IS MINNESOTA ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

2017 GROUND LEVEL SURVEY OF MINNESOTANS

FROM AMERICAN PUBLIC MEDIA®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 16, 2018

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Acknowledgements

Funding for this project was provided by the Blandin Foundation, the Bush Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, and the Knight Foundation Donor Advised Fund at The Miami Foundation, as well as donors and members of Minnesota Public Radio.

The survey was designed with input from several members of the MPR Newsroom, including Nancy Cassutt, Mike Edgerly, Mike Mulcahy, and Bill Wareham.

SSRS of Glenn Mills, Pennsylvania, provided data collection services.

We would like to thank all of the Minnesotans who took part in the survey.

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Background

This report summarizes responses to the series of questions in the 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans regarding whether Minnesota is on the *right* or *wrong track* for nine issue areas. Respondents were asked, "Thinking about the following topics, do you think Minnesota is generally on the right track or the wrong track when it comes to [INSERT]?"

- Educating children (referred to elsewhere in this report as Education)
- Having good health care (*Health care*)
- Providing care for those facing mental health issues (*Mental health*)
- Providing safe drinking water (Safe drinking water)
- Protecting lakes and rivers for things like swimming, boating, and fishing (*Protecting lakes and rivers*)
- Welcoming immigrants and refugees (*Immigration*)
- Strengthening the economy (*Economy*)
- Caring for older adults (Caring for older adults)
- Providing opportunities for everyone to get ahead, regardless of their background (*Equal opportunity*)

To avoid possible item order effects, items in the list were scrambled and presented in a different order by the survey interviewers to survey respondents.

The sample was also split into thirds, and each group of respondents was asked a follow-up question inquiring why they chose either *right track* or *wrong track* for one of the following issue areas: *having good health care, welcoming immigrants and refugees*, or *strengthening the economy*: "You indicated that you Minnesota is generally on the [right/wrong] track for [having good health care/welcoming immigrants and refugees/strengthening the economy]. Can you tell me why you feel that way?" Answers were recorded verbatim and later coded into categories for purposes of analysis.

It is important to note that these questions are not about whether Minnesotans necessarily agreed or disagreed with a specific policy, but, instead, aimed to elicit how the public feels—what Minnesotans' perceptions are—about the general direction the state is pursuing on each issue area.

This is the fifth in a series of reports on findings from the *MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.* For additional information, including detailed methods reports and survey findings, please see:

https://www.apmresearchlab.org/stories/2017/11/13/ground-level

Please find MPR News' extensive coverage of the survey findings, and related discussions and events, at https://www.mprnews.org/topic/ground-level

Overall findings

Overall, Minnesotans feel the state is going in the right direction, with more than 50 percent choosing *right track* for every issue included in the survey. The greatest share of Minnesotans said the state is on the *right track* for providing safe drinking water (85%) and protecting lakes and rivers (80%), followed by educating children (74%), caring for older adults (69%), and strengthening the economy (also 69%). Close behind are having good health care (67%) and providing opportunities (65%), while welcoming immigrants and refugees and mental health issues are at the end of the pack at 57 percent and 56 percent, respectively.

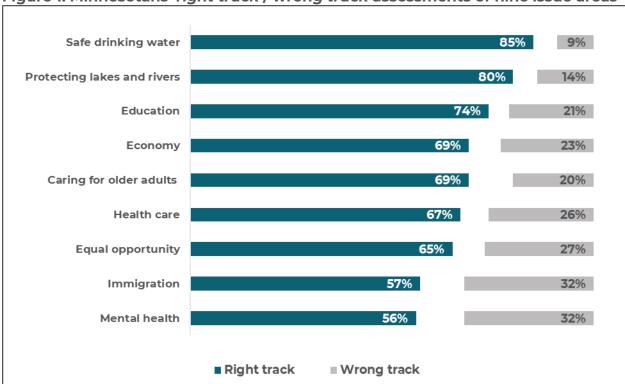


Figure 1: Minnesotans' right track / wrong track assessments of nine issue areas

Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

The responses to the follow-up open-ended questions on health care, economy, and immigration provide additional insight into the *right-* and *wrong-track* assessments, as shown in the tables below. ¹

For the issue area health care, experience, health insurance, access to health care, and facilities are top themes overall for right track responses. Themes standing out among wrong track responses are access to health care, cost, and health insurance.

For the immigration question, themes of acceptance, experience, presence, jobs and contribution, and resources and services emerge from the open-ended right track responses. For wrong track responses, the themes of acceptance, integration, presence, and resources and services are main themes that surface.

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¹ See technical notes at the end of this document for definitions of themes and methodology.

Themes coming forth from the economy open-ended *right track* question are *business environment, growth and strength, jobs, relative to other states,* and *specific industries*. For *wrong track* responses, the themes of *business environment* and *taxes* stand out, overall, among the pack.

As shown in the remainder of the report, Minnesotans feel differently about the each of the issues included in the survey based on where they live, gender, age, race, income, educational attainment, and political affiliation. This report details where and which Minnesotans express similar or dissimilar opinions regarding nine major issue areas that affect the state.

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Figure 2: Most common reasons given for assessments of "having good health care" in Minnesota

Reason for "Right Track"

Reason for "Wrong Track"

Experience

- I've had family experience and work in the field. Minnesota is a good state to receive healthcare.
- I have been provided good healthcare, that's why I feel that way.
- My personal experience with myself, my family, my friends, and the stories I hear in general; I'm very impressed with the healthcare system we have. But I don't think it's perfect. But, in general, I think it's very good. This is as seen through the lens of living in northern Minnesota. It might be different in western Minnesota; I wouldn't know. This is also compared to what I have seen in a comparable population in California where I have a family.

Health insurance

- I'm hopeful and I like the fact that we've got the Minnesota Care program for people who are low income.
- Didn't turn down the Medicaid expansion, and they did do the right thing on agreeing on premiums
- Because MNSure works.

Access to health care

- Lots of programs provided for individuals in need of proper health care
- Have basic opportunity to get health care.
- We have access to really good healthcare.

Facilities

- I think they've got good medical facilities, and they're working better together on getting health care together.
- Because the facilities are state of the art and the doctors are well educated and are able to draw from the first-class resources such as the Mayo Clinic.
- Renowned hospitals and medical schools that mentor and provide help and opportunity to those who don't have great health care.

Access to health care

- Most people don't have health care or they work for a company that doesn't provide it or these people will have to pay for private insurance or apply for public assistance.
- It is generally based on income, and I don't qualify, and they should make it more available for everyone.
- The healthcare needs to be reviewed and strengthened, those with disabilities need to be treated fairly.

Cost

- Strongly disagree with the price of health care, there needs to be competition inner state.
- The premiums are too high and there are few choices.
- I can't afford healthcare myself. I've worked a full-time job all of my life plus extra jobs.

Health insurance

- I am not at all happy with the MN Care program and they need to revisit the entire program.
- Due to the Obamacare and forced health care and they don't understand the common need for health care.
- Indian Health Services doesn't cover anything and never really has. It's kind of a non-issue to most non-Native people.

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 490 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Figure 3: Most common reasons given for assessments of "welcoming immigrants and refugees" in Minnesota

Reason for "Right Track"

Reason for "Wrong Track"

Acceptance

- Mostly because we have been welcoming most of them into Minnesota and getting them on their feet.
- It seems to me that in a small town like this, we don't have a lot of immigrants though I thought Minnesota did a good job welcoming immigrants.
- My employer is very committed to diversity, there are signs in my neighborhood that read all are welcome.

Experience

- I guess because I just know many of them who have arrived here, and they have shared their experiences with me and it seems like they are trying to do the right thing.
- Myself and my father are immigrants. Welcome to be just like me. That's the only thing I think, I feel like that's why they're on the right track.
- Yes, because my mom's side of her family are from Germany, and that was back in World War II. They flew from Germany to get away from all that, and my dad, his family, he comes from Kenya.

Presence

- We've got a lot of them. In our poultry plant we have blacks, Hispanics and Muslims and have had no problem.
- I noticed in our community that we have a lot of people from other countries living here, and we help them with their needs.
- We have a large population, so it's pretty open.

Jobs and contributions

 Refugees here who have come here over the years. Most of them have either gotten jobs or started their own business. Most of them have been socially accepted. The positive things have been outnumbering the bad.

Acceptance

- We turn a blind eye to some things. We need to be more considerate of people living here.
 We need to do a better job of vetting.
- I just think there should be more background on a lot of the people coming to Minnesota. If they've been in prison, if they've done something bad somewhere else, I'd like to do before they enter our state.
- My family, we are of Hispanic [origin], and it's
 just kind of difficult for some of them right
 now, for some of them who aren't legal or
 who want to come. I thought this was the
 land of opportunity but it's not working out
 that way.

Integration

- I get really upset about the language barrier.
 If you are in Minnesota we should all speak
 English. It all frustrates me that people come here and get all this stuff.
- Because when I go into St. Cloud the primary Somali population have no regard for personal space and they feel as I owe them and that's not the case. They're not required to assimilate whatsoever, and it's just bad news.
- feel that there are too many people living in the shadows, undocumented people. That's a hard way to live. It's hard to feed their families that way.

Presence

- Too many illegals in the state.
- Because there is a lot of immigrants and that they should think about the people that are here first.
- It's gotten out of control, flooded with too many refugees. Taking too many economic resources. Changing of American society.

Continued on next page.

Figure 3: Most common reasons given for assessments of "welcoming immigrants and refugees" in Minnesota (continued)

Reason for "Right Track"

Reason for "Wrong Track"

Jobs and contributions (continued)

- I had a full-time job between cities and there were a lot of Somalis and Vietnamese and others. They were very friendly and hardworking.
- My own personal experience. I have helped new families—handed out food and clothes. My son lives in a community where he is the minority and the refugees are happy. They are not moving back to the countries they left. They are tax paying citizens. The schools got interpreters to help the children.

