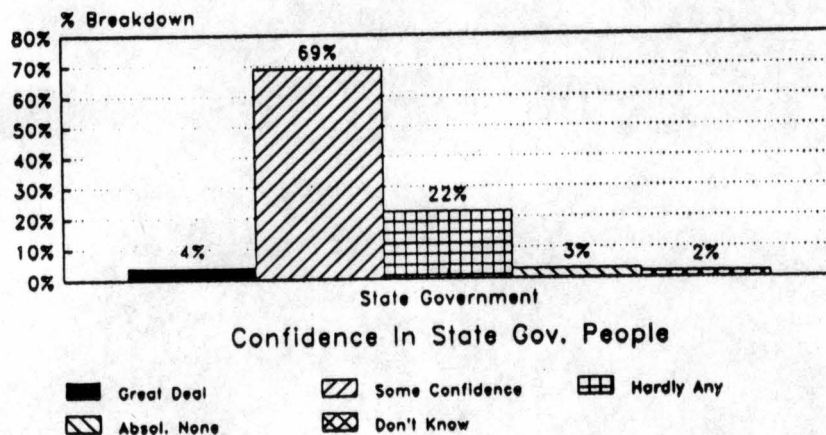
Source: Spring SCSU Survey 4/90
Overall N=754

CONFIDENCE LEVELS OF MINNESOTANS IN PEOPLE RUNNING THEIR LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS



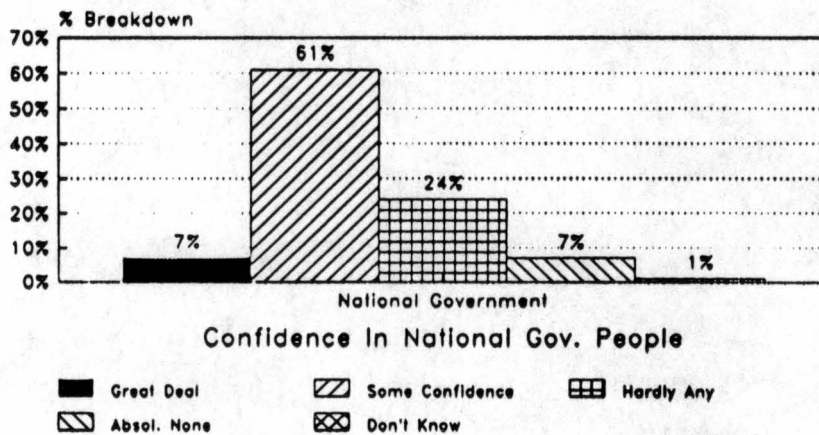
Source: Spring SCSU Survey
Overall N=754

CONFIDENCE LEVELS OF MINNESOTANS IN PEOPLE RUNNING THEIR LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS



Source: Spring SCSU Survey
Overall N=754

CONFIDENCE LEVELS OF MINNESOTANS IN PEOPLE RUNNING THEIR LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS



Source: Spring SCSU Survey
Overall N=754

NEWS

ST. CLOUD STATE
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720 South 4th Avenue
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498

Contact: (612) 255-3151

5-10-90

SCSU SPRING SURVEY: MOST MINNESOTANS THINK STATE IS HEADED IN RIGHT DIRECTION,
BUT CITE TAXES, ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, CRIME AND DRUGS AS IMPORTANT PROBLEMS

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (May) -- The latest results from the St. Cloud State University (SCSU) 1990 Spring Survey revealed that most Minnesotans believe the state is headed in the right direction.

The statewide survey, conducted by scientific random sampling of 754 Minnesota adults between April 19 and April 26, 1990, asked a series of questions on which problems facing the state are the most important, which political party, if any, can best handle the named problem, and which political party Minnesotans would like to control the Minnesota Legislature. Survey co-director, Dr. Steve Frank, offered the following summary of the results from a portion of the 70-item survey.

Respondents were asked if they think the state is headed in the right direction, and to evaluate their financial situation of the past year and to project how they will do financially in the coming year.

The survey found that in spite of the projected budget problems, most Minnesota adults (58 percent) continue to believe the state is headed in the right direction. Three in 10 respondents--29 percent--think the state is on the wrong track. This compares to the SCSU Survey of fall 1988 when 59 percent said right track and 27 percent said wrong track. The balance in both surveys answered with neutral or don't know responses.

In spite of this general optimism, Frank noted there may be indications of trouble for the DFL-controlled state legislature. Minnesotans who have thought about who should control the Minnesota Legislature are evenly divided between thinking the Democrats should maintain control (24 percent), while 21 percent said they wanted Republicans to gain control of both houses. Almost half of the respondents said they hadn't thought much about the issue, according to Frank.

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SCSU is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

When asked to name the single most important problem facing the state, there was a wide range of responses of at least 46 different categories. Most of the categories were combined into about 12 broader categories. Leading the list were taxes, 20 percent; environmental concerns, 19 percent; and crime and drugs, 14 percent.

