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OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

## **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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> out of 86 senators on which PPP has polled. Grassley is tied for 25<sup>th</sup>.

PPP surveyed 798 Iowa voters from August 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. 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
<b>Branstad Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	41%	73%	17%	35%
<b>Disapprove</b>	44%	14%	70%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	13%	13%	28%

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Generic Leg. Ballot</b>				
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
<b>Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal</b>				
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
<b>Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition</b>				
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
<b>Branstad Approval</b>						
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
<b>Branstad/Culver Do-over</b>						
<b>Terry Branstad</b>	<b>48%</b>	18%	16%	38%	72%	88%
<b>Chet Culver</b>	<b>44%</b>	74%	79%	53%	18%	9%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>7%</b>	8%	5%	9%	10%	4%

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition</b>			
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
<b>Branstad Approval</b>				
Approve	41%	18%	72%	36%
Disapprove	44%	71%	13%	46%
Not sure	15%	11%	15%	18%

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