Resources and services

- We have many churches and groups that reach out to the various cultures and have done our best to welcome immigrants and make them part of communities.
- The ones I have been around have been sponsored by churches and organizations. I've handed out clothing, food, and household things through the church.
- We have social programs and job opportunities for them.

Resources and services

- They're on the wrong track because it is causing the state too much money with education, food, housing, and medical to assist. It is not the immigrant's fault, but it's the government's fault for allowing it to happen.
- Well I don't know that much about the actual laws and things, but I know we are having a lot of trouble from refugees. They have a lot of benefits that they are receiving, and they are abusing the system and if anybody challenges them they throw a fit and get their way.
- Welfare system best in country. Refugees taking most of the money in welfare system. Suck up Minnesota welfare.

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 472 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Figure 4: Most common reasons given for assessments of "strengthening the

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economy" in Minnesota	

Business environment

Reason for "Right Track"

- Helping new startup businesses. New investments. New football stadium. Put thousands to work.
- We have a good business climate, educated people and good culture. There are many fortune 500 companies in the area.
- We do a particularly good job promoting small businesses and entrepreneurship.

Growth and strength

- I just feel like our economy is good and getting better.
- I see people around me that are doing better, and I know my adult children are doing better. The wages are getting better and economically they're doing better
- I feel the state is growing at a pretty good rate.

Jobs

- The job opportunities are out there, and the education is out there for the kids if they want it.
- If you lose [a] job, MN help you find a job. MN cares about their population
- When I look around there are a lot of help wanted signs, so being able to see a lot of help wanted signs around the economy is looking up

Relative to other states

- The economy here is better than most of the states. We can retire here so we will be staying here to spend our senior years.
- Because I think that Minnesota is generally considered a comfortable state. We are not high in poverty, and we provide more for our people generally than other states. There are opportunities to volunteer and to help a lot.
- Compared to surrounding states. Minnesota has a strong economy -- so whatever they're doing is working.

Reason for "Wrong Track"

Business environment

- They are pro big on business and not working individuals.
- There is too much regulation for big business.
- Industries leave Minnesota due to too much tax. It used to be thousands of jobs here and now they are gone.

Taxes

- Taxes are too high.
- Because they need to change the tax restraints and the need of tax reforms in businesses and personal taxes.
- Half what I earn is taken from me before I earn it in taxes and it goes into programs that are not fixing anything like beautification and sewers and things like that on top of it and it is still a ghetto.

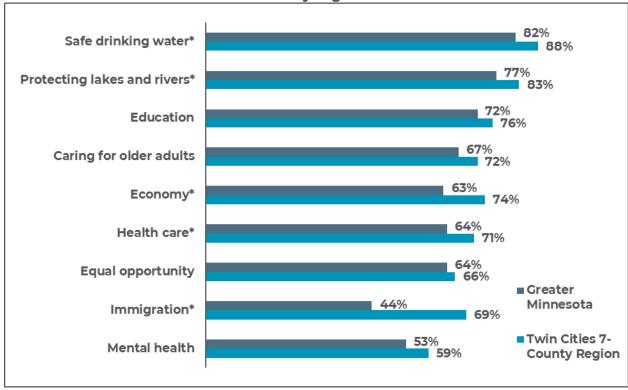
Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 426 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Findings by geographic regions of Minnesota

See the Technical Notes at the end of this document for the definitions of geographic regions.

As noted above, a majority of Minnesotans believe the state is on the *right track* across all issues included in the survey, but some differences can be noted when examining where respondents live. For example, a higher proportion of people living in the Twin Cities 7-County Region indicate that the state is on the *right track* on five of the nine issues included in the survey than is the case for those living in Greater Minnesota. Most notably, less than half of those living in Greater Minnesota think the state is on the right track when it comes to "welcoming immigrants and refugees," compared with over two-thirds of those in the Twin Cities.





Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

* Statistically significant difference in percentage of residents of the two regions indicating right track. Proportions are statistically tied on those not starred.

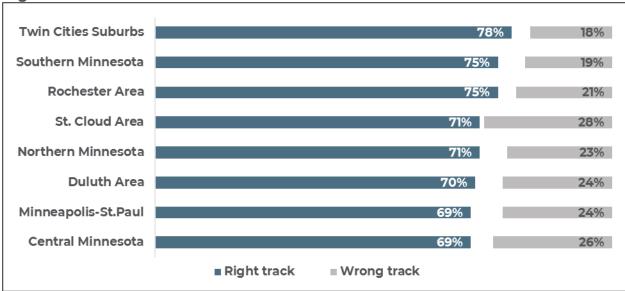
Analyzing the results only by these two broad regions may mask some of the more localized regional variation in the state. Fortunately, the relatively large sample size of this survey allows us to adequately represent the perspectives of residents from eight discrete regions, including Minneapolis-St. Paul, the surrounding Twin Cities Suburbs, three regional centers (the Duluth Area, the St. Cloud Area, and the Rochester Area), as well as three bands of counties (Northern Minnesota, Central Minnesota, and Southern Minnesota) with predominantly rural and small- to mid-sized town character.

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Across all regions, Minnesotans express strong support for both providing safe drinking water and protecting lakes and rivers for things like swimming, boating and fishing. More than three-quarters of people in every region say the state is on the *right track* for both issues. There are some noteworthy variations by region on the other issues, as discussed below.

Education: In every region, a strong majority of Minnesotans feel that the state is on the *right track* when it comes to educating children. More residents of Twin Cities Suburbs (78%) say the state is on the *right track* than those in Central Minnesota (69%). Other regions are statistically tied in the proportion indicating *right track*.



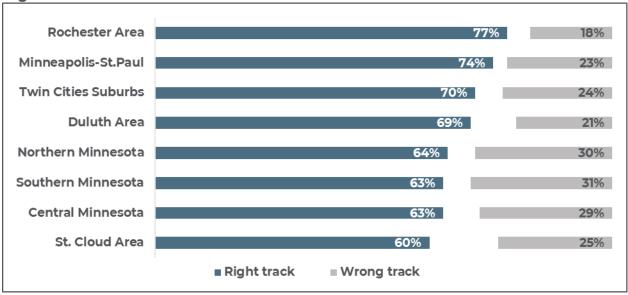


Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans. Note that the percentage refusing to answer the question or indicating "don't know" is not shown.

Health care: The Rochester Area, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Twin Cities Suburbs, and the Duluth Area regions are statistically tied for having the highest percentage of Minnesotans saying the state is on the *right track* for health care (69-77%). At 18 percent, the Rochester Area, home to the Mayo Clinic, has a much lower percentage of residents saying the state is on the *wrong track* for providing good health care than Northern and Central Minnesota, each around 30 percent.

Despite the high proportion of *right track* assessments regarding Minnesota's health care among Rochester Area residents, overall, residents of the Twin Cities 7-County Region are more likely to say *right track* than are those in 80-County Greater Minnesota (71% compared with 64%).

Figure 7: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to health care, by region



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

In a follow-up open-ended question, we asked respondents to explain why they had indicated either *right*- or *wrong track* for three issue areas—health care being one of them. The same themes surface in the *right track* responses of Minnesotans from the Twin Cities 7-County Region and 80-County Greater Minnesota: *experience*, *facilities*, *health insurance*, *quality*, and *access to health care*. No salient themes emerge from the responses of Minnesotans from the Twin Cities 7-County Region who said *wrong track*; however, *access to health care* and *cost* are important themes in the responses of Greater Minnesota residents who chose *wrong track*.

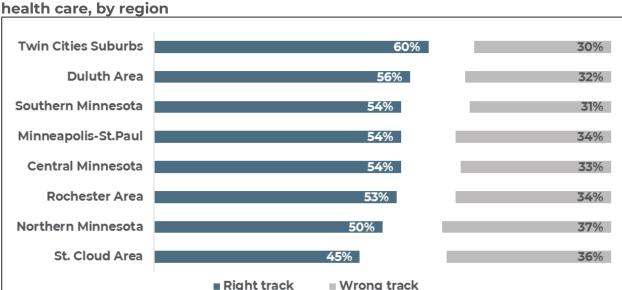
Figure 8: Most common reasons given for assessments of "having good health care" in Minnesota, by region

care in Milliesota, by region		
Region	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Twin Cities 7-County	 Access to health care Experience Facilities Health insurance Quality 	• None
Greater Minnesota	 Access to health care Experience Facilities Health insurance Quality 	Access to health careCost

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 490 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Mental health: Statewide, providing care for those facing mental health issues is tied with immigration as the issue area least likely to garner right track responses. The proportion of Twin Cities Suburban residents indicating *right track* is significantly higher than in the St. Cloud Area (60% and 45%, respectively). The rest of the geographic regions are all statistically tied, with about half of respondents choosing *right track*.

Figure 9: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to providing mental



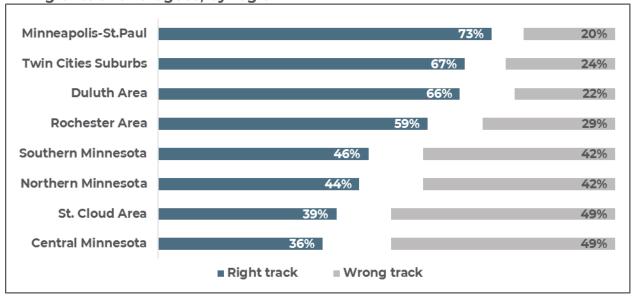
Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Immigration: One of the most divisive issues emerging from the Ground Level Survey is immigration. "Welcoming immigrants and refugees" receives the lowest proportion of *right track* responses, along with mental health care. As opposed to responses to the mental health care question, the response to the welcoming immigrants and refugees question varies substantially by region. In fact, responses to this issue area vary by region more than any of the right track/wrong track questions in the survey.

