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Iowans up on gay marriage and Branstad

Raleigh, N.C. – Iowans have cut their governor a little more slack since PPP last polled the state three months ago. 41% approve and 44% disapprove of Terry Branstad's performance, up from 39-47. But that makes him 29th out of 42 sitting governors on which PPP has polled, and voters still would only narrowly prefer him to the Democrat he ousted from office last fall, Chet Culver. In a hypothetical do-over, Branstad would prevail, 48-44, when he actually won by a 53-43 margin. The problem for Culver is that Branstad wins over twice as many Democrats (a huge 18%) as he won last fall. On top of that, even though the third of voters who say they are independents disapprove, 36-46, they prefer Branstad to Culver, 46-41. That is down, however, from the 51-41 margin reported by exit polls.

As the only Midwestern state where it is legal, Iowa is becoming increasingly favorable to same-sex marriage. 46% think it should be legal, and 45% illegal. But when civil unions are included as an alternative, giving gay couples the same rights as marriage, 40% still prefer full marriage equality, 30% favor civil unions, and only 29% think there should be no recognition of these relationships at all. When PPP asked the same question in April, the breakdown was 35-29-33. Democrats, Republicans, and independents are all more in favor of both marriage and civil unions than before, but particularly Republicans, 14% of whom favor marriage and 36% civil unions now, versus 10-28 four months ago. For Democrats, it is 63-23 versus 57-25, and for independents, 40-31 versus 35-36.

With Iowa losing a congressional seat after the census, the new map has double-bunked two incumbent Republicans, and should favor Democrats. On top of that, voters prefer Democrats for Congress by a 44-40 margin over GOP candidates.

52% of Iowans see their senior senator Chuck Grassley favorably, and 33% unfavorably. They are not as hot on Tom Harkin, giving him a 46-40 mark, but that still puts him in a tie for 50th out of 86 senators on which PPP has polled. Grassley is tied for 25th.

PPP surveyed 798 Iowa voters from August 19th to 21st. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.5%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



Iowa Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Terry Branstad's job performance?

Approve 41%
Disapprove..... 44%
Not sure 15%

Q2 If you could redo last fall's election for Governor, would you vote for Republican Terry Branstad or Democrat Chet Culver?

Terry Branstad 48%
Chet Culver..... 44%
Not sure 7%

Q3 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Chuck Grassley's job performance?

Approve 52%
Disapprove..... 33%
Not sure 14%

Q4 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Tom Harkin's job performance?

Approve 46%
Disapprove..... 40%
Not sure 13%

Q5 If there was an election for the legislature today, generally speaking, do you think you would vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate from your district?

Democrat 44%
Republican..... 40%
Not sure 16%

Q6 Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal or illegal?

Legal..... 46%
Illegal 45%
Not sure 9%

Q7 Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship?

Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry 40%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry..... 30%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship 29%
Not sure 2%

Q8 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 40%
Barack Obama..... 49%
Someone else/Don't remember 11%

Q9 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 9%
Somewhat liberal 19%
Moderate..... 32%
Somewhat conservative..... 23%
Very conservative 17%

Q10 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 48%
Man..... 52%

Q11 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 35%
Republican..... 32%
Independent/Other..... 33%



