



POLL MUST BE SOURCED:
NBC News/Marist Poll*

IA: Walker, Trump Vie for Lead
NH: Trump Leads GOP
Sanders Closes Gap against Clinton
For Immediate Release: Sunday, July 26, 2015

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This NBC News/Marist Poll reports:

In the all-important first-in-the-nation caucus and primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire, three Republican hopefuls have moved away from the very crowded GOP field. In **Iowa**, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker receives the support of nearly one in five members of the potential Republican electorate, 19%. Businessman Donald Trump follows closely behind with 17%, and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, the only other candidate with double-digit support, is competitive with 12%.

In **New Hampshire**, Trump garners the support of more than one in five potential Republican primary voters, 21%, and bypasses Bush, 14%, and Walker, 12%. As in Iowa, no other Republican candidate receives double-digit support.

On the Democratic side, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton remains the front-runner for her party's nomination, but Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont has cut into Clinton's lead in both states. In **Iowa**, Clinton is ahead of Sanders, 55% to 26%, among the potential Democratic electorate. Although Clinton is solidly ahead of Sanders, she previously had a 61 point lead over him in last **February's** NBC News/Marist Poll.

A similar pattern is seen in **New Hampshire** where Clinton is currently ahead of Sanders by 13 points, 47% to 34%, among the state's potential Democratic electorate. Earlier this year, Clinton held a 56 point lead over Sanders.

If Joe Biden enters the race, Clinton loses support but still maintains a lead in **Iowa** and **New Hampshire**.

*All references to the survey must be sourced as "NBC News/Marist Poll."

2016 Republican presidential primary/caucus including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate		
Potential Republican Electorate		
	Iowa	New Hampshire
Scott Walker	19%	12%
Donald Trump	17%	21%
Jeb Bush	12%	14%
Ben Carson	8%	6%
Mike Huckabee	7%	3%
Rand Paul	5%	4%
Ted Cruz	4%	5%
Marco Rubio	4%	5%
Rick Perry	3%	<1%
Chris Christie	2%	6%
John Kasich	2%	7%
Carly Fiorina	1%	2%
Lindsey Graham	1%	<1%
Bobby Jindal	1%	<1%
Jim Gilmore	<1%	<1%
Rick Santorum	<1%	<1%
George Pataki	<1%	2%
Undecided	14%	13%

2016 Democratic presidential primary/caucus including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate		
Potential Democratic Electorate		
	Iowa	New Hampshire
Hillary Clinton	55%	47%
Bernie Sanders	26%	34%
Martin O'Malley	4%	5%
Jim Webb	2%	1%
Lincoln Chafee	1%	2%
Undecided	13%	11%

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“With a vivid imagination, you can detect early signs of order to the GOP contest. Walker, Trump, and Bush occupy one of the top three positions in both Iowa and New Hampshire,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. “On the Democratic side, Clinton may be well advised to remember that objects in your mirror may be closer than they appear. Sanders has narrowed her lead in both early states.”

Poll points:

- Among potential Republican voters, Walker leads the GOP field among Tea Party identifiers in both Iowa and New Hampshire. Walker also leads among Iowa's conservative and very conservative Republican voters.
- Trump leads among New Hampshire's conservative and very conservative voters. But, his support among the potential Republican electorate dipped in New Hampshire from 26% to 14% following his comments about Senator John McCain.
- Among potential Democratic voters, there is a wide gender gap. Clinton leads Sanders by 47 points among women in Iowa and 25 points in New Hampshire. She leads Sanders by only 8 points among men in Iowa and trails him by 6 points in New Hampshire.
- Among liberal and very liberal Democratic voters, Clinton's lead narrows to 10 points in Iowa compared with a 46 point lead among moderate Democrats. There is little difference in Clinton's lead by voters' ideology in New Hampshire.
- Sanders edges Clinton in Iowa among potential Democratic voters who are under 45 years of age.

