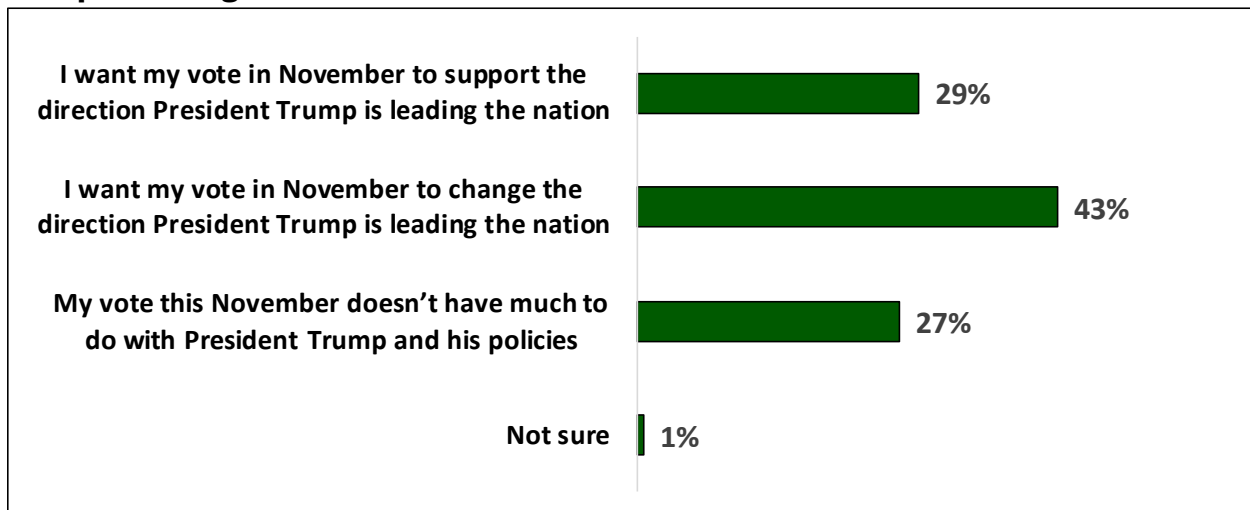


Minnesotans' views of President Trump

Findings from the MPR News | Star Tribune Minnesota Poll

September 21, 2018

A plurality of Minnesota voters want their midterm vote to change the direction President Trump is leading the nation



Question: "Which of the following three statements comes closest to your view?"

Source: MPR News | Star Tribune Minnesota Poll, September 10-12, 2018. N=800 registered Minnesota voters who are likely to vote in November; overall margin of error = +/-3.5 percentage points.

Key findings

Results from the September 2018 MPR News | Star Tribune Minnesota Poll of 800 likely voters show:

- **While President Trump is not on the ballot in the November 2018 midterm elections, a plurality of Minnesota voters (43%) want their vote to change the direction President Trump is leading the nation.**
 - A majority of voters age 18 to 34, women below age 50, and voters residing in Hennepin and Ramsey counties indicate agreement with the statement, “I want my vote in November to *change* the direction President Trump is leading the nation.”
 - Over 80 percent of those identifying as Democrats, as well as those who voted for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election, indicated a preference for changing the direction in which Trump is leading.
 - Three-quarters of Republicans and two-thirds of 2016 Trump voters indicate agreement with the statement “I want my vote in November to *support* the direction President Trump is leading the nation.”
 - One-quarter of Republicans and nearly one-third of Trump voters indicate that “my vote this November doesn’t have much to do with President Trump and his policies.”
 - Among independents, 1 in 5 intends to support Trump’s leadership through their voting in November, while 2 in 5 want their votes to change the nation’s direction, and another 2 in 5 are not considering Trump in their voting decisions.
 - Looking at the specific vote preferences for Minnesota’s statewide seats in the upcoming midterms – Governor, Attorney General, and both U.S. Senate seats – a strong majority of those favoring Republican candidates are voting to support Trump’s leadership, while the reverse is true for those supporting DFL candidates.
 - Voters who are undecided in the upcoming statewide races are mixed:
 - In the governor and attorney general races, fewer undecided voters are looking to support Trump’s leadership than either opposing his leadership or setting Trump’s leadership aside in their considerations.
 - In the Smith versus Housley Senate race, undecided voters are statistically tied between supporting and opposing Trump’s leadership.
 - In the Klobuchar versus Newberger Senate race, the smaller number of undecided voters tend to either support Trump’s leadership or are not considering Trump in their voting preferences.

