

THE MORRIS LEATHERMAN COMPANY
3128 Dean Court
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416

WESTONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2022 Residential Survey
FINAL AUGUST 2022

Hello, I'm _____ of the Morris Leatherman Company, a national polling firm located in Minneapolis. We are speaking with a random sample of residents of the Westonka Public School District. The School District is interested in your opinions and suggestions. I want to assure you that all individual responses will be held strictly confidential; only summaries of the entire sample will be reported.

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|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Approximately how many years have you lived in the Westonka Public School District? | LESS THAN TWO YEARS...8% |
| | TWO TO FIVE YEARS....14% |
| | SIX TO TEN YEARS.....21% |
| | ELEVEN TO TWENTY YRS.24% |
| | 21 TO 30 YEARS.....15% |
| | OVER THIRTY YEARS....17% |
| | REFUSED.....0% |

As you may know, there are many types of elections. In Presidential and Gubernatorial elections, Minnesota has very high voter turnout. In off-year and special elections, voter turnout is much lower.

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|---|--------------------------|
| 2. How closely do you follow local elections, such as the city, county, or school board races -- would you say you follow them very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or really don't follow them at all? | VERY CLOSELY.....13% |
| | SOMEWHAT CLOSELY.....44% |
| | NOT TOO CLOSELY.....34% |
| | DON'T FOLLOW AT ALL...8% |
| | DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....0% |
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- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 3. In past off-year and special elections, would you say you have always voted, often voted, rarely voted, or never voted? | ALWAYS VOTED.....25% |
| | OFTEN VOTED.....44% |
| | RARELY VOTED.....22% |
| | NEVER VOTED.....9% |
| | DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....0% |

If the School District proposed a bond referendum next year....

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 4. How likely are you to vote in 2023 election -- absolutely certain, very likely, 1/2-1/2, not too likely, or not at all likely? | ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN...33% |
| | VERY LIKELY.....30% |
| | 1/2-1/2.....21% |
| | NOT TOO LIKELY.....9% |
| | NOT AT ALL LIKELY.....6% |
| | DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....1% |

Moving on....

5. What, if anything, do you like most about the Westonka Public Schools?
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|-------------------------|-----|
| UNSURE..... | 3% |
| TEACHERS..... | 26% |
| VARIETY OF PROGRAMS... | 12% |
| GOOD ACADEMICS..... | 8% |
| SPORTS..... | 6% |
| EXTRA-CURRICULARS..... | 2% |
| HIGH ACHIEVEMENT..... | 13% |
| SMALL SCHOOLS..... | 6% |
| SENSE OF COMMUNITY..... | 6% |
| HIGH STANDARDS..... | 9% |
| SMALL CLASS SIZES..... | 2% |
| NICE FACILITIES..... | 2% |
| GOOD COMMUNICATION..... | 4% |
| SCATTERED..... | 2% |
6. How would you rate the job the District has done handling the COVID-19 pandemic -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| EXCELLENT..... | 14% |
| GOOD..... | 51% |
| ONLY FAIR..... | 10% |
| POOR..... | 3% |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.... | 23% |

IF A RESPONSE IS GIVEN, ASK: (N=307)

7. Why did you rate the District as (excellent/good/only fair/poor)?
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| AGREE W/PROTOCOLS..... | 20% |
| AGREE MASK POLICY..... | 13% |
| DISAGREE MASK..... | 10% |
| GOOD DISTANCE LEARN... | 16% |
| POOR DISTANCE LEARN.... | 5% |
| GOOD LEADERSHIP..... | 19% |
| OUT OF SCHOOL TOO LONG. | 4% |
| GOOD SUPPORTS..... | 6% |
| POOR COMMUNICATION..... | 2% |
| SCATTERED..... | 5% |

Aside from the COVID-19 pandemic....

