



**POLL MUST BE SOURCED:**  
**NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist Poll\***

**Cruz and Trump Vie in IA, Trump NH Favorite...  
 Clinton and Sanders Competitive**  
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**These NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist Polls report:**

With just weeks to go until the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary, Texas Senator Ted Cruz, 28%, edges businessman Donald Trump, 24%, among likely Republican caucus-goers in Iowa including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate. Florida Senator Marco Rubio, 13%, and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, 11%, are vying for the “third ticket” out of Iowa. In New Hampshire, Trump, 30%, outdistances Rubio, 14%, and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, 12%, among likely Republican primary voters statewide including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate. Texas Senator Ted Cruz, 10%, Ohio Governor John Kasich, 9%, and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, 9%, follow.

	2016 Republican presidential caucus/primary including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate	
	Iowa	New Hampshire
	Likely Republican Caucus-Goers	Likely Republican Primary Voters
Ted Cruz	<b>28%</b>	10%
Donald Trump	24%	<b>30%</b>
Marco Rubio	13%	14%
Ben Carson	11%	4%
Rand Paul	5%	5%
Jeb Bush	4%	9%
Chris Christie	3%	12%
Carly Fiorina	3%	3%
Mike Huckabee	2%	<1%
John Kasich	2%	9%
Other	1%	<1%
Undecided	3%	5%

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Cruz does better among likely GOP caucus-goers in Iowa who support the Tea Party, identify as conservative, are white Evangelical Christians, are men, or college graduates. Trump is ahead among those who do not practice a religion, those who are unmarried, and moderates.

In New Hampshire, Trump leads his Republican rivals among all key demographic groups. He does especially well among likely GOP voters who are college educated, those who do not practice a religion, Tea Party supporters, or conservatives.

Looking at intensity of support, nearly six in ten Iowa likely Republican caucus-goers with a candidate preference, 59%, report they are strongly committed to their choice of candidate. A similar proportion of likely Republican primary voters with a candidate preference in New Hampshire, 55%, also express a high level of support for their candidate of choice.

Cruz, 21%, is the preferred second choice candidate among likely Republican caucus-goers with a candidate preference in Iowa followed by Trump and Rubio each with 16%. Among likely Republican primary voters in New Hampshire with a candidate preference, Rubio, with 17%, is the preferred second choice candidate. Christie comes next with 14% followed by Cruz with 13%.

	Who is your second choice for the 2016 Republican presidential caucus/primary [including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate]?	
	Iowa	New Hampshire
	Likely Republican Caucus-Goers with a Candidate Preference	Likely Republican Primary Voters with a Candidate Preference
Ted Cruz	21%	13%
Donald Trump	16%	8%
Marco Rubio	16%	17%
Ben Carson	12%	7%
Rand Paul	6%	5%
Chris Christie	6%	14%
Jeb Bush	6%	11%
Carly Fiorina	6%	8%
Mike Huckabee	3%	1%
John Kasich	2%	9%
Other	<1%	1%
Undecided	5%	6%

“Trump and Cruz are battling for the insurgent lane in Iowa, and likely GOP caucus-goers divide over who will get the third ticket out of the Hawkeye State,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff,

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Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. “In New Hampshire, the big question is whether anyone will emerge to unite the GOP establishment and overtake Trump.”

On the Democratic side, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders are competitive among likely Democratic caucus-goers in Iowa and among New Hampshire likely Democratic primary voters including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate. In Iowa, Clinton has 48% to 45% for Sanders. In New Hampshire, Sanders is backed by 50% compared with 46% for Clinton.

2016 Democratic presidential caucus/primary including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate		
	Iowa	New Hampshire
	Likely Democratic Caucus-Goers	Likely Democratic Primary Voters
Hillary Clinton	<b>48%</b>	46%
Bernie Sanders	45%	<b>50%</b>
Martin O’Malley	5%	1%
Other	<1%	<1%
Undecided	3%	3%

Among likely Democratic caucus-goers in Iowa, Clinton has a 15 point lead among Democrats while Sanders has a 33 point margin among independents. Clinton has a wide lead over Sanders among likely Democratic caucus-goers who are 45 or older. Sanders has a more than two-to-one lead over Clinton among those under 45 who plan to caucus. A gender gap exists. Clinton lags behind with 39% among men but receives majority support, 56%, among women.