- **Voters are split on President Trump’s job performance on the economy, but a majority rate him negatively on truthfulness, favorability, and characterization of the press.**
 - A strong majority of President Trump’s base – 95 percent of Republicans and 86 percent of those who voted for him in 2016 – approve of Trump’s overall performance as president.
 - A majority of men over age 50 approve of the President’s overall job performance.
 - A significantly higher proportion disapprove than approve of Trump’s overall job performance among these groups of likely voters: women, younger voters, men under age 50, those with annual household incomes above \$50,000, Democrats, independents, and those in all regions of the state except Northern Minnesota.
- **Half of voters feel that the Special Counsel Robert Mueller-led investigation is fair; one-third feel it is biased.**
 - A higher proportion of all groups feel that the investigation is “fair and impartial,” except for older males, Republicans, and those who voted Trump in 2016.
 - Despite the preponderance of “fair and impartial” responses among most groups, sizable minorities of nearly all groups think that the investigation is “unfair and biased” or indicate that they are not sure whether the investigation is fair or biased.
- **Half of voters believe the President should not be impeached and removed from office; over one-third feel he should be impeached and removed.**
 - Among likely voters, a majority of the following groups believe that the President should *not* be impeached: Men, those above age 50, those residing in the Twin Cities suburban and exurban counties, those in the Northern half of the state, and both Republicans and those who voted for Trump in 2016.
 - Nearly all of those who believe the Mueller investigation is “unfair and biased against President Trump” think that Trump should *not* be impeached, and a majority who are unsure about the investigation’s fairness also feel that Trump should *not* be impeached.
 - A majority of Democrats, those who voted for Clinton in the 2016 presidential election, and those who believe that the Mueller investigation is being conducted fairly think that President Trump should be impeached and removed from office. A plurality of younger voters (age 19 to 34) also feel this way.

The remainder of this brief details these findings in tables and graphs. Please see the appendices for survey background and methods, respondent characteristics, regional definitions, and exact question wording.

November vote as referendum on President Trump

General vote intention as related to President Trump's leadership, by group

	Support Trump's direction	Change Trump's direction	Not much to do with Trump
ALL*	29%	43%	27%
SEX			
Male*	32%	39%	28%
Female*	26%	47%	26%
AGE GROUP			
18-34*	15%	61%	24%
35-49*	28%	44%	28%
50-64	33%	37%	29%
65+	34%	38%	27%
AGE by SEX			
Male, 18-49*	23%	46%	30%
Male, 50 or older	39%	34%	26%
Female, 18-49*	22%	56%	22%
Female, 50 or older*	29%	40%	29%
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
Under \$50,000	33%	40%	26%
\$50,000 or more*	29%	42%	28%
REGION ^a			
Hennepin/Ramsey*	21%	52%	25%
Metro Suburbs	33%	39%	28%
Southern Minnesota*	31%	43%	27%
Northern Minnesota	34%	37%	28%
PARTY IDENTIFICATION			
DFL/Democrat*	1%	83%	15%
Independent/other*	18%	38%	43%
Republican*	74%	0%	24%
2016 PRESIDENTIAL VOTE			
Donald Trump*	66%	2%	31%
Hillary Clinton*	1%	84%	15%

Question: "Which of the following three statements comes closest to your view? I want my vote in November to support the direction President Trump is leading the nation, OR I want my vote in November to change the direction President Trump is leading the nation, OR my vote this November doesn't have much to do with President Trump and his policies."

Source: APM Research Lab analysis of MPR News | Star Tribune Minnesota Poll, September 10-12, 2018. N=800 registered Minnesota voters who are likely to vote in November; overall margin of error = +/-3.5 percentage points.

Note: Those indicating "not sure" or refusing to answer are not shown (less than 1% overall). Not shown under 2016 presidential vote are the preferences of the 43 respondents who indicated they voted for a different candidate, the 28 who said they did not vote, and the 26 who refused to answer that question.

* The difference between the percentage indicating "support" and "change" is statistically significant (95 percent confidence level or higher).

^a See Appendix 2 for definitions of regions.

