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*Release is effective immediately*

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**Hawkeye Poll: *Plurality of Iowans supports teaching the 1619 Project in K-12 schools***

According to a recent Hawkeye Poll — conducted by University of Iowa faculty and students between March 31 and April 13 — a plurality of respondents supports the 1619 Project being taught in K-12 schools. Specifically, 49.2% of respondents support the 1619 Project (21.4% strongly support), along with 22.2% opposing the project, and 18.7% indicating they are neutral.

The 1619 Project is a series of essays that re-examines American history with a focus on slavery and its influence in American society. This project assists teachers in helping students understand slavery and shows how the legacy of slavery still impacts the lives of Americans today. Hawkeye Poll respondents were asked whether they would support or oppose teaching it.

Notable differences emerged when comparing responses based on respondents' self-reported political party identification. An overwhelming majority (76.1%) of respondents who identified as Democrats supported teaching the 1619 Project, while only 28.5% of Republicans, and 46.4% of Independents supported the idea of teaching it in schools. However, a moderate percentage of Republicans (31.5%) and Independents (31.7%) selected either "neither" or "don't know/declined." Specifically, 21.5% of Republicans neither supported nor opposed the project, and another 10% did not know their opinion or declined to answer. Similarly, 20.6% Independents neither supported nor opposed the project, with 11.1% selecting either "don't know" or "declined."

Support also differed based on the respondents' beliefs in systemic racism. 82.8% of respondents who strongly agree and 70.2% of respondents who agree in the criminal justice system being discriminatory supported the implementation of the 1619 Project in schools; in contrast, 30.8% of respondents who strongly disagree and 26.5% who disagree supported the project. Similarly, 80.0% of respondents who strongly agree and 73.2% of respondents who agree that congressional districts are drawn to minimize African American voting power supported the 1619 Project, compared to 35.8% of respondents who disagree and 30.9% of respondents who strongly disagree. Following the same trend, those who strongly agree that the institution and legacy of slavery still influences America today are more likely to support the 1619 Project than those who strongly disagree that these influences of slavery persist (61.7% support compared to 11.8%).

Iowans across party identification groups are divided on the issue of systemic racism. When asked whether they believe that the criminal justice system discriminates against African Americans, 68.4% of Democrats stated that they agree or strongly agree, while only 21.3% of Republicans and 42.1% of Independents agree or strongly agree with the same statement. This division also appeared when respondents were asked if they believe that voting districts were drawn to minimize the voting power of African Americans. 56.3% of Democrats agreed with this statement (28.6% strongly agreed), compared to 8.9% of Republicans (2.5% strongly agree). Similarly, 66.3% of respondents who identified as Democrats agree that institution and legacy of slavery still has an impact today, compared to 17.7%

disagreeing; in contrast, only 29.8% of Republicans agree with the same statement, compared to 49.1% disagreeing.

When analyzing support for the 1619 Project, differences were found across age groups. A steady downward trend of supporting the 1619 Project was seen as age increases. A total of 56.2% of those aged 18 to 34 indicated support, decreasing to 38.7% among those aged 70 and older. A 17.5 percentage-point decrease from the youngest group to the oldest group was noted. Across all age groups, there is moderate percentage of respondents who neither support nor oppose the project: 19.2% among those aged 18 to 34, 17.6% among those aged 35 to 54, 20.2% among those aged 55 to 69, and 17.4% among those aged 70 and older.

The UI 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. More than 1,000 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 28 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 (116) and online (947). 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 older than 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 online portion, the ISRC contracted with a respected web panel vendor to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of 947 online respondents. Respondents invited to complete the online survey were Iowa adults, aged 18 to 120 years, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and urbanicity.

**Sample:** 1,063 voting-age residents in Iowa (online and by phone), margin of error +/-3.1%. Among these, 947 respondents took the online version of the survey, with a margin of error of 3.2%.

Results for this release use responses to both the online and phone surveys.

**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 UI faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in the Department of Political Science. 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 UI Public Policy Center support the poll; financial support was provided through a Student Technology Fee award (#1290-91).

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