

DES MOINES REGISTER/NBC NEWS/MEDIACOM IOWA POLL

Study #2277
 502 likely Republican caucusgoers
 Margin of error: ±4.4 percentage points

SELZER & COMPANY
 December 2-7, 2023
 3,733 registered voter contacts weighted by
 age, sex, and congressional district

Results may not add to 100% due to rounding.

First, how likely is it you will attend the Republican party caucuses scheduled for next January—will you definitely attend, probably attend, might or might not attend, or probably not attend?

	Among likely Republican caucusgoers				
	Definitely attend Republican caucus	Probably attend Republican caucus	Might or might not attend Republican caucus	Probably not attend Republican caucus	Not sure
Dec-23	51	49	-	-	-
Oct-23	51	49	-	-	-
Aug-23	50	50	n/a	n/a	n/a

Have you in the past attended party caucuses to show your preference for presidential candidates, or would this be your first time to participate? **(If attended in the past, ask:)** Was that a Republican caucus, a Democratic caucus, or both?

	Among likely Republican caucusgoers				
	Attended Republican caucus in the past	Attended Democratic caucus in the past	Attended both	First caucus	Not sure
Dec-23	51	6	14	28	1
Oct-23	56	6	12	26	-
Aug-23	60	8	11	19	1

For each of the following people, please tell me if your feelings are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know enough about the person to answer, just say so. **(Record "don't know" as "not sure." Rotate list.)**

Among likely Republican caucusgoers		Fav	Unf	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Ryan Binkley, businessman from Texas	Dec-23	11	21	4	7	13	8	68
	Oct-23	13	28	2	11	18	10	59
	Aug-23	12	21	2	10	12	8	68
Chris Christie, former governor of New Jersey	Dec-23	20	68	4	16	32	36	12
	Oct-23	20	69	4	16	28	41	11
	Aug-23	28	60	6	21	29	31	12
Chris Christie	late Jan-16	40	44	9	30	29	15	16
	early Jan-16	51	42	12	39	27	15	7
Chris Christie, governor of New Jersey	Dec-15	46	42	8	38	24	19	11
	Oct-15	39	49	6	32	28	21	12
	Aug-15	29	59	5	24	36	23	12
	May-15	28	58	6	21	39	19	14
	Jan-15	36	54	7	29	32	22	10
	Oct-14	39	45	8	31	29	16	16
	Jun-11	45	14	17	28	9	5	41
Ron DeSantis, governor of Florida	Dec-23	66	29	24	42	14	14	5
	Oct-23	69	26	29	39	13	13	5
	Aug-23	66	29	27	38	14	15	5
Randy Feenstra, Iowa congressman	Dec-23	40	16	12	28	10	6	44
Nikki Haley, former U.S. ambassador to the U.N.	Dec-23	59	31	20	39	16	15	10
	Oct-23	59	29	25	34	17	12	13
	Aug-23	53	26	14	39	17	9	21

		Fav	Unf	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Among likely Republican caucusgoers								
Asa Hutchinson, former governor of Arkansas	Dec-23	19	41	3	16	27	14	40
	Oct-23	17	45	3	14	26	20	37
	Aug-23	20	32	2	18	21	12	48
Vivek Ramaswamy, entrepreneur and author	Dec-23	46	36	14	32	20	17	18
	Oct-23	43	37	13	30	23	14	20
	Aug-23	38	20	16	23	13	7	41
Kim Reynolds, governor of Iowa	Dec-23	78	20	46	32	9	11	2
	Aug-23	81	18	50	31	7	11	1
Donald Trump, former president	Dec-23	72	28	49	23	10	17	1
	Oct-23	66	32	42	25	10	22	1
	Aug-23	65	33	42	23	14	19	2
Donald Trump	late Jan-16	50	47	27	23	19	27	3
	early Jan-16	54	45	26	27	23	22	2
Donald Trump, a businessman from New York	Dec-15	57	38	25	32	17	21	5
	Oct-15	59	37	27	32	19	18	5
Donald Trump, businessman and television personality	Aug-15	61	35	26	34	16	19	4
	May-15	27	63	7	20	31	33	10
	Jan-15	26	68	4	22	36	32	6
Bob Vander Plaats, president of the Family Leader	Dec-23	23	31	5	18	18	14	45

