

Iowa Statewide Survey on RFS and Ethanol

Survey of n=700 registered Iowa voters who are likely to vote in the 2016 general election. The poll was conducted via cell phone (n=350) and landline (n=350) between January 11 – 17, 2016.

Question 1

How would you rate the economy in Iowa? Is it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	55%
TOTAL FAIR/POOR	45%
EXCELLENT	3%
GOOD	51%
FAIR	39%
POOR	6%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	1%

Question 2

How would you rate the economy in your local area? Is it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD	59%
TOTAL FAIR/POOR	41%
EXCELLENT	12%
GOOD	47%
FAIR	34%
POOR	7%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	0%

Question 3

And, would you say the economy in your local area is getting better, staying about the same, or getting worse?

GETTING BETTER	26%
STAYING ABOUT THE SAME	58%
GETTING WORSE	16%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	0%

Question 4

What are a few major issues that are important to you and that you are paying attention to during this presidential campaign?

ECONOMIC	40%
ECONOMY/RECESSION	21%
LOW WAGES/FEW JOBS	11%
UNEMPLOYMENT	3%
INFLATION	*
POOR BUSINESS CLIMATE	*
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION	*
OTHER ECONOMIC	8%
FOREIGN POLICY	39%
IMMIGRATION	17%
NATIONAL SECURITY	12%
TERRORISM/ISIS	10%
FOREIGN POLICY	6%
WAR/PEACE	2%
HEALTH ISSUES	21%
RISING COST OF HEALTH CARE	5%
CARING FOR THE ELDERLY/SOC. SEC.	3%
POOR COVERAGE/BENEFITS	1%
PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS	1%
AVAILABILITY OF CARE	1%
GOV'T NOT DOING ENOUGH	*
HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME CARE	*
OTHER HEALTH	13%
EDUCATION	15%
QUALITY OF EDUCATION	6%
SCHOOL FINANCING	4%
WASTEFUL SPENDING	1%
CLASSROOM OVERCROWDING	*
OTHER EDUCATION	6%
CRIME	15%
GUN VIOLENCE/MASS SHOOTINGS	9%
CRIME	2%
POLICE BRUTALITY	1%
DRUGS/ALCOHOL	1%
POOR POLICE/LAW ENFORCEMENT	*
POOR COURTS/JUDICIAL SYSTEM	*
OTHER CRIME	2%
GOVERNMENT	14%
POOR/CORRUPT LEADERSHIP	3%
GOV'T SPENDING/TOO MUCH	2%
GOV'T SPENDING/WASTEFUL	2%
BUDGET SHORTFALL/DEFICIT	2%
SPENDING ON WRONG PRIORITIES	1%
PRESIDENT OBAMA	*
GOVERNOR	*
STATE LEGISLATURE	*
CONGRESS	*
OTHER GOVERNMENT	5%
ENVIRONMENT	13%
WATER ISSUES	2%
POLLUTION	2%
RECYCLING	*
OTHER ENVIRONMENT	9%
NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES	11%
DECLINE IN MORAL VALUES	7%
RACE RELATIONS/RACISM	3%
GAY RIGHTS	2%

Major Issues Continued On Next Page

Major Issues Continued

TAXES	9%
LOCAL TAXES [GENERAL]	3%
TAX INCREASES	2%
PROPERTY TAXES	1%
STATE INCOME TAXES	*
OTHER SPECIFIC LOCAL TAXES	*
OTHER TAXES	3%
FARMING/AG ISSUES	2%
ETHANOL	1%
FARM SUBSIDIES	1%
AGRICULTURE	1%
OTHER FARM/AG ISSUES	*
GROWTH/TRANSPORTATION	*
GASOLINE PRICES	*
ROAD MAINTENANCE/POTHOLES	*
OTHER TRAFFIC	*
OTHER	*
NO PROBLEMS	2%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	4%

Question 5

For each of the following issues and topics, please tell me if it is something that you want presidential candidates spending a lot of time talking about or not.

Ranked By Yes, Talk About It

	YES, TALK ABOUT IT	NO, DON'T TALK ABOUT IT	DK/REF
5_5. Immigration	82%	17%	1%
5_7. ISIS	81%	18%	1%
5_10. Job Creation	81%	19%	*
5_3. The National Debt	76%	23%	1%
5_1. Welfare	66%	33%	1%
5_2. Obamacare	62%	36%	2%
5_6. Gun Control	61%	38%	1%
5_9. Race Relations	54%	44%	2%
5_8. Climate Change	51%	48%	1%
5_4. Federal Ethanol Mandates	39%	57%	3%

Question 6

How familiar are you with the Renewable Fuel Standard, or RFS, which Congress established in 2005 and expanded in 2007? Are you very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or not at all familiar?

TOTAL FAMILIAR	51%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	49%
VERY FAMILIAR	12%
SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR	39%
NOT VERY FAMILIAR	27%
NOT AT ALL FAMILIAR	22%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	*

Question 7

Let me give you some information about the Renewable Fuel Standard, or RFS. It's a federal mandate that requires biofuels, such as corn ethanol, to be blended into the nation's fuel supply.

