

November 2, 2018

## **Hawkeye Poll: Hubbell holds slight edge over Reynolds in Iowa**

The November 6<sup>th</sup> midterm elections are fast approaching, and Democratic candidate Fred Hubbell holds a small lead over Republican Kim Reynolds in the race to become governor of Iowa. That's according to a recent University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll conducted by faculty and students between October 8 and 22, which indicates that 43.6% of respondents expressed support for Hubbell, compared to 40.0% for Reynolds, with 6.3% supporting other candidates and 10.1% undecided. Governor Reynolds has an approval rating of 36%, and a disapproval rating of 41%, although far fewer respondents strongly approve (7.7%) compared to those that strongly disapprove (20.3%).

Poll results show both candidates have received strong support from their respective parties. About 81% of Democrats intend to vote for Hubbell, whereas 86% of Republicans choose Reynolds. Hubbell also wins independents 41% to 32%. Republicans, Democrats, and independents are all highly motivated to vote in this year's election, with strong majorities of each group indicating they are likely to vote. Among these likely voters, Hubbell holds a 47%-40% lead over Reynolds, with 4% supporting other candidates and 7% undecided.

Hubbell does particularly well with female voters (53% to 32%), while Reynolds leads among men (49% to 33%). Hubbell also leads amongst younger voters (18-34 years old) and voters between the ages of 55-69, whereas Reynolds leads with voters over 70. Both the candidates split voters between the ages of 35-54 evenly.

According to the poll, Reynolds and Hubbell supporters hold dramatically different views of the state's current direction. About 72% of Reynolds supporters feel the state is headed on the right track, versus only 12.6% of Hubbell supporters. Hubbell receives his strongest support from voters who feel healthcare (56.8% to 28.9%), women's rights (71% to 18%) and criminal justice (49% to 39%) are the most important issues facing the state. In contrast, Reynolds leads among voters most concerned with taxes (50% to 33%), the economy (48% to 38%), and immigration (50% to 43%). Voters were most likely to list healthcare, the economy, and education as the most important issues facing the state.

**Respondent Identification:** A random sample of registered voters was acquired with 57% household landline numbers and 43% mobile phone numbers. All respondents who stated they were over age 18 and willing to participate in the survey were included.

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

## **About the Hawkeye Poll**

A total of 496 Iowans were surveyed by telephone from October 8-22, 2018. The margin of error on the poll is +/-4.5%. The list of gubernatorial candidates included "Kim Reynolds, the Republican," "Fred Hubbell, the Democrat," "someone else," and "don't know."

The poll was conducted by the Hawkeye Poll Cooperative, comprised of UI faculty and graduate students in the Department of Political Science in the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, which uses the facilities of the Iowa Social Science Research Center directed by Frederick 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 Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development cooperatively support the poll.

Since 2007, the University of Iowa Department of Political Science has conducted the Hawkeye Poll, a series of national and state public opinion polls that constitute an important learning opportunity for interested undergraduates enrolled in select political science courses. About one thousand students have had the opportunity to directly participate in the research production process and to acquire valuable career-related knowledge about survey research and public polling in general.

**CONTACT:**

Frederick Boehmke, Hawkeye Poll, 319-335-2342 (office), [frederick-boehmke@uiowa.edu](mailto:frederick-boehmke@uiowa.edu);  
Jielu Yao, Hawkeye Poll, 319-335-3381 (office), [jielu-yao@uiowa.edu](mailto:jielu-yao@uiowa.edu).