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Dayton and Franken lead the polls

DFL Gov. Mark Dayton and Democratic U.S. Sen. Al Franken hold double-digit leads against Republican rivals, but a significant number of Minnesotans remain undecided in both of this year's premier races, according to a new Suffolk University poll.

The poll, conducted among 800 likely voters between April 24 and Monday, shows Franken with a 15 to 16 percentage point lead in head-to-head matchups with Republicans contenders. Dayton is ahead by 12 to 17 percentage points against the Republicans who hope to unseat him. Both Franken and Dayton, however, are below 50 percent.

But there is significant room for change. In both races, the number of people who say they are undecided outweigh the gap between the Democratic incumbents and their Republican opponents.

In the governor's race, about a fifth of likely voters say they are undecided and in the Senate race, the undecided population was more than a quarter of the polling sample.

The poll found that the Republican hopefuls in both races have little name recognition among voters. More than half of Minnesotans said they had never heard of eight of the 10 Republican candidates for governor or Senate, who largely have campaigned among potential GOP delegates or primary voters.

Two hopefuls were better known than the others — former Minnesota House Speaker Kurt Zellers and 2010 gubernatorial candidate Marty Seifert. Still, about 45 percent of Minnesotans said they'd heard of neither.

The poll, which Boston-based Suffolk University Political Research Center director David Paleologos said was not paid for by any outside group, had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for the statewide numbers.

It included 39 percent of self-identified Democrats, 30 percent of self-identified Republicans and 31 percent of people who identified with the Independence Party, as an independent or who did not identify with any party.

Like the Suffolk poll, other polls this year have found Dayton with double-digit leads. The polling on Franken's reelection are more mixed. Some polls have found him with slim or high single-digit leads.

RACHEL E. STASSEN-BERGER

Collision bill awaits governor's signature

A bill requiring Minnesota drivers involved in collisions to stop and investigate awaits Gov. Mark Dayton's signature into law.

The measure, which cuts off the "ignorance" defense commonly used in hit-and-run cases, passed the Minnesota House by 124 to 3 on Tuesday. A Senate version passed 44-16 last week.

Sponsored by Rep. Paul Rosenthal, DFL-Edina, and Sen. Kevin Dahle, DFL-Northfield, the bill comes in the wake of a 2011 state Supreme Court ruling that reversed the criminal vehicular homicide convictions of Mohammed Al-Naseer in the hit-and-run death of Kane Thomson, after prosecutors failed to prove Al-Naseer knew he struck a person or vehicle when he left the scene, as required by current law.

Naseer's reversal was used by the defense team for Amy Senser in a high-profile trial that ended in her conviction and prison sentence. Senser, the wife of former Minnesota Vikings player Joe Senser, struck and killed Anousone Phanthavong on a darkened freeway ramp in August 2011. Throughout the trial, Senser maintained that she left the scene because she believed she had struck a construction cone or barrel. Senser was released from prison last week and transferred to a work-release facility.

That loophole, of "not knowing what was struck" will now be eliminated as a legal defense for drivers accused of hit-and-run.

"It's common sense for most Minnesotans that if you hit something, it's your responsibility to stop and investigate what you hit," Rosenthal said in a statement. "This bill sets out clear language that Minnesota courts will not tolerate people leaving the scene of a collision without at least attempting to see what they collided with and making contact with the victims if there were other individuals involved. It's the sort of personal responsibility that we expect."

ABBY SIMONS
Vote 2014

Dayton, Franken lead their potential GOP rivals, poll finds

By Bill Salisbury  
bsalisbury@pioneerpress.com

Gov. Mark Dayton and Sen. Al Franken have leads over all their announced Republican challengers, according to a Suffolk University poll of Minnesota voters released Tuesday.

Fewer than half the voters said they plan to vote for the two Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party incumbents, but Dayton leads six Republican challengers by between 12 and 18 percentage points, while Franken is ahead of four GOP opponents by 15 to 16 points.

None of the Republican gubernatorial candidates was supported by more than 32 percent of the voters, and more than a quarter of the voters were undecided in the race.

The Senate results were similar. None of the four leading GOP candidates received more than 29 percent support, and about one-fifth of voters were undecided.

The low Republican numbers are probably because none of the Republican contenders was well known, at least not yet.

Only two GOP candidates for governor — former state House Minority Leader Marty Seifert and former state House Speaker Kurt Zellers — were recognized by more than half the voters. The other gubernatorial candidates tested in the survey were teacher Rob Farnsworth, businessman Scott Honour, Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson and state Sen. Dave Thompson.

The Republican Senate candidates in the survey were state Rep. Jim Abeler, St. Louis County Commissioner Chris Dahlberg, businessman Mike McFadden and state Sen. Julianne Ortman.

While Dayton and Franken hold large early leads in the poll, fewer than half of the voters have favorable opinions of the two Democrats.

Forty-six percent view them favorably, while 36 percent disapprove of Dayton and 41 percent give Franken low marks.

Nearly half the voters said Minnesota’s economy has improved over the past two years, while 21 percent said it had gotten worse and 25 percent said it stayed the same.

Asked about the Affordable Care Act, sometimes called Obamacare, 45 percent said it was bad for Minnesota while 41 percent said it was good.

Forty-eight percent disapproved of the job President Barack Obama is doing, while 43 percent approved.

Looking ahead to the 2016 presidential race, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Texas Gov. Rick Perry led all the possible Republican candidates, while Hillary Clinton crushed all her potential Democratic challengers.

Bush and Perry were favored by 15 percent of likely Republican precinct caucus goers, while New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz tied for third place with 9 percent.

On the Democratic side, Clinton was the first choice of 63 percent of Minnesota DFLers, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren came in second with 15 percent, while Vice President Joe Biden finished a distant third with 4 percent.

The poll by Suffolk University, which is in Boston, included 800 likely voters and was conducted Thursday through Monday. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Bill Salisbury can be reached at 651-228-5538.
Poll Shows Minnesota Preferences For Governor, Senator, President

by Kevyn Burger
April 30, 2014

Minnesotans favor the incumbents who are running as governor and senator, but a new poll finds in the 2016 race for the White House where there is no incumbent in the face, candidates with names of previous incumbents are prevailing.

MPR News has the results of a poll of 800 likely voters from the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston. The survey, conducted from last Thursday through this Monday, has a 3.5 percent margin of error.

The story says that while DFL'ers Mark Dayton and Al Franken are running well ahead of their Republican challengers, neither incumbent Democrat is drawing more than 50 percent support, seen as a critical threshold for a candidate's strength. One in four voters said they were undecided in the governor's race; it's one in five in the Senate race. The Pioneer Press notes that Dayton leads his Republican challengers by between 12 and 18 percentage points, while Franken is ahead of GOP opponents by 15 to 16 points.


