

Minnesota Statewide Justice Survey

THE TARRANCE GROUP, INC.
N = 500 Registered "likely" voters
Field Dates: May 1-2, 2012
Margin of Error: +/- 4.5%

Hello, I'm _____ of The Tarrance Group, a national survey research firm. We're talking to people today about issues facing us all.

May I speak with _____?

IF "NO", ASK: Is there someone else at home who is registered to vote in Minnesota?
(IF "YES", THEN ASK: MAY I SPEAK WITH HIM/HER?)

Yes (**CONTINUE**)
No (**THANK AND TERMINATE**)

IF CELL CODE = "Y", ASK:

Do you currently live in Minnesota?

Yes (**CONTINUE**)
No (**THANK AND TERMINATE**)

IF CELL CODE = "Y", ASK:

For your safety, are you driving right now?

Yes (**SCHEDULE CALL BACK**)
No

Now thinking ahead to the election for President that will be held in November --

What is the likelihood of your voting in this year's Presidential election – are you extremely likely, very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely at all?

(CONTINUE)	Extremely Likely	80%
	Very Likely	17%
	Somewhat Likely	2%
(THANK AND TERMINATE)	Not Very Likely	
	UNSURE (DNR)	

(UPELECT)

Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed with an advertising agency, newspaper, television or radio station, or political campaign?

Yes (**THANK AND TERMINATE**)
 No (**CONTINUE**)

*= less than .5%

Thinking about the economy here in Minnesota –

Which of the following would you say most closely describes your view of the economy here in Minnesota? Would you say that Minnesota’s economy is -- (**ROTATE, TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP**) –

- strong and growing,
- in a recovery
- growing, but not enough,
- slightly on the downside
- approaching recession,
- OR • in a recession?

Strong and growing..... 3%
 In a recovery..... 28%
 Growing, but not enough 35%
 Slightly downside..... 15%
 Approaching recession..... 4%
 Recession..... 14%
 DEPRESSION (**DNR**)..... *
 UNSURE/DK (**DNR**)..... 1%

Now I would like to read you the names of several institutions or organizations which have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that institution or organization and if so, whether you have confidence or do not have confidence in that institution or organization. If you do not recognize the name, just say so. Here is the first one ...

WAIT FOR RESPONSE, THEN ASK: *Would that be a strong (confidence/no confidence) or just somewhat (confidence/no confidence)?*

(ROTATE NAMES)	CONFIDENCE		NO CONFIDENCE		NO OPIN.	NEVER HEARD
	Strng	Smwht	Smwht	Strng		
press or media	10%	37%	21%	22%	6%	5%
Minnesota State Legislature	6%	34%	28%	25%	6%	1%
political parties	7%	32%	30%	21%	10%	2%
Minnesota state courts	27%	40%	9%	5%	15%	6%
lawyers	11%	45%	16%	13%	11%	3%

(END ROTATION)

judges	27%	46%	10%	5%	11%	2%
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Now I would like to read you a list of characteristics that some people have said they would want in a judge if they had a case before a court here in Minnesota. Please listen as I read the list and tell me which one characteristic you would most want to see in a judge if you had to go before a court. **(READ AND ROTATE ISSUES)**

	Q8 MOST IMPORTANT
• Fairness & impartiality	20%
• Honesty & integrity	36%
• Qualified	3%
• Ignores outside pressure	3%
• Good listener	4%
• Follows the law	14%
• Knowledge of the law	8%
• COMBINATION/EQUALLY (DNR)	11%
• OTHER (DNR)	1%
• NONE (DNR)	*
• UNSURE (DNR)	1%

Now, thinking specifically about recent elections for judges --

How often do you typically vote in elections for judges -- Would you say that it is – **(ROTATE FRONT TO BACK, BACK TO FRONT)** • ALWAYS, • OFTEN, • SOMETIMES, or • RARELY, – that you vote in judicial elections?

Always.....	41%
Often.....	17%
Sometimes.....	20%
Rarely.....	19%
Never (DNR)	2%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)	2%

And--

Do you generally feel (**ROTATE**) well-informed <or> not well informed about the judge or candidate for judge for whom you vote?

IF CHOICE IS MADE, ASK:	Well informed/strongly.....	10%
And do you feel strongly about that?	Well informed /somewhat.....	13%
	UNSURE (DNR).....	3%
	NO DIFFERENCE (DNR).....	*
	Not well informed/somewhat	29%
	Not well informed /strongly.....	45%

Thinking now about the issue of accountability:

When going to vote, how often do you feel that you have the power to hold a judge accountable at the voting booth? Would you say that it is – (**ROTATE FRONT TO BACK, BACK TO FRONT**) • ALWAYS, • OFTEN, • SOMETIMES, or • RARELY, – that you feel you have enough information?

Always.....	8%
Often.....	12%
Sometimes.....	28%
Rarely.....	49%
Never (DNR).....	2%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR).....	2%

The Minnesota Legislature is considering a change in the way that judges are selected in Minnesota. The proposal they are considering includes three parts.

Under the first part of the proposal, a panel of both lawyers and non-lawyers, called the Merit Selection Committee, would evaluate and recommend potential judges to the Governor. The Governor would then choose a nominee from the list and appoint that individual to serve as a judge.

Would you (**ROTATE**) support or oppose this proposal to change to our system of electing judges?

