

THE DES MOINES REGISTER/MEDIACOM IOWA POLL

SELZER & COMPANY
805 Iowa adults ages 18 and over
Margin of error: ±3.5 percentage points

Study #2242
September 12-15, 2021
Weighted by age, sex, and congressional district

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
Sep-21	21	70	9
Jun-21	31	59	10
Mar-21	38	51	11
Sep-20	25	64	11
Jun-20	22	63	15
Mar-20	46	44	10
Feb-19	39	51	10
Sep-18	34	55	11
Jan-18	40	49	12
Dec-17	29	60	10
Jul-17	32	56	11
Feb-17	36	51	13
Oct-16	21	71	8
Feb-16	25	65	10
Feb-15	29	60	11
Sep-14	23	65	12
Feb-14	23	68	9
Dec-13	23	70	7
Sep-13	22	68	10
Jun-13	30	60	10
Feb-13	37	51	12
Sep-12	40	54	6
Feb-12	30	64	6
Feb-11	32	58	10
Sep-10	30	63	7
Feb-10	31	61	8
Nov-09	35	58	7
Sep-09	41	50	9
Apr-09	43	49	8
Jan-09	36	53	11

What about here in Iowa? Do you think things in the state are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
Sep-21	46	42	12
Jun-21	50	40	9
Mar-21	46	42	13
Sep-20	43	47	10
Jun-20	47	41	12
Mar-20	57	30	13
Feb-19	58	32	10
Sep-18	47	42	11
Jan-18	49	39	13
Dec-17	47	40	13
Jul-17	44	43	13
Feb-17	42	41	18
Oct-16	48	39	13
Feb-16	45	40	15
Feb-15	56	30	14
Sep-14	55	31	14
Feb-14	52	37	11
Dec-13	55	33	12
Sep-13	52	36	12
Jun-13	56	34	10
Feb-13	58	28	14
Sep-12	60	31	9
Feb-12	52	38	10
Feb-11	40	47	13
Sep-10	39	52	9
Feb-10	34	57	9
Nov-09	34	57	9
Sep-09	48	41	11
Apr-09	45	44	11
Jan-09	44	45	11

I'm going to mention some elected officials and groups. For each, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way each is handling the job. **(Rotate list.)**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
Joni Ernst as U.S. senator	48	38	14
Jun-21	46	42	12
Mar-21	43	45	12
Jun-20	49	39	13
Mar-20	47	38	15
Feb-19	57	30	13
Sep-18	47	31	22
Jan-18	51	33	16
Dec-17	48	38	15
Jul-17	50	37	13
Feb-17	48	37	15
Oct-16	50	28	23
Feb-16	43	31	25
Feb-15	38	34	28

		Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
Chuck Grassley as U.S. senator	Sep-21	47	40	13
	Jun-21	45	39	16
	Mar-21	48	38	14
	Jun-20	53	31	15
	Mar-20	55	34	12
	Feb-19	58	33	9
	Sep-18	50	36	14
	Jan-18	49	40	11
	Dec-17	51	40	9
	Jul-17	53	35	12
	Feb-17	54	37	9
	Oct-16	56	30	14
	Feb-16	57	28	15
	Feb-15	64	22	14
	Sep-14	59	25	16
	Jun-13	60	27	13
	Feb-13	62	22	16
	Sep-12	62	23	15
	Feb-12	60	28	12
	Feb-11	65	21	14
	Sep-10	56	30	14
	Feb-10	54	28	18
Nov-09	57	32	11	
Sep-09	57	30	13	
Apr-09	66	20	14	
Jan-09	75	12	13	

		Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
Iowa State Legislature	Sep-21	48	32	20
	Jun-21	48	35	17
	Dec-17	45	35	20
	Apr-05	53	27	20
	Jan-05	50	23	27
	Jul-04	49	29	22
	Feb-04	50	29	21
	May-03	48	28	24

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Kim Reynolds is handling: **(Rotate list, but “Her job as governor” must always come first.)**

		Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure	
Her job as governor	Sep-21	53	43	4	
	Jun-21	51	44	5	
	Mar-21	46	47	7	
	Jun-20	56	36	8	
	Mar-20	54	33	13	
	Feb-19	59	32	9	
	Sep-18	46	38	17	
	Jan-18	47	33	20	
	Dec-17	51	30	19	
	Jul-17	46	24	30	
	Kim Reynolds as lieutenant governor	Feb-17	44	24	32
		Feb-12	39	15	46
		Sep-21	51	45	4
	The COVID-19 pandemic*	Jun-21	54	43	3
		Mar-21	47	51	3
Sep-20		44	47	9	
Jun-20		59	36	6	

		Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
The economy	Sep-21	57	31	12
	Jun-21	55	36	9
Schools and education	Sep-21	52	41	8
	Jun-21	48	44	8

*Sep-21 and Jun-21 wording: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Kim Reynolds is handling: The COVID-19 pandemic?

Mar-21 and Sep-20 wording: Please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job each person [Mar-21: or organization] named is doing in addressing COVID-19, the current pandemic. Kim Reynolds as governor.

Jun-20 wording: This time, I'd like you to think specifically about the job the person is doing in addressing COVID-19, the current pandemic. For each, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way each is handling the job. Kim Reynolds as governor.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling: **(Rotate list, but “His job as president” must always come first.)**

		Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
His job as president	Sep-21	31	62	7
	Jun-21	43	52	5
	Mar-21	47	44	8
The COVID-19 pandemic*	Sep-21	36	60	4
	Jun-21	53	44	3
	Mar-21	57	37	6
Afghanistan	Sep-21	22	69	8
Immigration	Sep-21	25	67	8
	Jun-21	29	63	8
Criminal justice	Sep-21	28	54	18
	Jun-21	35	52	13
The economy	Sep-21	32	62	6
	Jun-21	40	56	4

*Mar-21 wording: Please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job each person or organization named is doing in addressing COVID-19, the current pandemic. Joe Biden as president.

I'm going to mention the names of some people in the news [previously: some candidates and officeholders]. For each name I read, please tell me if your feelings toward the person are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know the person, just say so. (Record "don't know" as "not sure." **Rotate list.**)

		Combined Favorable	Combined Unfavorable	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Joe Biden	Sep-21	37	61	11	26	13	48	2
	Jun-21	45	53	21	25	16	37	2
	Mar-21	51	46	20	31	13	33	4
Joe Biden, former vice president	Sep-20	43	51	17	25	16	35	6
	Jun-20	45	50	18	27	18	32	5
Joe Biden, vice president of the U.S.	Dec-13	36	57	12	24	21	36	7
Joe Biden, Democratic candidate for vice president	Sep-12	45	45	18	27	19	26	10
Joni Ernst	Sep-21	50	40	18	33	20	20	10
	Jun-21	50	43	20	30	21	22	7
	Mar-21	48	43	15	33	21	22	10
Joni Ernst, U.S. senator	Sep-20	44	44	16	28	21	23	12
	Jun-20	45	40	21	24	16	24	15
Joni Ernst	Mar-20	46	36	20	26	15	21	18
	Feb-19	56	29	23	33	16	13	14
Joni Ernst, a state senator	Feb-14	13	14	3	10	7	7	73
	Jun-13	7	5	1	6	3	2	88
Chuck Grassley	Sep-21	51	37	17	34	21	17	12
	Jun-21	50	37	17	33	20	17	13
	Mar-21	48	37	16	31	24	14	15
Chuck Grassley, U.S. senator	Sep-20	48	35	20	28	19	15	18
	Jun-20	48	34	22	26	17	17	18
Chuck Grassley	Mar-20	54	33	24	31	15	17	13
	Feb-19	60	31	29	31	16	15	8
Charles Grassley, U.S. senator	Feb-12	61	26	18	43	17	9	13
U.S. Senator Charles Grassley	Nov-09	64	30	15	49	21	9	6
	Sep-09	64	28	24	40	17	11	8
Senator Charles Grassley	Jul-04	70	16	27	43	12	4	14
	Feb-03	67	12	24	43	9	3	21
U.S. Senator Charles Grassley	Jun-02	67	13	28	39	8	5	20
	Jun-98	78	9	34	44	7	2	13
Kim Reynolds	Sep-21	55	40	29	26	15	25	5
	Jun-21	52	43	26	26	17	26	5
	Mar-21	48	45	19	29	19	26	7
Kim Reynolds, governor	Sep-20	46	42	20	26	18	24	12
	Jun-20	52	36	26	26	19	17	12
Kim Reynolds	Mar-20	52	31	22	30	17	14	17
	Feb-19	59	31	24	36	17	14	10
Kim Reynolds, the current Republican governor running for election	Sep-18	45	37	17	28	19	18	18
	Jan-18	48	32	14	34	17	15	20
Kim Reynolds, Republican governor	Dec-17	44	33	14	30	16	17	23