Overall, Minnesotans were evenly divided as to what political party, if any, could best handle their named problem. Of the responses, 28 percent said Republicans, while a similar percentage said Democrats. Almost half responded neither party, other parties, the same parties or didn't know. In further analysis, Republicans were given the slight edge on taxes, crime and drugs, while Democrats were considered better at handling economic and environmental problems.

Frank also noted that there has been little change in how Minnesotans rate their personal financial status over the past year. In response to a question on this issue, 45 percent said their status has improved, 22 percent said they have stayed the same while 32 percent said things have gotten worse. Asked to look ahead to next year, about 51 percent said their financial condition will improve, 20 percent said the same and 21 percent said they think things will get worse. These results have not changed much over two years, Frank added.

In the coming weeks, the remaining results of the survey will be released. These questions include how Minnesotans rate their local services and policies, and much confidence they have in the honesty of their elected local, state and national officials, and updates on views on abortion and gun control.

The survey also asked questions on views on the death penalty, cable TV service and party affiliation.

The SCSU Survey is an on-going survey research arm of the Social Science Research Institute in the College of Social Sciences at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Steve Frank is professor of political science at SCSU, and co-director Dr. John Murphy is professor of sociology at SCSU. Murphy is on sabbatical leave for 1989-90 academic year.

For more information on the survey results, contact Frank at (612) 255-3151, or Deborah Hudson, SCSU assistant public relations director, at (612) 255-3151.

SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGY FOR THE SPRING 1990 SAINT CLOUD STATE UNIV.
SURVEY

The SCSU Survey is an ongoing survey research arm of the Social Science Research Institute in the College of Social Sciences at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Steve Frank began the survey in 1980 conducting several omnibus surveys a year of central Minnesota adults in conjunction with his Political Science classes. The omnibus surveys are still done twice a year but have shifted to a statewide focus and Dr. John Murphy serves as co-director along with Frank. The fall survey emphasizes political science concerns while the spring survey concentrates on sociological issues. Clients can buy into the survey or contract for specialized surveys.

Directors of the survey are Dr. Steve Frank, SCSU Professor of Political Science and Dr. John Murphy, SCSU Professor of Sociology (on leave from the survey during 1989-1990). Renee Walsh, a two quarter student supervisor served as senior supervising student director. Seven selected students served as student directors-Brian Schoenborn, Julie Kampa, Kevin Molloy, Steve Ubl, Jill Melby, Jane Cunningham and Greg Running.

After five or more hours of training and screening about 75 political science students conducted the actual interviews. They were monitored by supervisors and directors. All calls were made from the SCSU Survey Research Laboratory. The survey was administered between April 19-26, 1990.

Several steps were taken to ensure that the telephone sample of Minnesota adults who were 18 years of age or older was representative of the larger population. Survey Sampling Inc. of Fairfield, Connecticut prepared the random digit sample of telephone numbers. Random digit dialing makes available changed, new, and unlisted numbers. Drawing numbers from a telephone book may skip as many as 30% of Minnesota households. Within each household the particular respondent was determined in a statistically unbiased fashion. This means that the selection process alternated between men and women and and older and younger respondents. Few substitutions were allowed. In order to reach hard-to-get respondents each number was called up to five times over different days and times and appointments made as necessary to interview the designated respondent at her/his convenience. Calls were primarily made after 5:00 but day calls were made as necessary.

In samples of 754 interviews the overall sample error due to sampling and other random effects is approximately plus/minus 4% at the 95% level of confidence. This means that if one were to have drawn 20 samples of the state and administered the same instrument it would be expected that the overall findings would be greater/lesser than 4% only one time in twenty.

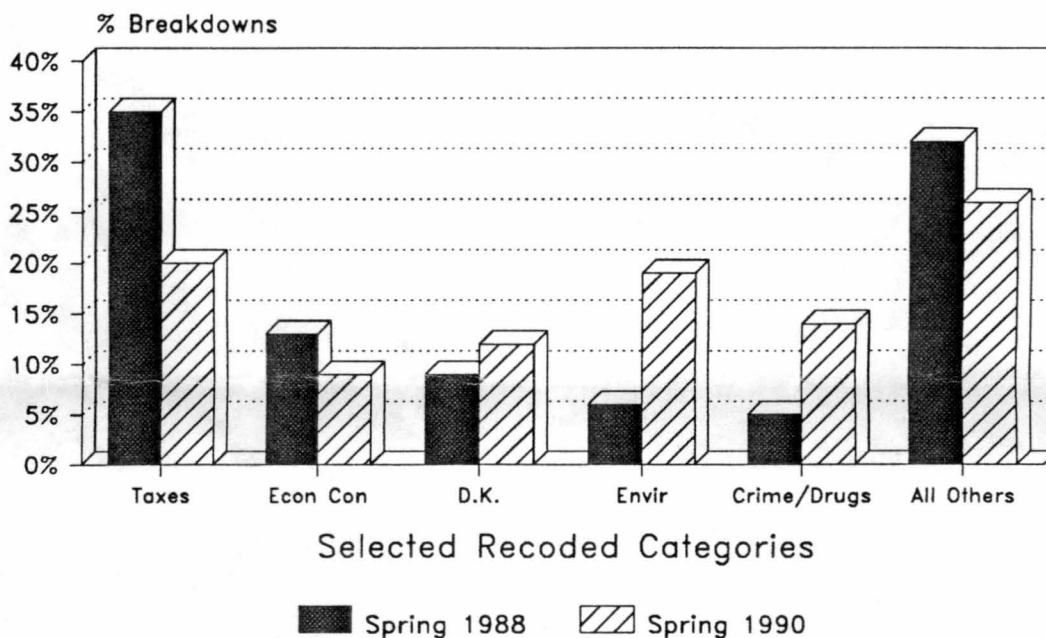
However, in all sample surveys there are other possible sources of error for which precise estimates cannot be calculated. For subsamples such as likely voters or breakdowns by variables such as gender the sample error may be larger.