A majority of voters for Republican candidates support Trump’s leadership, while voters for DFL candidates want to change the direction; undecideds are split

		Support Trump's direction	Change Trump's direction	Not much to do with Trump
ALL	N	29%	43%	27%
GOVERNOR				
Tim Walz, DFL*	360	3%	78%	19%
Jeff Johnson, Republican*	286	70%	1%	28%
Undecided*	130	15%	39%	43%
U.S. SENATE				
Amy Klobuchar, DFL*	483	9%	66%	25%
Jim Newberger, Republican*	238	72%	0%	27%
Undecided*	46	33%	26%	39%
U.S. SENATE				
Tina Smith, DFL*	353	2%	79%	19%
Karin Housley, Republican*	297	64%	6%	29%
Undecided	122	27%	34%	37%
MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL				
Keith Ellison, DFL*	327	2%	78%	20%
Doug Wardlow, Republican*	289	66%	4%	29%
Undecided	147	22%	37%	39%

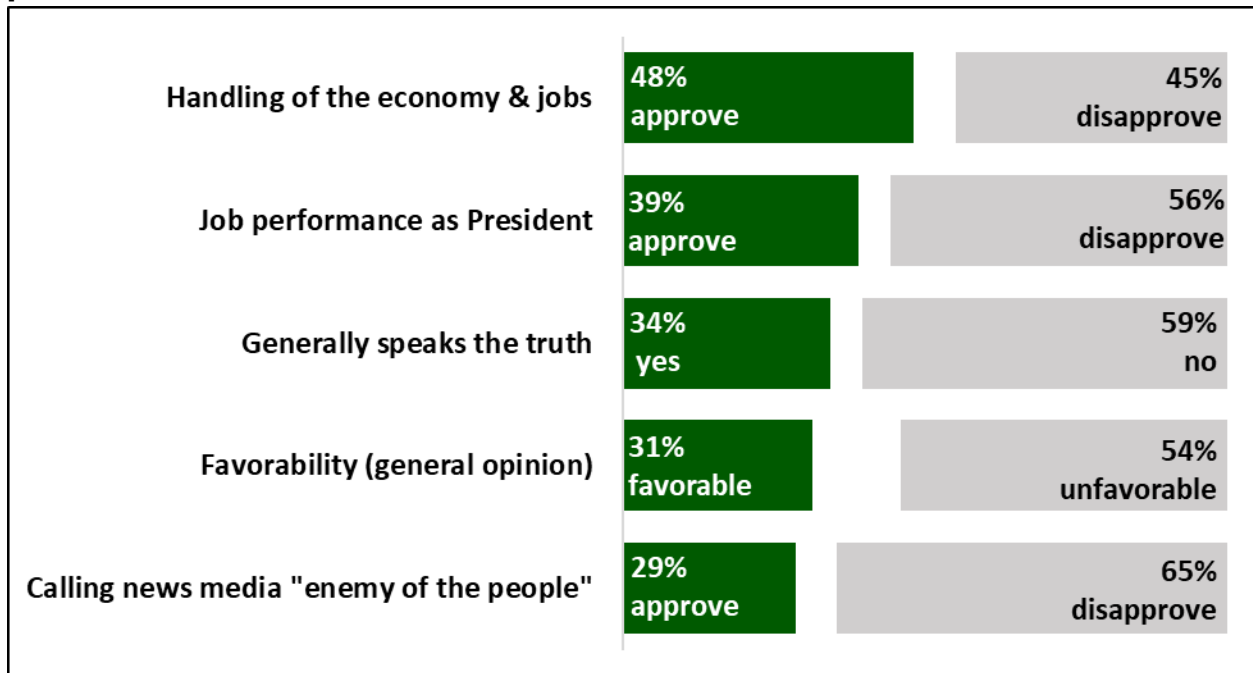
Question: “Which of the following three statements comes closest to your view? I want my vote in November to support the direction President Trump is leading the nation, OR I want my vote in November to change the direction President Trump is leading the nation, OR my vote this November doesn’t have much to do with President Trump and his policies.”

Source: APM Research Lab analysis of MPR News | Star Tribune Minnesota Poll, September 10-12, 2018. N=800 registered Minnesota voters who are likely to vote in November; overall margin of error = +/-3.5 percentage points. Note: Those indicating “not sure” or refusing to answer are not shown (less than 1% overall). Also not shown, due to inadequate sample size: preferences of those indicating that they would vote for candidates other than the major party candidates.