KSTP notes that when the poll asked about which presidential candidates Minnesotans favor, familiar names are at the top. The poll found 15 percent of Republican caucus-goers named former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Texas Gov. Rick Perry as their first choice. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was the overwhelming favorite among possible Democratic candidates, including Vice President Joe Biden.
CAMPAIGN OVERNIGHT: Democrats' multi-pronged midterm problem

Two new polls out on Tuesday, taken together, paint a troubling picture for Democrats as they march toward the midterms.

An ABC News/Washington Post poll showed President Obama’s approval rating at an all-time low, Democrats and Republicans essentially tied on the generic ballot and more than half of respondents saying they want Republicans in control of Congress to act as a check on Obama’s policies.

A poll of millennial voters, those ages 18-29, out from the Harvard Institute of Politics revealed Democrats facing an enthusiasm gap even within that typically friendly voting bloc, with 44 percent of 2012 Mitt Romney voters ages 18-29 saying they’ll definitely vote this fall and 35 percent of 2012 voters for Barack Obama saying the same.

The surveys underscore why Democrats’ midterm woes are so difficult to tackle: they’re multi-pronged, caused by opposition to the president and his policies as well as a lack of engagement from Democratic base constituencies. And no silver bullet can offer a single solution for the party.

SENATE SHOWDOWN

CHAMBER GOES TO BAT FOR ESTABLISHMENT CANDIDATES: The Chamber of Commerce is launching advertising in five Senate races and two House races aimed at boosting establishment picks in Republican primaries and expected GOP nominees in competitive blue states.

AR-SEN (PRYOR): The Hill’s Cameron Joseph reports from Arkansas on why Sen. Mark Pryor (D) is facing the toughest reelection fight of his life, and why he just might manage to pull through.

OR-SEN (MERKLEY): Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D) is headed to Oregon next month to appear at a fundraiser for Sen. Jeff Merkley (D). While Democrats say they’re not worried about the senator, Republicans are high on potential GOP nominee Monica Wehby, a pediatric neurosurgeon who’s drawn both establishment and conservative support.

NC-SEN (HAGAN): Two new polls out Tuesday show North Carolina House Speaker Thom Tillis holding a steady and substantial lead over the rest of his Republican Senate primary opponents, just a week out from Election Day. One survey, from the conservative Civitas Institute, gives Tillis 38 percent support, just under the 40 percent he’ll need to avoid a runoff, but another, from Democratic-leaning Public Policy Polling, gives him 46 percent support.

GA-SEN (OPEN): A new SurveyUSA poll of the Georgia Republican Senate primary conducted for WXIA-TV in Atlanta finds businessman David Perdue leading the pack with 26 percent support and Rep. Jack Kingston (R-Ga.) coming in second with 20 percent, indicating the two establishment favorites are likeliest to make a potential runoff. Former Secretary of State Karen Handel takes 15 percent support, Rep. Paul Broun (R) takes 13 percent, and Rep. Phil Gingrey takes just 6 percent support.

NE-SEN (OPEN): Midland University President Ben Sasse’s young daughters tout their father’s opposition to ObamaCare in the candidate’s newest ad in the Nebraska Republican Senate primary. Meanwhile, a new poll from the Sasse campaign shows the candidate surging ahead of the pack, taking 31 percent, compared to that of his next-closest opponent, former state Treasurer Shane Osborn, who has 25 percent support.

MN-SEN (FRANKEN): A new survey of the Minnesota Senate race from Suffolk University shows Sen. Al Franken (D) well-poised for reelection, leading all four potential Republican opponents by 15-16 percentage points.

SC-SEN (GRAHAM): Sen. Lindsey Graham (R) is looking increasingly well-poised to fend off multiple primary challengers. He released new radio and television ads touting his work in opposition to the National Labor Relations Board on Boeing’s North Charleston plant, which the ad says saved thousands of jobs.

BATTLE FOR THE HOUSE

WIS. JUDGE STRIKES DOWN STATE’S VOTER ID LAW: A federal judge struck down Wisconsin’s voter identification law on Tuesday, arguing that it unfairly burdens poor and minority voters. The Wisconsin ruling comes just days after a judge in Arkansas last week struck down that state’s strict photo ID law.

NY-21 (OPEN): Elise Stefanik, the former George W. Bush official running for retiring Rep. Bill Owens’s (D-N.Y.) seat, has a history of late tax payments on a Capitol Hill property she owns with a number of others. According to a review of public tax documents by The Hill, Stefanik and the other owners of the property owed more than $4,000 in interest and penalties on the home after paying taxes late in 2011, 2012 and the first half of 2013.

CA-17 (HONDA): Rep. Mike Honda (D-Calif.), facing a primary challenge from former Obama administration official Ro Khanna, said he won’t move to the district he represents because he can’t afford it. Honda’s home ended up outside of the 17th District’s boundaries after they were redrawn.
Poll: Franken Up, but Well Under 50 Percent

By Andrew Johnson

Minnesota’s Senate race isn’t one of the best chances for Republicans to pick up a seat, but a new poll shows that it’s a possibility. A new Suffolk University poll finds Democratic incumbent Al Franken leading all four, relatively unknown Republican candidates, but he fails to pick up majority support from voters.

In four head-to-head match-ups with declared Republican candidates, Franken gets roughly 44 percent support to the Republicans’ 29 percent. While his lead is in the double digits, the gap falls within the percentage of Minnesotans who say they remain undecided on who to support. Nearly one-fifth, or 19 percent, responded that they do not yet know whether they would back Franken or his Republican challengers.

Republicans also have plenty of room to grow. At least 59 percent of respondents said they had never heard of the four candidates: state representative Jim Abeler, county commissioner Chris Dahlberg, businessman Mike McFadden, and state senator Julianne Ortman. The survey showed McFadden and Ortman lead the crowded field in the Republican party with 12 and 14 percent, respectively (62 percent were undecided).

Meanwhile, Franken’s favorability rating is also below 50 percent, with only 46 percent giving him a positive rating and 41 percent give him an unfavorable rating, closely mirroring President Obama’s ratings in the state.
A new poll finds Democrats Mark Dayton and Al Franken are running well ahead of all of their Republican challengers, but neither incumbent Democrat is drawing more than 50 percent support.

Pollsters from the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston conducted their survey of 800 likely Minnesota voters from last Thursday through this Monday. The Suffolk poll has a 3.5 percent margin of error.

According to the results, Gov. Dayton leads all of his Republican challengers by double digits, but one in four voters said they were undecided on the governor’s race.

Pollsters found support for Sen. Franken in the mid-40s and that none of his Republican challengers has more than 29 percent support. One in five voters said they were undecided in the Senate race.

Almost 50 percent of the sample of likely voters said Minnesota’s economy has improved over the past two years. Twenty-one percent said it has gotten worse.

As for the Affordable Care Act, known to many as “Obamacare,” 45 percent said it’s generally bad for Minnesota; 41 percent said the act is good.

