

June 20, 2022

Release is effective immediately

CONTACT:

Frederick Boehmke, faculty advisor for the Hawkeye Poll, 319-335-2342 (office), 716-866-9277 (cell), frederick-boehmke@uiowa.edu; Cassandra Tai, Hawkeye Poll, yuehong-tai@uiowa.edu.

Hawkeye Poll: Majority of Iowans Prefers People Stand for Pledge of Allegiance

The results from a recent Hawkeye Poll — conducted by University of Iowa faculty and students between March 31 and April 13 — indicate that a majority of Iowans prefers people stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Specifically, when asked whether they are offended or not offended when people who object to the pledge's use of the phrase "under God" refuse to stand for it, 54.7% of respondents said they would feel either strongly offended (25.4%), offended (15.1%), or somewhat offended (14.2%). In contrast, 39.4% of respondents indicated that they would not feel offended at all.

Notable differences in the feeling of being offended emerged when comparing responses based on party identification and age. Of respondents who identified as Republican, a plurality, 42.4%, reported feeling strongly offended when someone did not stand for the pledge, while only 13.8% of respondents who identified as Democrats and 20.6% of Independents said they felt the same. On the other hand, a majority of Democrats, 51.2%, indicated they do not feel at all offended, compared to 21.6% of Republicans and 46.8% of Independents. Young people are more likely to indicate feeling not at all offended. Among the 18 to 34 age category, 47.8% said they do not feel at all offended. The age group of 70 and older reported 30.5% being not at all offended. The same trend is present with those indicating that they feel strongly offended increasing with age, from 15.3% of 18- to 34-year-olds feeling strongly offended and 40.2% of respondents 70 and older. There is steady upward trend, with a 24.9 percentage point increase from the youngest group to the oldest groups.

When prompted with alternatives to the word "God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, a majority of respondents, 51.7%, selected "don't omit 'God,'" while 19.5% preferred to omit "under God" with no replacement. As alternatives, "the Constitution" was selected by 10.9% of respondents and the term "founding fathers" by 6.4%.

When responses were considered based on political party identification and age, differences were observed. 32.1% of Democrats selected "don't omit 'God,'" compared to 73.7% of Republicans and 52.0% of Independents. The same trend emerged with the option of omitting "under God" with no replacement, showing 30.9% of Democrats supporting it while only 7.6% of Republicans and 20.1% of Independents responded the same. As age increases, people are more likely to choose "don't omit 'God.'" Almost one-third (32.6%) of those aged 18-34 chose "don't omit 'God,'" 48.6% of those aged 35 to 54 and 63.5% of individuals aged 55 to 69 identified the same way. Among those in the 70 and older age group, 75.4% said "God" should not be omitted. Age also produces differences in preferring to omit "under God" with no replacement. 29.2% of the youngest age group (18 to 34) preferred it, compared to 13.7% of the oldest age group (70 and older).

When asked whether they would vote for a candidate who is generally well-qualified but happened to have different religious beliefs from theirs, a plurality of respondents, 39.7%, indicated they would vote for the candidate, compared to 4.7% choosing "No." A moderate percentage of respondents, 36.2%, said "it depends." Another 13.2% of respondents reported that the question was not applicable to them

since they have no religious affiliation. Additionally, 6.2% respondents either did not know yet or declined to answer.

Among those who have religious affiliation, support for a candidate with different religion differs based on party identification and age. 61.3% of Democrats would vote for a candidate whose religion is different from theirs, with 29.0% choosing “it depends.” A plurality of Republican, 49.9%, chose “it depends,” along with 35.3% of supporting the candidate. 47.2% of Independents reported their support for the candidate, with 42.2% “it depends.” As age increases, support for a candidate who has different religious beliefs increases. There is a steady upward trend of supporting from 43.1% of those aged 18-34 to 53.6% of those aged 70 and older.

The University of Iowa Department of Political Science has conducted the Hawkeye Poll since 2007. A series of national and state public opinion polls, this experience serves as an important learning opportunity for students. More than 1,000 students have had the opportunity to directly participate in the research and survey process and to acquire valuable career-related knowledge about survey research and public polling in general. This year, 28 students collaborated to design and implement a poll of Iowans. Learn more about the course at <https://now.uiowa.edu/2019/11/taking-iowas-pulse-hawkeye-poll>.

Respondent identification: The Iowa Social Science Research Center (ISRC) assisted with data collection. Responses were gathered by phone (116) and online (947). For the phone portion, the ISRC obtained a random sample of Iowans consisting of 40% household landline numbers and 60% mobile phone numbers. All respondents who stated they were older than age 18 and willing to participate in the survey were included. After training, students in the class used the ISRC’s computer-assisted interviewing resources to complete the calling and interviews. No quotas were set for the phone component. For the online portion, the ISRC contracted with a respected web panel vendor to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of 947 online respondents. Respondents invited to complete the online survey were Iowa adults, aged 18 to 120 years, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and urbanicity.

Sample: 1,063 voting-age residents in Iowa (by web and by phone), margin of error +/-3.1%. Among these, 947 respondents took the online version of the survey, with a margin of error of 3.2%.

Results for this release use responses to both the online and phone surveys.

Weighting: Reported results are weighted by age, sex, and party identification.

About the Hawkeye Poll

The poll was conducted by the Hawkeye Poll Cooperative, comprised of UI faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in the Department of Political Science. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, which uses the facilities of the Iowa Social Science Research Center directed by Frederick J. Boehmke, professor of political science and faculty advisor for the poll. The Department of Political Science, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the UI Public Policy Center support the poll; financial support was provided through a Student Technology Fee award (#1290-91).

Keenan Daly, Joseph Grabowski, and Emily Heinrich assisted with the preparation of this release.

###