* The difference between the percentage indicating “support” and “change” responses is statistically significant (95 percent confidence level or higher).

President Trump: Approval, favorability, and truthfulness ratings

Voters are split on President Trump's handling of the economy, but a majority rate him negatively on overall performance, truthfulness, favorability, and characterization of the press



See Appendix 3 for exact question wording.

Source: MPR News | Star Tribune Minnesota Poll, September 10-12, 2018. N=800 registered Minnesota voters who are likely to vote in November; overall margin of error = +/-3.5 percentage points.

President Trump's job approval ratings, by group

	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure
ALL*	39%	56%	5%
SEX			
Male	46%	50%	4%
Female*	33%	61%	6%
AGE GROUP			
18-34*	24%	72%	4%
35-49*	39%	54%	7%
50-64	44%	50%	6%
65+	44%	52%	4%
AGE by SEX			
Male, 18-49*	35%	60%	5%
Male, 50 or older*	54%	43%	3%
Female, 18-49*	30%	64%	6%
Female, 50 or older*	36%	58%	6%
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
Under \$50,000	44%	51%	5%
\$50,000 or more*	39%	55%	6%
REGION ^a			
Hennepin/Ramsey*	31%	64%	4%
Metro Suburbs*	43%	53%	5%
Southern Minnesota*	40%	55%	5%
Northern Minnesota	46%	47%	7%
PARTY IDENTIFICATION			
DFL/Democrat*	4%	92%	4%
Independent/other*	27%	66%	7%
Republican*	95%	1%	4%
2016 PRESIDENTIAL VOTE			
Donald Trump*	86%	8%	6%
Hillary Clinton*	1%	95%	4%

Question: "Do you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump's job performance as president?"

Source: APM Research Lab analysis of MPR News | Star Tribune Minnesota Poll, September 10-12, 2018. N=800 registered Minnesota voters who are likely to vote in November; overall margin of error = +/-3.5 percentage points.

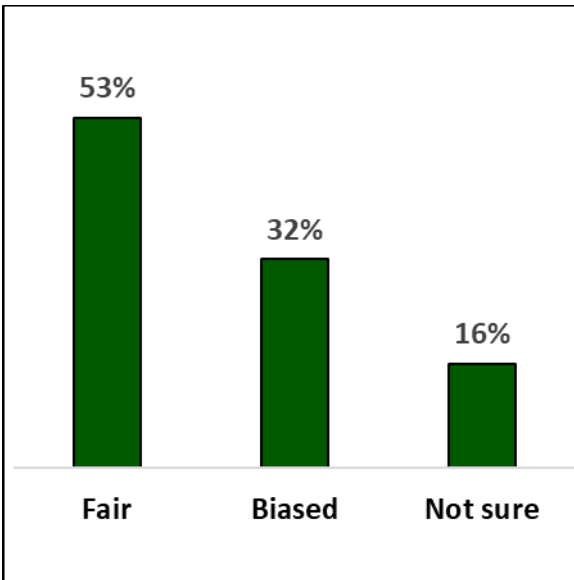
Note: Not shown under 2016 presidential vote are the preferences of the 43 respondents who indicated they voted for a different candidate, the 28 who said they did not vote, and the 26 who refused to answer that question.

* The difference between the percentage indicating "Approve" and "Disapprove" is statistically significant (95 percent confidence level or higher).

^a See Appendix 2 for definitions of regions.

Views on the Special Counsel Robert Mueller-led investigation and possible impeachment

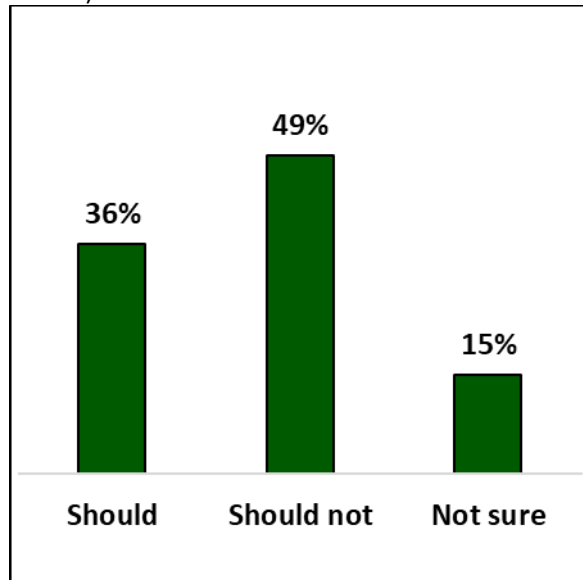
Half of voters feel that the Mueller investigation is fair; one-third feel it is biased



Question: "To date, do you think Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible collusion with Russia has been fair and impartial, or do you think it has been unfair and biased against President Trump?"