Franken faces several Republican challengers including State Sen. Julianne

There is also a large field of Republicans vying to run against Dayton. Among them are state Sen. Dave Thompson, state Rep. Kurt Zellers, Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson, former state Rep. Marty Seifert and businessman Scott Honour.

According to the poll most Republicans in Minnesota are undecided in the GOP governor and Senate nomination battles; 62 percent in the Senate race, 67 percent in the governor’s race.

Here’s the poll, which also asked which candidates Minnesota Democrats and Republicans want to see run for president in 2016:
Suffolk U: Minnesota voters prefer Bush, Perry over Christie in 2016 prez poll

By PolitickerNJ Staff | April 29th, 2014 - 12:35pm


Meanwhile, Hillary Clinton was the overwhelming favorite among possible Democratic candidates, including Vice President Joe Biden, according to a Suffolk University statewide Minnesota poll.

Fifteen percent of self-described Minnesota Republican caucus-goers named Bush and Texas Gov. Rick Perry as their first choice for their party’s nomination for president, while Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Christie were tied at 9 percent; Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida) had 8 percent; and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) was the first choice of 6 percent.

The candidate's relative strength lies within this survey’s +/-10.5 percent margin of error.

Eight other Republicans were mentioned but received less than 5 percent each. When first and second choices were combined, Bush received 24 percent, Perry 20 percent, and Cruz 16 percent.

These results mirrored Bush’s 24 percent of first and second choices among Republican caucus-goers in a Suffolk University Iowa poll earlier this month.

David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston, is qualifying this subset test with a higher error rate, yet he noted that the core Democratic and Republican voters have been triple screened. Each is qualified as a likely voter in the general election in November, a likely voter in the August 12 primary, and a self-described precinct caucus-goer for the presidential caucus in 2016.

“Although these are small subsets of voters, an interesting pattern is emerging,” said Paleologos. “Jeb Bush has quietly scored in the top three among combined first and second choices in Minnesota, Iowa and New Hampshire – states far away from Florida or Texas. No other Republican has been that consistent. And as other first-choice candidates drop out, a great number of their supporters will rotate to Bush, because he is the second choice of many in these states.”

Bush has indicated he will not make a decision on a 2016 run until the end of this year.

On the Democratic side, another well-known political name already is clearing the field for the 2016 presidential nomination. Among Democratic precinct caucus-goers, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton led Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) 63 percent to 15 percent, with five other Democrats receiving less than 5 percent, including Vice President Joe Biden. In early April, Clinton led Warren 63 percent to 12 percent in a Suffolk University poll of Democratic Iowa caucus-goers, with Biden getting 10 percent.

“Democrats are making polling history with two women leading for their party’s nomination in back-to-back public polls, even though there is a long way to go and neither has declared a candidacy,” said Paleologos.

You May Like
Poll: Braley leads GOP pack in Senate race

Terry Branstad has a 10-point edge over Democrat Jack Hatch.

By Jennifer Jacobs
jejacobs@dmreg.com

In Iowa's open U.S. Senate race, Democrat Bruce Braley leads all five potential GOP opponents by 6 to 13 percentage points among likely voters, a new Suffolk University poll found.

Among the GOP competitors, Joni Ernst was at the top, with Mark Jacobs close behind.

In the governor's race, Republican Gov. Terry Branstad was up 10 points over Democratic challenger Jack Hatch, a state senator from Des Moines, the poll showed.

The poll was conducted April 3-8, after a swarm of negative attention over Braley’s “Iowa farmer” gaffe, after Ernst’s “Squeal” ad about hog castration made national news, and after news broke about the Branstad administration signing confidential agreements with state workers who agreed to leave their jobs.

In the June 3 GOP primary race, 40 percent of likely primary participants said they were undecided. Ernst had 25 percent support, Jacobs had 23 percent, Sam Clovis 7 percent, Matt Whitaker 4 percent and Scott Schaben 1 percent.

In the 2016 presidential race, self-described Iowa Democratic caucgoers were asked their first choice for their party's nominee: 63 percent said Hillary Clinton, 12 percent said Elizabeth Warren and 10 percent said Joe Biden. None has yet to confirm he or she is interested in running.

The GPA presidential race is “much cloudier,” said David Paleologos, director of the Boston university's Political Research Center.

Among Republicans who said they'd go to the caucuses, 11 percent liked Mike Huckabee best as their nominee; 10 percent said Jeb Bush; 10 percent, Rand Paul; 9 percent, Ted Cruz; and 7 percent, Chris Christie. Six other potential candidates — Paul Ryan, Sarah Palin, Condoleezza Rice, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum and Scott Walker — each had 6 percent, the survey found.

The margin of error for the sample of 800 likely Iowa voters was plus or minus 3.5 percent at a 95 percent level of confidence. On the questions for the 224 likely GOP June 3 primary voters, the margin of error was plus or minus 6.55 percent. For the 135 Democratic caucgoers, the margin of error was plus or minus 8.4 percent. It was plus or minus 8.7 percent for the 127 GOP caucgoers surveyed.
EAGER REPUBLICANS RUSH FOR THE GRASSROOTS

The timing is impeccable: A dozen famed conservatives with liberty, tradition and smaller government on their minds gather a mere 72 hours before Tax Day dawns. That would be the Freedom Summit on Saturday, a daylong showcase organized by Americans for Prosperity and Citizens United, staged in Manchester, the most bustling town in New Hampshire. The free grass-roots event has drawn live coverage on C-SPAN and the intense interest of Fox News, CNN, NBC and multiple national news organizations.

And no wonder. The starring line-up includes Republicans Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky, Ted Cruz of Texas, Mike Lee of Arizona and Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, plus Mike Huckabee, Newt Gingrich, Donald Trump, Laura Ingraham and Reps. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, Louis Gohmert of Texas and Steve King of Iowa.

“The minute the news got out who would be on stage, and the interest was instantaneous. Our 700 tickets were gone in a moment, and 800 people rushed onto the waiting list. It’s that kind of event,” Greg Moore, state director for Americans for Prosperity, tells Inside the Beltway.

The summit will focus on how to return the nation to “conservative bedrock principles the Granite State has been known for,” Mr. Moore advises.

Those who prefer a little Midwestern fix are in luck on Friday, in the meantime.

The ever-present C-SPAN will also offer live coverage of Rep. Paul Ryan’s appearance at the Republican Party of Iowa’s annual Lincoln Dinner, which incidentally features a fresh farm salad, filet of chicken with thyme, potatoes au gratin and a julienne of fresh vegetables for all the hungry heartland GOPers.

Mr. Ryan — still jaunty following U.S. House approval of his 102-page federal budget proposal — goes before the cameras at 8 p.m. His audience will be enthusiastic, no doubt. But polling suggests the Wisconsin lawmaker is not the reigning star here. A new Suffolk University survey of likely Iowa voters finds that their favorite was the aforementioned Mr. Huckabee, followed by Mr. Paul, Jeb Bush, Mr. Cruz, Ben Carson and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. Mr. Ryan is tied in seventh place with Sen. Marco Rubio, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Sarah Palin, Condoleezza Rice and Rick Santorum.