Which one of the following Republicans would be your first choice for president? **(Read list and rotate.)**
 And who would your second choice be? **(If None of these or Not sure in first-choice question, record “No first choice” in second choice question and do not ask. Read list only if necessary.)**
(Ask all.) I’m going to read the list one more time, excluding any names you may have already mentioned. This time, please tell me if the person is someone you are actively considering or not. Just answer yes or no. **(Read list, excluding first- and second-choice candidate choices. Mark all yeses. Same order as first-choice question.)**

	First Choice	Second Choice	Actively Considering	Footprint* (Combined)
Ryan Binkley	-	2	4	6
Chris Christie	4	5	8	17
Ron DeSantis	19	30	18	67
Nikki Haley	16	17	19	52
Asa Hutchinson	1	2	5	8
Vivek Ramaswamy	5	14	19	38
Donald Trump	51	13	11	76
None of these (VOL)	2	10	43	2
Not sure	3	2	-	n/a
No first choice	n/a	5	n/a	n/a

*May not equal the total of the first three column due to rounding.

Which one of the following Republicans would be your first choice for president? **(Read list and rotate.)**
 And who would your second choice be? **(If None of these or Not sure in first-choice question, record “No first choice” in second choice question and do not ask. Read list only if necessary.)**
(Ask all.) I’m going to read the list one more time, excluding any names you may have already mentioned. This time, please tell me if the person is someone you are actively considering or not. Just answer yes or no. **(Read list, excluding first- and second-choice candidate choices. Mark all yeses. Same order as first-choice question.)**

Among likely Republican caucusgoers		First Choice	Second Choice	Actively Considering	Footprint* (Combined)
Ryan Binkley	Dec-23	-	2	4	6
	Oct-23	-	1	5	6
	Aug-23	-	-	6	7
Chris Christie	Dec-23	4	5	8	17
	Oct-23	4	2	10	16
	Aug-23	5	5	11	21
Ron DeSantis	Dec-23	19	30	18	67
	Oct-23	16	27	25	67
	Aug-23	19	20	22	61
Nikki Haley	Dec-23	16	17	19	52
	Oct-23	16	17	22	54
	Aug-23	6	5	29	40
Asa Hutchinson	Dec-23	1	2	5	8
	Oct-23	1	1	7	9
	Aug-23	-	2	7	9
Vivek Ramaswamy	Dec-23	5	14	19	38
	Oct-23	4	9	19	32
	Aug-23	4	12	18	34
Donald Trump	Dec-23	51	13	11	76
	Oct-23	43	12	12	67
	Aug-23	42	10	12	63
None of these (VOL)	Dec-23	2	10	43	2
	Oct-23	2	10	26	3
	Aug-23	2	7	22	3
Not sure	Dec-23	3	2	-	n/a
	Oct-23	3	2	2	n/a
	Aug-23	5	4	1	n/a
No first choice	Dec-23	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
	Oct-23	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
	Aug-23	n/a	7	n/a	n/a

*May not equal the total of the first three column due to rounding.

How many candidates respondent is at least considering

	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight	Nine	Ten	Eleven or more
Dec-23	9	35	34	16	3	1	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oct-23	4	22	23	23	16	7	2	-	-	1	-	-
Aug-23	7	17	19	21	19	7	4	3	-	-	-	1

When it comes to your support of [FIRST CHOICE CANDIDATE], would you say your mind is made up, or could you still be persuaded to support another candidate as your first choice?

Among likely Rep CGs			Mind is made up	Could still be persuaded	Not sure	No first-choice candidate
Dec-23	n=502	$\pm 4.4\%$ pts	49	46	-	5
Oct-23	n=404	$\pm 4.9\%$ pts	41	54	-	5
Aug-23	n=406	$\pm 4.9\%$ pts	40	52	1	7

When it comes to your support of [FIRST CHOICE CANDIDATE], would you say your mind is made up, or could you still be persuaded to support another candidate as your first choice?