Source: MPR News | Star Tribune Minnesota Poll, September 10-12, 2018. N=800 registered Minnesota voters who are likely to vote in November; overall margin of error = +/-3.5 percentage points.

Half of voters believe the President should *not* be impeached and removed from office; over one-third feel he should be



Question: "Do you believe President Trump should or should not be impeached and removed from office?"

Opinions on fairness of Mueller investigation, by group

	Fair	Biased	Not sure
ALL*	53%	32%	16%
SEX			
Male*	50%	36%	14%
Female*	55%	28%	17%
AGE GROUP			
18-34*	67%	22%	11%
35-49*	52%	29%	19%
50-64*	49%	34%	17%
65+*	48%	38%	14%
AGE by SEX			
Male, 18-49*	57%	26%	18%
Male, 50 or older	46%	43%	11%
Female, 18-49*	60%	26%	14%
Female, 50 or older*	51%	29%	20%
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
Under \$50,000*	46%	35%	18%
\$50,000 or more*	53%	32%	15%
REGION ^a			
Hennepin/Ramsey*	64%	24%	12%
Metro Suburbs*	46%	37%	18%
Southern Minnesota*	54%	30%	16%
Northern Minnesota*	44%	39%	17%
PARTY IDENTIFICATION			
DFL/Democrat*	87%	4%	9%
Independent/other*	51%	25%	24%
Republican*	14%	72%	15%
2016 PRESIDENTIAL VOTE			
Donald Trump*	14%	69%	17%
Hillary Clinton*	88%	1%	11%

Question: "To date, do you think Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible collusion with Russia has been fair and impartial, or do you think it has been unfair and biased against President Trump?"

Source: APM Research Lab analysis of MPR News | Star Tribune Minnesota Poll, September 10-12, 2018. N=800 registered Minnesota voters who are likely to vote in November; overall margin of error = +/-3.5 percentage points.

Note: Not shown under 2016 presidential vote are the preferences of the 43 respondents who indicated they voted for a different candidate, the 28 who said they did not vote, and the 26 who refused to answer that question.

* The difference between the percentage indicating "Fair" and "Biased" is statistically significant (95 percent confidence level or higher).

^a See Appendix 2 for definitions of regions.

Opinions on whether President Trump should be impeached and removed from office, by group

	Should be impeached & removed	Should not be impeached & removed	Not sure
ALL*	36%	49%	15%
SEX			
Male*	31%	54%	15%
Female	40%	45%	16%
AGE GROUP			
18-34*	48%	34%	18%
35-49*	31%	48%	22%
50-64*	33%	58%	8%
65+*	34%	51%	15%
AGE by SEX			
Male, 18-49*	31%	48%	21%
Male, 50 or older*	31%	59%	10%
Female, 18-49	45%	36%	19%
Female, 50 or older*	36%	51%	13%
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
Under \$50,000*	37%	50%	13%
\$50,000 or more*	34%	52%	14%
REGION ^a			
Hennepin/Ramsey	42%	41%	16%
Metro Suburbs*	31%	55%	14%
Southern Minnesota*	33%	48%	19%
Northern Minnesota*	34%	55%	11%
PARTY IDENTIFICATION			
DFL/Democrat*	67%	14%	18%
Independent/other*	29%	47%	24%
Republican*	4%	94%	2%
2016 PRESIDENTIAL VOTE			
Donald Trump*	5%	91%	4%
Hillary Clinton*	66%	12%	22%
OPINION ON MUELLER INVESTIGATION			
Fair*	58%	20%	22%
Biased*	6%	92%	2%
Not sure*	20%	62%	18%

Question: "Do you believe President Trump should or should not be impeached and removed from office?"

Source: APM Research Lab analysis of MPR News | Star Tribune Minnesota Poll, September 10-12, 2018. N=800 registered Minnesota voters who are likely to vote in November; overall margin of error = +/-3.5 percentage points.

