

**THE DES MOINES REGISTER/MEDIACOM IOWA POLL**

Study #2224

803 Iowa adults,

including 658 likely voters in the 2020 general election

Margin of error:  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points for all Iowa adults

Margin of error:  $\pm 3.8$  percentage points for likely voters

SELZER & COMPANY

September 14-17, 2020

**Weighted by age, sex,  
and congressional district**

**Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.**

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	<b>Right direction</b>	<b>Wrong track</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
<b>Sep-20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>11</b>
Jun-20	22	63	15
Mar-20	46	44	10
Feb-19	39	51	10
Sep-18	34	55	11
Jan-18	40	49	12
Dec-17	29	60	10
Jul-17	32	56	11
Feb-17	36	51	13
Oct-16	21	71	8
Feb-16	25	65	10
Feb-15	29	60	11
Sep-14	23	65	12
Feb-14	23	68	9
Dec-13	23	70	7
Sep-13	22	68	10
Jun-13	30	60	10
Feb-13	37	51	12
Sep-12	40	54	6
Feb-12	30	64	6
Feb-11	32	58	10
Sep-10	30	63	7
Feb-10	31	61	8
Nov-09	35	58	7
Sep-09	41	50	9
Apr-09	43	49	8
Jan-09	36	53	11

How likely is it you will vote in the November 2020 general election for president, U.S. Senate and other offices—will you definitely vote, probably vote, might or might not vote, or probably not vote?

	<b>Definitely vote</b>	<b>Probably vote</b>	<b>Might or might not vote</b>	<b>Probably not vote</b>	<b>Refused/ Not sure</b>
<b>Sep-20</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
Jun-20	82	10	3	5	-
Mar-20	80	11	5	4	-
Feb-19	81	8	3	5	3
Jan-18	81	10	3	3	3

**(Based on likely voters in the 2020 general election.)** If the elections for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your congressional district: The [DEMOCRATIC] candidate or the [REPUBLICAN] candidate? **(If not sure, ask:)** Which way are you leaning—toward the [REPUBLICAN] candidate or the [DEMOCRATIC] candidate?

	Sample size	Margin of error	Dem candidate +leaners	Rep candidate +leaners	Dem candidate	Lean Dem candidate	Rep candidate	Lean Rep candidate	Other/ Would not vote (VOL)	Not sure
Sep-20	n=658	±3.8% pts.	<b>47</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
Jun-20	n=674	±3.8% pts.	47	42	45	2	41	2	2	9
Mar-20	n=667	±3.8% pts.	42	49	40	2	47	2	2	7

**(Based on likely voters in the 2020 general election.)** If the general election were held today, and the candidates were [Joe Biden for the Democrats] and [Donald Trump for the Republicans], for whom would you vote—[Joe Biden], [Donald Trump], someone else, or would you not vote? **(Rotate which name is asked first in question.)**

	Sample size	Margin of error	Joe Biden	Donald Trump	Someone else	Would not vote	Not sure
Sep-20	n=658	±3.8% pts.	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>
Jun-20	n=674	±3.8% pts.	43	44	9	1	3

**(Based on likely voters in the 2020 general election.)** If the general election were held today, and the candidates for president were [NAME ON LIST for the Democrats] and [Donald Trump for the Republicans], for whom would you vote? **(Rotate list names. Rotate which name is asked first in question.)**

		Sample size	Margin of error	Name from List	Donald Trump	Not Sure
Joe Biden, former vice president	Mar-20	n=667	±3.8% pts.	41	51	8

**(Based on likely voters in the 2020 general election.)** Would you say your mind is made up to support that candidate, or could you still be persuaded to support a different candidate?

	Presidential race	Sample size	Margin of error	Mind is made up	Could be persuaded	Not sure	No first-choice candidate
Sep-20	All	n=658	±3.8% pts.	84	12	1	3
Sep-20	Biden supporters	n=301	±5.7% pts.	<b>84</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Sep-20	Trump supporters	n=315	±5.5% pts.	<b>92</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Jun-20	All	n=674	±3.8% pts.	75	20	1	4
Jun-20	Biden supporters	n=302	±5.6% pts.	80	19	1	n/a
Jun-20	Trump supporters	n=300	±5.7% pts.	87	11	2	n/a

**(Based on likely voters in the 2020 general election.)** What about the race for U.S. senator? If the general election were held today, and the candidates were [Theresa Greenfield for the Democrats] and [Joni Ernst for the Republicans], for whom would you vote—[Theresa Greenfield], [Joni Ernst], someone else, or would you not vote? **(Rotate which name is asked first in question.)**

	Sample size	Margin of error	Theresa Greenfield	Joni Ernst	Someone else	Would not vote	Not sure
Sep-20	n=658	±3.8% pts.	<b>45</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
Jun-20	n=674	±3.8% pts.	46	43	4	-	7

**(Based on likely voters in the 2020 general election.)** Would you say your mind is made up to support that candidate, or could you still be persuaded to support a different candidate?