Even though the demographics of the sample matched census and other known characteristics of the larger state population very well, the sample was weighted for sex. As is characteristic of telephone surveys females were slightly oversampled. The completion rate of the survey was 61%. Completion rate means that once an eligible household was reached about 2/3 of the respondents agreed to participate in the survey.

Coding of open-ended political questions was done by a team of coders working with student directors Running, Walsh, and Melby and by Frank. The total survey consisted of 71 variables. Additional material on the survey's methodology and findings are available by contacting Frank or Murphy.

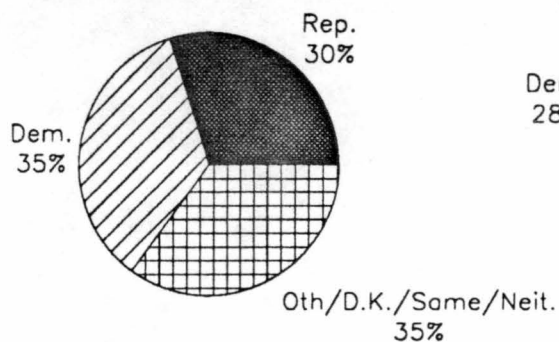
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SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM FACING THE STATE OF MINNESOTA—SPRING 1988 & 1990

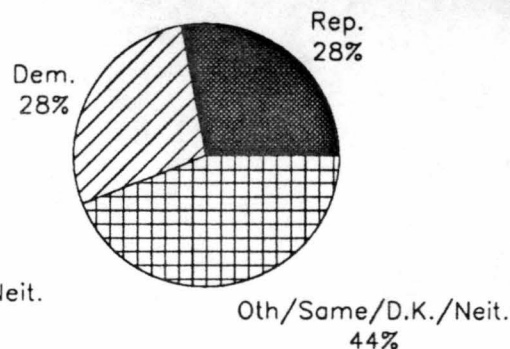


Source: SCSU Survey Spring 1988 N=778
Spring 1990 N=754

FOLLOW THROUGH ON SINGLE MOST IMP. PROB. FACING STATE—WHICH POL. PARTY CAN BEST HANDLE PROB.



