

Survey Findings

Iowa Voters Likely to Attend Democratic Presidential Caucus in 2020

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

**Very close three-way contest in the Iowa 2020 Democratic caucus. Warren with slight lead over Harris, Biden. Sanders and Buttigieg only other candidates with double digit support.**

- Compared to the most recent poll in March, both Warren and Harris have shown significant increases in support (+12%, and +9%, respectively), while Biden and Sanders have shown declines (-8% and -5%, respectively). Buttigieg has also shown a 4% increase in support, while Beto O'Rourke has fallen off 5%.

2020 Iowa Caucus				
	Sept. 2018	Dec. 2018	Mar 2019	July 2019
Elizabeth Warren	16%	9%	8%	20%
Kamala Harris	10	7	9	18
Joe Biden	37	30	25	17
Bernie Sanders	12	13	17	12
Pete Buttigieg	--	--	6	10
Amy Klobuchar	--	10	6	4
Cory Booker	8	6	7	2
Beto O'Rourke	--	11	6	1
John Delaney	1	1	3	1
Kirsten Gillibrand	2	--	1	1
Michael Bennet	--	--	0	1
Steve Bullock	<1	--	<1	1
Julian Castro	--	--	1	1
Bill deBlasio	--	--	--	1
Tulsi Gabbard	--	--	1	1
Andrew Yang	--	--	1	1
Marianne Williamson	--	--	<1	1
John Hickenlooper	--	--	<1	<1
Jay Inslee	--	--	1	<1
Tim Ryan	--	--	--	<1
Eric Swalwell	--	--	1	<1
Wayne Messam	--	--	--	0
Seth Moulton	--	--	--	0
Someone else	5	7	<1	<1
Undecided	9	6	7	9

**Over 80% of likely Democratic caucus goers now have positive opinions of Warren, Harris and Buttigieg. 68% have positive views of all three. Substantial improvement also seen for Castro, Gabbard, Bennet, Bullock.**

- There are now 9 candidates with favorable ratings of at least 60% of likely Iowa caucus goers, and 3 candidates – Warren, Harris and Buttigieg – have favorable ratings of 80% or higher.
- Iowa caucus goers appear to be choosing between multiple candidates whom they like. Over two-thirds of likely Iowa caucus goers say they have a positive impression of all three of Warren, Harris and Buttigieg, and 41% have positive impressions of those three as well as Biden and Sanders.
- Compared to the previous survey in March, Buttigieg especially has seen significant improvement, as his positive rating moved from 44% to 80%. Warren, at 88% positive, has the highest favorability rating, followed by Harris at 82%. Booker is also maintaining very high ratings, at 77% positive.
- Biden and Sanders still have strongly favorable ratings, but both have fallen off somewhat since the March poll, with Biden falling from 88% to 74%, and Sanders falling from 83% to 73%.
- Julian Castro, Tulsi Gabbard, Michael Bennet and Steve Bullock – who was not seen in the debates – also have shown marked improvement, with positive ratings rising by between 13% and 16%.

	Percent with Positive Opinion		
	Dec. 2018	Mar 2019	July 2019
Elizabeth Warren	82%	83%	88%
Kamala Harris	54	73	82
Pete Buttigieg	--	44	80
Cory Booker	69	79	77
Joe Biden	90	88	74
Bernie Sanders	82	83	73
Amy Klobuchar	52	62	66
Julian Castro	34	48	61
Beto O'Rourke	62	68	60
Kirsten Gillibrand	45	55	53
Tulsi Gabbard	22	32	45
John Hickenlooper	23	41	37
Jay Inslee	--	30	37
John Delaney	24	47	36
Bill deBlasio	--	--	35
Eric Swalwell	24	25	32
Andrew Yang	--	21	32
Steve Bullock	5	9	25
Michael Bennet	5	8	24
Tim Ryan	--	--	20
Marianne Williamson	--	7	15
Seth Moulton	--	--	9
Wayne Messam	--	--	5

**About 20% expect to participate in virtual caucus, while 80% state they will attend caucus in-person.**

- After hearing that a virtual caucus will be held that will contribute 10% to delegate application, about 20% of participants said they would participate in the virtual caucus, while 80% stated they would attend caucuses in person. The virtual caucus participants were slightly less definitive of their participation, compared to those who said they would attend in person.
- Candidate choice for virtual participants and in person attendees were similar, although Biden does somewhat better among virtual participants and Warren does somewhat better among those who will attend in person.