How familiar are you with federal corn ethanol mandates? Are you very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or not at all familiar?

TOTAL FAMILIAR	69%
TOTAL NOT FAMILIAR	31%
VERY FAMILIAR	21%
SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR	48%
NOT VERY FAMILIAR	19%
NOT AT ALL FAMILIAR	12%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	0%

Question 8

Generally speaking, how important on a personal level are the RFS and federal corn ethanol mandates to you? Are they very important to you personally, somewhat important to you personally, or not important to you personally?

VERY IMPORTANT	19%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	45%
NOT IMPORTANT	35%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	*

Question 9

How important are the RFS and federal corn ethanol mandates to your local economy? Are they very important to your local economy, somewhat important to your local economy, or not important to your local economy?

VERY IMPORTANT	56%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	37%
NOT IMPORTANT	5%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	2%

Question 10

Compared to other issues that you care about and are paying attention to, where do the RFS and federal corn ethanol mandates rank?

THE TOP ISSUE	*
AMONG THE TOP 3 ISSUES	6%
AMONG THE TOP 10 ISSUES	44%
NOT AN ISSUE I CARE MUCH ABOUT	40%
NOT AN ISSUE I CARE ABOUT AT ALL	10%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	1%

Question 11

Compared to 5 - 10 years ago, do you care about the RFS and federal corn ethanol mandates more, less, or about the same amount?

MORE	27%
LESS	11%
ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT	62%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	1%

Question 12

Have you seen any news coverage recently related to the RFS and federal corn ethanol mandates?

YES	36%
NO	64%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	1%

Question 13

From which of the following sources have you seen news coverage related to the RFS and the federal corn ethanol mandates?

Asked of n=249 respondents who had seen news coverage related to the RFS and ethanol mandates.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER [SUCH AS THE DES MOINES REGISTER]	41%
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER [SUCH AS THE NEW YORK TIMES OR USA TODAY]	21%
LOCAL TELEVISION NEWS STATIONS [SUCH AS CBS AND ABC]	46%
NATIONAL TELEVISION NEWS STATIONS [SUCH AS CNN, FOX NEWS AND MSNBC]	36%
RADIO	39%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	3%

Question 14

Some of the news coverage you've seen may have been about the recent announcement by the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, about how much corn ethanol will need to be added to the nation's fuel supply this coming year. For the first time since the RFS was passed more than a decade ago, the EPA said it would blend less corn ethanol into the fuel supply than what Congress initially called for, saying that the higher targets no longer made sense given the current market. Have you seen any news coverage associated with this announcement?

YES	31%
NO	68%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	1%

Question 15

The RFS and federal corn ethanol mandates have also been in the news recently because EPA's Inspector General - essentially, the agency's independent watchdog - announced its plans to investigate whether the EPA is accurately accounting for the full environmental and climate-related impacts of the RFS and corn ethanol mandates. Have you seen any news coverage related to the Inspector General's investigation?

YES	15%
NO	84%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	1%

Question 16

Do you **know** if any of the major presidential candidates campaigning across Iowa support or oppose the RFS and federal corn ethanol mandates?

YES	33%
NO	57%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	10%

Question 17

Do you **care** if any of the major presidential candidates campaigning across Iowa support or oppose the RFS and federal corn ethanol mandates?

YES	55%
NO	43%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	1%

Question 18

Generally speaking, to what extent does a presidential candidate's position on the RFS and the federal corn ethanol mandate impact your likelihood to vote for that individual? Would you say a great deal, some, not very much, or not at all?

TOTAL GREAT DEAL/SOME	37%
TOTAL NOT MUCH/AT ALL	63%
A GREAT DEAL	9%
SOME	28%
NOT VERY MUCH	31%
NOT AT ALL	32%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	1%

Question 19

In recent weeks, one presidential candidate has publicly expressed opposition to increasing federal ethanol mandates, and has called for doing away with the RFS. This candidate has referred to the RFS as corporate welfare, due to all the government subsidies that support the program. Do you know which candidate made these comments?

YES	25%
NO	73%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	2%

Question 20

Please name the candidate who made these comments.

Asked of n=175 respondents who know candidate who opposed federal ethanol mandates

TED CRUZ, REPUBLICAN [SENATOR FROM TEXAS]	72%
DONALD TRUMP, REPUBLICAN [BUSINESSMAN]	8%
BERNIE SANDERS, DEMOCRAT [SENATOR FROM VERMONT]	6%
RAND PAUL, REPUBLICAN [SENATOR FROM KENTUCKY]	3%
MARCO RUBIO, REPUBLICAN [SENATOR FROM FLORIDA]	2%
JEB BUSH, REPUBLICAN [FORMER GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA]	2%
BEN CARSON, REPUBLICAN [NEUROSURGEON]	1%
HILLARY CLINTON, DEMOCRAT [FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE AND FORMER SENATOR FROM NEW YORK]	1%
CHRIS CHRISTIE, REPUBLICAN [GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY]	1%
OTHER	1%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	3%

Question 21

Does the fact that a candidate is opposed to the RFS and federal corn ethanol mandates make you more or less likely to support him or her?

MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT	20%
LESS LIKELY TO SUPPORT	53%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	28%

Questions 22-26

Now, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Ranked By Agree

	AGREE	DISAGREE	DK/REF
23. The RFS and corn ethanol industry are critical to Iowa's economy.	80%	18%	2%
24. The RFS and corn ethanol industry are critical to my community's economy.	64%	33%	3%
22. Overall, I support the RFS and support increasing federal corn ethanol mandates.	51%	40%	9%
25. The RFS and corn ethanol industry directly benefit me, my family, and/or my friends.	45%	53%	2%
26. The RFS and corn ethanol industry is less important to me on a personal level today than it was in the past.	40%	56%	4%

Question B/C RECORD REGION./COUNTY.	
NORTHWEST	15%
AUDUBON	*
BUENA VISTA	1%
CALHOUN	*
CARROLL	1%
CHEROKEE	*
CLAY	1%
CRAWFORD	*
DICKINSON	1%
EMMET	*
GREENE	0%
GUTHRIE	*
HAMILTON	*
HUMBOLDT	*
IDA	*
LYON	1%
MONONA	*
O'BRIEN	*
OSCEOLA	*
PALO ALTO	1%
PLYMOUTH	1%
POCAHONTAS	*
SAC	*
SIOUX	1%
WEBSTER	1%
WOODBURY	3%
WRIGHT	1%
SOUTH	12%
ADAIR	*
ADAMS	0%
APPANOOSE	*
CASS	*
CLARKE	*
DAVIS	*
DECATUR	*
FREMONT	*
HARRISON	*
JEFFERSON	1%
KEOKUK	*
LUCAS	*
MADISON	1%
MAHASKA	1%
MILLS	1%
MONROE	*
MONTGOMERY	*
PAGE	*
POTTAWATTAMIE	3%
RINGGOLD	*
SHELBY	*
TAYLOR	0%
UNION	*
VAN BUREN	*
WAPELLO	1%
WAYNE	*
CENTRAL	27%
BOONE	1%
DALLAS	2%
HARDIN	*
JASPER	1%
MARION	1%
MARSHALL	1%
POLK	14%
POWESHIEK	1%

<i>Central Region Continued</i>	
STORY	3%
TAMA	*
WARREN	1%
NORTHEAST	14%
ALLAMAKEE	*
BLACK HAWK	4%
BREMER	1%
BUCHANAN	*
BUTLER	*
CERRO GORDO	2%
CHICKASAW	1%
CLAYTON	1%
FAYETTE	*
FLOYD	*
FRANKLIN	*
GRUNDY	*
HANCOCK	1%
HOWARD	*
KOSSUTH	*
MITCHELL	*
WINNEBAGO	*
WINNESHIEK	1%
WORTH	*
SOUTHEAST	32%
BENTON	1%
CEDAR	1%
CLINTON	1%
DELAWARE	1%
DES MOINES	1%
DUBUQUE	4%
HENRY	1%
IOWA	1%
JACKSON	1%
JOHNSON	6%
JONES	1%
LEE	1%
LINN	7%
LOUISA	*
MUSCATINE	2%
SCOTT	5%
WASHINGTON	1%

Question CD Congressional District.	
01	26%
02	26%
03	24%
04	24%

Question D Are you registered to vote?	
YES	100%

Question E

Are you planning on voting in the Iowa caucuses on February 1st? [It's a Monday]

YES	78%
NO	16%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	6%

Question F

Are you planning on voting in the next presidential election in November?

YES	100%
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Question I

Age.

18-49	48%
50+	52%
18-29	18%
30-39	17%
40-49	14%
50-59	21%
60-64	10%
65+	21%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	*

Question J

What is your main ethnic or racial background?

WHITE OR CAUCASIAN	89%
HISPANIC OR LATINO	4%
AFRICAN-AMERICAN OR BLACK	2%
ASIAN-AMERICAN OR ASIAN	1%
NATIVE AMERICAN	1%
OTHER	2%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	2%

Question K

Gender.

MALE	49%
FEMALE	51%

Question L

What is the last grade of formal education you have completed?

<COLLEGE	39%
COLLEGE+	61%
LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL	1%
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	16%
SOME COLLEGE/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	23%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	41%
POST GRADUATE	20%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	*

Question M

Please tell me which of the following categories best applies to your total annual household income?

<\$50K	28%
\$50K+	62%
LESS THAN \$15,000	5%
\$15,000 TO LESS THAN \$30,000	9%
\$30,000 TO LESS THAN \$50,000	15%
\$50,000 TO LESS THAN \$75,000	21%
\$75,000 TO LESS THAN \$100,000	18%
\$100,000 TO LESS THAN \$200,000	18%
\$200,000 OR MORE	4%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	10%

Question N

Which political party are you registered to vote with?

REPUBLICAN PARTY	40%
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	48%
LIBERTARIAN PARTY	*
GREEN PARTY	*
NO AFFILIATION OR INDEPENDENT	9%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	2%

Question O

And, do you think of yourself as a Conservative, Moderate, or Liberal?

CONSERVATIVE	39%
MODERATE	32%
LIBERAL	26%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	4%