

INDEPENDENT CENTER VOICE

Survey Toplines — Iowa — 1st Congressional District

District Benchmark Survey · 2026 Election Cycle

Methodology

Survey of 705 Likely 2026 General Voters in IA-01; margin of error ± 3.69 percentage points, field date: 07/13-16/2026.

All percentages are weighted to the study's demographic and partisan quota targets. Each figure is the Total % of the stated base, rounded to whole numbers, so responses may not sum to 100%. Multiple-response questions (e.g., top-three issue selection and racial identification) and per-candidate blocks may sum to more than 100. Aggregate rows (e.g., TOTAL DEMOCRAT) are sums of the categories that follow and are shaded for reference. Question codes in brackets match the analysis report and banner books. This study utilizes a multi-frame, probability-based sampling design combining live telephone calls and Short Message Service (SMS) outreach. To correct for non-response bias, the final sample was adjusted against U.S. Census Bureau and national voter databases to ensure accurate representation across core demographics, specifically gender, geographic region, age, race and ethnicity, political affiliation, educational attainment, household income, and population density, ensuring statistically valid generalizability.

Q1. How likely are you to vote in the November 2026 midterm elections? [Screener 3]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Very likely	89%
Somewhat likely	11%

Q2. Thinking about the upcoming election this November, which of the following best describes the MAIN reason you are motivated to turn out and vote? [Screener 4]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
There is a specific candidate running who I really like and want to support.	16%
I am primarily voting to oppose a specific candidate and make sure they do not win.	10%
I always vote because I see it as my civic duty, regardless of who is on the ballot.	54%
I am motivated to vote because of a specific issue or policy that is deeply important to me.	12%
I never usually vote, but I am thinking that I will this year	2%
Unsure	6%

Q3. In politics today, and regardless of how you are registered, do you consider yourself to be a...

[Party ID]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL DEMOCRAT	30%
Strong Democrat	22%
Not so strong Democrat	8%
TOTAL INDEPENDENT	34%
Independent leaning Democrat	12%
Independent	18%
Independent leaning Republican	4%
TOTAL REPUBLICAN	35%
Not so strong Republican	10%

Response	%
Strong Republican	25%
Other	0%
Unsure	1%

Q4. Your gender identification? [Gender]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Female	51%
Male	49%
Other	0%

Q5. In which county do you currently reside? [County]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Cedar	2%
Clinton	6%
Des Moines	6%
Henry	3%
Iowa	2%
Jackson	2%
Jasper	4%
Jefferson	1%
Johnson	20%
Jones	4%
Keokuk	1%
Lee	4%
Louisa	1%
Mahaska	2%
Marion	5%
Muscatine	5%
Scott	22%
Van Buren	0%
Warren	7%
Washington	3%

Q6. What is your race or ethnicity? [Race]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
White or Caucasian	91%
Black or African American	7%
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	6%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2%
Native American or American Indian	1%

Response	%
Other	2%

Q7. Which of the following categories best describes your age? [AgeRange]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
18 to 24	6%
25 to 34	9%
35 to 44	17%
45 to 54	17%
55 to 64	19%
65 or older	32%

Q8. What is the highest level of formal education that you have completed? [Education]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
High School or Less	31%
Some college, Associate degree, or technical school	36%
4-year college graduate (Bachelor's degree) or higher	33%

Q9. We want to classify households into broad income groups only. Would you estimate your total annual household income to be...? [Income]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Less than \$30,000	7%
\$30,000 to \$54,999	16%
\$55,000 to \$100,000	27%
More than \$100,000	39%
Prefer not to answer	12%

Q10. If the election were held today, for whom would you vote? [Congressional ballot]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Michael Bridgford, the Independent	11%
Christina Bohanna, the Democrat	40%
Mariannette Miller-Meeke, the Republican	35%
Another candidate	2%
I would not vote	0%
Unsure	11%

Q11. And would you say you are definitely supporting them, or just somewhat? [Strength of support (by candidate)]

