**MN Spending – “Where the General Fund Dollars Go”**

The amount listed for “Transportation” is very small because most funding for this item comes from a separate account paid for by the gas tax and other highway usage fees. [Not all state expenditures come from the General Fund].

1. What two areas of spending account for almost three-quarters of state spending? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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2. How many dollars will the state spend on K-12 education in this biennium? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. What percentage of the state budget will go to higher education? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. If the state reduced spending on higher education by 10% how many dollars would be saved? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. What do you think “debt service” means? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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6. Many of the dollars spent on HHS are for programs to help people with things like medical care, housing, substance abuse counseling, and child care. Why do you think the state is willing to spend this money helping needy citizens? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Health care is one of the fastest growing parts of HHS spending. To help control this part of the budget would you recommend (a) raising taxes to keep benefits the same, (b) limiting the amount of services people can have but covering the same number of people or (c) limiting the number of people getting services but providing the same level of services? Why?

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8. If the state passes harsher criminal laws and keeps prisoners in jail for longer, what part of the budget will be impacted most? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. If the state spends more on safety, protecting the citizens from criminals, should it pay for the increase by spending less on something else or raising taxes? If you think it should spend less on something else, what would you cut and why? If you think it should raise taxes, what kind of tax should it raise and why? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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10. How much money does the state spend on the environment and economic development combined? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11. Why do you think it spends that amount on those categories? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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12. How many dollars did the state spend on "State Government"? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13. “Property tax Aids & Credits” includes money for cities and counties to help keep their property taxes lower. If the state does not continue providing these funds to cities and counties what do you think might happen? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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14. The state expects to have a short term surplus but still have long-term deficits. Looking at the spending from the last two years, knowing that you need to save a large amount of money, what do you think the legislature and governor should cut, by how much and why?

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15. Write one question you would like to ask a state legislator or the governor about the budget.

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