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**IOWA VOTERS DIVIDED ON GOV. BRANSTAD,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
VOTERS LIKE JOB PERFORMANCE, SPLIT ON FOUR MORE YEARS**

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad has a 49 – 31 percent job approval rating from Iowa registered voters who say 43 – 42 percent that he does not deserve another term in office, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Voters are divided on whether Iowa should expand its Medicaid program as part of the federal health care overhaul, with 45 percent in favor and 43 percent opposed, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

“Gov. Terry Branstad’s job approval numbers are just short of the 50 percent threshold and show a nearly 20 point spread between those who approve and disapprove of his job performance,” said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. “The fact that voters are split on the question of whether Gov. Branstad deserves another term in Des Moines is probably a bit disconcerting for the governor. It could be that some voters like what he has done in office but that 20 years in the governor’s office is just too long.”

The governor’s approval rating is 75 – 9 percent among Republicans and 50 – 28 percent among independent voters, while Democrats disapprove 53 – 28 percent. There is a small gender gap, with men approving 55 – 29 percent, while women give him a thumbs up 44 – 32 percent.

But when voters are asked if Branstad deserves another term, his scores drop across the board. Republicans say he deserves four more years 67 – 18 percent, but Democrats say no 66 – 19 percent and independent voters are split by a 43 – 41 percent margin. Men are divided as 48 percent say yes to another Branstad term and 41 percent say no. Women say no 44 – 36 percent.

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Quinnipiac University Poll/May 23, 2013 – page 2

“The governor’s reelection numbers are a contrast with his approval ratings and are worth noting,” said Brown. “Yet, the lack of any major Democratic challenger with widespread name recognition and the cash to wage a very expensive campaign probably makes the governor a better reelection bet than the numbers indicate. After all, voters may think he has been governor too long, but that doesn’t necessarily mean they will vote to replace him.”

Branstad is likely benefiting from the perception of the state’s voters that the economy is getting better.

Although only 5 percent of voters think the economy in Iowa is excellent, a very healthy 61 percent rate it as good, while 26 percent say it is “not so good” and 6 percent say it is poor. A third of voters, 35 percent, say the economy is getting better while only 13 percent think it is getting worse. Voters do not see the same improvement in their own lives, with 23 percent saying their personal financial situation is getting better and 24 percent saying it is worsening and 52 percent seeing it as unchanged.

“Good economies are generally good for incumbents seeking reelection,” said Brown.

Voters split on the Medicaid expansion issue the same way they do on Branstad. Opposition to expanding Medicaid rolls is 64 – 24 percent among Republicans and 46 – 41 percent among independent voters. Democrats support expanding Medicaid 70 – 21 percent. Men are divided as 44 percent favor expansion with 46 percent opposed. Women favor expansion 46 – 40 percent.

“There is a slight plurality of voters who support Medicaid expansion, but it is an issue on which the state is pretty well split,” said Brown.

The governor’s job approval rating is in line with that of the state’s two U.S. senators. Chuck Grassley gets a 52 - 33 percent score, while Tom Harkin receives a 47 – 35 percent rating. The Iowa legislature, however, does not fare as well, with a negative 38 – 41 percent approval rating.

From May 15 – 21, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,411 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.6 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa and the nation as a public service and for research.

For more information, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Terry Branstad is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom				
Approve	49%	75%	28%	50%	55%	44%				
Disapprove	31	9	53	28	29	32				
DK/NA	20	17	19	23	16	24				
	COLLEGE	DEG	ANNUAL	HSOLD	INC	AGE IN	YRS.....			
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	
Approve	53%	48%	44%	54%	56%	40%	55%	49%	51%	
Disapprove	35	29	32	28	31	19	27	35	35	
DK/NA	12	23	23	18	14	41	19	15	14	

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom				
Approve	38%	47%	34%	36%	41%	35%				
Disapprove	41	32	47	42	41	41				
DK/NA	21	21	19	21	18	24				
	COLLEGE	DEG	ANNUAL	HSOLD	INC	AGE IN	YRS.....			
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	
Approve	40%	37%	37%	44%	39%	48%	37%	35%	37%	
Disapprove	44	39	40	37	49	23	44	46	42	
DK/NA	15	23	23	19	12	28	19	18	22	

