

THE DES MOINES REGISTER IOWA POLL

SELZER & COMPANY
 807 Iowa adults
 Margin of error: ± 3.5 percentage points

Study #2114
 February 15-18, 2015
 Weighted by age, sex, and congressional district

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
Feb-15	29	60	11
Sep-14	23	65	12
Feb-14	23	68	9
Dec-13	23	70	7
Sep-13	22	68	10
Jun-13	30	60	10
Feb-13	37	51	12
Sep-12	40	54	6
Feb-12	30	64	6
Feb-11	32	58	10
Sep-10	30	63	7
Feb-10	31	61	8
Nov-09	35	58	7
Sep-09	41	50	9
Apr-09	43	49	8
Jan-09	36	53	11

What about here in Iowa? Do you think things in the state are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
Feb-15	56	30	14
Sep-14	55	31	14
Feb-14	52	37	11
Dec-13	55	33	12
Sep-13	52	36	12
Jun-13	56	34	10
Feb-13	58	28	14
Sep-12	60	31	9
Feb-12	52	38	10
Feb-11	40	47	13
Sep-10	39	52	9
Feb-10	34	57	9
Nov-09	34	57	9
Sep-09	48	41	11
Apr-09	45	44	11
Jan-09	44	45	11

I'm going to mention some elected officials. For each, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way each is handling his or her job. (Rotate list.)

		Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
Terry Branstad as governor	Feb-15	59	32	9
	Sep-14	51	38	11
	Feb-14	63	30	7
	Dec-13	58	33	9
	Sep-13	54	36	10
	Jun-13	58	32	10
	Feb-13	56	33	11
	Sep-12	54	35	11
	Feb-12	56	35	9
	Feb-11	45	35	20
Joni Ernst as U.S. senator	Feb-15	38	34	28
Chuck Grassley as U.S. senator	Feb-15	64	22	14
	Sep-14	59	25	16
	Jun-13	60	27	13
	Feb-13	62	22	16
	Sep-12	62	23	15
	Feb-12	60	28	12
	Feb-11	65	21	14
	Sep-10	56	30	14
	Feb-10	54	28	18
	Nov-09	57	32	11
	Sep-09	57	30	13
	Apr-09	66	20	14
	Jan-09	75	12	13

Turning now to issues—For each of the following, please tell me if you think it should be a top priority, a mid-level priority, or a low priority for the Legislature and the governor to pass this year. (Rotate list.)

Which ONE of these would you say is the number one priority for the state to act on this year? (If needed, read just underlined portions to help respondent choose.)

	Top Priority	Mid-level Priority	Low Priority	Not Sure	#1 Priority
<u>Improving water quality</u>	46	39	15	-	9
Expanding access to <u>broadband internet</u> connections in rural areas	18	47	32	3	2
Reducing incidents of <u>bullying</u> in schools	49	32	17	2	8
<u>Increasing quality of pre-K through 12 public schools</u>	61	30	8	1	26
<u>Increasing funding for the three public universities</u>	22	45	31	2	2
Developing <u>incentives to create more jobs</u>	68	25	6	1	25
<u>Repairing Iowa's roads and bridges</u>	61	35	4	-	26
None of these (VOL)					1
Not sure					1

Here are some specific issues that may be debated in the Iowa Legislature this year. For each, please tell me if you favor or oppose the initiative. **(Rotate list.)**