	<b>U.S. Senate race</b>	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Margin of error</b>	<b>Mind is made up</b>	<b>Could be persuaded</b>	<b>Not sure</b>	<b>No first-choice candidate</b>
Sep-20	All	n=658	±3.8% pts.	75	14	1	9
Sep-20	Greenfield supporters	n=290	±5.8% pts.	83	16	2	n/a
Sep-20	Ernst supporters	n=287	±5.8% pts.	87	13	-	n/a
Jun-20	All	n=674	±3.8% pts.	68	23	1	7
Jun-20	Greenfield supporters	n=306	±5.6% pts.	78	22	-	n/a
Jun-20	Ernst supporters	n=293	±5.7% pts.	74	24	1	n/a

**Keep next two Ernst questions together, but alternate whether the first Ernst question or the Greenfield question goes first.**

**(Based on likely voters in the 2020 general election.)** When it comes to getting things done in Congress that benefit Iowans, do you think Senator Joni Ernst has done enough or not enough?

	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Margin of error</b>	<b>Enough</b>	<b>Not enough</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
Sep-20	n=658	±3.8% pts.	33	56	11

**(Based on likely voters in the 2020 general election.)** What do you think of Senator Joni Ernst's relationship with President Trump—is she too close with the president, not close enough, or does she get it about right?

	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Margin of error</b>	<b>Too close</b>	<b>Not close enough</b>	<b>Gets it about right</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
Sep-20	n=658	±3.8% pts.	37	4	43	17

**(Based on likely voters in the 2020 general election.)** Thinking about Theresa Greenfield's political views, do you see her as [not liberal enough], about right, or [too liberal] for Iowa? **(Rotate which phrase is asked first in question.)**

	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Margin of error</b>	<b>Not liberal enough</b>	<b>About right</b>	<b>Too liberal</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
Sep-20	n=658	±3.8% pts.	6	42	34	18

**(Ask all.)**

I'm going to mention the names of some candidates and officeholders [previously: people in the news]. For each name I read, please tell me if your feelings toward the person are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know the person, just say so. (Record "don't know" as "not sure." Rotate list.)

		Combined Favorable	Combined Unfavorable	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Joe Biden, former vice president	Sep-20	43	51	17	25	16	35	6
	Jun-20	45	50	18	27	18	32	5
Joe Biden, vice president of the U.S.	Dec-13	36	57	12	24	21	36	7
Joe Biden, Democratic candidate for vice president	Sep-12	45	45	18	27	19	26	10
Joni Ernst, U.S. senator	Sep-20	44	44	16	28	21	23	12
	Jun-20	45	40	21	24	16	24	15
Joni Ernst	Mar-20	46	36	20	26	15	21	18
	Feb-19	56	29	23	33	16	13	14
Joni Ernst, a state senator	Feb-14	13	14	3	10	7	7	73
	Jun-13	7	5	1	6	3	2	88
Theresa Greenfield, businesswoman	Sep-20	40	36	10	30	21	15	24
	Jun-20	41	20	16	26	11	9	39
Theresa Greenfield, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate and urban planner	Mar-20	14	13	5	9	7	6	73
Theresa Greenfield, former candidate for Congress in Iowa's 3 <sup>rd</sup> Congressional District	Feb-19	8	4	3	6	3	1	88
Donald Trump, president	Sep-20	48	49	28	20	10	39	3
	Jun-20	45	52	28	17	8	43	3
Donald Trump	Mar-20	51	47	32	18	9	38	2
Donald Trump, current president of the United States	Sep-18	41	56	21	20	13	43	3
Donald Trump, president	Jan-18	45	53	22	22	13	40	2

Please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job each person named is doing in addressing COVID-19, the current pandemic. (Rotate list.)

[Jun-20 wording: This time, I'd like you to think specifically about the job the person is doing in addressing COVID-19, the current pandemic. For each, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way each is handling the job.]

		Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
Joni Ernst as U.S. senator	Sep-20	38	41	21
	Jun-20	42	34	24
Donald Trump as president of the United States	Sep-20	43	53	4
	Jun-20	45	53	2

## ABOUT THE POLL

The Iowa Poll, conducted September 14-17 for *The Des Moines Register* and Mediacom by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, is based on telephone interviews with 803 Iowans ages 18 or older. Interviewers with Quantel Research contacted households with randomly selected landline and cellphone numbers supplied by Dynata. Interviews were administered in English. Responses were adjusted by age, sex, and congressional district to reflect the general population based on recent American Community Survey estimates.

Questions based on the sample of 803 Iowa adults have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, and questions based on the sample of 658 likely voters in the 2020 general election have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.8 percentage points. This means that if this survey were repeated using the same questions and the same methodology, 19 times out of 20, the findings would not vary from the true population value by more than plus or minus 3.5 or 3.8 percentage points, respectively. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error.

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