STILL HATING CONGRESS

“Americans’ approval of Congress is at 13 percent in April, inching down from 15 percent in March, and currently standing only four percentage points higher than the all-time low of 9 percent in Novem-
ber 2013,” says Gallup Poll analyst Justin McCarthy, who is tracking all that dismal stuff.

“Divided party control — which is one reason Congress’ ratings are so low — makes it harder for voters to direct their frustrations at a specific party on Election Day,” Mr. McCarthy continues. “Another factor that could spare incumbents from major losses is that midterms generally play out as a referendum on the sitting president. So, it could be that President Obama’s job rating in the fall will be much more important than Congress.”

Eleven states hold their primary elections in May, with more to come in June.

“The extent to which incumbency has become a liability may be most evident in races where an incumbent is fighting off a challenger within his or her own political party, and thus Obama won’t be a factor,” he adds.

THE PERILS OF COLBERT

Will he be Stephen Colbert — or Stephen Colbert imitating Bill O’Reilly when he replaces David Letterman? Oh, the complicated drama, the multiple scenarios when one late night host replaces another. Journalists are orbiting around news that Comedy Central’s Mr. Colbert would take over for CBS’ Mr. Letterman when he retires next year. When the big change comes, will Mr. Colbert actually be himself as he promises, or continue as the distinctive on-camera character he developed to parody Fox News’ Mr. O’Reilly?

Complicated, yes. But fraught with peril too.

“CBS takes a huge gamble. Because when you sign someone as politically polarizing as the 49-year-old Colbert, you start in a huge hole. As in, half the country may dismiss you because of your ideology kind of hole,” points out Joe Concha, a Mediaite columnist who predicts that the decision to hire Mr. Colbert will land the network in last place in the ratings race.

“The country is more polarized than ever. Say what you will about Mitt Romney’s ill-timed 47 percent comment; it couldn’t have been more correct. No presidential candidate — even Hillary Clinton — will ever get more than 53 percent of the vote again.

The red and blue lines have been drawn, somewhat thanks to cable news fueling the fire while becoming less about news and more about opinion,” Mr. Concha continues.

“Colbert’s openly progressive nature displayed through his conservative character is not what’s in question here. If he were a big conservative, it’s the same conversation,” Mr. Concha says, citing the prowess of late night rivals Jimmy Fallon on NBC and Jimmy Kimmel on ABC.

“Part of Fallon and Kimmel’s formula for success is not picking a side, not being snarky on the political front, embracing the Johnny Carson rule of being an equal-opportunity offender,” concludes Mr. Concha, who recommends Howard Stern as the best choice for CBS.
A MOMENT OF FAIRNESS

“I don’t agree with their politics or philosophically, but, you know, they’re Americans. They’re paying their taxes. They’re not breaking the law. They’re providing jobs.”

And so said Sen. Joe Manchin, West Virginia Democrat, commenting on Charles and David Koch to Fox News.

Indeed, the Koch brothers are providing jobs. And the numbers?

“Koch companies employ 60,000 Americans, who make many thousands of products that Americans want and need. According to government figures, our employees and the 143,000 additional American jobs they support generate nearly $11.7 billion in compensation and benefits. About one-third of our U.S.-based employees are union members.”

And so said Charles Koch, in a recent op-ed for The Wall Street Journal.

An interesting link to consider, this launched in 2011 by the Koch brothers themselves: Kochfacts.com

WEEKEND REAL ESTATE


POLLO DU JOUR

• 54 percent American say a candidate’s “stance” on Obamacare will be very important when they decide who to vote for in the 2014 midterm elections.
• 64 percent of Republicans, 52 percent of Democrats and 45 percent of independents agree.
• 80 percent of overall disapprove of the health care law; 83 percent of Republicans, 66 percent of Democrats and 54 percent of independents agree.
• 41 percent of overall approve of the law; 10 percent of Republicans, 73 percent of Democrats and 34 percent of independents agree.
• 44 percent overall say the health care law will have a “mostly negative” effect on the nation as a whole; 73 percent of Republicans, 14 percent of Democrats and 46 percent of independents agree.
• 36 percent overall say the health care law will have a “mostly positive” effect on the nation as a whole; 14 percent of Republicans, 70 percent of Democrats and 34 percent of independents agree.

Source: A Pew Research Center/USA Today poll of 1,010 U.S. adults conducted April 3-6.

Big ideas and small talk to jharper@washingtontimes.com
US Senate

April 10th, 2014

Poll Shows Ernst Claiming Lead in U.S. Senate Primary

More articles by Kevin Hall »
Written by: Kevin Hall

Joni Ernst has captured the momentum in Iowa’s Republican U.S. Senate primary, according to a Suffolk University poll released Wednesday. The poll shows Ernst edging Mark Jacobs 25-23 among primary voters.

This is the first poll Suffolk University has conducted on the race so it is difficult to determine if their survey is an outlier or an actual sign of movement in the crowded GOP field. Either way, the Ernst campaign was quick to trumpet the good news, as did Sarah Palin. The former Alaska governor endorsed Ernst two weeks ago.

“A new poll out today shows momentum for my campaign is continuing to pick up steam,” Ernst wrote on social media. “As a result of your support, we are now leading the Republican primary field for U.S. Senate!”

Other recent polls have shown Ernst trailing Mark Jacobs by seven to 11 points. The Iowa state senator’s sudden vault to the front shows that Ernst’s risky hog castration ad “Squeal” was a smart move. Although the campaign made just a small ad buy in Des Moines, the video went viral on YouTube and picked up national coverage on cable news networks and late night comedy shows.

Mark Jacobs has trounced the field in fundraising, with some help from his personal bank account, and has been running TV and radio ads for months. Those bolstered his name I.D. and helped him lead the field early on. However, the Jacobs campaign needs to supplement its air cover with a strong grassroots ground game.

The Jacobs campaign has spent an estimated $900,000 on TV and radio ads, compared to just $9,000 for Ernst, so there’s no question Ernst is getting more use out of her advertising dollars so far.
However, with less than two months until the June 3 primary, no candidate in the race has come near the required 35 percent threshold necessary to avoid sending the nomination to a convention battle.

Additionally, in a head-to-head matchup, the Suffolk poll shows Mark Jacobs faring a little better against Democrat nominee Bruce Braley than Ernst does. Braley leads all Republican candidates, besting Jacobs 37-31 and Ernst 38-30.

Congressman Braley’s favorability rating is only 34 percent, compared to 27 percent unfavorable. 17 percent of those polled had never heard of the four-term congressman.

Since this is the first Suffolk poll on Iowa, it is difficult to determine if Braley’s comments denigrating Senator Grassley and Iowa farmers had a negative effect on his poll numbers.