8. What, if anything, do you think is the most serious issue facing the Westonka Public Schools?	UNSURE.....19% NOTHING.....21% LACK OF FUNDING.....16% LACK OF DISCIPLINE.....8% POOR SPENDING.....2% HIGH TAXES.....2% FACILITY NEEDS.....3% TOO MUCH GROWTH.....9% TEACHER SHORTAGE.....3% ACHIEVEMENT LOSS.....2% SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS.2% MENTAL HEALTH.....3% TOO POLITICAL.....2% DIVERSITY ISSUES.....2% SCATTERED.....6%
9. How would you rate the quality of education provided by the Westonka Public Schools -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	EXCELLENT.....28% GOOD.....68% ONLY FAIR.....3% POOR.....1% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....1%
10. Compared with three years ago, would you say the overall quality of education provided by the Westonka Public Schools is much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse?	MUCH BETTER.....11% SOMEWHAT BETTER.....33% ABOUT THE SAME.....39% SOMEWHAT WORSE.....4% MUCH WORSE.....0% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....14%
11. Overall, do you think the Westonka Public Schools meet the learning needs of all students, most students, only some students, or very few students?	ALL.....50% MOST.....31% ONLY SOME.....6% VERY FEW.....2% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....11%

IF "MOST," "ONLY SOME" OR "VERY FEW," ASK: (N=159)

12.	Is there any one type of student whose learning needs you think are not being met? (IF "YES," ASK:) Who would that be?	UNSURE.....5%
		NO.....6%
		SPECIAL EDUCATION.....15%
		AVERAGE.....13%
		GIFTED & TALENTED.....4%
		STRUGGLING.....21%
		ESL.....3%
		BIPOC.....3%
		UNDERACHIEVERS.....12%
		LOW-INCOME.....3%
		MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES...6%
		BEHAVIOR ISSUES.....6%
		LACK OF PARENT SUPPORT.2%
		SCATTERED.....2%

I would like to read you a number of statements other people have told us. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. If you don't know, just say so.

13.	During the last couple of years, the Westonka Public School District Administration and Board have spent tax money effectively and efficiently.	STRONGLY AGREE.....10%
		AGREE.....62%
		DISAGREE.....15%
		STRONGLY DISAGREE.....2%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED...12%
14.	The Westonka School District Board and Administration do a good job of involving community leaders parents, and interested citizens in decisions about the schools.	STRONGLY AGREE.....18%
		AGREE.....60%
		DISAGREE.....15%
		STRONGLY DISAGREE.....2%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....6%
15.	The Westonka School District does a good job of communicating important issues and decisions to the residents of this area.	STRONGLY AGREE.....25%
		AGREE.....56%
		DISAGREE.....14%
		STRONGLY DISAGREE.....3%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....3%
16.	I am satisfied with the School District's decision-making.	STRONGLY AGREE.....19%
		AGREE.....54%
		DISAGREE.....17%
		STRONGLY DISAGREE.....3%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....7%

17.	The Westonka Public Schools are a good investment and I would support a property tax increase to protect that investment.	STRONGLY AGREE.....14%
		AGREE.....53%
		DISAGREE.....14%
		STRONGLY DISAGREE.....8%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED...11%

Changing topics....

18.	How would you rate the job performance of the Westonka Public School Board -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	EXCELLENT.....13%
		GOOD.....60%
		ONLY FAIR.....17%
		POOR.....3%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....8%

19.	How would you rate the job performance of the Superintendent and District Administration -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	EXCELLENT.....22%
		GOOD.....50%
		ONLY FAIR.....15%
		POOR.....3%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....9%

20.	And, how would you rate the performance of the teachers and instructional staff -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	EXCELLENT.....45%
		GOOD.....44%
		ONLY FAIR.....4%
		POOR.....1%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....7%

Moving on....

21.	In comparison with neighboring areas, do you consider total property taxes in your community to be very high, somewhat high, about average, somewhat low, or very low?	VERY HIGH.....10%
		SOMEWHAT HIGH.....34%
		ABOUT AVERAGE.....50%
		SOMEWHAT LOW.....3%
		VERY LOW.....0%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....4%

22.	In comparison with other neighboring school districts, do you think that school taxes in the Westonka Public School District are very high, somewhat high, about average, somewhat low, or very low?	VERY HIGH.....8%
		SOMEWHAT HIGH.....30%
		ABOUT AVERAGE.....48%
		SOMEWHAT LOW.....2%
		VERY LOW.....0%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED...13%

23.	Do you think the Westonka Public Schools are adequately funded?	YES.....60%
		NO.....31%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED...10%

24.	And, how would you rate the financial management of the Westonka Public Schools -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	EXCELLENT.....10%
		GOOD.....59%
		ONLY FAIR.....17%
		POOR.....2%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED...13%

Thinking about school buildings and facilities....