The highest percentage of Minnesotans saying *right track* for this issue were found in Minneapolis-St. Paul, the Twin Cities Suburbs, the Duluth Area, and the Rochester Area (59-73%). However, the survey found that in the Central, Northern, and Southern Minnesota regions, in addition to the St. Cloud Area, less than half of Minnesotans feel the state is on the *right track* (36-46%). Responses from the St. Cloud Area more closely resemble those from the rural regions than the other urban regions included in this survey.

As noted earlier, a 25 percentage-point difference exists between the percentage of *right track* responses in the Twin Cities 7-County Region compared with Greater Minnesota (69% and 44%, respectively).

Figure 10: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to welcoming immigrants and refugees, by region



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

In both the Twin Cities 7-County Region and 80-Country Greater Minnesota, the themes of acceptance, presence, and resources and services emerge as prevalent responses given by those who feel that the state is on the *right track* regarding welcoming immigrants and refugees. In Greater Minnesota responses, *relative to other states* was also a prevalent theme in the *right track* responses.

For wrong track, again acceptance emerges as a theme as to why those in Greater Minnesota feel the state is on the wrong track for immigration. Integration, dependency, presence, and resources and services also are common themes in wrong track responses for this region. No themes for the Twin Cities 7-County Region were salient for wrong track, which is unsurprising given more than two thirds of residents from the region feel the state is on the right track.

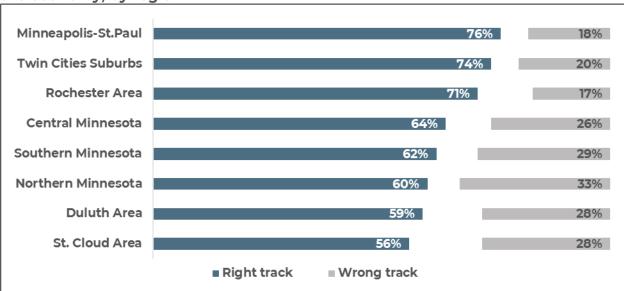
Figure 11: Most common reasons given for assessments of "welcoming immigrants and refugees" in Minnesota, by region

Region	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Twin Cities 7-County Region	AcceptancePresenceResources and services	• None
Greater Minnesota	 Acceptance Presence Resources and services Relative to other states 	 Acceptance Integration Dependency Presence Resources and services

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 472 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Economy: Residents of Minneapolis-St. Paul, the Twin Cities Suburbs, and the Rochester Area are the most likely to say Minnesota is on the *right track* for strengthening the economy (71-76%). Sixty percent or fewer of those in Northern Minnesota, the Duluth Area, and the St. Cloud Area indicate *right track*. More broadly, those living in the Twin Cities 7-County Region are also more likely than those in 80-County Greater Minnesota to think the state is on the *right track* regarding the economy (74% compared to 63%).

Figure 12: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to strengthening the economy, by region



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

For open-ended responses related to strengthening the economy, two major themes that emerge from the right track responses for both the Twin Cities 7-County Region and 80-County Greater Minnesota are *business environment* and *jobs*; *political leadership* is another important theme found in the *right* track responses from Greater Minnesota.

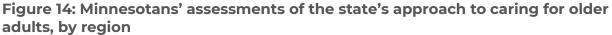
For *wrong track*, no major themes present themselves for the Twin Cities 7-County Region; however, *business environment*, *jobs*, and *taxes* are themes found in the Greater Minnesota *wrong track* responses.

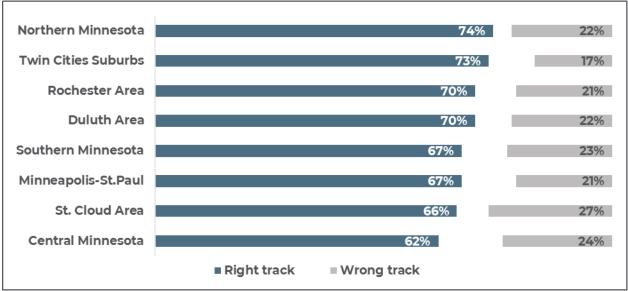
Figure 13: Most common reasons given for assessments of "strengthening the economy" in Minnesota. by region

Region	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Twin Cities 7-County	Business environmentJobs	None
Greater Minnesota	Business environmentJobsPolitical leadership	Business environmentJobsTaxes

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 426 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Caring for older adults: More Minnesotans in the Twin Cities Suburbs and Northern Minnesota (73-74%) than in Central Minnesota (62%) feel the state is on the *right track* for caring for older adults. Looking at the inverse, 27 percent of St. Cloud Area residents say the state is on the *wrong track* for caring for older adults, but the number drops to 17 percent among those in the Twin Cities Suburbs. No significant differences are found between the 7-County Twin Cities Region and 80-County Greater Minnesota, both with around two-thirds of Minnesotans saying *right track*.

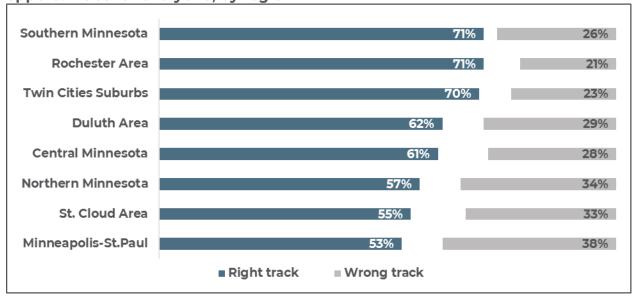




Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Equal opportunity: About 70 percent of those living in the Twin Cities Suburbs, the Rochester Area, and Southern Minnesota say the state is on the *right track* for providing opportunities for everyone to get ahead, regardless of their background. This is higher than the proportion of residents of Minneapolis-St. Paul, the St. Cloud Area, and Northern Minnesota who say *right track* (53-57%). No salient difference exists between the Twin Cities 7-County Region and 80-County Greater Minnesota, with just under two thirds of Minnesotans saying *right track* in each.

Figure 15: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to providing opportunities for everyone, by region

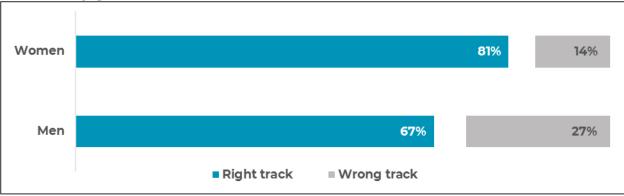


Findings by gender

For the issue areas of health care, mental health, safe drinking water, protecting lakes and rivers, the economy, and caring for older adults, there are no statistically significant differences in the response patterns of women as compared to men. The survey did reveal differences by gender for the issue areas of education, immigration, and equal opportunity.

Education: Eighty-one percent of Minnesotan women feel the state is on the *right track* for educating children, but the number falls to only 67 percent for men.

Figure 16: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to educating children, by gender



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Health care: For both men and women, the themes of *access to health care, experience, facilities, health insurance, quality,* and *health care professionals* arise in their responses as to why they feel the state is on the *right track* for having good health care. For women, *relative to other states* is also a primary theme. For *wrong track*, both men and women cite *cost* as a reason the state is on the *wrong track*, though women also commonly mention *access to health care* in their open-ended responses.

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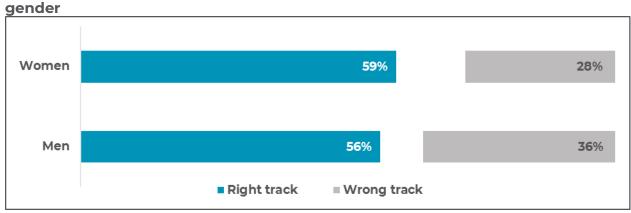
Figure 17: Most common reasons given for assessments of "having good health care" in Minnesota, by gender

Gender	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Men	 Access to health care Experience Facilities Health insurance Quality Health care professionals 	• Cost
Women	 Access to health care Experience Facilities Health insurance Quality Health care professionals Relative to other states 	CostAccess to health care

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 490 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Immigration: Although there is no meaningful difference between the percentage of men and women who chose *right track* for welcoming immigrants and refugees, there is a difference of 8 percentage points for those who chose *wrong track* for this issue area. More than one-third of men (36%) say they believe Minnesota is on the *wrong track*, whereas only 28 percent of women say this.

Figure 18: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to immigration, by



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

The open-ended responses to the survey's follow-up question on immigration show that themes of acceptance, experience, integration, presence, and jobs and contribution are common among both men and women who believe the state is on the right track. Political leadership is also important for men choosing right track. For wrong track, acceptance and presence are prominent themes that emerge for men and women alike; however, the themes of integration and resources and services also are common among men who think the state is on the wrong track regarding immigration.

Figure 19: Most common reasons given for assessments of "welcoming immigrants and refugees" in Minnesota, by gender

Gender	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Men	 Acceptance Experience Integration Presence Jobs and contribution Political leadership 	AcceptancePresenceIntegrationResources and services
Women	AcceptanceExperienceIntegrationPresenceJobs and contribution	AcceptancePresence

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 472 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Economy: Neither *right track/wrong track* assessments of Minnesota's approach to strengthening the economy, nor responses to the open-ended follow-up question about those assessments vary substantially by gender. The same major themes appear in the *right track* open-ended responses for both men and women: *business environment, growth and strength, political leadership*, and *relative to other states. Specific industries* is another prevalent theme surfacing in the men's *right track* responses. For *wrong track*, the themes of *business environment* and *taxes* show up in men's responses, while no salient themes emerge from the women's responses.

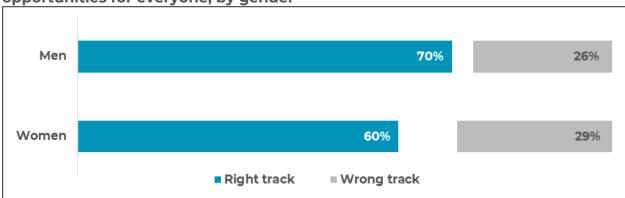
Figure 20: Most common reasons given for assessments of "strengthening the economy" in Minnesota, by gender

Gender	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Men	 Business environment Growth and strength Political leadership Relative to other states Specific industries 	Business environmentTaxes
Women	Business environmentGrowth and strengthPolitical leadershipRelative to other states	• None

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 426 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Equal opportunity: Women are less likely than men to say Minnesota is on the *right track* for providing opportunities for everyone to get ahead regardless of background, with 6 in 10 women saying this compared to 7 in 10 men.