The Suffolk poll was especially bad news for the Matt Whitaker campaign. It shows the former U.S. attorney in fourth place among the five candidates, at just 4%. Whitaker had been a solid third place in other polls. Former talk radio host Sam Clovis now sits in third place, at 7%, according to the Suffolk poll. A whopping 40% of Republican primary voters remain undecided, which means this race is very fluid.

Clovis is dealing with some trouble of his own due to comments made to a Carroll newspaper reporter. Clovis indicated that criminalizing women her undergo abortions might be “a bridge too far”.

Some pro-lifers backing Clovis expressed outrage at the comments and the campaign spent Wednesday trying to clean up the mess. Liberals are attacking Clovis for his claim in the same interview that it would be more difficult to impeach President Obama due to his race.

The Suffolk poll shows Governor Branstad with a 10-point lead over Democrat Jack Hatch in the gubernatorial race, 42-32. 49 percent of those polled view Branstad favorably.

Other findings show an overwhelming number of Iowans, 67 percent, support Voter ID. 49 percent believe Obamacare is a bad law for Iowa. The Suffolk University survey polled 800 likely voters between April 3 and April 8.

Not appearing in the poll is Bob Quast, who is running a write-in effort for the Democrat U.S. Senate nomination. Quast’s web ad is trumping even Ernst’s “Squeal” ad for outlandishness, though they both refer to severed testicles. Yes, really.
Poll Update

Iowa: Obama Job Approval - Disapprove 50%, Approve 40% (Suffolk University 4/3-4/8)

- Population 800 Likely Voters
- Margin of Error ±3.5 percentage points
- Polling Method Phone
- Source Suffolk [PDF]

This poll asked respondents 12 questions tracked by HuffPost Pollster.

1) Iowa: Obama Job Approval

Asked of 800 likely voters

- Approve 40%
- Disapprove 50%
- Undecided 9%
- Refused 1%

Poll chart and latest estimates for Iowa: Obama Job Approval »

2) 2014 Iowa Senate Republican Primary

Asked of 224 likely voters - republican

- Sam Clovis (R) 7%
- Joni Ernst (R) 25%
- Mark Jacobs (R) 23%
- Scott Schaben (R) 1%
- Matt Whitaker (R) 4%

http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/polls/suffolk-19211
3) 2014 Iowa Governor Republican Primary

Asked of 224 likely voters - republican

Terry Branstad (R) 71%
Tom Hoefting (R) 8%
Undecided 19%
Refused 1%

4) 2016 Iowa Presidential Republican Primary

Asked of 127 likely voters - republican

Jeb Bush (R) 10%
Ben Carson (R) 9%
Chris Christie (R) 7%
Ted Cruz (R) 9%
Mike Huckabee (R) 11%
Bobby Jindal (R) 3%
Sarah Palin (R) 6%
Rand Paul (R) 10%
Rick Perry (R) 3%
Condoleezza Rice (R) 6%
Marco Rubio (R) 6%
Paul Ryan (R) 6%
Rick Santorum (R) 6%
Scott Walker (R) 6%
Other 0%
Undecided 3%
Refused 0%

5) 2016 Iowa Presidential Democratic Primary

Asked of 135 likely voters - democrat

Joe Biden (D) 10%
Cory Booker (D) 0%
Hillary Clinton (D) 63%
Andrew Cuomo (D) 1%
Deval Patrick (D) 1%
Mark Warner (D) 2%
5/19/2014

Suffolk University (4/3-4/8 2014)

Mark Warner (D) 2%
Elizabeth Warren (D) 12%
Other 1%
Undecided 12%
Refused 0%

6) 2014 Iowa Senate: Clovis vs. Braley

Asked of 800 likely voters

Bruce Braley (D) 38%
Sam Clovis (R) 25%
Other 2%
Undecided 35%

Poll chart and latest estimates for 2014 Iowa Senate: Clovis vs. Braley »

7) 2014 Iowa Senate: Ernst vs. Braley

Asked of 800 likely voters

Bruce Braley (D) 38%
Joni Ernst (R) 30%
Other 1%
Undecided 32%

Poll chart and latest estimates for 2014 Iowa Senate: Ernst vs. Braley »

8) 2014 Iowa Senate: Jacobs vs. Braley

Asked of 800 likely voters

Bruce Braley (D) 37%
Mark Jacobs (R) 31%
Other 1%
Undecided 32%

Poll chart and latest estimates for 2014 Iowa Senate: Jacobs vs. Braley »

9) 2014 Iowa Senate GE

Asked of 800 likely voters

Bruce Braley (D) 38%
Scott Schaben (R) 25%
Other 2%
Undecided 36%

10) 2014 Iowa Senate: Whitaker vs. Braley
Asked of 800 likely voters

Bruce Braley (D) 38%
Matt Whitaker (R) 27%
Other 2%
Undecided 33%

Poll chart and latest estimates for 2014 Iowa Senate: Whitaker vs. Braley »

11) 2014 Iowa Governor: Branstad vs. Hatch

Asked of 800 likely voters

Terry Branstad (R) 42%
Jack Hatch (D) 32%
Lee Hieb (L) 2%
Undecided 24%

Poll chart and latest estimates for 2014 Iowa Governor: Branstad vs. Hatch »

12) 2014 Iowa Governor: Hoefling vs. Hatch

Asked of 800 likely voters

Jack Hatch (D) 35%
Lee Hieb (L) 3%
Tom Hoefling (R) 23%
Undecided 39%

Poll chart and latest estimates for 2014 Iowa Governor: Hoefling vs. Hatch »

Comment on Today's Polls

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- For Developers
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**TSUNAMI ALERT: NEW POLL SHOWS OBAMACARE DRIVING VOTERS**

How big is ObamaCare in this year’s midterms? More than 80 percent of respondents in a new poll conducted by the Pew Research Center for USA Today said that a candidate’s stance on the troubled health law is important to them, with 54 percent saying it is “very important.” The worst news for Democrats is that among the majority of registered voters who said the law was “very important,” there were twice as many opponents as there were supporters. Overall, support for the signature Obama initiative, which pairs expanded welfare and entitlement programs with far-reaching regulations on health insurance, fell to 37 percent. That’s the lowest level since the summer after the law was passed in 2010 when incumbents’ town halls across the country erupted with ObamaCare outrage. The takeaway: The electoral climate this year is defined by ObamaCare and the forecast is getting worse for Democrats.

