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## Hatch leads Pawlenty in St. Cloud State poll

**BY PATRICK SWEENEY**  
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Mike Hatch leads Tim Pawlenty by 10 percentage points in a public opinion poll released today by St. Cloud State University.

Steve Wagner, a political scientist who was one of the supervisors of the poll, said the 10-point lead for Hatch was far from overwhelming. He said he made that judgment because the survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points, and because 7 percent of the likely voters questioned in the poll were undecided.

"I'd say it's Hatch by a bit...I think it's pretty close," Wagner said.

The statewide poll was conducted by telephone between Oct. 15 and Oct. 24.

Among likely voters, 38 percent of people questioned in the poll said they had made up their minds and would definitely vote for Hatch. Another 8 percent said they were leaning toward Hatch.

For Pawlenty, the similar numbers were 33 percent and 3 percent.

Wagner combined the numbers to get a 46-to-36 percentage spread favoring Hatch.

A University of Minnesota poll released Monday showed Hatch leading Pawlenty, 45 percent to 39 percent, among likely voters.

The University of Minnesota poll showed Independence Party candidate Peter Hutchinson favored by 9 percent of the likely voters questioned. In the St. Cloud State poll, 6 percent of the likely voters said they planned to vote for Hutchinson or were leaning toward voting for him.

Amy Klobuchar, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, had a big — 25 percentage point — lead over Republican Mark Kennedy in the St. Cloud State poll.

Fifty percent of the likely voters surveyed said they would vote for Klobuchar, and an additional 6 percent said they leaned toward her.

Twenty-four percent said they planned to voted for Kennedy, and 7 percent said they leaned toward him.

Patrick Sweeney covers state government and its effect on Minnesotans. He can be reached at [psweeney@pioneerpress.com](mailto:psweeney@pioneerpress.com) or 651-228-5253.