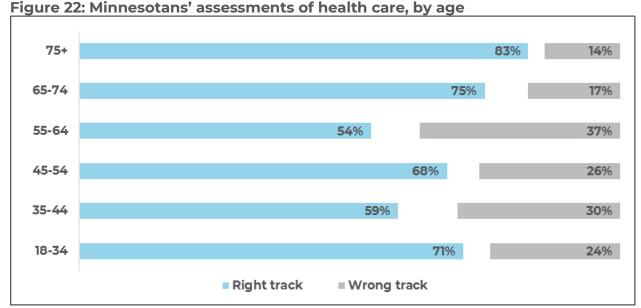
Figure 21: Minnesotans saying we're on the right/wrong track providing opportunities for everyone, by gender



Findings by age groups

The perspectives of Minnesotans of different ages have been shaped by different historical events and generational outlooks. The survey found varying perspectives by age on all the issue areas asked about, except education. Overall, younger adults (age 18-34) approve of the direction of the state across more issue areas than other age groups.

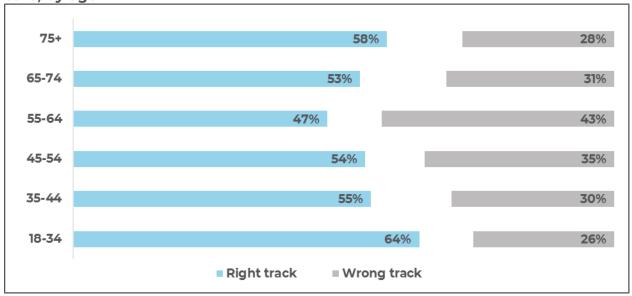
Health care: Adults age 65 and older were the most likely to say Minnesota is on the *right track* for having good health care, with more than three-quarters of this broad group saying so. Those age 75 or older expressed the greatest enthusiasm for the state's approach to health care.



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Mental health: Minnesotans age 18-34 are more likely than those age 55-64 to say the state is on the *right track* for providing care for those facing mental health issues (64% compared to 47%). More Minnesotans age 55-64 (43%) expressed that the state is on the *wrong track* for this area than those age 18-34, 35-44, or 75+ (with *wrong track* responses falling between 26 and 30%). The response patterns of other age groups are statistically tied.

Figure 23: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to mental health care, by age



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Safe drinking water: More Minnesotans between age 18 and 44 feel Minnesota is on the *right track* for providing safe drinking water than those age 45-54 (88-89% compared to 79%). However, a high proportion of Minnesotans of all ages agree on the direction the state is going regarding this issue.

Figure 24: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to providing safe drinking water, by age

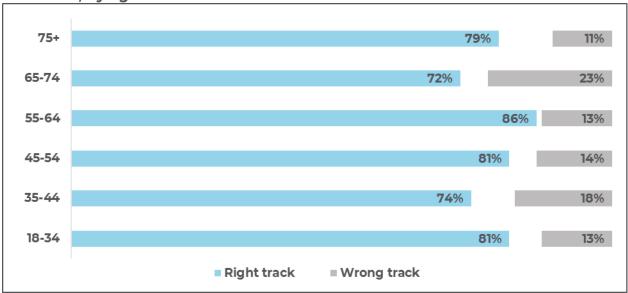


Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Protecting lakes and rivers: Minnesotans age 55-64 are more likely to say *right track* than those age 35-44 and 65-74 regarding protecting lakes and rivers for things like swimming,

boating, and fishing (86% compared to 72-74%). Overall, all age groups approve of the path the state is on for protecting lakes and rivers.

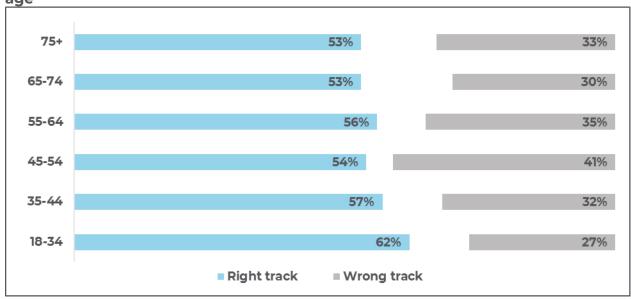
Figure 25: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to protecting lakes and rivers, by age



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

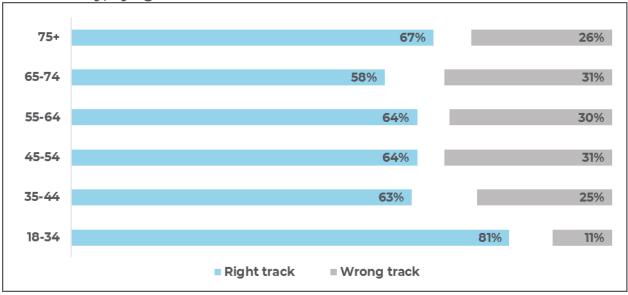
Immigration: Regarding Minnesota's direction on welcoming immigrants and refugees, a much higher proportion of Minnesotans age 45-54 indicate *wrong track* than is the case among those age 18-34 (41% compared with 27%). Otherwise there is not much variation by age in Minnesotans' assessment of immigration.

Figure 26: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to immigration, by age



Economy: Youngest adults are more positive in how they view the direction of the economy in Minnesota, with 81 percent age 18-34 saying *right track*—higher than all other age groups (58-67%).

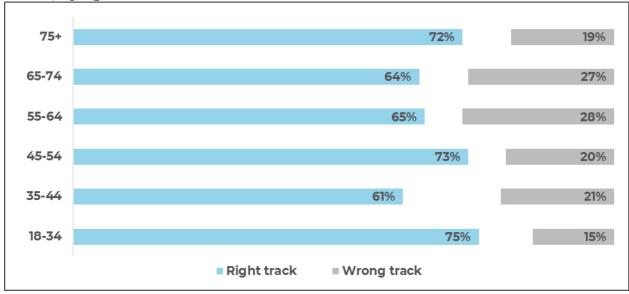
Figure 27: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to strengthening the economy, by age



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

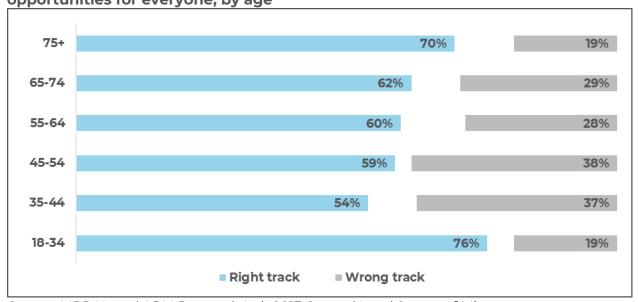
Caring for adults: Three-quarters of those age 18-34 say Minnesota is on the *right track* for caring for older adults. This support diminishes among those age 34-44 and between the age 55 and 74 (to 61-65% stating *right track*).

Figure 28: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to caring for older adults, by age



Equal opportunity: Minnesotans age 18-34 (76%) are more likely than all Minnesotans age 35-74 (54-62%) to say the state is on the *right track* for providing opportunities for everyone to get ahead, regardless of their backgrounds. Those age 35 to 54 are twice as likely to indicate that the state was on the *wrong track* than the youngest and oldest age groups.

Figure 29: Minnesotans' assessment of the state's approach to providing opportunities for everyone, by age



Findings by race groups

While Minnesota's population is rapidly becoming more diverse, non-Hispanic Whites still comprise 84 percent of the Minnesota's adult (age 18 or older) population. The sample for this survey closely approximates the state's population, and, thus, 243 Minnesotans of Color are represented in the results.² That number provides a representative reflection of the state's Populations of Color overall, but only allows for very limited representation of findings for specific racial and ethnic groups. Specifically, in addition to Whites, the results sometimes support reliable findings about the state's two largest Populations of Color, Blacks and Hispanics.

When broken down by race, the survey revealed differences for the issues areas of health care, immigration, safe drinking water, protecting lakes and rivers, and the state's approach to caring for older adults. There were no discernable differences in opinion by race regarding the state's approach to education, mental health, economy, or providing equal opportunity.

Health care: When asked whether Minnesota is on the *right* or *wrong track* for having good health care, Minnesotans of Color were somewhat more likely to choose *right track* than White Minnesotans (75% compared to 66%). The difference is even more apparent between Blacks and Whites, with 85 percent of the former choosing *right track*—19 percentage points higher than Whites.

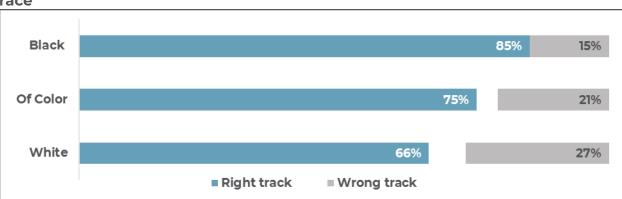


Figure 30: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to health care, by race

Note: Black is a subset of the Of Color category shown in this graph. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

The open-ended responses of White Minnesotans and Minnesotans of Colors reveal two common primary themes for choosing *right track*: access to health care and experience. The themes of health insurance, health care professionals, quality, and relative to other states also emerge as top themes from White Minnesotans' right track responses. There were no salient wrong track responses for Minnesotans of Color; however, common themes emerging from White Minnesotans' wrong track responses include cost, access to health care, and health insurance.

² Race is among the weighting factors in the survey. The 243 adult Minnesotans of Color represented in the weighted survey results are based on interviews with 193 individuals, yielding a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level.

