

University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll – Topline Results
4/15/15
Poll of Iowa City, Iowa Respondents

SAMPLE: The survey consisted of 657 Johnson County, Iowa residents, of which 363 respondents lived in Iowa City; the margin of error for the Iowa City sample is +/- 5.2 percent. Among these Iowa City respondents, 56.21 percent were Democrat, 11.58 percent Republican and 28.25 percent Independent. 36.76 percent considered themselves moderate, while 49.7 percent self-identified as liberal and 13.53 percent as conservative.

ABOUT: The Hawkeye Poll was conducted March 23-29, 2015 by the Hawkeye Poll. The poll was conducted by the Hawkeye Poll Cooperative, comprised of UI faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students in political science, with the cooperation and facilities of the Iowa Social Science Research Center, directed by UI Political Science Professor Frederick J. Boehmke. The faculty adviser for the poll is UI Professor of Political Science Frederick J. Boehmke. The poll is a teaching, research and service project of the UI Department of Political Science. 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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RESPONDENT IDENTIFICATION: A random sample was acquired with 50 percent household landline numbers and 50 percent mobile phone numbers. For households, an initial attempt was made on answering the phone to reach the youngest male who is 18 years or older. Alternatively, a female age 18 or older was interviewed. All respondents who stated they were over age 18 and willing to participate in the survey were included.

WEIGHTING: Reported results are weighted by sex and age.

QUESTION WORDING: Every 10 years, Iowa City appoints a charter review commission to evaluate the structure and rules of city government. The current review is wrapping up and we want to get your input on three items they have considered revising.

The Commission is debating who should be eligible to sign such petitions. Which of the following do you prefer?

Initiatives-eligible signatures	%
Only allow signatures from registered voters	31.8
Allow any eligible voter to sign, even if they are not registered to vote	61.0
Don't Know/Refused	7.2
Total	100.0

Initiatives-eligible signatures					
Age	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 and over	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Only allow signatures from registered voters	25.9	28.7	48.4	48.0	31.8
Allow any eligible voter to sign, even if they are not registered to vote	67.0	64.4	45.3	40.9	61.0
Don't Know/Refused	7.0	6.9	6.3	11.1	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Initiatives-eligible signatures				
3-point Party ID	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Total
	%	%	%	%
Only allow signatures from registered voters	30.8	79.5	20.2	31.6
Allow any eligible voter to sign, even if they are not registered to vote	60.3	19.8	74.8	61.8
Don't Know/Refused	8.9	0.8	5.0	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

QUESTION WORDING: The Commission is debating whether to increase the number of signatures required from 2500 to 3600 – which do you prefer?

Initiatives-number of signatures	%
2500 signatures	63.7
3600 signatures	26.7
Don't Know/Refused	9.6
Total	100.0

Initiatives-number of signatures				
3-point Party ID	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Total
	%	%	%	%
2500 signatures	69.4	59.4	59.9	64.9
3600 signatures	17.4	37.3	37.7	26.9
Don't Know/Refused	13.2	3.2	2.5	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

QUESTION WORDING: Which of the following systems do you prefer for choosing Iowa City's mayor: the current system in which the City Council selects the mayor from among its members or an alternative system in which voters directly elect the mayor?

System to choose Iowa mayor	%
City Council selects	30.0
Direct election	63.3
Don't Know/Refused	6.7

Total	100.0
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System to choose Iowa mayor					
Age	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 and over	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
City Council selects	29.5	27.5	31.0	40.8	30.0
Direct election	66.9	64.0	56.4	51.1	63.3
Don't Know/Refused	3.6	8.6	12.7	8.1	6.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

System to choose Iowa mayor			
Perceived sex of respondent	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
City Council selects	41.0	17.1	30.0
Direct election	55.4	72.5	63.3
Don't Know/Refused	3.6	10.3	6.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

QUESTION WORDING: Currently, some City Council members are elected by voters within specific districts while other members are elected at-large, that is, by all voters in the city. What balance of district versus at-large members would you prefer? The Charter Commission is debating whether to revise the structure of city council elections. Which of the following options do you prefer?

How to revise the structure of city council elections	%
Divide the city into 7 districts and let voters in each district elect their own City Council member	26.8
Let all voters in the city vote on all seven City Council members	28.9
Keep the current system which involves a mix of citywide and district representation	35.0
Don't Know/Refused	9.3
Total	100.0