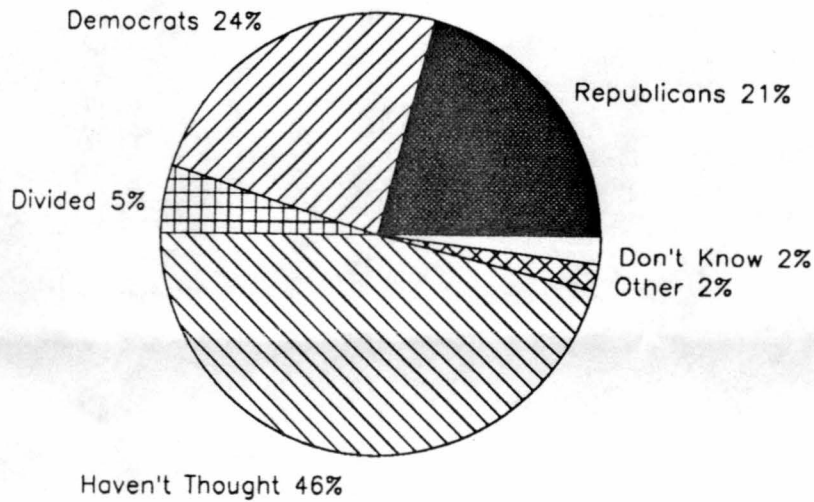
Spring 1988



Spring 1990

Source: SCSU Survey Spring 1988 &
1990 Surveys

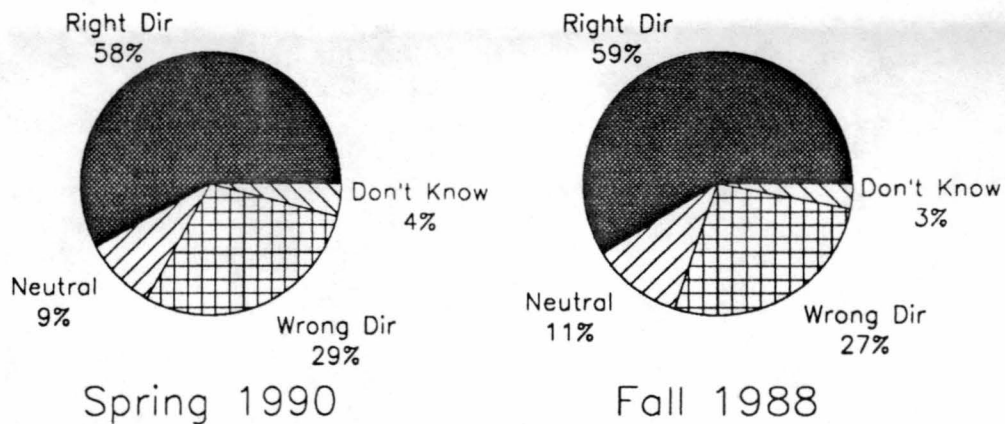
MN. ADULTS INDICATE WHO SHOULD CONTROL THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE



% Breakdown

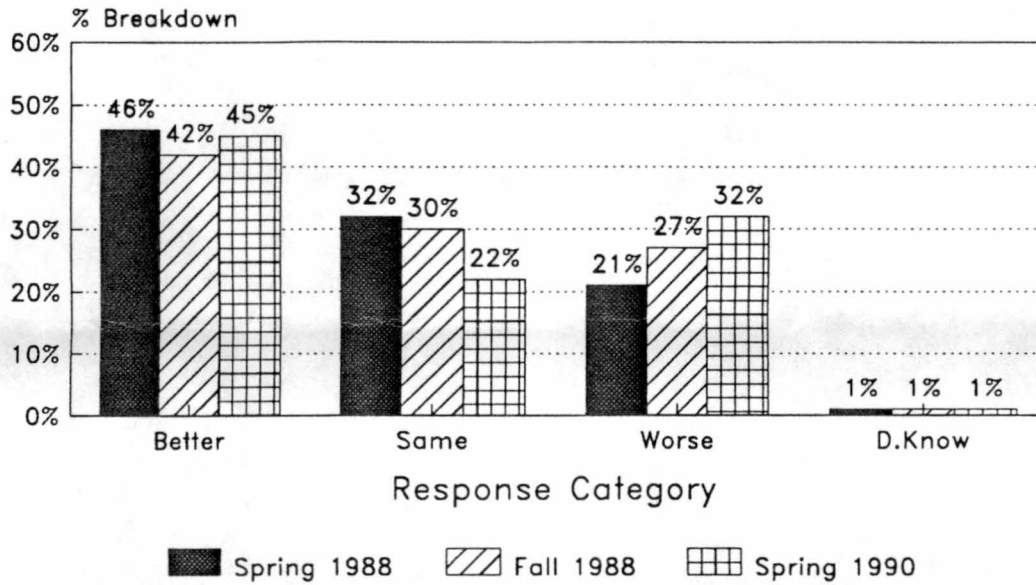
Source: Spring 1990 SCSU Survey N=754
April 19-26, 1990

MINNESOTANS EVALUATE THE DIRECTION OF THE STATE



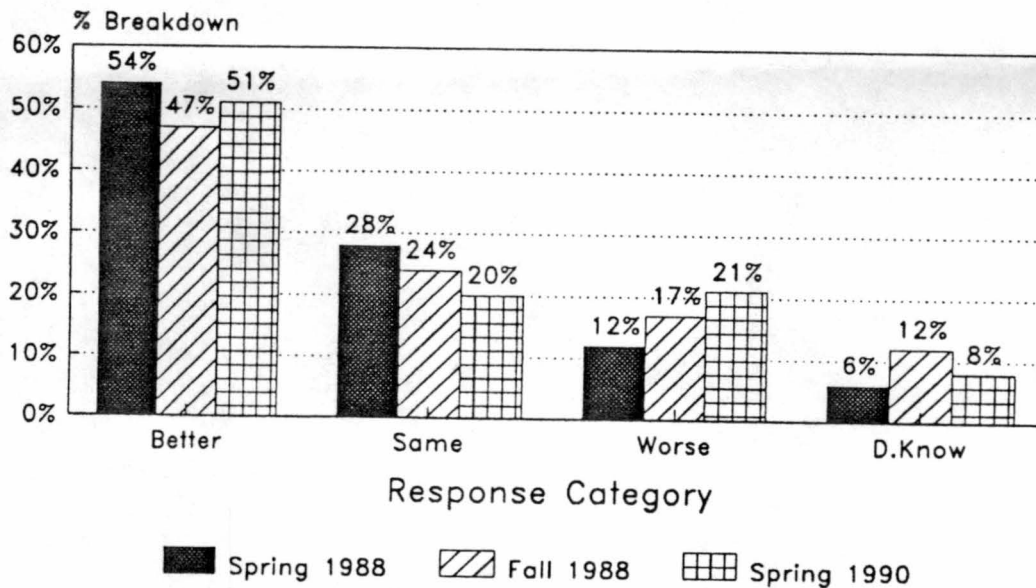
Source: Spring 1990 (N=754) & Fall 1988 Survey (N=795)

