



January 21, 2016
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EYES ON IOWA: EMERSON COLLEGE POLL REVEALS TRUMP AND CLINTON SURGE 10 DAYS BEFORE THE CAUCUS. CRUZ AND SANDERS ARE FALTERING AT THE FINISH.

In a new statewide poll, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have surged to 9- and 10-point leads, respectively, in Iowa with just 10 days before the state's first-in-the-nation voting begins. Clinton receives 52% of the Democratic vote and Sanders 43%. Trump leads his Republican rivals with 33%, followed by Ted Cruz at 23%. Marco Rubio (14%) and Ben Carson (9%) round out the top four, with the rest of field under 6%. Rick Santorum—who won the 2012 Iowa GOP Caucus with 25% of the vote—has less than 1% of Iowans this time around, and Mike Huckabee, who won it in 2008, is at 2%.

The survey began January 18, the day after the latest Democrat debate, and concluded January 20, the day following Sarah Palin's endorsement of Donald Trump.

"At this point, while both Trump and Clinton have significant leads in their own primaries the electorate appears volatile, and it is still up in the air as to who will win," said Henry Krause, a Senior Political Communication major at Emerson College, who helped oversee the project. The data for both parties' candidates fluctuated on the three days of polling. Clinton held a 14-point lead over Sanders on Monday, dropped to 9 points on Tuesday and was down to a 1-point margin (48% to 47%) on Wednesday. Trump also saw variability over the three day, watching a 13-point lead on Monday drop to 4 points on Tuesday and then rebound on Wednesday to 12 points, 35% to 22%, over Cruz.

Iowa voters are not thrilled with their 2016 Presidential options. The top three GOP candidates all have negative favorability numbers, with Trump at 37% favorable to 55% unfavorable, Rubio at 37% favorable to 47% unfavorable and Cruz even worse at 34% favorable to 54% unfavorable. Clinton has the highest favorable rating (42%) among the top contenders but also carries a high unfavorable rating of 53%.

In the Democrat primary, Clinton holds the support of registered Democrats 54% to 42% over Sanders, while Sanders has a 44% to 36% lead among registered Independents. On the Republican side Trump holds a 34% to 24% edge over Cruz among registered Republicans and extends that lead to 15 points among Independents, 30% to 15%.

The survey found that 66% of Iowa voters did not know a person of Muslim faith, and 28% said they did not have a Hispanic friend or acquaintance.

Caller ID

The ECPS poll was conducted from Monday, January 18 at 6 pm through Wednesday evening January 20. The polling sample was a random selection of registered voters purchased through Aristotle Inc. Likely primary voters were classified through a screening question. For non-completes with a working residential phone line, at least five callbacks were attempted. The Democratic and GOP Presidential primaries consisted of 258 and 271 adult registered likely primary voters in Iowa, with a margin of error of +/- 6.1% and +/-5.9%, respectively, at a 95 percent confidence level, was used for the additional statewide questions. Data was collected using an Interactive Voice Response system and weighted based on 2012 General Election voting to reflect likely voter populations in Iowa. The full methodology and results can be found at www.theecps.com

For further information or questions about methodology, contact Henry Krause, ECPS polling director, at henry_krause@emerson.edu