Favorably Speaking

Many of the Republicans vying for their party's nomination are, generally, viewed favorably by the potential GOP electorates in Iowa and New Hampshire. However, there is one notable outlier. Trump is the best known but is also the least liked among these voters.

On the Democratic side, Clinton and Sanders are well-liked by their party's potential voters in both states.

Poll points:

- In Iowa, at least, a majority of the potential GOP electorate has a favorable impression of **Walker**, **Rubio**, and **Bush**, with Walker receiving the highest positive score, 56%.
- Iowa's potential Republican electorate divides over **Trump** who receives the highest negative score. 45% view him favorably while 44% perceive him unfavorably.
- In New Hampshire, **Bush**, 56%, receives the highest favorable rating among the potential Republican electorate. **Walker**, 51%, and **Rubio**, 49%, are also well-liked. **Trump**, however, garners a 53% negative score.
- Trump's unfavorable rating among the potential Republican electorate in New Hampshire increased from 46% to 62% following his comments about Senator John McCain. There was little change in Iowa.

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- Among the potential Democratic electorate in Iowa, **Clinton** enjoys a high favorable rating, 74%. A majority, 54%, also thinks highly of **Sanders**, but more than three in ten Democrats in the state either do not know him or are unsure how to rate him.
- In New Hampshire, many potential Democratic primary voters have positive opinions of, both, **Clinton**, 71%, and **Sanders**, 65%.

Overall, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of [candidate]?			
IA Potential Republican Electorate			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure-Never Heard
Scott Walker	56%	10%	33%
Marco Rubio	54%	14%	32%
Jeb Bush	51%	33%	16%
Donald Trump	45%	44%	11%

Overall, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of [candidate]?			
IA Potential Democratic Electorate			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure-Never Heard
Hillary Clinton	74%	20%	6%
Bernie Sanders	54%	15%	31%

Overall, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of [candidate]?			
NH Potential Republican Electorate			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure-Never Heard
Jeb Bush	56%	32%	12%
Scott Walker	51%	17%	32%
Marco Rubio	49%	18%	33%
Donald Trump	39%	53%	8%

Overall, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of [candidate]?			
NH Potential Democratic Electorate			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure-Never Heard
Hillary Clinton	71%	23%	7%
Bernie Sanders	65%	14%	22%

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Presidents, Past and Present, Held in High Esteem by Their Party's Faithful

Could former President Bill Clinton help or hurt his wife on the campaign trail? 83% of potential Democratic caucus-goers in Iowa have a **favorable view of former President Bill Clinton**. A similar 84% of the **potential Democratic electorate in New Hampshire** share this view. President Barack Obama's favorable ratings among the potential Democratic electorates in **Iowa** and **New Hampshire** are 84% and 81%, respectively.

On the Republican side, 75% of the potential Republican electorate in Iowa has a positive opinion of former **President George W. Bush**. A similar proportion of potential voters in **New Hampshire**, 74%, thinks well of Bush 43.

Impact of Candidates' Positions on the Vote

There is a consensus of opinion on issues in both Iowa and New Hampshire among the party faithful, but Democrats and Republicans are miles apart from each other.

Poll points:

- Nearly seven in ten members of the potential Republican electorates in Iowa and New Hampshire would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. They would be less inclined to support a candidate who favors Common Core, a pathway to legal status for undocumented immigrants, or a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
- At least a majority of the potential Democratic electorates in Iowa and New Hampshire would be more likely to support a candidate who favors a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, a pathway to legal status for undocumented immigrants, or the Common Core curriculum. They would be less likely to support a candidate who would do away with the Affordable Care Act.
- Regardless of state or party, there is little consensus about how a candidate's support of a trade agreement with select Asian and Pacific Rim countries would affect the vote.