Base: Among each candidate's current supporters

Response	%
Michael Bridgford — Definitely supporting	2%

Response	%
Michael Bridgford — Somewhat supporting	53%
Michael Bridgford — Unsure / could still change my mind	45%
Christina Bohanna — Definitely supporting	70%
Christina Bohanna — Somewhat supporting	26%
Christina Bohanna — Unsure / could still change my mind	4%
Mariannette Miller-Meeks — Definitely supporting	66%
Mariannette Miller-Meeks — Somewhat supporting	30%
Mariannette Miller-Meeks — Unsure / could still change my mind	5%

Q12. At this time next year, do you think that you will personally be better or worse off than you are today? [GSPS]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL BETTER OFF	39%
Much better off	11%
Somewhat better off	28%
TOTAL WORSE OFF	24%
Somewhat worse off	16%
Much worse off	8%
Unsure	37%

Q13. At this time next year, do you think America will be better or worse off than it is today? [GSAS]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL BETTER OFF	33%
Much better off	12%
Somewhat better off	20%
TOTAL WORSE OFF	43%
Somewhat worse off	20%
Much worse off	23%
Unsure	24%

Q14. Please select and rank the top three most pressing issues in America today from the list below, where 1 is the most pressing, 2 is the second most pressing, and 3 is the third most pressing. [Most pressing issue]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Economy	31%
Government	17%
Immigration	15%
Health Care	13%
Social Issues	7%
Environment	6%
Education	5%

Response	%
International concerns	5%

Q15. Regarding the economy, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTEC]

Base: Most Pressing On Economy Issue

Response	%
Jobs	11%
Unemployment	3%
Taxes	15%
Food prices/inflation	63%
Other	9%

Q16. Regarding social issues, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTSI]

Base: Most Pressing On Social Issue

Response	%
Crime	21%
Equality	27%
Civil liberties	35%
Abortion	18%

Q17. Regarding education, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTED]

Base: Most Pressing On Education Issue

Response	%
School choice	49%
Student loans	17%
Testing standards	9%
Other	25%

Q18. Regarding the environment, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTEV]

Base: Most Pressing On Environment Issue

Response	%
Climate change	78%
EPA	5%
Energy regulations	4%
Other	13%

Q19. Regarding international issues, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTIN]

Base: Most Pressing On International Issue

Response	%
Trade	12%
Foreign policy	10%

Response	%
Global affairs conflicts	78%

Q20. Regarding health care, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTHC]

Base: Most Pressing On Health Care Issue

Response	%
Medicare	15%
Medicaid	12%
Affordable Care Act	10%
Cost of health care	62%
Other	0%

Q21. Regarding the government, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTGA]

Base: Most Pressing On Government Issue

Response	%
Political extremism	56%
Polarization	12%
The role of elected officials	29%
Other	3%

Q22. Regarding immigration, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTIM]

Base: Most Pressing On Immigration Issue

Response	%
Legalization & citizenship	18%
Border security	52%
Refugee resettlement	12%
Other	18%

Q23. Do you approve or disapprove of the job President Donald Trump is doing? [STA]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL APPROVE	40%
Strongly approve	25%
Somewhat approve	15%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	56%
Somewhat disapprove	5%
Strongly disapprove	51%
Unsure	3%

Q24. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing? [GSCA]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL APPROVE	21%
Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	18%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	73%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	53%
Unsure	6%

Q25. When it comes to your political philosophy, where would you place yourself on the following scale? [PSY]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
0 - Very liberal / Progressive	12%
1	4%
2	6%
3	7%
4	6%
5 - Moderate / Centrist	24%
6	6%
7	7%
8	8%
9	5%
10 - Staunch / Strong conservative	15%

Q26. In the perfect world, where on the following scale, would you like to see America's elected officials stand politically? [PSEO]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
0 - Strongly along Democratic lines	10%
1	4%
2	3%
3	8%
4	6%
5 - Centrist / Independent	31%
6	7%
7	7%
8	7%
9	3%
10 - Strongly along Republican lines	14%