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**Buzz Cut:**

- Tsunami alert: New poll shows ObamaCare driving voters
- Could the House really arrest Lois Lerner?
- Hillary booster Sandberg pushes hard on gender bias
- Rally lifts curtain on 2016 N.H. primary
- British nobles get the vapors over beans
WEEEKEND RALLY WILL LIFT CURTAIN ON N.H. 2016 RACE

New Hampshire Journal editor John DiStaso posits: “When the New Hampshire presidential primary is history sometime during the first few months of 2016, the political observers, the strategists, the media and even the voters can look back on April 12, 2014 as the day the campaign was launched… The ‘Freedom Summit’ to be held on Saturday by the conservative advocacy groups Americans for Prosperity Foundation and Citizens United is a Republican event… this ‘cattle call’ (if you will) will be the first event at which anywhere from three to possibly six possible presidential candidates gather in one place on one day for the first time…. The big draws on the presidential front are Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Rand Paul of Kentucky as well as former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. There will be no Jeb Bush and no Chris Christie. No one conventionally identified with the more moderate (relatively speaking) GOP ‘establishment’… Sen. Kelly Ayotte will be the first elected official to speak…Also speaking are Utah Sen. Mike Lee, Tennessee U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn… the focus will be on Cruz, mostly because it’s his de facto New Hampshire debut. How will his Tea Party brand, so well-known and controversial nationally, translate to New Hampshire?”

REPUBLICANS GET JUMP BALL FOR 2016 IN IOWA

While Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton stands more than 50 points ahead of her potential rivals in a Suffolk University poll of Iowa Democrats, there’s no such stratification on the GOP side. Des Moines Register: “Among Republicans who said they’ll go to the [2016 presidential] caucuses, 11 percent liked Mike Huckabee best as their nominee; 10 percent said Jeb Bush; 10 percent, Rand Paul; 9 percent, Ted Cruz; and 7 percent, Chris Christie. Six other potential candidates – Paul Ryan, Sarah Palin, Condoleezza Rice, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum and Scott Walker – each had 6 percent of the survey found.” Ben Carson was the top pick of 9 percent of potential caucus goers.

GOP BUZZ BUILDERS

Rubio, Ryan collaborating on ObamaCare replacement - Washington Examiner: “Sen. Marco Rubio [R-Fla.] and Rep. Paul Ryan [R-Wis.] are collaborating on an Obamacare alternative and could announce the proposal as early as this month, according to Republican sources…”

Jeb goes back to his roots - Former Gov. Jeb Bush, R-Fla., will appear in Connecticut tonight to present two-time Republican Senate candidate and former professional wrestling executive Linda McMahon the state GOP’s annual Prescott Bush Award, named for the former Florida governor’s grandfather.

Ryan building bank - Politico: “Paul Ryan has raised just shy of $1.4 million so far this year, the biggest quarterly haul in his career, according to a campaign aide. …The campaign will also report it has more than $4 million in the bank, an eye-popping sum for a House Republican with no real race on his hands.”

Walker way out in front in re-elect - According to a Wisconsin Public Radio/St. Norbert College poll, Gov. Scott Walker, R-Wis., leads Democrat Mary Burke 56 percent to 40 percent in his re-election bid.

Former Christie aides can skirt subpoenas - AP: “Two former associates of Gov. Chris Christie, [R-N.J.] do not have to hand over documents to a legislative committee investigating the traffic jam scandal engulfing the governor, a New Jersey judge ruled Wednesday.”

NEBRASKA SENATE FRONTRUNNER OSBORN DELIVERS SOME JABS IN FINAL DEBATE

Columbus (Neb.) Telegram: “At one point, former State Treasurer Shane Osborn took an indirect shot that appeared to be directed at [Midland University President] Ben Sasse when Osborn pointedly said: ‘I haven’t evolved’ in opposing Obamacare. ‘I have always had the same position,’ Sasse said, believing from the beginning that Obamacare was ‘a bad idea.’ Unlike the other candidates, Sasse said, he has proposed a comprehensive, private-sector alternative to provide health care. … Sasse said the United States is underfunding the defense budget and, because of the leadership of the president, is beginning to look like ‘a big insurance company that just happens to own a Navy.’”

[A group of 50 Nebraska conservative activists denounced the decision by grassroots group Freedom Works to withdraw its endorsement of GOP Senate frontrunner Shane Osborn and back rival Ben Sasse. While the signatories don’t endorse Osborn, they attack Sasse and Freedom Works. More from the Omaha World-Herald.]
Mike Huckabee looking at 'trend of support' to make 2016 decision

BY BYRON YORK | APRIL 9, 2014 AT 3:50 PM

Ten days ago, a poll by WPA Opinion Research showed former Arkansas Gov. and 2008 Republican primary runner-up Mike Huckabee tied for the lead of the 2016 GOP race. Now, another survey, this one by Suffolk University, shows Huckabee at the front of the pack, this time in Iowa, the state that will kick off the caucus and primary process.

With a field so crowded, it doesn't take a huge level of support to be at the top. In the Suffolk poll, Huckabee is the choice of 11 percent of Iowa Republicans. Sen. Rand Paul and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush are next, each with ten percent. Sen. Ted Cruz and Dr. Ben Carson are tied at nine percent. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is at seven percent. And six potential candidates — Rep. Paul Ryan, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Sen. Marco Rubio, former Sen. Rick Santorum and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker — are tied at six percent.

"Gov. Huckabee had a great day in Iowa Tuesday, and [the Suffolk poll] reflects what we saw on the ground," says Chad Gallagher.

But Huckabee, who last won an election in 2002 and is now best known as host of a weekend program on Fox News, is at the top. And the former governor — who says he has not decided whether to run — just happened to be in Iowa on Tuesday night, speaking to a group of social conservatives and meeting with key political figures.

"Mike Huckabee |
http://washingtonexaminer.com/section/mike-huckabee
http://washingtonexaminer.com/section/randpaulJeb Bush |
http://washingtonexaminer.com/section/jeb-bushTed Cruz |
http://washingtonexaminer.com/section/ted-

" Gov. Huckabee had a great day in Iowa Tuesday, and [the Suffolk poll] reflects what we saw on the ground," says Chad Gallagher,
executive director of Huckabee's political action committee, HuckPAC. "While he has not made a decision on 2016, the Suffolk University poll shows a trend of support that is vital in the decision-making process."

In a recent conversation, Huckabee stressed that he will not decide whether or not to run until after this November's elections. But in a statement after the WPA poll was released, Huckabee made clear it's a serious possibility. "While any decision on my part is some time away, this is certainly encouraging, since I've not even been named in most polls, and certainly not considered an 'insider,'" he said. "If I were to run, I'd certainly start in a different place than in 2008."

Web URL:
Ernst Narrowly Leads GOP Field in Iowa Senate Race

By Adam O'Neal - April 9, 2014

State Sen. Joni Ernst has worked her way to the front of a crowded Republican field in the U.S. Senate race in Iowa, according to a new Suffolk University poll. However, the contest remains wide open with 40 percent of survey respondents still undecided.

Twenty-five percent of Republican primary voters said they support Ernst. Businessman Mark Jacobs came in second with 23 percent, while college professor Sam Clovis took 7 percent of the support. Scott Schaben and Matt Whitaker each garnered less than 5 percent. Ernst also came in first place among “second choice” candidates, with Whitaker and Jacobs narrowly trailing her.