Note: Not shown under 2016 presidential vote are the preferences of the 43 respondents who indicated they voted for a different candidate, the 28 who said they did not vote, and the 26 who refused to answer that question. * The difference between the percentage indicating "Should be" and "Should not be" is statistically significant (95 percent confidence level or higher).

^a See Appendix 2 for definitions of regions.

Appendix 1: Survey background and methods

This survey is the result of a collaboration between Minnesota Public Radio News and the Star Tribune. It is a continuation of the Star Tribune's periodic "Minnesota Poll."²

Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida, designed and executed the survey, including sample construction and screening procedures, data collection, and analysis. The poll was conducted from September 10 through September 12, 2018. A total of 800 registered Minnesota voters were interviewed statewide by telephone. All indicated they were likely to vote in the November general election.

Those interviewed were randomly selected from a phone-matched Minnesota voter registration list that included both land-line and cell phone numbers. Quotas were assigned to reflect voter turnout by county. The data were not weighted.

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than \pm 3.5 percentage points. This means that there is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figure would fall within that range if everyone in the target population were surveyed. The margin for error is higher for any subgroup, such as a sex or age grouping, as shown in Appendix 2.

The APM Research Lab provided consultation on the questionnaire and additional analysis of survey results, including this brief.

² See <http://www.startribune.com/the-minnesota-poll/468458743/>

Appendix 2: Characteristics of survey sample

	Survey respondents ^a		Margin of error for within-group analysis ^b	All Minnesotans age 18+ ^c
	Number	Percent ^d	Percentage points ±	
ALL	800	100%	3.5	4,277,949
SEX				
Male	377	47%	5.0	49%
Female	423	53%	4.8	51%
AGE GROUP				
18-34	152	19%	7.9	29%
35-49	200	25%	6.9	24%
50-64	226	28%	6.5	26%
65+	216	27%	6.7	20%
Refused	6	--	--	
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
Under \$50,000	211	36%	6.7	36%
<i>Under \$25,000</i>	84	14%	10.7	16%
<i>\$25,000-\$49,999</i>	127	22%	8.7	20%
\$50,000 or more	376	64%	5.1	64%
<i>\$50,000-\$74,999</i>	130	22%	8.6	19%
<i>\$75,000-\$99,999</i>	121	21%	8.9	14%
<i>\$100,000 or more</i>	125	21%	8.8	32%
Refused	213	--	--	
REGION ^e				
Hennepin/Ramsey	255	32%	6.1	33%
Metro Suburbs	230	29%	6.5	28%
Southern Minnesota	160	20%	7.7	19%
Northern Minnesota	155	19%	7.9	20%
PARTY IDENTIFICATION				
DFL/Democrat	299	37%	5.7	--
Independent/other	255	32%	6.1	--
Republican	246	31%	6.2	--
INTERVIEW TYPE				
Land-line	483	60%	--	--
Cell phone	317	40%	--	--

^a MPR News | Star Tribune Minnesota Poll. N=800 registered Minnesota voters who are likely to vote in November.

^b Maximum margin of error at 95 percent confidence level for results presented for the group. For example, if 50 percent of males prefer a given candidate, there is a 95 percent probability that the value for the entire population would be between 42.9 and 57.1 percent.

^c Mason Dixon's methods for this survey are designed to mirror the population that will vote in November. The exact characteristics of that population are unknowable; we provide characteristics of all adults as a point of reference (APM Research Lab analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's 2017 Population Estimates and 2017 American Community Survey).

^d Percentages in this table are calculated as "valid percentages;" refusals are excluded from the denominator.

^e See next page for regional definitions.

Regions

Hennepin/Ramsey: Likely voters in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.

Metro Suburbs: Likely voters in Scott, Wright, Sherburne, Carver, Dakota, Anoka, Isanti, Chisago and Washington Counties.

Southern Minnesota: Likely voters in Goodhue, Rice, Le Sueur, Blue Earth, Waseca, Freeborn, Steele, Dodge, Mower, Fillmore, Olmstead, Houston, Winona, Wabasha, Rock, Nobles, Jackson, Martin, Faribault, Watonwan, Cottonwood, Murray, Pipestone, Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Brown, Nicollet, McLeod, Renville, Sibley, Meeker, Kandiyohi, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Lac Qui Parle, Swift, Big Stone, Traverse, Stevens, Pope, Douglas, and Grant Counties.

