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1 in 4 Iowans affected by shutdown; partisans place blame differently

One month after the end of the recent federal government shutdown (October 1st through 16th, 2013), one in four Iowans responded that they were personally affected by the government shutdown. A University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll conducted Nov. 10 through Nov. 17 of over 1,000 Iowans asked if respondents were personally affected by the government shutdown, and whom they felt was to blame for the shutdown. Blame for the delay in passing a budget that led to the shutdown fell according to partisan lines.

Nearly one in four Iowans said they were personally affected by the federal government shutdown, which occurred after the House and Senate did not find agreement on a bill to fund the federal government. Democrats were slightly more likely to report being affected (23.8%) compared to Independents (20.3%) and Republicans (19.4%). Urban residents (26.5%) were more affected than rural (20.7%) or suburban residents (23.0%). Respondents who work in agriculture were more likely to be affected (28.0%) than people who did not work in agriculture (21.2%). There was no statistical difference in who was personally affected across gender, income, education or age.

[Topline results are available at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/polisci/research/hawkeye-poll>]

In an open-ended question Democrats were most likely to blame Republican Members of Congress (34.2%) and the Tea Party (14.4%), Republicans blamed President Obama (48.4%), and Independents blamed Congress in general (26.4%) or the whole government (24.4%). There were some differences in attribution for blame across age categories: older respondents were more likely to blame Republican congressmen, younger people more likely to blame the whole government, and respondents in the middle age brackets (35-69) more likely to blame the Tea Party. There were no significant differences by gender or income.

Background: The Hawkeye Poll was conducted Nov. 10-17, 2013 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 Sociology Professor Kevin Leicht. 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 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Provost fund the poll.

Respondent identification: A random sample was acquired with 70 percent household landline numbers and 30 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.” All who stated they were over age 18 and willing to participate in the survey were included.

Sample: 1038 participants, margin of error for full sample is +/- 3 percent. Among these respondents, 32.55 percent were Democrat, 26.72 percent Republican and 34.55 percent Independent. 46.49 percent considered themselves moderate, while 20.92 percent self-identified as liberal and 30.9 percent as conservative.

Weighting: Reported results are weighted by sex and age.

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