		Combined Favorable	Combined Unfavorable	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Deidre DeJear, business owner and Democratic candidate for governor	Sep-21	10	13	3	8	6	7	76
Ras Smith, Iowa legislator and Democratic candidate for governor	Sep-21	11	15	4	8	6	9	74
Abby Finkenauer, former Iowa congresswoman and Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate	Sep-21	30	28	8	22	14	13	42
Donald Trump, the former president of the U.S.	Sep-21	53	45	30	23	8	36	2
	Jun-21	49	49	29	20	9	40	2
	Mar-21	45	53	23	21	11	42	3
Donald Trump, president	Sep-20	48	49	28	20	10	39	3
	Jun-20	45	52	28	17	8	43	3
Donald Trump	Mar-20	51	47	32	18	9	38	2
Donald Trump, current president of the United States	Sep-18	41	56	21	20	13	43	3
Donald Trump, president	Jan-18	45	53	22	22	13	40	2

How likely is it you will vote in the November 2022 general election for governor, U.S. Senate and other offices—do you think you would definitely vote, probably vote, might or might not vote, or probably not vote?

	Definitely vote	Probably vote	Might or might not vote	Probably not vote	Refused/ Not sure
Sep-21	74	12	8	5	1
Jun-21	76	14	5	5	-

If a vote for U.S. Senate were held today and the candidates were [Chuck Grassley for the Republicans] and [Abby Finkenauer for the Democrats], for whom would you vote, [Chuck Grassley] or [Abby Finkenauer]? [Rotate candidate names. Asked of 2022 likely voters only; n=620. MoE: ±3.9 percentage points.]

	Chuck Grassley	Abby Finkenauer	Would not vote (VOL)	Not sure
Sep-21	55	37	1	7

[Ask all.]

Here are some specific measures that the Iowa Legislature passed this year. For each, please tell me if you favor or oppose the change. (Rotate list.)

		Favor	Oppose	Not Sure
Stops cities, counties, and schools from enacting mask mandates	Sep-21	47	50	4
	Jun-21	49	46	5
Bans “vaccine passports,” which would offer proof a person	Sep-21	46	50	4

has been vaccinated

Jun-21 47 46 7

Iowa law requires that all students be vaccinated against measles, mumps, rubella and other diseases in order to attend school, unless they have a medical or religious exemption. Do you favor or oppose expanding Iowa law to include a COVID vaccination once it is fully approved beyond emergency use?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Sep-21	55	41	4

Do you favor or oppose the U.S. Department of Labor’s new regulation calling for businesses with 100 or more workers to require that all get vaccinated against COVID-19 or be tested weekly?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Sep-21	45	52	2

As you think about [ITEM FROM LIST] attending school, do you feel it is very safe, mostly safe, mostly unsafe, or very unsafe for them to attend school in person? (Rotate list.)

		Safe	Unsafe	Very Safe	Mostly Safe	Mostly Unsafe	Very Unsafe	Not Sure
Students	Sep-21	73	24	30	43	18	6	2
	Mar-21	78	19	30	47	13	6	4
	Sep-20	54	39	12	42	26	14	7
Teachers and staff	Sep-21	73	24	26	47	18	6	3
	Mar-21	74	22	26	48	15	7	4

For each of the following areas of your life, please tell me if what you’ve experienced during the COVID pandemic has made you consider major change. Tell me if you’ve already made a major change, are seriously considering it, or do not expect to make a major change. If the item does not apply to you, just say so. (Rotate list.)