Northern Minnesota: Likely voters in Benton, Stearns, Morrison, Todd, Wadena, Otter Tail, Wilkin, Clay, Becker, Hubbard, Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, Mahnommen, Norman, Polk, Red Lake, Pennington, Marshall, Roseau, Kittson, Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Carlton, Pine, Kanabec, and Mille Lacs Counties.

Metro: Hennepin/Ramsey and Metro Suburbs combined.

Greater Minnesota: Southern and Northern Minnesota combined.

Errata

An earlier version of this brief reported larger margins of error in the table in appendix 2; that column of the table is corrected in this version, issued November 16, 2018.

Appendix 3: Question wording

SEPTEMBER 2018 MINNESOTA POLL

Good evening. My name is _____ from Mason-Dixon Polling. We are conducting a statewide public opinion poll. Would you have a few minutes to participate?

SCREENER #1: Are you a registered voter in the state of Minnesota?

YES-SKIP TO SCREENER 3 NO-PROCEED

SCREENER #2: Are you planning to register at the polls on Election Day in order to vote?

YES 1-SKIP TO Q1 NO-TERMINATE

SCREENER #3: In November, there will be a general election for Governor, two US Senate seats and other state and local offices. Which of the following best describes your plans for participating in that election?

I will vote by absentee ballot	1-PROCEED
I will definitely vote on Election Day	2-PROCEED
I will probably vote on Election Day	3-PROCEED
I may or may not vote	4-TERMINATE
I probably will not vote	5-TERMINATE
I definitely will not vote	6-TERMINATE
Not Sure (DO NOT READ)	7-TERMINATE

Do you recognize the name _____? (IF YES) Do you have a favorable, unfavorable or neutral opinion of _____?

1=RECOGNIZE NAME, FAVORABLE OPINION
2=RECOGNIZE NAME, UNFAVORABLE OPINION
3=RECOGNIZE NAME, NEUTRAL OR NO OPINION
4=DON'T RECOGNIZE NAME

(ROTATE ORDER)	<u>FAV</u>	<u>UNFAV</u>	<u>NEUT</u>	<u>DR</u>
2) Donald Trump	1	2	3	4

19) Do you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump's job performance as president?

1- Approve
2- Disapprove
3- Not sure

20) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the economy and jobs?

- 1- Approve
- 2- Disapprove
- 3- Not sure

21) Do you think Donald Trump generally speaks the truth, or not?

- 1- Yes, he does
- 2- No, he does not
- 3- Not sure

22) Which of the following three statements comes closest to your view?

- 1- I want my vote in November to support the direction President Trump is leading the nation.
- 2- I want my vote in November to change the direction President Trump is leading the nation.
- 3- My vote this November doesn't have much to do with President Trump and his policies.
- 4- Not Sure/Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

23) In the 2016 presidential election, did you vote for, Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, another candidate or did you not vote?

- 1- Donald Trump
- 2- Hillary Clinton
- 3- Another candidate
- 4- Or did you not vote?
- 5- Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

24) To date, do you think Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible collusion with Russia has been fair and impartial, or do you think it has been unfair and biased against President Trump?

- 1- Fair
- 2- Biased
- 3- Not sure

25) Do you believe President Trump should or should not be impeached and removed from office?

- 1- Should
- 2- Should not
- 3- Not sure

26) Do you approve or disapprove of President Trump’s description of the news media as the “enemy of the people”?

- 1- Approve
- 2- Disapprove
- 3- Not sure

28) In terms of your political party identification, do you generally consider yourself DFL or Democrat, Republican or an independent?

DFL/Democrat 1 Republican 2 Independent/Other 3

29) What is your age?

18-34	1
35-49	2
50-64	3
65+	4
Refused	5

30) What is your annual household income?

<\$25,000	1
\$25,000-\$49,999	2
\$50,000-\$74,999	3
\$75,000-\$99,999	4
\$100,000+	5
Refused (DO NOT READ)	6

31) Thinking about your household’s financial situation, would you say you are better off, worse off or about the same as you were two years ago?

Better	1
Worse	2
About the same	3
Not sure	4

32) NOTE SEX: Male 1 Female 2

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The APM Research Lab conducts research projects of all types — surveys, demographic analyses, literature reviews, and more — and informs the work of partner organizations and the broader public through traditional reports, as well as infographics, blog posts, interactives, presentations, and other platforms.

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