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QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

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IOWA SENATE RACE IS SNOUT TO SNOUT, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; BRANSTAD HEADED FOR PLACE IN U.S. HISTORY

The Iowa U.S. Senate race is going down to the wire, with Republican State Sen. Joni Ernst at 48 percent among likely voters and U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley, the Democrat, at 46 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today. Four percent remain undecided.

This compares to results of an October 15 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University, showing Sen. Ernst at 47 percent and Rep. Braley at 45 percent.

Today's results show independent voters giving Ernst 47 percent to Braley's 41 percent. Republicans back Ernst 91 – 6 percent. Democrats go to Braley 93 – 4 percent.

In the reverse gender gap that marks this race, women back the Democratic man 53 – 40 percent, while men back the Republican woman 55 – 38 percent.

Braley leads 58 – 37 percent among those who already have voted.

With 12 days until Election Day, 93 percent of Iowa likely voters who name a Senate candidate say their mind is made up, while 7 percent say they might change their mind.

“The race to succeed U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin in Iowa could be headed for a photo finish, with State Sen. Joni Ernst on the plus side of a too-close-to-call matchup with U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac Poll.

“Throughout the campaign, Sen. Ernst has had an edge on likability. If she makes it across the finish line first that may be the key. Her campaign theme that she is the ‘farm girl next door’ who made good has taken her from unknown state legislator to a serious shot at the United States Senate.”

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Quinnipiac University Poll/October 23, 2014 – page 2

“Rep. Braley has been selling his Washington experience. We’ll see on November 4 whether that experience is such a valuable commodity with voters,” Brown added.

By a 48 – 42 percent margin, Iowa likely voters have a favorable opinion of Ernst. Braley gets a split 43 – 43 percent likability score.

Governor’s Race

In his race for reelection, Iowa’s long-time governor, Terry Branstad, has a 55 – 37 percent likely voter lead over State Sen. Jack Hatch, the Democratic challenger.

This compares to a 54 – 39 percent likely voter lead for Gov. Branstad in an October 15 Quinnipiac University poll.

Hatch does not get the usual Democratic advantage among women, who back the governor 49 – 43 percent. The incumbent has a 61 – 32 percent lead among men. He leads 94 – 5 percent among Republicans and 61 – 25 percent among independent voters. Democrats go to Hatch 87 – 11 percent.

Hatch is ahead 54 – 38 percent among those who already have voted.

With 12 days until the election, 91 percent of voters who name a candidate say their mind is made up, while 9 percent say they might change their mind.

Branstad gets a 56 – 35 percent favorability rating, compared to Hatch’s split 31 – 31 percent score, with 35 percent who don’t know enough about him to form an opinion.

“Absent an unprecedented turnaround, Gov. Terry Branstad is going to coast to reelection,” Brown said. “If he serves out his next term, he becomes the longest-serving governor in American history.”

From October 15 – 21, Quinnipiac University surveyed 964 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)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						Already
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Voted
Hatch	37%	5%	87%	25%	32%	43%	54%
Branstad	55	94	11	61	61	49	38
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	-	5	3	1	2
DK/NA	5	1	2	10	4	7	7

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 23 2014	Oct 15 2014	Sep 18 2014
Hatch	37	39	37
Branstad	55	54	60
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	1
DK/NA	5	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	91%	92%	91%
Might change	9	8	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.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN.....		
	Oct 23 2014	Oct 15 2014	Sep 18 2014
Mind made up	91	89	82
Might change	9	10	18
DK/NA	-	-	-

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						Already Voted
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Favorable	31%	4%	69%	22%	25%	36%	46%
Unfavorable	31	54	6	32	39	24	26
Hvn't hrd enough	35	40	23	43	33	37	24
REFUSED	3	2	2	3	3	3	4

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 23 2014	Oct 15 2014	Sep 18 2014
Favorable	31	33	29
Unfavorable	31	28	26
Hvn't hrd enough	35	36	44
REFUSED	3	3	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						Already Voted
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Favorable	56%	91%	14%	64%	62%	50%	42%
Unfavorable	35	5	76	26	30	40	50
Hvn't hrd enough	5	4	6	6	5	6	2
REFUSED	4	1	5	4	3	4	5

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 23 2014	Oct 15 2014	Sep 18 2014
Favorable	56	56	59
Unfavorable	35	34	33
Hvn't hrd enough	5	7	7
REFUSED	4	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)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Already Voted
Braley	46%	6%	93%	41%	38%	53%	58%
Ernst	48	91	4	47	55	40	37
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	3	1	1	5	4	1	1
DK/NA	4	2	2	7	3	6	4

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 23 2014	Oct 15 2014	Sep 17 2014
Braley	46	45	44
Ernst	48	47	50
SOMEONE ELSE (VOL)	3	3	1
DK/NA	4	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	93%	93%	94%
Might change	7	7	6
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.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN.....		
	Oct 23 2014	Oct 15 2014	Sep 17 2014
Mind made up	93	89	84
Might change	7	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	43%	8%	84%	39%	36%	49%	55%
Unfavorable	43	80	8	41	51	37	35
Hvn't hrd enough	11	11	6	16	10	12	5
REFUSED	3	1	2	3	4	2	5

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 23 2014	Oct 15 2014	Sep 17 2014
Favorable	43	42	38
Unfavorable	43	44	41
Hvn't hrd enough	11	13	20
REFUSED	3	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	48%	92%	6%	48%	56%	41%	38%
Unfavorable	42	5	86	39	36	49	55
Hvn't hrd enough	7	3	7	10	6	8	3
REFUSED	2	-	1	2	2	2	4

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 23 2014	Oct 15 2014	Sep 17 2014
Favorable	48	47	45
Unfavorable	42	41	39
Hvn't hrd enough	7	11	15
REFUSED	2	1	1