

## **PRRI/The Atlantic 2018 Voter Engagement Survey Minnesota**

### **Minnesotans' Views of Problems With Current Election System**

**A majority of Minnesota residents believe that the following are major problems with the current election system:**

- Over two-thirds (68%) of Minnesota residents agree that wealthy individuals and corporations having too much influence is a major problem with the current election system.
- Roughly two-thirds (64%) of Minnesota residents cite too few people voting as a major problem.
- Six in ten (60%) agree that too many uninformed people voting is a major problem with the current election system.
- A majority (53%) of Minnesota residents say that media bias against certain candidates is a major problem.

Fewer Minnesota residents say outside interference or influence from foreign governments (44%), voter disenfranchisement (38%), or voter fraud (33%) are major problems.

### **Few Minnesota residents report issues in voting.**

- Few Minnesota residents say they or a member of their household experienced any of the following the last time they tried to vote: could not find the correct polling place (7%), were unable to get off work to vote (6%), got harassed while trying to vote (5%), were told they did not have correct voter identification (4%), or missed the registration deadline (4%).

### **Minnesota residents express considerable uncertainty about voting laws and restrictions.**

- Minnesota residents express uncertainty about a number of voting laws in their state. A majority of Minnesota residents are not sure if a resident of their state can vote without a permanent address (60%) or if they are late in paying taxes (51%). About half (49%) are not sure if voting is allowed if you have an outstanding traffic ticket or unpaid utility bill.
- Notably, one-third (33%) of residents are uncertain whether citizenship is required to vote.
- Three-quarters (75%) of Minnesota residents correctly say that their state allows early voting, and a majority (64%) know that the state allows same-day voter registration.

### **There is broad support among Minnesota residents for expanding voting access and the popular vote.**

- Three-quarters (75%) of Minnesota residents believe that a person convicted of a felony should be allowed to vote after they have served their sentence.

- Nearly eight in ten (78%) Minnesota residents are in favor of allowing same-day voter registration.
- Close to two-thirds (64%) of Minnesota residents believe that citizens should be automatically registered to vote when they do business with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or other state agencies, while around one-third (34%) of residents disagree.
- A majority (69%) of Minnesota residents believe presidential elections should be based on the popular vote instead of the electoral college.

## **Minnesotans Polarized Along Partisan, Racial Lines Heading Into Midterms**

**A majority of Minnesota residents believe the country has gotten off on the wrong track.**

- Sixty-three percent of Minnesota residents say things in the country have gone off course, while 37% say things are heading in the right direction.
- Nearly seven in ten (69%) women in Minnesota believe the country has gotten off on the wrong course, compared to 56% of men in the state.

**Most Minnesota residents say coming demographic change is mostly positive.**

- Sixty-five percent of Minnesota residents say that the U.S. becoming majority nonwhite by 2043 will primarily be a positive change for the country. Thirty-one percent say this will be a mostly negative development for the U.S.

**Most Minnesota residents have an unfavorable view of President Trump.**

- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of Minnesota residents have an unfavorable view of Trump, while 36% say they have a favorable opinion of him.
- Female Minnesotans are more likely than male Minnesotans to express a negative view of President Trump, with nearly seven in ten (69%) women in the state viewing the president unfavorably. Male residents are more split, with six in ten (60%) viewing the president unfavorably and around four in ten (41%) viewing him favorably.

**Minnesota Democrats are more likely they will vote than Minnesota Republicans, and voters in the state are more likely to vote for the Democratic candidate in their district.**

- More than six in ten (62%) Minnesota residents report they are absolutely certain to vote in the upcoming midterm election.
- However, Minnesota Democrats (82%) are more likely than Minnesota Republicans (54%) to say they are absolutely going to vote in the midterm election.
- Fifty-three percent of Minnesota voters say they would vote for the Democratic candidate in their election district, compared to 45% who say they would vote for the Republican candidate.