		Already Made Change	Seriously Considering Change	Do not Expect Major Change	Does not Apply	Not Sure
Your work life, including where you work and how you work	Sep-21	26	5	46	22	1
Your home life, including where you live and how you spend time at home	Sep-21	22	4	64	9	1
Your family relationships, including marriage, children, and partners	Sep-21	13	2	72	12	1

Have you already had at least one dose of the COVID vaccine, or have you had no shots at this point? (If no shots, ask:) Do you plan to get a vaccine shot eventually or plan not to get a shot at all?

	At least one shot	No shot but plan to get one	No shot and do not plan to get one	Not sure
Sep-21	65	5	25	4
Mar-21	30	37	27	5

Do you favor or oppose businesses requiring their employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
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Sep-21 44 53 3

Do you feel the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us, are we in the middle of it, or is the worst yet to come?

	Worst is behind us	We're in the middle	Worst is yet to come	Not sure
Sep-21	32	46	15	7
Mar-21	44	43	8	5
Sep-20	24	45	24	7

Iowa is currently the national leader in producing ethanol and is looking to do more to develop biofuels. How important do you think this is to the future economic success of the state—is it critically important, fairly important, or not that important?

	Critically important	Fairly important	Not that important	Not sure
Sep-21	36	49	10	5
Jan-07	46	46	7	1

I'd like you to rate your confidence in each of the following institutions. For each, please tell me if you strongly trust the organization, mostly trust, mostly distrust, or strongly distrust the organization.

		Trust	Distrust	Strongly Trust	Mostly Trust	Mostly Distrust	Strongly Distrust	Not Sure
The Iowa Farm Bureau	Sep-21	70	10	18	52	7	3	20
The FBI	Sep-21	66	26	19	47	15	10	9
The U.S. Congress	Sep-21	33	62	4	29	37	25	5
Your school district	Sep-21	80	11	26	54	8	3	9
The president of the United States	Sep-21	38	59	11	27	15	45	2
Organized labor	Sep-21	58	26	12	46	19	7	16
The Iowa Legislature	Sep-21	60	31	8	52	21	10	9
The Iowa State Patrol	Sep-21	86	10	42	44	6	4	4
Organized religion	Sep-21	59	29	18	41	19	10	12
Cable news	Sep-21	27	66	3	24	31	34	8
God	Sep-21	79	7	60	19	4	4	13
The Iowa Supreme Court	Sep-21	70	19	15	55	13	6	11
The Armed Forces	Sep-21	91	7	49	42	4	2	2
The Iowa Department of Public Health	Sep-21	71	21	18	53	15	7	8
The governor of Iowa	Sep-21	60	38	25	34	18	20	2
Your local law enforcement	Sep-21	88	10	43	45	6	3	2
Your city and county governments	Sep-21	77	18	19	59	13	5	5
Social media	Sep-21	9	87	1	8	34	52	5
The election system in Iowa	Sep-21	79	17	27	52	10	8	3

Which of the following comes closest to your opinion on abortion: (Read list.)

	Legal in most or all cases	Illegal in most or all cases	Abortion should be legal in all cases	Legal in most cases	Illegal in most cases, or	Illegal in all cases	Not sure
Sep-21	57	38	20	36	25	13	5
Mar-20	49	45	19	29	29	16	7
Sep-18	54	38	15	39	28	11	7

About the Poll

The Iowa Poll, conducted September 12-15, 2021, for the Des Moines Register and Mediacom by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, is based on telephone interviews with 805 Iowans ages 18 or older. Interviewers with Quantel Research contacted households with randomly selected landline and cell phone numbers supplied by Dynata. Interviews were administered in English. Responses were adjusted by age, sex, and congressional district to reflect the general population based on recent American Community Survey estimates.

Questions based on the sample of 805 Iowa adults have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Questions based on the subsample of 620 likely voters in the 2022 midterm election have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points. This means that if this survey were repeated using the same questions and the same methodology, 19 times out of 20, the findings would not vary from the true population value by more than plus or minus 3.5 percentage points or 3.9 percentage points, respectively. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error.

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