IF CHOICE IS MADE, ASK:	Support /strongly.....	15%
And do you strongly	Support /somewhat.....	26%
(Support / Oppose) or	UNSURE (DNR).....	12%
somewhat (Support / Disagree)?	Oppose /somewhat.....	15%
	Oppose /strongly	33%

A second part of the proposal concerns “retention elections.” At the end of the judge's term, the public would vote on whether a judge should retain the seat or be removed from office. No opponent would be listed on the ballot for this seat, and if the judge is retained by a majority of voters, he or she would keep their position for another term. But if the judge were rejected by voters, the selection process begins again.

Would you (**ROTATE**) support or oppose a system of “retention elections,” where voters would choose to retain or not retain an incumbent judge?

<u>IF CHOICE IS MADE, ASK:</u>	Support /strongly.....	35%
And do you strongly	Support /somewhat.....	33%
(Support / Oppose) or	UNSURE (DNR)	8%
somewhat (Support / Disagree)?	Oppose /somewhat.....	9%
	Oppose /strongly	15%

Now let me describe the last part of the proposal.

In an effort to give people better information about judges and how they perform on the bench, a Public Performance Evaluation Commission, also including both lawyers and non-lawyers, would review the performance of each judge and release their findings to the public.

Would you (**ROTATE**) support or oppose this proposal to change to our system of electing judges?

<u>IF CHOICE IS MADE, ASK:</u>	Support /strongly.....	44%
And do you strongly	Support /somewhat.....	31%
(Support / Oppose) or	UNSURE (DNR)	5%
somewhat (Support / Disagree)?	Oppose /somewhat.....	6%
	Oppose /strongly	13%

Still thinking about judge elections—

How much influence to you think campaign contributions made to judges have on their decisions? Would you say that it is – (**ROTATE FRONT TO BACK, BACK TO FRONT**) • A GREAT DEAL, • SOME, • JUST A LITTLE, or • NO INFLUENCE AT ALL?

A great deal	30%
Some.....	35%
Just a little.....	19%
No influence at all	9%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)	7%

And –

How important is it that judges remove themselves from cases involving their campaign contributions? Would you say that it is – (**ROTATE FRONT TO BACK, BACK TO FRONT**) • VERY IMPORTANT, • SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT, • NOT TOO IMPORTANT, or • NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL?

Very important	81%
Somewhat important.....	15%
Not too important.....	2%
Not important at all	1%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)	2%

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a state legislator if you knew that he or she supported an electorate system where money would have a greater role in judicial elections?

IF CHOICE IS MADE, ASK:

And is that strongly or somewhat (more likely/less likely)?

More likely/strongly..... 3%
More likely/somewhat 7%
UNSURE (DNR)..... 10%
NO DIFFERENCE (DNR)..... 7%
Less likely/somewhat..... 27%
Less likely/strongly 46%

Now, just a few final questions for statistical purposes only --

What is your age, please?

18-24..... 4%
25-29..... 6%
30-34..... 10%
35-39..... 8%
40-44..... 8%
45-54..... 14%
55-64..... 16%
65-69..... 11%
70-74..... 8%
75-79..... 6%
80-84..... 4%
85-89..... 2%
90 or over 1%
REFUSED..... 4%

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

(DO NOT READ, JUST RECORD)

Some grade school (1-8)..... 1%
Some high school (9-11)..... 2%
Graduated high school (12) 19%
Technical/vocational (12) 4%
Some college (13-15)..... 22%
Graduated college (16)..... 34%
Graduate/professional school (16 or more)..... 17%
Unsure/Refused..... 1%

Are you or is any member of your household a member of a labor union or teachers' union?

Union household 16%
Teachers assoc. house 5%
Non-union household..... 74%
BOTH (DNR) 2%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)..... 2%

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself more as a member of the Republican Party, DFL (Democratic/Farmer/Labor) Party, Independence Party, Libertarian Party, Green Party, totally Independent, or what?

<u>IF REPUBLICAN, DEMOCRAT, INDEPENDENCE, LIBERTARIAN, OR GREEN ASK:</u>	Republican/strong	19%
	Republican/not strong	8%
	Lean Republican	4%
Would you call yourself a strong or a not very strong (Republican/Democrat/Independence/Libertarian/Green?)	DFL/strong	27%
	DFL/ not strong	7%
	Lean DFL	3%
	Independence /strong	9%
	Independence /not strong	4%
	Lean Independence	2%
<u>IF INDEPENDENT, OTHER OR UNSURE, ASK:</u> But generally, do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican, Democrat, Independence, Libertarian, or Green Party? [MARK AS LEAN]	Libertarian/strong	2%
	Libertarian /not strong	1%
	Lean Libertarian	*
	Green/strong	*
	Green /not strong	*
	Lean Green	1%
	INDEPENDENT/NO PREFERENCE (DNR)	6%
	OTHER (DNR)	4%
	UNSURE/DK (DNR)	4%

When thinking about politics and government, do you consider yourself to be...
(READ LIST, ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

Very conservative	17%
Somewhat conservative	33%
MODERATE (DNR)	9%
Somewhat liberal	27%
Very liberal	9%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)	4%

What do you consider to be your race? Are you white, African-American, Hispanic, Asian or some other race?

White	92%
Black/African-American	1%
Hispanic	1%
Asian	*
Other	3%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)	3%

Sex (BY OBSERVATION)

ASK OF EVERYONE: Are you employed outside the house, are you a homemaker, or are you retired?

Male/employed	29%
Male/homemaker	*
Male/retired	15%
Male/not in labor force.....	2%
Female/employed.....	28%
Female/homemaker.....	5%
Female/retired	18%
Female/not in labor force.....	2%
MALE/REFUSED (DNR).....	1%
FEMALE/REFUSED (DNR).....	1%