Q12 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 94%
Other..... 6%

Q13 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 12%
30 to 45..... 28%
46 to 65..... 40%
Older than 65..... 20%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Branstad Approval				
Approve	41%	73%	17%	35%
Disapprove	44%	14%	70%	37%
Not sure	15%	13%	13%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Branstad/Culver Do-over				
Terry Branstad	48%	87%	18%	47%
Chet Culver	44%	10%	75%	29%
Not sure	7%	3%	7%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Grassley Approval				
Approve	52%	73%	37%	49%
Disapprove	33%	17%	49%	25%
Not sure	14%	11%	14%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Harkin Approval				
Approve	46%	22%	69%	31%
Disapprove	40%	65%	19%	45%
Not sure	13%	13%	12%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	44%	10%	75%	25%
Republican	40%	80%	8%	43%
Not sure	16%	10%	17%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal				
Legal	46%	22%	70%	31%
Illegal	45%	69%	23%	55%
Not sure	9%	9%	7%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	17%	63%	22%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	41%	22%	27%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	29%	41%	14%	46%
Not sure	2%	1%	1%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Branstad Approval						
Approve	41%	7%	20%	31%	64%	73%
Disapprove	44%	76%	68%	55%	19%	11%
Not sure	15%	16%	12%	14%	17%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Branstad/Culver Do-over						
Terry Branstad	48%	18%	16%	38%	72%	88%
Chet Culver	44%	74%	79%	53%	18%	9%
Not sure	7%	8%	5%	9%	10%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Grassley Approval						
Approve	52%	22%	41%	50%	65%	70%
Disapprove	33%	55%	45%	37%	23%	16%
Not sure	14%	23%	15%	13%	12%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Harkin Approval						
Approve	46%	81%	75%	52%	26%	12%
Disapprove	40%	10%	15%	32%	57%	78%
Not sure	13%	9%	11%	16%	17%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Generic Leg. Ballot						
Democrat	44%	82%	76%	52%	16%	10%
Republican	40%	11%	10%	26%	64%	85%
Not sure	16%	8%	15%	22%	20%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal						
Legal	46%	84%	75%	54%	23%	11%
Illegal	45%	14%	19%	33%	64%	86%
Not sure	9%	2%	6%	13%	13%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	84%	67%	44%	19%	5%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	7%	18%	33%	47%	25%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	29%	9%	14%	20%	31%	69%
Not sure	2%	-	-	3%	3%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Branstad Approval			
Approve	41%	40%	43%
Disapprove	44%	44%	44%
Not sure	15%	17%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Branstad/Culver Do-over			
Terry Branstad	48%	45%	51%
Chet Culver	44%	46%	42%
Not sure	7%	8%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Grassley Approval			
Approve	52%	52%	53%
Disapprove	33%	30%	36%
Not sure	14%	17%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Harkin Approval			
Approve	46%	50%	43%
Disapprove	40%	32%	48%
Not sure	13%	19%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Leg. Ballot			
Democrat	44%	49%	39%
Republican	40%	37%	44%
Not sure	16%	15%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal			
Legal	46%	50%	43%
Illegal	45%	40%	49%
Not sure	9%	10%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	42%	38%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	31%	29%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	29%	26%	31%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Branstad Approval				
Approve	41%	18%	72%	36%
Disapprove	44%	71%	13%	46%
Not sure	15%	11%	15%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Branstad/Culver Do-over				
Terry Branstad	48%	18%	84%	46%
Chet Culver	44%	78%	9%	41%
Not sure	7%	4%	6%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Grassley Approval				
Approve	52%	35%	74%	50%
Disapprove	33%	49%	15%	34%
Not sure	14%	16%	10%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Harkin Approval				
Approve	46%	75%	23%	39%
Disapprove	40%	15%	64%	45%
Not sure	13%	11%	13%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	44%	88%	5%	34%
Republican	40%	4%	85%	36%
Not sure	16%	8%	10%	30%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal				
Legal	46%	67%	20%	50%
Illegal	45%	25%	74%	37%
Not sure	9%	7%	6%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	63%	14%	40%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	23%	36%	31%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	29%	13%	48%	26%
Not sure	2%	0%	2%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Branstad Approval			
Approve	41%	43%	22%
Disapprove	44%	43%	63%
Not sure	15%	15%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Branstad/Culver Do-over			
Terry Branstad	48%	49%	41%
Chet Culver	44%	44%	53%
Not sure	7%	8%	6%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Grassley Approval			
Approve	52%	52%	52%
Disapprove	33%	33%	44%
Not sure	14%	15%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Harkin Approval			
Approve	46%	46%	50%
Disapprove	40%	40%	48%
Not sure	13%	14%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Generic Leg. Ballot			
Democrat	44%	43%	54%
Republican	40%	41%	26%
Not sure	16%	16%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal			
Legal	46%	46%	52%
Illegal	45%	45%	46%
Not sure	9%	9%	2%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	39%	49%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	30%	21%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	29%	29%	30%
Not sure	2%	2%	-

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Branstad Approval					
Approve	41%	42%	36%	42%	46%
Disapprove	44%	40%	49%	44%	38%
Not sure	15%	18%	15%	13%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Branstad/Culver Do-over					
Terry Branstad	48%	39%	47%	50%	52%
Chet Culver	44%	52%	47%	42%	39%
Not sure	7%	9%	5%	8%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Grassley Approval					
Approve	52%	62%	49%	49%	58%
Disapprove	33%	27%	37%	35%	29%
Not sure	14%	11%	14%	16%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Harkin Approval					
Approve	46%	60%	49%	44%	39%
Disapprove	40%	27%	35%	45%	45%
Not sure	13%	13%	16%	11%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Leg. Ballot					
Democrat	44%	44%	43%	45%	42%
Republican	40%	40%	41%	39%	42%
Not sure	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal					
Legal	46%	71%	55%	40%	32%
Illegal	45%	24%	38%	51%	54%
Not sure	9%	4%	7%	9%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	62%	52%	35%	20%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	13%	24%	33%	41%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	29%	24%	23%	31%	35%
Not sure	2%	-	2%	1%	3%