Ernst recently received an endorsement from former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, and she has posted strong fundraising numbers. The lieutenant colonel in the Army National Guard also made news when her first television ad referenced hog castration as a model for cutting pork in Washington. While the spot became late-night comedy fodder, it appears to have been effective in the farm-rich state.

Ernst and Jacobs performed best among the GOP candidates against Rep. Bruce Braley, the likely Democratic nominee. Both earned around 30 percent of the vote to Braley’s 37 or 38 percent, with about one-third of voters still undecided. (The RCP Average shows Braley leading Ernst by 7.5 points.)

While the contours of the Republican Senate primary are taking shape, the 2016 presidential field remains wide open. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who won the Iowa caucuses in 2008, leads the crowded field of potential GOP candidates with 11 percent. Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz are all one percentage point behind Huckabee.

But there are plenty of other possible contenders. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Palin, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum (who narrowly won the 2012 Iowa caucuses), and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker all...
earn under 10 percent.

Meanwhile, the 2016 Democratic field is strongly tilted toward former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who gets about 63 percent of hypothetical Democratic caucus-goers. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Vice President Joe Biden earn 12 and 10 percent, respectively. Just 12 percent of Democrats are undecided.

The survey of 800 likely Iowa voters was conducted April 3-8 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

CORRECTION: An earlier version of this story said that Ernst had "strong fundraising." In fact, she has lagged behind some competitors, despite receiving backing from major party fundraisers Sarah Palin and Mitt Romney.
Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton gestures before delivering the keynote address at Marketo's 2014 Marketing Nation Summit on April 8, 2014, in San Francisco, Calif. Ben Margot/AP

Pro-Hillary Clinton super PAC rakes in big bucks

04/10/14 09:19 AM – UPDATED 04/10/14 01:52 PM

By Jane C. Timm (/person/jane-c-timm)

It's a good week to be Hillary Clinton.

The pro-Clinton super PAC Ready for Hillary raked in $1.7 million between January and March of this year, up half a million from the last reporting period when they pulled in $1.2 million.

These aren't big numbers in the world of super PACs, where groups spend millions on TV ads on a seemingly weekly basis. But Ready for Hillary is focusing on building a grassroots network to give the former secretary of state a leg-up on all other candidates.
The $1.7 million raised last quarter came from 32,000 donors, the group said. A whopping 98% of those donations were less than $100; nearly 10,000 were $20.16, the group's suggested donation amount. The average donation was $53 dollars.

In the press release announcing the latest numbers, the group boasted that it has already identified 2 million supporters since it's founding a year ago. It's an indication of a grassroots base—something that helped Barack Obama beat Clinton in 2008.

Clinton got some more good news this week. A new Iowa poll by Suffolk University indicated a strong reception for Hillary Clinton and a muddled Republican field.

While the presidential election is years away and none of the candidates in the poll have declared their candidacy, Iowa's caucuses—it's the first state to choose presidential candidates—is a kingmaker.

MORNING JOE, 4/10/14, 8:12 AM ET

Hillary leads poll, but what about Warren?

Clinton scored 63% of the Democratic votes in the Suffolk poll, followed by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has said she has no plans to run in 2016, with 12% of the vote.
Vice President Joe Biden, who has hinted that he may run, brought in 10% of the Democratic votes.

Across the aisle, the field is disparate and muddled.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee brought in 11% of the vote, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and Florida's former Gov. Jeb Bush brought in 10% each.

Huckabee has gotten in some hot water in recent months over his comments about women (/msnbc/huckabee-talks-about-womens-libido). And in a speech (http://talkingpointsmemo.com/livewire/huckabee-men-hunt-fish-women-restroom-together) earlier this week in Iowa, Huckabee made this remark, according to Des Moines Register political columnist Kathie Obradovich:


Other polls have showed a similarly disparate (http://morning-joe/the-state-where-clinton-beats-everyone) Republican fields, like in Florida where Clinton also found a strong reception. Florida Republicans Sen. Marco Rubio and former Gov. Jeb Bush also felt the boon of support from home-field advantage. (http://morning-joe/the-state-where-clinton-beats-everyone)

**Poll: Is 2016 the time for Hillary?** (/msnbc/poll-2016-the-time-hillary)

What do you think?

Is Hillary Clinton a shoo-in for the Democratic nomination in 2016? (http://pubads.g.doubleclick.net/gampad/jump?iu=2620/msnbc/poll&sz=240x30&t=poll%3D47619&c=586168816)
Vice President Joe Biden continues to trail former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a new poll on 2016 — this time it is in the key state of Iowa.

Clinton was the first choice for the party’s nomination for 63 percent of “self-described Iowa Caucus goers,” according to a Suffolk University poll released Wednesday. Biden, trailing both Clinton and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who netted 12 percent, came in third with 10 percent favoring the vice president as the nominee.

Biden has spent a lot of time in the state, building ties and relationships, but the latest figures show he might struggle. Biden ended his presidential campaign in 2008 following a poor showing in the Iowa caucuses.

Clinton herself came in third in the Iowa caucuses in 2008, losing to President Barack Obama and trailing former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards. However, her supporters have already returned to the state to drum up enthusiasm, including New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, who at a dinner with Democratic Iowa activists in November said 2016 is “Hillary’s time.”

The preference for who people want to see as the GOP nominee remains split with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee just nabbing the top spot with 11 percent. Just shy with 10 percent are Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Texas Sen Ted Cruz and Ben Carson each took 9 percent. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie garnered 7 percent and rounding out the field with 6 percent each were Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, fellow former vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, former 2012 presidential candidate and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

The Suffolk University poll was conducted April 3-8 and surveyed 800 likely voters. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

© 2014 POLITICO LLC
There's no frontrunner in the very early hunt for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination in the state that votes first in the race for the White House, according to a new survey.

A Suffolk University poll of Iowa voters also indicates what just about every other national and state survey has indicated, that Hillary Clinton would be the overwhelming frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, should the former secretary of state launch a second campaign for the White House.

According to the poll, which was released Wednesday, there's a massive traffic jam among the potential GOP presidential contenders in Iowa. Eleven percent of Republicans likely to take part in the 2016 Iowa caucuses said that former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, a 2008 GOP presidential candidate, would be their first choice for their party's nomination.

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush were both one point back, at 10%.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Dr. Ben Carson, a renowned neurosurgeon and a popular figure among conservatives, were each at 9%, with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at 7%.


Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and longtime Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who also ran for the nomination in 2012, were both at 3%.

With a sampling error of plus or minus 8.7 percentage points for likely GOP caucus goers, the entire potential field is basically all knotted up.