In New Hampshire, Sanders outpaces Clinton by more than two-to-one among likely Democratic primary voters who identify as independent. Clinton leads by a wide margin, 18 points, among likely voters who are Democrats. A gender divide exists. Clinton narrowly leads Sanders by 4 points among women likely to vote in the Democratic primary. Among men, Sanders has a 16 point advantage over Clinton. He also outdistances Clinton by 33

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points among voters under 45 whereas Clinton surpasses Sanders by 9 points among voters who are older.

Looking at intensity of support, in Iowa, 71% of likely Democratic caucus-goers with a candidate preference are strongly committed to their choice of candidate. 76% of likely Democratic primary voters with a candidate preference in New Hampshire express a similar level of support for their selection.

“The Democratic contests in Iowa and New Hampshire could still go either way,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. “So, if your New Year’s resolution was to have clarity in 2016, you better also have resolved to be patient.”

Turning to the general election, when Clinton and Sanders are each matched against, Trump, Cruz, or Rubio, Sanders does better than Clinton among registered voters in both Iowa and New Hampshire. In Iowa, Sanders achieves his largest lead, 13 points, against Trump and is ahead of Cruz by 5 points among the statewide electorate. Sanders and Rubio are tied among registered voters in Iowa. Sanders leads Trump and Cruz by 19 points in New Hampshire and has a 9 point lead over Rubio in the state.

If the 2016 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:				
Registered Voters				
	Iowa		New Hampshire	
	Republican Candidate	Bernie Sanders	Republican Candidate	Bernie Sanders
<b>Donald Trump</b>				
January 2016	38%	51%	37%	56%
October 2015	43%	48%	42%	52%
<b>Ted Cruz</b>				
January 2016	42%	47%	36%	55%
<b>Marco Rubio</b>				
January 2016	44%	44%	41%	50%

Looking at Clinton’s general election prospects, she does best against Trump. Clinton leads Trump by 8 points in Iowa, but she is in a statistical dead heat with him in New Hampshire. In both Iowa and New Hampshire, Clinton trails Cruz and Rubio. Her largest deficit is against Rubio in New Hampshire. Rubio leads Clinton by 12 points among registered voters statewide.

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If the 2016 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

	Registered Voters			
	Iowa		New Hampshire	
	Republican Candidate	Hillary Clinton	Republican Candidate	Hillary Clinton
<b>Donald Trump</b>				
January 2016	40%	48%	44%	45%
October 2015	48%	41%	45%	48%
September 2015	48%	43%	45%	46%
<b>Ted Cruz</b>				
January 2016	47%	43%	48%	44%
<b>Marco Rubio</b>				
January 2016	47%	42%	52%	40%

When it comes to the issue driving the 2016 presidential election, Iowa likely Republican caucus-goers, 35%, and New Hampshire likely Republican primary voters, 36%, consider national security and terrorism to be critical. However, Iowa likely Democratic caucus-goers, 29%, and New Hampshire likely Democratic primary voters, 30%, say job creation and economic growth is the most pressing topic.

	Which one of the following issues is most important to you for the 2016 presidential election:					
	Iowa			New Hampshire		
	Adults	Likely Republican Caucus-Goers	Likely Democratic Caucus-Goers	Adults	Likely Republican Primary Voters	Likely Democratic Primary Voters
National security and terrorism	23%	35%	11%	27%	36%	16%
Job creation and economic growth	22%	18%	29%	24%	22%	30%
Health Care	17%	5%	22%	14%	6%	23%
The deficit and government spending	13%	18%	7%	11%	15%	5%
Religious and moral values	6%	9%	2%	3%	5%	2%
Immigration	5%	7%	5%	7%	9%	2%
Climate change	5%	1%	14%	7%	1%	16%
All of them equally	6%	4%	5%	4%	4%	2%
None of these	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Other	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Unsure	1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Partisan differences are also reflected in attitudes about many of the hot-button issues facing the United States. Iowa likely Republican caucus-goers support free trade with foreign countries, sending combat troops to fight ISIS in Iraq and Syria, and banning Muslims from entering the United States. They oppose tightening restrictions on the sale of guns, taking action against climate change, and same-sex marriage. They divide about