		Favor	Oppose	Not Sure
Raise the age at which e-cigarettes can be purchased to 19	Feb-15	55	41	4
Raise the gas tax by around 10 cents a gallon to pay for road and bridge repairs	Feb-15	48	50	2
[Similar:] Raise the gas tax by around 10 cents a gallon over the next three years to pay for road and bridge repairs	Feb-14	40	58	2
Raise the gas tax by around 10 cents a gallon to pay for road and bridge repairs	Feb-13	35	63	2
[Similar:] Raise the gas tax 8 to 10 cents a gallon to pay for road and bridge repairs	Feb-12	31	68	1
[Similar:] Raise the gas tax 5 to 10 cents a gallon to pay for road and bridge repairs	Feb-11	29	70	1
Legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes in Iowa	Feb-15	70	26	4
	Feb-14	59	37	4
	Feb-13	58	38	4
[Not directly comparable:] This month, the Iowa Pharmacy Board will hold a hearing on whether it should recommend the use of marijuana to treat medical conditions if a patient has a doctor's approval. Do you favor or oppose allowing medical marijuana in Iowa?	Feb-10	64	33	3
Legalize the use of marijuana for recreational purposes in Iowa	Feb-15	30	67	3
	Feb-14	28	69	3
	Feb-13	29	68	3
[Not directly comparable:] What about legalizing marijuana for recreational use, with restrictions similar to the use of alcohol, such as prohibiting driving while under the influence and setting a minimum? Do you favor or oppose legalizing marijuana for recreational use?	Feb-10	28	70	2
Legalize cash prizes for people playing in fantasy sports leagues	Feb-15	26	63	11
Authorize school personnel to react to bullying by notifying parents and disciplining students even when the incident takes place away from school, including through social media	Feb-15	73	23	4
	Feb-14	71	24	5
Allow law enforcement officers to pull over a vehicle when they see the driver texting	Feb-15	85	13	2
	Feb-14	83	15	2
Allow law enforcement officers to pull over a vehicle when they see the driver talking on a cell phone	Feb-15	48	49	3
Legalize fireworks	Feb-15	54	42	4
	Feb-14	56	39	5
Raise the age at which tobacco products can be purchased to 19	Feb-15	55	42	3

Do you think schools should start classes no earlier than the week in which September first falls, or should they continue to be allowed to start earlier in August?

- 44 Start first week in September
- 47 Continue to be allowed to start earlier in August
- 9 Not sure

[Similar from Sep-03] On another topic, state law requires schools to open during the week after Labor Day, but most schools get a waiver so they can start earlier in August. Do you think schools should start classes in the first week of September or should they continue to start in August?

- 66 Start first week in September
- 26 Continue to start in August
- 8 Not sure

Which of the following do you think is the best approach for Iowa law on vaccinations for children? **(Read options.)**

- 59 Require all children to be vaccinated unless they have a doctor-signed statement giving a medical reason not to be vaccinated
- 17 Allow limited exemptions for medical or religious reasons
- 6 Allow broad exemptions for personal as well as medical or religious reasons
- 16 Have no law on vaccinations
- 2 Not sure

This question is about Common Core, which is an education initiative in the U.S. to define what K through 12 students should know at the end of each grade. From what you know about it, do you feel very positive, mostly positive, mostly negative, or very negative?

- 10 Very positive
- 46 Mostly positive
- 18 Mostly negative
- 11 Very negative
- 15 Not sure

Recently, the Des Moines Water Works announced it would pursue a lawsuit against three northwestern Iowa drainage districts because of record high levels of nitrates in the water flowing from those districts, leaving the job of removing the nitrates to Des Moines Water Works. Do you think the Des Moines Water Works is right or wrong to pursue this lawsuit?

- 63 Right
- 23 Wrong
- 14 Not sure

Which of the following sports events held in February and March do you most enjoy going to, watching, or reading about? **(Read list. Rotate.)**

- 15 High school boys wrestling tournament
- 6 High school boys basketball tournament
- 8 High school girls basketball tournament
- 36 Men's NCAA basketball tournament, known as March Madness
- 5 Women's NCAA basketball tournament
- 27 None of these (VOL)
- 3 Not sure

With the Iowa caucuses approaching, do you think it is best for the country for Iowa to be the first test for presidential candidates, or would it be best for the country if some other state or states go first?

- 69 Best if Iowa goes first
- 13 Best if some other state or states go first
- 18 Not sure

[Similar from Feb-08] Now that the Iowa caucuses are over, is it best for the country for Iowa to be the first test for presidential candidates, or would it be best for the country if some other state or states go first?

- 66 Best if Iowa goes first**
- 13 Best if some other state or states go first**
- 21 Not sure**

About the Poll

The Iowa Poll, conducted Feb. 15-18 for *The Des Moines Register* by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, is based on telephone interviews with 807 Iowans ages 18 or older. Interviewers with Quantel Research contacted households with randomly selected landline and cell phone numbers supplied by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were administered in English. Responses were adjusted by age, sex, and congressional district to reflect the general population based on recent census data.

Questions based on the sample of 807 Iowa adults have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. This means that if this survey were repeated using the same questions and the same methodology, 19 times out of 20, the findings would not vary from the percentages shown here by more than plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error.

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