Among Trump supporters			Mind is made up	Could still be persuaded	Not sure
Dec-23	n=257	$\pm 6.1\%$ pts	70	30	-
Oct-23	n=179	$\pm 7.3\%$ pts	63	37	-
Aug-23	n=173	$\pm 7.5\%$ pts	66	34	-

When it comes to your support of [FIRST CHOICE CANDIDATE], would you say your mind is made up, or could you still be persuaded to support another candidate as your first choice?

Among DeSantis supporters			Mind is made up	Could still be persuaded	Not sure
Dec-23	n=93	$\pm 10.2\%$ pts	30	70	-
Oct-23	n=68	$\pm 12.0\%$ pts	30	70	-
Aug-23	n=70	$\pm 11.8\%$ pts	31	69	-

When it comes to your support of [FIRST CHOICE CANDIDATE], would you say your mind is made up, or could you still be persuaded to support another candidate as your first choice?

Among Haley supporters			Mind is made up	Could still be persuaded	Not sure
Dec-23	n=83	$\pm 10.8\%$ pts	34	65	1
Oct-23	n=65	$\pm 12.3\%$ pts	26	74	-

How would you describe your level of enthusiasm for your first-choice candidate [NAME INSERTED HERE]—are you extremely enthusiastic, very enthusiastic, mildly enthusiastic, or not that enthusiastic?

Among likely Rep CGs			Extremely enthusiastic	Very enthusiastic	Mildly enthusiastic	Not that enthusiastic	Not sure	No first-choice candidate
Dec-23	n=502	±4.4% pts	31	39	22	2	-	5
Oct-23	n=404	±4.9% pts	30	40	20	4	-	5

How would you describe your level of enthusiasm for your first-choice candidate [NAME INSERTED HERE]—are you extremely enthusiastic, very enthusiastic, mildly enthusiastic, or not that enthusiastic?

Among Trump supporters			Extremely enthusiastic	Very enthusiastic	Mildly enthusiastic	Not that enthusiastic	Not sure
Dec-23	n=257	±6.1% pts	45	41	13	-	-
Oct-23	n=179	±7.3% pts	47	40	13	-	-

How would you describe your level of enthusiasm for your first-choice candidate [NAME INSERTED HERE]—are you extremely enthusiastic, very enthusiastic, mildly enthusiastic, or not that enthusiastic?

Among DeSantis supporters			Extremely enthusiastic	Very enthusiastic	Mildly enthusiastic	Not that enthusiastic	Not sure
Dec-23	n=93	±10.2% pts	16	45	35	4	-
Oct-23	n=68	±12.0% pts	25	40	33	1	-

How would you describe your level of enthusiasm for your first-choice candidate [NAME INSERTED HERE]—are you extremely enthusiastic, very enthusiastic, mildly enthusiastic, or not that enthusiastic?

Among Haley supporters			Extremely enthusiastic	Very enthusiastic	Mildly enthusiastic	Not that enthusiastic	Not sure
Dec-23	n=83	±10.8% pts	21	38	39	2	-
Oct-23	n=65	±12.3% pts	19	56	19	5	1

For each of the following five candidates, I'd like you to tell me if you think this person is too conservative, too moderate, or about right. **(Read list. Rotate.)**

Among likely Republican caucusgoers		Too conservative	Too moderate	About right	Not sure
Chris Christie	Dec-23	14	42	26	18
	Jan-15	7	46	27	20
Ron DeSantis	Dec-23	20	15	60	5
Nikki Haley	Dec-23	12	23	55	10
Vivek Ramaswamy	Dec-23	17	16	49	18
Donald Trump	Dec-23	18	7	71	4
	Jan-15	15	30	28	27

For each of the following five candidates, please tell me how confident you are the person could beat Joe Biden—do you feel almost certain the person will beat Joe Biden, fairly confident, not very confident, or are you almost certain the Republican would lose? **(Read list. Rotate.)**

