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QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

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SHIFT BY INDEPENDENTS LEAVES IOWA SENATE RACE CLOSE, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; BRANSTAD UP 15 POINTS IN GOVERNOR'S RACE

Independent likely voters shift to the Democratic column, leaving the Iowa U.S. Senate race too close to call with 47 percent for Republican State Sen. Joni Ernst and 45 percent for U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley, the Democrat, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 50 – 44 percent likely voter lead for Sen. Ernst in a September 17 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

Today's results show independent voters backing Rep. Braley 48 – 43 percent, a shift from Ernst's 50 – 43 percent lead among these key voters last month. Republicans back Ernst 95 – 2 percent, compared to 87 – 7 percent last month. Democrats go to Braley 89 – 7 percent, compared to 90 – 7 percent September 17.

The reverse gender gap widens as women back the Democratic man 52 – 39 percent, up from 50 – 44 percent last month, while men back the Republican woman 56 – 38 percent, virtually unchanged from 56 – 39 percent in September.

Braley leads 51 – 37 percent among those who already have voted.

Three weeks before Election Day, 89 percent of Iowa likely voters who name a Senate candidate say their mind is made up, while 10 percent say they might change their mind.

“The Iowa Senate race, which could be key to control of the U.S. Senate, is too close to call and likely will remain close all the way to Election Day,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac Poll.

“Independent voters have made a 12-point left turn in four weeks, going from 50 – 43 percent for State Sen. Joni Ernst to 48 – 43 percent for U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley.

“The gender gap in this race for Iowa's open U.S. Senate seat is larger than the wide Missouri.”

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“But the twist that makes this Senate race one of the most interesting, in addition to being among the tightest and most important in the country, is the reverse gender gap,” Brown added.

“Women are forsaking their sister because she is a Republican. Meanwhile, men are voting for the women candidate by an even larger margin for the same reason. Voters are choosing partisanship over gender when it comes to making their ballot choice.”

By a 47 – 41 percent margin, Iowa likely voters have a favorable opinion of Ernst. Braley gets a split score, with 42 percent favorable and 44 percent unfavorable.

Governor’s Race

In his race for reelection, Iowa’s long-time governor, Terry Branstad, has a 54 – 39 percent likely voter lead over State Sen. Jack Hatch, the Democratic challenger.

This compares to a 60 – 37 percent likely voter lead for Gov. Branstad in a September 18 Quinnipiac University poll.

Today, women are divided with 47 percent for Branstad and 45 percent for Hatch. The governor has a 61 – 32 percent lead among men. He leads 95 – 3 among Republicans and 57 – 33 percent among independent voters. Democrats go to Hatch 84 – 13 percent.

Hatch is ahead 50 – 37 percent among those who already have voted.

Their mind is made up, 89 percent of voters who name a candidate say, while 10 percent say they might change their mind.

Branstad gets a 56 – 34 percent favorability rating, compared to Hatch’s 33 – 28 percent score, with 36 percent who don’t know enough about him to form an opinion.

“The big question in the governor’s race doesn’t involve who is going to win,” Brown said. “It’s how large will Gov. Terry Branstad’s margin be, and perhaps most significantly, will Gov. Branstad have coattails that might help Ernst across the finish line?”

From October 8 – 13, Quinnipiac University surveyed 967 likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.2 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, Colorado, 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](#) @QuinnipiacPoll.

1. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Jack Hatch the Democrat and Terry Branstad the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) If you had to choose today, would you vote for Hatch or Branstad? (Table includes leaners and early voters)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Already Voted
Hatch	39%	3%	84%	33%	32%	45%	50%
Branstad	54	95	13	57	61	47	37
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	2	1	1	2
DK/NA	6	2	3	9	6	7	11

TREND: If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Jack Hatch the Democrat and Terry Branstad the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) If you had to choose today, would you vote for Hatch or Branstad? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Oct 15 2014	Sep 18 2014
Hatch	39	37
Branstad	54	60
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1
DK/NA	6	3

1a. (If candidate chosen q1) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1.....		
	Tot	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1	
		Hatch	Branstad
Mind made up	89%	90%	89%
Might change	10	10	11
DK/NA	-	-	-

TREND: (If candidate chosen) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS...	
	Oct 15 2014	Sep 18 2014
Mind made up	89	82
Might change	10	18
DK/NA	-	-

2. Is your opinion of Jack Hatch favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Already Voted
Favorable	33%	8%	68%	27%	28%	38%	46%
Unfavorable	28	54	3	27	34	22	26
Hvn't hrd enough	36	35	28	42	36	36	26
REFUSED	3	4	1	3	2	4	1

TREND: Is your opinion of Jack Hatch favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Oct 15 2014	Sep 18 2014
Favorable	33	29
Unfavorable	28	26
Hvn't hrd enough	36	44
REFUSED	3	1

3. Is your opinion of Terry Branstad favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Already Voted
Favorable	56%	95%	20%	57%	60%	51%	50%
Unfavorable	34	1	71	31	30	39	39
Hvn't hrd enough	7	2	7	9	9	6	10
REFUSED	3	1	2	4	2	3	2

TREND: Is your opinion of Terry Branstad favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Oct 15 2014	Sep 18 2014
Favorable	56	59
Unfavorable	34	33
Hvn't hrd enough	7	7
REFUSED	3	1

4. If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Bruce Braley the Democrat and Joni Ernst the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) If you had to choose today, would you vote for Braley or Ernst? (Table includes leaners and early voters)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Already Voted
Braley	45%	2%	89%	48%	38%	52%	51%
Ernst	47	95	7	43	56	39	37
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	3	-	2	3	2	4	3
DK/NA	5	3	2	6	4	5	8

TREND: If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Bruce Braley the Democrat and Joni Ernst the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) If you had to choose today, would you vote for Braley or Ernst? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Oct 15 2014	Sep 17 2014
Braley	45	44
Ernst	47	50
SOMEONE ELSE (VOL)	3	1
DK/NA	5	4

4a. (If candidate chosen q4) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q4.....		
	Tot	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q4	
		Braley	Ernst
Mind made up	89%	88%	90%
Might change	10	12	9
DK/NA	-	-	-

TREND: (If candidate chosen) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS...	
	Oct 15 2014	Sep 17 2014
Mind made up	89	84
Might change	10	15
DK/NA	-	1

5. Is your opinion of Bruce Braley favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						Already Voted
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Favorable	42%	7%	82%	42%	37%	48%	48%
Unfavorable	44	81	8	42	51	37	37
Hvn't hrd enough	13	12	9	14	12	14	14
REFUSED	1	-	2	1	1	2	1

TREND: Is your opinion of Bruce Braley favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Oct 15 2014	Sep 17 2014
Favorable	42	38
Unfavorable	44	41
Hvn't hrd enough	13	20
REFUSED	1	1

6. Is your opinion of Joni Ernst favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						Already Voted
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Favorable	47%	88%	9%	44%	55%	39%	40%
Unfavorable	41	3	83	41	33	50	48
Hvn't hrd enough	11	8	7	14	12	10	10
REFUSED	1	-	1	1	-	2	1

TREND: Is your opinion of Joni Ernst favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Oct 15 2014	Sep 17 2014
Favorable	47	45
Unfavorable	41	39
Hvn't hrd enough	11	15
REFUSED	1	1

7. Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						Already Voted
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Legal all cases	22%	6%	42%	20%	16%	29%	23%
Legal most cases	32	24	39	35	35	28	30
Illegal most cases	25	41	8	27	29	22	27
Illegal all cases	13	23	4	11	12	13	11
DK/NA	8	7	6	7	8	9	9