MINNESOTA ADULTS EVALUATE THEIR FINANCIAL CONDITION OVER THE PAST YEAR



Source: Spring 1988, Fall 1988,
Spring 1990 Surveys

MINNESOTA ADULTS SPECULATE ABOUT THEIR FINANCIAL CONDITION FOR NEXT YEAR



Source: Spring 1988, Fall 1988,
Spring 1990 Surveys

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5-23-90

SCSU SURVEY: TWO OUT OF THREE MINNESOTANS FAVOR DEATH PENALTY FOR MURDERERS

ST. CLOUD, Minn., (May) -- The majority of Minnesotans favor the death penalty for persons convicted of murder, according to the latest results from the St. Cloud State University (SCSU) 1990 Spring Survey.

The statewide survey, conducted among a scientific random sample of 754 Minnesota adults contacted by telephone between April 19 and April 26, 1990, asked respondents if they favored or opposed the death penalty for persons convicted of murder. Those who favored it were then asked whether they still favored the death penalty if a person convicted of murder would be sentenced to life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole.

The survey found that two-thirds of Minnesota adults (65 percent) favored the death penalty. Less than half of the respondents (43 percent) would still favor the death penalty if persons convicted of murder were sentenced to life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole.

Overall, Republicans were slightly more in favor of the death penalty than were Democrats, and respondents who consider themselves to be conservative were more likely to support the death penalty than those who consider themselves liberal.

The survey also found college graduates were slightly less supportive of the death penalty than respondents with fewer years of education; males were more supportive of it than females; and residents of the Twin City metro area were not as likely to support the death penalty as were residents in the rest of Minnesota.

Although one must be careful in interpreting subsamples of the sample, it was interesting to note the views of city of Minneapolis residents. Their city council has recently taken a position urging their local law officials not to work with national officials on charges that could lead to the death penalty in national courts, said Dr. Steve Frank, SCSU Survey co-director.

Although Minneapolis residents were not as supportive as most of the balance of the state a slight majority (54 percent) favored the death penalty, about four out of 10 (41 percent) were opposed and 5 percent said they didn't know.

Minnesota public opinion favoring the death penalty is less than the rest of the nation. While two out of three Minnesotans support it (65 percent), recent national polls indicate that almost eight Americans in 10 (79 percent), now favor the death penalty - an all time high.

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SCSU SPRING SURVEY--2

The SCSU Spring Survey also asked questions about cable TV service. About half of Minnesota households have cable televisions in their homes and most cable subscribers have positive views about the overall level of service they receive from their local cable company.

Here is a bit of background on why two questions on cable were asked in the survey. Institutions such as Congress are under pressure to consider several aspects of the cable industry. A little over half of U.S. homes now have cable service and there have been complaints concerning fees, programming and service. In most areas the service is a monopoly but the cable industry may be facing competition from telephone companies, direct broadcast systems and conventional home satellites. Congress may respond with legislation that may re-regulate the industry, according to Frank.

In an unpublished finding from the Fall 1989 SCSU Survey, it was found that about half of Minnesota households have cable television in their home, 49 percent. Various cable authorities confirmed to Frank they thought this figure was accurate. According to the Spring 1990 Survey there has been no increase in cable penetration in the Minnesota market, 49 percent. The national penetration rate in the nation is about 54 percent.

Not surprising, residents within cities are more likely to have cable than are rural citizens who do not live within a city. This is particularly true in the western and central parts of the state. Residents more likely to have cable TV are between 18-24 and have combined household incomes of \$40,000-plus. Respondents less likely to have cable TV live in rural and non-city residences, are 65 and older, and have combined household incomes of \$15,000 or less. This raises the possibility of information availability disparity among Minnesotans.

Although the question was admittedly general, about three-fourths of Minnesota adults who have cable television in their homes have generally positive views of the overall level of service they receive from their local cable companies. There were few differences among the demographic groups examined in the survey. Following are the actual questions asked in the survey:

(40) "Do you presently have cable TV in the home in which you are now living?"

(41) FOR THOSE WHO HAVE CABLE TV: "How would you rate the overall level of service you receive from your local cable company--would you rate it as excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?"

(57) Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?"

