

THE MORRIS LEATHERMAN COMPANY
3128 Dean Court
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416

WESTONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2022 Residential Survey
FINAL APRIL 2023

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? | TWO YEARS OR LESS.....6% |
| | THREE TO FIVE YEARS..12% |
| | SIX TO TEN YEARS.....20% |
| | ELEVEN TO TWENTY YRS.24% |
| | 21 TO 30 YEARS.....17% |
| | OVER THIRTY YEARS....21% |
| | REFUSED.....0% |
| 2. Are you registered to vote at your current address? | YES.....95% |
| | NO.....5% |
| | DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....0% |

As you may know, there are many types of elections. In some even years we have Presidential elections; other years, Gubernatorial elections. In odd years, we also have some local and school district elections.

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| 3. In past off-year elections, would you say you have always voted, often voted, rarely voted, or never voted? | ALWAYS VOTED.....45% |
| | OFTEN VOTED.....34% |
| | RARELY VOTED.....18% |
| | NEVER VOTED.....3% |
| | DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....0% |
| 4. How likely are you to vote in the coming November election -- absolutely certain, very likely, 1/2-1/2, not too likely, or not at all likely? | ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN...45% |
| | VERY LIKELY.....30% |
| | 1/2-1/2.....17% |
| | NOT TOO LIKELY.....6% |
| | NOT AT ALL LIKELY.....2% |
| | DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....1% |

Moving on....

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.

5. 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.....69% DISAGREE.....11% STRONGLY DISAGREE.....3% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....7%
6. 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.....23% AGREE.....59% DISAGREE.....12% STRONGLY DISAGREE.....3% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....3%
7. The Westonka School District does a good job of communicating important issues and decisions to the residents of this area.	STRONGLY AGREE.....21% AGREE.....61% DISAGREE.....15% STRONGLY DISAGREE.....3% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....1%
8. I am satisfied with the School District's decision-making.	STRONGLY AGREE.....22% AGREE.....60% DISAGREE.....12% STRONGLY DISAGREE.....1% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....5%
9. The Westonka Public Schools are a good investment and I would support a property tax increase to protect that investment.	STRONGLY AGREE.....12% AGREE.....52% DISAGREE.....18% STRONGLY DISAGREE.....9% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....8%

Moving on....

10. 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.....16% SOMEWHAT HIGH.....30% ABOUT AVERAGE.....48% SOMEWHAT LOW.....1% VERY LOW.....0% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....5%
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| 11. | 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.....16%
SOMEWHAT HIGH.....26%
ABOUT AVERAGE.....49%
SOMEWHAT LOW.....2%
VERY LOW.....0%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....8% |
| 12. | Do you think the Westonka Public Schools are adequately funded? | YES.....49%
NO.....45%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....6% |

Thinking about school buildings and facilities....

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| 13. | From what you have heard or seen, how would you rate the school buildings and facilities in the Westonka Public Schools -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor? | EXCELLENT.....24%
GOOD.....69%
ONLY FAIR.....6%
POOR.....0%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....1% |
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IF "ONLY FAIR" OR "POOR," ASK: (n=40)

14. Why did you rate school buildings and facilities as (only fair or poor)?

NOT ENOUGH SPACE, 5%; NEED MAINTENANCE, 20%; NEED UPDATES, 30%; NEED ATHLETIC UPDATES, 8%; NEED SAFETY/SECURITY UPDATES, 38%.

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

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| 15. | Which of the following three statements best describes your feelings? | STATEMENT A.....26%
STATEMENT B.....47%
STATEMENT C.....26%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....0% |
| | A. I would vote against almost any property tax increases for the schools; | |
| | B. I would vote for a property tax increase under some conditions, but against it under other conditions; | |
| | C. I would vote for almost any property tax increases for the schools. | |

16.	How much would you be willing to pay in additional property taxes in order to address facilities' needs? [SELECT RANDOM STARTING POINT; MOVE UP OR DOWN DEPENDING ON ANSWER] How about \$ ____ per month? [REPEAT]	NOTHING.....29%
		\$6.00.....11%
		\$12.00.....18%
		\$18.00.....17%
		\$24.00.....9%
		\$30.00.....5%
		\$36.00.....0%
		OVER \$36.00.....2%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....9%

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)

		STS	SMS	SMO	STO	DKR
17.	Deferred maintenance improvements, including HVAC, pipes, boilers and electric across all district schools?	39%	29%	15%	14%	3%
18.	Interior redesign of the high school to increase security and improve the functionality and learning environment for students?	40%	27%	16%	15%	1%
19.	Safety and security improvements at all district schools, including the addition of a secured entrance at Grandview Middle School.	51%	25%	13%	11%	1%
20.	Improvements to the Mound Westonka High School track, including ADA accessibility, bleachers, lights and installing artificial turf on the infield?	36%	26%	16%	21%	2%

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

21.	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...11%
		GOOD IDEA.....58%
		BAD IDEA.....24%
		BAD IDEA/STRONGLY.....5%
		DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....2%

IF "BAD IDEA" OR "BAD IDEA/STRONGLY," ASK: (N=181)

22. 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, 65%; HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN, 10%; SAFETY/SECURITY UPDATES, 2%; ATHLETIC UPDATES, 22%; ALL, 2%.