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creating immigration policies which include a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. In New Hampshire, likely GOP primary voters are also more likely to support free trade and sending U.S. combat troops to fight ISIS. However, they support same-sex marriage. Likely Republican primary voters in New Hampshire oppose banning Muslims from entering the United States, strengthening restrictions on the sale of firearms, immigration policies which include a pathway to citizenship, and combating climate change.

Which one of the following issues is most important to you for the 2016 presidential election:									
Iowa									
	Support Likely Republican Caucus-Goers			Oppose Likely Republican Caucus-Goers			Unsure Likely Republican Caucus-Goers		
	Adults	Likely Democratic Caucus-Goers	Likely Democratic Caucus-Goers	Adults	Likely Republican Caucus-Goers	Likely Democratic Caucus-Goers	Adults	Likely Republican Caucus-Goers	Likely Democratic Caucus-Goers
Free trade with foreign countries	68%	73%	66%	21%	18%	22%	11%	9%	13%
The government taking action to combat climate change	60%	30%	88%	31%	64%	8%	9%	5%	4%
Same-sex marriage, that is, allowing gay or lesbian couples to legally marry	58%	36%	80%	36%	58%	16%	6%	6%	4%
Immigration policies which include a pathway to citizenship for undocumented or illegal immigrants	55%	46%	83%	37%	49%	13%	8%	6%	4%
Making laws covering the sale of firearms more strict	54%	30%	82%	42%	68%	15%	5%	2%	3%
Sending U.S. combat troops to Iraq and Syria to fight ISIS	48%	67%	31%	43%	27%	63%	9%	6%	6%
Banning Muslims from entering the United States	29%	48%	11%	62%	41%	86%	9%	11%	3%

Which one of the following issues is most important to you for the 2016 presidential election:									
New Hampshire									
	Support Likely Republican Primary Voters			Oppose Likely Republican Primary Voters			Unsure Likely Republican Primary Voters		
	Adults	Likely Democratic Primary Voters	Likely Democratic Primary Voters	Adults	Likely Republican Primary Voters	Likely Democratic Primary Voters	Adults	Likely Republican Primary Voters	Likely Democratic Primary Voters
Same-sex marriage, that is, allowing gay or lesbian couples to legally marry	76%	60%	93%	19%	33%	5%	5%	6%	2%
Free trade with foreign countries	70%	70%	74%	19%	20%	17%	11%	10%	9%
The government taking action to combat climate change	67%	45%	90%	27%	50%	7%	6%	6%	2%
Making laws covering the sale of firearms more strict	59%	40%	88%	37%	55%	11%	4%	4%	1%
Immigration policies which include a pathway to citizenship for undocumented or illegal immigrants	56%	42%	81%	38%	54%	15%	6%	3%	3%
Sending U.S. combat troops to Iraq and Syria to fight ISIS	50%	66%	30%	40%	28%	61%	9%	6%	9%
Banning Muslims from entering the United States	25%	37%	10%	69%	56%	88%	6%	7%	2%

The likely Democratic electorates in both Iowa and New Hampshire support same-sex marriage, taking action to combat climate change, strengthening laws covering the sale of firearms, immigration policies which include a pathway to citizenship for undocumented or illegal immigrants, and free trade with foreign countries. They oppose banning Muslims from entering the United States and sending troops to fight ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

President Barack Obama's job approval rating continues to be upside down among residents in Iowa and New Hampshire. 51% of Iowa residents disapprove of President Obama's job performance, and 40% approve. In New Hampshire, 50% of adults disapprove of how the president is doing his job, and 42% approve. President Obama's approval ratings in Iowa and New Hampshire reflect those reported previously in October's NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist Poll.

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