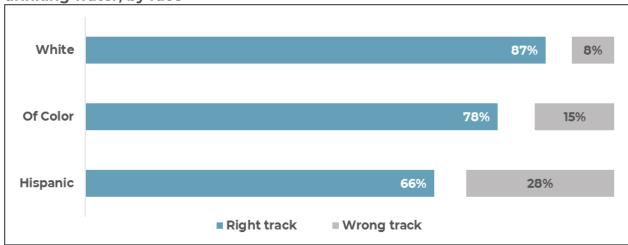
Figure 31: Most common reasons given for assessments of "having good health care" in Minnesota, by race

Race	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
White Minnesotans	 Access to health care Experience Health insurance Health care professionals Quality Relative to other states 	CostAccess to health careHealth insurance
Minnesotans of Color	Access to health care Experience	None

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 490 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Safe drinking water: When it comes to providing safe drinking water, White Minnesotans are somewhat more likely to say Minnesota is on the *right track* than Minnesotans of Color in general, especially Hispanics (87% compared to 78% and 66%, respectively).

Figure 32: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to providing safe drinking water, by race



Note: Hispanic is a subset of the Of Color category shown in this graph. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Protecting lakes and rivers: There is no meaningful difference in the proportion of Whites and People of Color overall who say the state is on the *right track* when it comes to protecting lakes and rivers. However, the proportion of Hispanics who indicate *right track* was significantly higher than is the case for either Black or White Minnesotans.

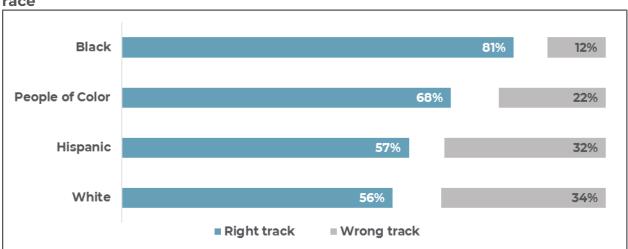
Figure 33: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to protecting lakes and rivers, by race



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Immigration: More than half of White Minnesotans feel the state is on the *right track* when it comes to *welcoming immigrants and refugees* compared to significantly higher proportion of People of Color. Disaggregated a bit more, the data reveal Black Minnesotans were much more likely to say *right track* than either Hispanic or White Minnesotans (81% compared to 57% and 56%, respectively).

Figure 34: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to immigration, by race



Note: Black and Hispanic are subsets of the Of Color category shown in this graph. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Responses to the open-ended follow-up question reveal the themes of *acceptance*, *experience*, and *presence* for White Minnesotans and Minnesotans of Color who said *right track* regarding immigration. For White Minnesotans, *integration*, *political leadership*, *jobs and contributions*, and *resources and services* are also key themes in their *right track* responses. For *wrong track*, no themes stand out in the responses Minnesotans of Color; however, for White Minnesotans, top themes are *acceptance*, *dependency*, *integration*, *resources and services*, and *presence* in the *wrong track* responses.

Figure 35: Most common reasons given for assessments of "welcoming immigrants and refugees" in Minnesota, by race

Race	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
White Minnesotans	 Acceptance Experience Presence Integration Political leadership Jobs and contribution Resources and services 	 Acceptance Dependency Presence Integration Resources and services
Minnesotans of Color	AcceptanceExperiencePresence	None

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 472 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Economy: There is no discernable difference according to race in Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to strengthening the economy. In the open-ended responses, *business environment* and *jobs* are two common reasons given by both White Minnesotans and Minnesotans of Color who think that the state's economy is on the *right track*. The themes of *growth and strength, relative to other states*, and *specific industries* also are common among the responses of White Minnesotans.

Regarding *wrong track*, no themes are prominent in the responses of Minnesotans of Color. The themes of *taxes, business environment*, and *jobs* surface in the responses of White Minnesotans who feel that the state's economy is on the *wrong track*.

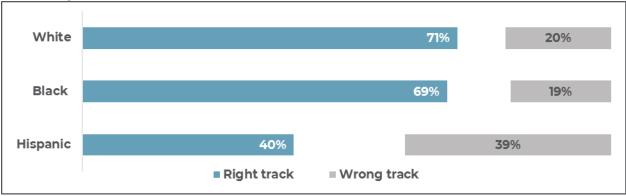
Figure 36: Most common reasons given for assessments of "strengthening the economy" in Minnesota, by race

Race	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
White Minnesotans	 Business environment Jobs Growth and strength Relative to other states Specific industries 	TaxesBusiness environmentJobs
Minnesotans of Color	Business environmentJobs	None

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 426 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Caring for older adults: Hispanics are far less likely than Blacks and Whites to say *right track* when it comes to caring for older adults, with approximately 4 in 10 Hispanics and 7 in 10 Blacks and Whites affirming Minnesota's direction on this issue.

Figure 37: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to caring for older adults, by race



Findings by income groups

The Ground Level Survey results were parsed by three broad groups of reported annual household income: below \$50,000; \$50,000-\$99,999; and \$100,000 or higher. No significant difference exists between these income groups in the proportion of *right track* or *wrong track* responses for the issues areas of health care, safe drinking water, or the economy. There are meaningful differences for the remaining issue areas.

Education: Minnesotans with annual incomes under \$100,000 are less likely than those with an annual income of \$100,000 or higher to say the state is on the *right track* for educating children. Overall, this issue area was seen favorably by the majority of Minnesotans at all income levels.

Figure 38: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to educating children, by annual household income



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Health care: Neither *right track/wrong track* assessments of the state's approach to having good health care, nor the responses to the open-ended question that followed vary significantly by income in Minnesota. Open-ended responses show that *experience* and *facilities* drive *right track* responses at all income levels. *Access to health care and quality* are shared top themes for those with an income over \$100,000 and those with an income of \$50,000-\$99,999 annually. For Minnesotans with annual incomes of \$50,000-\$99,999 and under \$50,000, the theme *health insurance* emerges, while the theme *health care professionals* emerges only in the responses of Minnesotans with an income below \$50,000.

For Minnesotans who indicated *wrong* track, the theme of *cost* is common in the responses of Minnesotans with an income of at \$99,999 or under. *Access to health care* also drives *wrong track* responses for Minnesotans with an annual income of \$50,000-\$99,999.

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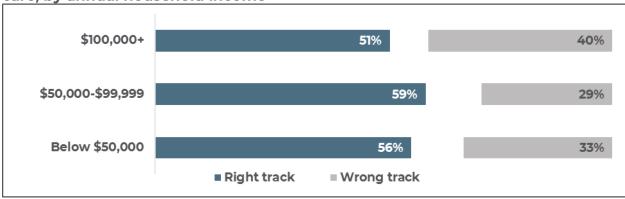
Figure 39: Most common reasons given for assessments of "having good health care" in Minnesota, by annual household income

Annual household income	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
\$100,000+ annually	Access to health careExperienceFacilitiesQuality	• None
\$50,000-\$99,999 annually	 Access to health care Experience Facilities Health insurance Quality 	CostAccess to health care
Under \$50,000 annually	ExperienceFacilitiesHealth insuranceHealth care professionals	• Cost

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 490 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Mental health: Around half of Minnesotans at all income levels feel the state is on the right track for providing care for those facing mental health issues. However, somewhat more Minnesotans with annual income of \$100,000 or more feel the state is on the *wrong track* compared to those with incomes between \$50,000 and \$99,999 (40% compared with 29-33%).

Figure 40: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to mental health care, by annual household income



Protecting lakes and rivers: Eight in 10 Minnesotans with annual incomes below \$100,000 say Minnesota is on the *right track* for protecting lakes and rivers for things like swimming, boating, and fishing compared to 9 in 10 of those in households with income above \$100,000. However, a high share of Minnesotans at all income levels feel the state is headed in the right direction for this issue area.

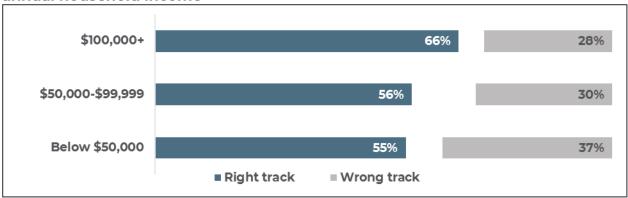
Figure 41: Minnesotans saying we're on the right/wrong track protecting lakes and rivers, by annual household income



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Immigration: The survey found stark contrasts across many characteristics when considering how Minnesotans feel about welcoming immigrants and refugees. Deep divides are not seen by income level, but there are modest differences: Minnesotans in households with annual incomes below \$100,000 are less likely to choose *right track* (55-56%) when compared to those with incomes of \$100,000 or more (66%).

Figure 42: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to immigration, by annual household income



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

In the follow-up open-ended question asking respondents to explain their *right* or *wrong track* choice, Minnesotans in all income groups commonly give reasons relating to *acceptance*, *experience*, *integration*, *presence*, and *resources and services* for their *right track* responses. For *wrong track*, the theme of *acceptance* emerges in the responses for Minnesotans with annual incomes of less than \$50,000 and those with incomes between \$50,000 and \$99,999 annually. *Presence* is also a top theme in the responses of the former group.

Figure 43: Most common reasons given for assessments of "welcoming immigrants and refugees" in Minnesota, by annual household income

Annual household income	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
\$100,000+ annually	AcceptanceExperienceIntegrationPresenceResources and services	• None
\$50,000-\$99,999 annually	 Acceptance Experience Integration Presence Resources and services 	Acceptance
Under \$50,000 annually	 Acceptance Experience Integration Presence Resources and services 	AcceptancePresence

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 472 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Economy: *Right track/wrong track* assessments of the state's approach to strengthening the economy do not vary significantly by income in Minnesota.