The total cost to complete all of these improvements could be approximately \$93 million dollars.

23. Does this sound like a fair price YES.....52%
- \$93 million dollars - for these NO.....40%
improvements? DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....8%

If voters approved a \$93 million bond referendum to fund these improvements, the owner of a \$400,000 home would see a monthly property tax increase of about \$15 per month or \$175 per year for twenty years; while the owner of a \$600,000 home would see a monthly increase of about \$23 per month or \$275 per year.

24. If the election were today, would STRONGLY SUPPORT.....13%
you support or oppose this bond SUPPORT.....49%
referendum? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) OPPOSE.....22%
Do you feel strongly that way? STRONGLY OPPOSE.....12%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....3%

IF A POSITION IS TAKEN, ASK: (N=606)

25. Could you tell me one or two DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....0%
reasons why you feel that EDUCATION IMPORTANT..23%
way? NEEDED.....13%
COST IS REASONABLE...14%
TAXES ARE TOO HIGH...10%
COST IS TOO HIGH.....11%
NOT NEEDED.....1%
POOR DISTRICT SPEND...9%
CHILDREN IN SD.....13%
NO CHILDREN IN SD.....4%
SCATTERED.....2%

Some people have mentioned the need for the School District to purchase land for facilities' needs in the future....

26.	Would you support or oppose the District purchasing land for future facilities' needs? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you feel strongly that way?	STRONGLY SUPPORT.....4% SUPPORT.....35% OPPOSE.....37% STRONGLY OPPOSE.....18% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....6%
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IF "STRONGLY SUPPORT" OR "SUPPORT," ASK: (N=242)

27.	Would you support or oppose a property tax increase for this purpose?	SUPPORT.....78% OPPOSE.....18% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....4%
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Moving on....

28.	What is your principal source of information about the Westonka Public Schools?	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....0% NONE.....4% DISTRICT NEWSLETTER..25% LOCAL NEWSPAPER.....13% DISTRICT WEBSITE.....14% WORD OF MOUTH.....16% TEACHERS/STAFF.....9% E-MAIL.....12% SOCIAL MEDIA.....4% SCATTERED.....3%
29.	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....35% E-MAIL.....21% DISTRICT WEBSITE.....13% COMMUNITY ED CATALOG..5% LOCAL NEWSPAPER.....12% SOCIAL MEDIA.....5% NOTHING.....5% WORD OF MOUTH.....2% MAJOR NEWSPAPERS.....2%

Now, just a few more questions for statistical purposes....

30.	Which of the following categories contains your age? (READ #1-#6)	18-24.....8% 25-34.....14% 35-44.....21% 45-54.....20% 55-64.....17% 65 AND OLDER.....20% REFUSED.....0%
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31.	Does your household contain any pre-schoolers or infants?	YES.....14% NO.....85% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....1%
32.	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.....27% YES/OTHER PUBLIC.....2% YES/PAROCIAL/PRIVATE.3% YES/CHARTER.....1% YES/HOME SCHOOL.....1% YES/COMBINATION.....0% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....0%
33.	What is the last grade of formal education you completed?	HS GRAD/LESS.....15% VO-TECH/TECH COLL....11% SOME COLLEGE.....20% COLLEGE GRADUATE.....45% POST-GRADUATE.....9% REFUSED.....0%
34.	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 \$350,000, \$350,000-\$600,000, or over \$600,000?	RENT.....19% OWN/UNDER \$350,000...29% OWN/\$350,000-\$600K...38% OWN/OVER \$600,000....13% DON'T KNOW.....1% REFUSED.....0%
35.	Which political party do you consider yourself most closely aligned with?	REPUBLICAN.....37% DEMOCRAT.....31% INDEPENDENT.....29% SOMETHING ELSE.....0% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....2%
36.	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.....4% STATEMENT B.....37% STATEMENT C.....32% STATEMENT D.....25% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....2%

37.	GENDER (BY OBSERVATION)	MALE.....50%
		FEMALE.....50%
38.	Area of District (FROM LIST)	MOUND.....45%
		MINNETRISTA.....28%
		SPRING PARK.....9%
		ORONO.....16%
		REST OF DISTRICT.....2%