Q27. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — Donald Trump]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	41%
Very favorable	25%
Somewhat favorable	16%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	55%
Somewhat unfavorable	3%
Very unfavorable	52%
Never heard of	0%
Unsure	4%

Q28. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — The Republican party]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	37%
Very favorable	20%
Somewhat favorable	17%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	56%
Somewhat unfavorable	11%
Very unfavorable	44%
Never heard of	0%
Unsure	7%

Q29. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — The Democratic party]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	43%
Very favorable	13%
Somewhat favorable	30%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	50%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Very unfavorable	37%
Never heard of	0%
Unsure	6%

Q30. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A politician willing to work with both sides of the aisle]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	80%
Very favorable	48%
Somewhat favorable	32%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	11%
Somewhat unfavorable	6%
Very unfavorable	5%
Never heard of	4%
Unsure	5%

Q31. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A bipartisan candidate]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	52%
Very favorable	14%
Somewhat favorable	39%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	15%
Somewhat unfavorable	10%
Very unfavorable	5%
Never heard of	9%
Unsure	23%

Q32. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A non-partisan candidate]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	44%
Very favorable	11%
Somewhat favorable	32%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	14%
Somewhat unfavorable	9%
Very unfavorable	5%
Never heard of	13%
Unsure	29%

Q33. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A politically Independent candidate]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	54%
Very favorable	14%
Somewhat favorable	40%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	13%
Somewhat unfavorable	10%
Very unfavorable	3%
Never heard of	8%
Unsure	25%

Q34. Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person. [Favorability — Michael Bridgford (Independent)]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	14%
Very favorable	1%
Somewhat favorable	13%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	7%
Somewhat unfavorable	5%
Very unfavorable	3%
Never heard of	53%
Unsure	26%

Q35. Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person. [Favorability — Christina Bohanna (Democrat)]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	44%
Very favorable	17%
Somewhat favorable	27%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	35%
Somewhat unfavorable	12%
Very unfavorable	23%
Never heard of	4%
Unsure	17%

Q36. Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person. [Favorability — Mariannette Miller-Meeks (Republican)]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	37%
Very favorable	16%

Response	%
Somewhat favorable	20%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	58%
Somewhat unfavorable	12%
Very unfavorable	47%
Never heard of	1%
Unsure	4%

Q37. Overall, how would you rate the current health of American democracy? [MSOH]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL HEALTHY	17%
Very healthy	3%
Somewhat healthy	15%
TOTAL UNHEALTHY	79%
Somewhat unhealthy	29%
Very unhealthy	49%
Unsure	4%

Q38. How do you think federally elected officials in Washington, DC are doing at their job? [MSEO]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
They're doing fine	1%
We can do better	95%
Unsure	4%

Q39. Thinking about your role as a voter in the upcoming 2026 elections, which of the following best describes how you intend to use your vote to ensure the continued health of our democracy? [MSRV]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
I will vote for candidates who will go to Washington to work and vote with Republicans to advance a conservative agenda and ensure that Democratic policies do not pass.	25%
I will vote for candidates who will go to Washington to work and vote with Democrats to advance a progressive agenda and ensure that Republican policies do not pass.	22%
I will look past party labels to vote for candidates who prioritize bipartisan cooperation and seek to modernize the system to make it more accountable and stable for the people.	38%
I do not believe that my choice of candidate has a significant impact on the long-term health of our democracy.	10%
Unsure / Other	6%

Q40. Regardless of your past voting history or political affiliation, which of the following do you find to be the most compelling reason to support an independent candidate? [GSTI]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
The "Problem Solver" Argument: Independent-minded leaders are free to look at problems from many angles and find the best solution, rather than being forced to view every issue through a single partisan lens.	19%