Iowa			
Are you more or less likely to vote for a candidate for president who:			
*Percentage reporting 'more likely'	Registered Voters	Potential Republican Electorate	Potential Democratic Electorate
Supports Common Core education standards	56%	42%	65%
Supports a pathway to citizenship for undocumented or illegal immigrants	44%	31%	62%
Supports repealing and eliminating the Affordable Care Act, often times called Obamacare	43%	69%	15%
Supports a pathway to legal status for undocumented or illegal immigrants	42%	31%	59%
Supports signing a trade agreement with selected Asian and Pacific Rim countries	38%	36%	40%

New Hampshire			
Are you more or less likely to vote for a candidate for president who:			
*Percentage reporting 'more likely'	Registered Voters	Potential Republican Electorate	Potential Democratic Electorate
Supports Common Core education standards	46%	36%	55%
Supports repealing and eliminating the Affordable Care Act, often times called Obamacare	44%	67%	18%
Supports a pathway to legal status for undocumented or illegal immigrants	42%	26%	64%
Supports a pathway to citizenship for undocumented or illegal immigrants	39%	23%	63%
Supports signing a trade agreement with selected Asian and Pacific Rim countries	39%	37%	42%

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Jobs and Economic Growth Key Campaign Issue

Adults in, both, **Iowa** and **New Hampshire** consider job creation and economic growth to be the priority in the 2016 presidential election.

Poll points:

- In Iowa, national security and terrorism, 45%, and the deficit and government spending, 42%, top the list of campaign issues for potential Republican caucus-goers. Among potential Democratic caucus-goers in the state, a majority, 53%, emphasizes job creation and economic growth.
- The New Hampshire potential Republican electorate considers national security and terrorism, 47%, and job creation and economic growth, 44%, to be of the utmost importance. Half of potential Democratic voters in New Hampshire, 50%, mention job creation and economic growth. Health care follows closely with 45%.

Voters Emphasize Positions on the Issues over Electability

The potential Republican and Democratic electorates in Iowa and New Hampshire believe it is **more important that their respective party's nominee is someone who shares their positions on the issues** rather than someone who has the best chance of winning the White House.

Bush and Clinton Fatigue Present in Iowa and New Hampshire

More than six in ten Iowans, 61%, report it is **time for someone with a last name other than “Bush” or “Clinton” to occupy the White House**. A majority of **New Hampshire residents**, 56%, agree.

In each state, members of the potential Republican electorate are more likely than the potential Democratic electorate to think there should be an end to the Clinton and Bush political dynasties.

Poll points:

- 67% of Iowa's potential Republican electorate, compared with 50% of the state's potential Democratic electorate, say someone other than a Bush or Clinton should have a chance at winning the White House.
- In New Hampshire, 63% of potential Republican voters would like to see an end to the Bush and Clinton dynasties. Members of the state's potential Democratic electorate divide. 45% do not want another President Clinton or Bush while 46% are not opposed to the idea.

Ayotte Leads Hassan in U.S. Senate Race

The tides have turned in the **U.S. Senate race in New Hampshire**. Republican incumbent Kelly Ayotte is ahead of Democrat Maggie Hassan by 8 percentage points among registered voters statewide.

Poll points:

- 50% of New Hampshire registered voters support Ayotte while 42% favor Hassan. When NBC News/Marist last reported this question in February, Hassan, 48%, and Ayotte, 44%, were more competitive.

Approval Rating Roundup

President Obama's job approval rating continues to be upside down in Iowa and New Hampshire. The governors in each state have experienced declines in their job approval ratings.

Poll points:

- 49% of **Iowans disapprove of the job performance of President Obama** while 43% approve. The president received identical scores when the NBC News/Marist Poll last reported this question in February.
- In New Hampshire, 52% of residents disapprove of how President Obama is doing his job. 41% approve. Earlier this year, 50% disapproved of the president's job performance, and 43% approved.
- Among Iowans, **Governor Terry Branstad's job approval rating** is at 50%, down from 64% in February.
- 56% of New Hampshire residents approve of **the job Governor Maggie Hassan is doing in office**. However, her rating is down from 68% previously.