Among likely Republican caucusgoers		Almost certain	Fairly confident	Not very confident	Almost certain to lose	Not Sure
Chris Christie	Dec-23	10	15	29	41	5
Ron DeSantis	Dec-23	29	41	14	14	2
Nikki Haley	Dec-23	22	38	21	14	4
Vivek Ramaswamy	Dec-23	16	29	23	25	7
Donald Trump	Dec-23	47	28	11	13	1

Which of the following better describes your view of Donald Trump’s legal challenges? **(Read list. Rotate.)**

Among likely Republican caucusgoers			
	Donald Trump can win an election against Joe Biden, regardless of his legal challenges	Donald Trump’s legal challenges will make it nearly impossible for him to win an election against Joe Biden	Not sure
Dec-23	73	24	3
Oct-23	65	32	4

I’m going to mention some candidate endorsements that have been made recently. For each, please tell me if it makes you more likely to support the candidate, less likely, or does it not matter? **(Read list. Rotate.)**

Among likely Republican caucusgoers		More likely	Less likely	Does not matter	Not sure
The endorsement of Ron DeSantis by Governor Kim Reynolds	Dec-23	31	14	54	1
The endorsement of Ron DeSantis by Family Leader president Bob Vander Plaats	Dec-23	13	12	73	2
The endorsement of Nikki Haley by Americans for Prosperity, the Koch political network	Dec-23	14	13	71	2

Regardless of which candidate you support as your first choice, which one of the following five candidates do you believe would: **(Read each item. Rotate. Read answer options the first time, then repeat if necessary. Rotate answer options.)**

Among likely Republican caucusgoers		Chris Christie	Ron DeSantis	Nikki Haley	Vivek Ramaswamy	Donald Trump	None/Not sure
Keep your family safest	Dec-23	5	16	12	3	59	6
Be the strongest leader	Dec-23	3	15	13	5	59	4
Be the most respected by leaders of friendly countries	Dec-23	3	17	24	5	46	5
Be the most feared by U.S. enemies	Dec-23	3	6	7	2	77	5
Care the most about people like you	Dec-23	4	19	17	7	47	7
Do the best job with the economy	Dec-23	4	9	9	6	68	5
Do the best job making the federal government function	Dec-23	5	19	14	8	50	5
Do the best job protecting America’s democracy	Dec-23	3	16	16	5	55	5

Donald Trump has made each of the following statements recently. For each, please tell me if it makes you more likely to support him in the caucuses, less likely, or does it not matter? **(Read list. Rotate.)**

		More likely	Less likely	Does not matter	Not sure
Among likely Republican caucusgoers					
“The radical left thugs that live like vermin” in the U.S. need to be rooted out	Dec-23	43	23	32	1
Trump is “the only one that will prevent World War III”	Dec-23	42	22	34	2
Immigrants who enter the U.S. illegally are “poisoning the blood” of America	Dec-23	42	28	29	2
Trump calls himself “the most pro-life president in American history”	Dec-23	40	17	41	2
2020 election “fraud” justifies terminating parts of the U.S. Constitution	Dec-23	14	47	36	3
To deal with immigration, Trump would authorize “sweeping raids, giant camps, and mass deportations”	Dec-23	50	22	27	1
If reelected president, Trump would be “seriously looking at alternatives to Obamacare”	Dec-23	55	12	33	1
If reelected president, Trump would have “no choice” but to lock up his political opponents	Dec-23	19	35	43	3

ABOUT THE POLL

The Iowa Poll, conducted December 2-7, 2023, for *The Des Moines Register*, NBC News, and Mediacom by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, is based on telephone interviews with 502 registered voters in Iowa who say they will definitely or probably attend the 2024 Republican caucuses.

Interviewers with Quantel Research contacted 3,733 randomly selected voters from the Iowa secretary of state’s voter registration list by telephone. The sample was supplemented with additional phone number lookups. Interviews were administered in English. Responses for all contacts were adjusted by age, sex and congressional district to reflect their proportions among voters in the list.

Questions based on the sample of 502 voters likely to attend the 2024 Iowa Republican caucuses have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 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 4.4 percentage points. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error.

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