25.	From what you have heard or seen, how would you rate them -- excellent, good, only fair or poor?	EXCELLENT.....20%
		GOOD.....65%
		ONLY FAIR.....9%
		POOR.....1%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED...6%

IF "ONLY FAIR" OR "POOR," ASK: (N=35)

26.	Why did you rate school buildings and facilities as (only fair or poor)?	NEED MORE SPACE.....54%
		NEED MAINTENANCE.....29%
		NEED UPDATING.....9%
		NEED SAFETY/SECURITY..9%

There has been discussion about the need for public school buildings to contain spaces where students can learn in both small group and large group settings to accommodate 21st century instruction. As a result of having flexible learning spaces, programs can be better tailored to meet individual learning needs, and more innovative teaching approaches can be employed.

27.	How important do you think classroom design is to student learning -- very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?	VERY IMPORTANT.....42%
		SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT...43%
		NOT TOO IMPORTANT....13%
		NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT..0%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....2%

28.	From what you have seen or heard, can Westonka Public School buildings currently provide for sufficient flexible learning spaces, to meet a variety of instruction and learning styles?	YES.....60%
		NO.....21%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED...19%

When you consider new housing construction in the school district....

29. From what you have heard or seen, INCREASED.....68%
do you think new housing construc- REMAINED ABOUT SAME..29%
tion in the school district has DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....3%
increased or remained about the
same over the past five years?

30. Do you think new housing construc- YES.....74%
tion in the school district will NO.....18%
increase over the next five years? DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....8%

31. Do you think student enrollment in YES.....72%
the district will increase over NO.....19%
the next five years? DON'T KNOW/REFUSED...10%

32. Do you think the Westonka Public YES.....40%
School District currently has NO.....38%
enough school space to accommodate DON'T KNOW/REFUSED...22%
enrollment five years from now?

Next year, the Westonka Public School Board may ask voters to
provide funding for facilities' needs.

33. Which of the following three STATEMENT A.....22%
statements best describes your STATEMENT B.....54%
feelings? STATEMENT C.....23%

A. I would vote against almost any DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....1%
property tax increases for the
schools;

B. I would vote for a property tax
increase under some conditions,
but against it under other con-
ditions;

C. I would vote for almost any
property tax increases for the
schools.

34. How much would you be willing to NOTHING.....25%
pay in additional property taxes \$4.00.....15%
in order to address facilities' \$8.00.....25%
needs? [SELECT RANDOM STARTING \$12.00.....19%
POINT; MOVE UP OR DOWN DEPENDING \$16.00.....4%
ON ANSWER] How about \$___ per \$20.00.....3%
month? [REPEAT] \$24.00.....1%
OVER \$24.00.....3%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....6%

To address facilities' needs, the School District is considering the following options. For each of the following, please tell me if you would strongly support a property tax increase for that purpose, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose a property tax increase for that purpose. (ROTATE)

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| 35. Deferred maintenance improvements, including HVAC, pipes, boilers and ADA accessibility across all district schools? | 48% | 30% | 14% | 7% | 1% |
| 36. Interior redesign of the High School to increase security and improve the functionality and learning environment for students? | 46% | 28% | 13% | 9% | 5% |
| 37. Safety and security improvements at Grandview Middle School, including the addition of a secured entrance. | 56% | 23% | 11% | 6% | 4% |
| 38. Improvements to the High School stadium, including safety, ADA accessibility, lights and installing artificial turf? | 32% | 28% | 21% | 17% | 3% |

Now, that we have discussed numerous components being considered....

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| 39. Overall, do these improvements sound like a good idea or a bad idea? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you feel strongly that way? | GOOD IDEA/STRONGLY...14% |
| | GOOD IDEA.....61% |
| | BAD IDEA.....18% |
| | BAD IDEA/STRONGLY.....3% |
| | DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....5% |

IF "BAD IDEA" OR "BAD IDEA/STRONGLY," ASK: (N=82)

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|---|--------------------------|
| 40. Are there one or two components that if they were included would you cause you to vote against a bond referendum? (IF "YES," ASK:) What would those be? | NO.....12% |
| | DEFERRED MAINTENANCE.14% |
| | HS INTERIOR.....18% |
| | MS SECURITY.....5% |
| | HS STADIUM.....42% |
| | OPPOSE ALL.....9% |

The total cost to complete all of these improvements could be approximately \$65 million dollars.

