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Culver edges Branstad in do-over; Iowans favor gay marriage

Raleigh, N.C. – Terry Branstad is already suffering from negative approval numbers and if voters could take it back they now say they would have given Chet Culver a second term as Governor. 41% of Iowans approve of Branstad's job performance, and 45% disapprove. If they could head back to the polls to reconsider the two men, Culver would win by a nose, with 48% to Branstad's 46%.

According to exit polls, Branstad won the independent vote by ten points, but since then, those voters have flipped along with the overall electorate by 12 points, now preferring Culver by two. Along with the resurgence in Democratic turnout following an historically Republican-heavy electorate last fall, this explains the entire change, as partisans are almost exactly as polarized as they were then.

“Voters throughout the Midwest turned toward Republican Governors last year in hopes that would turn things around in their states,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Iowa joins Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania as places where voters are now beginning to think their former Democratic Governors might not have been so bad.”

Iowa became an unlikely state to legalize same-sex marriage two years ago, and conservative voters revolted last fall by expelling from office three of the judges who ruled in favor of marriage equality. But a 35% plurality of Iowans favor full marriage rights for gay couples, and another 30% prefer civil unions with all the same legal rights as marriage. Only a third believe gay couples' relationships should have no recognition under the law at all. 82% of Democrats and 71% of independents support at least civil unions, including a huge 57% of Democrats who favor full marriage equality.

Former Governor Tom Vilsack and his First Lady Christie are both well liked. 46% see the governor favorably, and 34% unfavorably. The spread for his wife is 38-23.

PPP surveyed 1,109 Iowa voters from April 15th to 17th. The survey's margin of error is +/-2.9%. 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..... 45%
Not sure 14%

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

Chet Culver..... 48%
Terry Branstad 46%
Not sure 6%

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

Approve 57%
Disapprove..... 30%
Not sure 13%

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

Approve 47%
Disapprove..... 38%
Not sure 15%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tom Vilsack?

Favorable..... 46%
Unfavorable 34%
Not sure 21%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Christie Vilsack?

Favorable..... 38%
Unfavorable 23%
Not sure 38%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bruce Braley?

Favorable..... 22%
Unfavorable 20%
Not sure 58%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Steve King?

Favorable..... 27%
Unfavorable 34%
Not sure 39%

Q9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tom Latham?

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 47%

Q10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dave Loebsack?

Favorable..... 25%
Unfavorable 20%
Not sure 55%

Q11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Leonard Boswell?

Favorable..... 28%
Unfavorable 30%
Not sure 43%





Q12 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* 35%
- Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry* 29%
- There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship* 33%
- Not sure* 2%

Q13 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

- John McCain* 42%
- Barack Obama* 50%
- Someone Else/Don't Remember* 7%

Q14 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

- Very liberal* 8%
- Somewhat liberal* 19%
- Moderate* 30%
- Somewhat conservative* 22%
- Very conservative* 20%

Q15 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

- Woman* 51%
- Man* 49%

Q16 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* 38%
- Republican* 33%
- Independent/Other* 29%

