Hawkeye Poll: Democrats and Republicans Still Very Split on How Much Support Should be Sent to Ukraine

Students at the University of Iowa researching the differences between Democrats and Republicans on issues regarding foreign policy have found that the two parties have differing opinions on supporting Ukraine during its war with Russia. Researchers asked the following question:

As you may know, the United States has been providing military aid to Ukraine in its war with Russia. However, the United States has not directly intervened on behalf of Ukraine. Which of the following would you prefer when it comes to U.S. military aid support towards Ukraine?

Respondents were given five options, ranging from ending support immediately to active U.S. intervention on behalf of Ukraine. Americans are very split on the issue, with 15% of respondents preferring an immediate end to U.S. support for Ukraine, whereas 20% prefer a gradual withdraw of support. Twenty-eight percent say the United States should maintain its current level of support. Finally, 17% prefer that the United States increase its level of support for Ukraine, and 8% support U.S. military intervention.

The poll also found that Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to want to withdraw support for Ukraine. Almost half of Republicans preferred less U.S. support. Twenty-one percent of Republicans prefer withdrawing all support for Ukraine immediately, while 28% favor gradual withdrawal of support. Another 21% of Republicans want to maintain current levels of support, and only 13% say the United States should increase its level of support.

This contrasts with Democrats, with less than a third preferring less U.S. support. Only 12% of Democrats responded that support for Ukraine should end immediately; 16% of Democrats think the United States should withdraw support gradually. Thirty-one percent of Democrats prefer that the U.S. maintain its current level of support, while 24% say the level of support should be increased.

In both parties, 7% of respondents say the United States should intervene militarily.

Older Americans were more supportive of maintaining or increasing U.S. support for Ukraine. Of those 70 and older, 76% believe the U.S. should maintain or increase its level of support for Ukraine. That’s about 20 percentage points higher than those in the 55 to 69 age group, and about 30 points higher than in age groups younger than 55.
Respondent Identification:
The Iowa Social Science Research Center (ISRC) contracted with a respected web panel vendor to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of 1,123 respondents. Respondents invited to complete the web survey were U.S. adults, ages 18 to 120, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and census region.

Sample:
1,123 voting-age resident in the United States, margin of error +/-2.9%.

Date of Survey:
The Hawkeye Poll was fielded between March 24 and April 5, 2023.

Weighting:
Reported results are weighted by age, sex, and census region.

About the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll:
The poll was designed by the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll, composed of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The poll is a teaching and research project, is one of many of the experiential learning undergraduate courses offered in the Department of Political Science. The poll was implemented in collaboration with the Iowa Social Science Research Center.