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chuck Grassley is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom				
Approve	52%	68%	36%	53%	53%	50%				
Disapprove	33	17	50	32	35	32				
DK/NA	15	15	13	16	12	18				
	COLLEGE	DEG	ANNUAL	HSOLD	INC	AGE IN	YRS.....			
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	
Approve	54%	51%	53%	51%	53%	45%	51%	53%	55%	
Disapprove	39	31	31	38	40	21	32	37	38	
DK/NA	7	18	17	11	8	34	16	9	7	

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Tom Harkin is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom				
Approve	47%	24%	72%	43%	45%	48%				
Disapprove	35	57	13	37	42	29				
DK/NA	18	19	15	20	13	23				
	COLLEGE	DEG	ANNUAL	HSOLD	INC	AGE IN	YRS.....			
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	
Approve	54%	44%	49%	48%	49%	40%	50%	47%	49%	
Disapprove	35	35	31	34	42	28	32	38	38	
DK/NA	11	21	20	18	9	32	18	15	13	

6. Do you feel that Terry Branstad deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom				
Yes/Deserves	42%	67%	19%	43%	48%	36%				
No/Does not	43	18	66	41	41	44				
DK/NA	16	15	15	16	11	20				
	COLLEGE	DEG	ANNUAL	HSHOLD	INC	AGE	IN	YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	
Yes/Deserves	44%	41%	38%	45%	51%	32%	47%	42%	43%	
No/Does not	44	42	46	40	36	38	37	46	46	
DK/NA	11	17	16	15	12	30	16	12	11	

17. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Iowa today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom				
Very satisfied	8%	12%	6%	8%	11%	6%				
Smwht satisfied	58	65	57	54	57	58				
Smwht dissatisfied	25	16	28	27	23	27				
Very dissatisfied	7	6	7	8	7	7				
DK/NA	2	1	1	2	1	3				
	COLLEGE	DEG	ANNUAL	HSHOLD	INC	AGE	IN	YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	
Very satisfied	9%	8%	9%	5%	10%	13%	8%	7%	7%	
Smwht satisfied	63	56	54	65	66	61	58	57	57	
Smwht dissatisfied	23	26	26	24	20	15	29	26	27	
Very dissatisfied	5	8	9	5	4	9	4	9	7	
DK/NA	1	2	2	-	-	2	2	1	3	

18. Would you describe the state of Iowa's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom				
Excellent	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%	4%				
Good	61	67	62	61	65	58				
Not so good	26	22	26	28	22	30				
Poor	6	4	6	6	5	7				
DK/NA	2	2	2	-	2	2				
	COLLEGE	DEG	ANNUAL	HSHOLD	INC	AGE	IN	YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	
Excellent	6%	4%	4%	6%	8%	5%	3%	5%	6%	
Good	75	57	55	69	78	61	60	63	62	
Not so good	16	30	30	22	13	25	31	25	26	
Poor	3	7	8	3	2	7	6	6	4	
DK/NA	1	2	2	-	-	3	-	1	2	

19. Do you think Iowa's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom				
Better	35%	39%	38%	32%	41%	30%				
Worse	13	9	13	14	11	15				
The same	51	50	48	54	47	54				
DK/NA	1	2	1	1	2	1				
	COLLEGE Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-29	YRS..... 30-44	45-64	65+	
Better	41%	33%	29%	41%	48%	32%	30%	36%	41%	
Worse	8	15	16	9	7	16	14	14	8	
The same	50	51	54	50	44	49	56	49	49	
DK/NA	1	1	1	-	-	3	1	-	2	

20. Do you think your personal financial situation is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom				
Better	23%	25%	26%	21%	33%	14%				
Worse	24	22	22	27	22	26				
The same	52	53	52	52	45	59				
DK/NA	1	-	-	1	1	1				
	COLLEGE Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-29	YRS..... 30-44	45-64	65+	
Better	33%	20%	17%	27%	48%	36%	26%	23%	12%	
Worse	19	26	31	20	11	24	22	27	22	
The same	48	54	52	53	41	39	52	50	66	
DK/NA	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	

21. As you may know Medicaid is a government program that pays for health care for low-income people and others with certain disabilities. Do you think that increasing the number of people eligible for Medicaid coverage in Iowa is a good idea or a bad idea?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom				
Good idea	45%	24%	70%	41%	44%	46%				
Bad idea	43	64	21	46	46	40				
DK/NA	12	12	9	13	10	14				
	COLLEGE Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-29	YRS..... 30-44	45-64	65+	
Good idea	42%	46%	50%	44%	36%	48%	44%	44%	46%	
Bad idea	46	42	37	46	53	46	46	42	38	
DK/NA	12	12	13	10	12	6	10	14	16	