Q17 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

- White* 96%
- Other* 4%

Q18 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* 10%
- 30 to 45* 26%
- 46 to 65* 44%
- Older than 65* 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Branstad Approval				
Approve	41%	69%	15%	47%
Disapprove	45%	15%	72%	38%
Not sure	14%	15%	13%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Culver/Branstad Do-over				
Chet Culver	48%	14%	77%	45%
Terry Branstad	46%	82%	16%	45%
Not sure	6%	4%	7%	10%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Grassley Approval				
Approve	57%	74%	41%	64%
Disapprove	30%	14%	45%	24%
Not sure	13%	12%	15%	12%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Harkin Approval				
Approve	47%	17%	73%	43%
Disapprove	38%	68%	13%	42%
Not sure	15%	15%	15%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
T. Vilsack Favorability				
Favorable	46%	21%	67%	37%
Unfavorable	34%	55%	16%	31%
Not sure	21%	24%	16%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
C. Vilsack Favorability				
Favorable	38%	16%	58%	30%
Unfavorable	23%	37%	12%	23%
Not sure	38%	47%	30%	47%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Braley Favorability				
Favorable	22%	6%	35%	19%
Unfavorable	20%	27%	14%	19%
Not sure	58%	67%	50%	62%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
King Favorability				
Favorable	27%	51%	8%	19%
Unfavorable	34%	11%	55%	27%
Not sure	39%	38%	37%	55%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Latham Favorability				
Favorable	31%	42%	22%	25%
Unfavorable	22%	10%	32%	25%
Not sure	47%	48%	46%	50%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Loebsack Favorability				
Favorable	25%	10%	36%	32%
Unfavorable	20%	27%	14%	19%
Not sure	55%	62%	51%	49%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Boswell Favorability				
Favorable	28%	10%	43%	29%
Unfavorable	30%	46%	16%	32%
Not sure	43%	45%	41%	39%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Gay Marriage				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	12%	56%	22%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	32%	27%	30%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	33%	53%	15%	45%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Branstad Approval						
Approve	41%	12%	16%	29%	60%	72%
Disapprove	45%	84%	73%	57%	24%	10%
Not sure	14%	4%	11%	15%	16%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Culver/Branstad Do-over						
Chet Culver	48%	81%	81%	64%	27%	4%
Terry Branstad	46%	10%	13%	32%	69%	89%
Not sure	6%	9%	6%	5%	5%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Grassley Approval						
Approve	57%	37%	37%	49%	73%	75%
Disapprove	30%	58%	47%	34%	18%	10%
Not sure	13%	4%	16%	17%	9%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Harkin Approval						
Approve	47%	79%	75%	60%	27%	11%
Disapprove	38%	12%	10%	23%	58%	75%
Not sure	15%	9%	15%	16%	15%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
T. Vilsack Favorability						
Favorable	46%	74%	68%	57%	35%	9%
Unfavorable	34%	15%	13%	24%	40%	69%
Not sure	21%	12%	20%	19%	25%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
C. Vilsack Favorability						
Favorable	38%	68%	60%	47%	26%	8%
Unfavorable	23%	11%	10%	14%	30%	49%
Not sure	38%	22%	31%	39%	45%	43%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Braley Favorability						
Favorable	22%	43%	39%	27%	8%	5%
Unfavorable	20%	14%	14%	16%	24%	30%
Not sure	58%	44%	47%	57%	68%	65%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
King Favorability						
Favorable	27%	10%	8%	12%	41%	58%
Unfavorable	34%	61%	60%	43%	17%	6%
Not sure	39%	30%	32%	45%	41%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Latham Favorability						
Favorable	31%	18%	20%	26%	39%	45%
Unfavorable	22%	47%	31%	25%	16%	7%
Not sure	47%	36%	49%	49%	45%	48%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Loebsack Favorability						
Favorable	25%	44%	44%	25%	15%	11%
Unfavorable	20%	19%	11%	16%	26%	28%
Not sure	55%	37%	45%	59%	60%	62%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Boswell Favorability						
Favorable	28%	45%	46%	34%	15%	9%
Unfavorable	30%	25%	14%	19%	43%	48%
Not sure	43%	30%	40%	47%	43%	43%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gay Marriage						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	73%	65%	44%	14%	4%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	12%	23%	37%	34%	25%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	33%	14%	12%	15%	49%	71%
Not sure	2%	1%	0%	4%	3%	0%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Branstad Approval			
Approve	41%	37%	45%
Disapprove	45%	48%	43%
Not sure	14%	16%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Culver/Branstad Do-over			
Chet Culver	48%	50%	46%
Terry Branstad	46%	43%	50%
Not sure	6%	7%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Grassley Approval			
Approve	57%	55%	58%
Disapprove	30%	28%	32%
Not sure	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Harkin Approval			
Approve	47%	53%	41%
Disapprove	38%	28%	48%
Not sure	15%	19%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
T. Vilsack Favorability			
Favorable	46%	45%	47%
Unfavorable	34%	28%	40%
Not sure	21%	27%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
C. Vilsack Favorability			
Favorable	38%	42%	35%
Unfavorable	23%	17%	30%
Not sure	38%	41%	35%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Braley Favorability			
Favorable	22%	19%	25%
Unfavorable	20%	16%	23%
Not sure	58%	65%	52%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
King Favorability			
Favorable	27%	20%	34%
Unfavorable	34%	32%	37%
Not sure	39%	48%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Latham Favorability			
Favorable	31%	25%	37%
Unfavorable	22%	19%	25%
Not sure	47%	56%	38%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Loebsack Favorability			
Favorable	25%	23%	26%
Unfavorable	20%	15%	25%
Not sure	55%	62%	49%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Boswell Favorability			
Favorable	28%	26%	29%
Unfavorable	30%	25%	34%
