

Penta Policy Insiders

Minnesota Insights Review

Environment and Climate

June 2023
policyinsiders.pentagroup.co

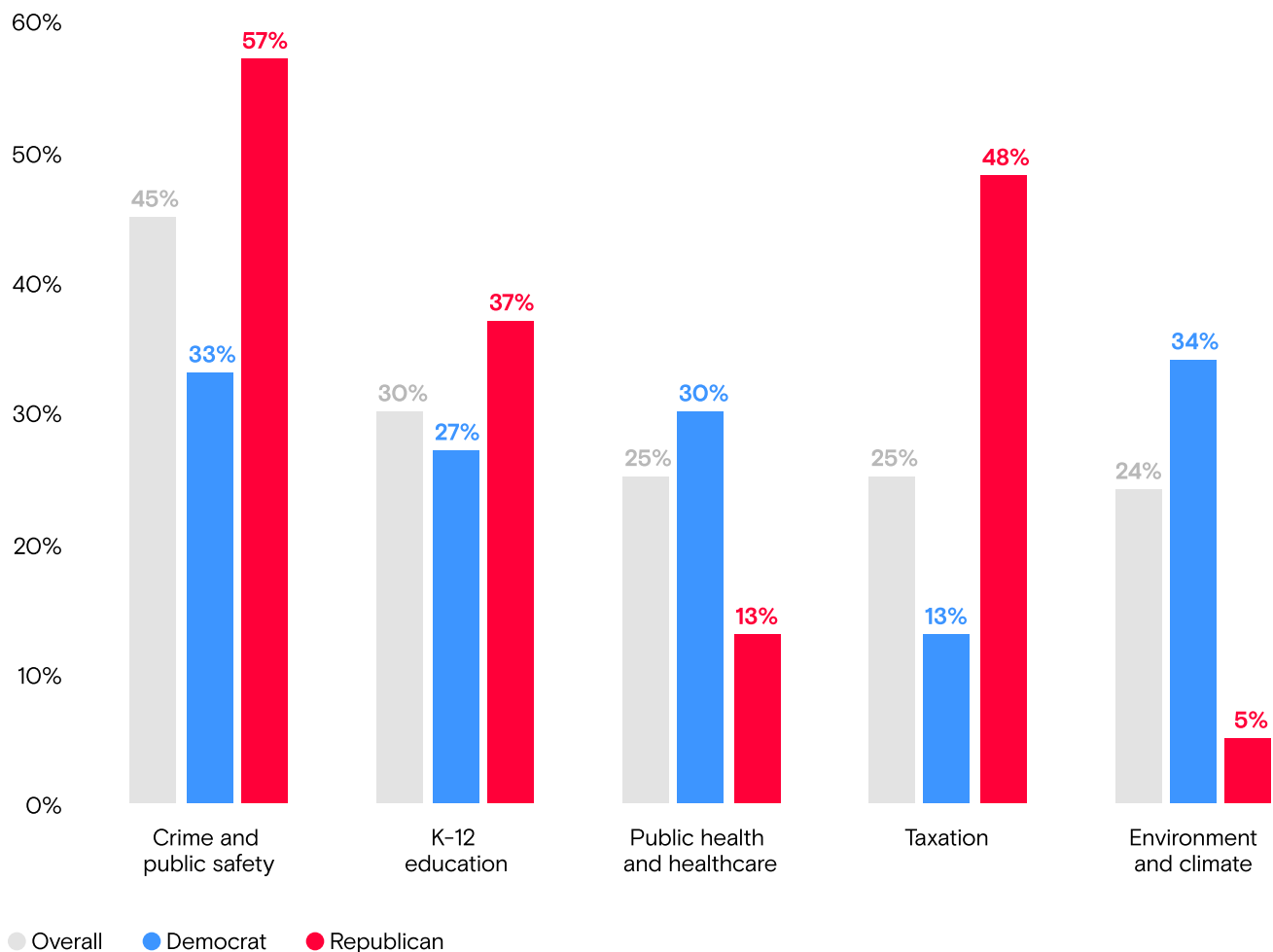
Executive summary

We are delighted to share our findings from this year's Minnesota Insights Review. From June to December 2022, we interviewed over 219 policymakers in Minnesota to find out what their top policy priorities are, as well as the main challenges communities are facing across the state.

