

2010 Legislative Survey

- 1.) Due to the recession, the state is facing a \$1.2 billion budget shortfall between now and June 30, 2011, and a projected \$6.6 billion shortfall for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013. Our typical two-year state budget is approximately \$32 – \$36 billion. What should the Legislature and Governor do to balance the budget?

☐ Cut services
☐ Raise taxes
☐ Combination of budget cuts and tax increases
☐ Other (please specify):

- 2.) If you prefer that Minnesota enact cuts only or enact a combination of cuts and revenue raisers, which areas would you prefer to cut first? Please rank the following using 1 – 10, where 1 is the first item you would cut and 10 is the last item you would cut. (We generally set the state budget once every two years and we refer to the two-year time period as the biennium.)

___ Early childhood education and K-12 education (37.9% of budget; \$13.9 billion per biennium)
___ State colleges and universities and the University of Minnesota (8.7% of budget; \$3.3 billion per biennium)
___ Transportation (0.6% of budget; \$221 million per biennium-Transportation is largely supported by user fees and receives little general fund revenue)
___ Public safety and crime prevention (5.1%; \$1.8 billion)
___ Health care for the elderly, disabled, and poor (31.1% of budget; \$11.5 billion per biennium)
___ Environmental protection and remediation (1% of budget; \$306 billion per biennium)
___ State aid to local units of government (9.3% of budget; \$3.4 billion per biennium)
___ Agriculture and veterans (0.7%; 2.19 million)
___ State government (1.7%, \$654 million)
___ Housing and public health (0.7%; \$258 million)
___ Other or comments:

- 3.) If you prefer that Minnesota use some cuts and some revenue raisers or you prefer no cuts, which method(s) of raising revenue do you support? Please rank the following on a scale of 1 to 8, with 1 being the first way you would increase revenue and 8 being your least favored method of collecting revenue.

___ Increase the income tax from 7.85% to 9% for singles making more than \$125,000 or married couples making more than \$250,000 to prevent deep cuts to education (raises \$250 million per year)
___ Increase cigarette taxes/fees to help pay for health care for elderly, disabled and poor Minnesotans (raises \$45 million per year for every 25 cents per pack)
___ Increase the tax on alcoholic beverages to help pay for state troopers, courts and prisons (raises \$123 million per year at 5 cents per drink)
___ Have local governments pay for more services and have local governments raise property taxes to provide those services
___ Increase user fees (for example: have people who apply for permits or licenses pay the full cost of obtaining the permit rather than having general tax revenue subsidize permit application review; increase speeding ticket fines to pay for court and police costs)
___ Apply sales tax to clothing (raises \$350 million per year)
___ Apply sales tax to services (raises \$1 billion per year)
___ Authorize "Racino" - allow slot machines at Canterbury Park (\$100 million per year)
___ Other:

- 4.) What should the Legislature's top priorities be for the 2010 session? Please rank your top three.

___ Economy/jobs ___ Environmental protection
___ K-12 education ___ Energy reform
___ Health care reform ___ Tax reform
___ Public safety ___ Other:

- 5.) Over the last year, have you experienced any of the following? (Check all that apply)

☐ Loss of a job ☐ Wage cut or freeze
☐ Loss of a home ☐ Hours cut
☐ Loss of health Insurance

- 6.) Which of the following options do you support to create and maintain jobs in Minnesota? (Check all that apply)

☐ Invest in capital improvements like roads, bridges, and maintaining and building university buildings
☐ Provide tax credits for investors who provide start up funding for new businesses
☐ Support research and development at colleges and universities
☐ Enact additional tax breaks for corporations
☐ Nothing – let the market take its course
☐ Other (please specify):

- 7.) Which of the following options do you believe would make the state's business climate more competitive? (Check those you support)

☐ Do a better Job connecting small business owners with existing resources
☐ Help provide low-interest loans or small business expansion and entrepreneurs
☐ Develop a statewide small business health insurance pool to lower costly premiums
☐ Reduce environmental regulations
☐ Cut taxes on businesses
☐ Provide small businesses with tax credits for targeted investments
☐ Improve workforce training by making higher education more affordable
☐ Other (please specify):

- 8.) The Governor's veto of the General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) program means 35,000 of Minnesota's poorest and sickest will lose health insurance on April 1, 2010. The cost of their medical care will be passed on to other hospital customers through increased health insurance premiums or passed on from hospitals to taxpayers through higher property taxes. What should the Legislature do about GAMC this session?

☐ Restore funding to the program with a tax increase on high wage earners or another revenue source
☐ Take no legislative action and allow the cost of health care for the poor to be passed on to other consumers through higher health insurance premiums or higher property taxes
☐ Other (please specify):

- 9.) Do you support providing state funding to build a new Vikings Stadium?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

- 10.) Do you support lifting the state's moratorium on the construction of nuclear power plants?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

- 11.) Other comments:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Click the "Submit" button to send the completed form directly to Rep. Hortman.