"The results of this poll show a wide-open race for Republicans in Iowa, with an opportunity for any number of candidates to catapult out of here on caucus night. For a candidate to do well here, they need to come to the state often, get to know Iowans and answer their questions, and work to turn out voters on a cold caucus night," Iowa Republican strategist Tim Albrecht told CNN.

"With no apparent frontrunner, expectations are low for candidates visiting here, and nowhere to go but up," added Albrecht, a former longtime spokesman for GOP Gov. Terry Branstad.

The survey is the second straight of Iowa Republicans to find Huckabee on the top, although well within the sampling error. He was also in first place in a recent poll by Republican-leaning WPA Opinion Research. The former Arkansas governor was in the Hawkeye State on Tuesday to keynote a major fundraiser for a leading Iowa social conservative group, and for meetings with leading Republicans.

Huckabee, thanks to strong support from social conservatives, won the 2008 Iowa GOP caucuses.

Hillary, Hillary, Hillary
Sixty-three percent of self-described Democratic Iowa caucus-goers said the former secretary of state, senator from New York State and first lady would be their first choice for their party's presidential nomination. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts placed second at 12%. The freshman senator, a favorite of many progressives, has said she won't run in 2016.

Vice President Joe Biden finished third at 10% in the survey, with everyone else registering at 1% or less.

Clinton was the frontrunner in the race for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination when she came in third in the caucuses, behind then-Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina. Then-Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware came in fifth place, grabbing just 1% of the Democratic vote.

The Suffolk University poll was conducted April 3-8, with 800 likely voters in Iowa (including 224 likely 2016 Republican caucus voters and 135 likely Democratic caucus goers) questioned by telephone. The survey's overall sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.
Democrats in Iowa, Arkansas Hold Their Own, Polls Find

By JANET HOOK

Despite political winds blowing against Democrats, new polls show the party’s Senate candidates holding their own in key races in Iowa and Arkansas.

A Suffolk University poll in Iowa shows Democratic Rep. Bruce Braley ahead of a leading candidate in the crowded field of Republican candidates, retired businessman Mark Jacobs, by a 37%-31% margin. Mr. Braley led state Sen. Joni Ernst, Mr Jacobs’ principal competitor for the GOP nomination, by a 38%-30% margin, according to the poll released Wednesday.

That is in line with the average of recent polls tallied by Real Clear Politics, but is the first poll the website has tracked showing Mr. Braley dropping below 40%. Republicans have been trying to tarnish Mr. Braley over the last month by publicizing a video in which he appeared to scoff at farmers, a vital constituency in the Hawkeye State, while speaking at a fundraiser.

In Arkansas, where Mr. Obama and the health law are especially unpopular, a Talk Business-Hendrix College Poll released this week found that embattled Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor held a 46%-43% lead over his GOP opponent, Rep. Tom Cotton. That is within the poll’s margin of error, but it is the first time since October that Real Clear Politics has reported a poll showing Mr. Pryor even nominally in the lead.

Many Democrats across the country have been struggling in recent months because of President Barack Obama’s depressed approval ratings and problems in the rollout of his signature health-care law.

In Arkansas, where Mr. Obama and the health law are especially unpopular, a Talk Business-Hendrix College Poll released this week found that embattled Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor held a 46%-43% lead over his GOP opponent, Rep. Tom Cotton. That is within the poll’s margin of error, but it is the first time since October that Real Clear Politics has reported a poll showing Mr. Pryor even nominally in the lead.

Brad Dayspring, a spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee, said that in Iowa and Arkansas, Republican candidates have more “room to grow” their support among voters because they are still becoming known in their states. Mr. Cotton is less well-known than Mr. Pryor, and Republicans in Iowa will gain more traction after the state’s June 3 primary, Mr. Dayspring said.

But Democrats welcomed signs that Mr. Pryor and other Democratic candidates were holding their own in spite of a deluge of attack ads by outside conservative groups and financiers.

“It’s clear that Republican Senate candidates across the country are paying a price for their reckless and irresponsible embrace of a special interest agenda that’s good for
Democrats in Iowa, Arkansas Hold Their Own, Polls Find - Washington Wire - WSJ

billionaires like the Koch Brothers and bad for middle-class families in their states,” said
Justin Barasky, spokesman for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

The Suffolk University poll also tested the strength of would-be 2016 presidential
candidates in Iowa, which holds the nation’s first nominating caucuses. Among
Democrats, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was the far-away leader, cited as
first choice by 63% of self-described Democratic caucus-goers, followed by 12% who
chose Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D, Mass.) and 10% who chose Vice President Joe
Biden.

Among the large field of potential GOP candidates, support was spread wide and thin:
Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee was the first choice of 11%, and Sen. Rand
Paul of Kentucky and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush followed with 10% each.

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Add a Comment

Anonymous wrote:
No–your article should read “despite the media, including us, insisting as if in a planned
repetitive media echo chamber supportive of republicans no matter how bad these republicans
are that political winds are blowing against democrats…”
WHO-DM (NBC) - Des Moines, IA
Channel 13 News at 10

WHO 4/9/2014 10:10:36 PM:
...interview another d-a-s worker. however the meeting was cancelled when the worker said she wasn't ready to answer questions. the latest poll of iowa voters gives governor branstad his lowest numbers yet. the Suffolk University poll shows branstad has a ten point lead over democrat jack hatch. branstad had the support of 42% percent of voters. however, 24-percent say they are undecided. an absentee state lawmaker is back to work after reports surfaced earlier this week that he wasn't coming back to des moines this session. on monday we learned that state senator hubert houser had told fellow lawmakers that he was too busy on his farm and would not take part in this legislative session. today he was at the capitol and told the secretary of the senate that he would repay all the money he's collected while he's been gone. houser has served for 22 years. he's retiring at the end of this session. there is still no word from engineers on the future of the downtown younkers building. they started investigating the structural integrity of the walls yesterday... checking to see if any part of the building is salvageable or if it has to be torn down. we were told an answer could come as soon as today ... but a decision still hasn't been made. some of the streets around the younkers building are re-opening. 8th street from mulberry to locust and walnut street between 8th and 9th will be open tomorrow morning. walunt remains closed between 6th and 8th ... and 7th is still closed between locust and mulbury. commuters on the east side will have a major headache to deal with to start the work week. euclid avenue is closing between east 33rd and hubbell on monday morning. a bridge there is being replaced. that stretch of euclid is expected to re-open in late september. workers at greenwood park in des moines made a surprise discovery while dredging the pond there today ... a sunken car. a tow truck was called in to haul it out. there were no fresh tracks leading into the water ... so the car has been there for awhile. police checked the plates and the car hasn't been reported stolen. police don't know who it belongs to ... or how it ended up in the pond. you name the sport ... and chances are ankeny school is one of the best in the state at it. they could soon add another sport to the list ... coming up in sports ... how lacrosse came to ankeny ... and why the learning curve is so steep for these kids. they allow me to be the person not only that i was but that i like to be ...