



*Common ground. Common good.*

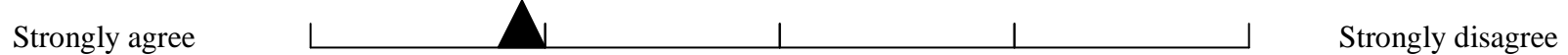
The Citizens League conducted a survey to learn about the purposes, methods and effects of gathering public input for public policy development. Two parallel versions of the survey were developed. One was administered to public officials and the other to private citizens.

There were 540 responses to the private citizen survey and 133 to the public officials survey. Results are as follows:

- **Blue triangles** indicate the average response for citizens.
- **Red triangles** indicate the average response for public officials.

**Indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

1. Minnesotans care deeply about many issues.



2. Citizens: When I interact with public officials, I expect them to have all the answers.  
Officials: When I interact with the public, I feel like I must have all the answers.



3. Citizens: People cannot provide meaningful input unless they are first educated on an issue.  
Officials: Citizens cannot provide meaningful input unless they are first educated on an issue.



4. Even when decisions are already made, the public should be involved to gain public support.



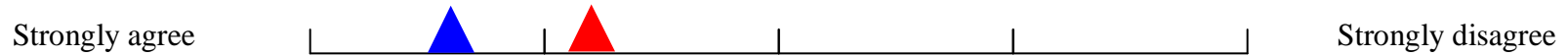
5. Even when decisions are already made, a public process should be conducted as a symbol of our democracy.



6. Public processes that do not allow people to engage in discussions directly with public officials are not very valuable.



7. Policies cannot be truly effective without the input of people affected by the problem.



8. Meaningful public participation can lead to policies that would otherwise be considered too controversial.



9. Citizens: I understand that my input is one of many opinions that a public official must take into account in making a decision.  
Officials: Citizens understand their input is one of many opinions that a public official must take into account in making a decision.



10. Public involvement is more useful when discussing policy alternatives than when reacting to proposals that have already been developed.



11. Citizens: Public officials tend to over-complicate problems.  
Officials: Citizens tend to oversimplify problems.



12. Citizens: Unless I have a special purpose for being involved in an issue, I would rather leave development of policies to others.  
Officials: it is difficult to get "average citizens" involved. Only those with a special purpose want to be involved.



**Indicate how frequently you have seen or experienced each of the following.**

1. Citizens: Public processes I've attended have been a good use of my time.  
 Officials: Public process are a good use of citizens' time.

Almost always  Almost never
2. Citizens: When I participate in public processes, I feel there is ample opportunity for my views to be heard.  
 Officials: When we structure citizen involvement processes, we allow people ample opportunity to voice their views.

Almost always  Almost never
3. Citizens: The public processes I've been involved with have improved my trust of government.  
 Officials: We conduct public processes to gain public trust.


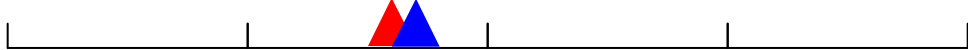



Almost always  Almost never
4. People want certain outcomes, not just fair-and-open processes.

Almost always  Almost never
5. Citizens: When public officials ask for my input, I trust they will use what they hear in making their final decision.  
 Officials: When we ask for citizen input, we expect to use what we hear in making our final decision.

Almost always  Almost never
6. Citizens: I trust the information I receive from state and local governments.  
 Officials: Citizens trust the information I receive from state and local governments.

Almost always  Almost never
7. Citizens: When public officials speak, I fully understand what they are trying to say.  
 Officials: When public officials speak, citizens fully understand what they are trying to say.

Almost always  Almost never

8. Citizens: When the public speaks, public officials fully understand what they are trying to say.  
 Officials: When citizens speak, public officials fully understand what they are trying to say.
- Almost always  Almost never
9. Citizens: I can find the information I want when I visit a state or local government.  
 Officials: People can find the information then want when then visit a state or local government.
- Almost always  Almost never
10. Online processes that allow me to participate in a networked community with public officials would be an effective way to have input into public policies.
- Almost always  Almost never
11. Citizens: Overall decision-making processes are clear and so are the “rules” by which decisions will be made.  
 Officials: Whenever citizens are involved, we make the process as clear as possible and articulate the “rules” by which decisions will be made.
- Almost always  Almost never
12. Citizens: I get involved to become more informed.  
 Officials: One of the goals of having citizens involved is to have them become more informed.
- Almost always  Almost never