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*Release is effective immediately*

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**Hawkeye Poll: Iowans split on 15-week abortion ban**

With the U.S. Supreme Court appearing poised to strike down the constitutional right to abortion set forth in *Roe v. Wade*, a recent Hawkeye Poll survey finds that a plurality of Iowans opposes a ban on abortions after 15 weeks. The survey — conducted by University of Iowa faculty and students between March 31 and April 13 — finds that Iowans' opinions are split on an abortion ban after 15 weeks if the U.S. Supreme Court rules for the Mississippi abortion law.

38.1% of respondents indicated their opposition to the ban (24.3% strongly opposed), while 35.7% responded that they support such a ban (17.4% strongly support). Another 17.4% were neutral on the issue. Additionally, 8.8% of respondents either said they did not have an opinion or declined to answer.

Notable differences emerged based on sex, party affiliation, and age of respondents. 40.0% of female respondents said they opposed a ban on abortions after 15 weeks; 33.2% said they supported a ban; 14.5% were neutral on the subject; and 12.4% either did not know or declined to answer. In contrast, a plurality of male respondents, 38.3%, supported a ban, compared to 36.1% opposing a ban; 20.4% of male respondents said they were neutral on the issue; and 5.2% either did not know or declined to answer. Among female respondents, more were strongly opposed (25.4%) than strongly supported (17.2%) a ban. Similarly, more male respondents strongly opposed (23.2%) than those who strongly supported (17.7%) a ban.

Respondents who identified as Democrat (58.7%) were more likely to oppose a post-15-week ban than those who identified as Republican (20.9%) and those who identified as Independent (38.5%). 55.4% of Republicans expressed support for a ban while 23.3% of Democrats and 30.2% of Independents indicated support.

Support for a post-15-week abortion ban also increases with age. Among those aged 18 to 34, 30.5% supported a ban. The percentage of support increases steadily from younger to older age groups, reaching 44.3% among those 70 and older. Opposition to the ban exhibits a smaller shift from the youngest to oldest age groups: 40.5% (29.7% strongly opposed) from the youngest age group and 36.5% (25.9% strongly opposed) from the oldest age group were opposed.

Iowans also were polled on whether they would support or oppose candidates who say they would oppose abortion under any circumstances. 44.1% of Iowans indicated they would oppose such candidates. Two-thirds of those in opposition indicated they strongly oppose. In contrast, 27.0% of Iowans said they would support such candidates, with 13.1% of those strongly supporting. Additionally, 20.7% of respondents were neutral on the subject.

Differences in support for candidates who oppose abortion were observed when responses were investigated based on sex and political identity. Female respondents were more likely to oppose candidates who publicly oppose abortion. Specifically, 48.1% of female respondents oppose such candidates (32.3% strongly opposing), compared to 39.9% of male respondents (23.1% strongly

opposing). 65.0% of Democrats opposed candidates who oppose abortion, while 23.5% of Republicans and 46.7% of Independents expressed opposition.

Respondents were also asked which abortion pill delivery method they prefer: allowing physicians to prescribe abortion pills by mail or taking abortion pills only in a health care setting with a physician present. 50.2% of respondents indicated that they preferred requiring that pills be taken in person with a physician, while 29.2% preferred allowing pills to be received by mail after an online consultation with a physician. 20.6% of respondents either did not have an opinion or declined to answer.

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 (online 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 web 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).

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