The follow-up open-ended question reveals that for *right track*, *business environment* and *jobs* are common themes in the responses of Minnesotans at all income levels. For those who have annual incomes between \$50,000 and \$99,999, the themes of *growth and strength* and *political leadership* frequently surface. The only major theme for *wrong track* that appears by income is *taxes* in the responses of Minnesotans with an income of at least \$50,000 annually.

Figure 44: Most common reasons given for assessments of "strengthening the economy" in Minnesota, by income

Annual household income	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
\$100,000+ annually	Business environmentJobs	• Taxes
\$50,000-\$99,999 annually	Business environmentJobsGrowth and strengthPolitical leadership	• Taxes
Under \$50,000 annually	Business environmentJobs	• None

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 426 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Caring for older adults: Seventy-seven percent of Minnesotans with incomes of \$100,000 or more say Minnesota is on the *right track* for caring for older adults, while the proportion of adults with income less than \$100,000 is about 10 percentage points lower. Additionally, those in households with income below \$50,000 are nearly twice as likely as those who make \$100,000 or more to say Minnesota is on the *wrong track*.

Figure 45: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to caring for older adults, by annual household income



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Equal opportunity: There is a ten-percentage-point difference between Minnesotans with incomes under \$50,000 annually and those with incomes at or above \$100,000 concerning whether Minnesota is on the *right track* for providing opportunities for everyone to get ahead, regardless of their background. Minnesotans with an income under \$50,000 annually are also more likely to choose *wrong track* than those with an income of \$50,000 or more annually (33% compared with 25%).

Figure 46: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to providing opportunities for everyone, by annual household income

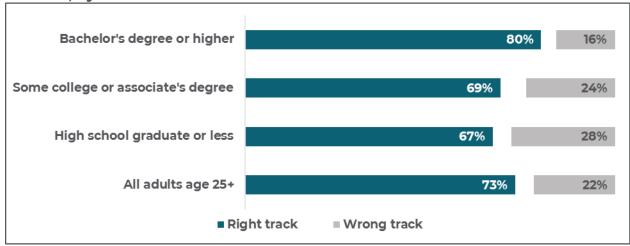


Findings by educational attainment

The findings below examine the responses of the population age 25 or older in Minnesota by highest reported level of education. Minnesotans differ in their assessments of the state's approach to all nine issue areas based on their educational attainment.

Educating children: Minnesotans age 25 or older with a high school degree or less education and those with some college or an associate's degree are less likely than Minnesotans with a bachelor's degree or higher to say the state is on the *right track* for educating children (67-69% compared to 80%).

Figure 47: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to educating children, by educational attainment

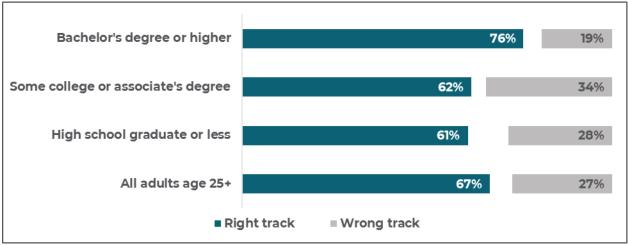


Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Health care: Seventy-six percent of Minnesotans with a bachelor's degree or higher choose *right track* regarding Minnesota's direction on health care, while just over 60 percent apiece of those with a high school degree or less education and those with some college or an associate's degree say the same thing.

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Figure 48: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to health care, by educational attainment



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Open-ended responses reveal that *experiences* commonly motivates the *right track* responses of Minnesotans at all income levels when thinking about health care. *Access to health care, facilities,* and *health insurance* are common themes for Minnesotans with some college education or an associate's degree and those with at least a bachelor's degree. However, *quality* and *relative to other states* stand out only for those with at least a bachelor's degree who say *right track*.

Wrong track responses by education reveal that cost is a common concern, across the board. Access to health care emerges as an important theme for those with some college or an associate's degree as does health insurance for those with at least bachelor's degree or more education.

Figure 49: Most common reasons given for assessments of "having good health care" in Minnesota, by educational attainment

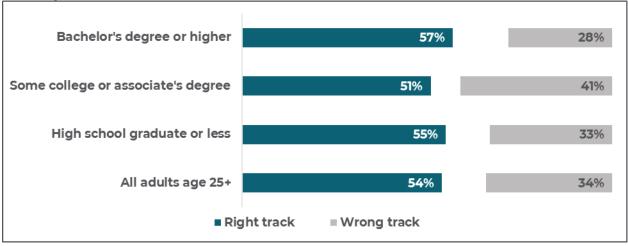
Education	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Bachelor's degree or higher	 Experience Access to health care Facilities Health insurance Quality Relative to other states 	Cost Health insurance
Some college or an associate's degree	ExperienceAccess to health careFacilitiesHealth insurance	Cost Access to health care
High school graduate or less	Experience	• Cost

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 426 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Mental health: While there are no significant differences by educational attainment for Minnesotans who chose *right track* regarding providing care for those facing mental health issues, there is a 13 percentage point difference in the proportion saying *wrong track* between Minnesotans with some college or an associate's degree (41%) and those with a bachelor's degree or higher (28%).

Figure 50: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to mental health

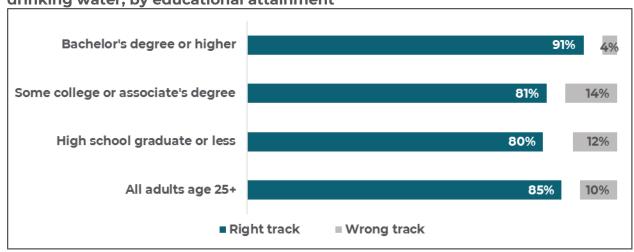
care, by educational attainment



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Safe drinking water: Overall, a strong majority of Minnesotans at all levels of educational attainment feel the state is on the right track for providing safe drinking water, though those with at least a bachelor's degree feel the most favorably about the direction the state is going, with 91 percent choosing *right track* compared to those with a high school degree or less education and those with some college or an associate's degree (about 80% each).

Figure 51: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to providing safe drinking water, by educational attainment

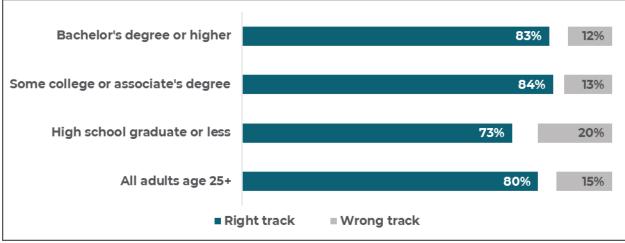


Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Protecting lakes and rivers: Much like responses regarding safe drinking water, there is general high approval for the path Minnesota is on in terms of protect lakes and rivers for things

like swimming, boating, and fishing. However, Minnesotans who have a high school diploma or less education are less likely to say *right track* than those with at least some college education or more (73% compared with 83-84%).

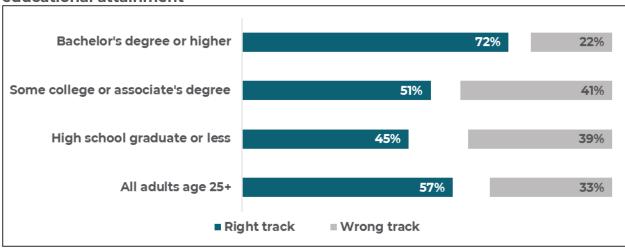
Figure 52: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to protecting lakes and rivers, by educational attainment



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Immigration: The survey reveals a highly significant difference in opinion by educational attainment for this issue area. Nearly three-quarters of Minnesotans with a bachelor's degree or higher feel the state is on the *right track* regarding welcoming immigrants and refugees. By contrast, only about half of those with less than a bachelor's degree say so.

Figure 53: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to immigration, by educational attainment



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

For *right track* responses on immigration, *acceptance* and *presence* are common themes among Minnesotans at all levels of educational attainment. The theme *experience* came out of responses from both Minnesotans with some college or an associate's degree and those with at least a bachelor's degree. *Integration* and *resources and services* are also prominent themes to emerge from the responses of Minnesotans with a bachelor's degree or higher.

For wrong track, the theme of acceptance is a primary theme for responses of those with a high school degree or less education and those with some college or an associate's degree, though presence also emerges as a theme for those with a high school education or less. Integration is the only major theme to come out of the wrong track responses of Minnesotans with a bachelor's degree or higher.

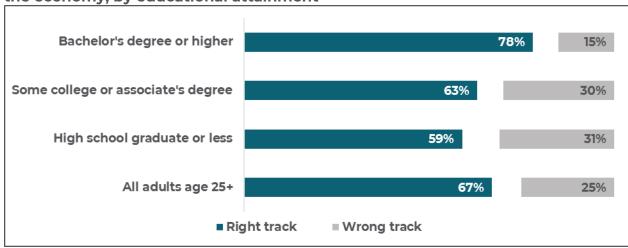
Figure 54: Most common reasons given for assessments of "welcoming immigrants and refugees" in Minnesota, by educational attainment

Education	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Bachelor's degree or higher	 Acceptance Presence Experience Integration Resources and services 	Integration
Some college or an associate's degree	AcceptancePresenceExperience	Acceptance
High school graduate or less	AcceptancePresence	AcceptancePresence

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 472 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Economy: Seventy-eight percent of Minnesotans with at least a bachelor's degree think Minnesota is on the *right track* for strengthening the economy, while only 59 to 63 percent of Minnesotans with a high school degree or less education and those with some college or an associate's degree say this.

Figure 55: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to strengthening the economy, by educational attainment



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

The theme *jobs* is common in the open-ended responses of Minnesotans at all levels of educational attainment who feel that the state's economy is on the *right track*. For those who

have at least some college or an associate's degree and those with at least a bachelor's degree, the themes *business environment* and *growth and strength* are also common. The themes *political leadership, relative to other states,* and *specific industries* are prevalent among those with at least a bachelor's degree.

Though those who think that the state's economy is on the *wrong track* give a variety of reasons for their assessment, the theme most commonly surfacing is *taxes* for Minnesotans who have some college or an associate's degree and those with a bachelor's degree or more education.

