Minnesota's Science Standards

Submitted to:
Minnesota Science Education Association

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I. Methodology and Sample Characteristics

Zogby International conducted interviews of 601 Likely primary voters chosen at random statewide. All calls were made from Zogby International headquarters in Utica, N.Y., from February 13 through February 14, 2004. The margin of error is +/- 4.1 percentage points. Slight weights were added to party, age, religion, and gender to more accurately reflect the voting population in Minnesota. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Sample Characteristics	Frequency	Valid Percent*
Sample size	601	100
Minneapolis/St. Paul	325	54
North	125	21
Central	53	9
South	98	16
Very likely to vote	516	86
Somewhat likely to vote	85	14
Democrat	218	36
Republican	187	31
Independent/Minor party	196	33
18-29	100	17
30-49	248	42
50-64	165	28
65+	77	13
18-24	54	9
25-34	80	14
35-54	283	48
55-69	119	20
70+	54	9
Did not answer age	*10*	*2*
Less than high school	14	2
High school graduate	111	18
Some college	174	29
College graduate+	301	50
Did not answer education	*1*	*0*

Sample Characteristics (continued)	Frequency	Valid Percent*
White	567	96
Hispanic	5	1
African American	4	1
Asian/Pacific	7	1
Other/mixed	8	1
Did not answer race	*10*	*2*
Roman Catholic	161	27
Protestant	339	57
Jewish	12	2
Other (religion)	83	14
Did not answer religion	*6*	*1*
Less than $15,000	46	8
$15,000-$24,999	49	9
$25,000-$34,999	56	10
$35,000-$49,999	96	18
$50,000-$74,999	128	24
$75,000 or more	167	31
Did not answer income	*59*	*10*
Male	290	48
Female	311	52

*** Numbers have been rounded to the nearest percent and might not total 100.**

II. Narrative Analysis

5. The Minnesota State legislature is currently reviewing science standards to be approved for public schools in Minnesota. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your own opinion?

> ***Statement A****: The legislature should approve standards that teach only Darwin's theory of evolution and the scientific evidence that supports it.*
>
> ***Statement B:*** *The legislature should approve standards that teach Darwin's theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it.*

Statement A	16%
Statement B	72
Neither/Not sure	12

Nearly three in four (72%) voters believe that the legislature should approve standards that teach Darwin's theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it.

A sizeable majority in each sub-group agrees the evidence for and against evolution should be the new standard approved by the legislature (Statement B). This includes 80% of voters under 30 and 81% of Republicans and 67% of Democrats.

6. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: "When Darwin's theory of evolution is taught in school, students should also learn how scientists continue to critically analyze aspects of evolutionary theory."

Strongly agree	48%		
Somewhat agree	34	Agree	82%
Somewhat disagree	6		
Strongly disagree	6	Disagree	12
Not sure	6		

More than four in five (82%) voters agree that when Darwin's theory of evolution is taught in school, students should also learn that scientists continue to study aspects of his theory, while 12% disagree and 6% are not sure.

The overwhelming majority in all sub-groups agree that students should learn about how scientists are continuing to study the theory of evolution.

7. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your own opinion?

Statement A: *Biology teachers should teach only Darwin's theory of evolution and the scientific evidence that supports it.*

Statement B: *Biology teachers should teach Darwin's theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it.*

Statement A	17%
Statement B	77
Neither/Not sure	7

More than three in four (77%) of Minnesota voters agree that biology teachers should teach both the scientific evidence for and against Darwin's theory of evolution. Seventeen percent believe that Darwin's theory and only the evidence supporting it should be taught and 7% are not sure.

A majority in every sub-group agrees with Statement B. Among age groups, support drops slightly as age increases, while among income groups, support generally increases as income increases.