Not sure	43%	49%	36%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	39%	31%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	28%	30%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	33%	30%	37%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Branstad Approval				
Approve	41%	15%	76%	35%
Disapprove	45%	77%	9%	45%
Not sure	14%	9%	14%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Culver/Branstad Do-over				
Chet Culver	48%	85%	7%	46%
Terry Branstad	46%	11%	89%	44%
Not sure	6%	4%	4%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Grassley Approval				
Approve	57%	38%	80%	55%
Disapprove	30%	50%	11%	26%
Not sure	13%	13%	9%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Harkin Approval				
Approve	47%	75%	17%	43%
Disapprove	38%	14%	66%	38%
Not sure	15%	11%	17%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
T. Vilsack Favorability				
Favorable	46%	74%	20%	37%
Unfavorable	34%	13%	55%	38%
Not sure	21%	13%	25%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
C. Vilsack Favorability				
Favorable	38%	65%	15%	29%
Unfavorable	23%	11%	37%	25%
Not sure	38%	24%	48%	45%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Braley Favorability				
Favorable	22%	37%	6%	19%
Unfavorable	20%	19%	25%	16%
Not sure	58%	44%	69%	66%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
King Favorability				
Favorable	27%	5%	54%	26%
Unfavorable	34%	59%	8%	32%
Not sure	39%	36%	38%	42%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Latham Favorability				
Favorable	31%	19%	48%	28%
Unfavorable	22%	38%	7%	18%
Not sure	47%	43%	45%	54%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Loebsack Favorability				
Favorable	25%	40%	11%	19%
Unfavorable	20%	17%	25%	18%
Not sure	55%	43%	63%	63%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Boswell Favorability				
Favorable	28%	45%	11%	23%
Unfavorable	30%	18%	45%	28%
Not sure	43%	37%	44%	49%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	57%	10%	35%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	25%	28%	36%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	33%	17%	58%	27%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Branstad Approval			
Approve	41%	41%	38%
Disapprove	45%	45%	48%
Not sure	14%	14%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Culver/Branstad Do-over			
Chet Culver	48%	48%	43%
Terry Branstad	46%	46%	49%
Not sure	6%	6%	7%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Grassley Approval			
Approve	57%	57%	47%
Disapprove	30%	30%	40%
Not sure	13%	13%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Harkin Approval			
Approve	47%	47%	47%
Disapprove	38%	38%	47%
Not sure	15%	15%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
T. Vilsack Favorability			
Favorable	46%	45%	52%
Unfavorable	34%	34%	35%
Not sure	21%	21%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
C. Vilsack Favorability			
Favorable	38%	39%	31%
Unfavorable	23%	23%	40%
Not sure	38%	39%	29%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Braley Favorability			
Favorable	22%	22%	21%
Unfavorable	20%	19%	30%
Not sure	58%	59%	49%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
King Favorability			
Favorable	27%	27%	33%
Unfavorable	34%	34%	38%
Not sure	39%	39%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Latham Favorability			
Favorable	31%	31%	24%
Unfavorable	22%	22%	31%
Not sure	47%	47%	45%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Loebsack Favorability			
Favorable	25%	25%	27%
Unfavorable	20%	20%	24%
Not sure	55%	56%	49%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Boswell Favorability			
Favorable	28%	28%	31%
Unfavorable	30%	30%	30%
Not sure	43%	43%	39%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gay Marriage			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	36%	27%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	29%	29%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	33%	33%	42%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Branstad Approval					
Approve	41%	46%	39%	38%	45%
Disapprove	45%	44%	45%	49%	39%
Not sure	14%	10%	16%	13%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Culver/Branstad Do-over					
Chet Culver	48%	45%	46%	51%	47%
Terry Branstad	46%	53%	47%	44%	47%
Not sure	6%	3%	7%	5%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Grassley Approval					
Approve	57%	53%	61%	56%	55%
Disapprove	30%	33%	23%	34%	30%
Not sure	13%	15%	16%	11%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Harkin Approval					
Approve	47%	43%	43%	51%	45%
Disapprove	38%	35%	36%	39%	40%
Not sure	15%	23%	21%	9%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
T. Vilsack Favorability					
Favorable	46%	48%	44%	46%	48%
Unfavorable	34%	30%	39%	34%	28%
Not sure	21%	23%	17%	20%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
C. Vilsack Favorability					
Favorable	38%	33%	35%	41%	40%
Unfavorable	23%	30%	21%	23%	26%
Not sure	38%	38%	44%	37%	34%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Braley Favorability					
Favorable	22%	20%	20%	24%	21%
Unfavorable	20%	25%	15%	23%	17%
Not sure	58%	55%	65%	53%	62%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
King Favorability					
Favorable	27%	23%	27%	26%	31%
Unfavorable	34%	30%	30%	38%	33%
Not sure	39%	48%	43%	35%	35%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Latham Favorability					
Favorable	31%	35%	30%	29%	33%
Unfavorable	22%	20%	19%	26%	19%
Not sure	47%	45%	50%	45%	47%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Loebsack Favorability					
Favorable	25%	40%	17%	25%	26%
Unfavorable	20%	20%	16%	22%	20%
Not sure	55%	40%	68%	53%	53%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Boswell Favorability					
Favorable	28%	25%	21%	30%	32%
Unfavorable	30%	30%	31%	29%	29%
Not sure	43%	45%	48%	41%	39%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	45%	42%	35%	21%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	20%	27%	29%	37%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	33%	33%	29%	33%	40%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%