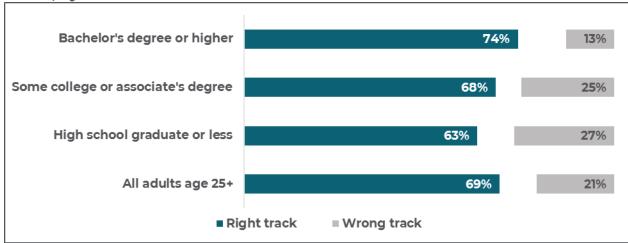
Figure 56: Most common reasons given for assessments of "strengthening the economy" in Minnesota, by educational attainment

Education	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Bachelor's degree or higher	 Jobs Business environment Growth and strength Political leadership Relative to other states Specific industries 	• Taxes
Some college or an associate's degree	 Jobs Business environment Growth and strength	Taxes
High school graduate or less	• Jobs	• None

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 426 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

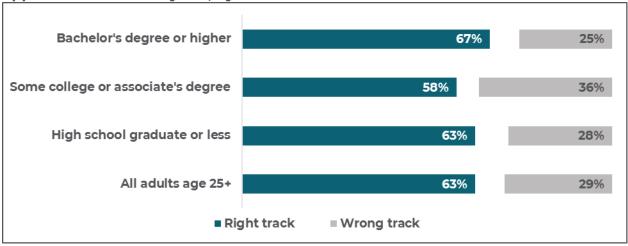
Caring for older adults: About a quarter of Minnesotans with a high school degree or less education or who have some college or an associate's degree feel Minnesota is on the *wrong track* considering caring for older adults, whereas only 13 percent of those with at least a four-year college degree say this.

Figure 57: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to caring for older adults, by educational attainment



Equal opportunity: There is nine percentage point difference between Minnesotans who have some college or an associate's degree and those with at least a bachelor's degree in terms of the proportion who feel state is on the right *track* when it comes to providing opportunities for everyone to get ahead, regardless of their background (58% compared with 67%).

Figure 58: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to providing opportunities for everyone, by educational attainment



Findings by political affiliation and approval or disapproval of President Trump

Examining survey responses by Minnesotans' political party affiliation³ and approval or disapproval of President Trump⁴ reveals deep divides across all issue areas covered in this survey, with the exception of *protecting lakes and rivers* and *caring for older adults*, where there is general approval across political lines.

Education: There are meaningful differences by both political party and Trump approval in this issue area. Democrats are more likely to feel Minnesota is on the *right track* for educating children (81%) than Republicans or Independents (66%-71%). The split for *right track* by Trump approval is similar to that of political affiliation, with 79 percent of Trump disapprovers and 62 percent of Trump approvers choosing *right track*.

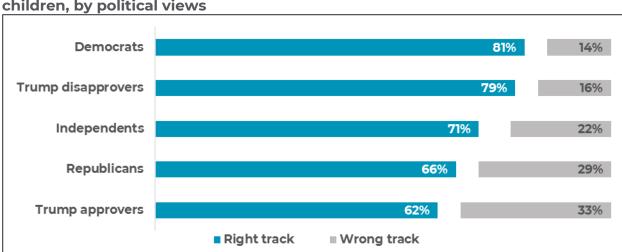


Figure 59: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to educating children, by political views

Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Health care: There is a significant difference by political affiliation in the percentage of Minnesotans giving positive assessments of the state's overall approach to healthcare. Seventy-seven percent of Democrats feel Minnesota is on the *right track* for health care, but this number drops 17 to 21 percentage points for Republicans (60%) and Independents (56%). A similar division is observable among Trump approvers and disapprovers, with 74 percent of Trump disapprovers and 56 percent of Trump approvers saying Minnesota is on the *right track* for *having good health care*.

question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President? Overall, 71 percent of Republicans approved of Trump at the time of the survey (and 23% disapproved), while only seven percent of Democrats approved of Trump (91% disapproved).

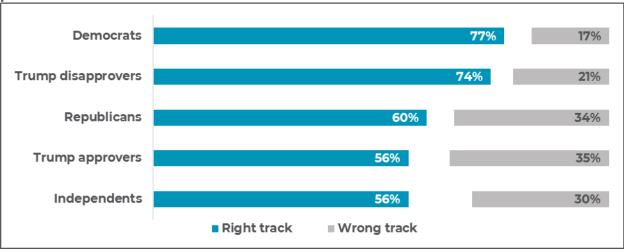
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while only seven percent of Democrats approved of Trump (91% disapproved).

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³ "Republicans" and "Democrats" include those who indicated they lean toward one party or the other. "Independents" includes stated "Independents" as well as those who did not provide a party preference ⁴ "Approvers" and "disapprovers" were tallied based upon *yes* and *no* responses to the following survey question: *Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?*

Figure 60: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to health care, by political views



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Respondents provide a variety of reasons for their assessment of the state's approach to health care. Common open-ended responses among Democrats, Republicans, and Independents who indicate that the state is on the *right track* include *access to health care* and *experience*. *Facilities, health insurance,* and *quality* are common themes in the responses of Democrats and Republicans, though *relative to other states* and *health care professionals* arise only in the *right track* responses of Democrats. Among those who think that the state is on the *wrong track*, the theme *cost* emerges for Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Additional major themes for *wrong track* responses include *access to health care* and *experience* for Democrats and *government* and *health insurance* for Republicans.

For Trump approvers and disapprovers alike, common *right track* responses include *access to health care, experience, facilities, health insurance,* and *quality.* Trump disapprovers also emphasize *relative to other states* and *health care professionals* in their *right track* responses. For *wrong track*, the theme of *cost* reveals itself in the responses of both Trump disapprovers and approvers. Only for Trump disapprovers does *access to health care* emerge as a theme in their *wrong track* responses.

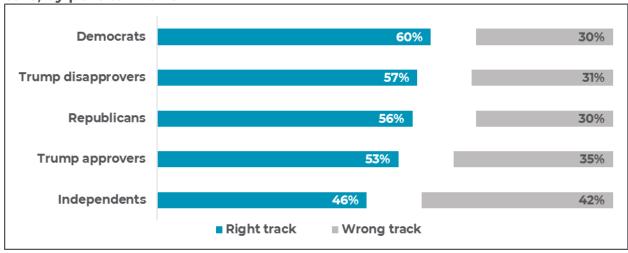
Figure 61: Most common reasons given for assessments of "having good health care" in Minnesota, by political views

Political views	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Democrats	 Access to health care Experience Facilities Health insurance Quality Relative to other states Health care professionals 	CostAccess to health careExperience
Republicans	 Access to health care Experience Facilities Health insurance Quality 	CostGovernmentHealth insurance
Independents	Access to health careExperience	• Cost
Trump disapprovers	 Access to health care Experience Facilities Health insurance Quality Relative to other states Health care professionals 	 Cost Access to health care
Trump approvers	 Access to health care Experience Facilities Health insurance Quality 	• Cost

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 490 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Mental health: Although there is no statistically significant difference between the percentage of Republicans and Independents who chose *right track* (46-56%) for mental health care, there is a meaningful difference between Independents and Democrats. Sixty percent of Democrats say the state is on the *right track* for providing care for those facing mental health issues, while only 46 percent of Independents say this. Democrats and Republicans are equally likely to say the state is on the *wrong track* (both 30%), while Independents are more likely to say so (42%). Trump approvers and disapprovers are statistically tied in their assessment of mental health for both *right track* and *wrong track* answers.

Figure 62: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to mental health care, by political views

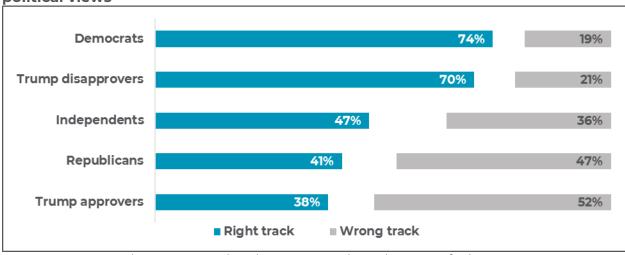


Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Immigration: A deep divide exists by political affiliation and Trump approval regarding welcoming immigrants and refugees. Democrats are more accepting of the current direction the state is going, with 74 percent saying *right track*. Among Republicans and Independents, 41 to 47 percent say the same thing—a difference of approximately 30 percentage points when compared with Democrats. The inverse also reflects this divide: 36 to 47 percent of Republicans and Independents indicate Minnesota is on the *wrong track* when it comes to immigration, while only 19 percent of Democrats say the same.

The chasm between Trump approvers and disapprovers largely reflects that of political affiliation: seventy percent of Trump disapprovers say we are on the *right track* for welcoming immigrants and refugees, while only 38 percent of Trump approvers felt this way—a drop of 32 percentage points. Furthermore, approximately half of Trump approvers choose *wrong track*, while only a fifth of Trump disapprovers say this.

Figure 63: Minnesotans assessments of the state's approach to immigration, by political views



Acceptance was the single major theme arising in the open-ended responses of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike who say *right track* for this issue area. *Integration, presence,* and *resources and services* are top themes emerging for both Democrats and Republicans who say *right track*; although *relative to other states, experience,* and *jobs and contributions* also surface in the responses of Democrats. For *wrong track, acceptance, integration,* and *resources and services* are major themes appearing in the responses of both Democrats and Republicans. Themes of *dependency* and *presence* are also prominent for Republicans who say *wrong track*.

Trump approvers and disapprovers' *right track* responses have the themes of *acceptance* and *presence* in common, though additional themes reveal themselves in Trump disapprovers' responses: *experience, jobs and contribution, integration, relative to other states,* and *resources and services.* The only theme Trump approvers and disapprovers' *wrong track* responses share is *acceptance*. For approvers' who say *wrong track*, the themes of *dependency, presence,* and *resources and services* also appear in their responses, while *integration* is found in the *wrong track* responses of disapprovers as well.

