

Trump Trails Rubio in Iowa General Election Support

Republican presidential hopefuls Donald Trump and Marco Rubio would fare differently among Iowa voters when matched up against Democratic frontrunner, Hillary Clinton, according to a recent poll conducted by University of Iowa Students. The annual, statewide poll — conducted by University of Iowa students, researchers, and professors between October 19 and October 25, 2015 — indicates Rubio would defeat Clinton in a hypothetical Iowa match-up by less than two percentage points, while Clinton would maintain a close lead on Trump.

Respondents in Iowa's urban and suburban areas seem to provide the difference between the two matchups. While both Republicans pull majority support in a race against Clinton among rural respondents, Rubio receives significantly more support among urban and suburban Iowans.

Tim Hagle, associate professor of political science at the UI and author of *Riding the Caucus Roller Coaster*, was not surprised by Clinton's success in urban areas. He did however find the difference in support between Rubio and Trump to be more interesting.

“The difference is almost entirely due to a reduction of the percentage of voters who would not vote for either candidate,” Hagle says, attributing this difference to “the greater likeability of Rubio versus Trump among this group of voters.”

When asked about a hypothetical general election in which Marco Rubio was the Republican presidential nominee and Hillary Clinton was the Democratic presidential nominee, 47% of Iowa respondents said they would support Rubio, while 46.3% said they would support Clinton and 6.7% said they would not vote for either candidate.

When asked the same hypothetical general election question with Donald Trump as the Republican nominee, Trump received the support of 42.6% of Iowa respondents with Hillary Clinton receiving the support of 46% of respondents, and 11.4% of respondents indicated they would not support either candidate.

There is consistent suburban and urban support for Clinton. She received 52.2% and 51.9% suburban and urban respondent support when matched with Trump and Rubio, respectively. That support differs for the Republican candidates. In these hypothetical general elections, Marco Rubio was supported by 42.4% of respondents who live in urban or suburban areas, while Donald Trump received the support of just 34.7% of those respondents. 13.1% of urban and suburban respondents said they would not vote for either candidate in a Clinton-Trump matchup, while just 5.7% indicated they would not vote for either candidate if Clinton and Rubio were to win their party's nominations.

There was also consistent rural support for Rubio and Trump. 53.1% of rural respondents supported Marco Rubio and 51.9% of rural respondents supported Donald Trump. In the potential match-up with Trump and Rubio, Hillary Clinton received much less rural support. Clinton received 38.6% rural support in the Rubio match-up and 39.5% from rural respondents when pitted against Trump. In rural areas, the difference between the percentage of respondents across the two matchup, who indicated they would not support either candidate decreases

significantly. When asked about the Rubio-Clinton matchup, 7.4% of rural respondents said they would not vote for either candidate, while 9.6% of rural respondents indicated that would not support either candidate in a race between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

About the Hawkeye Poll

The poll was conducted by the Hawkeye Poll Cooperative, comprised of UI faculty and graduate students in political science. The faculty adviser for the poll is UI Professor of Political Science Frederick Boehmke. The poll used the facilities of the Iowa Social Science Research Center, directed by UI Professor of Political Science Frederick Boehmke. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project of the Department of Political Science in the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Department of Political Science, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Office of the Provost fund the poll.

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