Study #2224
803 Iowa adults,
including 658 likely voters in the 2020 general election
Margin of error: ± 3.5 percentage points for all Iowa adults
Margin of error: ± 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?

	Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
Sep-20	**25**	**64**	**11**
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

What about here in Iowa? Do you think things in the state are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
Sep-20	**43**	**47**	**10**
Jun-20	47	41	12
Mar-20	57	30	13
Feb-19	58	32	10
Sep-18	47	42	11
Jan-18	49	39	13
Dec-17	47	40	13
Jul-17	44	43	13
Feb-17	42	41	18
Oct-16	48	39	13
Feb-16	45	40	15
Feb-15	56	30	14
Sep-14	55	31	14
Feb-14	52	37	11
Dec-13	55	33	12
Sep-13	52	36	12
Jun-13	56	34	10
Feb-13	58	28	14
Sep-12	60	31	9
Feb-12	52	38	10
Feb-11	40	47	13
Sep-10	39	52	9
Feb-10	34	57	9
Nov-09	34	57	9
Sep-09	48	41	11
Apr-09	45	44	11
Jan-09	44	45	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?

	Definitely vote	Probably vote	Might or might not vote	Probably not vote	Refused/ Not sure
Sep-20	**80**	**9**	**2**	**8**	**2**
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.**	**47**	**45**	**46**	**1**	**44**	**1**	**1**	**7**
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.**	**47**	**47**	**4**	**-**	**3**
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.**	**84**	**15**	**2**	**n/a**
Sep-20	**Trump supporters**	**n=315**	**±5.5% pts.**	**92**	**7**	**1**	**n/a**
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.**	**45**	**42**	**3**	**2**	**7**
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?

	U.S. Senate 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.	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?

	Sample size	Margin of error	Enough	Not enough	Not sure
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?

	Sample size	Margin of error	Too close	Not close enough	Gets it about right	Not sure
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.)**

	Sample size	Margin of error	Not liberal enough	About right	Too liberal	Not sure
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
Chuck Grassley, U.S. senator	**Sep-20**	**48**	**35**	**20**	**28**	**19**	**15**	**18**
	Jun-20	48	34	22	26	17	17	18
Chuck Grassley	Mar-20	54	33	24	31	15	17	13
	Feb-19	60	31	29	31	16	15	8
Charles Grassley, U.S. senator	Feb-12	61	26	18	43	17	9	13
U.S. Senator Charles Grassley	Nov-09	64	30	15	49	21	9	6
	Sep-09	64	28	24	40	17	11	8
Senator Charles Grassley	Jul-04	70	16	27	43	12	4	14
U.S. Senator Charles Grassley	Feb-03	67	12	24	43	9	3	21
	Jun-02	67	13	28	39	8	5	20
	Jun-98	78	9	34	44	7	2	13

		Combined Favorable	Combined Unfavorable	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
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 3rd Congressional District	Feb-19	8	4	3	6	3	1	88
Kim Reynolds, governor	**Sep-20**	**46**	**42**	**20**	**26**	**18**	**24**	**12**
	Jun-20	52	36	26	26	19	17	12
Kim Reynolds	Mar-20	52	31	22	30	17	14	17
	Feb-19	59	31	24	36	17	14	10
Kim Reynolds, the current Republican governor running for election	Sep-18	45	37	17	28	19	18	18
Kim Reynolds, governor	Jan-18	48	32	14	34	17	15	20
Kim Reynolds, Republican governor	Dec-17	44	33	14	30	16	17	23
Kim Reynolds, Republican lieutenant governor	Feb-17	44	24	14	30	14	10	32
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
Kim Reynolds as governor	**Sep-20**	**44**	**47**	**9**
	Jun-20	59	36	6
Joni Ernst as U.S. senator	**Sep-20**	**38**	**41**	**21**
	Jun-20	42	34	24
Chuck Grassley as U.S. senator	**Sep-20**	**38**	**31**	**31**
	Jun-20	44	28	29
Donald Trump as president of the United States	**Sep-20**	**43**	**53**	**4**
	Jun-20	45	53	2

(Based on likely voters in the 2020 general election; n=658. MoE: +/- 3.8% pts.)
Which ONE of the following is the most important issue as you think about how you will vote in the general election this fall for president and U.S. senator? **(Allow one response. Read list. Rotate.)**

	The COVID-19 pandemic	Racial inequality	Ethanol	Trade with other countries	Health care	Law and order	Climate change	The economy	None of these (VOL)	Not sure
Sep-20	15	7	-	3	13	18	8	31	2	5

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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