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Release is effective immediately

Hawkeye Poll: A Plurality of Iowans Disapproves of Reynolds' Performance as Governor

According to a recent Hawkeye Poll — conducted by University of Iowa faculty and students between March 23 and April 12 — a plurality of Iowans disapprove of the way Kim Reynolds is handling her job as governor. Governor Reynolds has an approval rating of 36.6% and a disapproval rating of 45.2%. Far fewer respondents strongly approve (16.0%) compared to those who strongly disapprove (28.9%).

Governor Reynolds enjoys support from her own party at a higher rate: 69.0% of those who identified as Republicans signaled their approval, compared to 14.5% of those who identified as Democrats. Those who identified as Independents showed a 30% approval rating. Disapproval ratings among Democrats, Republicans, and Independents are 73.4%, 16.4%, and 49.4% respectively. Reynolds did better with male respondents than with female respondents: 42.4% of male respondents approved of her performance while 39.3% disapproved, compared to a female approval rating of 31.0% and a female disapproval rating of 50.8%. In addition, respondents who describe the community they live in as urban are more likely to disapprove of the way the governor is handling her job than those who describe their community as rural (51.3% compared to 38.8%).

Governor Reynolds holds a higher approval rating as well as a higher disapproval rating than the state legislature. 32.1% of Hawkeye Poll respondents approve of the way the state legislature is handling its job, while 34.9% of respondents disapprove. A partisan split can be seen in the state legislature approval ratings as well: 57.1% of Republicans said they approve, while only 17.7% of Democrats approved. At the same time, 57.5% of Democrats said they disapprove of the legislature's performance while 10.6% of Republicans said the same. There is a small difference in legislature approval ratings between urban, suburban, and rural areas (29.9%, 34.3%, and 33.9% respectively). Male respondents were more likely to approve of the legislature's job than female respondents (39.3% male approval compared to 25.2% female approval).

When asked whether they think that things in Iowa are headed in the right direction or have gotten off on the wrong track, 41.6% of respondents said Iowa was on the right track, compared to 43.2% who said that Iowa was on the wrong track. 68.5% of Republicans believe Iowa is on the right track compared to 20.9% of Democrats and 39.7% of Independents. 19.8% of Republicans believe Iowa is on the wrong track compared to 70.1% of Democrats and 42.7% of Independents. 17.6% of Independents did not know or declined to answer. This compares to only 9.0% of Democrats and 11.8% of Republicans. Male respondents were more likely to believe that Iowa is on the right track compared to female respondents (48.2% male compared to 35.2% female). More female respondents believe that Iowa is on the wrong track (49.2% female to 37.1% male). There is also a difference in responses based on the community the respondent lives in. Respondents in rural areas are significantly more likely to say that Iowa is on the right track than respondents from urban areas (47.4% in rural areas compared to 38.4% in urban areas).

The University of Iowa Department of Political Science has conducted the Hawkeye Poll since 2007. A series of national and state public opinion polls, this experience serves as an important learning opportunity for students. Over 1000 students have had the opportunity to directly participate in the research and survey process and to acquire valuable career-related knowledge about survey research and public polling in general. This year 17 students collaborated to design and implement a poll of

Iowans. Learn more about the course at <https://now.uiowa.edu/2019/11/taking-iowas-pulse-hawkeye-poll>.

Respondent Identification: The Iowa Social Science Research Center (ISRC) assisted with data collection. Responses were gathered by phone (89) and by web (902). For the phone portion, the ISRC obtained a random sample of Iowans consisting of 40% household landline numbers and 60% mobile phone numbers. All respondents who stated they were over age 18 and willing to participate in the survey were included. After training, students in the class used the ISRC's computer-assisted interviewing resources to complete the calling and interviews. No quotas were set for the phone component. For the web portion, the ISRC contracted with a respected web panel vendor to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of 902 web respondents. Respondents invited to complete the web survey were Iowa adults, aged 18-120 years, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and party identification.

Sample: 991 voting-age resident in Iowa (902 by web and 89 by phone), margin of error +/-3.2%

Weighting: Reported results are weighted by age, sex, and party identification.

About the Hawkeye Poll

The poll was conducted by the Hawkeye Poll Cooperative, comprised of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in the Political Science departments. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, which uses the facilities of the Iowa Social Science Research Center directed by Frederick J. Boehmke, professor of political science and faculty advisor for the poll. The Department of Political Science, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the University of Iowa Public Policy Center support the poll; financial support was provided through a Student Technology Fee award (#1290-91).

Kelly Baker and Natasja Schroeder assisted with the preparation of this release.

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