41.	Does this sound like a fair price	YES.....	53%
	- \$65 million dollars - for these	NO.....	35%
	improvements?	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED...	13%

If voters approved a \$65 million bond referendum to fund these improvements, the owner of a \$250,000 home would see a monthly property tax increase of about \$7 per month or \$85 per year for twenty years; while the owner of a \$350,000 home would see a monthly increase of about \$10 per month or \$125 per year.

42.	If the election were today, would	STRONGLY SUPPORT.....	18%
	you support or oppose this bond	SUPPORT.....	48%
	referendum? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE)	OPPOSE.....	20%
	Do you feel strongly that way?	STRONGLY OPPOSE.....	11%
	that way?	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....	4%

IF A POSITION IS TAKEN, ASK: (N=385)

43.	Could you tell me one or two	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....	0%
	reasons why you feel that	EDUCATION IMPORTANT..	23%
	way?	NEEDED.....	15%
		COST IS REASONABLE...	16%
		TAXES ARE TOO HIGH....	6%
		COST IS TOO HIGH.....	8%
		NOT NEEDED.....	1%
		POOR DISTRICT SPEND...	8%
		CHILDREN IN SD.....	14%
		NO CHILDREN IN SD.....	6%
		INFLATION.....	3%

Moving on....

44.	What is your principal source of	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....	0%
	information about the Westonka	NONE.....	5%
	Public Schools?	DISTRICT NEWSLETTER..	29%
		LOCAL NEWSPAPER.....	10%
		DISTRICT WEBSITE.....	16%
		WORD OF MOUTH.....	23%
		TEACHERS/STAFF.....	6%
		E-MAIL.....	5%
		SOCIAL MEDIA.....	5%
		CHILDREN.....	1%

45.	What is the most effective way for you to receive information about the Westonka Public Schools -- mailed newsletter, e-mail, School District website, the Community Education catalog, the local newspaper, social media, or something else? (IF "SOMETHING ELSE," ASK:) What would that be?	MAILED NEWSLETTER....31% E-MAIL.....16% DISTRICT WEBSITE.....23% COMMUNITY ED CATALOG..4% LOCAL NEWSPAPER.....11% SOCIAL MEDIA.....6% NOTHING.....2% WORD OF MOUTH.....7% SCATTERED.....1%
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Now, just a few more questions for statistical purposes....

46.	Which of the following categories contains your age? (READ #1-#6)	18-24.....9% 25-34.....14% 35-44.....20% 45-54.....22% 55-64.....16% 65 AND OLDER.....20% REFUSED.....0%
47.	Does your household contain any pre-schoolers or infants?	YES.....14% NO.....86% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....0%
48.	Are there school-aged children in your household (IF "YES," ASK:) Do they attend Westonka Public Schools, public schools in other districts, parochial or private schools, charter schools, or home school?	NO.....66% YES/WESTONKA.....28% YES/OTHER PUBLIC.....1% YES/PAROCIAL/PRIVATE.2% YES/CHARTER.....2% YES/HOME SCHOOL.....1% YES/COMBINATION.....0% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....0%
49.	What is the last grade of formal education you completed?	HS GRAD/LESS.....17% VO-TECH/TECH COLL....14% SOME COLLEGE.....18% COLLEGE GRADUATE.....43% POST-GRADUATE.....8% REFUSED.....0%

50.	Do you own or rent your present residence? (IF "OWN," ASK:) Which of the following categories contains the approximate value of your residential property -- under \$250,000, \$250,000-\$350,000, or over \$350,000?	RENT.....19% OWN/UNDER \$250,000...20% OWN/\$250,000-\$350K...30% OWN/OVER \$350,000....29% DON'T KNOW.....1% REFUSED.....1%
51.	Which political party do you consider yourself most closely aligned with?	REPUBLICAN.....38% DEMOCRAT.....30% INDEPENDENT.....29% SOMETHING ELSE.....0% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....3%
52.	Finally, thinking about your household finances, how would you describe your financial situation, would you say that -- A) Your monthly expenses are exceeding your income; B) You are meeting your monthly expenses but are putting aside little or no savings; C) You are managing comfortably while putting some money aside; D) Managing very well?	STATEMENT A.....10% STATEMENT B.....26% STATEMENT C.....42% STATEMENT D.....21% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....2%
53.	GENDER	MALE.....49% FEMALE.....51%
54.	Area of District	MOUND.....45% MINNETRISTA.....28% SPRING PARK.....9% ORONO.....16% REST OF DISTRICT.....3%