Minnesota policymakers we spoke to detail a variety of challenges facing neighborhoods across the state including crime, K-12 education, public health, taxation, and the environment. At the top of policy leaders' minds are crime and public safety, with almost half of all policymakers - 45 percent - reporting these as their main concerns. This focus on public safety comes in spite of recent data showing a downward trend in violent crime in the state's largest city, Minneapolis.¹ The third highest-ranked priority for policy staff is taxation, with 25 percent of policymakers across policy lines saying it is a top policy priority.

This report is the sixth in a series that examines Minnesota policymakers' top policy priorities for 2022. This review examines environment and climate in the state.

Top policy priorities in Minnesota

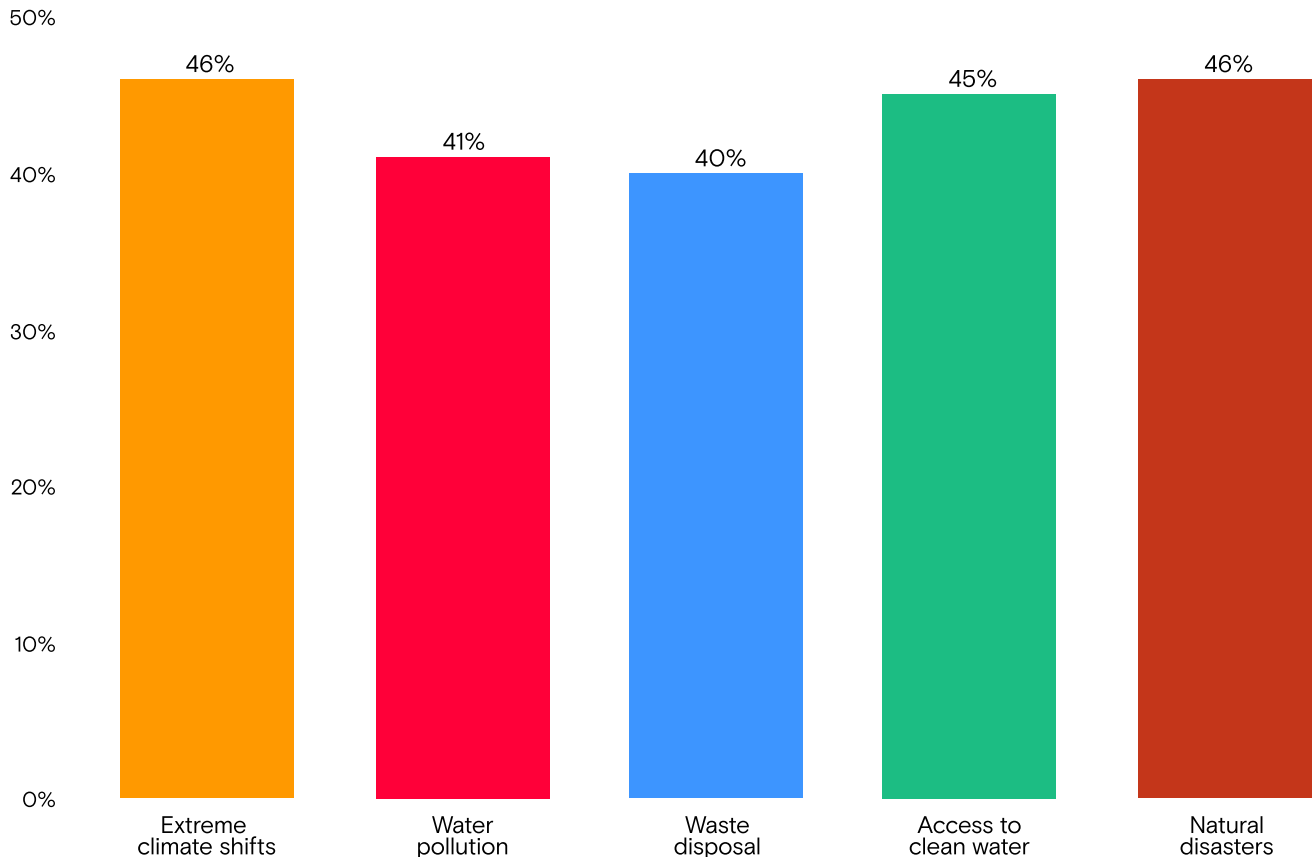


Minnesota deep dive

Environment and climate

The environment and climate are top policy priorities for Democratic policymakers in Minnesota, with 34 percent of Democrats citing them as top challenges, compared with only five percent of Republicans. Democratic policy staff in the state are specifically concerned about how the manufacturing industry - which makes up a large portion of the state's economy - is impacting the environment.² They also point to waste reduction as an opportunity for improvement. Republican policy leaders express skepticism when it comes to climate commitments made by the private sector in the state, and worry that the state's policies on the environment may be too stringent on businesses. Furthermore, when asked about the organizations policy leaders respect the most, almost 40 percent say commitments to environmental responsibility are important.

Top environmental priorities for Minnesota policymakers



Minnesota's manufacturing industry and the environment

Some policymakers in Minnesota say in order to reduce harm to the environment, manufacturers in the state should be more mindful of waste. Democratic policy staff also express that companies should take measures such as reducing water runoff or eliminating harmful chemicals, among other suggestions.



You've got a governor and you've got a house that have been penalizing companies that deal with the environment. Well, you look at no more mining and their attitude towards the mining up in northern Minnesota and the California clean cars or no more glyphosate.

Senator, Minnesota State Senate, R



Everything should be focused with environmental protections in mind. So I just think that should be absolutely at the top of everyone's list no matter what they're working on. So if [companies] have to change the manufacturing process, that should be a part of it. It's just responsible business practices. In this day and age, the environment is not going to sustain not having that.

Councilmember, Minnesota Municipality, I



I know food waste and waste in manufacturing and utilization of raw resources like water is pretty big. Water and coal. And carbon footprint as well, I know, is a pretty big driver for the conversations in manufacturing and sustainability issues.