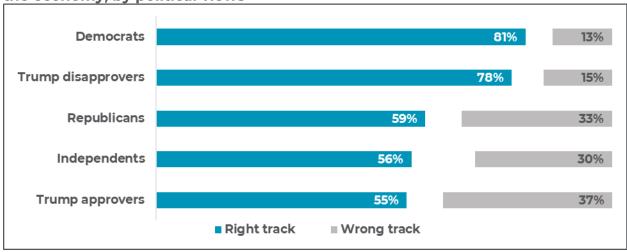
Figure 64: Most common reasons given for assessments of "welcoming immigrants and refugees" in Minnesota, by political views

Political Views	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Democrats	 Acceptance Integration Presence Resources and services Relative to other states Experience Jobs and contributions 	AcceptanceIntegrationResources and services
Republicans	AcceptanceIntegrationPresenceResources and services	 Acceptance Integration Resources and services Dependency Presence
Independents	Acceptance	• None
Trump disapprovers	 Acceptance Presence Experience Jobs and contribution Integration Relative to other states Resources and services 	AcceptanceIntegration
Trump approvers	AcceptancePresence	AcceptanceDependencyPresenceResources and services

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 490 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Economy: A higher proportion of Democrats than Independents and Republicans (81% compared with 56-59%) say Minnesota is on the *right track* for strengthening the economy—another large gap related to political affiliation. Once more Trump approval and disapproval is in line with party affiliation, as 78 percent of Trump disapprovers but only 55 percent of Trump approvers say Minnesota is on the *right track* regarding the strengthening the economy.

Figure 65: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to strengthening the economy, by political views



Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Top themes from the open-ended responses of both Republicans and Democrats who think the state's economy is on the right track, are *business environment, jobs, and specific industries*. The additional themes of *growth and strength* and *relative to other states* come out of Democrat responses. For *wrong track, taxes* is a top theme only for Republicans.

Themes gleaned from the responses of Trump approvers and disapprovers mirror those of Democrats and Republicans, with approvers and disapprovers sharing the themes of *business environment* and *jobs*; however, the themes of *growth and strength, relative to other states*, and *specific industries* are also common among the open-ended responses of disapprovers—also reflecting the *right track* themes of Democrats. *Taxes* is the only principal theme among the *wrong track* responses for both approvers and disapprovers.

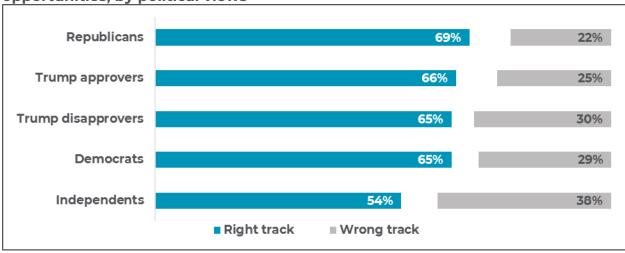
Figure 66: Most common reasons given for assessments of "strengthening the economy" in Minnesota, by political views

Political Views	Reason for "Right Track"	Reason for "Wrong Track"
Democrats	 Business environment Jobs Growth and strength Relative to other states Specific industries 	• None
Republicans	Business environmentJobsSpecific industries	• Taxes
Independents	• None	• None
Trump disapprovers	 Business environment Jobs Growth and strength Relative to other states Specific industries 	• Taxes
Trump approvers	Business environmentJobs	Taxes

Notes: Categories were derived from verbatim responses. Table shows all response categories with at least 10 responses from the total of 426 respondents who answered this question. Source: MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey of Minnesotans.

Equal opportunity: Surprisingly, there is no meaningful difference between Republicans and Democrats in the share who indicate that the state is on *right track* (65-69%) for providing opportunities for everyone to get ahead, regardless of their background. Independents are less likely to choose *right track* on this issue (54%). Additionally, no salient difference exists by Trump approvers and disapprovers, with just under two-thirds of both groups saying Minnesota is on the *right track*.

Figure 67: Minnesotans' assessments of the state's approach to providing equal opportunities, by political views



Technical Notes

Graph notes: Readers are cautioned that not all observed differences in the graphs are statistically significant. Graphs do not show the percentage of survey respondents who said they "don't know" or otherwise didn't give a response. For this reason, graphs will not sum to 100%.

Race group definitions: All race groups shown are non-Hispanic. Excepting the White group, all individual race groups contain multiracial persons. For example, a survey respondent who indicated he was both Black and American Indian would appear in both race groups in data summaries.

Geographic regions definitions: The survey was conducted across Minnesota in eight regions—discrete geographies by which results are reported. Survey respondents were sorted into regions by disclosing their zip codes at the beginning of the survey. In the cases where zip codes crossed county boundaries, they were also asked which county they resided in. Each region's geographic definition is discussed below:

- Duluth Area: Consists of the following 11 residential U.S. Postal Service zip codes in or nearby the city of Duluth, in portions of St. Louis County: 55802, 55803, 55804, 55805, 55806, 55807, 55808, 55810, 55811, 55812, and 55814. The Duluth Area stratum contains an estimated 117,100 residents (2% of the state population) and 47,400 households.
- 2. Northern Minnesota: Comprises 19 counties in northern Minnesota, excluding the embedded geography represented by the Duluth Area region. The counties are: Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Clearwater, Cook, Hubbard, Itasca, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, and St. Louis. The Northern Minnesota stratum contains an estimated 379,200 residents (7% of the state population) and 158,700 households.
- 3. St. Cloud Area: Consists of the following 8 residential USPS zip codes in or nearby the city of St. Cloud, located in portions of Stearns, Sherburne, and Benton counties in Central Minnesota: 56301, 56303, 56304, 56369, 56374, 56377, 56379, and 56387. The St. Cloud Area stratum contains an estimated 126,800 residents (2% of the state population) and 48,100 households.
- 4. Central Minnesota: Comprises 23 counties in central Minnesota, excluding the embedded geography represented by the St. Cloud Area region. The counties that represent this region are: Becker, Benton, Cass, Chisago, Clay, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pine, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Wilkin, and Wright. The Central Minnesota stratum contains an estimated 834,800 residents (15% of the state population) and 321,300 households.
- 5. Minneapolis-St. Paul: Represented by the actual boundaries of the adjacent cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, which contain portions of Hennepin and Ramsey counties. The Minneapolis-St. Paul region contains an estimated 695,000 residents (13% of the

56

state population) and 281,400 households.

- 6. Twin Cities Suburbs: Comprises seven counties home or adjacent to Minneapolis and St. Paul, excluding the Minneapolis-St. Paul region. The seven counties are Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington. The Twin Cities Suburbs region contains an estimated 2,257,100 residents (42% of the state population) and 868,800 households.
- 7. Rochester Area: Consists of the following four residential USPS zip codes in or nearby the city of Rochester, located in portions of Olmsted county in southern Minnesota: 55901, 55902, 55904, and 55906. The Rochester Area region contains an estimated 121,700 residents (2% of the state population) and 47,800 households.
- 8. Southern Minnesota: Comprises 38 counties located in southern Minnesota, excluding the Rochester Area stratum. The counties are Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Martin, Meeker, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Swift, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona, and Yellow Medicine. The Southern Minnesota stratum contains an estimated 887,400 residents (16% of the state population) and 351,300 households.

Additionally, results have been reported by the Twin Cities 7-County Region versus Greater Minnesota. The former consists of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties, while the latter consists of the balance of Minnesota (80 counties).

Open-ended Coding and Themes: Open-ended responses were coded by two researchers separately to ensure inter-coder reliability, and reviewed by a third for quality assurance. For right track/wrong track questions, the sample of 1,654 was split into thirds, with each third asked one of the three open-ended follow-up questions on health care, immigration, or the economy. For purposes of this report, a theme was included as "top" or "major" if there were at least ten respondents in the category. The following themes were derived from the open-ended responses.

1. Immigration

- Acceptance: Respondents mention acceptance, welcoming, or tolerance of immigrants/refugees
- Integration: Respondents mention integration, assimilation, adaptation, or conforming to community/society/country
- Presence: Respondents mention the presence/existence of immigrants in state or community
- **Resources and services:** Respondents mention resources or services such as programs or organizations
- Jobs and contribution: Respondents mention employment, contribution, and/or productivity of immigrants/refugees
- Political Leadership: Respondents mention a politician, legislature, or some other form of political leadership

- Relative to other states: Respondents compare Minnesota or region of Minnesota to other state(s)
- **Dependency:** Respondents mention immigrants and refugees as generally dependent without mentioning a specific policy, organization, or program

2. Economy

- Taxes: Respondents explicitly mentions "tax" or "taxes"
- Job: Respondents mention jobs or job market
- Growth and strength: Respondents mentions the progress, growth, or strength
 of the economy
- Specific industries: Respondents mention a specific industry such as medical
- Business environment: Respondents mention business environment of Minnesota or region of Minnesota (e.g. retention of businesses or bringing in new businesses due to factors such as taxes and policies)
- Relative to other states: Respondents compare Minnesota or region of Minnesota to other state(s)
- Minimum wage: Respondent specifically mention minimum wage
- **Political leadership**: Respondents mention a politician, legislature, or some other form of political leadership

3. Health care

- Access to health care: Respondents mention ability to obtain coverage in some capacity or specifically mentioned "access"
- Health insurance: Respondents mentions and/or names a specific health insurance
- **Experience**: Respondents mention personal, professional, or others' experience
- Cost: Respondents mention to cost of health care and/or medical services
- Relative to other states: Respondents compare Minnesota or region of Minnesota to other state(s)
- Facilities: Respondents mention medical facilities such as hospitals or the Mayo Clinic
- **Health care professionals:** Respondents mention health care professionals generally or specifically (e.g. doctors)
- **Quality:** Respondents mention general or overall quality of health care (e.g. "good health care")



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