(58) FOR THOSE WHO FAVORED THE DEATH PENALTY: "Would you still favor the death penalty if a person convicted of murder would be sentenced to life imprisonment, with absolutely no possibility of parole?"

The SCSU Survey is an on-going survey research arm of the Social Science Research Institute in the College of Social Sciences at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Steve Frank, professor of political science at SCSU and Dr. John Murphy, professor of sociology at SCSU, are both co-directors of the survey. Murphy is on leave from the survey during the 1989-90 academic year. For more information on the surveys results or methodology, contact Dr. Frank at (612) 255-4131.

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(Contact: Deborah Hudson, assistant public relations director, (612) 255-3151).

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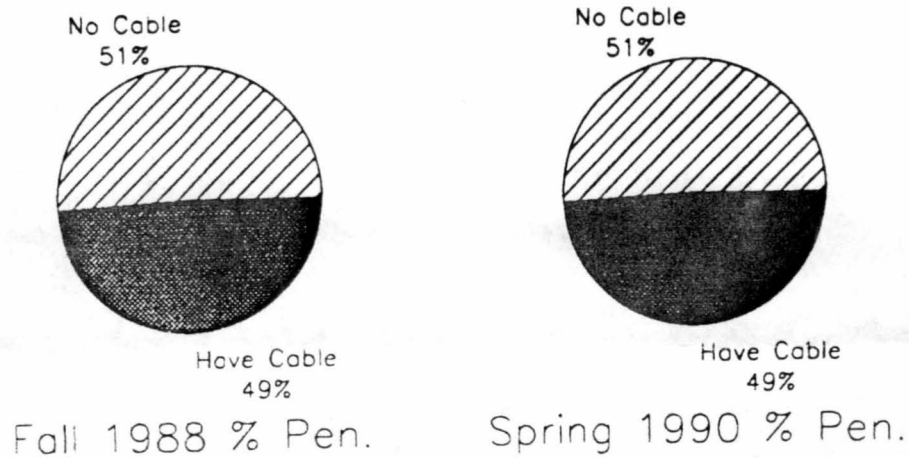
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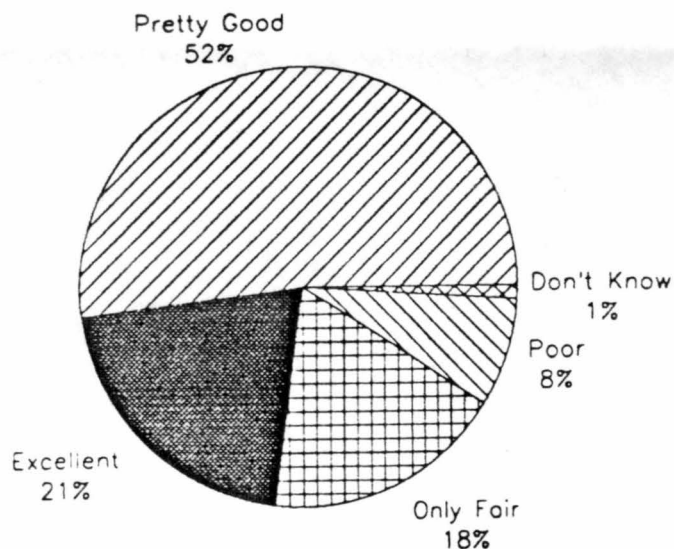
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CABLE PENETRATION IN MINNESOTA HOMES A COMPARISON OF FALL, 1988 AND SPRING, 1990 SCSU SURVEY DATA



Source: SCSU Survey
Fall 1988 n=792 Spring 1988 n=741

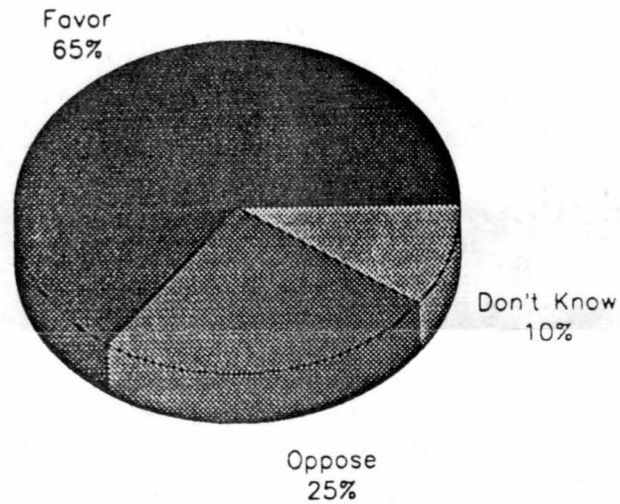
MN. CABLE HOUSEHOLDS—RATING OF OVERALL LEVEL OF SERVICE RECEIVED FROM LOCAL CABLE COMPANY



% Breakdown

Source: Spring 1990 SCSU Survey
n=792

VIEWS OF MN. ADULTS FAVORING OR
OPPOSING THE DEATH PENALTY FOR
PERSONS CONVICTED OF MURDER



% Breakdown

Source: Spring 1990 SCSU Survey n=717

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8-6-90

ADDITIONAL RESULTS FROM SCSU SPRING SURVEY: MINNESOTANS EVALUATE LOCAL ISSUES

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (Aug.) -- Results recently analyzed and released from the spring 1990 St. Cloud State University (SCSU) Survey indicate almost all Minnesotans have very positive views of their local fire protection and their local area as a place to raise children.

