

University of Iowa, Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab Poll – Topline Results
A Plurality of Iowans Supports State Constitutional Amendment on Gun Rights
May 24, 2022
February online poll of Iowans

Sample: 883 voting-age residents in Iowa, margin of error +/-3.4%.

About: The Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab Poll was fielded Feb. 10 to Feb. 25, 2022.

The poll was designed by the Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab, comprised of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab is co-directed by Frederick J. Boehmke, professor of political science, and Kajsia Dalrymple, professor of journalism and mass communication. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, and collaborated with the Iowa Social Science Research Center directed by Frederick J. Boehmke. The UI Public Policy Center provided support for this poll as part of its student success mission, intended to expand experiential policy-relevant research for UI students.

The Iowa Social Science Research Center (ISRC) contracted with a respected web panel vendor to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of up to 900 respondents. Respondents invited to complete the web survey were Iowa adults, aged 18-120 years, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and urbanicity.

Media contacts:

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Respondent identification: All respondents who stated they were older than 18 and willing to participate in the survey were included. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and urbanicity.

Weighting: Reported results are weighted by age, sex, and party identification.

In recent years, Iowa legislators have been working to amend the state constitution to add language they say would protect the Iowans' right to bear arms. They have proposed amending the constitution to include the following language: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The sovereign state of Iowa affirms and recognizes this right to be a fundamental individual right. Any and all restrictions of this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny." Strict scrutiny means that Iowa courts would have to apply a higher legal standard when evaluating laws protecting gun rights.

Amendments to the constitution must be approved by the legislature and are then voted on by the people in a statewide election. This proposed amendment has passed the legislature twice and is likely to appear on the general election ballot in November 2022.

If this amendment were on the ballot, would you vote for it or against it?

	%
Vote for it	45.3
Vote against it	28.8
Don't Know/Declined	25.8
Total	100.0

Support for Iowa gun infringement amendment by party identification

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Total
	%	%	%	%
Vote for it	24.1	67.1	45.4	45.4
Vote against it	51.1	9.4	29.4	30.0
Don't Know/Declined	24.8	23.5	25.2	24.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Support for Iowa gun infringement amendment by community

	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Total
	%	%	%	%
Vote for it	35.7	45.6	52.5	45.6
Vote against it	33.7	31.8	23.3	29.0
Don't Know/Declined	30.6	22.6	24.2	25.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Support for Iowa gun infringement amendment by sex

	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Vote for it	53.1	37.8	45.3
Vote against it	25.1	32.4	28.8
Don't Know/Declined	21.8	29.8	25.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Support for Iowa gun infringement amendment by age

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 and older	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Vote for it	40.5	46.0	47.9	49.5	45.3
Vote against it	27.7	25.2	30.3	37.6	28.8
Don't Know/Declined	31.7	28.8	21.8	12.9	25.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Support for Iowa gun infringement amendment by voted in 2020

	Yes	No	Total
	%	%	%
Vote for it	47.0	38.7	45.4
Vote against it	31.2	18.8	28.8
Don't Know/Declined	21.8	42.5	25.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or what?

	%
Democrat	32.2
Republican	31.7
Independent	36.1
Total	100.0

Do you consider the community that you live into be urban, suburban, or rural?

	%
Urban	27.5
Suburban	33.7
Rural	38.8
Total	100.0

Recoded from age: In what year were you born?

	%
18-34	30.0
35-54	31.8
55-69	25.1
70 and older	13.1
Total	100.0

What is your sex?

	%
Male	49.2
Female	50.8
Total	100.0

Did you vote in the most recent presidential election?

	%
Yes	80.8
No	19.2
Total	100.0