**The candidate debates of June 26 and 27, 2019 had a significant impact on the opinions of Iowa Democratic caucus goers.**

- 63% of likely Iowa caucus goers say they watched all or some of the debates of June 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>. 35% stated they watched all of the debates, and 28% say they watched some of the debates.
- 83% say that they have seen or heard ‘quite a bit’ or ‘some’ media coverage of the debates, whether on social media, television or from family and friends. 59% said they have seen or heard ‘quite a bit,’ about the debates, with 24% saying ‘some.’
- 26% said the debates impacted their opinion of the candidates ‘quite a bit,’ and 37% said the debates had ‘some’ impact on their opinions.

**Kamala Harris is the prime beneficiary of the debates, with Warren and Buttigieg also receiving significant positive impact based on their debate performance.**

- When asked to name one or more candidates who are now being actively considered for support due to their performance in the debates, 34% named Harris. 16% said they were now considering Warren, 11% Buttigieg, 7% Biden, 6% Castro, 6% Sanders and 5% Booker.
- Those who watched some or all of the debate were more likely to now be supporting Harris, with Warren in a close second. Those who didn’t see the debates but followed it in subsequent media coverage lean toward Warren, with Biden, Harris and Sanders following. But those who have not seen nor followed coverage of the debate choose Biden in first place, with Sanders in second.

Watched all or some of debates	Heard quite a bit or some about debates, but did not watch	Did not watch, and heard little to nothing about debates
Harris 22%	Warren 23%	Biden 25%
Warren 20	Biden 17	Sanders 20
Biden 16	Harris 15	Warren 15
Buttigieg 12	Sanders 12	Buttigieg 10
Sanders 11	Buttigieg 6	Harris 4

**More Iowa Democratic caucus goers are seeking a candidate who will pay attention to the needs of rural voters.**

- When asked to choose between two candidates who are similar on the issues they care about, 51% of likely Democratic caucus voters choose a candidate who makes it a priority to engage with rural voters, while only 30% prefer one who makes it a priority to increase turnout in Iowa's larger cities and towns. Another 19% has no preference. Among rural Democratic voters in Iowa, this preference 69% to 19% for the candidate who engages with rural voters. Voters who call themselves 'progressive,' also agree that it should be a priority to engage with rural voters by 51% to 29%.

**Iowa Democratic caucus goers are concerned that EPA policies on granting waivers to oil refineries will hurt Iowa farmers.**

- About 51% of likely Iowa Democratic caucus voters have heard 'some' or 'quite a bit' about the recent decision from the Trump administration to allow E15 fuel to be used year-round.
- 64% say they believe the decision will hurt Iowa farmers when told that the EPA is also continuing the practice of giving small refinery waivers to oil refineries, like Exxon and Chevron, to bypass blending ethanol into the fuel supply. Only 17% say it will help Iowa farmers, while another 19% had no opinion or said the decision would not have an impact on Iowa farmers.

**Iowa Democratic caucus goers prefer candidates who support increasing access to ethanol, and support expanding production of renewable biofuels.**

- 70% of likely Iowa Democratic caucus goers would be more likely to support a candidate who wants to increase access to ethanol, to further reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Only 17% would oppose such a candidate.
- 83% say they would be more likely to support a candidate for President who supports expanding production of renewable biofuels like ethanol, and growing related jobs in rural communities, with only 7% likely to oppose such a candidate.

## Methodology

David Binder Research conducted 600 interviews by cell phone and landline on June 29<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 with registered voters in Iowa who stated they were likely to participate in the Democratic Presidential caucuses of 2020. All participants were recruited from official Iowa voter lists.

Survey participants were told that a virtual caucus would be held this year, in addition to the standard in person caucuses, and that 10% of total Iowa state delegates would be allocated based on the virtual caucus results while 90% will be based on the in person results. About 20% of participants interviewed said they would attend a virtual caucus, but their results were weighted to 10% to reflect actual delegate allocation.

Results are subject to a margin of error of no greater than  $\pm 4.0\%$ .