(EDITORS: A COPY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE, GRAPHS AND METHODOLOGY ATTACHED)

The statewide survey, conducted among a scientific random sample of 754 Minnesota adults between April 19-26, 1990, addressed 13 of 70 various services and policies in their local area. The survey director, Dr. Steve Frank, included the questions because he believes that citizens are paying more attention to their local government services, partly because national and state programs are being reduced.

There were several items that received almost unanimous positive ratings. Positive is a combination of those who said "excellent" or "very good." More than eight in 10 Minnesota adults (86 percent) have positive views of their local area's overall fire protection, 85 percent have positive views of their local area as a place to raise children, while over 80 percent have positive views of their overall police protection. About three-fourths of those polled have positive views of home garbage service; about 76 percent say they are safe from crimes such as assault; 73 percent say good housing is available and 71 percent rate snow removal as good.

About 70 percent say they have good local public schools, but Frank said this number is down because many respondents in this category said they didn't know or the question did not apply.

Services and policies receiving about two-thirds positive ratings from Minnesota adults are the quality of their local drinking water (68 percent), and street traffic (60 percent).

Only 54 percent give positive ratings to their local area's efforts to protect the environment, and only 33 percent rate their local area property taxes as excellent or good while a majority (55 percent) said their local property taxes were either fair or poor.

Frank noted there were some interesting differences among the various demographic and political variables employed in the study. Most striking were the differences between those who lived in Minneapolis/St. Paul and the rest of the state. There were also interesting differences relating to whether or not the respondent lived in a city and to city size.

NOTE: The following percentages are based only on respondents with an opinion. This has the effect of increasing the positive and negative results by several points or more.

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SCSU SURVEY--2

Respondents who live in cities ranging in size from 10,000 to 25,000 in population positively rank more aspects of their area than do residents of other areas. The quality of their area as a place to raise children (95 percent), police protection (95 percent), personal safety from crimes such as assault (94 percent), and snow removal (87 percent) are ranked very positively.

Close behind, in terms of positive rankings, are respondents who did not live in cities. They give high marks to their area as a place to raise a child (96 percent), local public schools (88 percent), quality of drinking water (76 percent), and street traffic (73 percent).

There are few differences between residents who live outside of the seven-county metropolitan area and metro-area residents if the Twin Cities residents are excluded. Although Twin Cities residents have mostly positive things to say about their localities, their ratings in some areas are often significantly lower, compared to respondents in both greater Minnesota and their immediate surrounding neighbors.

Twin Cities residents are more critical of the quality of their area as a place to raise children (66 percent, positive), police protection (70 percent), personal safety from crimes such as assault (65 percent), and street traffic (49 percent). They are also a bit more critical of their local property taxes (29 percent, positive).

Those more positive about their local public schools are outstate residents (84 percent) and those who live in cities between 5,000 and 10,000 (90 percent). 77 percent of Twin Cities residents have positive ratings toward their public schools. The differences between men and women toward rating their safety from personal crimes such as assault are minimal. 22 percent of women rate their local area as only fair or poor compared to 17 percent of the men.

