

Iowans Agree: Income Inequality is too large

Results from the latest Hawkeye Poll indicate many Iowans disapprove of the growing income gap in the United States.

The annual, statewide poll — conducted by University of Iowa students, researchers, and professors between October 19 and October 25, 2015 — indicates 80% of Iowans agree that differences in income in the United States are too large. Across party lines, few other issues resulted in as much consensus as income inequality.

Results show that Iowans across party lines agree with the statement “differences in income in America are too large.” including 96.6% of Democrats and 65.1% of Republicans. Likewise, Liberals, Conservatives and Moderates, agree at rates of 95, 64.7, 85.4%, respectively. With 85.4% of moderates agreeing, income inequality could be the issue that ultimately determines who undecided voters support, with 76.2% of likely caucus goers disapproving of the current income gap.

“Income inequality has been rising in the United States since 1980. Income inequality is now much higher than it was back then, and the United States now has more income inequality than any of the other wealthy democracies,” says Frederick Solt, assistant professor of political science at the UI. “Since the onset of the global financial crisis, many potentially harmful effects of such high levels of income inequality have drawn considerable attention from the media [...] and, it seems, from Iowa’s voters.”

Iowa voters indicated current levels of income inequality are too large regardless of their location and income. 83.8% of urban residents, 77.9% of suburban residents and 79.9% of rural residents agree income disparities are too large. Even among respondents whose family earns over \$150,000, 76.6% agree that differences in income in America are too large.

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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