



Minnesotans Overwhelmingly Believe Governor Walz is Moving Too Quickly to Adopt California Car Regulations

For the second consecutive year, Minnesotans of all political stripes overwhelmingly rejected Governor Walz’s plan to adopt the California clean cars regulations as quickly as possible.

“What is your opinion on Minnesota adopting California clean car standards?”

	ALL RESPONDENTS	
	2021 Survey	2020 Survey
STATEMENT A: Governor Walz should move as quickly as possible to adopt the California clean car standards	7%	11%
STATEMENT B: There is a lot more to learn about these California standards – the Minnesota Legislature should study the issues, hold public hearings and then vote whether to adopt these standards in Minnesota	48%	54%
STATEMENT C: Minnesota does not need to adopt the California standards – we should work closely with the auto industry, so they continue to develop electric vehicles and provide incentives for people who are ready to buy them	44%	33%

	BREAKDOWN BY POLITICAL PARTY					
	GOP 2021	GOP 2020	DFL 2021	DFL 2020	IND 2021	IND 2020
STATEMENT A (move quickly to adopt California rules)	0%	3%	11%	18%	13%	10%
STATEMENT B (Legislature should study and hold hearings)	41%	48%	56%	60%	43%	54%
STATEMENT C (no need to adopt the California car rules)	59%	48%	32%	21%	44%	31%

	METRO DFL 2021	METRO DFL 2020	RURAL DFL 2021	RURAL DFL 2020
	STATEMENT A	10%	23%	14%
STATEMENT B	58%	52%	53%	63%
STATEMENT C	32%	23%	32%	22%

Methodology: The study contains the results of a random sample of 800 adults that reflect the demographics of the entire adult population in the State of Minnesota. Professional interviewers conducted the survey by telephone between February 18 and March 4, 2021. Cell phone only households were 46% of the sample, while landline only households comprised 12% of the households. 42% reported both a landline and cell phone. The results of the 800 sample are projectable to all adult residents in Minnesota to within +/- 3.5% in 95 out of 100 cases.

When it comes to improving vehicle efficiency, Minnesotans strongly prefer consumer incentives over government mandates such as the California vehicle emission limits

“Please tell me which is closest to your opinion about the best way for state government to improve fuel efficiency and reduce carbon emissions?”

	ALL RESPONDENTS	
	2021 Survey	2020 Survey
STATEMENT A: Government should adopt standards limiting the amount of carbon emissions, even prohibiting certain types of gas-powered cars and trucks, if needed	23%	25%
STATEMENT B: Government should use incentives to encourage people to choose more fuel efficient and electric-power vehicles, without severely limiting consumers’ choices	71%	66%
Don’t Know	6%	9%

Electric vehicles still cost more than the comparable gas-powered vehicle, which remains a significant barrier to wider consumer adoption of the new technology. States that have seen higher electric vehicle sales are those that have encouraged consumer demand by providing purchase incentives.

Minnesota auto dealers have been able to comfortably manage consumer demand for EVs

19% of respondents report that they intend to buy a car in the next twelve months, but only 1% of buyers are certain they will be purchasing an EV as their next car.

Only 1 in 7 of those car buyers are even planning to shop for an EV.

That’s a pretty modest demand - a level that Minnesota’s auto dealers can currently meet. With car manufacturers investing more in production of new EV models, Minnesota consumers are well-served today.

“When you think about your next car, would you say that you are:”

Certain that you will buy an EV	1%
Likely to shop for an EV	14%
Thinking about EVs, but not sure if you will seriously consider them for your next car	32%
Not interested in EVs at this time	52%

BREAKDOWN BY POLITICAL PARTY

	GOP 2021	GOP 2020	DFL 2021	DFL 2020	IND 2021	IND 2020
STATEMENT A <i>(adopt CA standards, even if it means prohibiting certain types of vehicles)</i>	19%	12%	25%	32%	29%	26%
STATEMENT B <i>(use incentives to encourage people to choose)</i>	74%	77%	72%	61%	60%	68%

	METRO DFL 2021	METRO DFL 2020	RURAL DFL 2021	RURAL DFL 2020
STATEMENT A	20%	41%	33%	23%
STATEMENT B	80%	54%	61%	70%