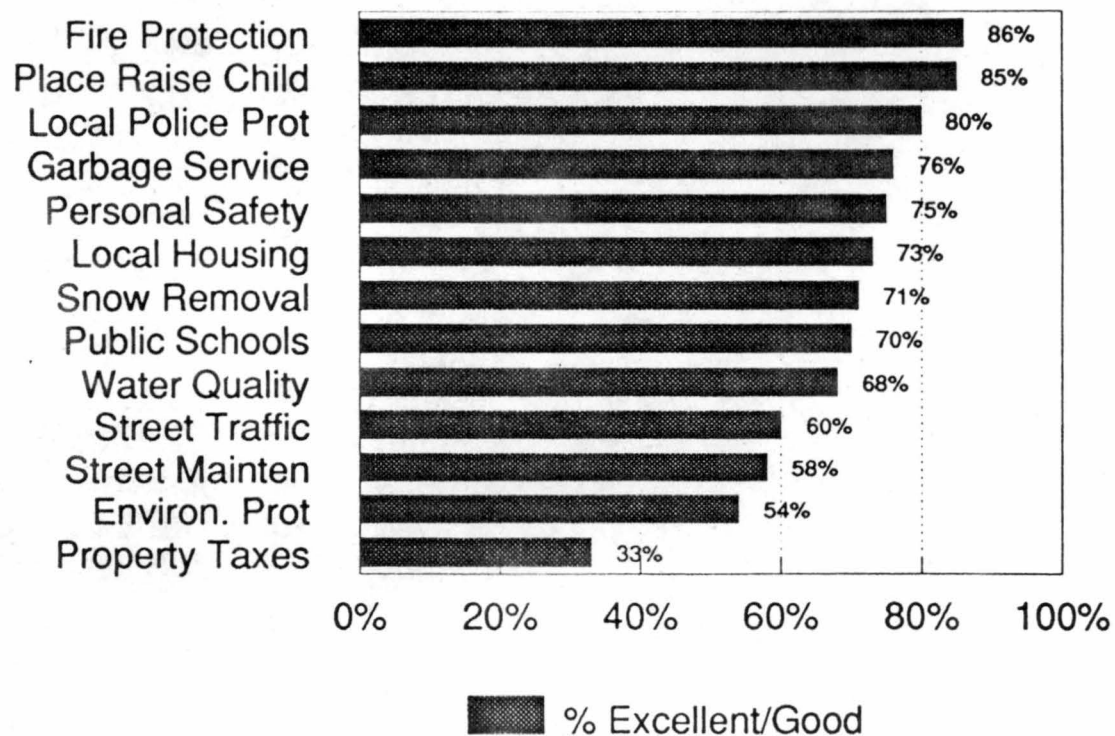
For more information on the survey, contact Frank at (612) 255-4131. In the coming days, SCSU will release results of the survey on Minnesotans' evaluation of the honesty of and confidence in the leaders of their local, state and national governments and their perceived ability to influence their local, state and national governments.

-end-

(Contact: Deborah Hudson, assistant public relations director (612) 255-3151).

MINNESOTANS RATE VARIOUS POLICIES AND SERVICES IN THEIR LOCAL AREA-% RATING EITHER EXCELLENT OR GOOD

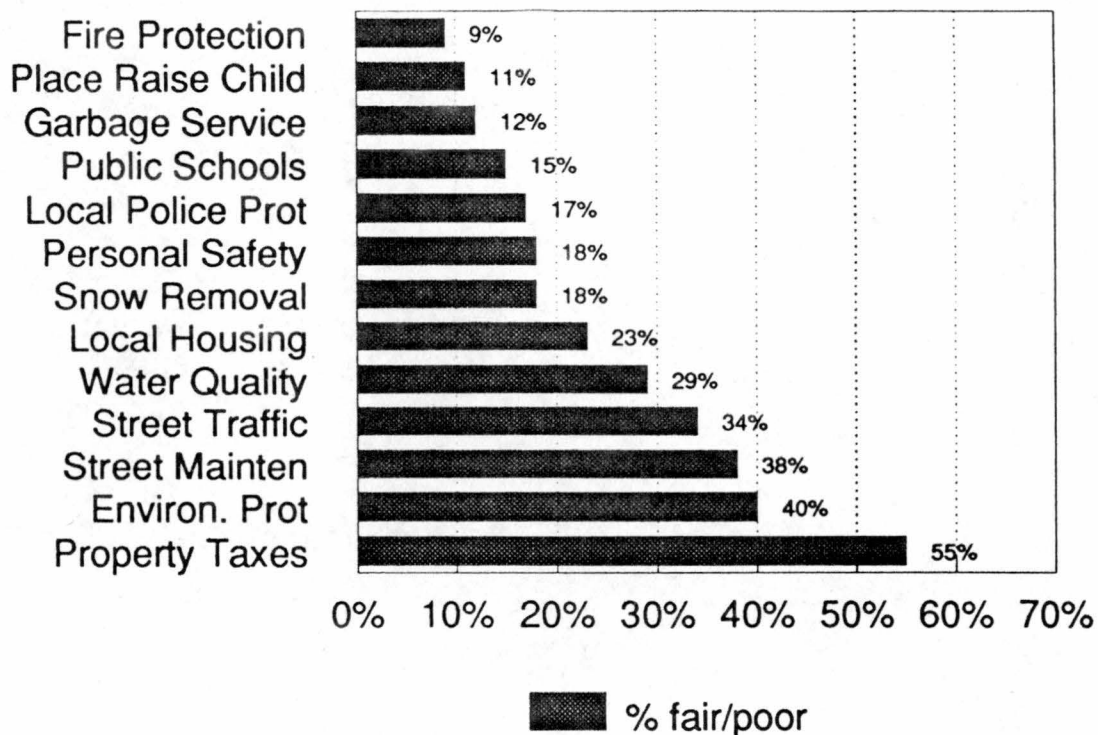
Local Area Service or Policy



Source: Spring 1990 SCSU Survey
Overall N=754

MINNESOTANS RATE VARIOUS POLICIES AND SERVICES IN THEIR LOCAL AREA-% RATING EITHER FAIR OR POOR

Local Area Service or Policy



Source: Spring 1990 SCSU Survey
Overall N=754