Response	%
The "Competition" Argument: In every other aspect of American life, choice and competition yield better results, ending the two-party duopoly would force politicians to work harder to earn our support.	7%
The "Gridlock" Argument: Because they don't answer to party leadership, Independents are uniquely positioned to bridge the divide, de-escalate anger, and force the two sides to work together.	7%
The "People over Party" Argument: Political parties have become too focused on special interests and self-preservation, an Independent is beholden only to their constituents, not a national party agenda.	23%
The "Revolution" Argument: The two-party establishment is fundamentally corrupt and beyond repair, electing Independents is a revolution that will strip power from party elites and completely overhaul the system.	12%
None of these / Other	15%
Unsure	16%

Q41. Which of the following statements or priorities would you most need to hear from an independent candidate running for office to seriously consider supporting their candidacy? [GSTL]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
A clear commitment to work across the aisle with both parties to bring the best ideas to the forefront and get things done.	16%
A promise to listen to regular people and be beholden strictly to local voters and constituents, not national political parties or special interests.	19%
A focus on lowering the toxic political rhetoric, reducing partisan division, and restoring common sense and sanity to government.	19%
A concrete plan to immediately lower the daily cost of living, combat inflation, and rein in wasteful government spending.	15%
A common-sense commitment to strictly enforce border security and fix the immigration system without playing political games.	10%
None of these / Other	10%
Unsure	10%

Q42. Which of the following statements comes closer to your own opinion about independent candidates running for elected office, even if neither is exactly right? [GSSA]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Independent candidates offer a new, fresh perspective to move the country forward, free from partisan gridlock and beholden only to the voters	36%
Independent candidates just pull votes away from a major-party candidate, ultimately helping the side that the voter least wanted to win.	44%
Unsure	20%

Q43. Which of the following statements comes closer to your own view about the role independent candidates could play in our political system, even if neither is exactly right? [GSSI]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Electing a few independent candidates could provide a necessary, stabilizing voice, acting as the adult in the room to lower the temperature and bring both sides together to get things done.	65%
The current system is not broken, and the two major parties remain the most effective and stable way to pass laws and represent the country.	13%
Unsure	22%

Q44. Which of the following candidates would you prefer to represent your district in the U.S. House of Representatives, even if neither is exactly perfect? [GSSZ]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
A candidate who goes to Washington to caucus, vote, and work on legislative committees exclusively within one political party, giving them more institutional power to pass legislation.	29%
A candidate who does not caucus with either major political party, so that they can independently evaluate every single bill that crosses their desk based entirely on what is best for the people of their district.	55%
Unsure	17%

Q45. Thinking for a moment about your social, economic, and political views...Do you consider yourself to be... [Ideology]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL LIBERAL	32%
Very Liberal	15%
Somewhat Liberal	17%
Moderate	21%
TOTAL CONSERVATIVE	39%
Somewhat Conservative	19%
Very Conservative	20%
Libertarian	4%
Unsure	5%

Q46. Do you consider yourself to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning? [LGBTQ+]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Yes	6%
No	86%
Unsure	1%
Prefer not to answer	6%

Q47. What would best describe your marital status? [Marital Status]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Single or never married	17%
Married	62%
Separated	1%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	8%
Other	2%

Q48. Do you have children currently living in your household? [Children]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Yes	33%
No	64%
Refused	3%

Q49. Would you best describe the neighborhood or area you live in as... [Neighborhood]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Urban	22%
Suburban	42%
Rural	34%
Unsure	2%

Q50. Do you invest into an IRA or 401k? [401K]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Yes	78%
No	22%

Q51. Please describe your current occupational status. [Occupation]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Employed (Government)	13%
Employed (Private Sector)	42%
Small Business Owner	7%
Student	0%
Homemaker	3%
Retired	29%
Unemployed	3%
Other	3%
Unsure	0%

Q52. Do you currently own (outright/pay mortgage) your residence? [Homeowner]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Own (outright/pay mortgage)	83%
I do not own my residence (rent/other)	17%

Q53. Method [InterviewMethod]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Phone	10%
Text	90%