Mayor, Minnesota Municipality, D



Our environmental committees have been very focused on how to reduce the long-term harms from our manufacturing industries. And that could be— in our agriculture area, it's runoff water. It's removing lead from product lines. It's getting rid of— banning the use of forever chemicals...

Administrator, Minnesota House of Representatives, D

Conclusion

Almost a quarter of policymakers in Minnesota express that improving the environment and climate are top policy priorities. Policy leaders cite specific concerns about the state's extreme climate shifts, water pollution, and waste disposal. In order to improve Minnesota environment, Democratic policy staff say waste reduction is key. Republican policy staff, on the other hand, say that the current state administration penalizes companies by implementing policies that aimed at reducing harm to the environment.

About Penta Policy Insiders

Penta Policy Insiders provides direct feedback from policymakers to government relations professionals, improving advocates' ability to understand, validate, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their engagement.

Credits

Content Associate
Maddie Markenson

Senior Content Associate
Kinda Ahmed

Associate Director, Government Insights & Research Products
Natalie Bahmanyar

Director, Research
Sehare Hemani

Chief Research Officer
Michael Griffin

VP, Policy Insiders
Scott Luginbill

President
Michael Gottlieb

Citations

1. <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/government-data/datasource/crime-dashboard/>
2. <https://www.enterpriseminnesota.org/manufacturing-in-minnesota/#:~:text=Made%20in%20Minnesota,500%20companies%20are%20in%20manufacturing.>

Qualitative n: 33 | Quantitative n: 223

A Note on Use of These Materials

This document has been prepared by, and comprises valuable proprietary information belonging to Penta. It is intended for educational purposes only.

Except as permitted under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database retrieval system without the prior written permission of Penta. The use of copyrighted materials and/or images belonging to unrelated parties and reproduced herein is permitted pursuant to license and/or 17 USC § 107.

Legal Caveat

Penta has worked to ensure the accuracy of the information it provides in this report. This report relies upon data obtained from many sources, however, and Penta is not able to guarantee the accuracy of the information or analysis contained in these materials. Furthermore, Penta is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or any other professional services. Penta specifically disclaims liability for any damages, claims or losses that may arise from a) any errors or omissions in these materials, whether caused by Penta or its sources, or b) reliance upon any recommendation made by Penta.

Confidentiality: All participation in our research is confidential and not for attribution.
